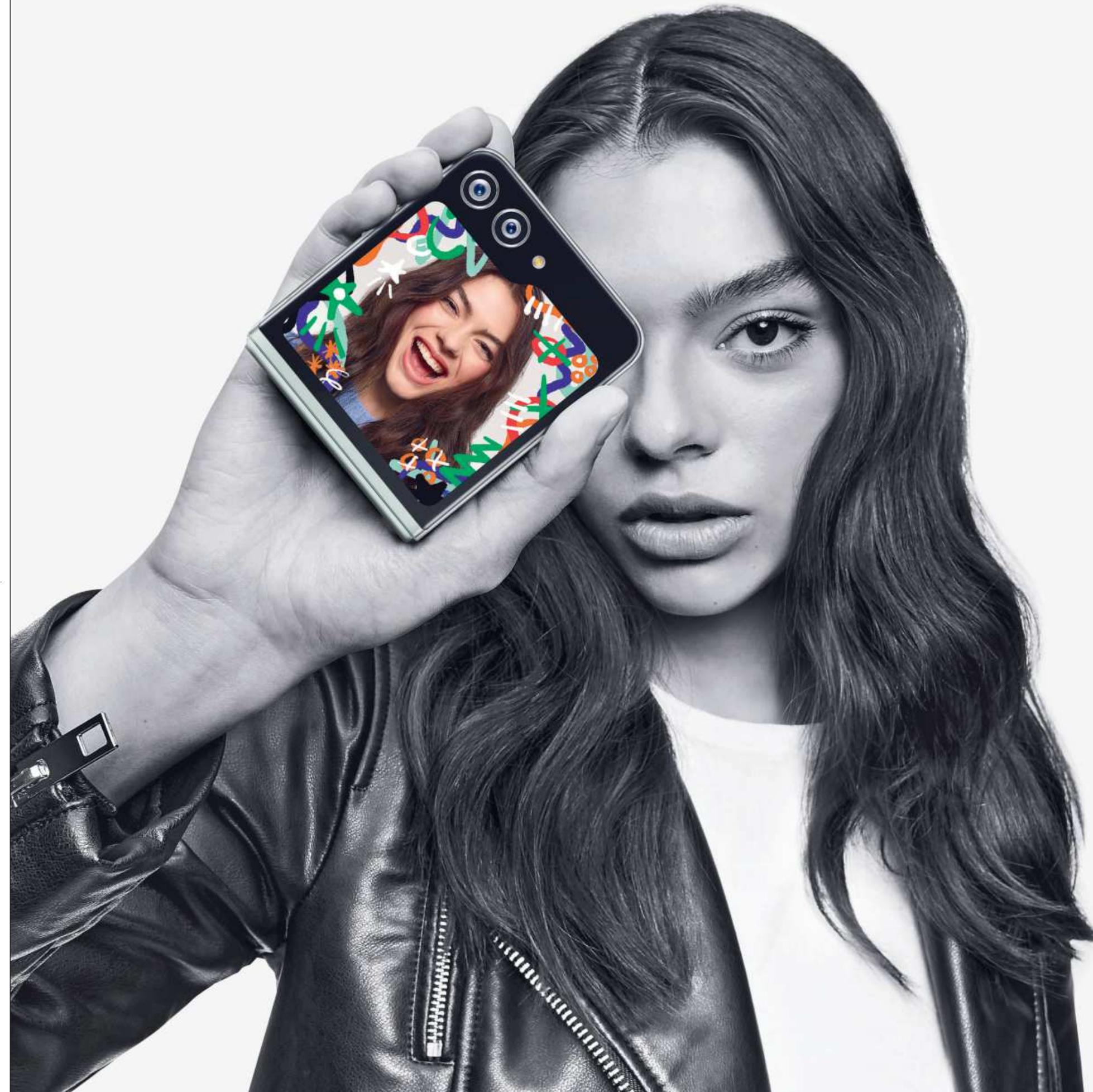


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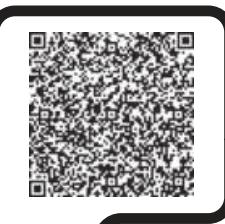
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General public is hereby informed that this Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Dipasha D/o Vinod Sahani R/o H. No. RZ-13, Gali No. 1, Nursing Garden, Khyala, West Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her residence since **06.07.2023 at 6.00 PM**. In this regard a FIR No. **353/2023 Dated 13.07.2023 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **PS Khyala, West Distt. Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, **Age:** 15 years, **Height:** 4' 5" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Black colour Shirt and Blue colour Jeans, Hawai Slippers in foot.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following address and telephone numbers:-

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
acps-ds@delhi-police.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IInd ADDL DISTRICT JUDGE, ELURU, AP.

MVOP No. : 118/2018

Between : Kakarla Lakshmi Purnima & Others

& Petitioners

1. Mahendra Giri,

2. Mr. Om Prakash,

3. United India Assurance Company Ltd.,

- Respondents

In the above said matter you are the

2nd Respondent **Mr. Om Prakash,**

S/o. SH. Rama Ram, Owner of the

Lorry bearing No. RJ 21 GB 4797

resident of 827, Kukano Ki Dhanii,

Aitaihe, Nagaur, Rajasthan. Appear

before Hon'ble Court **15.09.2023** at

about 10.30 am in person or through

Advocate to Raise any objection if

any. Otherwise Court will be passed

appropriate order.

Place : Eluru Date : 22-08-2023

Sd/- K.V.V. Suryanarayana Reddy,

Advocate,

Eluru, Cell : 99593 12346.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAKTHI JOURNALIC S. S. S. S.

साक्षित किया जाता है कि सीधी मुद्रिकल समिति वरना मिश्रा के पाते अनेक मिश्रा पुत्र प्रोफेसर रमेशदास मिश्रा उम्र 53 वर्ष निवासी सी-77 सेटर-एन अंग्रेज का निधन होने 05 अगस्त 2023 को हो गया है। वह अपने पौत्री अंजलि वर्दंग मिश्रा उम्र 21 वर्ष और पुत्री आर्मा मिश्रा उम्र 19 वर्ष को छोड़ गए हैं। जो कि स्वर्गाय अनेक मिश्रा के कानूनी वारदातों को वारस्त कर अंतिम आर किसी को वारस्त कर पर अपापि हो तो सुन्नना प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर अपनी अपापि दर्द बर्दाए। अन्यथा उत्तर का स्वर्गाय अनेक मिश्रा का कानूनी वारदात कर अंतिम आर किसी को कानूनी वारदात कर अंतिम आर किसी को जारी। द्वारा लिखी अंजलि कुमार चतुर्दशी रजिस्टरेशन नंबर 7732 / 2000, उत्तर प्रदेश वारकरीसिर, निवासी ए-54 नारायण नगर, पास्ट-इन्डिया नारायण नगर, अंजलि कुमार चतुर्दशी, (अधिवक्ता) ए-54 नारायण नगर, पास्ट-इन्डिया नारायण नगर, (उम्र 20)

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I, RAMAKANT S/o Late B.N.Sharma R/o T-5, F-702, Civitech florence Rampurtha Greens, Sector-7, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. 201010. Have Changed my minor son's name, Tanay Sharma to Vardhaman Kaant for all future purposes.

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3.	1424/NIT/Meenur/RNN/2023 DL 18.08.2023	Construction of NEW BUS STATION BAGHAT
4.	1425/NIT/Meenur/RNN/2023 DL 18.08.2023	Construction of NEW BUS STATION Sikarpur, Bulandshahr

The tender should be submitted up to 3.00 pm or on before 5.9.2023 (For Sl.no-1), and 3.00 pm or on before 8.9.2023 (For Sl.no-2), and 3.00 pm or on or before 11.9.2023 (For Sl.no-3). Other details on website: www.etender.upnic.in and www.uprnn.upscd.gov.in

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IN BRIEF



Cong. promises caste census in Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI
Ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said that the party will conduct a caste census after it comes to power in the State. » Page 11

Delhi schools, offices to be shut from Sept. 8-10

NEW DELHI
All schools and offices across Delhi, and banks and markets in New Delhi police district will remain shut from September 8-10 in view of the G-20 Leaders' Summit. » Page 3

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 5

BRICS is a platform for Global South, says Modi

Prime Minister reaches Johannesburg, takes part in leaders' retreat attended by Presidents Xi Jinping, Lula da Silva and Cyril Ramaphosa; Vladimir Putin to join via video-conference today



Strategic visit: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed upon his arrival in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

The BRICS grouping has become a platform for discussing the challenges facing the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said before leaving for South Africa, where he is expected to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping for the first time since their brief encounter at the G-20 Bali summit last November.

Mr. Modi, who landed in South Africa's Waterkloof Air Force Base on Tuesday, ahead of the BRICS summit to be held in Johannesburg, was received by South Africa's Deputy President Paul Mashatile.

"BRICS has been pursuing a strong cooperation agenda across various sectors. We value that BRICS

has become a platform for discussing and deliberating on issues of concern for the entire Global South, including development imperatives and reform of the multilateral system," said Mr. Modi in a statement issued before his departure.

Mr. Xi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who both arrived a

day earlier, attended a BRICS business forum meeting along with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Mr. Modi before leaving for a Leaders' Retreat and will attend the day-long BRICS summit on Wednesday.

The 15th BRICS summit is the first in-person meet since 2019 and the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, the first since the Russian war in Ukraine, and the first time that Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi will take part in such a restricted gathering of just four leaders since the LAC stand-off began in 2020.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will take part in the summit via video-conference while his Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will officiate at BRICS events, which include an outreach event with African Union countries and other invitees from the Global South.

The Johannesburg meeting has additional significance as it will discuss expansion of the grouping by including countries like Iran, Bangladesh and other developing economies.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

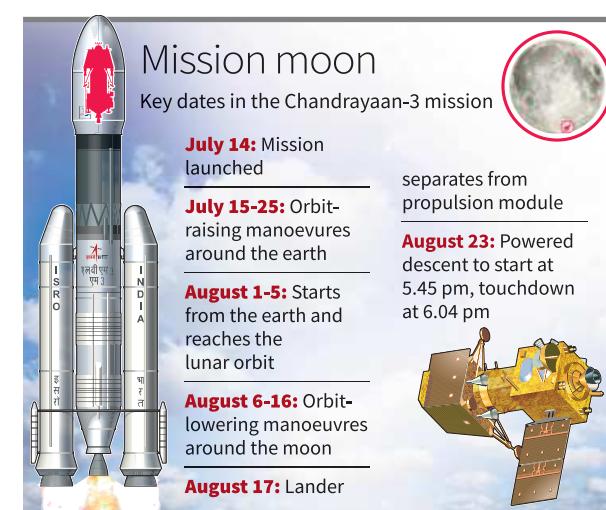
Chandrayaan-3 lander all set for touchdown today

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Four years after its predecessor crashed on the lunar surface minutes before touchdown, Chandrayaan-3's lander module with the rover in its belly will attempt to land on the moon at 6.04 p.m. on Wednesday.

Around 5.45 p.m., the Mission Operations Complex (MOX) at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru, will initiate the powered descent of the lander module.

ISRO on Tuesday said the mission was on schedule with systems checks being carried out by scientists and engineers. "The mission is on schedule. Systems are undergoing regular checks. Smooth sailing is continuing. The Mission Operations Complex [MOX] is buzzing with energy & excitement!" it posted on X (formerly



Twitter). If all goes as per plan, the lander would make a safe and soft landing on the moon and would make India the fourth country to achieve this feat after the U.S., Russia, and China.

The complex powered descent of Chandrayaan-2 was referred to as "15 minutes of terror" by the then ISRO Chairman K. Sivan. It

can be recalled that Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander almost evaded this but it gave up at an altitude of 2.1 km before touchdown and subsequently lost communication with the ground stations.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 5 & 7



HONOURS EVEN

Carlsen, Praggnanandhaa draw Game 1 in WC final

SPORT » PAGE 15



CRASH TEST

New cars to get star rating on safety

NEWS » PAGE 12



FAIZAL CASE
SC sets aside HC order suspending conviction

STATES » PAGE 5

Manipur Assembly to convene on Aug. 29

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI



N. Biren Singh

Manipur Governor Anusuya Uikey on Tuesday summoned the Monsoon Session of the 60-member Assembly on August 29 following a recommendation of the State Cabinet, officials said.

Quoting the Governor's order, Assembly Secretary K. Meghajit Singh said in a notification that the fourth session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly would meet on the day.

"The Business Advisory Committee of the Assembly would now decide the schedule and duration of the session," an official said. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister's Office announced on X (formerly

Twitter) the Cabinet's decision to convene the session.

The 10 Kuki MLAs, including seven of the ruling BJP, are unlikely to attend the session for "security reasons". A similar reason has been cited for the 10 Naga MLAs who may skip the session too.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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Inflation pressures may linger, but food prices to ease soon: Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's inflation woes are not over yet but food price spikes may be "transitory", the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday, attributing the latest spike in headline inflation to global uncertainties triggered by the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative that has upset wheat and edible oil supplies, as well as disruptions in domestic farm output.

The impact of the global disruptions was "clearly evident" in the sharp surge in the retail inflation pace in July to 15-month high of 7.44%, the Ministry said, noting that the 11.5% food

Price pressures

As per Finance Ministry's July review, price pressures were driven by global disruptions and domestic factors



Global uncertainties

- As per the latest 'FAO Food Price Index', food inflation showed an uptick in July after a continuous decline since April 2022
- Termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative disrupted the supply of wheat and sunflower oil

Domestic disruption

- Interruption in the supply chain of tomatoes due to white fly disease in Kolar district of Karnataka and the swift arrival of monsoon in north India caused a surge in tomato prices
- Tur dal price also spiked due to deficient production

ing months, warranting greater vigilance from the government and the central bank, the review stressed, underlining the need to bring the focus back on maintaining macroeconomic stability.

"Cereals, pulses and vegetables exhibited double-digit growth... [but] only 48% of food items have inflation of above 6%, and this includes 14 food items with inflation in double digits. Items like tomato, green chilli, ginger and garlic witnessed inflation of more than 50%," the Ministry said in its monthly economic review for July.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

inflation rate was "perhaps the third highest" since the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) series began in 2014. Core inflation, which excludes energy and food

costs, was at a 39-month low of 4.9%, it emphasised. The global uncertainty and domestic disruptions may keep inflationary pressures elevated for the com-

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Gargi College harassment case: High Court at 'unease' over 'impending closure'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Expressing "unease" over the "impending closure" of an alleged sexual harassment case at Gargi College in 2020, the Delhi High Court has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned to look into the matter.

On February 6, 2020, some men allegedly broke into Gargi College during its 'Reverie' fest and groped, harassed, and molested some attendees.

The issue came to light after some students took to Instagram to narrate their ordeal and accused security personnel of doing nothing to control the unruly men. Subsequently, a plea was filed before the High Court seeking a CBI probe into

the incident.

Delhi Police told the court that none of the victims had come forward to record their statement before a magistrate. As a result, the police filed an 'untraced' report before a trial court.

An 'untraced' report is filed when the police are unable to arrest an accused.

However, the High Court reminded the police of media reports indicating that certain individuals were apprehended but later released on bail.

In an order dated August 17, a Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sanjeev Narula observed, "To let go such potential leads without meticulous scrutiny would be a miscarriage of justice."

'Cash for ticket' case: Speaker to decide on AAP MLA's prosecution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena has referred to the Delhi Assembly Speaker a request from the Vigilance Department for the prosecution sanction against AAP MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi in a corruption case, Raj Niwas officials said.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Speaker Ram Niwas Goel did not respond to requests for a comment.

The MLA had allegedly demanded ₹90 lakh from a woman in exchange for the party's ticket in last year's civic elections.

A man named Gopal Khari, who said he was seeking AAP's candidature from Kamla Nagar Ward No. 69 for his wife Shobha Khari, had complained to the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) about Mr. Tripathi and Wazirpur MLA Rajesh Gupta demanding ₹90 lakh in exchange for the ticket.

The ACB had arrested three persons in November last year for allegedly accepting money from Mr. Khari.

The three were identified as Om Singh, the brother-in-law of Mr. Tripathi; Shiv Shankar Pandey, Mr. Tripathi's PA; and a man named Prince Raghuvanshi.

An LG House official said the ACB has a "strong case" against Mr. Tripathi.

"The Department of Vigilance has found that facts/evidences – both human as well as technical – strongly indicate serious complicity of the MLA and other persons in this bribery case," an official said.

The official said the CCTV footage of the Wazirpur MLA's house showed the complainant leaving the place.

"It also indicates the arrival of Akhilesh Pati Tripathi at the residence of the Wazirpur MLA and his stay there for a while," the official also said.

Senior Delhi govt. official accused of raping minor sent to judicial custody

Police say official, wife were arrested eight days after registration of FIR as the victim was not in a state to record her statements, based on which arrests could be made

Mehul Malpani
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI



years. Her school attendance also dropped. Subsequently, she stopped going to school altogether," the officer said.

The officer added that Mr. Khakha did not stop harassing the girl even after she went back to her house and followed her to the church, which he and the victim's family used to attend.

Eventually, the girl stopped attending church as well.

"Her mother had noticed her changed behaviour. She took her to a hospital earlier this month, where the girl spoke about the abuse with the counsellors," the officer said.

Maliwal writes to Amit Shah
Meanwhile, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chairperson Swati Maliwal wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah alleging that the staff of the hospital where the victim is admitted had revealed the identity of the girl to the media.

In her letter to the Home Minister, Ms. Maliwal suggested that the victim be shifted to AIIMS for better treatment.

She also requested that a probe be conducted to find out why the police took eight days to arrest the accused and sought the Home Minister's assistance in meeting the victim and her family.

The DCW chairperson said she had visited the hospital on Monday but was prevented from seeing the victim.

When asked, Mr. Kalsi said the police had never stopped Ms. Maliwal from meeting the minor.

Court orders the release of overage cars, with riders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ordered the release of several "end of life" vehicles seized by the authorities on an undertaking by the owners to either permanently park them in private spaces or remove them from the city limits.

The court gave the direction while dealing with a batch of petitions against the seizure of cars for violating a National Green Tribunal order barring the use of petrol and diesel vehicles of over 15 years and 10 years of age, respectively.

Govt. to frame policy
Justice Prateek Jalan asked the Delhi government to frame a policy on dealing with such vehicles whose owners were willing to give the undertaking.

"For parked cars, the petitioners will file an undertaking that they will not be plied or parked in public space. Petitioners will provide evidence of private space either owned or leased," the High Court said, adding that the enforcement officer concerned would facilitate the release of the vehicles from the scrapping agency.

One of the petitioners argued that her vehicle, which was of "deep sentimental value" to her, was seized by the authorities from outside her house without authorisation or prior notice.

The petitioner told the court that she was not using the car, purchased in 2000, and intended to convert it into an electric vehicle.

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Contact Persons	Chief Executive Officer, (JAKEDA), 38 A/B, Gandhinagar, Jammu, 01912546496 Er. Siddharth Panjhatia (70064270) Email : xenjakeda@gmail.com	Chief Executive Officer, (JAKEDA), SDA Colony, Bemina Srinagar, 01943101633 Er. N.A. Bhat (9906591848) Email : xenjakeda@gmail.com	Sd/- Chief Executive Officer JAKEDA Jammu/Srinagar
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NO ENTRY

पुलिस वेरिफिकेशन के बिना किसी भी ड्राइवर/हेल्पर/एसोइया आदि को दें

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FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 **TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 14547**

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING : ASSAM:
CHANDMARI : GUWAHATI-3

No:- Tech-II/116/2022/Pt

PRESS NOTICE

The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), (Health & Education), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invited bids from eligible contractors having requisite experience in similar nature of work for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in.

SI No.	Name of work	Bid Value (Rs in Lakh)	Completion period	Bid security/ EMD	Cost of Bid (In Rs.)
1	Construction of Boys Hostel in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon	1,90,62,000.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	4000.00
2	Construction of Proposed G+1 RCC Building for additional Science Block at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Tulungia, Bongaigaon	2,26,93,570.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	5000.00
3	Construction of Auditorium in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon	1,56,43,135.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	3500.00
4	Construction of Indoor Stadium in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon	1,49,00,630.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	3000.00
5	Construction of Professor Quarter in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon	1,59,76,761.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	3500.00
6	Construction of Campus drain, Internal path, Earth filling in Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, Tulungia in Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon	1,06,84,900.00	12 (twelve months)	2% of Bid value for General Category and 1% of Bid Value for Reserved Category	2500.00

Note:- The tenders value may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Bl) (Health & Education) Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog /C/9094/23

Not in favour of having interim V-Cs: TMC Minister

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu has said the government is not in favour of appointing interim Vice-Chancellors in State universities, as such "ad hoc steps" by Raj Bhavan have resulted in a "chaotic situation in varsities".

Taking a dig at Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, Mr. Basu said the files related to the appointment of V-Cs in State-run or State-aided universities are lying "unattended" in the Governor's office.

Timings DELHI

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 23
RISE 05:55 SET 18:53
RISE 11:51 SET 22:43
THURSDAY, AUG. 24
RISE 05:55 SET 18:52
RISE 12:53 SET 23:24
FRIDAY, AUG. 25
RISE 05:56 SET 18:51
RISE 13:57 SET 00:00

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 36 29
Safdarjung 36 29
Palam 36 30

Delhi Palam Today 36°C The weather will very warm and humid. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 38°C Morning will be comfortable but humid. Day will be slight hot and humid. Dry weather to prevail.

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Ashok Gehlot launches Mission-2030 to make Rajasthan leading State

Suggestions would be sought from people from all walks of life, including experts, academicians, students, traders, for preparing a vision document for the State's progress, says the Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR



The exercise for preparing the vision document has nothing to do with Assembly polls, says Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at its launch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Making a strong pitch for development, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday launched the "Rajasthan Mission-2030" to bring Rajasthan to the front row of developed States in the next seven years. Mr. Gehlot said the suggestions would be sought from one crore people from all walks of life for preparing a vision document for the State's progress.

The opinions and views would be sought from subject experts, academicians, students, traders, office workers and labourers till September 15 to prepare the document by the end of the month, Mr. Gehlot said while unveiling the mission at a programme at B.M. Biria Auditorium here.

The Chief Minister also interacted with the people from several districts through videoconferencing during the programme.

Mr. Gehlot added that the exercise for the formulation of vision document had nothing to do with the upcoming State Assembly election. "It will spell out our dream for 2030 and guide us in our policies and programmes to ensure a bright future for Rajasthan," he said.

The State had already achieved a significant progress in sectors such as health and education, he said.

"The Mission-2030 should be on everyone's agenda. Fifty years ago, Rajasthan faced drought and water crises frequently and even the district headquarters looked like small towns without basic amenities," Mr. Gehlot said, adding that the State had come a long way and should aspire to join the league of developed States.

Mineral wealth

The Chief Minister said though Rajasthan had emerged as a model State in social security, health, women's empowerment and infrastructure development, the challenges still remained in several sectors. While the crude oil was being explored and an oil refinery being set up in Barmer, the vast mineral wealth was yet to be tapped, he said.

Mr. Gehlot launched a dedicated web portal through which the people could share their suggestions. A special team will also reach out to the people to obtain their view and ideas, while a toll-free number, contests, essay competitions and face-to-face surveys will also collect the suggestions.

Mr. Gehlot urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring a Bill in Parliament to provide the right to social justice to all. He said the Centre had gone back on its promise to give the national project status to the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, which would benefit 13 districts of the State. The Congress government was implementing the project with its own resources, he said.

Offices, schools in Delhi to remain closed from Sept. 8-10 for G-20 Leaders' Summit

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

approved the proposal on Tuesday.

The G-20 Summit will see a gathering of leaders from the world's largest economies.

It is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan.

Banks and commercial establishments, including markets, in the New Delhi district will also remain closed for these three days.

Delhi Police had sent a proposal to the city government, urging it to declare holidays from September 8-10.

The main venues to be visited by them include the

Rajghat, IARI-Pusa and the NGMA (Jaipur House).

Delhi Police had stated that since most of the guests will be arriving on September 8 and departing on September 10 and 11, there will be massive movement of traffic, which needs to be kept in check to ensure safe passage for delegates.

The police said recognising the magnitude of this event and the substantial logistical arrangements involved, declaring public holidays will aid in minimising potential traffic congestion.

(With inputs from PTI)

T.N. got ₹2.97-lakh cr. investment proposals in manufacturing: CM

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

vestment proposals had also been received in the non-leather footwear industry sector, which could potentially provide increased employment opportunities for women. Proposals were also received in the e-vehicles sector.

Mr. Stalin has said.

Citing data from the State Planning Commission, the Chief Minister underlined the positive impacts of the *Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam* scheme.

Over 27 lakh students have benefited from the *Ilam Thedi Kalvi* scheme so far and over 13 lakh students from the *Naan Mudhalvan* scheme for skill development, he said, adding that under the *Pudhumai Penn* scheme, over 1.50 lakh girls have benefited.

During the past two years, Tamil Nadu attracted a total of 241 investment proposals to the tune of ₹2.97 lakh crore in the manufacturing sector, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has said.

At a virtual meeting of

the Chief Minister's Economic Advisory Committee, he said that the proposals include those of Mitsubishi, Pegatron and Ola.

Mr. Stalin said many in-

Hard Work Alone Triumphs



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JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-2547807 (F), email-sspijammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SHO Police Station Paccia Danga vide communication No. 1712/5-A/PSD dated 17.08.2023 intimated that one Varsha Jamwal D/O Rajinder Singh Jamwal R/O Mubarak Mandi, Jammu came in Police Station Paccia Danga and lodged an written application mentioning therein that her father namely Rajinder Singh Jamwal was missing since 15.07.2023. Accordingly, his missing report was entered at Police Station Paccia Danga vide DDR No. 11 dated 17.08.2023. Despite thorough search his whereabouts are still unknown.

As such photograph of above named missing is being published for the information of Police establishments/public in general and if anybody having any clue related to his whereabouts / present location, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-

Name	: Rajinder Jamwal
S/O	: Late Shri Kuldeep Singh
Residence	: Mubarak Mandi, Jammu.
Age	: 57 years
Height	: 5 ft 05 Inch
Complexion	: Wheatish
Wearing	: Trouser, T-Shirt.

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu	: 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D	: ssppi@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu	: 0191-2542000
4. SP City North	: 0191-2547038
5. SDPO City North	: 0191-2566621
6. Landline of P/S Paccia Danga	: 0191-2548610
7. IC PP Panjirthi	: 7889402600.

DIP/J-7168/23 For Sr.Superintendent of Police Jammu.

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECTS) DEPARTMENT

Online Sale of Tenders - 23/08/2023 to 18/09/2023 upto 03:00 PM
Last date of submission of tenders - 23/08/2023 to 18/09/2023 upto 03:00 PM
Date of opening of Tenders : 20/09/2023 at 03:00 PM.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Tender Amount (Excluding GST, Royalty, Testing Charges)	Earnest Money Deposit 0.5 %	Time Limit	Cost of Tender Document RS.	Exemption from P.M.C. Registration	All the documents are attached to online tender	Tender	Contact Persons
1	PMC/ Chief Eng. (Project)/ 2023/ 32	Carrying out Repair works of various Structural Audited Bridges (Approximately 10 Bridges) in Pune City	12,43,30,913.00	6,21,655.00	12 months	29,679.00	YES	YES	New Tender	Mr. Pawan Mapari (Deputy Engineer) 770952835 Smt. Himani Patle (Junior Engineer) 7997076038

A) This tender will be implemented as per type B1. B) Detailed terms / conditions for the tendered works are mentioned in the tender set and it is published on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in Selling / Acceptance of the tender set is online only. C) Complete information about online tendering process is available at the Office of The Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Main Building (Old Municipal Secretary's Office), Pune Municipal Corporation. D) EMD amount will be accepted only through ECS / RTGS / NEFT facility as per Office Order No. AMC (Spl.) / 32 dt. 22/04/2016. EMD amount to be paid online, the receipt of which should be submitted in envelope 'A'. E) It will be sole responsibility of the tenderer, if the tender set is not downloaded or submitted at the last moment. F) Pre Bid Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday date 31/08/2023 on 11.00 A.M. in the office of Addl. Municipal Commissioner (Estate), 2nd floor Main Building, Pune Municipal Corporation Pune.

Sd/-
(Ajay Wayase)
Executive Engineer (Projects)
Pune Municipal Corporation

The advertisement is based on the departmental Sankalpa no. 3016/Patna dated 02.12.2021
For further details please visit website www.gecbojpur.org.
This information is available on website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No.007322 (Sec.&Tech.) 2023-24

Principal,
Government Engineering College,
Bhojpur (Ara)

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवर्ग से प्यार।

CM
YK

IN BRIEF



'PM speaks of taking everyone along, but targets Opposition'

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday targeted the BJP-led Centre and said while Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks of taking everybody along, he "attacks" Opposition-ruled States, and added that for good measure, her party members are being targeted by Central agencies "without reason". "Our people are being targeted by Central agencies without reason. [Raids] continued throughout Monday night. They did not inform anyone. The boy [TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee] returned only day before yesterday from abroad and suddenly they [ED] started the raids at four to five places," she said. PTI

Publish finances of Pinarayi's daughter, demands Congress

The high-decibel verbal darts among the political parties in Kerala appeared to escalate on Tuesday with Congress leader Mathew Kuzhalnadan, MLA, daring the CPI(M) to publish Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter T. Veena's finances. Mr. Kuzhalnadan alleged that the statutory I-T disputes forum's finding that a mining company based in Kochi paid a considerable sum as retaining fee to Ms. Veena's IT firm, allegedly without any tangible reciprocal service, was merely the tip of the iceberg. He claimed it was ironic that a mining firm had hired an IT firm that "specialised in educational software".

JD(U) accuses BJP-led Centre of trying to disrupt Bihar caste survey

Amar Nath Tewary

PATNA

The Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] on Tuesday lashed out at the BJP-led Central government, accusing it of trying to disrupt the ongoing caste survey in Bihar.

The statement by the ruling coalition partner in Bihar comes a day after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, told Supreme Court that the survey "could have consequences". The apex court was hearing a batch of pleas challenging the recent Patna High Court ver-

dict, which gave the go-ahead to the Bihar government to conduct the caste survey.

"We are not this way or that way. But this exercise may have some consequences and hence we would like to file our reply," Mr. Mehta said without elaborating on the consequences. The court allowed the Centre to file its response within seven days.

"The Centre intervened as it could not find a way to disrupt the survey. They tried to derail the process by getting PILs filed in the Patna High Court but failed

due to the alertness of the Bihar government. Now, the Solicitor-General has also stepped in. Their [BJP's] only objective is to disrupt the survey," State Education Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said.

In response, the BJP said it has always supported the survey and accused JD(U) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "trying to confuse voters".

Bihar BJP chief Samrat Choudhary said the State Assembly had passed a unanimous resolution supporting the move. "The BJP has never backed out from

supporting the survey. However, the problem is that Nitish Kumar himself is confused over the issue and is trying to confuse the voters," he said.

A senior JD(U) leader requesting anonymity said, "The Patna High Court quashed the petitions [against the caste survey] and the Supreme Court also refused to put a stay on it. However, the Solicitor-General's intervention shows that the BJP wants to halt it at any cost. It shows that the BJP is anti-poorn, anti-reservation, and anti-backward class".

Congress demands quotas for OBCs at Gujarat sit-in

The Hindu Bureau

AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Congress held a day-long sit-in in Gandhinagar on Tuesday demanding reservations for OBC communities.

The initiative is seen as the party's attempt to woo the OBCs, traditional Congress supporters, and bring them back into the party fold ahead of the Lok Sabha poll. "The BJP government has been sitting on the issue of quota for OBCs in the local bodies like panchayats. This sit-in was held to press for the same," said Congress legislator and Opposition leader in the Assembly Amit Chavda.

He added that all communities in the OBC category must rise beyond their political views and use a common platform to raise their voice against discrimination by the ruling party.

"Today, thousands of people from various OBC groups came out in support. This was not just a

Congress programme. Even social and educational organisations and NGOs took part," Mr. Chavda said.

Prominent OBC leaders like Parshotam Solanki and Alpesh Thakor from the ruling party, though kept away, despite being invited.

Various leaders at the event slammed the BJP government for not fixing the quotas of OBCs in panchayats and not increasing the welfare budget for them. Mr. Chavda stressed that 27% of the State's budget should be dedicated to OBC welfare, given their population is around 52% in the State. A quota of 27% for OBCs in panchayats and municipalities is also essential, he asserted.

The Opposition leaders criticised the BJP government for delay in making public a report submitted by a commission constituted to ascertain the nature and implications of backwardness in local bodies to decide on reservations for OBCs in panchayats.

ED questions Kerala Cong. president Sudhakaran for nine hours in Monson case

The Hindu Bureau

KOCHE

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has questioned Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran for nearly nine hours at its office here in connection with the financial fraud allegedly committed by self-styled antiquities dealer Monson Mavunkal.

Mr. Sudhakaran appeared at the ED office around 11 a.m. on Tuesday. The agency is reportedly probing the money-laundering aspects in the case against Monson.

The KPCC president told media-persons ahead of the questioning that he had nothing to fear as his hands were clean. "I have not done anything against the rules. Despite having several opportunities to indulge in corruption during my earlier tenure as Minister of Forest, I have not taken money from anyone or got myself involved in any activity against the law," he



said. He has been asked to appear for questioning again on August 30.

Notice served

The ED is also understood to have served notice on senior police officer G. Lakshman and former police officer S. Surendran in connection with the Monson case.

The State Crime Branch had booked a case following complaints by a few persons that they had handed over large sums of money to Monson on the basis of the assurances given by the three. The Crime Branch is looking in-



Despite having several opportunities to indulge in corruption, I have not taken money from anyone or got myself involved in any activity against the law

K. SUDHAKARAN

KPCC president

to the complaints of financial fraud in the case.

Mr. Sudhakaran and Mr. Lakshman had secured anticipatory bail from the Kerala High Court following the Crime Branch investigation. Incidentally, the Crime Branch had arrested Mr. Sudhakaran, who was arraigned as the second accused in the case, in June after interrogating him for around eight hours at its Kalamassery office. He was then released on bail. The petitioners alleged that they paid Monson around ₹25 lakh at his house in Kaloor in the presence of Mr. Sudhakaran.

As per an order of the District Collector, NOC of

Stop construction of CPI(M) office building in Idukki: Kerala HC

The Hindu Bureau

KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the Idukki District Collector to forthwith stop the construction of a building for the Communist Party of India (Marxist) area committee office at Santhanpara in Idukki district if it is found to be in violation of the orders of revenue authorities.

The Bench passed the order when a public interest litigation filed by One Earth, One Life and others against encroachments and illegal constructions in Munnar and other areas in Idukki district came up before it.

When the petition came up for hearing, newspaper reports about the construction of buildings for the CPI(M) area committee office without obtaining no objection certificate (NOC) from revenue authorities was brought to the notice of the Bench.

As per an order of the District Collector, NOC of

Lalu sidesteps query on Nitish becoming INDIA bloc convener

Amit Bhelari

PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad on Tuesday said anybody could become the national convener of the Opposition's INDIA bloc when asked about the possibility of Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar assuming the post.

He also denied cutting a deal with Mr. Kumar over his son and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav's elevation to the CM's post and said as of now their priority is to defeat the BJP-led NDA in the next year's Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Prasad also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and exuded confidence that he won't be returning to power again in 2024.

The INDIA bloc has 26 parties and will be holding its third crucial meeting in Mumbai on August 31 and September 1. The grouping is likely to finalise the contours of the alliance besides appointing its national convener, for which Mr. Kumar's name is doing rounds.

Mr. Kumar has been instrumental in uniting the Opposition parties and



Lalu Prasad

bringing them on a common platform.

Addressing mediapersons at his ancestral Phulwaria village in Gopalganj, the RJD chief said the decision on the convener will be taken unanimously by the 26-party bloc. "Anybody can be the convener," he said, adding that State-level conveners will also be appointed for the smooth functioning of the alliance.

The RJD chief said everything has been finalised and their Mumbai sitting will probably be the final meeting of the alliance as little time is left for the preparations ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

"During the meeting, candidates and constituencies will be discussed," he said, adding that winnability will be taken into account before selecting candidates.

Pradhan slams Karnataka's decision to scrap NEP

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Lashing out at Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan said on Tuesday that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was not a political document but a visionary one, created by the country's leading educationists.

Mr. Pradhan was responding to the Karnataka government's decision to scrap the NEP. He posed questions to Mr. Shivakumar, alleging that the latter was "playing politics".

Karnataka, the first State under its then BJP government to adopt the NEP in 2020 after the policy was floated by the Centre, now under a Congress government holds that 2023 will be the last year of the policy's implementation.

The State will also put a hold on the four-year Honours degree under the NEP and revert to the three-year undergraduate programme. "Do they want Karnataka youth to not earn any academic credits? Should there not be an academic bank of credit for the students?" Mr. Pradhan said.

Questions State

"Do they [the State government] not want Karnataka to avail of options for multiple entries and exits in higher education institutions?" he added.

"What kind of message do you want to give to the youngsters? Do they not want early childhood education system to be implemented in Karnataka from the age of three? Do they not want localised, toy-based 'play way' learning?" Mr. Pradhan said.

"I would like to appeal to him [Mr. Shivakumar] again [that] politics should take its own route but we should not play with the future of youngsters," Mr. Pradhan said.

Proud moment



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi holds the National Flag with Army veterans at the Main Market in Leh. He is currently on a tour of the Union Territory of Ladakh. ANI (SEE ALSO PAGE 10)



the revenue authorities was mandatory for construction activities in Munmar region. The reports also alleged that despite the village officer issuing a stop memo, construction had not been stopped.

The court also directed the Idukki district police chief to provide necessary assistance to the Collector in implementing the order for stopping the constructions. The court directed panchayat secretaries and engineers to identify land in the district and classify it as red zone and orange zone. It ordered that they should be given training in identifying and marking the zones.

TDP chief to file complaint on 'bogus A.P. voters' with EC

The Hindu Bureau

VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit New Delhi on August 28 to lodge a complaint with the Election Commission on the issue of alleged bogus voters in Andhra Pradesh.

Having sought an appointment with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, Mr. Naidu is likely to submit a list of names of TDP sympathisers that have allegedly been removed from the electoral rolls and the "fake names" that have been allegedly included.

The TDP had said that it opened a separate wing at

the party offices in every constituency to check voters' lists and identified the fake voters.

The wing scrutinised the electoral rolls and identified the fake voters, with Mr. Naidu likely to submit these lists to the EC.

Mr. Naidu has been alleging that the electoral staff in the State are supporting the ruling YSR Congress Party by including the names of bogus voters in the electoral rolls and removing the names of TDP sympathisers.

The TDP claims that the fake voters have been found in Vijayawada Central, Visakhapatnam, Parichuru and Uravakonda Assembly constituencies.

NASA, ESA to support ISRO during moon landing today

The ground stations of National Aeronautics and Space Administration and European Space Agency have been supporting Chandrayaan-3 mission from the time of the launch

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Since the launch of the Chandrayaan-3 mission on July 14, the ground stations of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have been supporting Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to monitor the spacecraft's health.

"Since the launch of Chandrayaan-3, ESA has been supporting the mission by utilising two of the ground stations in the EST-TRACK network to track the



An illustration showing the soft-landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the surface of the moon. PTI

satellite in its orbit, receive telemetry from the space-craft and forward it to the Mission Operations Centre in Bengaluru, and forward commands sent from Ben-

galuru to the flying satellite," Ramesh Chellathurai, ground operations engineer at European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) Darmstadt, Germany, told *The Hindu*.

The ESA's 15-metre antenna in Kourou, French Guiana, and the 32-metre antenna belonging to Goonhilly Earth Station, U.K., were selected for the support.

Now, with the Chandrayaan-3's lander making an attempt to touch down on the lunar surface on Wednesday, the support of the ground stations of these agencies becomes crucial.

As far as NASA is concerned, its Deep Space Network is providing telemetry and tracking coverage during the powered descent phase.

Cauvery row:
SC Bench to
hear T.N.'s plea
on August 25

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice B.R. Gavai will on August 25 hear Tamil Nadu's plea for the release of its allotment of Cauvery river water for the month of August. Tamil Nadu has moved the top court seeking a direction to Karnataka to forthwith release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water from its reservoirs at Biligundlu.

'Govt. should have informed SC on violation of crop size by T.N.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the release of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu by the Karnataka government, the Opposition BJP on Tuesday contended that the government should have submitted facts related to the alleged violation of the neighbouring State in terms of crop size that has been allowed.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, BJP State General Secretary C.N. Ashwathnarayanan al-

leged that Tamil Nadu had taken up cultivation of Kuruwai crop on 7.4 lakh hectares of land as against the allowed limit of 1.8 lakh hectares. This was the reason why Tamil Nadu needed more water to support its crops, he maintained.

Mr. Ashwathnarayanan argued that Karnataka should have brought this issue to the notice of the Supreme Court.

Accusing Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, and Karnataka Agriculture Mi-

Faizal case: SC sets aside Kerala HC order

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Mohammed Faizal

The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside an order of a Single Judge Bench of the Kerala High Court suspending the conviction of Lok Sabha member in an attempt-to-murder case.

A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna asked the High Court to hear afresh the appeal filed by the Lakshadweep administration and decide it in six weeks. Mr. Faizal would continue to be an MP till the time the High Court de-

cides the case.

Mr. Faizal and three others were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for attempting to kill Mohammed Salih, son-in-law of former Union Minister P.M. Sayeed.

INDIA on sticky wicket in Punjab as Bajwa dismisses link with AAP

Vikas Vasudeva

CHANDIGARH



If we were supporting them [AAP], would we have been at a sit-in against them, asks Partap Singh Bajwa. FILE PHOTO

the Congress termed an "unconstitutional decision".

On supporting AAP's stand against the recently passed Bill on control over Delhi's Civil Services in Parliament, Mr. Bajwa said "... What happened in Delhi, if the BJP will victimise in States, it would be limited to that, not here [in Punjab]."

On August 10, the State government in its order said that polls for electing members to the panchayat samitis and zila parishads will be held by November 25, and to gram panchayats by December 31.

Addressing the gathering, Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring hit out at the AAP government, demanding the revocation of the decision. "We will not tolerate the attack on the gram panchayats and AAP's attempt to intimidate the sarpanchs. We will keep raising our voice to shield the federal structure of the country and we will keep protesting till Punjab CM revokes the unconstitutional decision," he said.

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Fester wounds

Manipur continues to remain on the boil due to ineffective governance

More than three months since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur, there are still little or no signs of lasting peace. From competing groups imposing blockades of arterial roads to sporadic attacks resulting in deaths, the conflict is rife with incidents suggesting the breakdown of law and order. Another indication of the state of affairs is the difference in perceptions between the police and the paramilitary Assam Rifles with unedifying acts such as an FIR being lodged by the police against the latter for "obstructing" it from discharging its duties. Far from moving away from the ethnic quagmire and in search of a détente, the situation is more like a powder keg. That people are still in relief camps and many houses have been destroyed, and anyone seeking peace has been subjected to violence or threats also attest to this unfortunate fact. India's mainstream polity had an opportunity to use the monsoon session of Parliament to nudge key stakeholders to work towards reconciliation. But that opportunity was seemingly lost, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had little to say beyond homilies on what needs to be done even as the Opposition only sought to pin down the government for its failures as a means to score a political point in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The events in Manipur so far suggest that the ethnic conflict festers because of the intractable positions by the Meitei and Kuki-Zo leaders. The Meitei refuse to acknowledge the sense of bias in the State government's actions – especially by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh – that have alienated the Kuki-Zo and its representatives, cutting across party lines. The latter seeks to harp on the idea of a "separate administration", complicating the fragile co-existence of ethnic identities in the State which include others such as the Naga community. The refusal of civil society representatives to rise above their ethnic differences has also exacerbated the conflict, which has worsened due to the lack of accountability of the State government and its refusal to change its leadership – a step that seems to be the only clear possibility of bringing forward reconciliation. Manipur is a vital border State and the continuing distrust between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo will have a lasting impact on future generations, severely hampering progress. The Union government's choices are clear: it can either continue the narrow-minded emphasis on not giving into any critique, even if constructive, and let the situation fester into an uneasy stasis, or take up the gauntlet and bring about substantive changes in the State leadership, heralding steps towards reconciliation.

Easing credit flow

RBI's platform for loan approvals will help small borrowers

The Reserve Bank of India's plan to establish a 'Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit' is a well-intentioned move that is aimed at easing the flow of credit, especially to small and marginal borrowers. Announced as part of the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies that accompanied the latest monetary policy, earlier this month, the platform is intended to serve as a one-stop digital clearing house for credit-related information, which should help accelerate the loan approval and disbursal process significantly. Developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, the platform will feature open architecture, open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and standards that would facilitate the seamless flow of required digital information from varied entities including State and central governments, credit information companies and digital identity authorities to lenders. As part of an effort to validate the technology and its utility, the RBI said the platform would be introduced in a pilot project that would focus on products such as Kisan Credit Card loans of up to ₹1.6 lakh per borrower, loans to dairy farmers, credit-sans-collateral to MSMEs, and personal and home loans through participating banks. Lenders would be able to access data on the borrowers and credit-related services from agencies including Aadhaar e-KYC, land records in States where local governments have digitised such data (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra included) and even milk pouring data from select dairy cooperatives.

The need for such a centralised public platform can hardly be over-emphasised when one considers the lack of formal credit penetration, particularly among small and marginal farmers in the rural hinterland. More than seven decades since Independence, the question of what needs to be done to make institutional rural credit more inclusive continues to remain a vexing challenge to government planners and economic researchers alike. In 2021, a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development economist observed that 'even among well-developed regions, small and marginal farmers were disadvantaged in terms of credit access', with barely a fifth of the more than 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers having access to institutional credit. As a result, a large majority of rural borrowers end up availing loans from informal sources including moneylenders, and often at usurious rates of interest. The digital platform, if successfully implemented, can help redress precisely this challenge to the delivery of formal credit by helping leverage the contemporary advances in digitisation of information and ensuring that small-ticket loans are made available in a timely and cost-effective manner to those most in need of financing support.

A strong case to restore Section 8(4) of the RP Act

Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party was disqualified on being convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment in a 2019 defamation case. The disqualification was instant because of the Supreme Court of India's judgment in *Lily Thomas vs Union of India* (2013). Through this judgment, the Court invalidated Section 8(4) of the Representation of People Act 1951, which had allowed a three-month period within which to appeal. Disqualification was not to take effect during this period; when the appeal is admitted, disqualification would depend on the final outcome of the appeal.

Thus, under the legal provision cited, there was no instant disqualification of sitting members of the legislature. But after the Court struck down this provision of the Representation of People Act 1951, according to the opinion of some experts, a sitting legislator is disqualified the moment the court orders conviction and sentence under Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act. The top court said that Article 102(l) does not create any difference between the sitting member and a candidate so far as disqualification is concerned. It held that Parliament has no power to grant exemption to sitting members for three months and thus struck down Section 8(4) as *ultra vires* the Constitution.

A case with no sound legal basis
So now, only Section 8(3) remains in the Act which deals with disqualification of persons convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment. This section simply says that a person who is convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of conviction. It does not say that such a person stands disqualified from the date of conviction. So, there is no ground indeed to conclude that the disqualification takes place the moment the court pronounces a person guilty. The only condition is that such a person shall be disqualified from the date of conviction. So, it appears that the act of the instant disqualification of Mr. Gandhi did not have a sound legal basis; particularly so when we consider the words "He shall be disqualified", which could only mean that some authority has to officially declare him disqualified.

The opinion of this writer, which was



P.D.T. Achary
is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

expressed in few articles, is that the authority that/who can declare a sitting legislator disqualified could be the President of India exercising this power under Article 103. Although the Supreme Court did not accept this proposition in *Lily Thomas*, in *Consumer Education & Research ... vs Union Of India & Ors* (2009), a three-judge Bench held that a declaration by the President, under Article 103, that the sitting member has incurred disqualification is necessary.

Thus, the scheme of Section 8(3) seems to be that when a sitting member is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more, he shall be disqualified with effect from the date of conviction. Further, it is the President who shall disqualify him under Article 103. The Secretariat of the House to which the member belongs has no recognisable authority to declare that a member stands disqualified as soon as he is convicted by a court of law.

Disqualification and sentence quantum

A question of legal importance that arose in the context of the disqualification of Mr. Gandhi was whether the stay of only sentence can lift the disqualification or whether stay of conviction is necessary. In the 1980s and 1990s, some of the High Courts (Allahabad High Court in *Sachindra Nath Tripathi vs Doodhnath*, 1987 and the Himachal High Court in *Vikram Anand vs Rakesh Singh*, 1994) had held the view that disqualification remains intact on staying the sentence. But the Madras High Court took a different view in the Jayalalithaa case (2001). It held that "the moment the sentence is suspended[,] conviction should be deemed to have been suspended or otherwise the framers of the code would have taken care to provide for stay of conviction or suspension of conviction also". However, in Rahul Gandhi's case, though the Supreme Court stayed the conviction, it did not express any opinion on the question of whether a stay of conviction is also necessary or on suspending the disqualification.

It must be remembered that disqualification arises only when the sentence is imprisonment for two or more years. As the Court observed in its recent order in Rahul Gandhi's case, if the period of imprisonment was less by one day the disqualification would not have occurred. It would mean that disqualification is directly

relatable to the quantum of sentence and not conviction. But this is a point the lawmakers and the judiciary will have to deal with.

The judgment in *Lily Thomas* can play havoc with the careers of sitting legislators in the country. Instant disqualification on conviction and sentence will upset their entire legislative career without giving them breathing space because the courts in general have a very dilatory system in dealing with appeals, revisions and such. But the case of the Agra court staying the conviction of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Ram Shankar Katheria within 24 hours of conviction in a criminal case, thus saving his House membership is one of the rarest exceptions.

It is heartening that a court like the Agra session court exists in our country. But the issue of instant disqualification needs to be addressed urgently as it may affect the career of legislators. The Supreme Court struck down Section 8(4) on the ground that Parliament has no power to provide for a special dispensation for convicted legislators because Article 102(l) does not permit such differentiation between them and the candidates. But so far as differentiation goes, the Constitution in fact permits it under Article 103 which provides that in the case of sitting legislators, the question of disqualification under Article 102(l) will be decided by the President. Perhaps a suitable amendment can be made in Article 102 to enable Parliament to restore the invalidated Section 8(4).

No qualitative change

In fact, the judgment in *Lily Thomas* has not resulted in any perceptible qualitative change in the criminal proclivity of politicians. Politicians belonging to the powerful ruling dispensation at a particular time may be able to get a conviction stayed within a few hours, thus saving themselves from instant disqualification. But others will have to wait like Mr. Gandhi had to for four months and for the intervention of the Supreme Court just to get a stay on conviction in a defamation case which is non-cognisable and bailable. This and other cases show that Section 8(4) needs to be restored and protected constitutionally in order to protect the careers of India's legislators from abrupt convulsions caused by court orders which are given, in the words of the Supreme Court, "without any application of mind".

No bulwark for Pakistan's minorities

Pakistan has again witnessed violent backlash fuelled by allegations of blasphemy. The recent incident where a mob went on the rampage in Jarawala, Faisalabad, setting fire to churches, attacking the homes of the Christian community and vandalising the local assistant commissioner's office only underscores the country's failure in upholding its fundamental duty of safeguarding its minorities and marginalised groups. The violence followed allegations of blasphemy, sparked by the alleged desecration of pages from the *Koran* near a house where two Christian brothers lived.

Amid rumours, the situation worsened with the involvement of members from the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), who shored up tensions by issuing public statements. The mob directed their aggression towards the home of the accused Christian brothers, which served as a catalyst for a series of violent occurrences.

Christian leaders condemned police inertia, asserting that officers stood inactive even as families sought assistance. Senior administrative and police officials intervened and were engaged in discussions with the protest leaders. Rangers were deployed and additional police personnel were dispatched, according to reports.

Amidst the chaos, a first information report was registered against the two Christian suspects. The incident's repercussions gained censure, with the focus on what was perceived to be discriminatory conduct by the police in managing the situation. A senior police official was reassigned to special duty – a decision made in an attempt to address the demands of the protesting individuals who had been calling for his transfer.

Obviously, in Pakistan, the requirement for evidence loses significance when the focus shifts to blasphemy, thereby setting a path for acts of vigilante justice. This incident marks the second occurrence of an event of this nature in recent times. Just earlier, an English teacher in



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Pakistan is an example of a nation that has one of the highest blasphemy-related prosecutions and cases of communal aggression in the world

Balochistan was murdered following allegations of blasphemy. In February 2022, the brutal murder of priest William Siraj in Peshawar spread fear and outrage among Pakistan's minority communities.

Resurgence of terror

Rising aggression against Pakistan's minorities has been compounded by the revival of terrorist activities, a resurgence notably magnified by the Taliban's seizure of authority in Kabul in 2021. Terrorist attacks in Pakistan have grown more severe over time, especially after the decision by the Pakistani Taliban's (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan-TTP) to temporarily terminate a ceasefire with Islamabad in 2021. With the TTP's confidence boosted by the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, new waves of violence against minority groups in Pakistan have emerged.

There was a period when minorities comprised approximately 15% of the population in major cities. However, their representation has dwindled to less than 4% now. Among these minorities, Christians constitute a faction in this predominantly Sunni Muslim nation. On multiple occasions, accusations of blasphemy have resulted in both court judgments and violence targeting minority groups, including Christians. In September 2020, a Lahore court handed Asif Pervaiz, a young Christian, the death penalty for supposedly sending 'text messages' that had 'blasphemous content'. Pervaiz had already spent almost seven years in custody facing charges of blasphemy. There have been numerous instances where minorities such as the Ahmadis, Shias, and Christians have been accused of blasphemy. The case of Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman, is widely known.

Numerous reports have highlighted the systematic failure of Pakistani courts to adequately safeguard and deliver justice to victims. In relation to the blasphemy regulations, a United States Commission on International Religious Freedom report, for instance, showed

that the enforcement of these blasphemy laws positioned Pakistan as the foremost perpetrator of blasphemy-related prosecutions and communal aggression in the world.

The report further observed that Sections 295 and 298 of Pakistan's Penal Code classify actions and utterances that insult the religion or desecrate the *Koran*, the Prophet, places of worship, or religious symbols as criminal offences. These ambiguous clauses are often exploited to unjustly accuse the Ahmadis, Shia Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, and individuals holding beliefs differing from the predominant Sunni interpretation of Islam.

According to Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of Research at the South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), religious minorities, including Christians, encounter profound discrimination in various Muslim-majority nations. However, no other country subjects Christians to such systematic and institutional persecution and victimisation as Pakistan, he said.

A silence

A conspicuous silence has pervaded the corridors of power, while blasphemy laws have been flaunted as instruments to settle personal scores, seize property, and intimidate minority factions. Amidst this backdrop, can one genuinely feign surprise as occurrences akin to the Jarawala incident surface repeatedly? Employing violence under the guise of religion stands indefensible in any realm. Yet, within Pakistan, the manipulation of blasphemy laws has evolved into a shield for vested agendas, as the *Dawn* has noted in its editorial.

In any case, the litmus test for Pakistan as a democratic state lies in its ability to safeguard the rights of even its smallest minority. The country faces a critical moment, wherein the task at hand is to uphold its fledgling democratic structure in the face of challenges posed by the presence of a deep state, a complex civil society, and a praetorian state machinery.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cauvery issue

The ongoing Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka underscores the gravity of India's inter-State water conflicts, with the report, "SC to constitute a new Bench to hear Cauvery water issue" (Page 1, August 22) highlighting the importance of the matter. However, the underlying political games that are being played are disturbing. While the plea of Tamil Nadu is grounded in the dire necessity to aid standing crops, recent reports suggest that the issue is being politicised at

the expense of the farmers' well-being. The Bharatiya Janata Party's stand in Karnataka, with its demand not to release water, is in stark contrast with the party's national agenda, revealing a dissonance that is detrimental to the nation's unity. Such positions only perpetuate inter-State animosity. Water is a fundamental right and should not be used as a bargaining chip in political rivalries. Both States deserve an equitable share, as dictated by the Supreme Court of India.

Abhinav A., Hanumkonda, Telangana

Madras Day

The special issue, "Made of Chennai" (August 22), made me nostalgic about the golden 1950s. My entire professional career was in Madras/Chennai. I began life in the city staying in a room in Triplicane which had a rent of ₹10. The Marina Beach was less crowded. I often had my meals at Murali cafe in Triplicane, paying just ₹28 for 60-meal tickets. Sundays were spent in cinema halls with tickets priced at ₹1 and 4 annas. And there were the cricket matches at Chepauk. In the 1960s there were more cycle-rickshaws and taxis.

Chennai has changed completely. D. Sethuraman, Chennai

Madras Day is in the news. But what is the emblem of the city? Is it Kapaleeswarar temple or the Ripon Building? The High Court minarets or Napier Bridge? When the Charminar is the emblem of Hyderabad, Qutub Minar Delhi's, the Howrah Bridge Calcutta's, and the Gateway of India Bombays pride, should not Madras/Chennai have its own emblem? If the Greater Chennai Corporation chose a building, my choice would be either the LIC Building, or the TV tower.

K. Pradeep, Chennai

I am an octogenarian and a resident of Chennai. What is the point in publishing nostalgic accounts about the city when there is no attempt to hold the government to account for the way it is handling many of the problems the city faces? Look at the state of the Cooum. What about the state of the roads? We know that there is Metro rail work going on and that 'inconvenience today is for a better tomorrow'. But still,

why are roads in the interiors and outskirts in such terrible shape? Many parts of the city are without sewerage connections such as the East Coast Road. And the stray dog and mosquito populations are soaring. It is also unfortunate that many roads after rainfall are becoming "red light areas". V. Subramanian, Chennai



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

Slow & steady

1 The 'Vikram' lander will start its powered descent from an altitude of 25 km. It will be moving entirely horizontally at this point, at around 1.7 km per second. It will fire its four main engines to cut about 80% of that speed. That will also reduce its height over the moon's surface from 25 km to 7.4 km. Thanks to the moon's gravity, it will also start moving downward at around 61 m/s. All this will take about 11 minutes.

2 In this phase, lasting 10 seconds, the lander will keep its orientation relative to the surface fixed using its eight thrusters and descend from 7.4 km to 6.8 km above the surface. Its horizontal speed will also slow further to 336 m/s, while its speed in the vertical direction will be largely unchanged. This phase is when the spacecraft's sensors will start to matter.

Rover (Pragyan)

Mission life: 1 lunar day (14 earth days)
Mass: 26 kg | Power: 50 W | Payloads: 2

Tough nut

- Historically, 40% of moon missions have failed
- Among robotic lander missions — such as Chandrayaan-3, where a spacecraft performs a controlled landing over the lunar surface — the failure rate has been higher: 60%
- Sample-return missions — which collect samples from the moon and bring them back to the earth — are even harder, with a failure rate of 67%
- On the other hand, orbiters and flybys have been relatively more successful, with failure rates of 36.7% and 24.6%, respectively
- Only three countries have soft-landed a robotic lander on the moon so far: the U.S., Russia (as USSR), and China

19 minutes of SUSPENSE

After being launched by an LVM-3 rocket on July 14, 2023, the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft raised its orbit around the earth before slinging itself towards the moon. Once in orbit around the moon, it gradually moved itself into a circular path (see below). The fate that befell Russia's Luna-25 mission shows how many opportunities there were for failure, and so far, Chandrayaan-3 has overcome them. But the toughest phase of the mission is expected to begin at 5.45 pm today. In case any conditions disfavour landing, ISRO has said it will try again in a month

INTEGRATED MODULE PHASE

Injection Orbit | Lunar Orbit Insertion

Upgraded lander

ISRO has made several changes to Chandrayaan-3 to improve its chances of success. Here are a few:

- The lander can regulate the thrust throughout its descent
- The lander carries two cameras, instead of one as before, to detect and avoid hazards
- The lander is equipped with a laser doppler velocimeter to sense the lander's speed in three directions
- The lander carries more fuel to make adjustments in its path, orientation, and speeds
- The fuel is loaded in a larger propulsion tank with safeguards
- To prevent it from sloshing around
- The lander's fifth central engine has been removed and the thrust of the other four has been increased
- The lander's legs have been strengthened to withstand its weight better
- The lander has extra solar arrays to increase the power produced and a battery with a higher capacity
- The lander will be able to choose its landing site from a larger area on the surface
- It will check the site twice for suitability. If it can spot a better site, it can move and land there instead
- If the lander isn't able to measure its altitude as it descends, it will continue descending at a fixed speed
- The lander can communicate with ground stations and the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter during descent

Sunrise

Because the lander and rover are charged by solar panels, the time at which they land should coincide with sunrise at their location on the moon

Chandrayaan-1

India's first mission to the moon, Chandrayaan-1, was launched on October 22, 2008. The satellite orbited the moon more than 3,400 times. The mission concluded when communication with the spacecraft was lost on August 29, 2009. The Chandrayaan-1 orbiter confirmed water on the moon using multiple instruments

Chandrayaan-2

Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, 2019. It comprised an orbiter, a lander, and a rover to explore the South Pole region of the moon. In this mission, India made its first attempt to soft-land a robotic lander on the lunar surface. However, the landing module failed to complete its controlled descent, and subsequently, communications between the lander and ground stations were lost

Finale

As the lander is hovering, it will reevaluate whether it can resume its downward movement or if there are safer places to land within a 150-metre radius. If it finds a safer place, it will move over to that point while dropping by some distance. Then, in less than a minute or so, it will descend to the surface. If it doesn't find a safer place, the lander will continue to descend from 150 m towards the ground in a little more than a minute. In both cases, it will have to touch down at no more than 2 m/s

Chandrayaan-3's landing site

Follow Chandrayaan-3's landing attempt on The Hindu's live blog, with real-time updates and live analysis, from 4 pm on August 23.

Text by: Vasudevan Mukund (with inputs from Jatan Mehta)
Design by: J.V.S.N. Rajasekhar

All figures are approximate and may not match the exact values on landing day

The lander and rover together have six payloads to study the local properties of the area near the moon's South Pole

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The average water stock in 11 key dams in Marathwada

42.8 in percentage. Amid poor rainfall in August, the average water stock in Maharashtra's Marathwada region on Tuesday dropped by 45% compared to the same time a year ago. PTI

Amount involved in the GTL Infrastructure Ltd loan fraud case

4,000 in ₹ crore. The CBI has conducted searches at the office of GTIL in Mumbai after registering an FIR against it. Officials of 13 banks are under the scanner. PTI

The growth of India's footwear industry this fiscal year

11 in percentage. Softening input cost and rising demand will help the footwear industry this fiscal, a Crisil Ratings report said. The prices of key inputs such as ethylene vinyl acetate have fallen 30% in the past fiscal. PTI

Guaranteed annual income of top male tennis players

0.3 in \$ million. Men's professional tennis players ranked in the Top 100 will be guaranteed an annual income of \$3,00,000 in 2024 under a new program called Baseline announced by ATP Tour. AP

The losses suffered by Uttarakhand due to heavy rains

1,000 in ₹ crore. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said a disaster-like situation prevails in Uttarakhand due to excessive rains. PTI

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Understanding the failure of Luna 25

How did the lunar mission fail? Have the international sanctions on Russia due to the Ukraine invasion played a role in the failure of the mission? Why couldn't the Russia space agency rescue the lander? What is next for Russia's lunar missions?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

LOn August 11, Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, launched its Luna 25 spacecraft onboard a Soyuz 2 rocket. Luna 25 consisted of a lander and its mission was to soft-land near the moon's south pole and study the properties of lunar soil and the atmosphere. But on August 20, Roscosmos stated that Luna 25 had suffered a glitch and crashed on the moon's surface the previous day, ending the mission in a failure.

Why did Russia launch Luna 25?

The Luna 25 mission has been in the works for more than two decades. It was initially called Luna-Glob and the name was later changed to make the mission a part of the Luna series, the last edition of which was launched in 1976. In its statement, Roscosmos said one of the mission's purposes was to "ensure Russia's guaranteed access to the moon's surface" – an allusion to the growing importance of the moon as a spaceflight destination. While Russia and China are together leading the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), versus the U.S.-led Artemis Accords, Russia has not executed a successful interplanetary mission in 34 years now.

Some experts have also said that Russia intended Luna 25 as President Vladimir Putin's demonstration that the country's economy – including the spaceflight sector – hasn't buckled under the weight of international sanctions following Mr. Putin's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Were the two missions in a race?

Too many details are misaligned to expect that Luna 25 and Chandrayaan 3 were in a race. Both missions were launched in a similar timeframe and were expected to attempt a soft-landing on the moon within



Glitch in space: The Soyuz-2 rocket with the moon lander Luna 25 takes off on August 11. AP

days of each other. However, these mission parameters are determined by the launch vehicle, the mass of the spacecraft, the earth-moon trajectory, and availability of sunlight at a point on the moon. In addition, while Chandrayaan 3 has been in development since 2019, Roscosmos was working on Luna 25 since the early 2010s. Both missions also suffered delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, recall that Russia pulled out of building the lander for Chandrayaan 2 due to delays imposed by the failure of the former's Fobos-Grunt mission in 2011. Roscosmos and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have otherwise been partners; the former is also helping train Indian astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission.

Therefore, Luna 25 and Chandrayaan 3 couldn't have been in a race.

What happened to Luna 25?

In its statement, Roscosmos said that it would put together a committee to investigate the precise mode of failure of Luna 25. Beyond that, it has only said that the spacecraft suffered a technical problem that took its operation beyond the parameters within which the mission was designed to operate.

Speculation on social media platforms by spaceflight experts has centred on one event: that as Luna 25 attempted to modify its circular orbit around the moon to a lower pre-landing orbit, it applied more thrust than required, sending it careening to the surface. Roscosmos itself lost contact with Luna 25 as it was performing this manoeuvre, suggesting that the manoeuvre took it out of lunar orbit. Roscosmos Director-General Yury Borisov has said that an engine that was

supposed to fire for 84 seconds did so for 127 seconds instead.

Why couldn't Roscosmos rescue it?

At the moment, NASA and the European Space Agency are helping ISRO track Chandrayaan 3 around the moon. Their antennae will maintain contact with the 'Vikram' lander as it attempts its soft-landing on August 23. But after Russia invaded Ukraine, it lost the goodwill of many countries worldwide, provoking economic sanctions. One less-known consequence was that Russia lost its privilege to use satellite tracking systems operated by countries in different parts of the world. As a result, Roscosmos could contact Luna 25, and receive signals from the spacecraft, only at three stations: two in Russia and one in Russia-annexed Crimea.

In other words, Roscosmos could communicate with Luna 25 only when the moon was directly over Russia. So the size of the window that scientists had to fix the problem and salvage the mission was much smaller. They did attempt to contact the lander in this window but it didn't respond.

What next for Russia?

Whatever the technical reasons for Luna 25's failure, it's clear that Russia is falling behind vis-à-vis going to the moon. Before the ILRS, Russia had joined hands with NASA to build a near-moon space station. But even before it backed out of the partnership in 2021, its role in the enterprise was found to be highly limited.

Under ILRS, Roscosmos has already planned for Luna missions 26 and 27 as part of the first phase of operations, which include technology demonstration and site selection for future lander missions. Now, with the failure of Luna 25 and the sanctions imposed by Western countries – which will limit the components that Russia can import – their respective launch dates could be pushed further from 2027 and 2028. So in the ILRS as well, Russia's role may become limited.

THE GIST

On August 11, Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, launched its Luna 25 spacecraft onboard a Soyuz 2 rocket. But on August 20, Roscosmos stated that Luna 25 had suffered a glitch and crashed on the moon's surface the previous day, ending the mission in a failure.

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Whatever the technical reasons for Luna 25's failure, it's clear that Russia is falling behind vis-à-vis going to the moon.

On protecting the biodiversity of the northeast

To aim for a 10 trillion-dollar economy, without protecting India's environment, is a goal not worth pursuing

LETTER & SPIRIT

Om Pandey

Fostering tourism, undertaking construction projects and developing infrastructure are ways through which a State generates revenue and creates employment opportunities. However, some of them come at a steep environmental cost. In the recent case of *Re: Cleanliness of Umiam Lake versus State of Meghalaya* (2023), the division Bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice W. Diengdoh, in its order, stated that "In the absence of any other employment opportunities and in the name of promoting tourism, the natural beauty of the State should not be destroyed".

The Meghalaya High Court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the cleanliness of the Umiam Lake. The court in its observation of the Meghalaya Waterbodies (Preservation and

Conservation) Guidelines, 2023, said that they did not deal with the "most serious aspect of buildings and construction mushrooming around waterbodies".

The biodiverse northeast India Northeast India is a green belt region due to its abundant natural resources such as oil, natural gas, minerals and fresh water. The Garo-Khasi-Jaintia hills and the Brahmaputra valley are some of the most important biodiversity hotspots.

Though the northeast is industrially backward, deforestation, floods, and existing industries are causing serious problems to the environment in the region. An environmental assessment of the North East Rural Livelihood Project undertaken by the Ministry of Development of the North-eastern Region lays out that "Northeast India lies within ecologically fragile, biologically rich region, highly prone to climatic changes, located in trans boundary river basins. Both flora and fauna of the areas are under threat due to deforestation,

mining, quarrying, shifting cultivation."

Environmental laws

Thus far a considerable number of environmental laws and policies have been developed in the country, especially during the 1980s. Offences related to or against the environment have also taken the shape of "public nuisance" under Sections 268 to 290 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, dealing with pollution of land, air, and water. However, as the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution grants autonomy to District Councils, it limits the authority of the State over matters pertaining to the jurisdiction of the District Councils, including the use of land. In many instances, like in the case of the Umiam Lake, the District Councils do not place any regulations for the preservation and protection of land, especially those around waterbodies.

PILs and judicial activism encouraged under Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution led to a wave of environmental litigation. For example,

the National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of ₹100 crore on the Meghalaya State government for failing to curb illegal mining in 2019. It also imposed a fine of ₹200 crore on the Manipur government for improper waste management in 2022. The enforcement of strict guidelines and imposition of heavy penalties by judicial and quasi-judicial organs of the State, often rescue the ecologically sensitive flora and fauna of these regions.

The pressing priority Central and State governments have to develop infrastructure, generate revenue and create employment through sustainable policies. The 'Negative List' in the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 is a step in the right direction. If an entity is not complying with environment standards; not having applicable environmental clearances; does not have consent from the concerned pollution boards, it will not be eligible for any incentive under the NEIDS and will be put on the 'negative list'.

Similarly, the 'Act Fast for Northeast' policy should not only include "trade and commerce" but also the preservation of "environment and ecology" in the region. To aim for a 10 trillion-dollar economy, without protecting India's environment, is a goal not worth pursuing. The government should consider the case of creating a uniform environmental legislation, which caters to environmental issues at all levels of governance.

The writer reads law at RGNUL.

THE GIST

Fostering tourism, undertaking construction projects and developing infrastructure are ways through which a State generates revenue and creates employment opportunities. However, some of them come at a steep environmental cost.

Though the northeast is industrially backward, deforestation, floods, and existing industries are causing serious problems to the environment in the region.

Central and State governments have to develop infrastructure, generate revenue and create employment through sustainable policies.

KEYWORD



GETTY IMAGES

Toxic femininity: the many diverse interpretations of the concept

Different perspectives of the concept shed light on different facets of societal gender dynamics. While feminist perspectives emphasise the impact of gender expectations on women, alternative understandings claim it to be a tool for women to dominate others while appearing weak and powerless

Rebecca Rose Varghese

While it is not known when the term toxic femininity was first used, its origins are interlinked to the concept of toxic masculinity, a term coined by Shepherd Bliss during the mythopoetic men's movement in the 1980s.

The concept of toxic femininity gained popularity in the 2010s with feminist writers and scholars explaining how it confines women to traditional and stereotypical expectations of women's behaviour. Meanwhile, anti-feminist and conservative interpretations of the term are once again back in the spotlight, with the recent worldwide box-office success of *Barbie*.

Toxic masculinity

Before delving into the conceptualisation of toxic femininity, it is crucial to grasp the concept of toxic masculinity. American psychology professor and writer Shepherd Bliss introduced the term to describe authoritarian masculinity and the emotionally distant father-son relationships that often lead to the sons growing up as similar emotionally distant, violent, and misogynistic men who assert their power through dominance, particularly over women. This understanding suggests that fostering a strong emotional bond between fathers or father figures and their sons can help prevent the development of toxic masculine traits. According to sociologist Michael Flood, the term entailed the worst aspects of stereotypically masculine attributes, including "violence, dominance, emotional illiteracy, sexual entitlement,

and hostility to femininity."

Feminists adopted this term to characterise homophobic and misogynistic speech and violence perpetuated by men, initially focusing on marginalised men from low-income backgrounds. However, it gained prominence in describing the sexist and toxic behaviour of powerful elite men, particularly since the #MeToo movement in 2016.

Defining toxic femininity

As opposed to toxic masculinity, whose definition has remained rather consistent, there have many interpretations of the concept of toxic femininity. From a feminist perspective, toxic femininity arises from societal gender expectations imposed on women. Women who conform to the stereotype of being quiet, submissive, and accepting of male domination embody toxic femininity, which perpetuates the silent acceptance of men's aggression as a means of survival.

This phenomenon can be seen as internalised misogyny, compelling women to adhere to societal norms that keep them subservient. Similar to how fathers may pass down toxic traits to their sons, mothers can inadvertently perpetuate stereotypical gender roles in the next generation of women. Women are taught to remain passive, to never assert themselves in public spaces, tolerate sexist remarks and jokes, and even endure domestic violence. Scholars argue that toxic femininity enables toxic masculinity by reinforcing the power dynamic, as women's submission allows men to treat them as possessions.

Alternative perspectives view toxic femininity as a tool wielded by women to

gain power within a patriarchal structure. In this interpretation, women engage in manipulation, jealousy or use their position as victims to dominate others while appearing weak and powerless. This perspective positions toxic femininity as a counterpart to the negative traits associated with toxic masculinity. Further, conservatives employ this interpretation to undermine femininity and use it to shift blame onto women for the toxic behaviour exhibited by men, contending that men's actions are merely responses to the toxic traits of women. For example, the prevalence of articles on "handling a crazy woman" illustrate how this concept has been manipulated within a patriarchal structure to blame the victim.

The conservative understanding of toxic femininity extends further, often equating it with toxic feminism and using the terms interchangeably. Within Men's Rights Activist discourse, toxic femininity is viewed as a form of man-hating that victimises men. This perspective contends that toxic masculinity is a tool used by toxic women to accuse men. Denying that patriarchy systematically disadvantages women and arguing that toxic femininity poses a greater threat to men than toxic masculinity does to women, these proponents claim that radical femininity disrupts traditional family structures and societal norms. Recent controversies surrounding the movie *Barbie*, which challenges and critiques patriarchy in a unique manner, highlight how some view it as promoting toxic femininity.

Creating a gender binary

The various interpretations of toxic femininity inadvertently reinforce the

gender binary. When discussing the toxic aspects of femininity, one inevitably creates an idealised notion of femininity. Defining healthier versions of femininity and masculinity continues to divide gender into two distinct categories, overlooking the fluid nature of gender identity, which does not rigidly separate masculinity from femininity.

While conservative versions of the concept attempt to glorify the stereotypical roles assigned to women, other perspectives reinforce the gender binary, barely leaving any space for people from the LGBTQ+ community who cannot be confined to it.

Furthermore, when examining the connection between dominant forms of masculinity and subservient forms of femininity along a single gender axis, intersectionality with other identities is often overlooked. Considering the toxic nature of femininity through the lens of intersecting identities such as race, class, caste, and others adds complexity to the concept, especially since the attributes and characteristics attached to men and women can differ according to different conditioning, circumstances and societal norms.

Toxic femininity as a concept with diverse interpretations sheds light on different facets of societal gender dynamics. While feminist perspectives emphasise the impact of gender expectations on women and the perpetuation of subservience, alternative understandings claim it to be a tool of power for women within patriarchal structures. However, it is essential to recognise that these interpretations may inadvertently uphold the gender binary and oversimplify the complex interplay of gender with other aspects of identity.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A hostage event which started from August 23, 1973, led to the rise of the term Stockholm syndrome. Here is a quiz on different syndromes named after other cities

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

This syndrome describes a situation that is opposite to the Stockholm Syndrome. It is a situation where there is extreme non-cooperation and resistance from the hostages towards their captors. What is it called? What is the significance of the name?

QUESTION 2

Hiroaki Ota, a Japanese psychiatrist working in this city (the syndrome is named after this city), coined a term in the 1980s. It is a sense of extreme disappointment exhibited by some individuals when visiting this city. Identify the syndrome.

QUESTION 3

In this syndrome, western travellers to this country experience a form of psychosis, causing them to abandon their belongings and feel disoriented. Name the syndrome.

QUESTION 4

People suffering from this syndrome see this place as a symbol of death. Name the syndrome.

QUESTION 5

This is a syndrome wherein a person will experience a group of mental phenomena along the lines of religiously themed obsessive ideas, delusions, or other psychosis-like experiences that are triggered by a visit to this city. Name the syndrome.



Visual question:
Identify the syndrome named after this man. Who was he?

Questions and Answers of the previous day's daily quiz:

1. The founder of Madras. **Ans: Francis Day**
2. The other statue, apart from the 'Triumph of Labour', in Madras that is reminiscent of the photograph of the American Marines in Iwo Jima, is located here. **Ans: Inside the DGP HQ opposite the Gandhi Statue on the Marina.**
3. Gandhiji established this in 1918. **Ans: Hindi Prachar Sabha**
4. This place gets its name from the 230 weaver families that settled there to produce cotton. **Ans: Chintadripet**
5. The two Ramon Magsaysay Award winners from Madras. **Ans: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and T.M. Krishna**
6. On September 22, 1986, this incident made this venue in Madras part of sporting history. **Ans: The second tied Test at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk.**
7. At this institution, 'mountains move and rivers stay still'. **Ans: IIT Madras**
8. 'Sister cities' of Madras in U.S. **Ans: Denver, San Antonio**
- Visual: Identify the Baron. **Ans: Connemara**
- Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | M. K. Sudhakar
- Correction:** In Question 1 of yesterday's quiz, the year should have been 1639 and not 1969 as was printed. The mistake is regretted.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. S. Velmurugan wants to know the difference between 'salary' and 'emolument'?"

"Salary" is the fixed payment you get every month for the work you do. 'Salary' is given for doing other than manual work. 'Emolument' is 'profit or perquisites from office, employment or labour'. Tips are an emolument in addition to wages'. Sometimes the word is used to mean 'salary'. Generally the word is used in the plural.

What are your emoluments? My salary is ₹1,000. My emoluments come to ₹1,860.

In our country, we use 'total emoluments' to mean salary plus other allowances. 'Emolument' is a formal word. 'Salary' is from Latin 'salarium' which means 'salt allowance'. Roman soldiers were paid part of their wages in salt. Salt was a rare and precious commodity in those days. When money was given at a later stage to buy salt, it was called 'salarium', 'salt money'. From this we get the English word salary. The old sense of the word is retained in 'worth one's salt'. It means to be worthy or deserving of one's wages, or pay. It is generally used negatively. 'He is not worth his salt' means he is not worth what he is paid. So a person who is not worth his salt is not competent, efficient. 'Salt', 'salary', 'saline', 'sausage', 'silt', 'salad' are all related words."

"Sir, what's the meaning of 'Salarial'?"

"'Salarial' means salaried people collectively. Do you know the original meaning of 'emolument'?"

"No, sir."

"It is from Latin 'emolummentum' which means 'payment for corn-grinding'."

"Sir, Mr. A. S. Ramiengar wants to know whether (a) 'restive' can be used in the sense of 'restless' (b) 'as such' can be used to mean 'therefore'."

"Till recently 'restive' was used to mean only 'unmanageable, rejecting control'. Now it is used in the sense of 'restless' also. This meaning is recorded in recent dictionaries. 'As such' does not mean 'therefore'. Every time you use 'as such', ask yourself 'as what'?"

He is a minister, and, as such, he has to tour a lot.

He is a married man, and as such, has heavy responsibilities.

You can't say, I am very tired, and, as such, I'll take some rest."

"Sir, Mr. P. Bashyam wants to know the meaning of 'obiter dicta'."

"'Obiter dicta' is the plural of 'obiter dictum'. 'Obiter dictum' is an 'incidental remark made by a judge in the course of a case and it is not material to his/her judgment and therefore not binding'. 'An obiter dictum' is a gratuitous opinion, an individual impertinence which, whether it be wise or foolish, right or wrong, bindeth none – not even the lips that utter it'. This is what a writer said as early as 1884.

This judge is more famous for his obiter dicta than sound judgment.

'Obiter dicta' is a Latin expression. 'Obiter' means 'by the way' and dictum, 'thing said'. It is something said by the way, an incidental remark.

Published in The Hindu on February 7, 1989

Word of the day

Avocation:

an auxiliary activity

Synonyms:

sideline, hobby, spare-time activity

Usage:

He is an engineer by profession but his avocation is photography.

Pronunciation:

bit.ly/avocationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet:

/əvə(u)'keɪʃən/

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

From Page One**BRICS is a platform for Global South, says Modi**

"I look forward to interacting with a number of guest countries that have been invited to participate in this event," said Mr. Modi. From Johannesburg, Mr. Modi will fly to Athens at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Mr. Modi's visit to Greece will be the first Prime Minister-level meeting from India to Athens in four decades.

Chandrayaan-3 lander all set for touch down

However, with Chandrayaan-3, ISRO has made several changes to make the mission a success, which include strengthening of the landers' legs, reduction in the number of engines, increasing the quantity of propellant, and inclusion of new sensors.

Earlier this month, ISRO Chairman S. Somnath said that even if all sensors fail while attempting to make the soft landing, the lander would still be able to land provided that the propulsion system works.

He added that this time they have made all the systems more robust and have changed the guidance design and introduced newer algorithms.

A few hours after the landing, the rover will be deployed to carry out an in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. The lander and the rover with a mission life of one Lunar day (14 earth days) have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched on July 14 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Since then, earth-bound manoeuvres, crucial trans-lunar injection (TLI), lunar orbit insertion, orbit reduction manoeuvres have been carried out along with the separation of the propulsion module and the lander module.

Inflation pressures may linger, says Ministry

Holding these "abnormal" upticks in some items responsible for fuelling high food inflation last month, the review said this is expected to be transitory. "Tomato prices are likely to decline with the arrival of fresh stocks by the end of August or early September. Further enhanced imports of tur dal are expected to moderate pulses inflation," it pointed out, arguing that these and other government efforts "can soon materialise moderation in food inflation in the coming months".

Apart from the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which has created "disorderly conditions around the supply of wheat and sunflower oil", the Ministry noted that continued dry conditions in Canada and the U.S. have caused wheat prices to rise. "Subdued production growth of oil palm in Malaysia and concern over the production outlook of soybeans and rapeseed in the U.S. and Canada led to a spike in vegetable oils price," it added.

"Disruption in domestic production also aggravated the inflationary pressures. Interruption in the supply chain of tomatoes due to white fly disease in Kolar district, Karnataka and the swift arrival of monsoon in northern India caused a surge in tomato prices." Domestic consumption and investment demand are expected to continue driving India's growth, but further global monetary tightening could hurt stock markets in emerging economies, the Ministry cautioned.

Manipur Assembly to convene on Aug. 29

On August 4, the Cabinet made a similar recommendation to the Governor for convening the Monsoon Session. The Governor's office did not issue the customary notification within the stipulated time, sparking off a debate over a "constitutional crisis". The last Assembly session was held in March. According to the rules, at least two Assembly sessions must be held in a year, translating into one every six months.

Congress's demand

The Congress Legislature Party led by former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh met the Governor on July 26 and demanded the convening of a Special Session of the Assembly under Article 174 (1) of the Constitution.

The Congress has been seeking the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur in view of the "failure of the State machinery". The ongoing ethnic violence and related issues are expected to be discussed in the Assembly session. Manipur has been burning since the conflict between the non-tribal Meitei and the tribal Kuki people broke out on May 3.

The Kuki MLAs in the Assembly have been demanding a separate administration for the tribal people with an Assembly-like set-up in the hills and the posting of officials of the rank of Chief Secretary and Director-General of Police.

Over 160 people have been killed and some 60,000 displaced since the violence broke out on May 3 following a 'tribal solidarity march' organised in the hill districts to oppose the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Rules will be made to curb vulgar language on social media: govt.

Delhi HC had underscored the need for taking seriously the use of vulgar language on social media platforms which are open to children

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has assured the Delhi High Court that it will incorporate necessary rules and regulations in its future policies to regulate social media platforms and intermediaries for making them safer from the use of vulgar language, including profanity and bad words.

In the compliance report filed before the court, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology stated that as "part of its regular exercise on policy-making for the technico-legal ecosystem, it gives due consideration to the observations of this honourable court in its judgment to regulate the social media platforms/intermediaries for making it safer from the use of vulgar languages".

The court had earlier underlined the need for rules and guidelines to regulate the content on social media and OTT platforms. It had underscored the need for taking seriously the use of vulgar language



The challenge faced... for enacting appropriate law, guidelines and rules to regulate the content on social media and on OTT platforms needs urgent attention
DELHI HIGH COURT

in public domain and on social media platforms which are open to children of tender age.

On March 6, the court observed, "The challenge faced by our country, as faced by many other countries, for enacting appropriate law, guidelines and rules to regulate the content on social media and on OTT platforms needs urgent attention".

Use of profanity

"The use of profanity is also a moral issue and the society has to deal with it by its own means too. However, when the content is shown through social media, the sheer enormous power of electronic media and its reach to people of

all ages will certainly invite attention of the court, law enforcement and law-making authorities to regulate it," the court had said.

Its March 6 verdict had come while upholding an order of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate asking the Delhi police to register an FIR against TVF and others under the Information Technology Act. The court had come down heavily on the language used in web series *College Romance*, which was owned by TVF. It had then asked the Ministry to be mindful "to the situations which are fast emerging on a daily basis and to take steps for enforcing stricter application of its rules".

In many ways, this Lahad Yatra is a continuation of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Mr. Ramesh said.

'Rahul's yatra in Ladakh is a follow-up to Bharat Jodo'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said Rahul Gandhi's Lahad Yatra is a continuation of the Bharat Jodo Yatra as his trip to the Union Territory was in fulfilment of a commitment made to a delegation from there during his cross-country march.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "On 24th January earlier this year, Rahul Gandhi had met with a delegation from Ladakh during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Jhajjar Kotli, Jammu."

"His visit to Ladakh this week is in fulfilment of a commitment made to that delegation, which had wanted him to come and hear the people's perceptions of the border challenges with China, and also their views on empowerment of local elected bodies," he said.

Mr. Gandhi reached Leh on a two-day visit on Thursday, later deciding to extend his stay in the region by four more days to cover Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley and Kargil district.

In doing so, the judge overrode the government's recommendations that there should be no stay on Mr. Rana's extradition.

U.S. court stays Rana's extradition in 26/11 terror attack case

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Overriding the Biden administration's appeal, a U.S. court has ordered a stay on the extradition of Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana to India where he is facing a trial for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

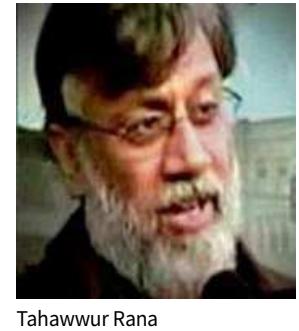
Mr. Rana, 62, has appealed before the Ninth Circuit Court against the order by a U.S. District Court in the Central District of California that denied the writ of *habeas corpus*.

District Judge Dale S. Fischer of the U.S. District Court in Central California in his latest order said that Mr. Rana's "ex parte application" seeking a stay on his extradition is granted.

"The extradition of Rana to India is stayed pending the conclusion of his appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit," Judge Fischer said in the order issued on August 18.

In doing so, the judge overrode the government's recommendations that there should be no stay on Mr. Rana's extradition.

Mr. Rana faces charges for his role in the Mumbai



Tahawwur Rana

attacks and is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

While the Court does not find that Mr. Rana "has made a strong showing that he is likely to succeed on the merits" – otherwise the Court would have ruled in his favour in the first instance – he has certainly raised serious legal questions going to the merits, the judge wrote.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has asked Mr. Rana to submit his argument before October 10 and the U.S. government has been asked to submit its response by November 8.

Judge Fischer wrote that Mr. Rana has shown that he is likely to suffer significant irreparable harm absent a stay.

Coast Guards of Philippines and India to further bonds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Commanders of the Coast Guards of India and Philippines – Director General Rakesh Pal and Commandant Admiral Artemio M. Abu, respectively – on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Enhanced Maritime Cooperation.

This MoU will be followed by the first bilateral meeting between the two agencies.

"The MoU aims to enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), Maritime Search & Rescue (M-SAR) and Marine Pollution Response (MPR)," the Coast Guard said in a statement.

Causing floods is a terrorist offence in law proposed to replace the Indian Penal Code

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill (BNS) says that causing "floods" is a terrorist offence.

The Bill that seeks to replace the British-era Indian Penal Code defines terrorism as a separate offence for the first time as part of a general law. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 is a special law focused on terrorist activities.

Section III (6) (a) of the Bill says that a "terrorist" refers to any person who "develops, manufactures, possesses, acquires, transports, supplies or uses weapons, explosives, or releases nuclear, radiological or other dangerous substance, or cause fire, floods or explosions."



Those responsible for causing floods could be implicated under the proposed legislation. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The Bill that was introduced on the last day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament on August 11 has been referred to a Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs for examination.

According to M.S. Khan, a lawyer specialising in terror cases, the section on terrorism and organised crimes in the proposed law lacks procedural safe-

guards against false implication as available under the UAPA and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime (MCOCA).

The UAPA has often been criticised for draconian provisions. Under the anti-terror law, 4,690 persons were arrested between 2018 and 2020, but only 3% were convicted. Its constitutional validity has

been challenged in the Supreme Court.

Safeguards missing

"All safeguards have been bypassed in the new law. Now any police officer can register an FIR against anyone saying the person is a terrorist. These kinds of offences are not general offences, otherwise they would have been incorporated in the general law earlier," Mr. Khan said.

In 2022, Silchar in Assam was affected by a massive flood claiming more than 120 lives. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said the floods were "man-made", adding that the embankment along the Barak river was breached by some people.

A criminal case was registered and four Muslim residents were arrested. This

led to a barrage of social media posts accusing the members of the community of waging "flood jihad".

Section III proposes a minimum five-year imprisonment and the death sentence as maximum punishment for a terrorist offence.

Mr. Khan said, "Under the MCOCA and the UAPA, there is a provision that before filing of FIR there has to be an approval by a senior police officer. Secondly, the investigation can only be carried out by an officer of a particular rank and there is a bar on the court to take cognisance of the case without government sanctions.

If these safeguards are not there, the trial cannot proceed. Such safeguards are missing in the proposed law," he added.

Petitioners say Constitution did not apply to J&K after 1957; SC Bench disagrees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Justice Kaul asked whether petitioner was arguing that Article 370 had dissolved itself.

the Constitution of J&K. So which are the features of 370 which ceased to exist?" Chief Justice Chandrachud questioned senior counsel.

After Mr. Dwivedi completed his submissions, senior advocate C.U. Singh argued about the illegality of the J&K Reorganisation Act.

You are saying once the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir came into existence in 1957, Article 370 ceased to exist and only governing document became

Canadian man of Indian origin held for espionage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State of Jammu and Kashmir? This will have implications in interpreting the constitutional provision," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed orally.

Justice S.K. Kaul asked whether Mr. Dwivedi, by referring to Constituent Assembly debates, was arguing that Article 370 had dissolved itself.

Mr. Dwivedi said Constituent Assembly debates revealed the intention of the framers of the Constitution.

After Mr. Dwivedi completed his submissions, senior advocate C.U. Singh argued about the illegality of the J&K Reorganisation Act.

He said that to convert a State into a Union Territory, a constitutional amendment is needed under Article 368 which needs two-third ratification.

NHRC issues notice over attack on family

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Director-General of Police (DGP), Haryana, and District Magistrate, Palwal, seeking a detailed report on an incident where a "Hindu family" in a Muslim-dominated village was allegedly attacked, threatened for life and ordered to leave the village for shar-

ing an anti-Rohingya post on social media. The man had reportedly supported the denial of citizenship to the Rohingya community.

Issuing the notices, the commission has observed that extending threats to a citizen to kill for posting some content on social media, that too by persons residing in the same village, indicates infringement of a citizen's basic fundamental rights.



Sindhu is 9 years suffering from T cell Acute lymphoblastic Leukemia and is in urgent need of Chemotherapy and Radiation therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/- She is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help her to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch.D.D.N.I.E.F.T Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Women's Welfare Syndicate is exempted under 80G.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.28, Pyrcroft Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenwelfaresyndicate@gmail.com

WWS

Chair has the discretion to expunge or restore remarks: Birla

The Hindu Bureau

UDAIPUR

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said the presiding officer had the powers to expunge or restore remarks of any member as per the rules and procedures of the House.

Mr. Birla was responding to a question about different yardsticks being applied for different MPs. He was speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of a regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at Udaipur in Rajasthan.

The Speaker was asked why certain remarks by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi were expunged during the recent no-confidence debate while the same words used by Union Minister Smriti Irani were retained, and why BJP member Nishikant Dubey's allegations against a news portal were first expunged and then restored.

"The person in the chair has the right to expunge or restore remarks as per procedure," Mr. Birla said in response to the question on restoration of Mr. Dubey's remarks in the Lok Sabha records.

Asked about Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who was suspended for using certain words for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Speaker said the matter was being examined by the Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha.

Cong. promises caste census in M.P., apart from five guarantees

At a rally in Sagar, Kharge accuses BJP government of corruption, calls upon people to throw out the '50% commission' government in State

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Congress will conduct a caste census in Madhya Pradesh for better planning of resource allocation for the backward classes after it comes to power in the State, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday. The State is scheduled go to the polls later this year.

Addressing a public rally at Sagar, Mr. Kharge targeted the Bharatiya Janata Party government for corruption, and reiterated the Congress's five promises of waiving farmers' debt, 100 units of free power, ₹1,500 monthly stipend for women, gas cylinder for ₹500 and restoration of the old pension scheme for government employees.

"Only the caste census can reveal which community is poor, who are really backward, who are landless, and who are uneducated," Mr. Kharge said.

In this context, he underlined that the Congress had given representation to six backward class people on the recently announced Congress Working Committee, the apex decision-making body of the party.

Targeting the ruling BJP, he said that in Karnataka, it was 40% corruption, referring to the "40% commission" charges against the



Poll push: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with party leader Kamal Nath at a public meeting in Sagar on Tuesday. PTI

previous BJP government, and asked how much was it in Madhya Pradesh. To this, there were scattered voices shouting "50%". "We have removed the 40% government in Karnataka and it is now upon you to push out this '50%' government," he said.

Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the State to lay the foundation stone of a Ravidas memorial at Badtuma village in Sagar, an election gimmick, Mr. Kharge asked, "They remember Sant Ravidas [a 14th century poet and social reformer revered by Scheduled Castes] only during the elections. You have been PM for nine years and Shivraj Chauhan has been CM for 18 years what were you doing all this while?"

He cited a newspaper report from August 14, 2019

about a Ravidas temple being razed in Delhi. He promised that the Congress, after forming the government in Madhya Pradesh, would set up a university in the name of Sant Ravidas to propagate his belief and teachings.

Mr. Kharge accused the BJP of stealing the mandate that was in the Congress's favour in the previous election.

"This is an illegal government," he said.

Addressing the rally, Congress State unit president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said the State had taken the top spot in corruption, atrocities against Dalits, unemployment and lawlessness.

"The BJP is known here for 'Prachaara' (publicity), 'Bhrastachara' (corruption) and 'Atyachaa' (atrocities)," Mr. Nath said.

Festival of Chennai: Stalin releases three publications from *The Hindu*

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

As Chennai turned 384, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin released three books published by *The Hindu* at Ripon Building here on Tuesday. The event was part of the month-long "Festival of Chennai – Madras Month" celebrations.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated a specially curated archival photo exhibition.

Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd., said that on Chennai's 384th birthday, the celebrations were about not just the city's age but also the journey it had undertaken, transforming from Madras to the vibrant metropolis it was today.

"Our archival photo exhibition at the iconic Ripon Building portrays the evolution of our city from Madras to Chennai through the lens of *The Hindu*, keeping people at the forefront. Every picture narrates a story from the people's perspective, and it is also an opportunity to show how this city once was, to a younger generation," she said.

Grand journey

Taking readers through a journey on the great rulers of Tamil Nadu, the book, *Epic Saga of the Cholas: Their Art, Temples and Heritage*, curated by T.S. Subramanian, former Associate Editor, *Frontline*, was released by Mr. Stalin by handing over the first copy to Tamil Nadu Minis-



Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin handing over the book on the Cholas to Minister Thangam Thennarasu in Chennai on Tuesday. Deputy Mayor Magesh Kumar; Mayor R. Priya; Ministers P.K. Sekar Babu and Ma. Subramanian; Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, The Hindu Group; N. Ram, N. Murali and N. Ravi, Directors, The Hindu Group; and Corporation Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan are seen. M. VEDHAN

ter for Finance and Human Resource Management Thangam Thennarasu.

Many scholars and experts have contributed to the coffee-table book, which promises an insight into the architecture, administration and other facets of the Chola rule.

The second book, a collection from the pages of *The Hindu*, titled *Tamil Nadu In Focus: Culture and Society; Politics and Governance*, seeks to capture the evolution of a region and its inhabitants.

The book brings together the people's history of events, movements, personalities and institutions, and shows how the State has evolved with every successive generation across various fields. Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma. Subramanian received the first copy.

Pioneers – Stars in the

Madras Galaxy, a compilation of profiles by Kausalya Santhanam, former Deputy Editor of *The Hindu*.

Many scholars and experts have contributed to the coffee-table book, which promises an insight into the architecture, administration and other facets of the Chola rule.

Many of them have traversed difficult roads and overcome challenges to take their professions to new heights.

Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P.K. Sekar Babu received the first copy from the Chief Minister.

Celebrating a legacy

Ms. Lakshman said the *The Hindu* had released a special supplement to mark Madras Day. Curated by historian and author V. Sri Ram, it celebrates and showcases the historic legacy of the city.

Chennai Mayor R. Priya

addressed the gathering. Deputy Mayor Magesh Kumar and N. Ram, N. Murali and N. Ravi, Directors, The Hindu Publishing Group, were present.

Mr. Stalin later posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he was honoured to unveil three remarkable works by *The Hindu* on Chennai Day.

"Epic Saga of the Cholas" captures the grandeur of the Chola dynasty, "Tamil Nadu In Focus" provides a fascinating insight into the world of Tamil history and culture; politics and governance, over the centuries, while "Pioneers - Stars in the Madras Galaxy" honours our resilient achievers," he said.

He thanked Mr. Ram, Mr. Murali, Mr. Ravi and everyone from The Hindu Group for celebrating the heritage and heroes of the Dravidian heartland.

Dhankhar expresses concern over House disruptions, freebies

Sandeep Phukan

UDAIPUR

Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Tuesday that government freebies had left people in a state of political intoxication and the matter required serious deliberation.

He also said "the temples of democracy" were now "hotbeds of disturbance and disruptions". Legislatures are "fast surging into irrelevance", leaving the country in a "cliff-hanger-like" situation, he said. He was delivering the valedictory address at the ninth regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Udaipur.

Speaking about "political largesse", he said, "Reaching out to people, by greasing their palms or pockets, may be a short-term success story, but for the nation, long-term damage..."

Mr. Dhankhar said if parliamentarians do not occupy the public space in Parliament, other people will occupy it outside. His comment follows repeated disruptions during the Monsoon Session over the violence in Manipur as the Opposition and Treasury



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Veteran Cong. leader slams party colleagues for toeing Hindutva line

Press Trust of India

BHOPAL

Congress leader and former Uttar Pradesh Governor Aziz Qureshi has criticised party colleagues who have "embraced" Hindutva and warned that Muslims will not tolerate excesses against them beyond a limit.

Speaking at a programme in Lateri town in Vidisha district of the BJP-ruled State on Sunday, Mr. Qureshi had said that some Congress leaders talk about Hindutva and shout slogans such as "Jai Ganga Maiya, Narmarda Maiya". "It is a matter of shame. I am not afraid of anything, let them expel me from the party," he said.

All the parties, including the Congress, must understand that Muslims are not their "slaves", he said. "You do not give them jobs. You do not give them jobs in the police, army, navy and air force. Why should they vote for you?" Mr. Qureshi said. Mosques, houses, *mazars* (shrines of saints) and shops of Muslims are set on fire, they and their womenfolk are disrespected, but the community is tolerating all this, he added.

Benches could not agree on a common rule under which they could debate the issue.

Quoting B.R. Ambedkar, he said Parliament will be treated by people outside with "utter contempt" if parliamentarians do not realise their responsibility towards public welfare.

"When legislature meets, Parliament meets, who is bothered? What is the space occupied? What is the perception generated? Only disruption, disturbance, boycotts and unruly conduct gets reported. This situation augurs ill for democratic values," Mr. Dhankhar said.

He said parliamentarians and legislators are taking their jobs lightly and that gives a reprieve to the executive as well as bureaucrats.

SELECTION GRADE TOWN PANCHAYAT KATTUMANNARKOIL, 100					
ROC.No.A1/259/2023		TENDER NOTICE		Date: 18.08.2023	
E-tender is requested for integrated drinking water development works across Kattumannarkoil Town Panchayat at an estimated cost of Rs.32.30 crore under Amrut 2.0 Project for the year 2023-2024 in Kattumannarkoil Town Panchayat Cuddalore District.					
Bids can be submitted through website http://tntenders.gov.in using E-Token / Digital signature card only.					
The details of tender can be obtained from web portal http://tntenders.gov.in Pre-Bid Meeting - 15.09.2023, 11.00 AM at Kattumannarkoil Town panchayat					

Due date, time for the submission of bids : 27.09.2023 up to 3.00 PM.

Date, time of opening of Tender : 27.09.2023 at 3.30 A.M.

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Chairman, DIPR/4637/Tender/2023 Executive Officer, Kattumannarkoil Town Panchayat, Cuddalore District

(E-Mail: serwbpri2004@yahoo.com; Tel/FAX: 0680-2404287)

At-Ambapura, Po-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

Office of the CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR (E-mail: serwbpri2004@yahoo.com; Tel/FAX: 0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. Online Tender/40-2023-24/BPR

Identification No. Name of work No. of Works Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakhs) Class of Contractor Period of Completion

Online Tender / 40-2023-24/ BPR Buildings Works 01 No Rs. 436.28 Lakhs "A" Class 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender online for bidding From To

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur, 25.08.2023 08.09.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCA.

(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCA will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur OPR-25071/11/0043/2324

Government of Odisha, Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur. E-mail Id: serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Bid Identification No. Road Tender Online RWCSBP-22 No : 2024 Dated : 21.08.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate Bid from experienced & eligible bidders for 04 (Four) nos of Road work under CMRL.

1. Name of work : Road works under CMRL.

2. No of work : 04(Four) nos of Road work Details as per DTCA

3. Estimated Cost : Approximately Cost Rs.234.29 lakhs to Rs.499.14 lakhs.

4. Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class

5. Cost of tender paper and mode of deposit : Rs.10,00/- per set.(to be deposited On-line) in favour of concerned Superintending Engineer.

6. Mode of submission of tender : Tender should be submitted only On line in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in .(https://tendersodisha.gov.in)

7. EMD and mode of deposit : 1% of estimated cost of the work to be remitted online as mentioned in DTCA.

8. Summary of Key dates are provided below :

IN BRIEF



Two more bodies found at Uttarakhand landslip site

Two more bodies were recovered from a landslip site in Tehri district of Uttarakhand, taking the death toll in the accident to five. The two victims – a delivery boy and a private sector employee – were residents of the area. Families of the deceased were paid a compensation of ₹4 lakh each, officials said. At least 84 people have lost their lives, while 18 are missing in rain-related incidents in Uttarakhand since June 15. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Tuesday that the government would devise a special scheme to rehabilitate those who lost houses in the heavy rain. "The government will also ensure free education for the children who lost their parents in rain-related incidents," he said.

Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon for three years

Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness of the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mr. Tendulkar in New Delhi on Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness. This collaboration will mark a significant step towards leveraging Mr. Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, the EC said in a statement.

BJP slams Nitish over 'VIP culture' prevailing in Bihar

The BJP has slammed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over "VIP culture" in the State after a video clip emerged on social media in which an ambulance carrying a patient was purportedly stopped when his cavalcade was passing through Marine Drive in Patna. In the 33-second clip, the patient's relatives were seen crying inside the ambulance. Bihar BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, "It shows the sorry state of affairs, the VIP culture being followed by Nitish Kumar. The police and administration must be sensitive. The Chief Minister can wait and the patient must be taken to the hospital on priority."

SC gives relief to NC in party symbol case for Ladakh polls

The National Conference (NC) on Tuesday received a major relief from the Supreme Court which refused to stay the Jammu and Kashmir High Court orders on allotment of the party symbol, plough, for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil elections. "The Ladakh administration tried to get the High Court order stayed. If the order to allot us our symbol is not issued by this evening, the contempt order of the High Court will prevail," NC leader Tanvir Sadiq said. The NC approached the High Court after the election authority of Ladakh refused to grant the party its symbol for the polls scheduled for September 10.

Goyal urges onion growers not to go for panic selling

The Minister says NCCF, NAFED are procuring onions at ₹2,410 a quintal; he adds that they will sell the produce at subsidised rates; he says the decision is in the interest of farmers, consumers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Even as onion farmers stopped trading at the Nashik market of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), the Centre said on Tuesday that it was in touch with the Maharashtra government to defuse the protests that emerged soon after the announcement to impose 40% duty on onion exports.

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal said the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) had started procuring onions from farmers at a "historically high" rate of ₹2,410 a quintal.

At a press conference here on Tuesday, Mr. Goyal said the Union government is taking decisions in the interest of farmers and consumers, and would ensure a balance between these interests.



Workers at an onion market in Nashik staging a protest on Tuesday against the Centre's decision to impose export duty. PTI

He said last year too, when onion farmers were not able to get adequate prices, the Centre had intervened and increased the buffer stock, and used the NCCF and NAFED for procurement to ensure better prices. "This year too, three lakh metric tonnes (lmt) has been procured so far and the farmers have got good prices,"

Mr. Goyal said.

He said the decision to impose 40% export duty was taken when retail prices in the domestic market increased. He said that along with this decision, the Centre also decided to procure five lmt of onions. "NCCF and NAFED have opened centres at various places. ₹2,410 is a historically high rate for a quintal

for onions that will match NCCF's quality norms," he said.

Mr. Goyal said both the agencies have started selling onions at a subsidised rate of ₹25 since Monday.

"Some political opponents have been trying to present a wrong picture. I would urge all farmers in onion producing States not to worry and indulge in any panic selling. NCCF and NAFED have been directed to procure onions from farmers," he added. "Farmers will not have to worry about anything," he said.

Mr. Goyal said he was in continuous dialogue with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar.

Farmers' organisations and Opposition parties have questioned the Centre's decision to impose duty. In Nashik, one of the largest wholesale markets for onions, farmers have said they will stop trading till the Centre revoked the decision.

Centre to buy 521 lakh tonnes of rice this kharif season

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ministry says 100% distribution of fortified rice across all rice-consuming districts soon

consuming districts in the country. He said the third phase of the programme was in progress and the entire public distribution system would be covered with fortified rice. "We will be universalising the scheme within some months," he said, adding that of the 250 lakh tonnes with the Food Corporation of India, only 12 lakh tonnes was non-for-

fertilised rice.

The Ministry organised a national seminar on the efficacy of rice fortification. He said the scheme was an evidence-based programme and fortified rice was safe even for those with thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia. It would not cause any toxicity. He said five kilograms of fortified rice would be supplied to a person every month, which is 160 grams of fortified rice per day containing 7 mg of iron.

Collegium wants court to reflect India's diversity: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday said one of the missions of the Collegium was to ensure that the richness and diversity of India were represented in the top court.

Terminating the Supreme Court people-centric and not just poly-vocal, the Chief Justice said, "It is the Supreme Court of India and our aim here is to reflect that this court reflects the diversity of India".

He was speaking at a felicitation function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association for Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and S.V.N. Bhatti. "Many people have been critical of the Supreme Court for being a poly-vocal court. The reason why we are a poly-vocal court is because no two judges are similar. Here we have a judge from Maharashtra sharing the Bench with a judge of West Bengal to decide a matter from Haryana," he said.

Bharat NCAP: India to get its own car crash testing programme from October

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Nitin Gadkari during the launch of Bharat New Car Assessment Programme in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

manufacturers had offered 30 models for testing.

A rating between one to five stars will be assigned to a vehicle after an evaluation of three parameters – adult occupant protection, child occupant protection, and safety assist technologies present in the car.

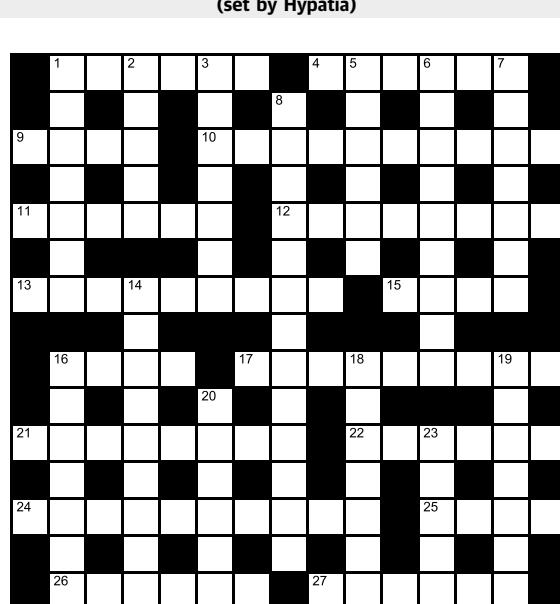
The first two parameters will be calculated with the help of three tests, which include a frontal offset test in which a vehicle is driven at 64 kmph and with 40% overlap into a deformable barrier which represents an oncoming vehicle. This replicates a crash between two cars of the same weight.

The other tests are side impact test at 50 kmph and pole-side impact test (where a car is crashed into a rigid pole sideways) at 29 kmph.

An original equipment manufacturer must nominate a vehicle model for testing. Bharat NCAP representatives will visit the manufacturing facility or a dealer outlet to select the base variant of the model through random sampling and send it to a testing centre, in coordination with the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).

The test results will be

TH CROSSWORD 13951



Across

- Pushes husband wearing wife's slippers! (6)
- Fuss over evil good-looking guy (6)
- Spic girl pursuing Beckham, initially (4)
- Bishop wants retired man to shelter bar worker (10)
- Farmer welcoming start of heavy rain (6)
- Gain weight (8)

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



SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

N	U	I	S	A	N	C	E	E	S	P	R	I	T	H
O	D	D	U	B	T	E	L							
D	E	L	I	M	O	N	B							
E	L	E	I	T	E	U								
L	A	N	D	S	I	N	S							
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S	I	N	E	R	E									
I	N	E	R	E										
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E	R	E												

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

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FAITH

Garuda's association with 5

Garuda Bhagawan's avatar on earth is always referred to as Garuda Panchami, and there is a reason for this. The numeral five and Garuda have a close association, said Prabha Snehas in a discourse on Garuda Panchami.

Our knowledge of Garuda, also known as Pakshiraja, is derived from five authentic books, namely, Pancharatra Agamam, Saatvatha Samhitai, Paatma Samhitai, Narayana Samhitai and Vihageswara Samhitai.

These books say Garuda has five personae. He is a Satyan, Suparnan, Tarkshyan, Vihageswaran and Garudan. Garudan controls the five vayus in our physiology. These are Pranam, Apaanam, Samanam, Uddhanam and Vyana. These five being under control ensures good health. The fourth characteristic of Garuda is his five pre-eminent positions associated with Maha Vishnu. He is the vahana (mount) for Lord Narayana. He enjoys the status of a saha (friend) of Narayana. He is also the dasan, servitor of the Lord. He is the asanam, the seat of the Lord. Last, but not the least, he is the dwajam (flagstaff) for the Lord. The fifth phenomenon of Garuda is the Panchakshara mantra, which is effective against all diseases. This mantra is not easy to obtain. However, Swami Vedanta Desikan has simplified it in Garuda Panchashath, reciting which will fetch one abundant benefits.



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

COLOMBO

China research ship requests to dock in Sri Lanka; date not decided



China has requested permission for *Shi Yan 6*, a research ship, to dock in Sri Lanka, Colombo said on Tuesday, following a visit by a spacecraft-tracking vessel last year that sparked security concerns from neighbouring India. It added that no date had been set and the request was being processed. AFP

MOSCOW

Wagner is making Africa 'freer' from 'colonisers', says Prigozhin



The leader of Russia's Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, said in a video published on Monday that his group was making Africa "freer". A Russian organisation affiliated with Wagner shared a message apparently from Mr. Prigozhin, who said the events in Niger were part of the nation's fight against "colonisers". AFP

SEOUL

North Korea's Kim lambasts Premier, officials over flooding



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un severely rebuked his premier and other senior officials over their "irresponsible" response to recent flooding that inundated farmlands, state media reported on Tuesday. Observers say this likely aims to shift blame for the country's worsened economic hardships. AP

JERUSALEM

17-year-old Palestinian killed in Israeli military raid in West Bank



Israeli security forces stormed into a town in the north of the West Bank on Tuesday, leading to fighting that killed Othman Abu Kharj, a 17-year-old Palestinian, according to Palestinian health officials, the latest violence to grip the occupied territory. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group claimed Abu Kharj as a fighter. AP

Thai Parliament elects Srettha Thavisin as PM

Pheu Thai's coalition of around a dozen parties commands 314 of the Lower House's 500 seats; largest party MFP was denied the Prime Minister spot by the conservative, pro-military forces

Agence France-Presse

BANGKOK

Thai lawmakers approved tycoon Srettha Thavisin as the kingdom's new Prime Minister on Tuesday, ending three months of political deadlock on the day former premier Thaksin Shinawatra returned from exile.

Mr. Srettha easily secured a majority across the two houses of Parliament to be approved as Thailand's 30th Prime Minister, despite his Pheu Thai party coming second in the May election.

He sailed past the 374 votes needed for a majority of elected Lower House MPs and senators appointed by the last junta, according to a count of votes broadcast live on Parliament TV. Pheu Thai's coalition of around a dozen par-



Srettha Thavisin arrives at the party headquarters in Bangkok on Tuesday, ahead of the second prime ministerial vote. AFP

ties commands 314 of the Lower House's 500 seats.

But it has stirred controversy by welcoming former foes into the partnership, including the pro-military parties of former coup makers that ousted Pheu Thai's last Prime Minister.

The vote came hours after Pheu Thai founder and figurehead Mr. Thaksin re-

turned to Thailand for the first time since 2008 and was immediately jailed.

New vows

Pheu Thai stepped in to form a government after the reformist Move Forward Party (MFP) – which won the most seats – saw its leader denied the Prime Minister spot by conservative, pro-military forces.

Mr. Srettha, the former head of Thai property giant Sansiri, on Friday vowed to tackle poverty and inequality – and rejected corruption allegations made by an anti-graft whistleblower.

A wave of urban and youth discontent with nearly a decade of military-backed rule carried MFP to a surprise first-place finish in May's election.

But the party's pledges to reform royal insult laws and tackle powerful business monopolies saw it run into bitter opposition from the kingdom's powerful elites.

MFP leader Pita Limjraenrat failed to win enough support from pro-military and royalist senators in a Prime Minister vote last month and was later suspended from Parliament by the Constitutional Court.

Thai ex-PM Thaksin jailed on return from exile

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra returned to the kingdom on Tuesday after 15 years in exile and was immediately jailed, just hours before his party's candidate was elected Prime Minister.

The Supreme Court ordered the 74-year-old billionaire to serve eight years on old graft charges, though it is not clear how much time he will serve behind bars, as his Pheu Thai party forms the government and rumours swirl of a deal for leniency.

Mr. Thaksin, loved and loathed in almost equal measure in Thailand, landed in a private jet at Bangkok's Don Mueang airport on Tuesday morning, and was greeted by hundreds of noisy "Red Shirt" supporters waving banners and singing songs.

Japan to release water from Fukushima nuclear plant

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO

Japan will release water from the stricken Fukushima power plant into the Pacific Ocean from Thursday, 12 years after one of the world's worst nuclear disasters.

China, which has already partially halted Japanese food shipments, sharply criticised the announcement, while Hong Kong and Macau said they would ban the import of "aquatic products" from 10 Japanese regions, with the latter also banning vegetables and dairy imports.

Japan insists that the gradual discharge of the more than 500 Olympic swimming pools' worth of water from the site in northeast Japan, announced by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday, is safe.

The Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power station was

Storage tanks for radioactive water at Fukushima plant.

knocked out by a massive earthquake and tsunami that killed around 18,000 people in March 2011, sending three of its reactors into meltdown.

Operator TEPCO has since collected 1.34 million tonnes of water used to cool what remains of the still highly radioactive reactors, mixed with groundwater and rain that has seeped in.

TEPCO says the water will be diluted and filtered before release to remove all radioactive substances

except tritium, levels of which are far below dangerous levels.

It has failed to reassure China, which said it would take "necessary measures to safeguard the marine environment, food safety and public health".

"The ocean is the common property of all humankind, not a place for Japan to arbitrarily dump nuclear-contaminated water," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday.

A nuclear expert, however, said the level of tritium was well below World Health Organisation (WHO) drinking water limits.

"Tritium has been released [by nuclear power plants] for decades with no evident detrimental environmental or health effects," Tony Hooker, a nuclear expert from the University of Adelaide, said.

Trump to surrender to face Georgia charges

Agence France-Presse

ATLANTA

Donald Trump said he will turn himself in on Thursday in Georgia to face racketeering and other charges stemming from his bid to overturn the 2020 election.

Writing on his platform Truth Social on Monday, Mr. Trump said that that day he would be "ARRESTED by a Radical Left District Attorney, Fani Willis," the Georgia official who brought the year's fourth indictment against the former President.

The judge in the case earlier approved a \$200,000 bond for Mr. Trump in the racketeering

Donald Trump

case filed against him in the southern state.

Mr. Trump and the 18 other co-defendants in the landmark case have until noon on Friday to turn themselves in to the authorities in Georgia to be booked. Mr. Trump is facing four criminal trials.

African Union bars Niger over coup

Agence France-Presse

ADDIS ABABA

The African Union said on Tuesday it had suspended coup-hit Niger until civilian rule is restored and announced it would assess the implications of any armed intervention in the Sahel nation.

In a crisis now nearly four weeks old, the West African regional bloc ECO-WAS has threatened to use force to reinstate Niger's elected President, Mohamed Bazoum.

The Peace and Security Council "requests the AU Commission to undertake an assessment of the economic, social and security implications of deploying a

standby force in Niger and report back to Council," the bloc said, following strong differences on the matter.

Army officers toppled Mr. Bazoum on July 26, prompting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to approve activation of a "standby force to restore constitutional order" in Niamey.

The bloc has said it is ready to intervene as a last resort but is continuing to press for a diplomatic solution. The coup has heightened international worries over the Sahel, which faces growing jihadist insurgencies linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : KWA/HO/SP-07/2023/24/Eol (PHD), Expression of Interest (EOI) From the Manufacturers or OEM authorised Agencies of Palm-held devices with latest technology to be used for meter reading and spot billing in KWA EMD : Rs. Nil, Tender Fee : Rs. 500/-, Last Date for submitting tender : 18-09-2023 03:00pm, Phone : +91 9188951709, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, Chief Engineer (HRD&GL), KWA-JB-GL-6-1084-2023-24

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD, ZONE BIKANER

No.:1462 Dt.- 03-08-2023 NIB CODE:- PWD2324A2114 NIB NO. 20/2023-24

Bid for 01 No. ROB works Under CM Announcement Year 2023-24 Sanctioned in CRIF Scheme of procurement (ePCR Mode) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM Dt. 28.08.2023 (Monday) Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spptt.raj.nic.in>) of the state and DIPR department website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. 73,47 Crore.

UBN Code No. PWD2324WLOB09780

DIPR/C/11989 Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone Bikaner

TELANGANA STATE CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.

email : proc@smarkfed2018@gmail.com, Ph. No.: 046-2460 7108, Fax: 046-2460 7100, Rc. No.:1257/P&M/Disposal of Sun Flower/2022-23, Date: 22-08-2023

ONLINE SEALED TENDERS FOR SALE OF SUN FLOWER RABBI 2022-23 QUANTITY OF 2504.17 MTs WITHOUT BASE PRICE PROCURED BY TS MARKED.

Tender notification for online sealed e-tendering in two bid systems i.e Pre-qualification bid and Commercial Bid for Disposal of Sun Flower 2022-23 for a total quantity of 2504.17 MTs without base price procured by TS MARKED on tender platform <http://tender.tlakshana.gov.in>

(a) Bid Submission Start date 23-08-2023 from 03:00 PM (b) Bid Submission end date 11-09-2023 from 03:00 PM (c) Opening of pre-Qualification bid on 13-09-2023 from 11:00 AM (d) Opening of Commercial bid on 13-09-2023 at 03:00 PM. For online registration and technical support please contact Service providers M/s Vupadhi Techno Services Pvt Ltd, Ph: 9337445546, 7337445546 & 6309339690, 9912762116. For further details please contact Ph: 728879806 and 728879829.

DIPR No.: 540-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Dt:22-08-2023 Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIV. BARAN

क्रमांक : 878 दिनांक : 11/08/2023

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for "Road /Building work" NIT No. 11/2023-24 are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 PM on 23.08.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spptt.raj.nic.in>) of the state departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 592.86 lacs.

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क्रमांक : 878

IN BRIEF



SBIFM completes liquidation of Templeton MF schemes

SBI Funds Management Ltd. (SBIFM) said it had completed the liquidation of assets of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund's (FTMF) six debt schemes wound up by the latter, in an "orderly manner" and disbursed about ₹27,508 crore to the impacted unitholders. In April 2020, FTMF had shut down the six debt schemes citing lack of redemption pressure and lack of liquidity in the Indian bond market, causing concern among unitholders. PTI

Kotak FYN eyes customer base of 1 lakh by March 2024

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (KMBL) said it aims to have a customer base of one lakh on Kotak FYN, its recently introduced integrated digital platform for business banking and corporate clients. "Kotak FYN (For Your Needs) was unveiled during April 2023. In the first five months, we have onboarded 40,000 corporate customers and will be adding another 60,000 by year end," said Shekhar Bhandari, president - Global Transaction Banking and New Age Business.

Glenmark settles drug pricing case with U.S. Dept. of Justice

Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said it had entered into a pact with the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (DOJ) to resolve court proceedings related to the pricing of a drug. U.S.-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc., a subsidiary, has entered into a three-year deferred prosecution agreement with DOJ involving historical pricing practices by former employees relating to the generic drug pravastatin between 2013 and 2015, the drug maker said in a filing. PTI

GDP growth to accelerate to 8.5% in first quarter: ICRA

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI
India's economic growth will accelerate to 8.5% in the April-June period of the current fiscal from the 6.1% growth rate witnessed in the preceding January-March quarter, ICRA Ratings said in a report on Tuesday.

The rating agency attributed the faster growth to a supportive base and also a recovery in the services sector.

Though its estimate is higher than the RBI's forecast of 8.1%, ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar said the second half of the fiscal is likely to witness headwinds, which will prove a dampener.

'Bharat- NCAP norms to benefit consumers'

The Hindu Bureau



MUMBAI
Auto and auto-component makers have responded positively to the Centre's Bharat-New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat-NCAP) norms announced by Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

"We strongly believe it is a step in the right direction," said Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive VP, Toyota Kirloskar Motor. "In addition to empowering consumers with vital information and making Indian roads safer for all."

Vinnie Mehta, Director General, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), said: "This initiative will not only bolster the auto component industry's value chain but will also stimulate the production of cutting-edge components."

Unsoo Kim, MD & CEO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd. said, "We believe this effort

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU
Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are the most leveraged deep technologies (54% of use cases) by Indian B2B SaaS (software-as-a-service) firms followed by big data/descriptive analytics (39%) and intelligent automation (7%), according to a Nasscom-EY analysis.

Breakthrough Indian B2B SaaS companies, who are inventive deeptech-focused, can potentially unlock sustained CAGR of 30-50% in average recurring revenue (ARR), as per the study based on an analysis of 201 leading Indian B2B SaaS companies.

Vodafone Idea plans to clear ₹2,400 cr. of dues by Sept.

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI
Debt-ridden telco Vodafone Idea plans to clear about ₹2,400 crore of dues to the government by September, sources privy to the development said.

The company recently cleared pending dues of licence fees and spectrum usage charges of about ₹450 crore for the March quarter of 2022-23, a source told PTI. "Vodafone Idea will clear dues for the June 2023 quarter and spectrum instalment with applicable interest by September," the source said.

The telecom company is also gearing up to clear the licence fee payment by September.

Star Air claims largest regional airline slot

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI
Regional airline Star Air, a part of Sanjay Ghodawat Group said it had become the "largest regional airline ever" in India after inducting the third Embraer E175 aircraft with 76 seats to enhance air connectivity.

With this addition, the airline's regional jet fleet strength has increased to eight. "Becoming the largest regional airline in India is a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality and convenient air travel to our passengers," said Shrenik Ghodawat, Director, Star Air.

"With our expanding

Deeptech can boost SaaS firms' revenue'



As per the report, 99% of Indian B2B SaaS firms studied had embraced deeptech innovations to address clients' needs. Deeptech has the potential to propel India's growing digital economy by creating a seismic transformation across the nation's narrative, said Sangeeta Gupta, Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer, Nasscom.

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU
fleet and network, we are focused on enhancing regional connectivity and providing passengers across India with seamless and comfortable travel options," he said.

"We will soon be commencing all the 40 routes awarded to us under UDAN 5," he added. Currently, Star Air operates scheduled flights utilising 5 Embraer E145 and 3 Embraer E175 aircraft, connecting 18 Indian destinations.

BIS organised Lab Exposure Visit for science students of govt school

Bureau of Indian Standards, Chandigarh Branch Office, Chandigarh, has organised a Lab Exposure Visit for Science Students of Govt. Sen. Sec. School, Kurali at BIS Northern Regional Office Lab, Mohali, on 18.08.2023 under the efficient guidance of Shri Deepak Aggarwal, Scientist-F & Head, Chandigarh Branch Office. A brief introduction about BIS activities and Features of BIS website and BIS Care App was given to

UP tops in total cost share of projects sanctioned by banks & financial institutions for 2nd year in a row

Uttar Pradesh continues to be ahead of all other states once again in the total share of approved projects by banks and financial institutions as per the August 2023 bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India. Uttar Pradesh continues to lead with a share of 16.2 percent in 2022-23, maintaining its number one position for the second consecutive year. The figures presented in the RBI bulletin indicate that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh has not only gained the trust of investors from across the country and the world, but also from all national banks and financial institutions. During the Monsoon session of the legislative assembly, opposition leader Akhilesh Yadav mocked the One Trillion Economy resolution and questioned the government about its roadmap.

LIC gets 6.6% stake in Jio Financial, RIL's demerged unit slips 5% again

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD
Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has secured 6.66% holding in Jio Financial Services Ltd. consequent to the demerger of the financial services business of Reliance Industries.

The shares were acquired through demerger.

The cost of acquisition was 4.68% of the demerged cost of Reliance Industries Ltd., LIC said in an exchange filing, even as Jio Financial Services shares slid 5% for the second consecutive day post listing, triggering its lower circuit.

On the NSE, the shares closed 5% lower at ₹236.45 apiece, while on BSE they ended 4.99% lower at ₹239.20 each. On Monday, the shares listed at ₹262 on the NSE and ₹265 on the BSE, closing 5% lower.

Since the stock has hit the lower circuit limit for two consecutive days i.e., Monday and Tuesday, the index committee has decided to postpone the removal of JFSL from all the S&P BSE indices by another three days, Asia Index Private Ltd., a 50-50 partnership between S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and BSE Ltd., said in a notice.

"Should JFSL continue to hit lower circuit on the next two days, the removal date will be deferred by another three days," it was stated in the notice. RIL shareholders got one JFSL share for each RIL share they held on demerger.

(With PTI inputs)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,230	0.00%
US Dollar	82.99	0.16
Gold	59,410	0.18
Brent oil	84.10	-1.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.	2698.05	.58.30
Adani Ports	854.50	-3.65
Apollo Hosp.	4919.65	-13.00
Asian Paints	3179.70	-2.60
Axis Bank	957.05	4.45
Bajaj Auto	4628.40	-17.55
Bajaj FinServ	1467.80	-10.50
Bajaj Finance	7069.95	21.75
Bharti Airtel	877.65	5.70
BPCL	346.90	-5.15
Britannia Ind.	4511.65	1.15
Cipla	1221.00	-12.80
Coal India	230.75	0.65
Divis Lab.	3653.25	-12.00
Dr Reddy's Lab.	5925.80	.14.70
Eicher Motors	3343.40	-22.15
Grasim Ind.	1805.80	-2.60
HCL Tech	1179.50	0.25
HFDC Bank	1582.70	-6.80
HFDC Life	635.85	10.70
Hero MotoCorp	2956.75	25.25
Hindalco	450.35	0.95
Hind Unilever	2565.80	3.05
ICICI Bank	952.00	-3.20
IndusInd Bank	1401.15	3.35
Infosys	1403.75	-1.65
ITC	454.25	6.45
Jio Financial Servic.	236.45	-12.45
JSW Steel	795.20	0.45
Kotak Bank	1763.10	2.75
L&T	2678.80	16.55
LTI Mindtree Ltd.	5139.90	-7.65
M&M	1550.50	11.95
Maurti Suzuki	9491.90	53.10
NestleIndia	22025.95	-8.40
NTPC	221.70	2.90
ONGC	176.15	0.10
PowerGrid Corp	247.80	0.60
Reliance Ind.	2519.40	-0.60
SBI Life	1286.75	8.20
State Bank	568.50	-3.20
Sun Pharma	1137.55	0.15
Tata ConsumerPro- duct	848.80	0.30
Tata Motors	620.20	-0.30
Tata Steel	117.55	0.65
TCS	3382.15	-19.50
Tech Mahindra	1213.20	-5.65
Titan	3075.60	-2.70
UltraTech Cement	8203.50	-15.80
UPL	583.85	-1.85
Wipro	417.10	2.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.74	83.06
Euro	90.09	90.44
British Pound	105.70	106.11
Japanese Yen (100)	56.83	57.05
Chinese Yuan	11.34	11.39
Swiss Franc	94.24	94.61
Singapore Dollar	61.05	61.30
Canadian Dollar	61.14	61.38
Malaysian Ringgit	17.79	17.88
Australian Dollar	53.33	53.55

Source: Indian Bank

Birla eyes ₹2,000-cr. 'green' railway foray

The Hindu Bureau



Kumar Mangalam Birla

An investment of ₹2,000 crore is planned and technology tie-ups are in place to bring new extrusion and fabrication technologies to India."

However, Hindalco had no plans for coach fabrication, an official clarified.

(With PTI inputs)

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

GAIL Director (Finance) Shri Rakesh Kumar Jain wins prestigious 'CFO Leadership Award'



New Delhi, August 18, 2023: Shri Rakesh Kumar Jain, Director (Finance) of GAIL (India) Limited, has been honoured with the prestigious 'CFO Leadership Award' by CMO Asia. The award was presented at the 14th Edition of CMO Asia Awards ceremony held in Singapore yesterday. A Cost and Management Accountant by profession, Shri Jain joined GAIL in 1992 as a Management Trainee and has been part of growth trajectory of the company. Prior to his appointment as Director (Finance), Shri Jain held the position of Executive Director (Finance & Accounts) in GAIL. Additionally, Shri Jain holds the position of Director in Inraprastha Gas Limited, GAIL Gas Limited, GAIL Global (USA) Inc. and GAIL Global (USA) LNG LLC.

Pratyogita Darpan launches its Annual Special Issue with world's affair and current events

Agra: Pratyogita Darpan Group today launched its most awaited and wholesome September issue as Annual special issue with the aim of success for the students appearing in Civil services, SSC, bank P.O., UGC NET, and other competitive examination. This issue contains beneficial study material and competition base solved model papers. On this occasion, the Editor and Publisher of the group

NATION'S FIRST

Zango makes athletics history for Burkina Faso in triple jump



Hugues Fabrice Zango gave Burkina Faso its first global athletics title when he won men's triple jump world gold in Budapest on Monday. The 30-year-old won with a best effort of 17.64m to add gold to his world silver last year and Olympic bronze in 2021, which was the west African nation's first ever Olympic medal.

ONE MORE!

Holloway pockets his third successive 110m gold



American Grant Holloway raced to his third consecutive World Athletics Championships gold medal in the men's 110 metres hurdles on Monday. Hansle Parchment of Jamaica closed well to take the silver in 13.07, while Daniel Roberts of the United States crossed in 13.09 for bronze.

DRAMATIC WIN

Sweden's Stahl pips Ceh in thrilling showdown, secures discus gold



Olympic champion Daniel Stahl won a dramatic World Championship discus gold with the final throw on Monday just minutes after Kristian Ceh thought he had done enough to retain his title. After Ceh crossed the 70-mark with a 70.02, Stahl launched the disc to 71.46. Lithuania's Mykolas Alekna took the bronze (68.85).

THE ROAD AHEAD

Bumrah, Prasidh need more game time before the World Cup: Kotak



Sitzanu Kotak, India coach for the Ireland tour, said fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna need more game time. "They need more game time before the World Cup. They got three games in this series and will also get a few matches in the Asia Cup," said Kotak at a media interaction in Dublin on Tuesday.

Pragg plays out 35-move draw with Carlsen

I don't think I was in any trouble at all and I will definitely push hard in Game 2, says the 18-year-old Indian; the Norwegian reveals he was suffering from food poisoning

CHESS WORLD CUP**Rakesh Rao**

In keeping with the rising expectations of the chess world, a confident R. Praggnanandhaa matched favourite Magnus Carlsen for a comfortable 35-move draw in their first round clash in the final of the FIDE World Cup in Baku on Tuesday.

"I don't think I was in any trouble at all," said Praggnanandhaa after the game. Asked about the second game, he said, "It'll be a fight. I'll definitely push very hard. Today, I'll just try and rest. Come fresh (tomorrow) and do the best that I can do."

Praggnanandhaa surprised Carlsen with his choice of opening move – pushing the queen-bishop pawn to the four rank – but admitted he was not clear of how to gain any advantage with white pieces and his rival took his time



Peace treaty: Carlsen and Pragg were both happy with the draw in Game 1. X@FIDE

to play his moves using "common sense."

Carlsen, who mentioned that he suffered from food poisoning on Sunday, said, "I really didn't mind a draw."

During the post-game chat, Carlsen clearly looked unwell and far from his usual, cheerful best. Admitting that he had not prepared for Praggnanandhaa's choice of English Opening, Carlsen shared, "Normally, I would

probably have a bit of an advantage having a rest day while he had to play a tough tie-breaker yesterday.

"But I've been in pretty rough shape these past couple of days, like I got some food poisoning after the game against Abasov. I haven't been able to eat for the last two days. This also meant that I was really calm and I had no energy... so I didn't have any energy to be nervous. Overall, I'm

happy with the way I solved the problems from the opening (phase). The result is fine."

On Wednesday, Carlsen will play with white pieces. Should the game end in a draw, the title will be decided by tie-break games on Thursday.

The results (Game 1): Open (final): R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); For third place: Nijat Abasov (Aze) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA).

Kasparov hails Pragg's mother's special support



Praggnanandhaa with his mother. X@PHOTOCHESS

Press Trust of India

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

R. Praggnanandhaa's incredible run in the Chess World Cup has reminded the legendary Garry Kasparov of his time as the king of the 64 squares. Impressed with the teen sensation's win over world No.3 Fabiano Caruana here on Monday, the former world champion Kasparov took to X to laud the 18-year-old's feats and his mother's efforts.

"Congrats to @praggnanandhaa – and to his mother. As someone whose proud mama accompanied me to every event, it's a special kind of support! The Chennai Indian defeated two New York cowboys! He has been very tenacious in difficult positions," Kasparov posted.

Avesh, with his pace, or Mukesh Kumar, with subtle variations, could be tried

India likely to test bench strength in final game

INDIA IN IRELAND**Press Trust of India**

DUBLIN

Jasprit Bumrah will have to balance between adding miles to his legs and checking his team's bench-strength as India aims to complete a sweep against Ireland in the three-match T20I series here on Wednesday.

The more Bumrah and Prasidh Krishna bowl, the fitter they will get, better the rhythm will be and greater the pace in their deliveries – ingredients that are must to cook a perfect recipe to trouble Pakistan in the upcoming Asia Cup and the World Cup.

The third game gives this think-tank a chance to check out players like Avesh Khan, Jitesh Sharma and Shahbaz Ahmed, who haven't yet got a game in the series.

It is unlikely that there will be any change in the batting order.

Arshdeep Singh has got a long rope and his has been a mixed bag so far after he failed to show consistency in nailing the yorkers during the death overs in the past seven T20I games.

Avesh, with his pace, or Mukesh Kumar, with subtle variations, could be tried



Up and down: The inconsistent Arshdeep will be keen to get it right in the third T20I. PTI

out in the third match.

With Rinku Singh announcing his arrival on international stage with a 21-ball-38 in the second game, India's T20 squad seems like getting that second finisher after Suryakumar Yadav.

The teams: (from):

India: Jasprit Bumrah (Capt.), Rituraj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku

Singh, Sanju Samson (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar and Avesh Khan.

Ireland: Paul Stirling (Capt.), Andrew Balbirnie, Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Fionn Hand, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Theo van Woerkom, Ben White and Craig Young.

Match starts at 7.30 p.m. IST.

Richardson clinches 100m gold with late surge



Sporting wings: Richardson, despite being stuck in lane nine, flew past the others in the final. REUTERS

ATHLETICS WORLDS**Reuters**

BUDAPEST

United States sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson overcame the challenge of being stuck in lane nine, winning the women's 100m with a late surge on Monday. She clocked 10.65s after catching Jamaica's Shericka Jackson, who took silver in 10.72. Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, seeking a sixth

World 100m title at the age of 36, won the bronze (10.77).

Richardson's global championship struggles looked to be continuing when she was left in the blocks in the semifinals and had to dig deep to finish third and scrape into the final as a fast loser. That came with the consequence that Richardson was given lane nine but she had a far better start in the final.

Jackson, in lane four, had opened a clear gap

and was still ahead at 80 metres before Richardson swept through and raised her arms in triumph.

India's 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji failed to qualify for the semifinals, finishing seventh in her heat and 29th overall. She clocked 13.05s, well below her National record of 12.78s.

Krishan Kumar failed to make it to the men's 800m semifinals after coming seventh in his heat in 1m 50.36s, well behind his personal best of 1:45.88.

The Meerut origin behind Ceh's silver in discus

Jonathan Selvaraj

BUDAPEST

There was no Indian in action on the third day of the Athletics World Championships here, but there was an Indian representation. And that contributed to a silver for Slovenia's Kristjan Ceh, who threw 70.02m to claim his second consecutive medal at the World Championships.

Those who follow the throwing events know exactly what they were seeing. With trademark bright yellow panels, the Nelco Ultra Spin RimGlide 78 is perhaps one of the most distinctive implements in world athletics. It's the discus that's won throwers the gold medal at the World Championships in Eugene, both gold and silver at the Tokyo Olympics, and it's made in the North Indian town of Meerut.

While Olympic and World medals might be spoken off in incredibly hallowed tones in most parts of India, in the Nelco unit in Meerut, around 100km from New Delhi, they are almost expected. "We have been specialists in making throwing implements for many decades and we have been regular-

ly winning medals in the last 20 years. The first Olympic gold with a Nelco discus was won by Gerd Kanter in 2008 and we usually get two out of three on the podium. At last year's World Championships, we won gold in the men's event and a silver in women," said Ambar Anand, Managing Director, Nelco.

But while Nelco might be famous for producing high flying two kilo metal discs, it began by producing a similarly aerodynamic, albeit much lighter, product. The company was originally named Nelson after the English admiral. In 1942, it made and sold shuttlecocks in Lahore's

Mohini street. When he and his family fled to India following the partition of 1947, Balraj Anand restarted his business making skipping ropes and dumbbells.

At the Worlds here, Nelco's Ultra Spin gold is one of four discus being used, with Japan's Nishi, Germany's Denfi and UCS of the United States the others.

Although athletes have a common pool of discus to pick from at the Worlds, no one changes implements. That's because a discus isn't just a discus. What was once just an ovoid metal disc tapered at the ends is now an extremely technologically driven implement.

The Indian, thus, settled his score against Jeon, who had defeated him in their only meeting at the Asia Team Championship in 2022. The 11th seeded In-

Lakshya and Prannoy progress; Sindhu's dismal run continues

BADMINTON WORLDS**Press Trust of India**

COPENHAGEN

Former champion P.V. Sindhu's wretched run continued as she bowed out of the World Championships but Lakshya Sen advanced to the third round with a straight-game demolition of Korea's Jeon Hyek Jin in men's singles here on Tuesday.

The most successful Indian at World Championships with five medals, Sindhu lacked any sting in her attack and went down tamely 21-14, 21-14 to old nemesis Nozomi Okuhara of Japan, a 2017 gold medallist and silver winner in 2019.

It is the first time in her career that Sindhu, seeded 16th, has failed to reach the quarterfinals at the prestigious tournament.

In men's singles, Lakshya, bronze medallist at the 2021 edition, prevailed 21-11, 21-12 over the World No. 51 Korean.

The Indian, thus, settled his score against Jeon, who had defeated him in their only meeting at the Asia Team Championship in 2022. The 11th seeded In-

dian is likely to face third seeded Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand in the next round.

H.S. Prannoy, the ninth seed, hardly broke sweat as he got past Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 21-9, 21-14 in a 36-minute contest.

Prannoy, the Indian in form, played an all-court game to tame the Indonesian.

The results: Second round:
Men: 11-Lakshya Sen bt Jeon Hyek Jin (Kor) 21-11, 21-12; 9-H.S. Prannoy bt Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo (Ind) 21-9, 21-14.
Women: Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) bt 16-P.V. Sindhu 21-14, 21-14.

M ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



Jaipur Patriots joins as the seventh franchise

The Ultimate Table Tennis on Tuesday unveiled Jaipur Patriots as the newest franchise in the league. About adding a team to the league, UTT promoter Niraj Bajaj said: "The inclusion of a seventh team will enhance the level of competition." UTT co-promoter Vira Dani said: "Jaipur's inclusion is a testament to how UTT has grown over the years and how it will continue to grow." Jaipur Patriots joins Goa Challengers, Chennai Lions, Dabang Delhi, U Mumba, Bengaluru Smashers and Puneri Paltan in the league.

Ashish settles for bronze on his return

Returning to international competition after two years, Ashish Kumar landed a bronze medal in men's floor exercise in the recently concluded Pharaohs Cup international tournament in Cairo, Egypt. The 33-year-old Ashish, who had been dealing with injuries, scored 12.80, after a penalty of 0.4, to secure an international medal after nine long years.

Fouaad second in Individual Eventing at CCIO4 Nations Cup

Indian Equestrian Fouaad Mirza, astride Seigneur Medicott, finished second in Eventing (individual) at the CCIO4 Nations Cup, Belgium, with an impressive score of 27.5. He fell short by just 0.4 points, ceding the top of the podium to Olympic eventing champion Julia Krajewski.

Rutuja & Vaidehi in doubles quarterfinals in Hong Kong

Rutuja Bhosale and Vaidehi Chaudhari beat Nagi Hanatani and Man Ying Maggie Ng 6-2, 6-1 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Hong Kong on Tuesday. In the \$25,000 men's event in Tainan, Chinese Taipei,

The results: First round: €36,000 Challenger, Prague, Czech Republic: Szymon Kielan (Pol) & Kirill Kivattsev bt Niki Pooncha & Adam Taylor (Aus) 6-3, 6-4.
\$25,000 ITF men, Tainan, Chinese Taipei: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Ke Hau Hung (Tpe) 6-4, 6-2.
Doubles: Jake Delaney & Jesse Delaney (Aus) bt Rishabh Agarwal & Sai Kartek Reddy 6-3, 6-4.
\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) bt Faisal Qamar & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-3, 6-3; Siddhant Bantia & Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Han Seong Yon (Kor) & Thantub Suksumrarn (Tha) 7-6(5), 7-5.
\$40,000 ITF women, Hong Kong: Rutuja Bhosale & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Nagi Hanatani (Jpn) & Man Ying Maggie Ng (Hkg) 6-2, 6-1.
\$15,000 ITF women, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Prathyusha Rachapudi & Sandeep Singh Rao bt Amittai Prasutriwan & Natasha Sengprachanh (Tha) 6-3, 7-5; Britney Chiu (USA) & Lisa-Marie Rioux (Jpn) bt Jennifer Luikham & Demi Tran (Ned) 6-3, 7-6(7).

Bagan SG too good for Abahani, moves to the group league stage



Cool finish: Cummings scores from the spot to draw Bagan level against Abahani. DEBASISH BHADURI

knock-out stage Bagan started in the right earnest but faltered in the striking zone. Sahal Abdul Samad and Hugo Boumous combined well to keep the opposition under constant pressure.

The home side created at least three scoring opportunities in the first quarter but it was Abahani that found the lead off a nice counter attack in the 17th. Bagan goalkeeper

Defensive masterclass takes Arsenal past Palace

Only skipper Odegaard's second-half penalty separates the two teams; Pulisic makes a scoring start to life in the Serie A with AC Milan

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
LONDON

Arsenal relied on Martin Odegaard's 54th-minute penalty and an obdurate defensive effort when down to 10 men late on to secure a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace in the English Premier League on Monday.

Takehiro Tomiyasu was sent off in the 67th minute after collecting a second yellow card, forcing Arsenal to retreat to preserve its second straight victory to open the campaign.

In the end, a penalty separated the teams, with Odegaard sending Sam Johnstone the wrong way from the spot after the Palace goalkeeper brought down Eddie Nketiah following a quickly taken free kick. Bukayo Saka usually takes Arsenal's spot kicks but he handed the ball to Odegaard, the captain.

Arsenal is keeping pace with likely title rival Manchester City, the defending champion, by earning back-to-back wins. The first – 2-1 at home to Nottingham Forest – didn't come easy, either.

"We know Man City are the best team in the world at the minute and they are



Slotting it in: Odegaard scores Arsenal's winner from the spot. REUTERS

tough to stop," Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice said. "But it's a great challenge ahead."

Palace offered little attacking threat until Tomiyasu, who was yellow-carded in the 60th for taking too long at a throw-in, was adjudged to have pulled the jersey of Jordan Ayew after the Palace forward spun round to chase a ball over the top.

The second booking looked harsh and Tomiyasu appeared stunned by the decision as he became the fifth player in the second round of Premier League games to be sent off. Match officials are clamping down on time-

wasting, especially, this season, explaining why Tomiyasu got his first yellow.

"We know what's happening, we know if we are time-wasting, we're going to get a yellow card," Rice said. "It can be frustrating at times but they laid down the law at the start of the season."

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta withdrew a raft of attackers in the final 20 minutes and replaced them with defenders to protect the lead. Center backs William Saliba and substitute Gabriel, in particular, were impressive in helping Arsenal see the game out.

United States standout Christian Pulisic began his AC Milan career in impressive style by scoring one goal and setting up another as Bologna was beaten 2-0 on Monday in their opening match of Serie A.

Pulisic, who joined Milan last month, had a hand in Olivier Giroud's opener and his former Chelsea teammate returned the favor in the 21st minute.

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 0 Arsenal 1 (Odegaard 54-pen). LaLiga: Alaves 4 (Rioja 7, Duarte 44, Kike 54, 59) bt Sevilla 3 (Abgar 15-og, Lamela 41, Mir 90+7); Granada 0 lost to Rayo Vallecano 2 (Garcia 75, Ciss 79). Serie A: Torino 0 drew with Cagliari 0; Bologna 0 lost to AC Milan 2 (Girod 11, Pulisic 21).

over Gokulam Kerala FC in the final group-C league match at the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata.

Bengaluru finished on five points behind Gokulam Kerala FC, which qualified from the group with six.

The results: Group E (Guwahati): Hyderabad FC 3 (Aaren D Silva 16, 24, 69) bt Tribhuvan Army FC 0.

Group C (Kolkata): Gokulam Kerala FC 0 lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Robin Yadav 57, Lalpekhlua 89).

Quarterfinal line-up (after online draw): August 24: NorthEast United vs Indian Army FT (Guwahati); August 25: Emami East Bengal vs Gokulam Kerala (Kolkata); August 26: FC Goa vs Chennaiyin FC, which topped the group with nine.

In the second match of the day, defending champion Bengaluru FC made its exit from this year's edition with a fluent 2-0 win

Hyderabad FC and Bengaluru FC finish with wins

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Aaren D'Silva scored a hat-trick to help Hyderabad FC down Nepal's Tribhuvan Army FC 3-0 and sign off with a win in its concluding group-E league of the 132nd Durand Cup at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Guwahati on Tuesday.

The Nizams finished their campaign four points behind Chennaiyin FC, which topped the group with nine.

In the second match of the day, defending champion Bengaluru FC made its exit from this year's edition with a fluent 2-0 win

Indian junior women defeat Spain

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
DUESSELDORF

The Indian junior women's hockey team defeated Spain 2-1 in the 4-Nations Tournament on Tuesday. Annu (21st) and Sakshi Rana (47th) scored a goal each for India. For Spain, Lima Tere-

sa (23th) found the target.

The Indian junior men lost 1-6 to Germany to finish runners-up on Tuesday. Sudheep Chirmako (22nd) scored for India.

Germany's goals came from Florian Sperling (15th), Ben Hasbach (20th), Hugo von Montgelas (23rd), Fabio Seitz (38th), Niklas Berends (41st), and Paul Glander (43rd).

Adarsh misses Olympic quota by a whisker

SHOOTING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

Adarsh Singh shot 583 in rapid fire pistol and missed the Olympic quota by a whisker in the Shooting World Championship in Baku on Tuesday.

The fourth Olympic quota went to Peeter Olesk of Estonia, who had also shot 583 like Adarsh but was one better on the inner-10s at 16x. Adarsh had 15x which put him in the ninth spot.

With only the Asian Championship giving the last chance for the Indian

shooters to qualify for the Olympic Games in Paris, the rapid fire pistol shooters can now aspire only for one Olympic quota, owing to qualification restrictions. China was on top of the medals table with 10 gold, six silver and four bronze medals. India was third with four gold and three bronze.

The results: 25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Li Yuehong (Chn) 39 (WR) 586; 2. Clement Bassaguet (Fra) 30 (586); 3. Florian Peter (Ger) 24 (585); 9. Adarsh Singh 583; 25. Vijayveer Sidhu 577; 32. Anish Bhanwala 575. Team: 1. China 1756 (EWR); 2. Germany 1740; 3. Korea 1739; 5. India 1735.

Rawat's 160 gives Delhi the edge, Vaibhav finishes with ten-wicket haul

BUCHI BABU

Sports Bureau

Anuj Rawat's 160 helped Delhi take the first-innings lead against Jammu & Kashmir on day two of the second-round match in the All India Buchi Babu invitational tournament at Coimbatore on Tuesday.

Evenly poised In Tirunelveli, the match between Kerala and Bengal is poised evenly in a low-scoring encounter.

Chasing a target of 212,

The Madhya Pradesh-Baroda contest is going neck-to-neck at Dindigul with MP leading by just 11 runs now

Bengal ended day two on 36 for four.

Kerala takes lead

Earlier, defending a score of 195, Kerala managed to bowl out Bengal for just 109 taking the first-innings lead. In the second innings, left-arm spinner Vaibhav Yadav's six-wicket haul helped Bengal bowl out Kerala for just 125 with the bowler finishing with

match figures of ten for 79.

The scores: At Coimbatore: Indian Railways 184 & 156/5 in 50 overs (Sagar Solanki 54, Sahab Yuvraj 60) vs Chhattisgarh 194 in 57 overs.

At Dindigul: Madhya Pradesh 204 & 34/1 in 12 overs vs Baroda 227 in 83.1 overs (Joyntsingh 72, Mahesh Pithiya 50, Adheer Pratap Singh 6/85)

At Salem: Jammu & Kashmir 256 & 4/0 in 1 over vs Delhi 386 in 103.5 overs (Anuj Rawat 160, Ayush Badoni 43, Jonty Sidhu 65, Hrithik Shokeen 56, Abid Mushtaq 7/124)

At Tirunelveli: Kerala 195 & 125 in 40.1 overs (Vaibhav Yadav 6/29) vs CAB XI 109 in 51.4 overs (Yuvraj Keswani 47) & 36/4 in 15 overs.



Bajrang and Deepak's proposals cleared

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved leading wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia's proposals to train abroad after getting their fitness certificates.

Bajrang had given a proposal for a 39-day training stint along with his coach, strength and conditioning expert, physio and sparring partner in Kyrgyzstan. Deepak's proposal was for a 35-day training stint in Russia. Sports Authority of India (SAI) was not happy with the duo's decision to skip the upcoming World championships trials.

Vishal Kaith spilled an easy catch trying to gather a cross and allowed Stewart to tap home. Bagan got its act together towards the end of the first half with Cummings restoring parity from the spot. The home side did not look back here after and picked up two more after the break.

The result: Mohun Bagan SG 3 (Cummings 37, Soleimani 58-og, Sadiku 60) bt Abahani Dhaka (Stewart 17).

The MOC, on August 18, gave "in-principle" approval to both Bajrang and Deepak's proposals subject to providing a fitness certificate before going abroad along with a justifiable reason for not participating in senior Worlds trials," said a statement on Tuesday.

"Following this, Bajrang, on August 19, gave his reasons for not participating in the trials. Additionally, a medical fitness assessment was conducted by the SAI on August 21 at Sonipat where he was declared fit to play/ train. Deepak also submitted his response and medical certificate on August 22."

The SAI has decided to book first available flights to help the two leave for their foreign training.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF World Championships: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 p.m. onwards
Maharaja Trophy T20: Star Sports 2 & FanCode, 1 & 5.30 p.m.
Ireland vs India: 3rd T20I, Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: (play-offs, first-leg), Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Sethuraman stays in the lead; Abhijeet suffers a setback

NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao
PUNE

Top seed Abhijeet Gupta's comeback bid suffered a serious blow when youngster Neelash Saha punished him for a series of errors in 51 moves after S. P. Sethuraman stayed in the lead at the end of seven rounds of the National chess championship here.

Half-a-point behind Sethuraman were Puranik, Saha, N.R. Visakh, P. Iniyar, Mitrabha Guha, Dipayan Ghosh, Aronyak Ghosh and Deep Sengupta at six points.

The results: Sixth round: S.P. Sethuraman (6.5) drew with Abhimanu Puranik (6); Mitrabha

Guha (6) drew with Aronyak Ghosh (6); Abhijeet Gupta (5) lost to Neelash Saha (6); Anuj Shrivastava (5.5) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (5.5); Dipayan Ghosh (6) bt Arghyadip Das (5).

Sidhant Mohapatra (5) lost to N. R. Visakh (6); P. Iniyar (6) bt M.R. Venkatesh (5); Mehar Chhina Reddy (5.5) drew with N.R. Vignesh (5.5); Bhoopnath Yadav (5) lost to Deep Sengupta (6).

P. Shyaamnikhil (5.5) drew with L.R. Srihari (5.5); Deepan Chakkavarthy (5.5) drew with Apoorv Kamble (5.5); G. Akash (5.5) bt Kolla Bhaavan (5).

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Second-seeded A. Sharath Kamal of Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) claimed his sixth International singles title, defeating Manush Shah of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 11-6, 6-11, 15-13, 11-6, 7-11, 7-12. **Doubles,**

The curious case of Sanju Samson

The aggressive Kerala wicketkeeper-batter is known for his hit-or-miss approach and the misses have taken over as the years have passed, resulting in him falling out of favour with the selectors



Ashwin Achal

Sanju Samson's vocal, massive fan base is impressive, given that he is not a regular in the India squad. His supporters were up in arms, not for the first time, when Samson was not included in the 2023 ODI Asia Cup squad. The wicketkeeper-batter will travel with the team as just a back-up player, as K.L. Rahul is carrying a niggle (unrelated to his original injury).

It now appears that Samson's prospects of making it to the 2023 Cricket World Cup are slim to none. The selectors have made this clear by excluding Samson to accommodate a returning Rahul and Ishan Kishan. Rahul makes his comeback from injury, and will don the role of wicketkeeper-batter. Kishan has been named as the second wicketkeeper, sending Samson down the hierarchy.

It can be argued that Rahul is being rushed into action too quickly. The tried-and-tested policy which required a player to prove his fitness in domestic cricket before making a comeback has not been followed for Rahul. To make matters worse, Rahul was not in the best of form before the injury hit as well.

A few days ahead of the Asia Cup team announcement, former India head coach Ravi Shastri explained that Rahul is not ready for the rigours of international cricket. "You are talking of a player (K.L.

Rahul) who has not played and is recovering from injury. To think of him in the playing eleven of the Asia Cup – you're asking a little too much of him. And then you're talking about him keeping wicket. When a guy returns from an injury, the range of movement and other things... That's a no no," Shastri said in a *Star Sports* panel discussion.

The selectors were also not convinced that Samson can fit in as a specialist batter, despite his terrific ODI record. The aggressive Kerala cricketer holds an average of 55.71 in 13 ODIs – a statistic that would normally guarantee a spot in most teams. Instead, it is Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer and Tilak Varma who have got the nod.

The faith shown in Suryakumar is not without risk, given that the Mumbaikar is yet to adapt to the demands of 50-over cricket. Suryakumar is no doubt an asset in the shortest format, but his low scores in ODIs indicate that he is still a work in progress.

Tilak, meanwhile, is riding high on his good returns in the T20I series against West Indies recently. The southpaw, yet to earn an ODI cap, cut a composed figure on his maiden international appearance. Tilak, however, failed in the most recent T20Is in Ireland, falling for 1 and 0.

Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar sees the long-term potential in Tilak. "In West Indies, we saw some real promise in

terms of not just performances but the temperament. And it gives us an opportunity to take him with the team, give him some more exposure. A left-hander again; looks very promising. Fortunately we can take 17 here, it'll be 15 at the World Cup. So when the time comes we'll take that decision, but at the moment it at least gives the coach and captain an opportunity to have him with the squad," Agarkar said.

Like Rahul, Shreyas is back in action after an injury layoff. The middle-order batter is faced with the tough task of hitting the ground running in Sri Lanka in order to make the cut for the World Cup.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra is among the many who sympathise with Samson's fans. "Sanju Samson's fans and Sanju Samson himself might consider themselves slightly unlucky because his performances are good in ODIs. He has an average of over 50 and he scored a fifty in the West Indies also. There is no doubt that he plays well," Chopra said on his YouTube channel.

Chopra believes that Samson should be the second-choice wicketkeeper after Rahul. "My initial thought was that if a wicketkeeper has to play in the middle order, Sanju Samson is definitely the second option after K.L. Rahul," Chopra said.

Samson's own form suggests that he has not made a strong enough case to

force a place in the national team. In the two ODIs against West Indies, Samson made 9 and 51, followed by scores of 7 and 12 on the two occasions he got to bat in the T20I leg.

On the Ireland tour, Samson scored 40 in the second T20I. In the absence of a few big knocks, he gave room to the selectors to look the other way.

Samson's reputation as a maverick could be held against him. He is notoriously inconsistent, alternating between brilliant and mediocre. This was best exemplified in the 2019 Vijay Hazare trophy, when he struck a record-breaking unbeaten 212 against Goa in Bengaluru, only to fall for 15 and 0 in the next two outings. Speaking to *The Hindu* at the end of that tournament, Samson did not hesitate to admit that he did not care to earn the 'Mr. Consistent' tag.

"Everyone says I need to be consistent, but if you want me to be consistent, I have to change my game. I will never do that. I'm happy to score double hundreds every 10 innings rather than scoring 40s and 50s," Samson had stated.

"I'm positive and dominant, so there is a bigger risk of getting out. I'm okay with that. I don't like to stay at the crease for a long time and take up a lot of balls," he added.

Samson has retained this hit-or-miss approach as the years have passed. At present, the misses have taken over.

THE GIST

Samson has an average of 55.71 in 13 ODIs

He is in the travelling reserves for India's Asia Cup squad

The wicketkeeper-batter did not play in 73 T20Is between July 19, 2015, and January 10, 2020, placing him 10th in the list of players who have missed most number of consecutive T20Is

BIG SHOT



Until the 1980s, people observed the waves at Teahupo'o from a safe distance. And then, along came Tahitian Thierry Vernaudon and a few other local surfers in 1985 to try and surf in these waters. Teahupo'o loosely translates to the 'place of skulls' – its surf break (an extremely shallow coral reef, which adds an element of danger)

makes the waves heavy, uniquely shaped and up to 7m in height. So, naturally, this is a venue on every serious surfer's 'must' list. Every year since 1999, Teahupo'o has held the Tahiti Pro event.

Surfers are drawn to this competition for many reasons. The unparalleled adrenaline rush, some culture (they stay with local families during the event and often come

back to the same homes every year), and the beautiful sights. Teahupo'o is set to host the surfing competition for the 2024 Paris Olympics. This little village – dubbed The End of the Road – in south-western Tahiti, French Polynesia, will be the farthest competition sub-venue from the host city (15,800km) in the history of the Games. GETTY IMAGES

You have achieved something very important: acting PM tells Spaniards

Associated Press
MADRID

Pedro Sanchez, Spain's acting Prime Minister, praised the country's Women's World Cup champions during an audience at the presidential palace on Tuesday and later slammed the head of the Spanish soccer federation for kissing a team member without her consent.

"You have achieved something very important. The girls who watch you see soccer as a place where they can develop athletically and personally," said Sanchez while posing for a group photo with the team. "The 21st century will be the century of women on all fronts, and the century of effective equality between men and women."

Sanchez said the team members will be awarded Spain's golden medal of sports achievement in honour of their World Cup triumph.

Gender equality and women's rights have been the cornerstone of Sanchez's government. But Spain's success has been marred by the forced kiss Spanish soccer federation president Luis Rubiales gave to player Jenni Hermoso during the medal ceremony.



"What we saw is unacceptable," said Sanchez. "And the apologies offered by Rubiales are not sufficient. I would call them inappropriate and he must continue taking further steps to clarify what we all saw."

During the celebrations, Hermoso avoided commenting on the incident. "We're world champions, aren't we?" she said. "Right now I think it's too much."

The players and support staff landed late on Monday in Madrid after a long flight from Sydney. They

were greeted by thousands in a celebration that went on past midnight. Carmona's teammate, Irene Paredes, had lost her father a few days before they began their preparation for the World Cup. The defender dedicated the title to him on Sunday.

Spain hadn't celebrated a football world title since the men's team won its lone World Cup trophy in 2010 in South Africa. Only Germany has also won the women's and men's World Cups.

SCIENCE



A nurse wearing a cloth mask attends to a flu patient at the Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C., during the 1918 influenza pandemic. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How the deadliest virus in human history paved the way for new cures

When the CDC received an application to revive the H1N1 virus that caused the Great Influenza epidemic of 1918, vaccine efficacy was a mere 10%. Realising the value of the proposal, the CDC installed special security measures. Only Terrence Tumpey, was authorised to work on the project in complete isolation; he worked only after all his colleagues had left for the day

Arun Panchapakesan

This is part II of a two-part story on the virus that caused the Great Influenza epidemic. Part I was published Tuesday.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the apex organisation in the U.S. on matters of public health and safety. Research on any new infectious agent must be first approved by the CDC. But in 2005, the CDC received an application for study on a very old infectious agent.

The researchers in question wanted the body's approval to recreate a deadly pathogen - one that had not infected anyone since 1920. Despite the serious risk to the public, the CDC scientists carefully reviewed the application and granted permission to perform the requisite experiments necessary, because they deemed the experiments the researchers had proposed to be sufficiently important.

The applicants wanted to recreate the H1N1 influenza virus - which had killed around 50 million people in an outbreak in 1918 - from its genetic material.

Terrence Tumpey

Influenza viruses are almost always circulating among humans. The nature of the virus means that every year, the virus's genetic material undergoes some minor changes, rendering it a little different from the virus of the previous year. So scientists have to guess which changes are likely to survive the next year, and design or update their vaccines accordingly.

An influenza virus can also infect birds, pigs, horses, and other domestic animals. It can assort the types of the two genes it contains - haemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N) - in these animals to generate a new virus altogether, some of which may infect humans. All these complications ensure that designing an effective vaccine for influenza remains challenging.

When the CDC received the application for the 1918 H1N1 virus revival, vaccine efficacy was a meagre 10%.

The CDC, realising the value of the proposal, installed special security measures. Only one man, Terrence Tumpey, was authorised to work on the project, and that too in complete isolation. He was allowed to work only after all his colleagues had left for the day, and his laboratory and freezers were fit for biometric access restrictions.

Dr. Tumpey was to wear a specialised respirator mask that allowed him to breathe only filtered air. He was required to wear two pairs of gloves, shoe covers, and a full-body surgical gown, and he would have to take a shower every time he left the laboratory. He also had to constantly take antiviral medication, and he was informed that should he contract the virus, he would be isolated and would not be able to contact anyone in the outside world, including his family.

Lung damage

Working this way, Dr. Tumpey first generated 'recombinant' viruses. These are artificial viruses generated in the laboratory such that they contained just the H1 and N1 gene segments from the 1918 strain, while the remaining pieces of the genetic material came from a regular laboratory strain that did not cause severe disease (in mice). The objective of his experiment was to identify which of the eight gene segments of the 1918 virus was responsible for its unprecedented power.

Dr. Tumpey thought that, when complemented with the genes from the 1918 strain, the laboratory strain might be able to cause slightly more severe disease in mice. He was wrong: the H1 and N1 genes of the 1918 virus made the laboratory strain so virulent that within five days, all the infected mice had died.

An autopsy of the deceased rodents revealed that while there was extensive lung damage, the virus was not found in the other major organs of their bodies - brain, liver, spleen, etc. The virus mainly infected the lungs, and laid waste to them.

Dr. Tumpey continued his experiments with the recombinant viruses.

He found that while all eight pieces of the virus's genetic material caused severe disease, two in particular stood out: the



The genetic material of all eight individual pieces of the virus were mixed and put in the same cell. In a few weeks, the world's deadliest virus appeared in cell-culture plates, back from extinction after nearly a century

haemagglutinin and the RNA polymerase genes.

Suggestive, not conclusive

Haemagglutinin is the protein on the outer surface of the virus that docks with proteins on the cells of another organism. This way, the virus has a portal through to begin its invasion. The haemagglutinin segment of the 1918 strain contained modifications such that the virus could easily gain access to cells.

The viral RNA polymerase, on the other hand, makes copies of the viral genetic material. In the H1N1 strain, the polymerase was extremely efficient at this process, allowing the virus to make numerous copies of itself in a very short span of time. This then took a heavy toll on the infected cell, since the virus hijacked the cellular machinery to replicate itself.

All the experiments that Dr. Tumpey had conducted until then were suggestive, not conclusive. He had inserted pieces of the 1918 H1N1 virus inside a regular laboratory strain and found that doing so increased the virulence of the laboratory strain. Results obtained with such an experimental system would always leave room for doubt as to whether the real, complete virus would have behaved similarly. But there could be no room for doubt in this endeavour.

As a result, Dr. Tumpey had to recreate the full 1918 H1N1 influenza virus to solve this conundrum. He mixed the genetic material of all the eight individual pieces of the virus and put them in the same cell. In a few weeks, the world's deadliest virus appeared in his cell-culture plates, back from extinction after nearly a century.

Unrivalled

The full virus demonstrated a pathogenicity unrivalled by any other influenza virus scientists have ever studied - recombinant or natural. It was highly virulent: there were 39,000-times more virions (virus particles) in the lungs of the mice infected with the 1918 virus than those infected by the more benign laboratory strain. The former lungs were filled with fluid within days, causing extensive lung damage and resulting in death.

Dr. Tumpey also found that while the haemagglutinin and the RNA polymerase genes were important reasons for the extreme nature of the 1918 virus, by themselves they did not wreak just as much havoc as when they did in combination with the other gene segments.

This is because individual genes of a virus seldom undergo changes in isolation. Every change will, likelier than not, influence other genes of the virus - especially changes that produce effects as large as those of the haemagglutinin and the polymerase genes of the 1918 virus.

All viruses have to ensure they will be transmitted to more hosts. A virus that kills its host too soon will fail at this objective because a virus is only alive as long as it is inside a host. So a change in a virus that makes it more pathogenic will either kill the host faster or it will become an easier target for the host's immune system. Both outcomes are detrimental to the virus's long-term survival.

So such genetic changes must be associated with alterations elsewhere in the genome that mitigate those effects on the creature's long-term survival prospects. It could be a mutation that enhances its transmission rate, one that slows the viral life cycle, or something else that allows the virus to escape the immune system long enough for it to be transmitted.

The 1918 virus had an enhanced transmission rate due to its unique haemagglutinin, a highly active polymerase to speed up the viral replication, and (as a result) disease progression, plus a few smaller changes that allowed it to better escape the

immune system. Taken together, it had the perfect tools in its arsenal to make it the ultimate killing machine.

A new benchmark

The work of Jeffery Taubenberger, Ann Reid, Johan Hultin (described in the first part), Terrence Tumpey, and other scientists who were involved in the effort collectively showed to the world how the 1918 influenza virus originated, and why it was so deadly. Dr. Taubenberger and Dr. Reid's determination of the genetic sequence also laid the foundation for future scientists to better understand how the influenza virus causes disease.

More importantly, their work created a benchmark. The 1918 H1N1 strain was the deadliest influenza virus to ever strike humans. By thoroughly characterising its genetic features, the researchers set the stage for others to discern similar features in the various influenza variants circulating today, which in turn eased the way to better vaccine designs, with higher efficacy, as well as to other therapeutics to prevent the disease from emerging as a global health concern once more.

Since 1918, there have been three major influenza pandemics: in 1957, 1968, and 2009. None of them were as severe as the one in 1918. The death tolls in 1957 and 1968 were estimated at 1 million; that in 2009 was lower, around 0.3 million.

But the 1918 influenza pandemic is a reminder to us all, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, that ever so rarely, nature will arrive at that perfect, deadly combination after mixing thousands of genes and end up creating something as destructive as the 1918 H1N1 influenza virus. Ironically, nature's ability to do so is at the very heart of evolution, and of all life on earth.

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