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12	13	15	15	15	17	17	18	18	19
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20	21	23	23	24	24	25	26	27	33
K MAHEETH ANJAN	M ARVIND	B S SUMANJALI	D PRAJWAL	RISHIT AGARWAL	B R KUSALA APARNA	K TARUN KUMAR	KORAPATI RAKESH	R NISHITHA SHAINY	C LAKSHMI CHARITHA
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35	37	37	41	42	44	44	47	49	50
VARUN POLIMETLA	K JEEVAN KUMAR	KASIREDDY ANSHUL	K VENKATESWARA	VURUM AADHITHI	SPARSH	S BHAGYA SREE	V SEVITA LAASYA	VEGI NITIN SAI	M SYAM VISHNU TEJA
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51	51	57	61	63	72	78	81	89	92
MADASU SUMANTH	K SRIDHAN	DEPAALI SAPAVAT	D KARTHIK SAI PAVAN	LAKSHMI PRIYAM	Y SARANYA	PUJARI MEGHANA	CHAMKUR AMBIKA	M SHIVA TEJASWINI	B RAJGOPAL
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93	97	101	115	120	129	142	147	151	154
PATLUVATH SRINIDHI	MITHILA LELLAPALLI	HEPBZAH O	ADITI MALAV	ARNESH GADE	RAPETI BHAVYA SRI	P SUJITH CHOWDARY	S SAYEED IQBAL	V S V SREE SHASHANK	A NISHIT ANAND
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157	172	179	183	187	188	192	201	205	219
MUVVA NIVEDITHA	S SAI VIGNESH	B NAVYA SREE	AAVULA VEDHANG	G ANIRUDH SAI	SAMALA SATHVIK	MORLA HEMANTH	AMRUTHA T EMBAR	BOBBITI MANIDEEP	B S KEDAR BHARADWAJ
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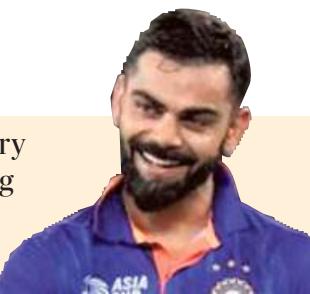
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AIADMK cadre won't forgive Panneerselvam, says Palaniswami
page 6



Resolve Naga issue before Assembly poll in 2023, says Y. Pattnaik
page 14



Monetary tools alone can't tame inflation, says Nirmala Sitharaman
page 16



Kohli breaks century drought, sets up big win for India
page 19

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IN BRIEF



Rahul begins long march from Kanniyakumari

KANNIYAKUMARI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi started his 3,570-km padayatra on Thursday from Kanniyakumari. For the next five months or so, Mr. Gandhi and his 118 fellow travellers will highlight issues such as unemployment and inflation.

NEWS ► PAGE 13

Ahead of polls, AAP seeks space in Haryana politics

CHANDIGARH

In an attempt to position the Aam Aadmi Party in the political spectrum of Haryana ahead of the 2024 Assembly election, the party, as part of its nationwide 'Make India Number 1' campaign, held a 'Tiranga Yatra' in Haryana's Adampur on Thursday.

NEWS ► PAGE 13

Uttarakhand panel seeks inputs on UCC

NEW DELHI

The expert committee formed by the Uttarakhand government to examine ways to implement a Uniform Civil Code launched a website on Thursday, seeking public opinion on the move. Headed by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, the committee has sought suggestions and recommendations from residents of the State.

NEWS ► PAGE 12

India, China troops disengage at LAC friction point in Ladakh

Pullback begins from Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India and China on Thursday announced that their Armies have begun to disengage from Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area of eastern Ladakh, marking a step forward towards ending the stand-off ongoing since May 2020.

The move comes ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan next week, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to participate. However, neither side has, so far, confirmed if the two leaders would hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the summit. The leaders have not spoken to each other since a November 2019 meeting during the BRICS Summit in Brasilia and the beginning of the stand-off in April 2020.

"On September 08, 2022, according to the consensus reached in the 16th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting, the Indian and Chinese troops in the area of Gogra-Hotsprings (PP-15) have begun to disengage in a coordinated and planned way, which is conducive to the peace and tranquility in the border areas," the two sides said in a joint statement issued on Thurs-



Conflict zone: An Army convoy carrying military material on its way to Ladakh amid the stand-off with China, in this file photo. ■PTI

day. The consensus was reached at the Corps Commander level and the ground commanders on both sides had worked out the modalities which were now being implemented, a defence official said.

The disengagement began on Thursday morning and was under way, the official said, adding that further details on the modalities were being awaited.

The 16th round of talks was held on July 17 at the Chushul border personnel meeting point on the Indian side.

As per the understanding reached earlier on disengagement, a buffer zone is to be created at the friction points once troops are withdrawn by both sides and new patrolling norms are to be worked out after complete disengagement and de-escalation.

16 round of talks

Since the stand-off began in May 2020, the two sides have so far held 16 rounds of talks, with disengagement undertaken from both sides of Pangong Tso in February 2021, and from PP-17 in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in August 2020 after the violent clash at Galwan in 2020.

India will continue to press for complete disengagement and de-escalation from all the friction areas and the Corps Commander-level talks would continue, officials stated.

Earlier, both sides had undertaken partial disengagement from PP15 and 17A in July 2020 after disengagement from PP14 in Galwan, but the process was stalled after the aggressive actions on the south Bank of Pangong Tso in August 2020.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

China has constantly refused to accept, maintaining that they are not a part of the current stand-off.

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CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

SC fixes 3 key questions for examining EWS quota

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit on Thursday finalised three cardinal issues for examining whether the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which provides 10% quota to economically weaker sections (EWS) of society in government jobs and educa-

tional institutions, violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The five-judge Bench, also comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat, Dinesh Maheshwari, S.B. Pardiwal and Bela Trivedi, will start hearing the arguments from September 13.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

India ranks 132 in HDI as score drops

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

India ranks 132 out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2021, after registering a decline in its score over two consecutive years for the first time in three decades.

The drop is in line with the global trend since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic during which 90% of the countries have fallen backward in human development.

The Index is part of the Human Development Report 2021-2022 released by the United Nations Development Programme on Thursday. The HDI measures average achievement of a country in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, education and a decent standard of living. It is calculated using four indicators – life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Why was West Bengal left out of talks with Bangladesh?

Mamata has opposed Teesta treaty, a crucial bilateral issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday claimed that Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had expressed a desire to meet her during the latter's recent visit to India but the Centre kept the State out of the deliberations in Delhi.

"For the first time I have seen that during discussions with Bangladesh, West Ben-

gal has been kept out," Ms. Banerjee said at a party gathering in Kolkata.

The Chief Minister emphasised that she maintained good relations with Ms. Hasina and they exchanged gifts during Durga Puja and Id. Ms. Banerjee asked what the reasons for keeping her out of the discussions were and why the higher-ups at the Centre were angry with her.

Among crucial bilateral issues pending between India and Bangladesh is the Teesta water-sharing treaty, which she has publicly opposed.

The Chief Minister said that she received a letter from an officer of the rank of

Under-Secretary asking her to be present in Delhi on Thursday for the Central Vista inauguration by the Prime Minister. "They are writing as if we are bonded labourers. The Minister of Culture has become so big that he cannot write to CMS?" Ms. Banerjee also added that all the Opposition par-

ties would come together and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would find it difficult to form the government.

'BJP will lose 100 seats'

"In 2024 Khela Hobo, the game will start from Bengal. Now we are all together. [Bihar Chief Minister] Nitish Kumar is there, [Samajwadi Party leader] Akhilesh Yadav is there, [Jharkhand Chief Minister] Hemant Soren is there, and I am there and our friends are there. We all will come together. They are going around proudly with 275-300 seats, Rajiv Gandhi had 400 seats but could not hold onto them. In these five

States, the BJP will lose 100 seats. So, tell me how they will form the government?" Ms. Banerjee said at the rally.

The Chief Minister said that she wanted the Central probe agencies to be more aggressive because she was sure that in the end nothing would be proved against her party leaders in court. "They think that by arresting some strong leaders of the party, the people will get scared and the BJP will get an opportunity," she said.

"A wounded tiger is more dangerous," she said, coining a new slogan for her supporters: "We don't want agencies. We want jobs".

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Pride of place: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Kartavya Path as part of the revamped Central Vista in New Delhi on Thursday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Rajpath, a symbol of slavery, erased: PM

Modi inaugurates Kartavya Path

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Rajpath, which was a "symbol of slavery", has been erased forever, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while inaugurating the redeveloped two-kilometre stretch from India Gate to Rashtrapati Bhavan that was renamed Kartavya Path. Mr. Modi also unveiled a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose under the canopy at India Gate that during British rule had a statue of King George V.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Modi said: "Today, we are filling the picture of tomorrow with new colours, leaving behind the past. Today, this new aura is visible everywhere, it is the aura of confidence of new India. Kingsway, that is, Rajpath, the symbol of slavery, has become a matter of history from today and has been erased forever. Today, a new history has been created in the form of 'Kartavya Path'. I congratulate all the countrymen for their freedom from yet another identity of slavery, in this Amrit Kaal of Independence."

The iconic stretch had been closed to the public since January 2021 for redevelopment works as part of the larger Central Vista revamp. The ₹477-crore project is the first of the Central

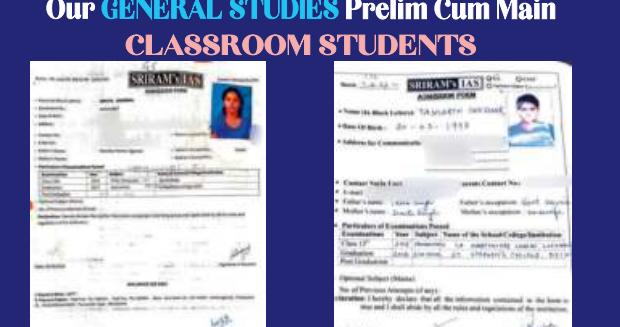
Vista works to be completed and opened to the public. Speaking about the 28-foot granite statue of Bose, Mr. Modi said: "At the time of slavery, there was a statue of the representative of the British Raj. Today, the country has also brought to life a modern, strong India by establishing the statue of Netaji at the same place."

Remembering Netaji
Mr. Modi said "Subhas babu" was proud of India's heritage, while wanting to make India modern. He said if India had followed his path after Independence, the country would have been at great heights today. "But unfortunately, this great hero of ours was forgotten after Independence. His ideas, even the symbols associated with them, were ignored," he said.

"Today when the Rajpath ceases to exist and has become a Kartavya Path; today when the statue of Netaji has replaced the mark of the statue of George V, then this is not the first example of the abandonment of slavery mentality. This is neither the beginning nor the end. It is a continuous journey of determination till the goal of freedom of mind and spirit is achieved," Mr. Modi said.

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MCD bans entry of outsiders in schools

'Decision taken in line with DoE circular'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Days after AAP MLAs entered schools run by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to highlight their "poor condition", the civic body has issued an order restricting the entry of outsiders.

In its order dated September 6, the MCD said outsiders will be allowed in its schools only after receiving due permission. The order also stated that no visitor will be allowed to take photos or videos of the school campus.

'Attack on a teacher'
The corporation in its order highlighted an incident from August 27 when, "some anti-social elements entered Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Nand Nagri, on the pretext of being parents and attacked a school teacher", causing serious injury during school hours.

It added that on September 3, "similar" incidents took place in several MCD schools. This was the same day when various AAP MLAs, including the party's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, entered the civic body-run schools and live streamed the "poor condition of the schools" during class hours.

A senior MCD official agreed that the decision was taken after the live stream by the AAP MLAs.

"We also received a circular from the Directorate of Education (DoE) that mentioned the August 27 incident and directed us to maintain minimum standards of school safety. But at



AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj at an MCD school on September 3. ■ FILE PHOTO

the same time, I must also say that the condition of our schools is not poor and the AAP MLAs should not have disrupted the learning hours of our students," the senior MCD official added.

Past incidents

Instances of people barging into MCD-run schools to commit crimes are not new. On April 30, two girls studying at a school in north-east Delhi, run by the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation, were sexually assaulted inside the classroom. The accused was later arrested by the police.

You cannot enter a school and randomly ask a child about the condition of their school and live stream their response. It interferes with their privacy and is not acceptable. There have been various disruptions at our schools. Our decision is in line with (DoE) circular," the senior MCD official added.

The official refused to elaborate on why the decision was not taken after criminal incidents were reported from the civic body-run schools in the past.

Delimitation of civic wards: draft report to be out in 10 days

21 days for public suggestions; physical verification of wards to be done in 1 week

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The draft report on the delimitation of municipal wards in the city is likely to be published within the next 10 days for public suggestions and objections, according to sources familiar with the development.

Sources said work on Assembly constituencies in east Delhi is currently under way, while work on constituencies in north and south Delhi has been completed, as the exercise continues to remain on "fast-track mode".

Reduction in wards

"In Assembly constituencies, which have more than three municipal wards, the number of wards has been reduced. For instance, in



Delimitation committee chairperson Vijay Dev. ■ FILE PHOTO

Matiala, which has seven wards, the number has been brought down to six. Similarly, the number of wards in Vikaspuri, which has six wards, has been reduced to five," a source said.

According to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) dated

July 22, the draft delimitation report will show the number of municipal wards along with their individual maps.

The MHA order also fixed the minimum number of wards in each Assembly constituency at three. According to sources, the average population per ward would be around 65,000.

"We need to publish the draft report in the next 10 days to give a window of around 21 days for public suggestions. This will also give us time to accommodate suggestions before the final report is sent to the Centre," sources said.

Final report in Nov

The delimitation committee, which was constituted by the MHA on July 8, is headed by

State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev. It was asked to complete the exercise and submit its report within four months from the date of its constitution.

"The physical verification of wards will take a week. Most of the paperwork has been finished," the source said.

On July 26, *The Hindu* had reported that the exact number of seats to be carved out of the delimitation exercise has been fixed at 250. The need for the delimitation exercise arose after the Centre notified the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which proposed the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations and a reduction in the number of councillor seats to "not more than 250".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during the inauguration of Kartavya Path in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Traffic hit in central Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Traffic movement was affected in and around central Delhi amid the inauguration of Kartavya Path on Thursday.

DCP (Traffic - New Delhi Range) Alap Patel said 450 traffic officials, 28 cranes, 50 bikes were on duty at Kartavya Path to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Vehicles were diverted to another route from 6 p.m. to

9 p.m. due to a large number of pedestrians. Visitors were asked not to bring their private vehicles, rather use public transport to commute.

Most of the calls received about heavy congestion were from Tilak Marg, C-Hexagon, Purana Quila Road, Shershah Road, Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, Pandara Road and Shahjahan Road. Necessary diversions were made, said a traffic official.

Over 200 people duped via fake power bills

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a 10-day long operation across 22 cities, 30 people were arrested while 35 others were issued warrants and asked to join the probe for duping over 200 people on the pretext of paying their electricity bills, the cyber police said on Thursday.

The police said they had received information about some fraudsters sending messages to people about their unpaid electricity bills. They fraudsters in their messages threatened to disconnect power connections if the bills were not paid in time.

Some of the unsuspecting victims called on the numbers included in these messages.

They were then connected to the alleged fraudsters, who would pose as electricity department officials. The accused would try to get the bank account details of the victim or install a remote-access software on their phones. Once the details were shared, the accused would transfer money from the victims' accounts.

During investigation, the police found that more than 200 complaints were lodged detailing the same modus operandi.

Police teams conducted raids in more than 22 cities, DCP (IFSO) K.P.S. Malhotra said.

Woman fights off phone snatcher in Badarpur

Accused, a juvenile, apprehended

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A woman fought off a juvenile who attempted to snatch her mobile phone in south-east Delhi's Badarpur, the police said. The snatcher has been apprehended.

The incident of attempted snatching came to light after a video surfaced on social media, the police said.

The scuffle

CCTV footage of the incident shows the juvenile walking on the road. After a few minutes, a scuffle breaks out between the victim and the accused when he tries to snatch her phone.

The juvenile can be seen thrashing her and, in retaliation, she can be seen holding on to his T-shirt. He escapes after her phone falls down.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Esha Pandey said a call about the

incident, which happened on September 4, was received at 11.30 p.m. on the same day. The woman, a resident of Tikri, was visiting her friend at Tajpur Pahari in Badarpur. The victim showed courage and fought off the accused, Ms. Pandey said.

An FIR under sections 379 (theft), 356 (assault or criminal force in attempt to commit theft of property) and 511 (attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life) was registered at the Badarpur police station and the matter was investigated, the police said.

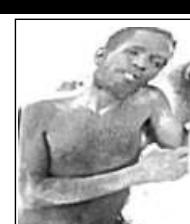
Juvenile apprehended

The juvenile, a resident of Badarpur was apprehended on Thursday.

The DCP said that the accused will be produced before the JJ Board on Friday and handed over to his family after completion of all legal formalities.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely : Unknown, S/o: Unknown,R/o : Unknown Age: 45-50 years, Height: '5,4", Complexion:Shallow, Wearing: Upper side without clothes and in lower side blue colour lower, who was found in front of Shop No.



2246 Divider HC Sen Marg, Chandni Chowk, Delhi -6 . In this regard a case DD No.24A dated 29.08.2022 has been registered at PS: Kotwali, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

DP/757/N/2022-UIDB Sd/- S.H.O. Kotwali, Delhi, Ph: 011-23953442, 23977100

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WESTERN RAILWAY

CORIGENDUM

To E-Tender No. WR-TPI-1-2022, in connection to E-Tender No. WR-TPI-1-2022 for "Engagement of Third Party Inspection Agencies for Inspection of Goods in Indian Railways" published on Indian Railway E Procurement System (IREPS) website i.e. www.reps.gov.in on 14/06/2022, following amendment is issued with immediate effect. Tender Closing date revised: From: 09/09/2022 Time 1100 hrs. To : 16/09/2022 Time 1500 hrs. For any further information/clarification please contact: Dy Chief Materials Manager (Chg), Western Railway, Telephone No. 9004490765, Email ID: smm8@wr.railnet.gov.in

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WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. : NER-BSB05N-T-OT-9-2022

"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm) Varanasi N. E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works: S.No.: 1, Tender Notice No., Name & Description of Work:- NER-BSB05N-T-OT-9-2022, Name of work:- Comprehensive AMC for Kyosan make Electronic interlocking at 06 nos. Stations (including 01 no. IBH) in ADSTE/ BSB section of BSB division for a period of two years. Details:- Approx. Value:- Rs. 16310561.68, Earnest Money:- Rs. 231600.00/- Cost of Tender Form:- Rs. 00.00/- Completion period:- 24 Months. Tender Closing date & Time:- 29.09.2022 up to 15.00 Hrs. 1. Tender Online will be submitted up to 15 Hrs on date 29.09.2022. 2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian Railways i.e. www.reps.gov.in. Divl. Ry. Manager (S&T) CPRO/Signal-34

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. : SMD/JKT/2022/001

"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm) Jharkhand for the following works: S.No.: 1, Tender Notice No., Name & Description of Work:- SMD/JKT/2022/001, Name of work:- Strengthening/Reconstruction Work of Pindrabera (on Adityapur-Kandra Road)-Buridihar Public School Main Road (Total Length 16.331 Km.) for the year 2022-23

Rs. 28,33,29,947.54 (Rupees Twenty eight Crore Thirty three lakh twenty nine thousand nine hundred Forty seven and Paise Fifty four only)

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North Eastern Railway

Short Tender e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No. RCD/SERAIKELLA/10

Date :-07.09.2022

1.	Name of the work	Strengthening/Reconstruction Work of Pindrabera (on Adityapur-Kandra Road)-Buridihar Public School Main Road (Total Length 16.331 Km.) for the year 2022-23
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 28,33,29,947.54 (Rupees Twenty eight Crore Thirty three lakh twenty nine thousand nine hundred Forty seven and Paise Fifty four only)
3.	Time of Completion	13 (Thirteen) months
4.	Last Date /Time of receipt of bids	28.09.2022 (12.00 Noon)
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	08.09.2022 (04.30 P.M.)
6.	Date and Place of Pre-bid Meeting	12.09.2022 (11:30 A.M.) Office of the Chief Engineer (C), Road Construction Department, Jharkhand, First Floor, Engineers Hostel No.-02, Dhurwa, Ranchi
7.	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Ganesh Ram Hembram O/o Executive Engineer , Road Construction Department , Road Division, Seraikella-Kharawan
8.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	8809347906
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

नोट :-प्राक्तिक राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है।

Executive Engineer RCD , Road Division Seraikella-harsawan

CMYK

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through e-procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Closing Date
01	11222046B	SOLID MIG/MAG WELDING FILLER WIRE.	53600 KGS	03.10.22
02	07221971	SEALED WINDOW GLASS	1980 NOS	01.12.22

Note:-1) Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.reps.gov.in for

Timings		
DELHI		
FRIDAY, SEP. 09		
RISE 06:03	SET 18:34	
RISE 18:13	SET 04:32	
SATURDAY, SEP. 10		
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33	
RISE 18:50	SET 05:40	
SUNDAY, SEP. 11		
RISE 06:04	SET 18:31	
RISE 19:24	SET 06:44	

Delhi Weather	
max	min
Delhi City	37 26
Safdarjung	37 26
Palam	37 28

Delhi Palam Today
38°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C A dry weather is likely. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night remains slight warm.

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AAP seeks to position itself as serious contender in Haryana

Party chief Arvind Kejriwal leads Tiranga Yatra in bypoll-bound Adampur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

In an attempt to position the Aam Aadmi Party in the political spectrum of Haryana ahead of the 2024 Assembly election, the party, as a part of its nationwide 'Make India number one' campaign, held a Tiranga Yatra in Haryana's Adampur on Thursday.

AAP convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that a bypoll is expected in Adampur in the next few months, and this bypoll will be the trailer for Assembly elections in 2024.

"Adampur will be our entry gate to Haryana and through that gate itself, AAP will form the government in Haryana in 2024. I am travelling all over the world to fix schools-hospitals, you too can get me to fix your schools-hospitals. I appeal



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann at a Tiranga Yatra in Adampur on Thursday. ■ PTI

to all the youths to bring an end to old-style politics and bring in our new-age politics," he said addressing a gathering.

He alleged that the BJP-JJP government in Haryana was closing down government schools everyday. "If government schools are closed like this, where will

the children of the poor go? We don't want to shut down government schools, but instead increase their numbers and make them excellent," he said.

He added, "we will go to every State and bring people together. To Make India No 1, we all will have to ensure free and excellent edu-

cation, healthcare, electricity, and water besides employment for all. There's only one purpose left to my life now, I am on a mission to Make India No 1; we will all come together and make India the strongest and greatest nation of the world."

'Corruption eliminated'

Claiming that corruption has been completely eradicated in Punjab, where AAP is in power, Mr. Kejriwal said, "my brother Sardar Bhagwant Mann is now the CM of Punjab. He has eliminated corruption from all the government departments. No officer can dare to ask for bribe because he has made it clear that if someone does so, people can send a recording and he will suspend them within 24 hours."

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AAP for CBI probe into M.P. ration 'scam'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A court in Malegaon on Thursday sentenced three accused to life imprisonment for the murder of the Additional Collector of Malegaon, Yashwant Sonawane. The official was burnt alive after he detected pilferage of petroleum products in Nashik district. The products were meant for the Public Distribution System.



AAP leaders display a copy of the complaint lodged by them with the CBI about the 'scam' in M.P. ■ PTI

asked.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurob Bharadwaj said "for the past 6 months, several irregularities have been found in the implementation of distribution of fortified food schemes... As it is obvious, CBI-ED did not investigate the matter but the Auditor General of Madhya Pradesh conducted an audit of this scheme. It was such a big scam that it is very hard to cover it up," he said.

Meanwhile, AAP MP Sanjay Singh attacked the BJP for "misusing" Central agencies. He alleged that BJP's scams are being unveiled day by day, but the ED and the CBI do not even think about investigating them.

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• WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

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NMDC

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STRENGTH THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME.

SUMIT DEB

Chairman and Managing Director

64th Annual General Meeting of NMDC Ltd.



Expansion at Bacheli mine: Delays in the development of a fifth line of screening and a downhill conveyor that would significantly augment Bacheli's production, has been tackled by appointing a new consultant. Project work has resumed and is progressing in earnest speed. We expect these facilities to be ready in FY23, adding about 25 lakh tonnes per annum to the mine's production.

Renewal of Kumaraswamy mine: Our lease for the Kumaraswamy mine in Karnataka was renewed by the state government in June 2022, ending a period of uncertainty. This mine has a production capacity of 70 lakh tonnes of iron ore per annum.

Dismantling of e-auctions: NMDC along with other miners in Karnataka also welcomed the Supreme Court's recent judgement allowing iron ore producers to enter into direct contracts with buyers. All these years sales were routed through a Supreme Court appointed Monitoring Committee that conducted auctions of material retaining 10% of the sales proceeds for reclamation and rehabilitation plans. The Monitoring Committee would receive the sales proceeds and then transfer it to us in a roundabout process that sometimes led to cash being stuck with the Committee for a considerable time. The Supreme Court's recent judgement doing away with this system, brings the State almost at par with practices in other parts of the country and shortens our working capital cycle.

Going forward

On the back of these developments, we are targeting a production of 460 lakh tonnes of iron ore in FY23. This volume is 10% higher than what we produced in FY22 and would provide a cushion against any possible pressure on pricing. We hope to surpass the top line again in FY23. Dismantling the e-auctions through Monitoring Committee in Karnataka would contribute positively to both the top line and bottom line.

Additionally, NMDC has plans to diversify beyond Iron ore into strategic & critical minerals such as Lithium, Nickel, etc. both in India as well as abroad. NMDC intends to conduct detailed exploration for these



minerals in India and acquire assets outside the country to make India Atma-Nirbhar.

Being the torchbearer for the Iron Ore Mining Sector, NMDC has been keen towards its ESG & Sustainability Practices. NMDC has recently onboarded external expertise (EY) to develop its ESG policies.

This year being an important milestone in India's history, as India's largest mining company, it was an honour for us to participate in Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Through exhibitions, seminars, public art works and plantation drives, your company was at the forefront of these celebrations marking 75th year of India's Independence.

We sponsored the Hyderabad Marathon, a signature sporting event of Hyderabad where your company is also headquartered. The marathon saw participation from almost 16000 runners, health and fitness enthusiasts from across the globe and enthusiastic participation from NMDC as well. We are happy to have partnered with the Hyderabad Runners Society, and hope to make this marquee event that brings the city together on the important issue of health and fitness, an extension of our brand.

I am grateful to all the shareholders, Board members, employees, customers, suppliers, banks, regulatory bodies, state governments and the Government at the Centre and all our stakeholders for supporting the company in its journey of growth progress.

FY-2022

Best Ever Production - 42.19 MnT

Best Ever Sales - 40.56 MnT

Best Ever Networth - ₹34844 Crore

Best Ever Turnover - ₹25882 Crore

Best Ever Profit Before Tax - ₹12981 Crore

Best Ever Dividend - ₹14.74 Per Share

Thank You

Date: 29-08-2022
Place: New Delhi

Sumit Deb
Chairman and Managing Director

The fatal lure of instant loan apps

Several Indians have ended their lives owing to harassment by recovery agents of unregulated digital lending apps mostly linked to entities based in China. Probe agencies are now cracking the whip on such apps that lure customers into debt traps by offering quick loans, report **Vijaita Singh, Devesh K. Pandey and Samridhi Tewari**

Mummy, I am leaving." This is how Amit Yadav, 35, a mechanic from Madhya Pradesh's Indore, concluded his note on August 23 before adding the words "ek fakir insaan (a bankrupt person)" below his name and signature.

The police said Yadav died by suicide after poisoning his wife Tina, 30, daughter Yana, 3, and son Divyansh, 1, as he was unable to repay a loan of ₹40,000 he had taken five months ago from several digital lending apps. Yadav, in his note, said he was taking the extreme step to "protect his honour".

On July 19, firefighter Y. Sudhakar, 33, took his own life by jumping in front of a train in Telangana, leaving behind his wife Sirisha, a homemaker, and 22-month-old daughter Ispita. Kumar, Sudhakar's brother, says their relatives and friends had been receiving lewd messages about Sirisha from an unknown number over the non-payment of a loan of ₹5,000 taken using the Golden Rupee app. Kumar says recovery agents continued to harass them seeking more money even after they had repaid the loan.

Yadav and Sudhakar were among the several Indians trapped in a spiral of debt who ended their lives over the past two years owing to harassment by loan recovery agents of unregulated digital lending apps that are mostly linked to entities based in China. The apps offering quick loans without much documentation or collateral to unsuspecting borrowers mushroomed in the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. It became a popular option for borrowing money, especially for cash-strapped families and people facing joblessness.

However, their high interest rates, short repayment windows, coercive recovery methods and misuse of personal information have prompted the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central probe agencies to crack down on the entities that run these loan apps and the payment gateways and crypto exchanges used by them to transfer overseas the money extracted from borrowers.

On August 2, Sujeev Kumar, Rajya Sabha member from the Biju Janata Dal, raised concerns in Parliament over "dubious digital loan apps with links to China and backed by Chinese entities lending unscrupulous loans in violation of RBI guidelines". He said Odisha alone had seen 1.5 lakh downloads of these apps and asked if the country's regulatory framework was adequate enough to tackle the threat posed by them.

In response, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Central government had taken cognisance of such cases where digital loan apps "originating from one particular country" were being misused to harass citizens and extort money. She added that the Union Ministries of Finance, Corporate Affairs, Electronics and Information Technology, and Home were working together to take action against such apps.

Ms. Sitharaman said, "I can broadly indicate that in the past couple of months, particularly in Telangana, a lot of people have faced harassment, and in those cases, actions have been initiated. That is not to say action is not being taken elsewhere. We are also consciously taking action against Indian citizens who have helped in getting these companies established and the shell companies through which they are operating."

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched a money laundering investigation into unauthorised online micro-loan apps based on multiple FIRs registered in Hyderabad and Bengaluru over the past two years. According to the agency, most instant loan apps have links to entities based in China. Chinese nationals or companies directly own several financial technology (fintech) firms in Gurugram, Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru or control them by using proxies as directors. To initiate the lending business, they infused funds into these firms directly or indirectly from overseas locations such as Hong Kong.

Deals inked with defunct NBFCs

As per the law, a lending company needs to be either a bank or a non-banking financial company (NBFC) that is registered with the RBI. When the RBI refused to provide these Chinese entities with an NBFC licence to start their digital lending business, they identified 38 defunct NBFCs with meagre capital ranging from ₹3.50 crore to ₹11 crore.

Deals were inked between the fintech firms and the NBFCs, providing security deposits worth over ₹100 crore and bringing in more funding through the Foreign Direct Investment route. The NBFCs then registered separate merchant IDs with various payment gateways for the fintech firms to start their lending business using loan apps.

The ED on September 3 conducted raids at the premises of online payment gateways such as Razorpay, Paytm and Cashfree in Bengaluru as part of its probe into the money laundering case. The agency said it had seized funds worth ₹17 crore kept in "merchant IDs and bank accounts of these Chinese-controlled entities". The companies

A new threat lurking in your smartphones

600
number of illegal loan apps operating in India, according to the RBI's Working Group on digital lending

1,100
number of unique Indian loan apps that have keywords such as loan, instant loan and quick loan

81
number of app stores from which Indian Android users downloaded these apps between January 1 and February 28, 2021

INTERNET/MOBILE PENETRATION IN INDIA
Internet subscribers
776.45 million Sept. 2020

Broadband connections
726.32 million Sept. 2020

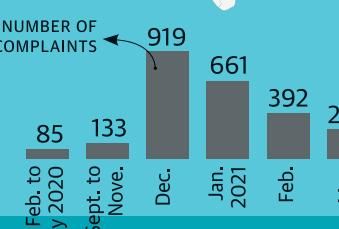
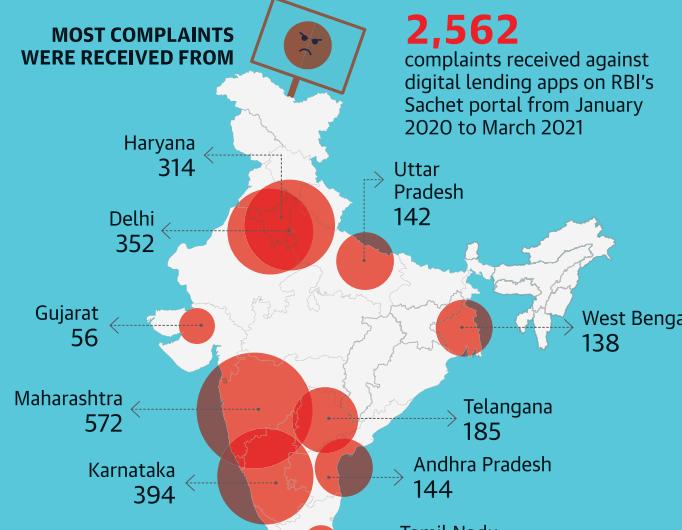
Mobile connections
1,151.73 million Oct. 2020

PERCENTAGE OF LOAN APPS REQUESTING CRITICAL PERMISSIONS



Technology giant Google has removed over 2,000 loan apps from its India Play Store since January this year for violating terms, misrepresenting information, and questionable offline behaviour. The action comes after the RBI and several Indian enforcement agencies flagged the threat posed by these apps

2,562
complaints received against digital lending apps on RBI's Sachet portal from January 2020 to March 2021



PREDATORY LOAN APPS IDENTIFIED BY THE POLICE

• Raise Cash • PP Money • Rupees Master • Cash Ray • MobiPocket • Papa Money • Infinity Cash • Kredit Mango • Kredit Marvel • CB Loan • Cash Advance • HDB Loan • Cash Tree • Raw Loan • Under Process • Minute Cash • Cash Light • Cash Fish • HD Credit • Ruppes Land • Cash Room • Rupee Loan • Well Kredit

said they were cooperating with the ED.

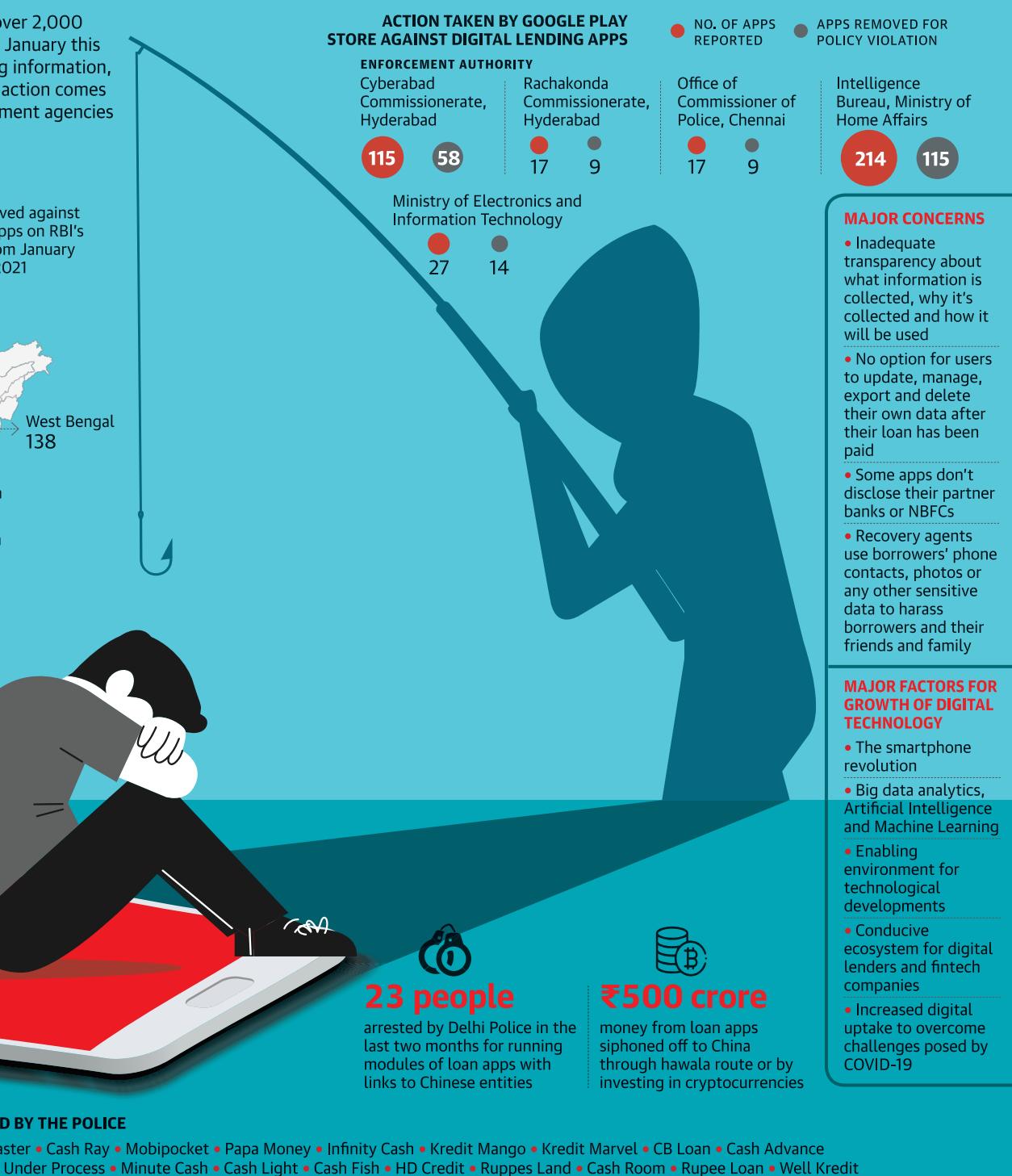
The RBI, too, took notice of the growing number of individuals and small businesses falling prey to unregulated digital lending platforms and mobile apps offering quick loans in a hassle-free manner. On December 23, 2020, the central bank issued a note asking members of the public to verify the antecedents of companies offering such loans. "Consumers should never share copies of KYC (Know Your Customer) documents with unidentified persons, unverified/unauthorised apps and should report such apps/bank account information associated with the apps to concerned law enforcement agencies or use the Sachet portal," the note said.

On January 13, 2021, the RBI constituted a Working Group on 'digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile apps'. As per the findings of the Working Group, from January 1, 2021, to February 28, 2021, around 600 of the 1,100 lending apps available for Android users in India across 81 application stores were illegal. During the same period, Google removed 115 apps from its Play Store for policy violation on the request of the Intelligence Bureau, the report said.

Despite the RBI's guidelines to regulate digital lending platforms, the apps continued to offer loans, ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹20,000, to thousands of customers with minimum KYC requirements and based only on online verification. According to the police, to provide a loan, the apps ask customers to upload their Aadhaar card, PAN card and a live photograph. Customers are also asked to share a One Time Password (OTP) that is generated. The borrowers give various permissions while activating the app, giving it complete access to their contact list, location, chats, photo gallery and camera. This information is then uploaded to servers hosted in China and other parts of the world. The police say loan recovery agents operate from call centres situated in different parts of the country that have access to the data stored in these servers. Each call centre employs six to seven telecallers, who are paid around ₹25,000 per month and given incentives based on the targets they achieve.

Missing the fine print

A police officer says smartphone users often miss the fine print while giving permission to such apps. The catch is that at the time of sanctioning the loan, 15%-25% of the amount is deducted as processing fee and the remaining sum carries an interest rate ranging from 182% to 365% per annum. A steep rate of penalty is added to the total repayable amount in case of default. "The rate of recovery of loans is as high as 90%. The net profit is 25% or more," says an ED official. However, the NBFCs receive only



GRAPHICS: DURGA PRASAD; SOURCE: RESERVE BANK OF INDIA AND MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

0.20%-0.50% of the interest collected.

The police officer says the source code for most Chinese loan apps is the same. "It means they change just the names and layout, but the money goes through the same network," he says.

"Apple automatically checks all malicious apps, and if the source code is same or not. Hence, the accused use the Google Play Store." He says data theft is a concern as these networks can later use it for other cyber crimes. "With the help of the customer's OTP, the apps can access a victim's bank account and understand their paying capacity too."

Mr. Goel says he is the sole breadwinner in his family and took the loans to meet urgent financial needs. A week later, telecallers demanded that he pay a penalty of ₹10,000 for not repaying the loan on time, the demand then increased to ₹50,000 within two minutes and none of them looked suspicious." He downloaded the Stream Loan app from the Google Play Store in May and to verify his bank account, the app credited ₹1. "I instantly received ₹5,000," he says.

"We have found that people from China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai are involved in such activities too, but Chinese nationals have a larger stake in this," the officer at the Cyber Cell says.

According to Maharashtra Police's Cyber Cell, Chinese loan apps have amassed ₹160 crore in the past two years and a lookout notice has been issued against the Chinese kingpin. The Cyber Cell has so far investigated 25 cases involving loan apps with call centres in Bangladesh, Nepal and India.

Madhukar Pandey, Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra Cyber Cell, says each recovery agent is given a target of collecting ₹40,000 per day.

"They are given a script, including threats, which they cannot deviate from. If the customer exhibits vulnerability, a link is sent to a payment gateway, which is operated by a different team. The two teams operate in silos."

Cracking down on offenders

On February 24 this year, the RBI cancelled the Certificate of Registration issued to P.C. Financial Services (PCFS), which earned ₹1,320.13 crore in a year via the Cashbeam app. According to the ED's seizure documents accessed by *The Hindu*, the CEO of PCFS said the company was part of Opera Limited, headquartered in Norway, but all its major investors were Chinese nationals.

"Opera Group realised that third world countries offer good markets for its instant loans without collateral business. Moreover, there was no competition in the Indian market at that time," said the CEO's statement recorded under Section 37 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. He said no one in PCFS raised objections as all the directors were on "salary basis". The ultimate beneficiary was a Chinese national, Zhou Yahui, says an ED official.

Set up in 1995 by Indian directors, the company secured an NBFC licence in 2002. Following an RBI approval in 2018, its ownership shifted to the Chi-

nese-controlled entities, the ED alleges. Of the total revenue from the app, ₹468 crore was sent overseas as payments for various services and ₹723 crore claimed as domestic expenditure. Fake invoices were raised through I11 shell companies that claimed to be engaged in businesses like logistics (64), gems and jewellery (17) and audio-visual services (30).

"All foreign service providers were chosen by the Chinese owners and the price of the services was also fixed by them. Exorbitant payments were blindly allowed by the dummy Indian directors of PCFS without any due diligence and on the instructions of the country head, Zhang Hong, who directly reported to Zhou Yahui," according to the agency. As it turned out, the company had allegedly remitted foreign exchange worth ₹429 crore to 13 overseas companies located in Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, the United States and Singapore.

The ED has so far seized assets worth over ₹270 crore in the case involving PCFS. Properties valued at ₹51 crore have also been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

A similar modus operandi was detected in another case pertaining to Kudos Finance and Investment Private Limited, whose promoter, Pavitra Pradip Walvekar, was earlier arrested and assets worth ₹72.32 crore attached by the agency. As alleged, despite having a net-worth fund of only ₹10 crore, the NBFC circulated loans of over ₹2,224 crore. The operations were funded by 39 fintech entities, which got ₹544 crore in profit. Kudos received about ₹24 crore.

The ED has also attached ₹77.25 crore in the case related to Mad Elephant Network Technology, X10 Financial Services, Baryonyx Technologies, Track Fined, Jamnadas Morarjee Finance, Cloud Atlas Future Technology, Razor Pay Software Private Limited, says the official. Several other micro-financing apps, including iRupee, Rupee Home, Cash In, ERupee, Cash Master and Krazy Rupee, are also under the ED scanner.

During the probe, the ED found that ₹14,656 crore was transferred using shell companies, of which ₹10,509 crore was purportedly routed to Hong Kong and mainland China. The agency has attached ₹40.64 crore in bank balance and ₹4.92 crore in cryptocurrency.

Following the money trail

The ED also gathered evidence showing that cryptocurrency exchanges were used by the masterminds to transfer funds. It recently froze the bank balance of Yellow Tune Technologies Private Limited, its payment gateway and the assets of Flipvolt cryptocurrency exchange worth ₹370 crore. The same amount was also allegedly deposited by 23 entities, including the accused NBFCs and fintech firms, into the wallets of Yellow Tune Technologies.

were held with the exchange. The company's owners are yet to be traced.

"After we initiated the probe, most of the apps were closed and the funds diverted," says another official, alleging that this "shell entity" was set up by Chinese nationals Alex and Kaidi (real names unknown) in connivance with chartered accountants and company secretaries. Its bank accounts were opened in the name of dummy directors. "These Chinese nationals left India in December 2020 and later, the Internet banking credentials and digital signatures of dummy directors and other particulars were shipped abroad and used by the Chinese nationals to launder the proceeds of crime," it says.

The exchange has not been able to share all the details of suspect transactions with the ED as it allegedly had lax KYC norms, no due diligence mechanism, no check on the source of funds of depositors and no mechanism of raising suspicious transaction reports.

The agency has also frozen ₹64.67 crore linked to Zainam Lab Private Limited, which owns cryptocurrency exchange WazirX, as part of the probe against the NBFCs and their fintech partners. "These companies and their virtual assets are untraceable at the moment... maximum amount of funds were diverted to WazirX exchange and the crypto assets purchased have been diverted to unknown foreign wallets," the agency had earlier said, alleging that this crypto exchange also could not give any account for the missing assets. "By encouraging obscurity and having lax AML [anti-money laundering] norms, it has assisted 16 accused fintech firms in laundering the proceeds of crime using the crypto route," the ED has alleged.

The way forward

On August 10, the RBI issued its first set of guidelines to crack down on illegal activities in the digital lending industry. As per the new norms, all loan disbursements and repayments will be required to be executed only between the bank accounts of the borrower and the regulated entities – such as a bank or an NBFC – without any pass-through or pool account of the lending service providers or any third party. Last week, the central bank asked the industry to implement the norms by November this year.

According to RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao, the norms are designed to end regulatory arbitrage and protect customers, and puts the onus on the regulated entities on behalf of whom the apps do the lending. Going forward, Mr. Rao says, the passage of a law banning lending by unauthorised entities and the creation of a self-regulatory organisation for digital lenders will bring transparency to the industry.

Those in distress can call Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health at 011-4076 9002.

**Ready, set, soar**

(Clockwise from right) Members of Star Pigeon Society (SPS) from Chennai set free participant birds at a starting point in Adilabad, Telangana, 800 km from home; Shanker V with his birds in Bengaluru; leg tags on a long-distance pigeon in Tiruchi.

■ B JOTHI RAMALINGAM, SUDHAKARA JAIN AND M MOORTHY

■ PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

It is a smoggy April morning in Signature Bridge, Delhi. Three men unshackle 26 trained homing pigeons kept in two rectangular cages on an empty ground. Two more men hold a banner that says Karnataka Homing Pigeon Federation in English and Kannada. As both the cages are simultaneously opened, the birds slowly walk out, flap their wings and take off. From this starting point, where they have never been before, they need to find their way back to their respective lofts, over 1,500 kilometres away. Once they reach their destinations, the distance and velocity of the birds are measured to determine the winner of the race.

Among the participants is Red Rocket, a three-year-old grey-headed pigeon with a white-and-brown plume. Like his competitors, he, too, bears a red seal on

When the birds come home

A peek into the competitive world of pigeon racing in India

his wings and two rubber bands on his legs. After nine days of flight, on April 24, 2022, the pigeon reaches his loft at Shanker V's residence in Hennur Gardens, Bengaluru. Shanker, a pigeon fancier, immediately removes the bands from his bird's legs to reveal an identification number. He clicks a photo and sends it to the organisers, who verify the num-

bers, measure the distance covered and the velocity of its flight.

Red Rocket, they announce, has flown 1,741 kilometres at 251 metres per minute, making him the winner. The pigeon had never been this far from his nest. Yet, he does what he always has: find his way back home.

This extraordinary capability is a result of magnetoreception,

wherein animals and birds orient and navigate using the earth's magnetic field. At one point, humans selectively bred pigeons for their extraordinary ability. This led to the creation of a breed of homing pigeons, used for communication and later racing.

Many Indian cities have thriving, active pigeon racing fraternities. Chennai, today, is considered

ONE LOFT RACE

Unlike conventional pigeon races, wherein the finishing points differ, One Loft Races have the same starting and finishing points. Pigeons, typically less than six weeks old, are taken to the special loft to be used for the event before they can fly. The birds then slowly learn to fly and recognise this loft as their home. The training, food, and conditions are the same for all the birds. With the usage of electronic timing systems, the winners of One Loft Races are decided by as little as 100th of a second.



So, races are organised independently. Racing season in India is usually from December to April. The rest of the year is used for resting, breeding, and training.

Modern pigeon racing in India started getting popular in the 1940s in Kolkata. The Calcutta Racing Pigeon Club (CRPC), founded in 1953, is one of the country's oldest pigeon racing clubs. Its founder, PS Lee, and organising secretary, YS Chin, are considered the pioneers of modern pigeon racing in India.

"Calcutta has a rich history of pigeon racing. Pigeons in the military service during the Second World War were bred and used for racing," says Sonjoy Dos, a 60-year-old fancier and member of CRPC. The Madras Homing Pigeon Association (MHPA) and North Madras Homing Pigeon Association introduced pigeon racing to Madras in the 1970s, and also popularised it in Bengaluru.

Decades of flight

According

to K. Palaniappan, the founder of the 38-year-old New Madras Racing Pigeon Association, the city has about 5,000 fanciers, out of which at least 1,000 are into racing. Among them is popular filmmaker Vetrimaran, who has participated in international competitions like the One Loft Race.

The pastime has been popular for over 50 years, due to efforts of early fanciers, says Palaniappan. "Fanciers like Boldry, Jimmy Diaz, and Pat Casey imported breeds like Strassert, Paulson, Logans, and Catrysse from different parts of the world," he adds.

Bengaluru is not far behind. Y Suresh, the current president of KRRC, estimates that there are over 800 fanciers in the city, although there is no official count. Hyderabad and Pune have at least 100 fanciers each.

Numerous associations and clubs, scattered across cities, are not unified under a national body.

More recently, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is being used, especially abroad, for more accurate measurements. In this method, an electronic chip is attached to the bird and a corresponding electronic clock with antennas at the loft automatically registers the information.

Personal investments

Five months after Red Rocket's incredible journey from Delhi to Bengaluru, he rests at his loft with 65 other pigeons. It is difficult to distinguish him from the others. But his fancier, Shanker, has no such problems as he deftly picks up the prize-winning bird and displays him like a proud possession.

Shanker's love for pigeons is such that when he constructed his two-storey house in 2011, a pigeon loft was part of the building plan.

Fanciers see their pigeons not merely as pets, but as athletes. And, making a good athlete requires work. Shanker, who also runs a local cricket and football club, knows this. When the birds are young, they need training (to identify their nest), vaccination, and care. For two hours every day, he cleans the loft and feeds them a 21-seed mixture, including green gram, brown gram, and peanuts. He spends over a lakh every year on his birds.

Fanciers also keep a constant eye on their counterparts' pigeons for breeding. Shanker, for instance, found his pigeons on a mate all the way from Tiruchi.

"More than the prizes, more than winning, more than anything, you feel happiness to see your bird return from a distant land," says Shanker, "Many kids in cricket and football clubs leave once they find better opportunities. But these pigeons – they always come back to me."



Ahaana Bharat Ram of The Shri Ram School distributes free sanitary napkins among women who have no wherewithal to buy pads



Finding solution Delhi School girl Ahaana Bharat Ram with a section of women in Mewat region where she distributes reusable cloth pads free

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

buy reusable cloth pads from Goonj while a doctor committed to donating batches of 1,000 disposable pads.

With two of her school friends and the cook's daughter at her home volunteering to accompany her, Ahaana now conducts periodic workshops explaining to the women the process of menstruation and the importance of menstrual hygiene and helps them rid themselves of all fear, doubts and stigma. She has also tied up with NGOs to further her mission.

New initiatives

This Independence Day, she collaborated with CRY's pan-India campaign 'Let's talk about it! Period!' and the Delhi Auto Rickshaw Union to demystify taboos and normalise periods. Over 1,000 auto drivers pledged to raise awareness against period shaming. They were given packs of reusable sanitary pads free of cost for passengers in need and posters on menstrual health and hygiene for display on their vehicles for the next three months.

"The objective is to make a difference and shun the culture of stigma and silence around menstruation," says Ahaana, who in the last six months has distributed 6,500 reusable cloth pads in Rajasthan, Bengaluru, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Delhi.

"We are trying to collect feedback every three months. The packs of eight reusable cloth pads should last them a year; by then the women should be self-motivated to continue safe menstrual health practices on their own," she says, adding, "It is still a huge work in progress."

Taboos and myths

"We saw the problem; how a natural body function was accompanied by multiple and deeply entrenched taboos and myths and realised that the power to enact a change lay with the women themselves," says Ahaana. She remem-

bers several girls who pleaded with them to convince their mothers to use pads. "They said their mothers were ashamed to talk about periods or ask for help and did not know how to dispose of pads," she adds.

While the mothers lacked in menstrual hygiene awareness, the daughters perhaps knew more but had poor access to menstrual products or did not have the money to buy pads. "Together, they fuelled our determination to stop period poverty and period shaming," says the 16-year-old, now studying in class XI.

Ahaana shouldered the campaign after her friend dropped out. At a parent-teacher meeting in school, she put up a stall to pitch her idea and raised ₹30,000. This was followed by more donations that helped her

ed help," she says. To check out the realities women deal with every month, she and her classmate Anshi Aggarwal started an initiative called Spot On & Off and chose one of the most backward districts of Mewat in Haryana.

They surveyed Kherla, Rewa- son, Nangli and Sonkh and the stigma and shame surrounding periods in the villages was a revelation. Last winter when they returned to start menstrual hygiene workshops, it turned out to be a challenge for the girls to start conversations around menstruation.

Embracing the modern woman

"We saw the problem; how a natural body function was accompanied by multiple and deeply entrenched taboos and myths and realised that the power to enact a change lay with the women themselves," says Ahaana. She remem-

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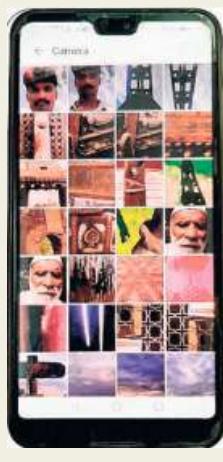
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Mobile photography

The Prithvi Fine Arts and Cultural Centre is mounting Sanjay Bhattacharya's first mobile photography exhibition. It will be inaugurated today in the presence of actor Sharmila Pataudi, Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan and journalist Pritish Nandy. At Kalamkar, First floor, Main building, Bikar House, between Pandara Road and Shahjahan Road, India Gate, 5.30pm. The exhibition will continue here till September 14, 10am to 6pm (Sunday closed)



that like a butterfly, every woman should embrace transitions in life. If one accepts change, it becomes easier to overcome challenges and blossom fearlessly in order to reach the summit. In tune with her belief, she has collated a solo art exhibition of paintings, sculptures and art installations centered around the theme of women's empowerment. Titled Wings of Women, the exhibition is on at the Alliance Française De Delhi, 72, KK Birla Lane, Lodhi Gardens, Lodhi Estate; Till September 11; 11am to 7pm.

Embracing the modern woman

Dr Meenu Kumar, the founder of the Cosmo Arts India Gallery, believes that women should come forward to accomplish things that would enable them to prosper in life. She believes

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'AIADMK cadre won't forgive Panneerselvam'

OPS is like a chameleon; he keeps changing his stance, says Palaniswami

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday said the party cadre will not forgive deposed coordinator O. Panneerselvam.

Visiting the AIADMK headquarters at Royapettah in Chennai for the first time since he was appointed interim general secretary of the party on July 11, he alleged that Mr. Panneerselvam had led the violence at the party headquarters, and the cadre will not forgive him.

"Mr. Panneerselvam is like a chameleon. He keeps changing his stance based on



AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the party office. • S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

ment had been slow in taking action, and only on Wednesday, the CEC-CID had started its investigation. Mr. Palaniswami insisted that there was no split in the party, and only those who had acted against its interest were removed at the general council meeting on July 11. He noted that 96% of the 2,663 general body members supported him.

'Not loyal to party'

"A majority of the MLAs and MPs are on our side; with this kind of support, nobody can do anything to the party legally," Mr. Palaniswami said. He alleged that Mr. Pan-

neerselvam had not been loyal to the party.

Mr. Palaniswami said the election to the post of the party's general secretary will be held soon.

Criticising the DMK government, he said law and order had deteriorated under its watch. The DMK had failed to fulfil its poll promises of securing an exemption for Tamil Nadu from NEET, banning online rummy and curbing the sale of narcotics like ganja, heroin and cocaine.

Earlier, he paid his respects to the statues of late party leaders M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa.

what is beneficial to him," Mr. Palaniswami said.

He alleged that despite repeated complaints about the violence, the DMK govern-

'Beautification' of Yakub Memon's grave kicks up a political storm

BJP demands Uddhav's apology; MVA asks why terrorist's body was given to family

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI/PUNE

A political row erupted in Maharashtra on Thursday over the alleged beautification of the grave of Yakub Memon, a convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. While the State BJP questioned how former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray allowed the "beautification" of the grave, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) hit back demanding an explanation for handing over the terrorist's body to his family in 2015 against the rules.

Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis announced an inquiry into the matter, saying a committee would be constituted to probe how a terrorist's grave was beautified.

"He [Mr. Thackeray] had no time for the common man but the MVA government helped with the beautification of the grave. This is one of the many incidents that exposes how Thackeray compromised with Hindutva to protect his position as Chief Minister," Mr. Bawankule said.

Soon after the controversy flared up, Mumbai Police swung into action and removed the LED lights put around the grave of the terror convict, who was hanged at Nagpur jail in 2015.

Maharashtra BJP presi-



Yakub Memon's funeral procession near his residence at Mahim in Mumbai in 2015. • FILE PHOTO

BJP is picking up issues to divert people's attention," Mr. Pawar said.

At the same time, the NCP leader said the "beautification" of a terrorist's grave should not have happened regardless of whoever was the Chief Minister or whichever party was in power.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav faction) leader and former Minister Aaditya Thackeray targeted the former BJP government under Devendra Fadnavis while questioning why Memon's body was handed over to his relatives given that mortal remains of terrorists are not handed over to their kin as per rules.

"How did they [the BJP] give permission for Memon's funeral and cremation," he asked.

Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe pointed out that when the Congress governments at the Centre and the State had hanged terrorists like Afzal Guru and Ajmal Kasab, both had been at unknown locations.

"The Congress had taken precautions to ensure that the terrorists were not exalted in society. However, the BJP government handed over the body of Yakub Memon to his family... Will the BJP apologise for this?" he said.

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Gonsalves suffering from dengue: lawyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Activist Vernon Gonsalves, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, is suffering from dengue, his lawyer informed a special court on Thursday.

The court is hearing his plea for temporary bail on medical grounds.

He has been admitted to the State-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai and put on oxygen support, the lawyer said.

As per his lawyer, Mr. Gonsalves, 65, was also suspected to be suffering from pneumonia. His plea for temporary bail on medical grounds is pending before the special National Investigation Agency court.

During the hearing on Thursday, hospital authorities confirmed that Mr. Gonsalves has dengue.

Mr. Gonsalves was arrested by the Pune police under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act after raids at residences and offices of several activists in connection with the case.

Highest rate since 2014
Nagaland has been consistently recording the highest rate of crimes under 'extortion and blackmail' while Assam topped in reporting sedition cases since 2014, the latest Crime in India 2021 report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has revealed.

The data show Nagaland registered 159 extortion and blackmailing cases in 2021.

This translated to a rate of 7.6 per one lakh population compared to the national average of 0.8. This rate was highest among all the States and Union Territories with Arunachal Pradesh recording the second-highest of 5.3.

During the hearing on Thursday, hospital authorities confirmed that Mr. Gonsalves has dengue.

On the brighter side, the overall crime in Nagaland has been declining since 2018. The rate of cognisable crimes registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws in the State was 67.2 per one lakh people in 2021, the lowest among the States in India.

The court observed that "the Gandhi ashram, spread over five acres, will remain intact, and there is no plan to disturb it."

"We hope the government will respect and follow its submission in letter and spirit while redeveloping the surrounding areas. The government intends to spread Gandhi's ideology, philosophy across the globe and will develop the surrounding areas," the court noted.

NCRB report: Nagaland tops in extortion, Assam in sedition cases

Arunachal second in extortion cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Nagaland has recorded the highest rate of crimes under 'extortion and blackmailing' while Assam topped in reporting sedition cases since 2014 when the NCRB started specifying such crimes under the category of offences against property.

Such crimes had touched a high of 1,775 in 2018 but kept dipping to 1,661 in 2019 and 1,511 in 2020. It declined further by 4.7% to 1,478 in 2021.

Police officers in Nagaland attributed the high rate of extortions and blackmailing to "increased intervention and pro-active measures", including awareness and outreach via social media and the establishment of anti-extortion cells.

Adjoining Assam, particularly its



Discovery of Congress

The Bharat Jodo Yatra should live up to its mission and not be about Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, literally a 'unite India march', is an ambitious political project that will test his acceptance as a leader and the mood of the country. Kicked off on Wednesday in Kanniyakumari at the tip of the Indian peninsula, the march will cover 3,500 km in close to five months across 12 States and two Union Territories to reach Kashmir. Mr. Gandhi said the march was an effort to unite all Indians behind the values of the national flag, the core of which is diversity. The Congress leader said those values were now under threat from Hindutva, the ideology of the current regime. Mr. Gandhi, a strident and consistent critic of Hindutva, and a votary of diversity, federalism and liberalism, has not been able to mobilise sufficient public support behind his thinking so far to revive the Congress. Meanwhile, Hindutva remains popular enough to win power in Delhi, though its geographical spread is still patchy. Mr. Gandhi has faced criticism of being a sporadic political actor with limited capacity for sustained action. By venturing into such a long and challenging enterprise, he is possibly testing his own endurance. Such political journeys have historically and in the recent past rewritten the fortunes of leaders and ideas – from M.K. Gandhi to L.K. Advani. Mr. Gandhi will therefore be closely followed every step of the way by his admirers, critics and, more importantly, open-minded sceptics.

What matters for Mr. Gandhi will be what the undecided section of Indian population makes of his *yatra*. The Congress had announced this *yatra* at a brainstorming session in Udaipur in May. This *yatra* would be more productive in conjunction with the other measures announced in Udaipur to revamp the party. Of particular distaste for the neutral people of India is the continuing trend of dynasties capturing positions of power at the cost of the ordinary, talented workers in the Congress. The Udaipur conclave had resolved to check the level of dynastic inheritance of power in the party, but that has remained on paper. Mr. Gandhi is acutely aware of the toxic legacy that shackles the party. In response, he has swung between a self-effacing approach and the promotion of his own coterie in place of the previous. Mr. Gandhi will have to discover, inspire, and incentivise the Congress worker through this journey. The notion that NGOs and actors outside the Congress structure will give buoyancy to his politics is wrong and misplaced. Mr. Gandhi will have to convince the general public of his capacity to lead a national change and also motivate the party's workers who have long been trampled by one group of rootless imitators after another. That is a long, and even lonely, journey.

AIADMK's troubles

Mr. Panneerselvam must take on Mr.

Panneerselvam politically instead of legal route

By overruling a single judge's impractical prescription for a working relationship between estranged leaders Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam, a Division Bench of the Madras High Court has momentarily removed the "functional deadlock" in the AIADMK. Justices M. Duraiswamy and Sunder Mohan, allowing an appeal from Mr. Palaniswami, set aside the verdict ordering *status quo ante* as of June 23, when dual leadership prevailed. The judges have rightly elucidated that with the impossibility of a truce, a situation has arisen where the party, as a whole, will undergo irreparable hardship if the two leaders are mandated to jointly manage the party affairs. The court has justifiably underscored the supremacy of the general council, whose members are elected by the primary members, in determining the party leadership structure and ratifying any changes made to it by the executive council. This effectively validates Mr. Palaniswami's election as interim general secretary at the July 11 special general council meeting, convened on the request of most of its members. The judges, interestingly, have drawn parallels with the developments in the AIADMK five years ago when its jailed interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala was replaced by the Panneerselvam-Palaniswami duo, to validate the current abolition of the dual leadership structure. It has held that the convening of the special general council by the presidium chairman cannot be termed illegal since the coordinator and joint coordinator are at loggerheads. Loopholes in the party's bye-laws, which do not contemplate written notice for convening general council meetings or mandate notice for holding special general council meetings requisitioned by at least one-fifth of its members, too worked in favour of Mr. Palaniswami.

The court, curiously, has left open the question of whether the dual posts lapsed due to non-ratification by the general council. With Mr. Panneerselvam determined to challenge the order in the Supreme Court, the legal see-saw battle is not over. It is beyond doubt the internal political balance of convenience is with Mr. Palaniswami. Except for one legislator, none of the 2,539 of the 2,665 members of the party general council, who filed affidavits before the Election Commission of India in his support, has switched loyalties since accepting his leadership. Whereas, Mr. Panneerselvam has been repeatedly relying on the legal fine print to restore his position as a partner with shared managing powers in the AIADMK. Instead of fortifying his base and providing the necessary political challenge to Mr. Palaniswami, he has had no qualms in soliciting those sidelined or expelled from the AIADMK, decisions to which he was a signatory. There is no doubt that the ongoing battle has disrupted the party's focus and functioning. It is critical for the party, which will complete its 50th year next month, that the leadership question is settled quickly.

'Faustian bargain' versus principles is the toss-up

Politicians in India need to ask themselves whether ethics are more important than 'gain now, damnation forever'



PETER RONALD DESOUZA

In an opinion article ("Serial killer" remark makes it clear Kejriwal will bait Modi") published on August 27, 2022 on the site of a leading television channel in India, the Editor of Satya Hindi wrote about the campaign by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections. The writer appreciated the many aspects of Mr. Kejriwal's politics, for example, his ability to coin slogans such as 'serial killer', his accessible language that was jargon free, his tactic of ridiculing the Prime Minister's exaggerated claims so that he could get media attention, and his positioning AAP as the primary challenger to the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Mr. Kejriwal offered the Delhi model of education and health as the alternative to the failed Gujarat model. The writer of the article, however, ended this appreciation on a sharply critical note.

An unacceptable silence

For the writer of the article, Mr. Kejriwal's silence, on the release recently of 11 men convicted for murder and rape during the Gujarat riots, was unacceptable. These men had killed Bilkis Bano's three-year-old child. And Ms. Bano was gang-raped. In their orgy of evil, they murdered several others. The accounts of what happened are stomach churning. The new hatred that roves the land, spawned by a politics of othering, was on gruesome display. It is fortunate that the courts sentenced the guilty to life imprisonment, but the Gujarat government, using

a law that permits remission, released them early from jail by arguing that they had served their time. When the 11 men emerged from the penitentiary they were greeted with garlands and *ladoos*. On seeing these pictures of their release and the celebrations, one wondered, in despair, how much more perversity our nation can endure. What sort of Machiavellian mind would consider the core moral issues of their crimes to be irrelevant? How about even just plain decency? Since elections are around the corner, and constituencies are to be placated, it seems that the calculus of power is alone important. That is the signal from the BJP government in Gujarat.

Despite the outrage among decent citizens, Mr. Kejriwal, however, remained silent. This, for the opinion article writer (mentioned earlier), was unacceptable.

Roosevelt's compromise

As I was adding my own endorsement to his condemnation, I recalled a scholarly study on U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt by the eminent political scientist Ira Katznelson of Columbia University. In his magisterial work, *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*, Professor Katznelson credits Roosevelt with fashioning the new state in the U.S. with his comprehensive package of 'New Deal' policies. These pulled America out of the recession, created a new body of entitlements, and set the legal framework for an empowered capitalist state. Further, Roosevelt was the President who took America into the Second World War.

To achieve these gains, Roosevelt had to make tough compromises particularly with the members of Congress from the 13 southern erstwhile slave-owning States whose votes were necessary to pass the relevant legislation. For example, their support for the bill



regarding the army draft helped its passage by 203 to 202 votes; 123 votes, out of 131, were from the southern block. To get their backing for the 'New Deal', Roosevelt had to overlook their overt racism. He refused to intervene when civil rights activists tried to make lynching a federal offence. He overlooked the segregation housing policy of the Tennessee Valley Authority. There were many such unpleasant compromises with this racist block that Roosevelt made which, although distasteful, he felt necessary for the greater benefits of a New America. Compromise with evil today was necessary for a greater good tomorrow.

Other examples

Was Mr. Kejriwal's silence similar to Roosevelt's compromise? It appears so since his policies of transforming public education and health in Delhi and Punjab, and hopefully later in Gujarat, require him, he thinks, to play a soft Hindutva card. The vote must not be fractured. Since his powerful opponent reaps the benefits of hard Hindutva, Mr. Kejriwal thinks, soft Hindutva, along with good governance, will give him a winning political formula.

Prof. Katznelson called Roosevelt's compromises with the southern racists a 'Faustian bargain'. Is Mr. Kejriwal too making such a bargain when he chose not to condemn the release of the 11 men who were convicted for serious crimes? Perhaps deposed

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi also made a Faustian bargain when she made a deal with the Myanmarese Generals to come to power despite the atrocities by the army against the Rohingya. Her silence on the atrocities, she was globally condemned with some even asking for the Nobel Peace Prize that was conferred on her in 1991 to be taken back. Was Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's deal with the BJP a Faustian bargain which has now come unstuck as he has joined hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal? Has Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik made a Faustian bargain with the BJP? Did the former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi enter into a Faustian bargain with the Government that resulted in his nomination to the Rajya Sabha? Do Attorney Generals make Faustian bargains when they deviate, and remain silent, from their defined role of advising the Government on the constitutionality of its policies and actions, as did William Barr who was United States Attorney General in the Donald Trump government?

So, what is a 'Faustian bargain'? Its classical definition refers to a pact where someone trades something of supreme moral and spiritual value to them, a core principle which defines their essential being, in return for power, knowledge, or wealth. The idea comes from the German legend of Johann Georg Faust who sold his soul to the devil for unlimited knowledge and worldly pleasures.

This was for a fixed period. It is a tale that has inspired great literature from Christopher Marlowe's play *Doctor Faustus* to Goethe's drama *Faust*. In this bargain, Faust's soul gets reclaimed by the devil for eternity when the contract expires. This is a hard bargain. Gain now. Damnation forever. In modern terms, this means a temporary benefit gained for the suspension, or suppression, of

one's conscience. The guilt of the compromise, however, does not go away.

Pertinent questions

While the definition speaks in general terms, the question we must consider is whether it applies only to the big leaders, such as Roosevelt. Or does it even apply to senior bureaucrats and heads of institutions? I believe all of us make 'Faustian bargains'. This raises the allied question: can the bargain, however distasteful and unethical it may be, be justified by better outcomes measured in utilitarian terms. Roosevelt's bargain produced the New Deal. Mr. Kejriwal may produce a better government in Gujarat. Aung San Suu Kyi's produced a democratic government in Myanmar. Do all politicians have to make Faustian bargains, assuming they are committed to the public interest that the bargain is supposed to serve?

In contrast to the Faustian bargain, some politicians prefer not to make compromises believing that it is better to take public positions that are consistent with one's values rather than adopt a utilitarian calculus of compromise with evil for a future good. Gandhiji entered into no Faustian bargain. Nor did Nelson Mandela or Jawaharlal Nehru or Rabindranath Tagore. Babasaheb Ambedkar resigned when he felt Nehru had undermined his position as the Law Minister on the Hindu Code Bill which he wanted to be discussed. His resignation speech is an artistic statement of the principled position.

In politics, therefore, which is the way to go? The Faustian bargain or the principled position?

Peter Ronald deSouza is the D.D. Kosambi Visiting Professor at Goa University. He has recently co-edited the book, 'Companion to Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility, Ambivalence'. The views expressed are personal

The outline of an essential global pandemic treaty

A treaty under the umbrella of the World Health Organization would build coherence and avoid fragmentation



AMAR PATNAIK

COVID-19 would count as being among some of the most severe pandemics the world has seen in the last 100 years. An estimated 18 million people may have died from COVID-19, according to various credible estimates, a scale of loss not seen since the Second World War. Further, with over 120 million people pushed into extreme poverty, and a massive global recession, no single government or institution has been able to address this emergency single-handedly. This has given us a larger perspective of how nobody is safe until everybody is safe.

Widespread health inequity

Health-care systems have been stretched beyond their capacity and gross health inequity has been observed in the distribution of vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics across the world. Now, with the World Health Organization (WHO) having declared the monkeypox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) with over 32,000 cases from over 80 countries (August 2022), the world faces the risk of another health crisis.

While high-income economies are still recovering from the after-effects, the socioeconomic consequences of the novel coronavirus pandemic are irreversible in low and low-middle-income countries. The monopolies held by pharma majors such as Pfizer, BioNTech, and Moderna created at least nine new billionaires since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and made over \$1,000 a second in profits, even as fewer of their vaccines reached people in low-income countries. As of March 2022, only 3% of people in low-income countries had been vaccinated with at least one dose, compared to 60.18% in high-income countries. The international target to vaccinate 70% of the world's population against COVID-19 by mid-2022 was missed because poorer countries were at the "back of the queue" when vaccines were rolled out.

Even six to eight weeks after the PHEIC declaration, countries, except for Asia, did not take the requisite precautions. Similarly, when world leaders pledged \$7.4 billion (\$8.07 billion) in a digital fundraiser for developing a coronavirus vaccine and treatments, the United States did not send any representative. Thus, inequality has also been prolonging the course of the pandemic. And, it is in this backdrop that the creation of a Global Pandemic Treaty was proposed at the Special Session of the World Health Assembly



(WHASS). The underlying logic was that as global governance had failed during the pandemic, we needed political commitment to mitigate future challenges.

India's lead role

India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and reinstating global equity by leveraging its own potential has set an example to legislators worldwide. India produces nearly 60% of the world's vaccines and is said to account for 60%-80% of the United Nations' annual vaccine procurement – "vaccine diplomacy" or "vaccine maitri" with a commitment against health inequity.

India was unfettered in its resolve to continue the shipment of vaccines and other diagnostics even when it was experiencing a vaccine shortage for domestic use. There was only a brief period of weeks during the peak of the second wave in India when the vaccine mission was halted. As of 2021, India shipped 594.35 lakh doses of 'Made-in-India' COVID-19

vaccines to 72 countries – a classic example of global cooperation. Among these, 81.25 lakh doses were gifts, 339.67 lakh doses were commercially distributed, and 173.43 lakh doses were delivered via the Covax programme under the aegis of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Further, the long tussle with the pharma majors over vaccine patents, especially in the African countries, held back the global vaccination drive. But India stood as a global leader, moving a proposal with South Africa in October 2020 to ask the World Trade Organization (WTO) to allow all countries to choose to neither grant nor enforce patents and other intellectual property related to COVID-19 drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and other technologies for the duration of the pandemic, until global herd immunity is achieved.

Even though this proposal was stonewalled by some of the leading countries, it was only in June 2022, that the WTO finally decided to water down intellectual property restrictions in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines after rigorous efforts.

Lessons learnt, path ahead

In the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a multitude of initiatives to address the pandemic and to do better in the future such as the Vaccine Alliance. These are valuable, but a treaty under the umbrella of WHO would, as highlighted by the journal *BMJ*, build

coherence and avoid fragmentation. For example, as a document by the University of Groningen shows, among high-income countries and low- and middle-income countries, while the difference between the number of reported cases was relatively similar until late March 2021 (65.3 and 61.2 million, respectively), high-income countries shared on average 16.5-fold more sequences per reported case (1.81% and 0.11%, respectively).

Thus, as mentioned in the *BMJ*, such a treaty should cover crucial aspects such as data sharing and genome sequencing of emerging viruses. It should formally commit governments and parliaments to implement an early warning system and a properly funded rapid response mechanism.

Further, it should mobilise nation states to agree on a set of common metrics that are related to health investments and a return on those investments. These investments should aim to reduce the public-private sector gap.

Finally, a global pandemic treaty will not only reduce socioeconomic inequalities across nation states but also enhance a global pandemic preparedness for future health emergencies. India must take the lead in this.

Amar Patnaik is a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Odisha, a former Principal Accountant General, and currently, an advocate

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

The long march

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's bid to revive and infuse life into the Indian National Congress through the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' appears to be an earnest and ambitious exercise (Page 1, "Leading Bharat Yatra, Rahul calls for defending Tricolour", September 8). Perhaps, this would also be the last chance to keep the Congress relevant and transform it into a fighting force. Instead of having a near single-point agenda of only criticising the ruling party, Mr. Gandhi should listen to the people, understand people's problems, the real issues and ground realities, and then plan to articulate the Congress's plans for the

nation. There are many issues confronting the nation today. So, people are more interested in knowing what policies the Congress plans to adopt and which are different from those of the government of the day. Uniting India is a very lofty goal. But it cannot be achieved by merely highlighting the shortcomings of the ruling dispensation. The Congress must have an economic plan of action that fires the imagination of all people and make them rally behind the party. Mr. Gandhi needs to build a bond with the common man. Can the party still convince the people that it is still relevant?

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

■ Mr. Gandhi's remarks during the formal launch of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' are amusing. It is the Grand Old Party of India that has played the communal card when it suited its agenda. The attempt to rouse up the now all-too-familiar 'secular-communal' debate does not find resonance with many. It can only be construed as a desperate attempt to infuse life and purpose into a disoriented party.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

■ The Congress party has only itself to blame for its self-inflicted wounds. Although this initiative marks a beginning to help rejuvenate the party and reconnect it with its

grassroot workers and the common man, there are many hurdles to be crossed. Rather than attempt to obfuscate its past follies, the party must make all efforts to bring back disgruntled leaders who have deserted it.

D.R. BIJU C. MATHEW,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ There is little substance in the statement by Mr. Gandhi when he says that the Indian tricolour and the values it embodies are under attack. Without overhauling its organisational set up and ensuring a change of leadership at the top, such a *yatra* is unlikely to help the party regain lost ground and live up to the people's expectations.

PRAHUBU RAJ R.,
Bengaluru

Bangladesh ties

There is no doubt that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India is significant and holds promise. Bangladesh is confronting economic issues and strengthening trade relations will bode well for both economies. Addressing the contentious issues of water sharing can further consolidate bilateral ties. SWAPNIL SANTOSH HILE, Mumbai

■ There are many problems in the subcontinent and the neighbourhood, especially with China and it is important to build a strong relationship with at least one neighbouring country. Let us hope that there is concrete movement on politically sensitive and emotive issues

such as water sharing and border killings.

Should the mother tongue or English be the medium of instruction?

PARLEY

English should be taught effectively not as the medium, but as a second language

Over the years, there has been a raging debate over the need for children to have their mother tongue as the medium of instruction in schools. While educationists have emphasised the importance of learning in the mother tongue to enhance a child's learning and overcome glaring inequities, there has been an equally steady demand for English-medium schools in several States. In a discussion moderated by S. Poorvaja, V. Vasanthi Devi and Anita Rampal explain why and how the language policy can be re-oriented. Edited excerpts:

The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 says the home language, mother tongue, local language, or regional language wherever possible should be the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8. What are your thoughts on this?



Anita Rampal
is Professor and former Dean, Faculty of Education, Delhi University



V. Vasanthi Devi
is an educationist and former Vice Chancellor of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tamil Nadu



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pedagogical aspects. It's important to have a well understood, pedagogically considered language policy.

I also find the NEP problematic and cannot endorse most of its thrust. But I want to specify that the regional language itself can be problematic. The mother tongue, home language or the first language educationally means the language which the child is using to connect to the world, to people, to nature, to the environment, and to make sense of everything that's going on. This is the language which helps the child to build, grow and develop in every way. Children may learn to speak if they are immersed in a certain environment, or they are communicating with friends. But reading and writing are different from learning to speak, understand, listen, or think in, and the first language they learn to read and write in is critical. These aspects of child development are important to understand pedagogically.

If we have to talk of learning to read and write, the first language should be the language of the home, the language in which the child is communicating and interacting with the world around her. A lot of research across the world indicates this. As Prof. Vasanthi said, it's the language of learning, not the medium of instruction. We don't want any classroom to be based on instruction, which is a very didactic, authoritative term; it should instead be interactive, and a transaction.

In many places in our country, there are bilingual and multilingual classrooms. In Jharkhand, the state might say Hindi is the language, but 50%-60% of children don't speak the language. We must look at the first language or the languages which children bring to the classroom, their first languages, and that is how we design, develop an interaction. The pedagogy is very different for the first language as compared to the second language. Our system, however, treats language as a subject. This is a tragedy. We have to understand that teachers will also use different pedagogies when they are dealing with a second language or a third language, when we come to English. But this is often a political decision. And all our States are taking these decisions, violating what should be the right of a child.

Anita Rampal: I have been saying for a long time that we don't have a language policy. We take ad hoc decisions. The three-language formula also doesn't look too much at the



GOVARTHAN M.

Prof. Vasanthi, you mentioned Tamil Nadu specifically and the switch that is happening to English-medium schools. Could you elaborate on this?

VD: I will talk about not only Tamil Nadu, but English becoming the medium of learning all over the country. Tamil Nadu was one of the earliest States to start English-medium learning in a very big way. English-medium education is a profound tragedy in Indian education today. Millions are languishing because of their inability to learn in English – not English as a language but as a medium through which they acquire any knowledge of any subject. English is their dream and their despair. And these are children who belong to the vast majority of the Indian population except those at the very top of the class and caste social pyramid. It is only for those who are at the top that English has become almost a home language.

Why is this happening? India has constructed an education system that is among the most exclusionary in the world. The impulse behind this is excluding the vast majority from all opportunities except the lowest and the least-paying jobs. Every component of education is crafted for fulfilling this class purpose. I'm not saying that 80% of the Indian population must be denied access to a global language that will open up opportunities. I'm only opposing English as the medium. But as a second language, English must be taught effectively, and that is the way the entire non-English speaking world is also learning it today. And that is the way, it was taught in India till the 1980s and 1990s.

AR: There are political forces, especially Dalit groups, who insist that English has been the language of liberation for them. They look at it like that because of the denial and the

AR: If we have to talk of learning to read and write, the first language should be the language of the home. A lot of research across the world indicates this.

ANITA RAMPAL

deprivation of Dalits in the education system, and that's important to acknowledge. The pedagogical aspect of a child learning a second language is much better if the proficiency and confidence in the first language is established in the first four-five years. The first language is the language that you speak and think in, and if you learn to read and write and understand the world through that language, that is what gives you the proficiency and confidence to be able to read and write a second language which can be the state language, and a third language which should be English. Our focus should be on children's learning. But we need a lot of public opinion to be shaped and negotiated with.

VD: Public opinion is important. If you ask a poor mother from a distant village, she will want English as the medium. How did this opinion build up? This is the clue to why there is such a craze for English as the medium of learning among those who can never succeed in English as the medium. This is a reason why the Tamil Nadu government has introduced English as the medium of learning in many government schools. In our society, whatever has benefited the upper class and castes is taken as the path through which they also advance.

AR: In Kerala, they acknowledged that the classicised Malayalam that was being used in classrooms was not every child's Malayalam, and the language in northern Kerala is different from that of the south. So, they changed the language curricu-

lum, making it more inclusive for all children. This happened with Hindi when we were working in Madhya Pradesh too. It was a Sanskritised Hindi. What happens with English is also what happens with a given State language where it sometimes excludes a large majority of children. This happens in any language we use because of how it comes off the upper class and castes.

Prof. Rampal, in what way can we create an enabling environment in classrooms where students come from diverse backgrounds?

AR: We don't use the word dialects, they are all languages for us, because there is a positioning and a politics of language. Firstly, multilingualism gives equal status to all languages and there's enough work, history and research on this. Second, children come from different backgrounds, and in some cases, they are first-generation learners with not much support at home. The multilingual approach thus, is much more flexible, closer to the child, and inclusive. It is democratic, and it accepts that the teacher is not coming from a place of authority and is only correcting spellings and pronunciations. In fact, when we look at children learning English in other countries, their spelling is never corrected, they are initially encouraged to intuitively think out their own spellings. The teachers say to the children there is something strange about our language. They put the onus on the language, not on the child. This way, the child is told that it is not something that has been imposed on you. There are norms, and we don't have to go about it in a structuralist way. We don't insist on grammar coming first, and expression later, and these are the ways and pedagogies which can be used in our classes.

What do you think about how learning outcomes are measured in India?

AR: The words 'learning outcomes' are a denial of children's rights, because the NEP too says that it will not focus on inputs and only on outcomes. That is not an inclusive way of looking at learning because you're measuring only what the child is giving you and not how the child has learned or what kind of environment the child was provided to

learn in. There are better ways in which you're not forcing them into standardised methods of assessing, but you're encouraging them to construct their thinking and express themselves.

When students who study their mother tongue come to college, how do you see their ability to learn other languages and their cognitive abilities?

AR: When a student, for instance, learns in Hindi and then transitions into English, the way they express themselves is different from a child who may be from an elite English-medium school. In class 7, children who had studied their mother tongue Hindi and had just started learning English for the last two years wrote much better English and had very good Hindi too. When we say good, it is that their ideas were rich, nuanced and original. When students from Hindi medium schools come to the University, it is our responsibility to get them good material so that they don't bank on terrible coaching guides. When they had gained confidence, I observed that they wrote beautifully, with much better observations and analyses than even some of my English-medium students who had studied only in English right from the beginning. Even at the university level, we can see the difference in their thoughts and expressions. Hindi medium students must be given special support and communication sessions where they can gain confidence in English.

VD: The transition for students who have come into English-medium institutions after high school can be done well if English is taught as a second language effectively, maybe from class 6. Teaching a language as a second language is different from teaching in that language as a medium. So, our teachers will have to go through a very different process of teacher education. A considerable amount of investment will need to be done for this. It is a myth that this transition into English-medium learning in higher education will be hard for students, as it is being done well the world over, and was even done by people of my generation.

This myth must be broken that our education system is class and caste neutral. A powerful political movement will have to take place to make the language of learning a choice that is made democratically.

NOTEBOOK

Chasing evidence

Stamping a claim as 'without evidence' hardly does anything to raise the standard of journalism

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Reporting and commenting are expected to be strictly separate compartments in journalism. Some platforms keep these functions so strictly separate that they don't allow the personnel and planning of both to mix. But such conventional practices are being questioned, ironically, for making journalism more relevant and powerful in the context of social and political volatility in countries with a free press such as the U.S. and India. Objectivity, once considered the sacred principle of reporting, is now seen as a constraint by many practitioners. It is being discarded, or at least redefined, to deal with fake news and misinformation.

A recent report by an international agency on Russia's claim that a bomb blast that killed the daughter of its nationalist philosopher Alexander Dugin was qualified to add that the claim was 'without evidence.' The 'without evidence' qualifier was widely used in the reporting on Donald Trump. 'Trump says, without evidence, every American will get coronavirus vaccine by April,' The Washington Post reported on September 18, 2020; 'Trump says without proof that FDA 'deep state' slowing COVID trials,' a Reuters report from August 2020 said. It is indeed the application of a higher standard when a reporter tries to seek evidence from their interlocutor. Journalists can seek the help of experts to verify claims made by someone, but whether there can be real-time fact-checking of a state functionary is a difficult question. Even if the custodian of the evidence is willing to show it to the journalist, would they have the capacity to process it?

There are also thinking journalists who overthink and become immobilised. A sense of history can be an asset for a reporter, but too much of connecting the dots will make them useless. Getting caught in the 'big picture' can trap them into missing the day's story. From a long-term perspective, nothing that happens today is all that relevant after all.

White House and State Department spokespersons accusing reporters of advancing enemy propaganda by seeking 'evidence' regarding administration claims on national security matters. To their credit, the reporters in question wanted supporting evidence for claims that the White House and State Department were making about situations or events in Afghanistan or Syria.

Circumventing the gatekeepers of information to access what the state wants to keep secret can be dangerous, as Julian Assange is figuring out. So, demanding evidence from state functionaries regarding their claims is little more than feel good for the journalist. That being the case, stamping a claim as 'without evidence' hardly does anything to raise the standard of journalism. Inadvertently, the reporter ends up making an opinion, by adding the qualifier. A logical analysis of the claim being made can be more helpful but that is not as appealing as 'evidence.' Fact-checking and contextualising information are in principle very good, but difficult to insulate from subjectivity and capacity constraints.

Now, many people think that in an environment deluged with misinformation and propaganda, a journalist will be only failing in their duty if they merely amplify those. As a result, we have anchors, reporters and commentators who have turned journalism into a mission. They have a moral case, of course. Supporting or opposing a politics is a moral crusade. The thinking journalist gets hyperactive, trying to go beyond reporting an event and fix the problem. It's a small detail that such polemical journalism can be profitable too.

In many cases, when the experts are themselves peddling fake information, as it happened in the U.S. propaganda on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, what can the reporter do? In the more recent case of Russian 'meddling' in U.S. democracy, the evidence was all provided by U.S. state agencies. And the doubting of state agencies is not tolerated even in the U.S. An AP report in 2022 cited

DATA POINT

UAPA, PMLA, Section 153A: What's the common link?

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence) have a common link. In recent days, cases filed under these laws and section are rising, while convictions have remained poor. Under the UAPA, 4,690 persons were arrested between 2018 and 2020, but only 3% were convicted. Till March 2022, 5,422 cases were recorded under the PMLA, but only 23 resulted in convictions. The conviction rate under Section 153A in 2020 was just 20.2%. Moreover, under the UAPA and PMLA, getting bail is tough, and so the accused spend most of the trial period inside prison. For instance, of the 1,338 persons convicted under the UAPA in U.P. between 2018 and 2020, only 6% got convicted, while none of the other 94% got bail. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1 Arrests under UAPA | The chart shows the number of people arrested under the UAPA between 2018 and 2020, and the number of people who were convicted, acquitted and got bail.

4,690 arrested

1,080 got bail

149 convicted

325 acquitted

2 UAPA data, State-wise | The chart shows the share of people who were convicted, acquitted, got bail and undervalue in prison, among those arrested under the UAPA between 2018 and 2020. For instance, of the 750 persons arrested in Jharkhand in 2020, 47% were on bail, 6% were acquitted while 91% were undervalue in prison.

94% undervalue in prison

Manipur (943) 81%

J&K (750) 47% on bail

T.N. (415) 86% on bail

Jharkhand (368) 11%

Assam (331) 91% undervalue in prison

Bihar (133) 47% on bail

Punjab (101) 6%

Chhattisgarh (63) 100% undervalue in prison

Kerala (55) 71%

Arunachal (53) 53%

Nagaland (35) 11%

Delhi (29) 44%

M.P. (17) 33%

Andhra (17) 33%

Meghalaya (8) 33%

Karnataka (8) 33%

Maharashtra (7) 33%

West Bengal (5) 33%

Telangana (5) 33%

Odisha (5) 33%

Tripura (2) 33%

Haryana (1) 33%

Gujarat (1) 33%

3 Arrests under PMLA | The chart shows the number of cases filed under the PMLA. The case count has increased sharply in recent years. Only 23 have been convicted in the 5,422 cases filed until March 2022.

221

2012-13

2021-22

1,180

4 Section 153A | Among select major crimes, cases registered under Section 153A had among the lowest conviction rates (20.2%) in 2020.

Conviction rates (20.2%) in 2020

Assault on women 27.9%

Crimes/Atrocities against STs 28.5%

Riots 29.5%

Crimes against women (total) 29.8%

Forcery, cheating and fraud 32.3%

Kidnapping and abduction 33.3%

Rape 35.6%

Crime/Atrocities against SCs 42.4%

Murder 44.1%

Theft 44.2%

Crimes against children 45.1%

Domestic violence 45.9%

Human trafficking 56.6%

Source: Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, NCRB

Scan the QR code to watch the Data Point video on the issue

Source: Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, NCRB

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Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



On a decline

132 India's rank out of 191 countries in the 2021 human development index, according to a report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). India's HDI value of 0.633 places the country in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in the 2020 report. India ranked 131 in the 2020 human development index. Human development – a measure of a nation's health, education, and average income – has declined for two years in a row – 2020 and 2021. PTI

Cattle deaths

57,000

The number of cattle that died so far due to lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a contagious viral disease that affects cattle and causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death. The disease gets spread by mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact among the cattle, and through contaminated food and water. LSD has spread in around seven States, including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. PTI

Market rally

282.66

In lakh crore, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high due to a rebound in equities. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 659.31 points to settle at 59,688.22, after falling in the previous two trading days. The bounce back in equities helped the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jump to 282.66 lakh crore. Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the biggest gainers among Sensex stocks. PTI

Freezing energy bills

2,500

In GBP, the maximum annual cap on energy bills of households announced by British Prime Minister Liz Truss on Thursday to address the country's cost-of-living crisis. In her first announcement, she said her measures would save people £1,000 a year based on expected energy prices. This is because the energy price cap set for companies as a maximum limit they can charge customers was due to rise from the current level of £1,971 to £3,549 in October. PTI

ECB hikes rates

75

The basis points by which the European Central Bank (ECB) raised interest rates on Thursday to tame runaway inflation. The European Central Bank moves rates by a quarter point and had never raised its key bank lending rate by three-quarters of a point since the euro's launch in 1999. The jumbo increase is aimed at raising the cost of borrowing for consumers, governments and businesses, which in theory slows spending and investment and cools off the soaring consumer prices by reducing the demand for goods. AGENCIES

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

WORLD INSIGHT

Why the U.S. mid-term election matters

While checks and balances are inherent in the U.S. governance system, the risk of gridlock and the menace of gerrymandering has imperilled substantive democracy in the country



NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

Background: The U.S. mid-term elections will be held on November 8, 2022. In this election, every one of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 – slightly more than one-third – of the 100 seats in the Senate will be up for grabs. Alongside the election of these lawmakers in Washington, 39 state, gubernatorial and a range of other local contests will be on the cards.

A major redistricting exercise happened following the 2020 census, in which the boundaries of voting districts were redrawn by state authorities, amidst controversy relating to gerrymandering allegations, in some cases.

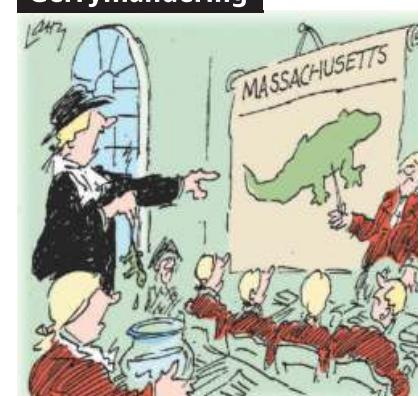
At the federal level, the stakes are high for Democrats to retain their grip on both houses of Congress. While earlier this year, it appeared that the Republican Party held the edge in many of the races slated for November, the Supreme Court ruling against the constitutional right to abortion as enshrined in *Roe vs Wade* is expected to galvanise liberals across the board and potentially lead to significantly higher turnouts on election day.

The Congressional inquiry into the January 6, 2021, riots and assault on the Capitol building by alleged supporters of former president Donald Trump, and the seizure of classified documents from Mr. Trump's mansion in Mar-a-Lago, Florida, have further muddied the prospects for Republican candidates who leaned on Mr. Trump for support. Nevertheless, many of the races in the mid-term elections remain close, as U.S. President Joe Biden still polls poorly across the nation for his performance in office, inflation and recessionary concerns for the economy remain, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has still not worked its way out of the system as yet.

Overview of U.S. government structure The U.S. political system is characterised by the tripartition of power across organs of the state. After the war to establish independence from the Great Britain, in its effort to set up political institutions for governance, the U.S. borrowed from the ideas of French philosopher, Montesquieu, who in 1748 spoke of a division of power to ensure that no single person or group could assume autocratic authority owing to a system of checks and balances between executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

In the U.S. context, these three branches are represented by, respectively, the President, Congress and the courts led by the Supreme Court. However, there is an important difference in the balance of power between these three arms of the state in the U.S., as compared to parliamentary democracies such as India. In India, the executive draws its very authority to make policy from its majority control of Parliament, and the proximity of this relationship implies that there is no realistic

Gerrymandering



Electoral boundaries are usually a cause of heated dispute, especially since Elbridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts in 1810, tried to arrange his to enhance his vote.

■ The shape of Gerry's proposed changes looked like a salamander when drawn on the state map – hence the coining of the word **gerrymandering** for such unfair manipulation. But Gerry's reputation survived. He went on to become U.S. Vice-President

SOURCE: MARIS ROSS @GRAPHIC NEWS

scenario where Parliament may overrule the actions of the Executive, which is the Cabinet led by the Prime Minister.

However, in the U.S., not only is the President empowered to veto legislation passed in Congress, but the President's power is circumscribed by Congress's power to vote out, by a two thirds majority, a presidential veto of a law that it had passed. Further, Congress controls budget appropriations which essentially gives it the levers to control what the White House can and cannot do in terms of policy – effectively setting limits to presidential power yet again. Simultaneously, U.S. presidents enjoy a certain amount of autonomy from Congress as they are not members of Congress as such but are elected indirectly by the people, through the electoral college.

On the other hand, U.S. courts possess the power to constrain the reach of Congressional legislation by, where the situation warrants it, declaring laws passed by Congress unconstitutional. They also have the power to declare presidential actions as unconstitutional in scenarios where it is believed that the President has acted beyond the scope of their legitimate authority.

Thus, all three branches of the U.S. government enjoy a balance of autonomy and limitations of powers imposed by the other two branches, which establishes a robust system of checks and balances and differentiates the balance of power and functioning of U.S. state institutions from those of parliamentary democracies.

Potential for gridlock

The flip side of strong checks and balances is the increased risk of gridlock whereby the very functioning of the U.S. government can

be seriously stymied. This is often seen in the case of federal shutdowns leading to the furlough of many thousands of government employees, or of major hurdles to the passage of landmark legislation such as the Affordable Care Act spearheaded by the Barack Obama administration in 2010. In each case, the resolution of the policy crisis has required adroit dealmaking, essentially pork-barrel politics to appease various Senators or Congressmen, a modality that undermines the effectiveness and credibility of the Executive.

The sense of stalemate at the federal level, particularly in Congress, is deepened by what is known as small State bias. This bias, an institutional deficit in the U.S. electoral system, stems from the fact that there is a growing chasm between the rapidly growing, densely populated and increasingly diverse States along the two coasts of the U.S. and the more numerous yet considerably more homogeneous, sparsely populated States in the hinterland. Given that under the U.S. constitution only two Senators are allocated to each State regardless of its population, large States such as California have the same number of representatives in the Upper House as, for example, Wyoming, which is the U.S.'s least populous State.

This means that just to break even in the 100-seat Senate, Democrats need to win a far greater proportion of the national vote than the Republicans. Consider the example of the evenly split present Senate, where 50 Democratic Senators represent 56.5% of the voters, but the 50 Republican Senators represent only 43.5% of the voters. As analysts have noted, in the 2018 mid-term elections, Democrats won nearly 18 million more Senate election votes than the Republicans, but the Republicans still gained two seats, with major implications for policy. The correction of this small State bias would require political heavy lifting to bring about constitutional amendments that allowed for a greater measure of proportional representation for Congress.

The House of Representatives does reflect the demographic realities of the country, in that Congressional districts for the election of its members are based on population size. However, the precise demarcation of each district's boundary makes a significant difference to electoral outcomes as within each district a first-past-the-post – rather than proportional voting – system is followed where the majority winner claims the House seat for that district.

Concerns surrounding gerrymandering

While redistricting, the process of redrawing electoral boundaries is an exercise conducted across U.S. congressional and state legislative districts every decade, following the publication of the results of the population census, gerrymandering or making calculated political gains through redistricting is a blight on the functioning of

substantive democracy in the U.S.

The movement of Democratic supporters into urban areas, and the movement of Republicans to rural areas with far lower population density is a well-established long-term demographic trend. Given this skewed geographic distribution of voters over time, Republican Party lawmakers have discovered political gains in including or excluding cities in a district with a relatively larger proportion of rural voters depending on the density of Democratic residents.

The deep concerns surrounding gerrymandering came to the fore after the 2020 census results were announced in August 2021, a delayed outcome owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. In its wake, several 'swing States', or States that have historically switched between voting Republican and Democrat, including Georgia, North Carolina and Ohio, Republican state legislators have managed to gerrymander electoral districts to create "supermajorities" where none existed before, posing a challenge to the legitimate authority of the Democratic Governor of the State in question.

In such a scenario, short of moving the courts on redistricting methodologies, the political process leaves Democrats with few options to impact policymaking, thus undermining the representation of the people by their government. As noted earlier, the U.S. Congress is virtually gridlocked on major policy issues, leaving vital questions in areas such as reproductive rights, gun control and healthcare reform in the hands of state authorities to implement or not as they choose. Abortion rights, for example, have now been entirely handed over to U.S. States to implement or not, as they will. This makes gerrymandering a factor of serious concern.

Before the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed into law, redistricting was driven by 'packing,' the attempt to redraw electoral district maps to ensure that a larger proportion of a specific demographic group, such as African American voters, is 'packed' into a single or a few districts, blunting their ability to decisively determine an electoral outcome. Until the second half of the 20th century, Southern States especially controlled the impact of the African American voter through such means. The other side of the coin to packing is 'cracking,' a process through which lawmakers break down the bunching together of certain voters who would support their opponents' party, and spread them more thinly across several districts, thus diluting their vote.

Ultimately, it is only when bipartisan independent commissions are given control over redistricting that the process stands a chance of being rebalanced fairly towards representing only genuine changes in population distribution. Currently, 39 out of 50 U.S. States do not have any such independent body deciding this matter, leaving lawmakers in these States free to gerrymander and undermine the election process significantly.

A still from *The Rehearsal*.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Nathan Fielder's method to madness

By putting the participants in uncomfortable situations in *The Rehearsal*, Nathan brings out a side of the participants that is masked in the real world or chopped off in post-production by the editor

THE GIST

In the show, *The Rehearsal*, Nathan Fielder created a world for himself to function out of, a world that seems beyond everyone's grasp. The man behind Nathan Fielder's on-screen persona seems impenetrable and unpredictable and that is what adds mystique to his work.

He disarms and distances his participants from their arsenal of conventional social cues, making them feel vulnerable and naked in front of the camera.

The Canadian comic also shields his actors from becoming prey to social surveillance with a smart tactic where the audience is unsure if they've been asked to act/exaggerate a trait of theirs or play themselves.

TAMMA MOKSHA

HBO renewed Nathan Fielder's *The Rehearsal* for a second season ahead of the much-talked-about season finale. The show got the minds of the critics and the audience whirring prompting the publishing of opinion pieces and analyses on the show, Nathan Fielder, and his genre of comedy. This, like many others, is another such attempt at dissecting the brain behind some of the best television produced in recent times.

Laterly, to the audience of the show, it feels like everything around is Nathan's world and we're just living in it. He went a step ahead and created a world for himself to function out of, a world that seems beyond everyone's grasp. The man behind Nathan Fielder's on-screen persona seems impenetrable and unpredictable and that is what adds mystique to his work.

The Canadian comic rose to fame for his show on Comedy Central called *Nathan for You*; spread over four seasons, the show is a parody of business rescue shows. According to the show, Nathan, a business graduate with excellent grades, goes on a mission to help struggling businesses across the country primarily through product innovation and marketing techniques.

In the very first episode, Nathan pledges his services to a struggling frozen yoghurt shop. His idea to increase the footfall? – offer the option of a poo-flavoured frozen yoghurt to the customers. And true to his promise, the store witnesses a bunch of awe-struck slightly rattled townsfolk waiting to try the poo-flavoured frozen yoghurt.

From ghostbusters to ghostwriters, Nathan puts every professional at his disposal to help his clients grow their businesses. Though the bizarre suggestions help lure the audience in, it is the willingness of his participants to execute these suggestions that keeps the audience hooked. Their willingness can be attributed to the camera crew that tag along with Nathan who help in giving the participants an illusion that their interaction is removed from reality.

Focus on participants

By putting the participants in uncomfortable situations, Nathan brings out a side of the participants that is masked in the real world or chopped off in post-production by the editor. He disarms and distances his participants from their arsenal of conventional social cues, making them feel vulnerable and naked in front of the camera helping Nathan paint an innocent portrait of the participant. He has a tendency to drag a silence for so long that it almost becomes unbearable for the viewer to keep their eyes on the screen.

Nathan (a Jew) has very funny encounters with people of other faiths who talk about Jews in harmful stereotypes that border on antisemitism. What would have otherwise turned into a serious

confrontation in the normal world just ends up turning into a painfully awkward conversation, all thanks to him swerving away from the conventional social cues. And through the help of tools like this, Nathan makes sure there's no space for hate in his work – something reality TV connoisseurs are not used to.

Critique of reality shows

Jeremy Hartwell, a cast member of the Emmy-nominated Netflix show *Love Is Blind* has filed a lawsuit claiming mistreatment on the set. He alleged that the contestants were forced to film hungry, drunk and sleep-deprived for long hours. All of this only goes to highlight the power imbalance that plagues sets of reality TV shows. Often a narrative is woven only in the editor's room to sensationalise certain behaviours and in the process impinge on the agency of the participants who are almost policed by the cameras. *Nathan for You* underlines this power imbalance – imagine a frozen yoghurt shop owner agreeing to sell a poo-flavoured product sans cameras, you probably can't. His shows also do not stress on having a set narrative; they focus on the more mundane things that govern stories.

The obsession with surveillance coupled with constructing a narrative in reality shows is fatal. Contestants of the show, *Love Island*, Sophie Gralon and Mike Thalassitis died by suicide and the host of the show, Caroline Flack, also met with the same fate. Jake Fincham, the winner of the 2018 season, confessed to have attempted suicide.

Nathan highlights this in *The Rehearsal* – Angela, 44, who is rehearsing motherhood, acts and talks a certain way when Nathan is around; she reverts back to her original self and has normal conversations with child actors when they are left to their own devices. Dissecting this manufactured reality lies at the core of Nathan's critique. The Canadian comic also shields his actors from becoming prey to social surveillance with a smart tactic where the audience is unsure if they've been asked to act/exaggerate a trait of theirs or play themselves.

But Nathan's work has its shortcomings. In working on satirising the power dynamics in reality TV shows, the power dynamics on his set have occasionally become skewed with Nathan being gifted a better deck of cards to deal with. In an episode of *Nathan for You*, Nathan hires 40 cleaning ladies for a turbo clean of sorts. The owner of the business, a 22-year-old Mexican immigrant, reported that she felt humiliated upon coming to know that they were featured in a comedy show.

Initially, she had thought that they were going to interview her about her success. Nathan has regretted this and highlighted that he and his crew check on the participants between scenes but that he is also aware that the power dynamics

are such that a "yes" from them does not always come from a comfortable place.

In the initial stage of his comedy career when Nathan was getting started on this observational social experiment like comedy, his mom, a social worker, was befuddled with his work and rightfully so. However, a couple of days later, she came back and informed him that what he was trying to do could be classified under ethnomet hodology.

Ethnomethodology is a method of sociological analysis that examines how individuals use everyday conversations to construct a common-sense view of the world. The pioneer of this discipline, Harold Garfinkel, whose writings have had a major impact in the field of social sciences and linguistics also indulged in experiments just like Nathan. In one of his more famous case studies, he asked students to go back to their houses and act as lodgers for a week straight. The result – their parents did not respond in any different way. When we're so caught up with ourselves going in circles around this common-sense view of the world and taking ourselves seriously, Nathan does a fabulous job at breaking this view and in the process, almost forcing us to reckon with reality.

Critique of child actors

Nathan casts child actors in his bizarre make-believe world exposing us to the not-so-pleasant lives of these children. In an episode of *Nathan for You* titled 'Claw of Shame', Nathan performs a stunt that if gone wrong could be considered a sexual assault with Nathan having to do jail time. While Nathan perfects the stunt, it is bizarre how the parents of the child actors agreed to have their children be a part of such a production.

The same line of critique is intensified in *The Rehearsal* when in the season finale, we see a six-year-old boy develop an attachment to Nathan and believe that Nathan is indeed his "daddy". Can six-year-olds understand the complexity of acting – even if they do, is it ethical to subject their brains to such a feat at a young age? Watching Nathan's shows, one would not draw a favourable opinion on the subject.

In the wake of Jennette McCurdy's memoir, *I'm Glad My Mom Died*, when a conversation about child actors' lives and the logistics and morality of their presence on film sets is being debated, Nathan's subtle critique adds value to the argument.

While the world of Nathan Fielder might come across as absurd, on deeper inspection, it offers us a method to navigate the world around us by helping us understand the people around us a little better; leaving us a little more in love with the relationships we share, the fleeting moments of reality we experience in them.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"What's the difference between 'vociferous' and 'vigorous', sir?"

"'Vigorous' means 'strong, effective, forceful'."

He is a vigorous man.

He spoke vigorously on the issue.

He campaigned vigorously.

"Vociferous" means "noisy".

It was a vociferous group.

A vociferous campaign is a noisy campaign.

A vigorous campaign is an effective, forceful campaign.

"Vigorous" has a good connotation, but "vociferous" has a bad connotation."

"What's the meaning of 'touch wood', sir?"

"First, I'll give some examples.

I have had no trouble so far, touch wood.

I am very happy with my new boss, touch wood.

I have not met with any accident so far, touch wood.

'Touch wood' means 'to touch something made of wood as a charm to ward off bad luck especially after boasting of good luck.'

When you talk about your good luck, you are afraid that something bad might happen to you. It was believed in the past that you could turn away bad luck by touching anything made of wood. You may call this superstition. Well, the old superstition still continues!"

"What's the meaning of 'begging the question', sir?"

"It means 'to use an argument that assumes as proved the very thing one is trying to prove'. For example, I ask you why parallel lines never meet. If you say that they don't meet because they are parallel lines, then you are begging the question."

"How do you use 'eke out', sir?"

"To 'eke out' means 'to supplement or fill (what is felt to be deficient) especially by a laborious, scanty addition'."

He ekes out his income by working in the evenings.

It also means 'to make a living with great effort'.

He ekes out a precarious living.

The word 'eke' is in the word 'nickname'. You are surprised? I'll explain. The word 'eke' is from Old English. It meant an addition or supplement. 'An eke name' in Middle English meant 'an additional name'. The 'n' of 'an' got attached to 'eke' with the passage of time and became 'a nickname'. A nickname is an additional name. That is, it is in addition to your real name.

John is nicknamed 'Chocks' as he is fond of chocolates.

Well, let's stop on this sweet note. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on North Korea which came into being on September 9, 74 years ago.

1 What is the official name of North Korea?

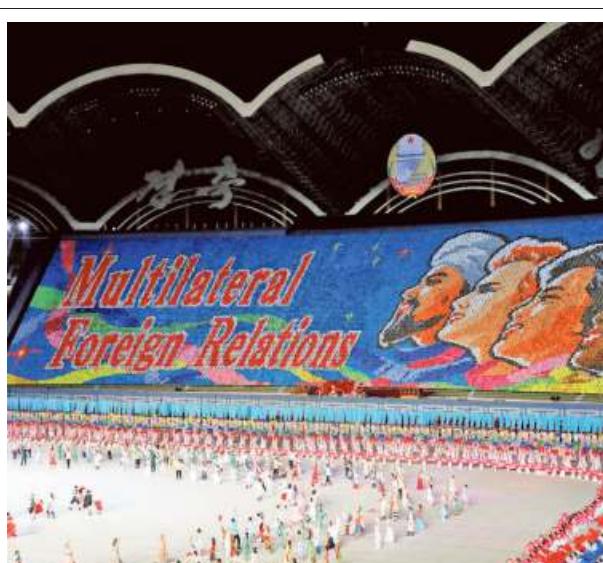
6 The North Korean flag is made up of the colours red, white, and blue. What is the blue said to symbolise if red is for the country's commitment to communism?

2 What is the 'Taeyangjeol' or 'Day of the Sun' in North Korea and when it is observed?

3 Name the two bodies of water that form the western and eastern border of the country?

4 The country has had only three leaders since its formation, all with the same first name Kim. If the current leader is Kim Jong-un, who was his grandfather and father?

5 Which line of latitude does the Korean Demilitarised Zone straddle?



◀ Considering the official seating capacity, this stadium is reckoned to be the largest stadium in the world, though many regard the Narendra Modi Stadium to be the largest. After which 'day' is it named? ■ REUTERS

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1 In which month of the Malayalam almanac is Onam and what does it celebrate? Ans: Chingam; it celebrates the homecoming of the good king Mahabali

2 Name the clay pyramid with four faces and a flat top that symbolises Vamana. Ans: Onathappan

3 Name the day on which festivities begin. Ans: Atham

4 What is Leucas aspera called locally and where is it used? Ans: Thumba and the flower is used to make the floral carpet

5 How many dishes make up Onam

Sadhyam or Onasadyam? Ans: 26

culinary offerings prepared with over 60 ingredients

6 Name the Sadhyam dish made with yogurt, yam and grated coconut, and the dish made with pumpkin, red beans, and coconut. Ans: Kaalan and Ellisheru

7 Name the competitive event that takes place on the Uthraattathi Nakshatra. Ans: Aranmula Vallam Kali (Aranmula Boat Race)

Visual: Name the dance and on what day of the Onam is it performed?

Ans: Pulikali on the fourth day

Early Birds: Pratibha Lohiya | Vinod Kumar | Viswanathan Neelakantan

FROM PAGE ONE

India, China troops disengage at LAC

Shortly after the 15th round of talks in March, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India, while he and Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar met in July on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers meeting in Bali, Indonesia, where they discussed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India has constantly stated that the relationship cannot go back to normal as long as the standoff continues.

Longest-reigning monarch of U.K. dies

Many members of her large immediate family, including several children and grandchildren, had gathered by Thursday afternoon at Balmoral.

Pictures of the Queen, standing with the help of a cane and shaking hands with the new Prime Minister, Ms. Truss, were released on Tuesday.

The Queen usually appoints the elected head of government at Buckingham Palace in London but owing to "mobility" issues, had cut back on events this year.

The Queen was known to have stuck to her constitutional role, and while maintaining a deep interest in politics (such as through regular audiences with her prime ministers), had a reputation for maintaining political neutrality during the 70-plus years on the throne.

Britain's new king will be

formally known as Charles III, his Clarence House residence confirmed on Thursday, after suggestions that Queen Elizabeth II's heir might have taken a different regnal name.

Charles III's eldest son William inherits the duchy of Cornwall in addition to his current title of Duke of Cambridge.

Charles III said Queen Elizabeth II was a "cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother" who would be missed around the world.

Her death was "a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family", Charles III said in a statement.

"I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world."

(With inputs from AFP)

SC fixes key questions for examining EWS quota

The court will examine whether the amendment breaches the Basic Structure by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria; whether it violates the Basic Structure by allowing the state to make special provisions in relation to admissions to private unaided institutions, and lastly, whether the Basic Structure is trampled upon by the constitutional amendment by excluding SEBC/OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the EWS quota.

The three issues for the court's examination were forwarded by Attorney-General of India K.K. Venugopal.

Chief Justice Lalit said the three questions of law would form the foundation of the court's examination and lawyers could expand on them while arguing.

Legal scholar and advocate G. Mohan Gopal compared the case to a watershed moment similar to the *ADM Jabalpur* (*habeas corpus*) case.

"We are crossing a Rubicon and it is the *ADM Jabalpur* of social justice as it restores the theory that one is privileged by being born in upper class and that being

born in the lower classes is a disability," he submitted.

Senior advocate P. Wilson pointed out that the court ought to examine whether the EWS quota was in violation of the rule of equality and non-discrimination, and if the move to grant reservation to forward castes (EWS or otherwise) was simply impermissible.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who had prepared the draft issues for the court which were circulated among the lawyers in the previous hearing, said nearly 55 issues were suggested by various parties, but an effort was made to trim the questions of law for consideration.

Mr. Venugopal said the question of creamy layer does not come in the economically weaker sections (EWS) quota as it was meant to give quota benefits to the poorest of the poor.

The Chief Justice of India, in the court's order, said issues suggested by the Attorney-General encapsulated the matter under consideration. "We shall go ahead with the hearing apropos the first three issues suggested by the Attorney-General," the Bench said.

India ranks 132 in HDI as country's score drops

The world over, nine out of 10 countries have slipped in their human development performance due to multiple crises such as COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and environmental challenges, indicating that human development globally has stalled for the first time in 32 years.

Ranking of countries over different years is not comparable. A large contributor to the HDI's recent decline is a global drop in life expectancy, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to 71.4 years in 2021.

India's HDI score of 0.633 places it in the medium human development category, lower than its value of 0.645 in 2018, indicating a reversal in progress.

Like global trends, in India's case, the drop in HDI from 0.645 in 2018 to 0.633 in 2021 can be attributed to falling life expectancy at birth - 70.7 years to 67.2 years. India's expected years

of schooling stand at 11.9 years, and the mean years of schooling are at 6.7 years. The GNI per capita level is \$6,590.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated gender inequality, which increased 6.7% globally. India has, however, shown a slight improvement in its Gender Inequality Index value in the latest report as compared to the 2020 index (0.490 vs 0.493), after gender inequality worsened between 2019 and 2020 (0.486 vs 0.493). The index measures inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions - reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market.

The report notes that the uncertainty due to multiple global crises has fuelled support for polarisation in many parts of the world which is detrimental for democratic freedom and human rights.

'Heckler's veto cannot be allowed'

State's responsibility to protect belief if it does not violate public order: petitioner

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Wearing a hijab on the street does not offend public order, but can schools not intervene to maintain public order if a student wears it to school, the Supreme Court asked on Thursday.

To this, senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for Aishat Shifa, a student from Karnataka who was banned from entering her classroom wearing a hijab, said schools have no say in deciding public order.

Maintaining public order is the responsibility of the State, Mr. Kamat contended.

"If I wear a headscarf and someone is offended and shouts slogans, the police cannot turn to me and say not to wear hijab. That will be the heckler's veto," he argued.

Mr. Kamat asked whether the government can restrict speech and expression of honest beliefs and choices merely on the possibility of a violent reaction by hecklers.

"The State, instead of prohibiting me, must ensure conditions in which free-



If I wear a headscarf and someone is offended and shouts slogans, the police cannot turn to me and say not to wear hijab. That will be the heckler's veto
DEVADATT KAMAT
Senior Advocate tells Supreme Court

doms must flourish... Last day the State Advocate General said the government order on hijabs was issued after some students demanded to wear orange shawls... Is heckler's veto permitted?" he asked.

Mr. Kamat said the argument of Karnataka was "look here, if we allow you to wear hijab, some will want to wear orange shawls".

"Wearing of orange shawls is a belligerent display of religious jingoism... You are wearing a headscarf, I will wear something to show my identity. That Article 25 does not protect. It protects an innocent display of faith. Naamam, yes. Tila-kam, yes. A rudraksham,

yes... Bonafide and innocent display of faith is protected," the senior advocate argued.

Honest belief

He said it may also be a person's honest belief that wearing a kada or naamam may make him a better person. "It is the State's obligation to protect my belief as long as it does not violate public order, health or morality," Mr. Kamat said, asking how a display of "honest belief" by wearing hijab affects any of the three criteria.

Mr. Kamat said every practice may not be an essential or core religious practice. "But that does not mean the State can restrict it... I can wear whatever I want, I have my way".

The court adjourned the hearing to continue on Monday at 2 p.m.

even though it may not be part of my essential religious practice, as long as I do not hamper public order, health or morality," he submitted.

"Just because other people can get offended is not a ground for prohibiting me from wearing a hijab," he said.

Advocate Nizam Pasha, who argued next for the petitioner students, said to make a Muslim student choose between education and the hijab was a violation of Article 19 (freedom of expression).

The Bench asked whether "all religions accept the same God". To this Mr. Pasha replied that the Quran mandated respect towards other religions.

He quoted the verse "O you disbelievers, I do not worship what you worship, nor do you worship what I worship. I will never worship what you worship nor will you ever worship what I worship. You have your way, I have my way".

The court adjourned the hearing to continue on Monday at 2 p.m.

SC wants job policy for transgenders in 3 months

'Transpersons Act must be followed'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave the government three months to take the lead and devise a policy framework to open up avenues of employment for transgender persons, particularly in the civil aviation industry. The order was a fallout of a petition filed by Shanavi Ponnusamy, a transgender person from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, whose dream of flying high as an airline cabin crew member never took off.

The court said the petitioner's case raised wider issues about the formulation of government policy to ensure the guarantee of non-discrimination against transgender people.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hima Kohli observed that the government has to comply with the enabling provisions of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019 in "letter and spirit".

The court detailed specific provisions of the Act which mandated that no person or establishment, whether government or private, should discriminate against a transgender person in matters of employment, including recruitment or promotion or in any other related areas.

The court reminded the Centre that it was obliged by the Act to "secure full and effective participation of transgender persons and their inclusion in society". "The enactment by the Parliament marks a watershed in the evolution of the rights of the transgender persons," the court emphasised.

The court ordered the Department of Personnel and Training and the Social Justice Ministry to collaborate with the National Council for Transgender Persons, a body constituted under the Act, to consult stakeholders and prepare a "considered" policy for the community's welfare and rights in the next three months. The Centre has to guide States and establishments governed by the Act.

New allegation against CID triggers row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A fresh controversy has erupted over allegations by mother of Debjani Mukherjee, one of prime accused in the Saradha chit fund scam, that her daughter is being forced by an officer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal Police to name Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Sudhendu Adhikari and CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakrabarty as beneficiaries of the scam.

The NPCIL had sought an extension till July 2026 for the construction of the AFR facility. In 2018, the court had given the Corporation time till April 30, 2022.

"The AFR repository was supposed to be built in five years' time, but this has not been done. In 2013, the Supreme Court had granted five years' time to the NPCIL, till July 2018. In 2018, the court gave an extension till 2022 and said this was the final extension of time to create the AFR storage. Now, they are again asking for an extension. If they continue to store spent nuclear fuel, they risk a catastrophe greater than Fukushima, and one which may affect the whole of south India," advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, said.

A Bench, led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, asked Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate V. Giri and advocate Joseph Aristotle, to come clear on the time schedule for the completion of public hearings by the State regarding the construction of an Away From Reactor (AFR) facility at the Kudankulam plant.

The court also gave the AERB, represented by Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee, two weeks' time to file an affidavit on issues including the storage of

spent nuclear fuel from the plant without posing a hazard to the public.

"The concern of the public about the existence of spent nuclear fuel has to be understood," the Bench said, addressing the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL).

The NPCIL had sought an extension till July 2026 for the construction of the AFR facility. In 2018, the court had given the Corporation time till April 30, 2022.

"The AFR repository was supposed to be built in five years' time, but this has not been done. In 2013, the Supreme Court had granted five years' time to the NPCIL, till July 2018. In 2018, the court gave an extension till 2022 and said this was the final extension of time to create the AFR storage. Now, they are again asking for an extension. If they continue to store spent nuclear fuel, they risk a catastrophe greater than Fukushima, and one which may affect the whole of south India," advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioner, said.

The West Bengal CID was quick to respond to the allegations and called it 'false and baseless'.

Uttarakhand panel seeks inputs on UCC

Diversion tactics, says Congress

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

The expert committee formed by the Uttarakhand government to examine ways for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) has launched a website on Thursday, seeking public opinion on the plan. Headed by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai (who is also the head of the Delimitation Commission), the committee has sought suggestions and recommendations from residents.

"The Committee will also prepare a report on implementing a UCC in Uttarakhand. In order to fully appreciate the relevant issues having a bearing on this im-

portant subject, the Committee appeals to the residents of Uttarakhand and organisations, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations, social groups & communities, religious bodies and political parties, to forward their opinions, views, suggestions and representations within a period of 30 days, that is till October 07," retired IAS officer Shatrughan Singh, a member of the committee, said.

The Congress accused the government of playing divisive politics. Harish Rawat tells *The Hindu* that BJP's preparations to implement UCC is to divert attention from real issues.

The awards function will be

They will be given in six different categories

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The *BusinessLine* Changemaker Awards 2022 will be announced in New Delhi on Friday. The awards seek to celebrate changemakers – people and organisations that have brought about positive change in society and made our world a better place to live in. Union Minister for Finance and Company Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman is the chief guest and will be distributing the awards to the winners.

The awards, in its fourth edition, will be given across six categories – Changemaker-Social Transformation; Changemaker-Digital Trans-

formation; Changemaker-Financial Transformation; Young Changemaker; Iconic Changemaker and Changemaker of the Year. The evening will see some interesting conversations, scintillating music and inspiring stories with who is who in Delhi's corporate and policy-making world in attendance.

The awards function is a culmination of efforts that spanned almost six months. The validated nominees were then sent to an independent jury headed by S. Ramadorai, former CEO and MD, TCS. Other jury members were R. Gopalan, former Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Lakshmi Narayanan, former Vice-Chairman, Cognizant; Pallavi Shroff, Managing Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas; Kaku Nakhatre, formation; Changemaker-Financial Transformation; Young Changemaker; Iconic Changemaker and Changemaker of the Year. The evening will see some interesting conversations, scintillating music and inspiring stories with who is who in Delhi's corporate and policy-making world in attendance.

The awards function will be

live-streamed at: bit.ly/3RFvb24

It all started with call for nominations on March 31. Over 600 nominations were received during the two-month period that the nomination window was kept open. The nominations were then screened and evaluated by *BusinessLine* Deloitte and Ashoka. The shortlisted nominations were independently validated by Niti Consulting (healthcare partner); Manipal Hospitals (healthcare partner); Karnataka Bank (banking partner); Punjab & Sind Bank (associate partner); PepsiCo (sustainability partner); City Union Bank (co-partner) Zee Business (telecast partner) and Anand Prakash (gift partner).

The awards function will be

live-streamed at: bit.ly/3RFvb24

Work for development of cooperatives: Shah

Frame uniform policies in States'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Thursday exhorted States to work together for the holistic development of the cooperative sector in every State of India, a statement said.

nificantly in making India a \$5-trillion economy.

Addressing a two-day National Conference of State Cooperation Ministers, Mr. Shah asserted that efforts should be made to ensure that the cooperative movement runs at the same speed in every State of India, a statement said.

"In those States where the activities have stopped or slowed down, the effort should be to accelerate. For that, we need a new national cooperative policy," Mr. Shah said. The new policy should be framed to ensure the development of the sector, he added.

He pointed out that the

cooperative movement was strong in West and South India, but at a developing stage in North and Central India while least-developed in East and North-Eastern States.

He asserted that the cooperative departments should follow the same path of development and adopt uniform policies.

APPEAL
Name of Patient: **MR.**

Kohli breaks long international century drought

His previous hundred was in 2019 in a Test against Bangladesh; Bhuvneshwar takes five for four as India records big win

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Virat Kohli brought his long wait for an international century to an end with a fine unbeaten 122 against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup Super 4 here on Thursday.

Kohli's heroics powered India to a massive 101-run win. The result, however, meant little as both teams had already exited the tournament.

Batting first, India racked up a formidable total of 212 for two on the back of Kohli's exploits.

Kohli opened the innings with K.L. Rahul (62, 41b, 6x4, 2x6). The duo gave India a great start, putting on 119 runs.

Kohli cut loose in the sixth over, bowled by Mujeeb Ur Rahman, hitting the spinner for two fours and a six. The maximum came through a quick advance down the track, and a clean strike over long-off.

He was lucky to receive a life on 28, when Ibrahim Zadrani put down a chance at deep mid-wicket. Zadrani, conscious of the boundary rope behind him, panicked and parried a regulation

The long wait is over

Kohli ended his 1020-day three-figure drought with a century against Afghanistan in the Asia Cup on Thursday

MEMORABLE MAIDEN

A look at the first century in each format for the Club of 4

	Tests	ODIs	T20Is
Raina	120 vs. SL, 2010	101 vs. Hkg, 2008	101 vs. SA, 2010
Rohit	177 vs. WI, 2013	114 vs. Zim, 2010	106 vs. SA, 2015
Rahul	110 vs. Aus, 2015	100* vs. Zim, 2016	110* vs. WI, 2016
Kohli	116 vs. Aus, 2012	107 vs. SL, 2009	122* vs. Afg, 2022

HIGH SCORES FOR INDIA IN T20Is

■ Kohli 122 n.o. vs. Afghanistan, Dubai (2022)

■ Rohit 118 vs. Sri Lanka, Indore (2017)

■ Suryakumar 117 vs. England, Nottingham (2022)

MOST INTERNATIONAL 100s

■ Tendulkar (Ind) 664 782 100

■ Kohli (Ind) 468 522 71

■ Ponting (Aus/ICC) 560 668 71

■ Tendulkar made 51 Test centuries and 49 ODI hundreds

■ Ponting's collection included 41 Test hundreds and 30 ODI centuries

catch over the line.

Kohli raced from 90 to his century in two deliveries. He hit pacer Fareed Ahmad straight down the ground,

and followed up with a flat pull six over deep mid-wicket. With the hundred in the bag, Kohli was ready to go all guns blazing.

Fazalhaq Farooqi, who bowled the last over, took the blow. Kohli had little trouble picking the slower deliveries, whacking the left-arm speed-

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c Najibullah b Fareed 62 (41b, 6x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 122 (61b, 12x4, 6x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Fareed 6 (2b, 1x6), Rishabh Pant (not out) 20 (16b, 3x4); Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for two wkt. in 20 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-119 (Rahul, 12.4 overs), 2-125 (Suryakumar, 12.6).

AFGHANISTAN BOWLING

Farooqi 4-0-51-0, Mujeeb 4-0-29-0, Fareed 4-0-57-2, Rashid 4-0-33-0, Nabi 3-0-34-0, Omarzai 1-0-8-0.

AFGHANISTAN

Hazaratullah Zazai lbw b Bhuvneshwar 0 (4b), Rahamanullah Gurbaz b Bhuvneshwar 0 (1b), Ibrahim Zadrani (not out) 64 (59b, 4x4, 2x6), Karim Janat c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 2 (4b), Najibullah Zadrani lbw b Bhuvneshwar 0 (2b), Mohammad Nabi lbw b Arshdeep 7 (7b, 1x4), Azmatullah Omarzai c Karthik b Bhuv-

neshwar 1 (6b), Rashid Khan c Axar b Hooda 15 (19b, 2x4), Mujeeb Ur Rahman b Ashwin 18 (13b, 2x4, 1x6), Fareed Ahmad (not out) 1 (5b); Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for eight wkt. in 20 overs): 111.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Zazai, 0.4), 2-1 (Gurbaz, 0.6), 3-9 (Janat, 2.4), 4-9 (Najibullah, 2.6), 5-20 (Nabi, 5.5), 6-21 (Omarzai, 6.5), 7-54 (Rashid, 13.1), 8-87 (Mujeeb, 17.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-1-45, Chahar 4-0-28-0, Arshdeep 2-0-7-1, Axar 4-0-24-0, Ashwin 4-0-27-1, Hooda 1-0-3-1, Karthik 1-0-18-0.

Toss: Afghanistan; MoM: Kohli.

India won by 101 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH

SUPER 4

Sri Lanka vs. Pakistan

Dubai, 7:30 p.m. IST



IOC to suspend India if IOA elections not held by December

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Thursday issued a final warning to IOA to "resolve its governance issues" and hold elections by December, failing which the world sports body will ban India.

The executive board of the IOC, which met in Lausanne on Thursday, also decided not to recognise any "acting/interim president" after Narinder Batra's ouster as Indian Olympic Association president and said it will deal with secretary-general Rajeev Mehta as the main point of contact.

"...in view of the ongoing internal disputes, governance shortcomings and ongoing court cases, (IOC Executive Board) took the decision... to issue a final warning and consider the immediate suspension of the NOC of India at the next IOC Executive Board meeting in December 2022 if, by then, the NOC of India is not able to address and resolve its governance

issues to the satisfaction of the IOC, in the interest of sport and the athletes."

The IOC letter sent by James McLeod, Director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations, further said: "During this transition period, and given that the IOC does not currently recognise any 'interim/acting president' of the NOC of India, the NOC secretary-general will serve as the main point of contact to coordinate the next steps with the IOC, in close consultation and in agreement with the NOC Executive Council and General Assembly."

The IOC also stated that its Executive Board reserves the right to take any further action at any stage of the process.

The IOC also decided to postpone its session earlier scheduled to be held in Mumbai in May next year.

"In view of the uncertain situation, the IOC Session that is due to take place in Mumbai in May 2023 is postponed until September/October 2023," the letter said.

Solid start by Shaw and Jaiswal

West finishes at 116 without loss on truncated day

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Prithvi Shaw (61 batting) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (55 batting) regaled for West Zone, which finished at a strong 116 for no loss, during the brief time in which play was possible on the opening day of the Duleep Trophy quarterfinal match against North East Zone here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Thursday.

On a gloomy day in the city, overnight rains and poor light followed by brief showers just before the scheduled start of play ensured a delayed start to the day's proceedings.

Eventually, play started at 2.30 p.m., but had to end an hour before the scheduled close of play due to bad light with just 25 overs bowled in the day.

Aggressive approach
Electing to field first, the North East bowlers were put under attack right from the first over. Jaiswal got off in style, pulling pacer Bishworjit Singh for a six over the fine-leg fielder before Shaw punched one through backward-point to pocket 12 off the over.

Jaiswal, who had a dream Ranji Trophy last season – 498 runs from three matches



Fluent: Jaiswal, in the company of Shaw, brightened up a gloomy day. ■ K. PICHUMANI

– continued from where he left off last season, finding boundaries with ease.

The left-handed Mumbai batter played some delightful backfoot punches off left-arm pacer Rex Rajkumar Singh as he quickly raced to his 20s.

After a watchful start, his fellow Mumbai opener Shaw took centrestage and played in his typically aggressive way.

He was particularly severe on Rex, pulling him for two sixes over fine-leg and then got to his half-century

in style with two more consecutive sixes over midwicket.

Jaiswal then reached his half-century. Both batters will look to make merry in the coming days against an inexperienced and innocuous bowling attack.

The scores:

West Zone – 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw (batting) 61, Yashasvi Jaiswal (batting) 55; Total (for no loss in 25 overs): 116.

North East Zone bowling: Bishworjit 9-2-28-0, Rex 8-0-58-0, Dippu 6-2-19-0, Kishan Singh 2-0-11-0.

Toss: North East Zone.

plays the ball on its length.

East makes steady progress

Match gets underway after lunch due to inclement weather

S. DINAKAR
PUDUCHERRY

Cricket smarts was in view; so were rain, application and skill.

The truncated opening day of this Duleep Trophy quarterfinal between North and East Zone at the CAP ground saw the latter, inserted under cloudy conditions, progressing to 179 for three on day one.

The smooth stroking Virat Singh was batting on a 43 (87b, 6x4) of composure and flair and skipper Manoj Tiwary was on nine.

Gharami showed great determination on a difficult pitch. ■ S.S. KUMAR

Resolute knock: Gharami showed great determination on a difficult pitch. ■ S.S. KUMAR

flick was picked up.

The resolute Gharami eventually fell, caught and bowled to medium-pacer H.J. Rana's change of speed.

The free-flowing Virat, blending application with crisp shots, and skipper Tiwary, having unfinished business.

The scores:

East Zone – 1st innings: Sudip Kumar Gharami c & b Rana 68, Riyan Parag c Malhotra b Saini 8, Anupam Majumdar c Sindhu b Kaul 47, Virat Singh (batting) 43, Manoj Tiwary (batting) 9; Extras 4; Total (for three wkt. in 53 overs): 179

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-97, 3-156.

North Zone bowling: Kaul 12-3-41-1, Saini 12-3-41-1, Jagjit Singh 11-12-7-0, Sindhu 7-1-28-0, Narendran 7-0-29-0, Rana 5-2-11-1.

Toss: North Zone.

First day's play washed out

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London

Rain meant no play was possible on the first day of the third Test between England and South Africa at The Oval on Thursday.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Friday's play has been cancelled.

Overnight downpours delayed the toss and after England captain Ben Stokes opted to bowl first, there was more downpour.

Several bursts of rain throughout the day saw the pitch and square remain fully covered. Play was eventually abandoned for the day.

England had already named its side on Wednesday night, giving a debut to Harry Brook.

For South Africa, pacer Lungi Ngidi was sidelined by a hamstring niggle and Wiaan Mulder replaced him. Khaya Zondo was recalled in place of Aiden Markram and spinner Harmer made way for left-arm quick Marco Jansen.

Alcaraz downs Sinner in another epic battle

Tiafoe pulls a fast one on Rublev; Swiatek overcomes errors and Pegula

U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK



No stone unturned: Alcaraz had to draw on every ounce of energy to come through another match that lasted into the wee hours. ■ AFP

Alcaraz got off to a smooth start, taking the first set 6-3. But Sinner recovered from 5-6, 0-40 down to force a tie-break in the second. Alcaraz had a fourth set-point at 7-6 in the tie-breaker, but couldn't stop Sinner from levelling the match 1-1.

Another hard-fought battle

followed, Alcaraz finally gaining the crucial advantage with a break in the 11th game to take a 6-5 lead. Once again though, Sinner remained unflustered.

Sinner looked to be in control in the fourth set after breaking early, but Alcaraz staged another fightback to level at 5-5. Alcaraz then held

A fighting India bows to New Zealand

Finishes last in the group and will fight to stay in Division A

BASKETBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
BENGALURU

India came up with a gutsy display, but couldn't stop New Zealand from emerging a 66-63 winner in a Group A match of the FIBA Asian women's under-18 basketball championship here on Thursday.

India finished fourth and last in the group, and will fight to stay in Division A when it takes on Indonesia for the 7-8 positions on Friday. After two defeats, India put up a great show and even looked like it could pull off a fine win. But, New Zealand proved a hard nut to crack.

Earlier, Japan topped Group B with a 76-59 win over China while Australia finished first in Group A, defeating Korea 96-66.

Valiant rally

India took time to settle down. Trailing in the first two quarters – 9-17 & 23-36 – India fought back valiantly in the third. Picking up speed and combining well, India reduced the margin to just four points (47-51).

The final quarter was exciting. India equalised for the first time at 51 with eight minutes remaining for the final whistle.

From then on it was a seesaw battle. India had its

chances, but failure to convert free throws (18.8%) hurt the team, while New Zealand's conversion rate of 83.3% made the difference.

The results: **Group A:** New Zealand 66 (Florence Dallow 12, Lilly Parke 11) bt India 63 (Deepthi Raja 4, Sathiya Krishnamurthy 15, Manmeet Kaur 21).

Australia 96 (Tess Heal 16, Dallas Loughridge 13, Nyadew Puoch 23, Isobel Borlase 12, Isla Juffermans 14) bt Korea 66 (Sol Kim 10, Jiwon Baek 13).

Group B: Chinese Taipei 81 (M. Jing En 10, Yu Wen Hsiao 18) bt Indonesia 16.

Japan 76 (Mai Mori 10, Chinnami Yokoyama 19, Msaki Sasada 11, Yuzuyu Yasogawa 12, Nannami Tsuno 11) bt China 59 (Li Wenxia 18, Li Qingyang 14).



On a roll: Chinese Taipei's top-scorer Yu Wen Hsiao goes for a basket against Indonesia. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Lewandowski leads Barca romp

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCIES
BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski marked his first Champions League game for Barcelona with a hat-trick as Xavi Hernandez's side thrashed Viktoria Plzen 5-1 at the Camp Nou on Wednesday.

Barca also saw Franck Kessie and Ferran Torres score in an accomplished display.

There will be tougher tests to come for the five-time European champion with Bayern Munich and Inter Milan also in Group C.

The Catalans visit the Allianz Arena next Tuesday in a real test of how far they have come in the last 12 months, after Bayern's opening 2-0 win at the San Siro.

Leroy Sane fired Bayern ahead in the 25th minute and Inter defender Danilo D'Ambrosio netted an own goal in the 66th. It was the 19th straight time the German team has won its opening match in the competition.



Hat-trick hero: Lewandowski, centre, goes down low to head in for Barcelona. ■ AFP

Napoli claimed a stunning 4-1 win over last season's beaten finalists Liverpool in their opening group game.

It took a goal by Antoine Griezmann 11 minutes into stoppage time to end Atletico Madrid's home struggles in the Champions League after a frenetic finish.

Griezmann found the net with a header off a corner kick in the last play of the match to give Atletico a 2-1 win over Porto with all three goals of the game scored after 90 minutes.

The results: **Group A:** Ajax 4 (Alvarez 17, Berghuis 32, Kudus 81) bt Marseille 0.

33, Bergwijn 80) bt Rangers 0; Napoli 4 (Zielinski 5-pen, 67, Zambo Anguissa 31, Simeone 44) bt Liverpool 1 (Diaz 49).

Group B: Atletico Madrid 2 (Hermoso 90+2, Griezmann 90+11) bt FC Porto 1 (Urabe 90+6-pen); Club Brugge 1 (Syl-la 42) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0.

Group C: Barcelona 5 (Kessie 13, Lewandowski 34, 45+3, 67, Torres 71) bt Viktoria Plzen 1 (Sykora 44); Inter Milan 0 lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Sane 25, D'Ambrosio 66-og).

Group D: Eintracht Frankfurt 0 lost to Sporting 3 (Edwards 65, Trincão 67, Santos 82); Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Richarlison 76, 81) bt Marseille 0.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

All-round show by Gourav

Gourav Tomar top-scored with 49 runs and picked up two wickets as Amigos Sports Club beat Gyanti Club by two wickets in the BR Sharma tournament.

The scores: Gyanti Club 242/8 in 40 overs (Arnav Balyan 70, Prince Mehra 42) lost to ASC 243/8 in 37.4 overs (Gaurav Tomar 49, Mohit Kumar 34).

Easy for Pioneer Club, Ashish Nehra Academy

Man-of-the-Match Tushar Yadav scored 81 runs and Ahmer Fazal added 55 as Pioneer Club beat Players Academy by 102 runs in the Skillz Youth Cup.

In another match, Yash Awana claimed four wickets and Harsh Jha three as Ashish Nehra Academy beat Mishra Sports by five wickets.

The scores: Pioneer Club 263/6 in 40 overs (Tushar Yadav 81, Ahmer Fazal 55, Lakshay Sangwan 35) bt Players Academy 161 in 37

overs (Yogesh Kandpal 102 n.o., Pulkit 4/21).

Mishra Sports 96 in 26 overs (Yash Awana 4/14, Harsh Jha 3/18) lost to ANA 97/5 in 15 overs.

Lakshay, Akshat shine

Lakshay took four wickets and Akshat made 67 not out as Manvish Club beat Madan Lal Academy by seven wickets in the Kanta Devi memorial tournament.

The scores: MLA 105 in 25 overs (Lakshay 4/28) lost to Manvish Club 106/3 in 18 overs (Akshat 67 n.o.).

WDA posts win

A half-century by Rohan and three wickets by Ayush Yadav saw West Delhi Academy beat Ryan Academy by eight wickets in the Bhagwaan Parshuram under-17 tournament.

The scores: Ryan Academy 102 in 24.1 overs (Sarthak Talwar 46, Ayush Yadav 3/19) lost to WDA 103/2 in 16.5 overs (Rohan 59).

India handed a tricky WC draw

Host placed with England; Pool B set for Europe-Asia battle

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Host India was handed a tricky draw for the upcoming Hockey World Cup on Thursday, placed alongside European sides England, Spain and Wales in Pool D.

While the Indian men, currently fifth in the world, are the highest-ranked side in the group, they will be wary of England after the last meeting between the two sides. England managed to score thrice in seven minutes to draw the game after India led 4-1.

Only the pool topper will advance directly to the quarterfinals with the next two having to play cross-over games for a last-eight spot. The draw was held at Bhubaneswar.

Current world leader Australia is in Pool A alongside former Olympic champion Argentina while defending World champion Belgium is in Pool B and will be up against twice World champion Germany in the group stages. Pool B, in fact, will be an interesting battle between Europe and Asia with Korea and Japan being the other two sides.

The 16-team event, scheduled from January 13, will be the second consecutive edition to be held in Odisha after the 2018 World Cup and will be jointly hosted at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela with the under-construction stadium at the latter being one of the largest hockey stadia in the world with a capacity of 20,000.

The draw: **Pool A:** Australia, Argentina, France, South Africa; **Pool B:** Belgium, Germany, Korea, Japan; **Pool C:** Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia, Chile; **Pool D:** India, England, Spain, Wales.

SNAPSHOTS

Australia seals series against New Zealand

CAIRNS: New Zealand collapsed to 82 all out in the face of scintillating bowling as Australia won the second One-Day International by 113 runs to seal the Chappell-Hadlee series here on Thursday.

Australia clinched a thrilling opening match on Tuesday by two wickets with the three-match showdown now destined for a dead rubber on Sunday.

The scores: Australia 195/9 in 50 overs (Steve Smith 61, Glenn Maxwell 25, Mitchell Starc 38 n.o.; Trent Boult 4/38, Matt Henry 3/33) bt New Zealand 82 in 33 overs (Adam Zampa 5/35).

Toss: New Zealand; MoM: Starc; Australia won by 113 runs with 17 overs to spare to lead three-match series 2-0.

Determined to be consistent: Prannoy

HYDERABAD: H.S. Prannoy says that the BWF Tour No. 1 ranking gives him a lot of motivation and confidence with which he can keep improving.

"Being No. 1 on the BWF Tour in September itself

makes you feel better for sure," he said.

"Yes, this is not the World No. 1 ranking for sure. Lot of things are bound to change on that front too soon once the rankings which were frozen are opened up," the 30-year-old Prannoy told *The Hindu* on Thursday. "The next couple of months are equally important as these things might go up and down. I am determined to be as consistent as possible," he said.

"The fact that I have been reaching quarterfinals consistently in most of the events does show that I am really playing well. It is only a question of time before I keep knocking the door, open it and win a final too," Prannoy said.

Sasikumar in last eight

SINTRA (PORTUGAL): Sasikumar Mukund beat Lorenzo Claverie of Italy 6-3, 6-2 to reach the \$25,000 ITF men's tennis quarterfinals in Portugal on Thursday.

Other results: €45,730

Challenger, Cassis, France; Doubles: Quarterfinals: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt

Arjun Kadhe & Divij Sharan 6-3, 3-6, [10-6]; Pre-quarterfinals: Arjun & Divij bt Gabriel Debru & Matteo Martineau (Fra) 6-2, 7-6(8).

\$25,000 ITF men, Cairo: Pre-quarterfinals: Jose Fco. Vidal Azorin (Esp) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-1, 6-0.

\$25,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Arthur Fery (GBR) & Sasikumar Mukund bt Christian Langmo (US) & Luca Potenza (Ita) 6-3, 3-6, [10-6].

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishabh Agarwal bt Bharath Kumaran 6-4, 6-7(5), 7-6(2); Alex Knaff (Lux) bt Yash Chaurasia 6-0, 6-1; Boris Butulija (Srb) bt Karan Singh 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Luc Koenig & Andreas Scott (GBR) bt Nikil Poonacha & Bharath Kumaran 6-3, 6-2.

Women: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Dong Na (Chn) & Jennifer Luikham bt Paula Cembranos & Sophie Luescher (Sui) 4-6, 6-1, [13-11].

\$15,000 ITF men, Madrid: Pre-quarterfinals: Sergi Perez Contri (Esp) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-3, 6-3.

BusinessLine



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ON EMPLOYMENT



"Corona affected the livelihood of the common man besides the economy. MGNREGA, launched by the UPA government, provided support to the people living in rural areas to come out of the livelihood crisis. But there is no such scheme in urban areas.

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Ashok Gehlot, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

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Local Self Government Department, Rajasthan



MARKET WATCH

	08-09-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,688	1.12
US Dollar	79.69	0.32
Gold	51,056	0.58
Brent oil	88.74	0.21

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	885.05	10.15
Apollo Hosp.	4414.80	38.30
Asian Paints	3450.15	49.80
Axis Bank	779.75	24.35
Bajaj Auto	3846.60	0.95
Bajaj Finserv	17382.85	327.25
Bajaj Finance	7257.65	91.15
Bharti Airtel	769.80	16.70
BPCL	339.85	13.00
Britannia Ind.	3672.65	4.75
Cipla	1056.05	4.55
Coal India	236.45	-2.40
Divis Lab	3568.40	-22.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4271.65	22.35
Eicher Motors	3425.75	42.10
Grafix Ind.	1769.85	19.70
HCL Tech.	931.05	-0.65
HDFC	2449.65	21.85
HDFC Bank	1497.60	15.30
HDFC Life	584.35	7.40
Hero MotoCorp	2857.30	2.55
Hindalco	420.55	-12.30
Hind Unilever	2577.15	12.55
ICICI Bank	898.80	22.60
IndusInd Bank	1108.30	18.35
Infosys	1475.90	18.25
ITC	329.90	3.80
JSW Steel	685.35	0.75
Kotak Bank	1930.05	21.80
L&T	1974.40	16.30
M&M	1321.90	32.20
Maruti Suzuki	8790.65	5.75
Nestle India Ltd.	19123.75	-55.55
NTPC	166.80	-0.50
ONGC	131.85	-0.65
PowerGrid Corp	224.40	0.00
Reliance Ind.	2585.40	3.65
SBI Life	1317.70	-13.85
State Bank	544.65	11.80
Shree Cement	24458.45	1277.40
Sun Pharma	894.30	0.55
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	819.10	-6.00
Tata Motors	442.20	-3.65
Tata Steel	105.85	-1.75
TCS	3169.65	20.05
Tech Mahindra	1089.60	33.75
Titan	2626.70	-11.05
UltraTech Cement	6919.65	148.85
UPL	737.50	-3.60
Wipro	412.80	5.35

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.51	79.83
Euro	79.54	79.87
British Pound	91.62	92.00
Japanese Yen (100)	55.28	55.50
Chinese Yuan	11.43	11.48
Swiss Franc	81.70	82.04
Singapore Dollar	56.58	56.82
Canadian Dollar	60.50	60.77
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.74
Australian Dollar	53.57	53.80

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TVS Motor unveils Apache bike variants

CHENNAI
TVS Motor Company on Thursday rolled out two new models of its Apache range of motorcycles – 2022 TVS Apache RTR 160 and Apache RTR 180 – at a starting price of ₹1,17,790 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

Centre to buy VIL stake upon stable share price

NEW DELHI
The Centre will acquire stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea after the telco's stock price stabilises at ₹10 or above, said an official source. Vodafone Idea Ltd. (VIL) board has offered a stake to the government at a par value of ₹10 per share. "There is a SEBI norm that the acquisition should take place at par value. DoT will clear the acquisition after VIL shares stabilise at ₹10 or above," the source said. PTI

U.S. FDA wants remedial steps at Panacea unit

NEW DELHI
Panacea Biotech Ltd. on Thursday said the U.S. health regulator has asked for further corrective actions at the manufacturing unit of its wholly owned arm at Baddi in Himachal Pradesh otherwise approval of any pending product applications from the facility may be withheld. The U.S. Food and Drug, The U.S. FDA issued Form 483 with eight observations related to improvements in existing procedures and are addressable, as per a filing. PTI

Aluminum firms' margins may shrink in Q2: ICRA

NEW DELHI
Operating margins of domestic primary aluminum companies are likely to shrink by 400-500 bps sequentially in Q2 FY23 due to factors like high input costs, ICRA said. "Owing to a twin onslaught of correction in aluminum prices and elevated input costs, the estimated operating profitability of ICRA's sample set of domestic players is likely to contract sequentially by almost 400-500 bps in Q2 FY2023 compared to Q1 FY2023," ICRA said. PTI

CM YK

Monetary tools alone can't tame inflation'

Growth impulses also need to be 'unfettered' in current situation, says Finance Minister Sitharaman

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI

In a barely veiled signal to the RBI, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that monetary policy tools like interest rate increases deployed by several central banks would not suffice to cool inflation and suggested that the Reserve Bank of India need not synchronise its actions 'as much' with its counterparts in developed countries.



Indian recipe: If you talked to people on the ground, they would stress the need for growth, says FM. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

rise, Ms. Sitharaman said.

"Why does one country in that network have a 7% [inflation] and why [does] some country, which is the fountainhead of such theory, have the highest inflation in 40 years?" she noted rhetorically. "Why would other

members of that clique of nations also [look] at 8%-9% [inflation]," she asked.

India's experience in handling inflation showed that many different factors needed attention and while the central bank and its instruments like interest rates

form a 'very critical part of it', they could not be the only one, the minister observed.

"I say it with a sense of responsibility... yes, it is one of the tools, but sometimes, for instance in India, if you were to leave the policy makers and talk to people on the ground, they would say, particularly in the situation we are in now, where economic growth would have to be unfettered," she said.

Not prescribing'

"The Reserve Bank will have to synchronise somewhat, may not be as much synchronised as the other western developed countries would do. I am not prescribing or giving a forward direction to the RBI, let me be careful here," she said at a meet on 'Taming Inflation'.

"But... India's solution to handling the economy, part of which is handling inflation also, is an exercise where the fiscal and monetary policy have to work together. It can't be singularly left to monetary policy which has proved totally ineffective in many countries whose structure, whose economy's profile forms the basis of monetary policy theory to rive everything on interest rate and say that's the one and only potent tool to manage inflation," she asserted.

Central bank sees more rate increases

ECB lifts rates by record 75 bps to fight inflation

The European Central Bank announced the largest rate increase in its history Thursday and said it would raise rates again as it scrambles to tame record inflation.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

FRANKFURT



Christine Lagarde

Eurozone inflation hit a record 9.1% in August, as steep increases in the price of energy in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine heaped pressure on households and businesses.

Policymakers lifted the ECB's key rates by 75 basis points, a leap matched only by a technical move made in 1999 shortly after the central bank's founding.

The step quickened the ECB's move away from a "highly accommodative" level of policy rates to one that would bring inflation back to its 2% target, it said.

The Frankfurt-based institution was on a "journey" to raise interest rates and tame inflation, ECB President Christine Lagarde said at a press conference.

Digital lending rules meant to end regulatory arbitrage: Rao

'Onus of complying with regulatory guidelines is on entities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's digital lending rules have been designed to end regulatory arbitrage and protect customers, RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao said on Thursday.

"The Working Group on Digital Lending delved deeper into the concerns arising out of digital lending ecosystem," Mr. Rao said. "The recently announced regulatory framework for digital lending encapsulates RBI's approach of customer-first regulations," he said at an Assocham event here.

"The framework is designed to strike a balance between the need for an in-

The entities will have to ensure that the loan facilitators function within the ecosystem

novative and inclusive system while at the same time ensuring that regulatory arbitrage is not exploited to the detriment of customer interest," he said.

Mr. Rao said another underlying theme of the regulatory framework was that the onus of complying with the regulatory guidelines rested with the regulated entities.

"They will have to ensure that the loan service facilitators and digital lending apps with which they have outsourcing tie-ups function

within the regulatory ecosystem, not just in letter but also in spirit," he added.

Mr. Rao said the deepening and widening of financial inclusion would drive growth in "financialisation" of savings in India.

Mr. Rao said one specific area where digital lending had the potential to be a catalyst for economic growth was cash-flow based lending to MSMEs.

He said the challenge for the regulator in a fast-developing economy like India was to keep pace with market innovations and strive to strike a balance between ensuring safety without stifling innovation, which was "never an easy task."

Auto retail sales rose 8.31% in August: FADA

'Compared with Aug. 2019, sales slid 7%'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI



Retail sales of automobiles in India grew 8.31% in August this year on the back of an increase in registrations of vehicles across all major segments, automobile dealers' body FADA said.

As per data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), total vehicle retail sales in the country stood at 15,21,490 units last month as compared to 14,04,704 units in August 2021.

Passenger vehicles (PV) retail sales grew 6.51% to 2,74,448 units. Two-wheeler (2W) retail sales also grew by 8.52% to 10,74,266 units.

FADA said the three-wheeler (3W) segment witnessed the highest growth

Life insurers' premium rose 18% in Aug.: IRDAI

LIC posts 15.4% rise to ₹21,882 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD
Life insurers reported new business premium rose 18% year on year in August to ₹2,857 crore, a performance marked by a nearly 24% increase in the premium of private insurance companies.



State-owned LIC, with a more than 68% market share, posted a 15.4% increase in the premium to ₹21,882.13 crore. A key driver of the growth for the behemoth was the 20.4% increase in Group Single Premium for the private insurers rose a little more than 44% to ₹3,555.20 crore, while Individual Single Premium at ₹1,669 crore was an increase of 15% year on year. As expected, the life insurance industry reported muted growth in August, Emkay Global Financial Services said in a research report.

Private players' premium totalled ₹10,974.87 crore, according to the new business statement of life insurers for

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

Fitch Group's CreditSights said it had discovered calculation errors in its debt report on two power and transmission companies controlled by Gautam Adani, following a conversation with the management.

CreditSights's report late last month calling the conglomerate 'deeply overleveraged' had sent shares of many Adani firms down.

For Adani Transmission, CreditSights corrected its (EBITDA, or core profit, estimate to ₹52 billion from ₹42 billion earlier.

For Adani Power, it corrected its gross debt estimate to ₹489 billion from ₹582 billion.

Queen Elizabeth II : a life in the spotlight

Head of State of the United Kingdom and 14 Commonwealth realms. Head of the Armed Forces, Judiciary, Civil Service and Church of England. State visits to 117 countries – travelling more than one million miles. Her Majesty was Patron of over 600 organisations throughout her reign. The Queen met 12 of the 13 U.S. presidents since her coronation. Weekly audiences with 15 British Prime Ministers, from Churchill to Truss.



1926, APRIL 21: Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary born at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, London, first child of Duke and Duchess of York. Younger sister Princess Margaret born four years later

1936: Abdication crisis in Britain. Elizabeth's father becomes King George VI. Princess Elizabeth is now first in line to throne

1947: British rule in India ends. **Nov 20:** Princess Elizabeth marries Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten at Westminster Abbey

1953: Hillary and Tenzing conquer Mount Everest. News reaches Britain



1950: Princess Anne born 1952. **Feb 6:** King George VI dies. Princess Elizabeth, on safari in Kenya, becomes Queen.

1956: Suez Crisis – UN forces Britain and France to withdraw troops from Egypt

1969: British Army



deployed to keep peace in Northern Ireland. **Neil Armstrong** walks on moon – Queen's message of congratulations to Apollo 11 astronauts is micro-filmed and left on moon in metal container

1977: Silver Jubilee celebrations mark Queen's first 25 years on throne

1979: Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first woman Prime Minister. Queen's cousin, Lord Mountbatten, killed in IRA bomb attack

JULY 29: Marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer watched by 700 million TV viewers worldwide

1982: Prime Minister Thatcher declares war on Argentina. Grandson Prince William born

2002: Princess Margaret and Queen Mother die at start of Queen's Golden Jubilee year

2005, APRIL: Prince Charles marries Camilla Parker Bowles. **July:** Suicide attacks in London kill 56 people

2011, APRIL 29: Prince William marries Catherine Middleton.

May: Queen makes first state visit to Ireland by reigning British monarch since before independence

2012: Queen's Diamond Jubilee. London hosts Olympic Games

2015: Queen becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch

2016: Queen turns 90 – overseas travel and some patronages delegated to family members. **June:** Britain votes to leave EU

2018: Grandson Prince Harry marries Meghan Markle

2020: Queen and Prince Philip relocate to Windsor Castle due to pandemic. **Nov:** Joe Biden wins U.S. poll

APRIL 9, 2021: Prince Philip dies at age 99 after 73 years of marriage

FEB. 6, 2022: 70th anniversary of Queen's accession marks start of Platinum Jubilee year

SEPT. 8, 2022: Queen Elizabeth II dies

London bridge is down

While some critics argue that she leaves no tangible mark, her legacy is remarkable in that it ensured the monarchy's survival in an era of rapid change

REUTERS
LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II, who died on Thursday, broke many records as monarch, becoming an enduring symbol of the country over which she reigned for 70 years even as it changed beyond recognition, losing its empire and undergoing social upheaval.

Some commentators describe her reign as a "golden age" reminiscent of that of her namesake Elizabeth I, who ruled over England 400 years ago during a period of growing power and cultural flourishing.

"I think that we are partly viewed through the prism of the Queen: the consistency, the wisdom that she has shown, all of that has been apparent in the way that people view Britain," said Valerie Amos, a former politician and the first Black person appointed by the monarch to the ancient "Order of the Garter".

Others say the 96-year-old's impact on the nation was less profound than that



A royal legacy: Queen Elizabeth II of Britain laying a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in Delhi on November 18, 1983. ■ FILE PHOTO



of her illustrious forebear, the monarch's powers having shrunk since the first Elizabethan age.

Some critics argue she leaves no tangible mark, only an institution unfit for purpose in a world of egalitarian aspirations, irreverent social media commentary and scrutiny by round-the-clock media outlets.

Yet her legacy is still remarkable: ensuring the monarchy survived an era of rapid change.

Elizabeth ascended the throne aged 25 on February 6, 1952, on the death of her father George VI, when Britain was emerging from the ravages of World War Two. Since then, Presidents, Popes and Prime Ministers have come and gone, the Soviet Union has collapsed and Britain's empire has gone, replaced by a Commonwealth of 56 nations which Elizabeth was instrumental in creating.

Elizabeth I spent 44 years on the throne in the 16th Cen-

tury, a period regarded as England's Golden Age when the economy grew, the country's influence expanded and William Shakespeare wrote his plays.

"Some people have expressed the hope that my reign may mark a new Elizabethan age," the Queen said in her 1953 Christmas broadcast. "Frankly, I do not myself feel at all like my great Tudor forebear." Having never given an interview or made her personal views on politi-

cal issues known, her own assessment of her reign – the longest in British history – is hard to ascertain. A senior royal aide told Reuters she would regard her legacy as a matter for others to judge.

Constitutional historian David Starkey has said the Queen did not regard her role as embodying a historical period, but merely doing a job.

The Queen's determination to perform her role as well as she could and restraint from voicing any views that might cause offence gave her a moral authority beyond anything she commanded merely through her position as Queen, some say.

Constitutionally, the British sovereign has few practical powers and is expected to be non-partisan.

However, historians say Elizabeth has wielded "soft" power and made the monarchy a unifying, focal point for the nation amid great societal divisions, exemplified by her broadcast to reassure the public at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Queen Elizabeth II cherished 'warmth and hospitality' of India

She acceded to the throne after India's Independence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Queen Elizabeth II, who died aged 96 on Thursday, was the first British monarch to accede to the throne after India's Independence from colonial rule in 1952 and cherished the "warmth and hospitality" she received during her three State Visits to the country over the course of her reign – in 1961, 1983 and 1997.

"The warmth and hospitality of the Indian people, and the richness and diversity of India itself have been an inspiration to all of us," she said in one of her addresses.

In 1961, the queen and her husband, the late Prince Philip – Duke of Edinburgh, toured Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata – then Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta – and also visited the Taj Mahal in Agra and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat in New Delhi.

They were Guests of Honour at the Republic Day Parade on the invitation of then President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and an enduring image from the tour shows the Queen addressing a massive crowd of several thousand people packed into Ramlila Grounds in Delhi for her address, dressed in a fur coat and hat.

In 1983, her visit was in time for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) and she famously presented Mother Teresa with an honorary Order of the Merit. Her final visit to India was to mark the

50th anniversary celebrations of India's Independence and for the first time she made a reference to "difficult episodes" of colonial history.

"It is no secret that there have been some difficult episodes in our past. Jallianwala Bagh is a distressing example," the monarch said.

She and her husband later paid a visit to the scene of the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar, Punjab to place a wreath at the memorial, amid calls for an apology for the thousands killed at the orders of a British General during the Raj era.

The queen's death comes just days after she appointed her 15th Prime Minister, Liz Truss, at Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Ranil expands govt. with 37 Ministers

Shasheendra, a nephew of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, gets post

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO



The State Ministers of the new government with Ranil.

es its worst economic crisis, the appointment of so many State Ministers is nothing short of a crime. The government has a social contract with the people, not with themselves," he said.

Sri Lanka's grave economic downturn has endured since the beginning of the year, as citizens struggle to cope with the soaring inflation. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has noted that hunger "is rising sharply in Sri Lanka". "Millions of the poorest Sri Lankans can no longer afford an adequate diet and we fear the situation may get worse in the weeks to come," said John Alyiff, WFP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

On September 1, Sri Lanka and the International Monet-

ary Fund (IMF) signed a staff-level agreement for a \$2.9 billion package, which the international lending agency has made conditional on Sri Lanka successfully restructuring its foreign debt. President Wickremesinghe's uphill task includes negotiating with Sri Lanka's diverse group of creditors, and implementing likely unpopular policies, while keeping the SLPP's support for him intact in Parliament.

With President Wickremesinghe's efforts to form an all-party government proving unsuccessful so far, his reliance on the Rajapaksa party continues. Opposition parties have refused to join the administration, contending that the government lacks a people's mandate.

Blinken unveils \$2 bn in military aid for Europe

For countries threatened by Russia'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made an unscheduled visit to Kyiv on Thursday as the Biden administration announced major new military aid worth more than \$2 billion for Ukraine and other European countries threatened by Russia.

In meetings with senior Ukrainian officials, Mr. Blinken said the Biden administration had notified Congress of its intent to provide \$2 billion in long-term Foreign Military Financing to Ukraine and 18 of its neighbours, including NATO members and regional security partners, that are "most potentially at risk for future Russian aggression."

Pending expected congressional approval, about \$1 billion of that will go to Ukraine and the rest will be divided among Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo,

vo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, the State Department said.

It will go to help those countries "deter and defend against emergent threats to their sovereignty and territorial integrity" by enhancing their military integration with NATO and countering "Russian influence and aggression," the department said.

"This assistance demonstrates yet again our unwavering commitment to Ukraine's future as a democratic, sovereign, and independent state, as well as the security of allies and partners across the region," it said.

Foreign Military Financing, or FMF, allows recipients to purchase U.S.-made defence equipment, often depending on their specific needs. This financing comes on top of an existing \$675 million package for heavy weaponry.

He won the vote.

He is currently under investigation for potential mishandling of classified documents, with the FBI raiding his Florida home last month.

Mr. Trump has denied wrongdoing and called the raid "one of the most egregious assaults on democracy in the history of our country". In a speech on Saturday in Pennsylvania he hit back at assertions by Mr. Biden that he and his supporters are undermining U.S. democracy, calling Mr. Biden an "enemy of the state".

Since leaving office, he has remained America's most divisive figure, continuing to sow falsehoods that



Donald Trump

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The Republican has faced intense legal scrutiny over his efforts to overturn the results of the poll and over an attack on the U.S. Capitol by his supporters on January 6 last year.

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Everyone wants me to run in 2024, says Trump

He claims that 2020 polls were rigged

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW DELHI

Donald Trump has dropped another hint at a White House campaign in 2024, with the former U.S. President telling Indian television that a run for office would "make a lot of people very happy".

"Everyone wants me to run. I am leading in the polls," Trump said in an excerpt of an interview with NDTV which was broadcast in full on Thursday night.

The billionaire former reality TV star, 76, also repeated false claims that the 2020 election in which he lost to current President Joe Biden was rigged.

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The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited

(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan
Plot No. 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

Notice Writing E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCCL/Tend-Adv/22/23/Corr/CC-986
NIT No.: WBPDCCL/CORP/NIT/E1577/22-23
Date: 05.09.2022
Dated: 18.08.2022

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in>, by the General Manager(M&B), WBPDCCL, from eligible agencies/companies for "Procurement and Installation of Possible Coal Generating Kitchen, Diving Power Unit and Biomass Gasifier" of The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCCL). Tender Document Download Start Date: 08.09.2022 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 28.09.2022 at 11:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Suganya Dass, Manager (PS), M&B. Contact No: 6240042058. E-mail: s.dass@wbpdccl.co.in For details please visit <https://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T15989(3)/2022

ICA-T15989(3)/2022

NIT No.: CEP/WBSETCL/CT/22-23/18
Date: 09.09.2022

The Chief Engineer (Procurement) invites e-Tender for procurement of Current Transformers of various voltage class ("Z" call). Bid documents can be downloaded from [09.09.2022, 11:00 A.M.](https://wbtenders.gov.in), and shall be submitted (online) up to 12:00 Noon, 12.10.2022. Visit the following websites: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>, <https://etender.wbdccl.in>, www.wbsetcl.in. ICA-T15989(3)/2022

WBSETCL

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)

IN BRIEF



President to launch TB elimination scheme

NEW DELHI President Droupadi Murmu will virtually launch the *Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan* on September 9. This is aimed at working towards TB elimination from the country by 2025 and has been envisaged to bring together all community stakeholders, said a release issued by the Health Ministry.

HC quashes FIR in Mohan Delkar suicide case

MUMBAI The Bombay High Court on Thursday quashed the first information report (FIR) registered against the administrator of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and eight others for allegedly abetting the suicide of Member of Parliament Mohan Delkar in 2021. "Considering all aspects, we find merit in the petitions... It is a fit case for the court to quash the case to prevent abuse of law," said a Division Bench of Justices P.B. Varale and S.D. Kulkarni.

Sheikh Hasina offers prayers at Ajmer dargah

JAIPUR Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid obeisance at the dargah of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti in Ajmer on Thursday afternoon. She reached the shrine amid tight security arrangements and was extended a red-carpet welcome. Saiyad Kalimuddin, a khalim at the shrine, said a "chadar" was offered on her behalf and prayers were performed for peace and prosperity. PTI

Indigenous QRSAM tested successfully

NEW DELHI The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Army successfully completed six flight-tests of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) — with indigenously-developed sub-systems — from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur off Odisha coast. The tests were conducted as part of evaluation trials by the Army, DRDO said in a statement on Thursday.

HC bans Ganpati visarjan in Mumbai National Park

MUMBAI Bombay High Court on Thursday directed forest officials to take appropriate steps to ensure that no immersion of Lord Ganesh idols takes place on last day of the festival, September 9, inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Mumbai. A Division Bench of Justices P.B. Varale and S.M. Modak was hearing a PIL petition filed by an Mumbai March, an NGO (working for conservation of rivers), seeking to disallow Ganpati visarjan in Dahisar river near SGNP.

Naga team continues talks on Constitution

Naga CM, deputy CM in Delhi for discussions with Centre

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Government of India is ready to incorporate the *Yehzabo*, the Naga Constitution, into the Indian Constitution and has agreed for a civil and cultural flag for the Nagas, a senior government official said on Thursday.

A Naga delegation comprising Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton are in Delhi to hold talks with A.K. Mishra, former Special Director with the Intelligence Bureau.

"The *Yehzabo* will be incorporated into the Indian Constitution by presenting a Bill in Parliament. As far as flag is concerned, it will only be used for civil and cultural functions, but not in any government function," the official said.

When contacted, Mr. Patton, who represents the BJP in the 60-member Opposition-less Nagaland Assembly, said that the Naga issue should be resolved before the Assembly election due in March 2023.

Persistent demand

The Centre is engaged in discussions with the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) to find a solution to the Naga political issue. The Isak-Muivah faction, the key player in the Naga peace talks, has been demanding a separate Con-

stitution and a separate flag for the Nagas.

The NSCN-IM also demands creation of 'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim by integrating Naga-dominated areas in neighbouring Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh and uniting 1.2 million Nagas.

More than hundred rounds of talks spanning over two decades have taken place so far.

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"There is no question of integration of Naga-inhabited areas in other States with the existing State of Nagaland. It has been ruled out by GOI," Mr. Patton said.

"If a final agreement is signed before the election, an interim government may be in place," he said.

39 exotic animals seized in Assam

Two persons from T.N. arrested for alleged bid to smuggle animals into Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam Police on Thursday seized 39 exotic animals from two Delhi-registered SUVs that travelled from the Mizoram-Myanmar border and were bound for Siliguri in northern West Bengal.

This was the biggest seizure of smuggled exotic animals in Assam. Two joeys or baby wallabies, 19 chimpanzees and monkeys, 13 small turtles, three large tortoises and two exotic birds were seized.

The Rangia Police intercepted the vehicles following a tip-off and arrested two people after finding the rare animals packed in cages. The two said they travelled from the Mizoram-Myanmar border and were heading for Si-

ligrui for delivering the consignment," Hitesh Chandra Roy, the Superintendent of Police of Kamrup district, told *The Hindu*.

Sunnydeo Chaudhary, the Divisional Forest Officer of North Kamrup division, said the two arrested persons – identified as Raghu from

Theni district and Karthik from Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu – were being interrogated for information about others involved in the animal-trafficking trade.

"The animals have been taken to the Assam State Zoo where their health condition would be assessed and the

U.S. to refit Pak. F-16s; India silent

Announcement came amid talks between senior Indian and U.S. officials

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India maintained a studied silence a day after the U.S. announced a \$450-million package to refit Pakistan's large F-16 fighter fleet with the latest technological advances. The announcement from the U.S. State Department came against the backdrop of inter-sessional talks that senior Indian and U.S. officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, held on Wednesday.

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INTERVIEW | SHAHRIAR ALAM

'So much has moved forward, on trade, on visa, on people-to-people ties'

Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs says Sheikh Hasina's visit was productive on major aspects, rejects concerns over attacks on minorities

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's state visit to India ended on Thursday. After a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, where the Kushiyara river sharing agreement was signed, Ms. Hasina said she hoped the Teesta issue would be resolved "soon". Bangladesh Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said the visit was productive, and Bangladesh and India have an understanding on even difficult issues related to Rohingya refugees and minority rights.

What, according to you, are the major outcomes of this visit by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina?

■ This visit is special, even though we are quite frequent visitors to each other's capitals. We have seven tangible outcomes, seven memoranda of understanding (MoUs). The Kushiyara water sharing agreement is only the second river water sharing agree-

ment in 25 years. This will create a fresh enthusiasm for the Teesta river agreement. We understand the domestic compulsions [with the West Bengal Government]. But what Prime Minister Hasina said prior to departing Dhaka for Delhi is that she expects Delhi to do more, work little harder.

Apart from that, we have other regional issues like the Rohingya issue, where unfor-

tunately, it looks like there is no immediate solution. We hoped Myanmar would at least honour its agreement [to take back refugees]. But unfortunately, there are reports that there are fresh problems in Rakhaing State, and things are looking worse than in 2016 and 2017 [the last big ethnic attacks].

The Indian government has said it will deport more Rohingya, and have already sent back 12. So what exactly did Prime Minister Hasina ask Prime Minister Modi for, given that she said India is a big country and can help?

■ What Prime Minister Hasina meant by saying that was that India has as good a relationship as, if not better than, we have with [Myan-



■ Bangladesh has performed way better than many other countries in the region when it comes to minorities

mar], as well as with other countries who are not supporting Rohingya causes or their safe repatriation...

Are you disappointed that India has not done more, in

terms of using its relationship with the Myanmar military to push for the return of the Rohingya?

■ Well, we are only disappointed that there is no result, even with countries who have claimed to do more. We actually set a date and time for Rohingya to return voluntarily, but on that particular day, no one showed up to return [to Myanmar] due to safety concerns. We understand that it's a difficult situation, a difficult country to deal with.

On the river agreements, Prime Minister Hasina mentioned the unfinished Teesta agreement in her opening comments. Has there been any headway on

the Teesta agreement during this visit or since 2011?

■ As far as we are concerned, unfortunately not. But it's not just about what we are gaining from this particular visit... At a time where there is trouble everywhere, we should focus on the positives in our relationship: we have restarted the Joint River Commission (after 12 years), very regular BGB-BSF [border] talks are taking place.

People who criticise should see the progress – out of 54 shared rivers, we have ticked the Ganga and now we have ticked the Kushiyara. Yes, it would have been nice to tick Teesta as well. We cannot possibly wait 25 years for our third agreement to be signed, we should be doing

two or three rivers in a year. But so much else has moved forward, on trade, on visa, on people-to-people ties, that it is wrong to claim that the results from the visit are not enough.

India has publicly spoken about its concerns over the attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. Did Prime Minister Hasina raise the issue of minorities in India as well, and in particular the Citizenship Amendment Act?

■ We consider such issues as our own internal issues as the Citizenship Act is in India's case [an internal matter]. We have been assured and we believe that India will not do anything that might create a crisis for us, target-

ing Bangladesh or where Bangladesh will be negatively impacted.

I have not been asked about [minority attacks] during my visit here, and I would say that the prompt action taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should give enough confidence to the practitioners of all religions that Bangladesh is for everyone. It's not for any particular religion. Some politicians from both sides will go to a great length and make comments publicly, which are not justified, and not fact-based, and they do not help the greater cause [of bilateral ties]. And Bangladesh has performed way better than many other countries in the region when it comes to minorities.

(Full interview on bit.ly/shahriaralam)

Nirmala links inflation, State fuel taxes

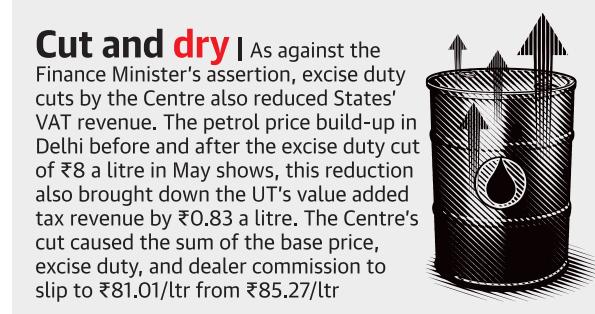
Finance Minister says States that have not reduced the levies clock higher levels than national average

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Emphasising that it was unfair to blame the Centre for higher price levels in some States, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that the States that had not reduced fuel taxes were recording inflation rates higher than the national average, and mooted a Centre-State cooperation mechanism to handle price rise matters.

While the Centre had cut petroleum taxes for consumers recently on two occasions in view of surging global prices, Ms. Sitharaman pointed out that several States had not offered any relief to residents who were suffering because of this.

"Very recently, widely available information in the public domain shows how inflation has varied from State to State. But the fact remains, and I find, coincidentally, and I am being careful



Component	Before the cut (on April 1)	After the cut (on Aug 1)
Base price (including freight)	53.54	57.35
Excise duty	27.9	19.9
Dealer commission	3.83	3.76
Total (base price + excise duty + dealer commission)	85.27	81.01
VAT at 19.4%	16.54	15.71
Reduction in VAT	-	0.83
Retail selling price	101.81	96.72

here...Coincidentally, inflation being higher than the national-level inflation in States which have not reduced the fuel prices," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"You might think I am

stating the obvious. But it establishes the fact that the movement of foodgrains and food-related items actually have a bearing on the price of these items, which account for a bulk of the Con-

sumer Price Index (CPI)," Ms. Sitharaman said.

While headline inflation has averaged 6.8% since January 2022, 14 States as well as three UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), have faced higher than the national inflation, most of them averaging over 7%, as per an analysis of States' inflation trends by *The Hindu*.

Consumers in Telangana (8.32%), West Bengal (8.06%) and Sikkim have been the most affected with 8%-plus inflation, followed by Maharashtra and Haryana (7.7%), Madhya Pradesh (7.52%), Assam (7.37%), Uttar Pradesh (7.27%), and Gujarat and J&K, both of which have averaged 7.2%.

"The inflation that prevails in different parts of the country, despite the GST and despite creation of one market and despite removing the toll taxes and freeing movement of goods, vary from State to State," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"While he was returning from Kanniyakumari, a huge

man said.

"Now if States and their inflation will also have to be attributed to the Government of India, then we will have to have a way in which we work together to handle inflationary matters with Centre and State co-operation," she said.

Drawing an analogy with the debate over the devolution of taxable revenues where some States argue that they get an unfair share of revenues compared to what they contribute to the economy, she said a similar approach is needed to evaluate States' handling of inflation. "It cannot be that inflation is handled only by the Centre, and when States don't take enough steps, that part of India suffers for want of a release from the stress of inflation... there are enough justification to have an understanding of how States manage handling their inflation," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The freedom fighter visited the S.M.S.M. school in 1937

B. KOLAPPAN
KANNIYAKUMARI

After winding up the morning schedule on the first day of his party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', Congress leader Rahul Gandhi made a stop at a school in Suchindram, which Mahatma Gandhi had visited in 1937.

Kannan, the headmaster of S.M.S.M. Higher Secondary School, showed the Congress leader the visitors' book which Gandhi had signed.

Recorded in memoir
Suchindram is known for the famous Thanumalayawaswamy temple, which Gandhi had visited with a team of Dalit bhajan singers. The event

crowd of enthusiastic Congress cadre stopped his car. He waved, sitting in the car. My father, the then correspondent of the school, garlanded him and got his signature in the visitors' book,"



Slice of history: The visitors' book at S.M.S.M. Higher Secondary School which Gandhi had signed.

Pillai said in *Puyalin Naduve Oru Payanam* (A journey in the midst of a cyclone).

On Thursday, Mr. Gandhi gave away prizes to the winners of a painting competition held on the theme 'Unity in Diversity'. He also had a brief interaction with the students.

The headmaster presented him a memento, and the Congress leader returned the gesture.

Meanwhile, the parents of Anitha, a meritorious student who ended her life because she could not join the MBBS course due to her NEET score, despite scoring good marks in the Plus-Two exams, met Mr. Gandhi.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050).

Mukul Wasnik relieved of M.P. duties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Mukul Wasnik was relieved of his duties as AICC general-secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh on Thursday and Jai Prakash Agarwal was appointed in his place.

A statement from the party said: "Hon'ble Congress President has accepted the request of Shri Mukul Wasnik to relieve him from his current responsibility as general secretary in charge of Madhya Pradesh, so that he can oversee other organisational matters..." The move has led to speculation that he could get an elevation with bigger responsibilities as it comes weeks before the election of the new Congress president.

Rahul begins long march from Kanniyakumari

On a mission to bridge divisions, Bharat Jodo Yatra could also be Congress's route to political revival



Rahul Gandhi waving to the public during his Bharat Jodo Yatra held at Kottaram, in Kanniyakumari. ■ A. SHAHMOHIDEEN

tra, when asked about his party's political calculation of the yatra.

Every day, the *padayatra* will take place in two phases – between 7 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and again from 3.30

p.m. to 6.30 p.m. – and cover about 22-25 km on an average.

Upcoming poll

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal were among leaders who walked along with Mr. Gandhi on day one, while many others, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, gave him company for some distance. The *padayatra* comes in the middle of a churn within the party and upcoming election to the post of Congress president.

The party has made arrangements for the *padayatris* to vote in Bengaluru on October 17, in case the need arises. But what would happen if Mr. Gandhi needs to campaign in

poll-bound States such as Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in the next couple of months? "The *yatra* will take a break," Mr. Singh said.

On day one, however, the mood is only of excitement among those who have embarked on the *yatra*. And each person has his or her own reason for undertaking what promises to be a gruelling schedule.

Shatrughan Sharma, a 45-year-old Seva Dal worker from Jaipur, who was selected to be a Bharat yatri, says he had a tough time convincing his family to allow him to take part. "I want the people of the country to know that our leader takes up their causes," he adds as he struggles to keep pace with Mr. Gandhi on the Kanniyakumari-Thiruvananthapuram highway.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanjia Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETD-EP-19/10429/2022-23 Date: 07.09.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of (1). Formation of Residential Layout including Formation of 15m Wide, 12M Wide & 9M Wide Roads, including asphalt, Construction of RCC Side Drains, RCC Culvert, Laying of HDPE Water Supply pipeline etc., for land losers at Hassan Industrial Area, Hassan Taluk & District. (2). Formation of 15M Wide Service Road, Including asphalt Drains, Culverts, Water Supply pipeline etc., adjacent to Hassan Industrial Area, Hassan Taluk & District. The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 11.10.2022 upto 04:00 pm. Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

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

FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATE EXAMINATION - DECEMBER 2022

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next FMGE on 4th December 2022.

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

Important Dates

Availability of Information Bulletin	9th September 2022 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	29th September 2022 (3 PM Onwards) to 29th September 2022 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	4th December 2022
Declaration of the Result	by 30th December 2022

Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595 • Helpline Portal on applicant login page

• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

E-Tender Notice (ID:533893)
Civil Aviation Department,
Government of Gujarat.
GUJSAIL Complex, Nr.Torrent Sub Station,
SVPI Airport, Ahmedabad - 380 054, Gujarat.
Ph. No.079-22882077 / 2000.
Email:managerfinance@gujsail.org.in

The bids are invited for "Rate Contract of Aircraft & Helicopter". The necessary documents may be downloaded from the www.nprocure.com or www.cad.gujarat.gov.in. The tender is required to submit on or before 04/10/2022 up to 18:00 Hrs.

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Recruitment of CONSULTANTS/SENIOR CONSULTANT for G-20 PMU