



NEET results out; over 9.93 lakh candidates declared eligible

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Nitish Kumar meets Sharad Pawar, CPI(ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya

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Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin set to hold talks at Uzbekistan summit

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Naseem puts Pakistan in Asia Cup final; India knocked out

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IN BRIEF



Report on nutrition 'scam' not final, says Chouhan

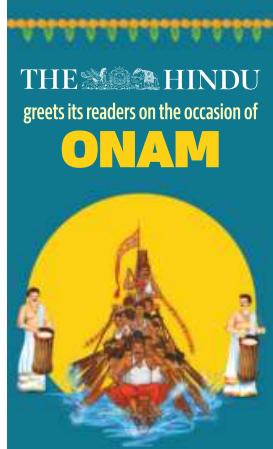
RAIPUR
Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the findings of a recent audit report on the purported irregularities in the State's nutrition programme for women and children were not final.

STATES ▶ PAGE 3

IIM dropout among 7 held in drug bust

NEW DELHI
Seven persons, including an IIM dropout and a fashion designer, have been arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly sourcing drugs from abroad through the darknet and supplying them to students through courier service, officers said on Wednesday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



Leading Bharat Yatra, Rahul calls for defending Tricolour

Former Congress chief says the National Flag and its values are under attack

SANDEEP PHUKAN
KANNIYAKUMARI

The National Flag and the values it embodies are under attack from the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which not only divide people on the basis of religion and language but also treat the Tricolour as their "personal property", former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said here on Wednesday, formally launching the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"This flag guarantees every single person Indian protection in this country. It guarantees every single person a free and fair life in this country. It guarantees everybody the right to practise every religion, to speak every language that one desires. And today, brothers and sisters, this flag is under attack," Mr. Gandhi said at a public meeting.

"Please remember it is not enough to just salute the flag, it is important to defend the ideas and the values behind the flag," he added.

'Headed for bad times'
The former Congress chief said India was facing its worst-ever economic crisis, along with the highest unemployment rate ever and "the country is headed towards a disaster and bad times".



Tour of India: Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders at a public meeting in Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu ahead of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on Wednesday. ▶ A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

The 3,500-km Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir *padayatra* (foot march), to be spread over five months across 12 States and two Union Territories, is the most ambitious project of the Congress to reconnect with the masses and recover its lost political ground of the past.

The Congress has not only lost two successive Lok Sabha elections (in 2014 and 2019) but also 39 of the 49 Assembly elections in the past eight years.

"This is a landmark occasion for our great party with such a glorious legacy – the Indian National Congress. I am confident that our organisation will be rejuvenated. It is also a transformational

moment in Indian politics," party president Sonia Gandhi said in a speech that was read out in the rally.

Stalin hands flag

The actual *padayatra* from the southernmost tip of the Indian mainland will start on Thursday but it was launched with the symbolic gesture of DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin handing over the National Flag to Mr. Gandhi and then the leaders saluting the Tricolour to convey the theme of unity.

"Today, my brother Rahul Gandhi has begun a journey to retrieve India's soul, to uphold the lofty ideals of our Republic and to unite our

country's people with love. There can be no better place than Kanniyakumari, where the Statue of Equality stands tall, to start the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Mr. Stalin said in a tweet.

Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart, Bhupesh Baghel, and other senior leaders were present at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial where a prayer meeting was held. Mr. Gandhi had also visited the iconic Vivekananda Rock Memorial and paid floral tributes at the giant Tiruvalluvar statue at Kanniyakumari.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
'CIVIL WAR THREAT' ▶ PAGE 11

+ Kejriwal launches 'Make India No. 1' campaign from Hisar

AAP leader urges PM to resolve SYL canal dispute

VIKAS VASUDEVKA
CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched the party's 'Make India Number 1' campaign from Hisar in Haryana on Wednesday along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

Beginning from his home district, Mr. Kejriwal said he would travel across the country and connect with every Indian through the campaign. He accused the ruling

BJP in Haryana and the State's previous Congress government of shutting government schools.

"We want to make India no. 1 in the world. It has been 75 years since India got Independence, but we are still not able to give quality education to our children and good health facilities to the people of our country. Without these facilities the country cannot become no. 1," he said at a press meet in Hisar.

The AAP chief also used the occasion to issue an appeal to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to find a solution to the vexed Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue,

the focal point of a water-sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana - triggering a sharp reaction from Punjab's political parties.

"What's the stand of the Congress and the BJP in Punjab and Haryana? In Punjab they say we will not let SYL canal to be constructed. In Haryana they say we will take SYL waters at any cost. There's shortage of water in both the States... It's the duty of the Centre to ensure water for Punjab and Haryana," he said while replying to a question on AAP's stand on the emotive issue. "I urge the Prime minister to find a solution. If the Prime Minister is

unable to find a solution, then he may invite me for tea. I can tell him the solution."

Comments flayed

In Punjab, the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) hit out at Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Mann over their stance on the issue. "Bhagwant Mann was led by the finger to Haryana and showcased as subservient to Kejriwal. Punjabis can never imagine their elected Chief Minister signing off their river waters but Mann is getting ready to do just that to remain in power," said former Punjab Deputy Chief Minis-

"Let Kejriwal and Mann first understand that Punjab has the first right as per the Constitution on the river waters flowing through its territory," Mr. Bajwa said.

Rajpath, Central Vista lawns renamed 'Kartavya Path'

Proposal passed day before PM inaugurates revamped avenue

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

Rajpath and Central Vista Lawns in the national capital will now be known as "Kartavya Path" after the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), in a special council meeting on Wednesday, approved a proposal to rename the iconic stretch.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the revamped Central Vista Avenue, which encompasses the stretch, lawns and adjoining areas, on Thursday.

Referring to the renaming, Union Minister and NDMC member Meenakshi Lekhi said that the name "Rajpath" reflected a "colonial mindset", which had to be done away with since "India adopted a democratic system after Independence". During British rule, Rajpath was known as Kingsway. Ms. Lekhi said the change came into effect "immediately" after the council meeting. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is

also an NDMC member, was not present at the meeting.

NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said the stretch and area from India Gate to the Rashtrapati Bhavan will now be known as "Kartavya Path".

Renaming signages
A senior official at the Central Public Works Department said that vinyl films will be pasted on signages in 14 locations highlighting the renaming. "The work will be completed before the inauguration of the revamped Central Vista Avenue on Thursday," said the official.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in a statement, said the renaming of the stretch symbolises a shift from the erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment".

The statement issued by the PMO said Mr. Modi will on Thursday also unveil a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate, where a hologram of the late freedom fighter was installed earlier this year.

(with Bureau inputs)

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

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New Delhi,
Dhaka hail
Ganga panel

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh welcomed the establishment of a joint technical committee to study the use of Ganga waters in Bangladesh, a joint statement issued on the third day of the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on Wednesday. The Ganga technical committee is one of the several initiatives, including several major connectivity and energy initiatives, that the two sides have announced.

"The leaders welcomed the formation of a joint technical committee to conduct a study for optimum utilisation of water received by Bangladesh under the provisions of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996," the joint statement said. The Ganga Water Sharing Treaty is a 30-year agreement which is expected to be reviewed or renewed in 2026.

Oxfam India works on food, clothing, shelter and medical projects.

I-T Dept. action at charity body too
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/BENGALURU
The Income Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday conducted "surveys" at two think tanks and a charity organisation on suspicion of irregularities related to financial transactions.

In Delhi, the department carried out the operation at the offices of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) in Chanakyapuri and Oxfam India on the Okhla Industrial Estate. The premises of the Independent and Public-Spirited Media Foundation (IPSMF) were surveyed in Bengaluru, according to an official. The agency did not clarify the reasons for the surveys.

Highlighting the difference between a "search" and a "survey", another agency official said the former was an exhaustive exercise covering all the locations linked to the assessee and would involve seizure of documents, cash and valuables.

However, a "survey" operation was limited in its scope given that the agency visited the commercial premises usually during the office hours, could only impound the transaction records for scrutiny and seek clarifications from the persons concerned.

According to its website,

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

dia and the United States could end up accounting for 30% of the global economy if the two countries worked together over the course of the next two decades and become an engine of global growth. The Union Minister was speaking at the India Ideas Summit.

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Job creation, equitable distribution of wealth in the country along with economic growth are the "red-lettered" priorities for the government, while inflation, which has been brought down to a "manageable le-

vel" over the past two months, is not a "red-lettered" priority as of now, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

Asserting that India's economy was now the fifth largest in the world and would 'soon' be the third largest, Ms. Sitharaman said that In-

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IIM dropout among 7 held in drug bust

BBA, MBA students, fashion designer in net; they were dealing in LSD, MDMA through darknet: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Seven persons, including an IIM dropout and a fashion designer, have been arrested by the Delhi police for allegedly sourcing drugs such as LSD, MDMA and marijuana from abroad through darknet and supplying it to college and school students through courier service, officers said on Wednesday.

Darknet websites are usually encrypted and are used anonymously, mostly to commit cybercrimes and procure drugs, in order to hide any digital footprints, said the police.

The arrests were part of separate operations carried out by the police, which seized 28 blotting papers of LSD, 12.6 gm of MDMA, 84 gm of curated marijuana and 220 gm of hashish.

The police carried out an analysis of the modus operandi of the gangs involved in drugs smuggling through darknet and discovered that

they involved youngsters as their primary consumers. "Students from both schools and colleges were first trapped into using drugs and then were lured into selling narcotics to others to fund their own addiction," an officer said. The contraband were supplied to schools, colleges, nightclubs, hotels and multinational companies. The drug module used to import curated marijuana from Russia, the U.S. and Canada through darknet and supply them to their target customers in India, the officer said.

"In India, narcotics are smuggled through two channels – one is the courier route from abroad where the consignment is received at the Foreign Post Office and the second is transportation through road from Nepal and delivery through domestic courier service in sealed packets," the officer said. The sealed consignments generally go unchecked at courier collection offices, making



One of the drugs recovered in the raids. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

them easy routes for drug smuggling, said the officer.

"The accused also used app-based delivery services to send the consignment. The customers were asked to order products or food items through delivery apps and the consignment was packed with the product to be delivered to the destination," the officer added.

The accused were communicating with their clients through VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) applications like Wicker and other private messaging applications in or-

der to prevent call tracking, the police said.

Cryptocurrency dealings

Sale and purchase of drugs through darknet has been a common modus operandi for the suppliers. "One can change their IP address by using VPN (virtual private network) and get in touch with dealers on the type and quantity of drugs required, following which a deal is struck and the transaction is made, mostly through cryptocurrency," an officer with the Cyber Cell said.

In one operation, based on a tip-off, a 22-year-old MBA student was arrested from Wazirabad Road and 84 gm of curated marijuana was recovered from his possession. "His supplier was found to be a BBA passout, who was arrested from Chhattarpur," said DCP Anti-Narcotics Task Force K.P.S. Malhotra.

In the second operation, an IIM dropout was arrested from Kirti Nagar. The police

recovered 28 blotting papers of LSD and 12.06 gm of MDMA from him. He said he had been dealing in party drugs for the last three years and disclosed the name of his supplier who was arrested from Paschim Vihar, the police said. Another accused, who worked as a fashion designer, was arrested from Gurugram.

In the third operation, two persons travelling in a car were arrested from the Burari flyover and 220 gm of 'Malana cream' hashish – a drug which is procured from Malana village in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh – was recovered from their possession.

A senior police officer said in drug trafficking cases, the quantum of punishment increases with the quantity of drugs recovered. "Even 0.1 gm of LSD is a commercial quantity and the stringent provision of Section 37 of NDPS Act is applicable where there is no provision of bail," the officer said.

Govt. announces ban on all types of firecrackers till Jan. 1

Restrictions imposed every year during Hindu festivals: BJP

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Tuesday imposed a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers, including green crackers, till January 1, 2023.

"Emission from firecrackers seems to be an important contributing factor in worsening of Delhi's pollution in the winter months. In view of such a situation, a complete ban is being imposed on the production, storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers so that people's lives can be saved," Environment Minister Gopal Rai said.

He said there will also be a ban on online sales and delivery of firecrackers in Delhi as last year many people purchased firecrackers online. The Minister said last year, many incidents of people bursting crackers were reported in Delhi as it was easi-



Crackers on sale in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ly available despite the ban. This year, a coordinated action plan is being worked out by the police, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee and the Revenue Department for implementing the ban.

Mr. Rai said the Delhi government is serious about controlling pollution and it is preparing a 'winter action plan', which will be implemented in the coming days.

Stress on awareness

On the likely impact of such prohibitions, Anumita Roy-

chowdhury, head of Clean Air Programme at the Centre for Science and Environment, said: "Regulatory action in such matters work when supported by a massive public awareness around health risks."

Reacting to the announcement, BJP MP Parvesh Verma tweeted in Hindi, "When Hindu festivals of Diwali and Dussehra are round the corner, Kejriwal imposes a ban on firecrackers. Every year Delhi has to suffer because of the government's failure."

MCD attaches Punjabi Bagh Club's account

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Wednesday said it has attached the bank account of west Delhi-based Punjabi Bagh Club for non-payment of property tax dues amounting to ₹14.18 crore.

AAP's latest allegation against the L-G comes two days after Mr. Saxena served a legal notice on AAP and its leaders for levelling "false, derogatory and malicious allegations". Mr. Singh and his party colleagues had accused Mr. Saxena of money laundering and awarding a contract to design a khadi lounge to his daughter.

L-G siphoned off crores as KVIC chief: Sanjay Singh

AAP demands probe by CBI and ED

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena, during his tenure as the Chairman of the Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Delhi, had "scammed" the country of crores in the name of 2.5 lakh ghost workers.

Raj Niwas could not be reached for a comment on the allegations.

"The Narendra Modi government should sack and arrest such a corrupt L-G and the CBI-ED should investigate how public money was siphoned off in the name of 2.5 lakh artisans," said AAP leader Sanjay Singh. He added that the CVC had found that crores had been "gobbled" against the names of "ghost workers".

Raj Niwas could not be reached for a comment on the allegations.

AAP's latest allegation against the L-G comes two days after Mr. Saxena served a legal notice on AAP and its leaders for levelling "false, derogatory and malicious allegations". Mr. Singh and his party colleagues had accused Mr. Saxena of money laundering and awarding a contract to design a khadi lounge to his daughter.

BJP campaigns against excise 'scam'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday organised public outreach programmes at 20 metro stations in the city to "expose" the Delhi government's alleged corruption in

the now-withdrawn excise policy.

The party distributed handbills related to the alleged scam and also sought public opinion on the issue from commuters at the metro stations around the city.

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RISE 06:03 SET 18:34
RISE 18:13 SET 04:32
SATURDAY, SEP. 10
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38°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm.

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

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Report on nutrition programme 'scam' not final, says Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh CM breaks his silence; BJP blames Congress for irregularities

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR



Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the findings of a recent audit report on the purported irregularities in the State's nutrition programme for women and children were not final. He attacked the Congress for these alleged irregularities during its tenure in 2018-20.

"This is not the final report of the Comptroller and Auditor General... the [Women and Child Development] Department is yet to present its side. The Congress took action to withdraw the nutritional food plants from women self-help groups. An amount of ₹35 crore was stopped for providing sub-par nutritional level during the Congress regime," tweeted Mr. Chouhan.

The Congress has been attacking the State government over the issue, seeking Mr. Chouhan's resignation. The Aam Aadmi Party and the Trinamool Congress have also been turning on the heat on the issue.

In another tweet, Mr. Chouhan also attacked AAP saying it had failed to present the CAG's report in the Delhi Assembly for the past four years.

The BJP, too, posted a series of tweets saying there was no scam under its rule and called the State's Auditor General's report that talks of "large scale fraud/misappropriation etc in the identification of beneficiaries, production, transportation, distribution and quality control of THR [take home ration]" as a "routine report dubbed as scam by the Congress".

The party specifically addressed two irregularities highlighted by the survey – the alleged fraudulent and exaggerated estimation of the number of beneficiaries, and the quality control aspects.

It said the estimated number of 2.26 lakh beneficiaries in 2018-19 had been brought down with transparency to 15,000, and it was for this number that the rations

were being withdrawn.

On the quality of the THR,

which comprises dry ration as well as cooked items, distributed to children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and Out Of School Adolescent Girls, it said the State had been under the Congress rule during the period under consideration.

The confidential report said that the lab report of THR supplied by plants in five districts was not in conformity with the required nutritional value of the THR during March 2019 to January 2020.

Responding to this, State Congress media cell in-charge K.K. Mishra said at that time the Minister of Women and Child Development Department (WCD) was Imarti Devi who was among the 22 rebel Congress MLAs who had switched over to the BJP.

Probe complaint against Kejriwal's property deals: L-G

Land sold as per rates, no question of any wrongdoing: AAP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena. • FILE PHOTO

₹1,12,500 respectively.

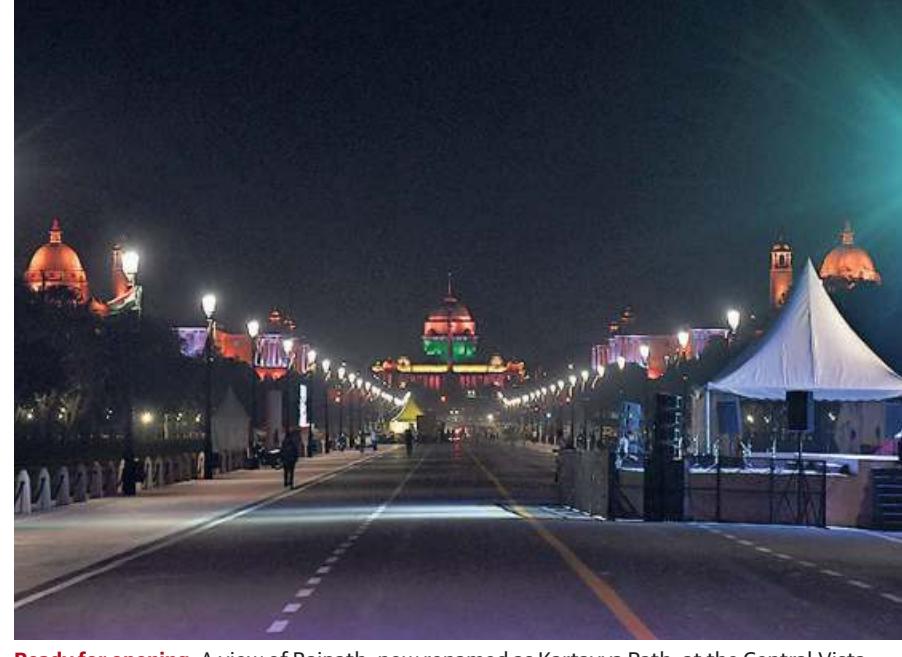
"However, the buyers who got in tTouch with the undersigned on conditions of anonymity said that Kejriwal sold the plots at a market rate of ₹1.53 crore, ₹1.87 crore and ₹1.14 crore," the source added quoting from the complaint.

"In the process, Arvind Kejriwal and his wife evaded Stamp Duty worth ₹10.68 lakh on the plot of 416 sq. yard, ₹8.73 lakh on the plot measuring 340 sq. yard and ₹6.52 lakh on the plot measuring 254 sq. yards," the complaint stated.

'Ready for probe'

In response, AAP said in a statement, "This is ancestral land and has been sold as per collector rates. The entire amount of stamp duty as per collector rates has been paid. Where is the question of any wrongdoing? However, if the L-G wants, he can get any CBI, ED or any other investigation done."

Celebration time



Ready for opening: A view of Rajpath, now renamed as Kartavya Path, at the Central Vista Avenue in New Delhi on Wednesday, a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the redeveloped stretch. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Jawabdehi yatra resumes in Rajasthan

Activists are demanding transparency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

A *jawabdehi yatra* (accountability march) of information and livelihood rights activists has resumed from Rajasthan's Kota city with the demand for introduction of a Bill on transparency and social accountability in the Assembly session starting on September 19. The *yatra* covered 13 districts but was suspended in January this year in view of surge in the COVID-19 cases.

Civil rights groups have been trying to build pressure on the Congress government for enactment of the accountability law with the reminder to the ruling party about its promise in manifesto for the 2018 Assembly election. The *yatra* reached Jhalawar on Wednesday after crossing Kota and Baran districts.

The *yatra* has once again brought the issue of accoun-

tability to the forefront in the State. A committee on the subject appointed by the State government had submitted its report along with the draft of the proposed legislation in 2020.

It laid emphasis on evolving a legal framework and highlighted the limitations in the existing system.

Representatives of Suchna Evum Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan, who were members of the committee, and are participating in the *yatra*, pointed out that the citizens were suffering due to inability to access their rights and have their complaints redressed.

Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan leader and right to information activist Nikhil Dey said the labourers engaged under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme were getting their wages on the basis of measurement of their work.

'Samajwadi Party MLAs are in touch with BJP'

Akhilesh should worry: U.P. BJP chief

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

with us; he is not a selfish person. Akhilesh Yadav won't be able to control him, Keshavji will control Akhilesh Yadav."

Recently in an interview Mr. Yadav suggested the Deputy CM to take lesson from the latest political developments in Bihar and said that Maurya will be made Chief Minister if he brings 100 MLAs. Mr. Maurya, an influential OBC leader from central U.P. was the State president and frontrunner for the CM's post in 2017 when the BJP won the State Assembly polls and formed the government after the gap of 14-years. Mr. Maurya was made Deputy CM along with Dinesh Sharma while the party decided to appoint five-time LS member from Gorakhpur Yogi Adityanath as CM. In the 2022 polls, despite losing the Assembly election, Mr. Maurya was retained as one of the deputy CM by the party.

The latest development comes after Mr. Yadav asked Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Keshav Prasad Maurya to take lesson from the latest political developments in neighbouring Bihar and said that the SP is ready to support Mr. Maurya as CM if he brings 100 MLAs.

Mr. Chaudhary said, "Keshav Maurya is a dedicated worker of the BJP and committed to the party's ideology. He will always remain

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Swine disease in one more Punjab district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The African Swine Fever (ASF) has been confirmed in Mansa as well as in five districts of Punjab.

Punjab Animal Husbandry Minister Lalit Singh Bhullar on Wednesday said that ASF had been found in the swine samples from village Talwandi Aklia of district Mansa and that area had been notified as 'infected zones' for the prevention of ASF. He said swine culling was being carried out to curb disease spread.

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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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Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF SH. SACHIN JAIN,
AD-42, DWARKA SECTORS, NEW DELHI
RESPONDENT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil
Procedure)
DR. M.S. NEELIMA VS STATE & OTHERS
To : 1. RAKESH PASSI (Respondent No.3)
H.NO. NOT KNOWN LIVING IN
GREATER NOIDA
2. RAHUL BORASHI (Respondent
No.5) LIVING IN INDORE (CORRECT
ADDRESS NOT KNOWN)
3. S.D. KHANNA (Respondent No.6)
H.NO. NOT KNOWN BEHIND FAZAL
GARDEN, THANHA LIVING IN KANPUR
CORRECT ADDRESS NOT KNOWN
4. LASHA RAI (Respondent No.7)
LIVING IN KAVI NAGAR, GHAZIABAD
CORRECT ADDRESS NOT KNOWN
Whereas you are intentionally avoiding
services of summons, it is hereby notified
that you shall appear before the court on the
day of 01.10.2022 at 10.00 A.M. The day
fixed in the matter, it will be heard and
determined ex parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the
Court on this 05th day of September,
2022.
Seal
Addl. Distt. Judge
South West Dwarka Courts, N.D.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Sh. Suresh Khanna S/o Sh. Manmohan Singh V/H Mr. Arun Singh, 110085, had left as per his Global Courier Services, Regd. Office Plot No. 20, Block 10, Sector 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110085. He has been missing since 2017. I have been in touch with him and he has nothing to do with assets and liabilities after his day to day affairs. He said company has been closed due to financial losses and he has no right to be held liable for any consequences regarding the same, under any circumstances.

PUNEET KADAN (Advocate)

Mobile: 9810740000
TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TEJINDER Singh S/O Pratap Singh born on 22APR1975 residing at E-964 C.R Park New Delhi-110019, my name in driving licence is misprinted as Tajinder Singh instead of Tejinder Singh

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ravi Lakra Father of Prisha Lakra R/o. H.No. 17 A, 2nd Floor, Begumpur, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017 have changed my Daughter Name to Prisha.

'Dry' Bihar to turn liquor bottles into glass bangles

Govt. allocates ₹1 cr. to set up factory in Patna, train women under its Rural Livelihoods Promotion Programme, JEEVIKA

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

The Bihar government has decided to set up factories to make glass bangles out of seized liquor bottles through its Rural Livelihoods Promotion Programme, JEEVIKA.

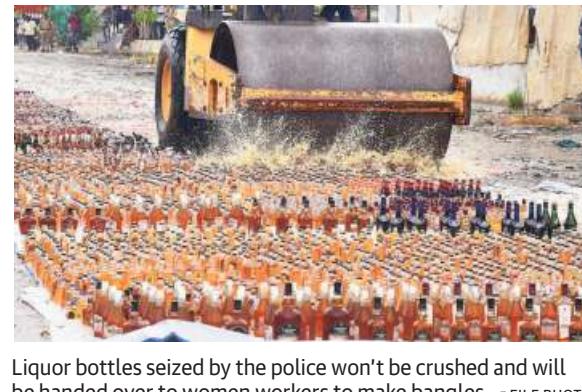
Ever since prohibition was imposed in the State on April 5, 2016, lakhs of liquor bottles have been seized every month by the police or Excise Department officials and crushed using earth movers and excavators.

"Now we'll give these bottles to JEEVIKA workers who are trained in making glass bangles. The State Excise and Prohibition Department have allocated ₹1 crore to set up a glass-making factory in Patna and send women for training to

other States," says Bihar Excise Commissioner B. Kartikey Dhanji.

Funded by the World Bank, JEEVIKA is a rural social and economic empowerment programme that comes under the Rural Development Department. "If the initiative is a success, we will set up more factories in other parts of the State," Mr. Dhanji says.

Last month, 3.7 lakh litres of liquor were seized in raids and over 30,000 people were arrested in connection with the illegal manufacture and sale of alcohol. Of late, the police and the Excise Department officials were also arrested for profiteering from the business. Overcrowding in jails and a huge backlog of cases in courts led the go-



Liquor bottles seized by the police won't be crushed and will be handed over to women workers to make bangles. ■ FILE PHOTO

vernment to amend the law under Article 37 of the Act.

First-time offenders are now set free after paying a fine between ₹2,000 and ₹5,000 in the presence of a magistrate. However, they have to serve a one-month jail term if they are unable to pay the fine.

Court permits seer's hospital admission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HUBBALLI

The Second Additional District and Sessions Court on Wednesday permitted shifting of Shivamurthy Muruga Sharana to the nearest government hospital with cardiac healthcare facility.

The court gave permission following an application moved by the jail superintendent for providing treatment for coronary angiogram.

The court sought the opinion of the counsel of the victim to the bail petition moved on behalf of Muruga Sharana and allowed them to file their objections on Thursday.

In a related development, the second accused has been remanded in police custody. The fifth accused in the case, Gangadharayya, appeared before investigating officer H.R. Anilkumar.

Fisherman hit by stray bullet off Kochi coast

Incident near INS Dronacharya; Navy denies role

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHEE

A fish worker had a miraculous escape after being hit by a stray bullet beneath his right ear about 1.5 km off Fort Kochi around 12 noon on Wednesday.

Sebastian, 70, a resident of Azhekkal, was lucky to escape with five stitches since it could have very easily proved fatal. He was part of a 30-member group of fishermen who had gone for fishing from the Kochi fishing harbour in the early morning hours. The incident occurred when the group was returning after fishing.

Something hit beneath his ear followed by a gush of blood. Soon the fish workers got hold of the bullet from the boat itself.

"The incident occurred near INS Dronacharya and



The bullet reportedly recovered from a fishing boat after one of the fishers in the vessel was hit by a stray bullet.

the Navy is known to undertake firing training along the area. However, the Navy had denied any role claiming that it is not the kind of bullet they use. However, we find it very hard to take. Either way, it should be thoroughly probed," said Charles George, convener, Matsya Thozhilai Aikya Vedi.

Commander Atul Pillai,

defence PRO, Kochi, said the bullet injury appeared to be from a weapon of non-military calibre. He denied involvement of the Navy or any military forces in the incident.

'Injury not serious'
The Coastal police recorded the statement of the fisherman and registered a case. "It has to be verified whether any firing had taken place in the area though the Navy has denied it," said a senior police officer.

Meanwhile, the condition of Sebastian remains stable at a private hospital in West Kochi where he was rushed to.

"He remains admitted here for the day. There is nothing serious about the injury," said hospital sources.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi pays tribute to his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at his memorial in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur on Wednesday. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Lost my father to politics of hate: Rahul Gandhi

Cong. leader visits Rajiv's memorial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said he lost his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the politics of hate and division, and he will not lose "my beloved country to it too".

In a tweet after visiting his late father's memorial at

Centre allows Phase II of Kochi Metro Rail project

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Phase-II of the Kochi Metro Rail project from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to Infopark via Kakkanad at a cost of ₹1,957.05 crore.

The preparatory works for Phase-II, 11.7-km long having 11 stations, including widening of Seaport Airport Road, "are progressing well", a government statement said. It added that Phase-I of the project from Aluva to Pettah, covering 22 stations over 25.6 km, at an estimated cost of ₹5,181.79 crore was fully operational.

"The metro's phase 1A, the 1.8-km Petta-SN Junction metro viaduct, was commissioned by Mr. Modi a week ago. The project was being implemented as State sector project. Phase 1B project of 1.2 km is under construction," it said.

The march being undertaken by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, the AIADMK leader said Mr. Gandhi was carrying it out to ensure the growth of his party.

"However, you cannot expect any different treatment in the DMK," he added.

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"However, you cannot expect any different treatment in the DMK," he added.

A.P. govt. rules out bringing back Old Pension Scheme

It tries to convince associations on the new pension scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Ministers Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Botcha Satyanarayana and A. Suresh made another vain attempt on Wednesday to break the deadlock over the contentious issue of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) by holding talks with the representatives of a few employees' associations.

Most of the leaders owing their allegiance to the A.P. JAC Amaravati member-associations boycotted the talks saying that they were not ready to discuss anything other than restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as promised to them by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy at the time of the election. There was no breakthrough as the Ministers' attempt to convince the employees' representatives to accept the Guaranteed Pension Scheme (GPS) de-



The representatives of the employees' associations at the talks convened by the government in Vijayawada on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

signed by the government as a middle ground did not cut any ice with them.

The government had been inviting the employees' representatives for talks in the hope that the CPS issue could be resolved. Mr. Rajendranath Reddy said the government was ready to offer guaranteed pension, guaranteed family security and guaranteed minimum pension, among other benefits, under the GPS.

Mr. Satyanarayana admitted that the government was

forced to go back on its word on CPS due to serious financial constraints. He agreed that the Chief Minister had promised to implement the OPS. "But after discussing the issue and taking into consideration the larger picture of the State, we realised that restoration of the OPS is not possible," he said.

He said staying away from the talks was not a solution as the government would then go ahead and officially announce implementation of the GPS.

When asked whether he would agree to take back former AIADMK interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala and AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran into his party, the AIADMK leader said the workers were running the party.

"There is no place for others," he added.

He said the party cadre had not accepted them [Ms. Sasikala and Mr. Dhinakaran].

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10 DMK MLAs in touch with AIADMK, claims EPS

He responds to claim on defections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday claimed that 10 legislators of the ruling DMK were in touch with his party.

Responding to an observation by a journalist that three AIADMK legislators were said to be joining the DMK shortly, Mr. Palaniswami, who was speaking to mediapersons in Gummidi poondi, shot back: "Who is talking [to the DMK]? In fact, 10 DMK MLAs are talking to us."

When asked whether he would agree to take back former AIADMK interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala and AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran into his party, the AIADMK leader said the workers were running the party.

"There is no place for others," he added.

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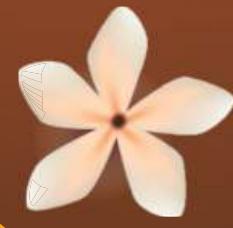
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Wishing you a very Happy Onam



"Warm wishes and greetings to you and your family on this joyous occasion of Onam. May your life be filled with joy, good health, and prosperity."

- Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

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Directorate of information and publicity, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that boy person namely **Saurav S/o Ramful R/o** H.No. 9137, Gali Zamir Wali, Nawab Ganj, Delhi has been missing since 29.08.2022 at 6.00 PM. from his house. In this regard a DD No. 67 Dated 30.08.2022 has been lodged at PS, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.

The description of missing boy is as under:

Name : Saurav, Father's Name : Ramful, Age : 21 years, Height : 5'6", Face: Round, Complexion : Fair, Built : Thin, Wearing: White and Green (Linen) Shirt & Grey Colour Pant, ID Mark: Ringworm from Paw to shin.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct)

P.S., Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi

Fax: 011-23011334

DP/653/N/2022 Ph. : 011-23529707, 9311925639

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that this girl namely **Komal, D/o Ratan Lal, R/o H. No. 128, Nehru Kutia, Malka Ganj, Delhi** is missing/kidnapped since 03.08.2022 at about 01:00 PM from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 479/22, dated 03.09.2022, u/s 363 IPC, has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. Since efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Gender: Female, Age: 16 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Sky blue colour top, black jeans and cream colour shoes.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax : 011-24368639

SHO DP/693/N/2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Chief Engineer/TMC, Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites 01 No tender through E-Procurement system for supply of the following items:

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Description of item	Qty.	Due Date Time
01	TM225051	HYDRAULIC OIL VG-68 FROM RDSS APPROVED VENDORS	53130 LTR	29.09.2022 at 14:30 hours

NOTE: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement tenders are available on website "www.ireps.gov.in". The firms, who desire to participate against E-Tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would be required to have a class-III digital certificate from certifying agencies authorized under IT Act 2000, by Govt. of India. Manual offers against E-Tenders will not be accepted.

Tender Notice No. 219-S/1/TMC/25/2022-23 Dated: 05.09.2022

2322/2022

Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)

Name of Work with its Location Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for TPWS line side equipment for section HNZM-PWL for 03 years.

App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 1,75,57,936/- only

Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 2,37,800/- only

Address of the Office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110005.

Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender Tender uploading/ closing date & time - 28.09.2022 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S & T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110005.

Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-AMC-05/2022-23 Dated: 06.09.2022 2317/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system

Tender Notice No. 42/2022-2023 Dated: 07.09.2022 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	Qty.	Closing Date
01	11222045A	MANNUAL METAL ARC WELDING ELECTRODE,	152250 MTR	30.09.2022
02	07211818B	PIN FOR BRAKE PAD HOLDER	10831 NOS	30.09.2022

Note-1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.

2. No manual offers will be entertained.

2321/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single-package system for the following work:-

Name of work and location : Miscellaneous repair in RCC Box No. 3 at Delhi Kishanganj and Provision of approach Road from LC No. 10 to Dohb station and other allied works in connection with new crossing station at Dohb on Rohtak-Bhiwani Sector.

Completion of the work : 08 (Eight) months

Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 2.84 crore only

Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,92,000/- (Rupees Two lacs Ninety two Thousand) only

Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender : Tender will be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs. on 04.10.2022 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 04.10.2022.

Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document : The detailed tender's document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 20.09.2022 to 04.10.2022 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 20.09.2022.

All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No.: 474-ACS-C-DKZ-DOBH RD-TKJ Dated: 07.09.2022

2316/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Vipin, S/o Khem Chand, R/o C-2/68, Swaran Park Mundka, Delhi**. Age 24 years, Height 5', Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Black colour shirt, green colour lower and hawai chappal in feet has been missing since 29.08.2022 from his house. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this boy but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 84-A dated 30.08.2022 has been lodged at PS Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy may kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-23011334

SHO PS: Nangloi, Delhi

Ph.: 9212474823

DP/676/OD/2022

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** was found dead at ODRS gate no. 1, outside of the building, in front of reservation counter no. 402 on 05.09.2022 at 07.23 PM. In this regard a DD No. 60A, dated 05.09.2022 has been registered at PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in LNJP Mortuary for 72 Hrs for identification.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, Age: 44-45 years, Height : 5' 2" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Injury Marks: Abrasion over Rt elbow of size 0x20 cm, Identification Mark: A tattoo mark on right forearm, Wearing: Jamiini colour T-shirt and grey pant and bare footed.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO

Website:<http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Old Delhi Rly. Stn, Delhi

E-mail: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in Ph.: 011-23961522

Tel. No.: 011-23014046/23015218 Mob. No.: 8750871302

Fax No.: 011-23011334 DP/714/RLY/2022

General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** was found dead at ODRS gate no. 1, outside of the building, in front of reservation counter no. 402 on 05.09.2022 at 07.23 PM. In this regard a DD No. 60A, dated 05.09.2022 has been registered at PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in LNJP Mortuary for 72 Hrs for identification.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, Age: about 35 years, Height: 5' 4" ft., Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Orange T-Shirt, Blue Shorts.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO

Website:<http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-25453990

Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. - 8750871127

Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/505/WD/2022

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Rashid @ Cable Wala S/o Late Sh. Rahimuddin R/o H.No. F-468, 4th Floor, Gali No. 19, Khajoori Khas, Delhi has committed the offence in case FIR No. 197/19 u/s 3/4 MCOC Act, Dated 9/7/2019, P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rashid cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rashid @ Cable wala has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rashid @ Cable wala of FIR No. 197/19 u/s 3/4 MCOC Act, Dated 9/7/2019, P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 12.10.2022.

By Order,
Sh. Amitabh Rawat,
Addl. Sessions Judge-03, Room No. 58,
DP/669/Crime/2022 Shahdara District, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

A.N.D-N.D.E



The Spirit of 1971

India and Bangladesh must focus on future cooperation based on past partnership

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ongoing state visit to India and meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi have resulted in positive outcomes and seven agreements, which include the conclusion of the first water sharing agreement in 26 years, the launch of free trade agreement talks, and infrastructure projects particularly in the railways sector. The water sharing agreement on the Kushiyara, which was preceded by the first Joint River Commission meeting in 12 years, is a particularly hopeful sign on resolving water management, and a very contentious issue, of 54 trans-boundary rivers. While there has been a smaller agreement on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs from the Feni in the interim period, the Kushiyara agreement is the first time the Centre has been able to bring on board Assam and other north-eastern States, for the agreement since the 1996 Ganga water treaty. However, the Teesta agreement, of 2011, held up by West Bengal, remains elusive, a point Ms. Hasina made several times. Clearly, the Teesta river agreement will require more efforts by the Modi government, and flexibility from the Mamata Banerjee-led State government, if the deal is to be sealed soon. The timeline grows more important for Ms. Hasina, who is due to hold elections at the end of next year, after three terms in office. Much of her focus was also on attracting investment by Indian industry, which now constitutes a small fraction of Bangladesh's FDI inflows. Ms. Hasina made particular mention of two dedicated Special Economic Zones for Indian companies, coming up at Mongla and Mirsarai.

Ms. Hasina's visit, which follows her previous state visit in 2017, and Mr. Modi's visit to Bangladesh in 2021, have set India-Bangladesh ties on a firmer footing, and on course for closer engagement in trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties. However, the positive trend in ties goes further back, to Ms. Hasina's advent to power in 2009, her unilateral moves to shut down terror training camps, and to hand over more than 20 wanted criminals and terror suspects to India. It is incumbent on New Delhi, which has benefited from such outcomes and the turnaround in relations with what used to be an inimical neighbour, to be equally sensitive to Dhaka's concerns, particularly when it comes to comments made by ruling party leaders on deporting Rohingya refugees, comparing undocumented migrants to "termites", the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and more recent references to annexing Bangladesh for "Akhand Bharat". While cross-border sensitivities in South Asia often run high over such political rhetoric, it is necessary that New Delhi and Dhaka remain focused on their future cooperation, built on their past partnership, and what is referred to as the "Spirit of 1971".

Uncertain future

Chileans have rejected a new Constitution, but they still need to replace the old one

Chilean voters' decision to reject a new Constitution that would have replaced the 1980 charter written under the brutal military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet could deepen the country's political divisions and throw its future into uncertainty. The new document, supported by Chile's 36-year-old leftist President Gabriel Boric, would have transformed South America's most free market-friendly country into a state-driven, rights-rich welfare society. But the voters seem to have concluded that the draft went too far. With almost all votes counted, 62% of voters said 'No'. The Constitution drafting process itself was the result of months-long social and political struggles. Chile witnessed street protests in 2019 – triggered by a modest rise in subway fares – which prompted then President Sebastián Piñera to promise to rewrite the Constitution. Despite amendments, the Pinochet-era Constitution remains a pro-business, pro-market document, restricting state intervention in the economy. While Chile has seen fast development ever since its market reforms, it has also grown into one of the most unequal countries in the region, leading to disquiet. Mr. Boric rose from this chaos. In his election campaign in 2021, he had promised a new beginning. The referendum was his best opportunity to rewrite Chile's future. But Mr. Boric and his comrades seem to have lost the momentum.

The 170-page, 388-Article document promised to legalise abortion, provide universal health care, mandate gender parity in government, empower labour unions, and tighten regulations on mining. It also sought to define Chile as a "plurinational" state that would recognise its 11 Indigenous groups, who make up some 13% of the population – they could have their own governing structures and legal systems. This proposal became the rallying cry of the rejection camp which argued that the enhanced rights of the indigenous communities (including veto powers on big-ticket projects) and the limits the new Constitution would place on security agencies would promote anarchy. Rising inflation and a militant uprising by the Mapuche community made it difficult for Mr. Boric to sell the proposals to voters. Chile is now back to square one. The old Constitution would remain in force until Chile's political class finds a way ahead. Mr. Boric has promised to repeat the Constitution process – elections to the constituent assembly and then preparation of another draft that is put to a referendum – which would take time. The conservatives and centrists, who ruled Chile since the fall of the dictatorship, would try to maximise their interests in the coming elections. But political struggles could only make the political crisis worse. As Chileans have demanded the old Constitution be repealed and replaced, it is for the politicians to provide them a document that they would support. For that, they should start with building consensus on the future of the country.

How ideology muddled inflation control in India

The agencies responsible for macroeconomic policy have hitched their wagon to Anglo-American economics



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India reportedly stated that the inflation rate would be brought to its target level of 4% within 24 months. It had been above this level for 34 consecutive months already. If the prognosis is correct, by 2024 it would have remained off target for close to five years. In the United States and the United Kingdom, the inflation rate has been off target for a lesser period, but it has lately run at rates close to four times the target. What credibility do the world's central banks have if they fail so egregiously in delivering on their mandate? Though the characteristics of India's economy vary substantially when compared to those of the industrialised West, their governments follow the same approach to inflation control, termed 'inflation targeting' and implemented by their central banks. It would be reasonable to surmise then that the approach is ineffectual because it is flawed in its imagination.

A particular problem

The approach to inflation currently favoured in Anglo-American economics is the result of an evolution lasting close to a century. In the 1930s, the world faced an unprecedented crisis with the capitalist economies plunging into depression. We can now see that this was a particular problem of such economies, for the Soviet Union was unaffected. The Great Depression was as much a crisis for the economics profession, for it was expected to come up with ideas on

how the global economy could be lifted out of the morass it had sunk into. The central banks were rendered helpless, for monetary policy, the preferred macroeconomic instrument, proved to be impotent under the circumstances. The profession responded momentously, through the publication by J.M. Keynes of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*. It provided the insight that at times, capitalist economies would require "the socialisation of investment", by which he meant that the state would have to shoulder the burden of maintaining demand in the economy through its fiscal policy.

At some level, the message that when private investment was depressed public investment must take over, is no more than an application of economic accounting, but the proposal triggered an ideological backlash. Not all economists of the time were well disposed to the government intervention and larger public deficits, even when temporary, that was being advocated. However, confirmation of the validity of Keynesian economics came from an unexpected source. Hitler, through greater public spending on roads and armaments, showed that a market economy would respond to a Keynesian stimulus, and nothing like the hyperinflation of the Weimar Republic followed.

Impact of 'oil shocks'

The Keynesian principle continued to work after the war, when the reconstruction of Europe meant that aggregate demand was maintained by public spending on the infrastructure that had been destroyed. The consequent unprecedented rise in living standards came to an abrupt end, though, with the two 'oil shocks' of the 1970s, when the petroleum exporting countries combined to



hike the price of oil. This both sucked demand out of the oil importing countries and gave rise to inflation in them. Stagflation, a combination of inflation and stagnant output, followed. It is indeed correct that *The General Theory* was unprepared for this phenomenon, but a complete explanation of it was quickly provided by the Keynesian economist Nicholas Kaldor, and possible solutions identified. This did not receive wide enough acknowledgement, however, and a revival of pre-Keynesian economics, with its assumption of a self-regulating economy, occurred. Its leader, Milton Friedman, argued that in an unfettered market economy, unemployment would tend towards the 'natural' level, where presumably everyone who wishes to work would be working.

Inflation targeting

Accordingly, public policy should not target unemployment, attempting which could destabilise the economy, and focus on inflation alone. And, inflation was solely a function of money supply growth which must always be controlled. Friedman's assertion of the optimality of the market gained impetus after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. His diagnosis of inflation led to a clamour for central banks to be made independent of politicians and given an exclusive mandate to target inflation. The arrangement came to be known as inflation targeting, with the claim that the central

bank can fine tune inflation by moving the interest rate. The Anglo-American orientation of India's policy makers meant that this view of inflation control came to be adopted in this country too.

The allure of inflation targeting is the implicit premise that the authorities, in this case the central bank of a country, will now be both devoted to and capable of controlling inflation. Nothing demonstrates that the latter is make-believe more than the runaway inflation presently on view across the world. Inflation in the U.S. and the U.K., the epicentres of the Friedmanite revolution in economics, is far higher than the targets set for their central banks by their governments.

The question is whether this reflects a lack of commitment on the part of the central banks of these countries or their inability to do anything in the face of an inflation sparked off by a rise in commodity prices, notably the price of oil and food, as is the case today. Obviously, it is the latter. Nothing else can explain inflation rates that are over four times the announced target. Faced with high inflation, Europe's policymakers exhort that central banks should raise the interest rate further, even if it means triggering a recession. But we can now see that this is no permanent solution to a supply-side driven inflation as the present one is. Even if it were to be granted that the global inflation of the 1970s was contained by the policies advocated by Friedman, we see the problem is back four decades later, driven this time by the disruption of global supply chains due to the war in Ukraine. A recession works to lower inflation when it does by lowering output, and thereby demand; it cannot increase supply, a shortfall in which had caused the inflation to start with.

In the face of the evident failure

of monetary policy in controlling inflation globally today, central bankers concerned with retaining their relevance make a renewed case for it by arguing that by pursuing a high-interest-rate policy, central banks can 'anchor' the expectation of inflation, and thereby inflation itself.

But why would economic agents harbour such an illusion when forming expectations of inflation? "How," they are bound to ask, "can a central bank ever achieve this?" A central bank can dampen expectations of a depreciation of its national currency so long as it holds sufficient reserves of the dollar. However, would it have any leverage when it comes to commodity price expectations? No central bank holds stocks of petroleum or wheat. Therefore, it can never directly influence commodity prices, and the public knows this only too well. Having established itself by arguing that Keynesian economics has no explanation of stagflation, the challenge to it finds its own remedy for inflation discredited.

In India

Coming back to India, there exists published research demonstrating that household expectation of inflation, based on data released by the Reserve Bank of India, is not a determinant of it. This makes it difficult to claim that inflation targeting, which is supposed to work via the central bank's 'anchoring' of expectations, works in India. We have long known what needs to be done to control inflation in India, but the agencies responsible for macroeconomic policy ignore this knowledge when they hitch their wagon to the ideology of Anglo-American economics. The consequences are there to see.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat

The hits and misses in TANGEDCO's tariff petition

There needs to be an overarching energy policy that addresses environmental issues and also ensures affordable supply



MARTIN SCHERFLER &
SANDHYA SUNDARARAGAVAN

For the first time in years, the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) has submitted a petition which proposes an annual increase of tariff by 6%. Reeling under the weight of mounting debts and long-pending payments to generators, this was a long anticipated step.

Key reasons

One of the reasons for TANGEDCO's poor financial health is that tariffs have not been revised on an annual basis, thereby resulting in a gap between average revenue requirement and average cost of supply. Continuous under-recovery over the years and the cancellation or delay of projects have adversely impacted TANGEDCO's capability to upgrade and modernise its distribution network and hindered the transition towards a smart grid future. Hence, the proposal of an annual adjustment of tariffs by the rate of inflation is a positive step – this will not only provide more predic-

tability to its consumers but also avoid the one-time steep tariff increase every few years.

It is a welcome step to protect its smaller consumers from the tariff impact in this petition. However, some of the additional tariff categories in this petition may be open to interpretation under non-verifiable conditions. Hence, a simplification of the tariff structures which is easier to comprehend could be considered.

Green tariffs, other charges

Green tariffs have been emerging as an alternative renewable energy procurement model for commercial and industrial consumers. However, TANGEDCO's proposed premium green tariff, at 150% of the applicable tariff rate, may dissuade consumers from availing this. Green tariffs, if properly designed, could help TANGEDCO reduce sales migration of commercial and industrial consumers to open access while at the same time provide export-oriented industries with an opportunity to meet their sustainability commitments.

There is a steep increase in demand (fixed) charges for high tension consumers in this petition – more than 100% as compared to the last tariff order. Wheeling charges for open access have been increased from existing ₹0.21/unit to ₹1.52/unit for High Tension con-

sumers (an increase of 624%). This may make Tamil Nadu one of the most expensive open access markets in the country, potentially impacting the industrial attractiveness of the State.

The inclusion of all high tension consumers (except lift irrigation) under the time-of-day tariff is a positive step, but this could have also included low tension consumers. The domestic consumer category (LT 1-A) accounted for 41.28% (30,390 MU) of the total energy sales in the financial year 2020-21. Therefore, including the domestic consumer category under the time-of-day tariff and a detailed loss reduction plan could potentially result in cost savings for TANGEDCO.

Coal and renewables

TANGEDCO is planning to meet 87% of the expected increase in power demand from thermal pow-

er plants and only 13% from renewables. Commissioning of the announced coal power plants will lock-in TANGEDCO with a high fixed cost and could result in more expensive power for consumers in the years to come – 1,890 MW of TANGEDCO's coal plants are 30 years and older, and are up for retirement. Also, 4,320 MW of TANGEDCO's own-coal power plants need to be retrofitted with flue gas desulphurisation systems, which will further increase the per unit cost.

According to the Ministry of Power, TANGEDCO is to meet 35.95% of its energy from renewables by the financial year 2026-27 as in its renewable purchase obligations. However, less than half of the mandated target is shown in TANGEDCO projections. Additionally, it is not clear how the Ministry of Power notified storage obligation (starting from 1% in the financial year 2024 to 2.5% by financial year 2027), 20 GW solar by 2023 (as per the memorandum of understanding signed between Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (a Government of India Enterprise) and the Tamil Nadu government) and 3,600 MW rooftop solar (as per the Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy 2019) are considered in this petition.

Large-scale solar and onshore wind technologies have increas-

ingly become cheaper than coal-powered plants and have continued to create employment opportunities. It will be useful for the utility to carve out a robust strategy to assess the risks associated with building new thermal power plants, especially in view of the State's long-term energy security.

Focus on sustainability

While there is a strong equity focus in this petition, sustainability must also receive priority. Despite the climate change commitments, there are still plans to add coal capacities in the State's electricity mix, as in the petition. Holistic scenario planning and exploring integration of distributed generation, storage, rooftop solar, green hydrogen, and offshore wind, will be helpful in visualising Tamil Nadu's energy future, as well as building a climate-resilient infrastructure.

It is time to design an overarching integrated energy policy that addresses environmental issues, fosters economic development, and ensures reliable, secure and affordable energy supply for all. It must also inform the decision-making process on tariff determination in view of the State's vision for a cleaner energy future.

Martin Scherfler is co-founder at Auroville Consulting. Sandhya Sundararangan is the Lead on the Energy Transitions team at the World Resources Institute, India

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.

Ties with Dhaka

The friendship, trust and good neighbourliness between New Delhi and Dhaka should be strengthened, which will also help find a solution to the piquant subject of the sharing of Teesta waters among other issues. The 'sharing ratio' can be arrived at mutually. Trade and commerce, particularly the import of garments from Bangladesh and export of India's pharmaceutical products, should be among the elements of a strong relationship.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

If India is committed to the Teesta water-sharing pact, it would be the biggest takeaway for Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, marking a breakthrough in a politically

sensitive issue, not only between the two countries but also within Bangladesh. A failure to conclude the agreement would weaken the standing of Ms. Hasina before the general election in Bangladesh. She has been criticised by her opponents for "selling out" to India. If India fails to resolve the issue, it could lose an ally.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The ties are an example of the advantages of good friendship and cooperation. There are some problems to be resolved, but the general state of ties is a reminder that people in the subcontinent can be one.

BLESSY CAROLINE M.R.,
Chennai

■ The relationship between the two neighbours has been cordial ever since the liberation of Bangladesh with

the staunch support of India, in 1971. Ms. Hasina's visit should pave the way for a further strengthening of ties, which is possible only if India sorts out the knots in all vital bilateral issues.

N. SHANTHA KUMAR,
Bengaluru

■ India has gained much from improved ties with Bangladesh. Therefore, New Delhi must critically analyse the problems affecting long-standing issues. Amid the backdrop of the remarks on the Prophet and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, it is time India finds solutions and also counters the inroads being made by China.

M.P. YUVARAJ,
Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu

■ Liz Truss it is

Liz Truss assuming leadership role in the United Kingdom comes at a time

when the U.K. is experiencing grave economic conditions. Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine are to blame for the sorry state of affairs. The U.K. is vulnerable because of political and economic unpredictability.

That said, India could have a lot to look forward to in terms of robust trade. Ms. Truss can be counted among senior British politicians known for championing deeper India-U.K. strategic and economic ties, even describing them as a "sweet spot" of global trade dynamics.

BOBIN SAJI GEORGE,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Ms. Truss, will not have an easy run, prime among her many tasks being finding a solution to the cost-of-living crisis in the U.K. Ms. Truss's political views have also changed. Despite a

perception of her committing gaffes and executing U-turns, there will be much interest in her tax-cutting agenda.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ Ms. Truss's ascendancy to the top job was a foregone conclusion as it was very unlikely that the British would have chosen someone who was not of native ethnicity. For India, Ms. Truss can be counted as an ally. She cannot afford to ignore the substantial Indian vote bank in the U.K.

RAJU MATHAI,
Kochi, Kerala

■ Politics and the 3Ds

Some of the recent comments by Tamil Nadu BJP State leader K. Annamalai, in his spat with members of

The evolving role of CSR in funding NGOs

Beyond signing cheques, corporates are recognising that what's good for society is good for business



PRITHA VENKATACHALAM &
KANIKA GUPTA

When COVID-19 spurred a nationwide lockdown in India in 2020, a grave need for localised social support emerged. Giving, both private and public, flowed to NGOs working towards combating pandemic-induced challenges such as loss of livelihood for vulnerable communities, food banks, and health and medical support.

In any such social effort, programme expenses attract the big cheques – especially when they come from corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in India. For example, an NGO working on education outcomes might receive funding for books, other online resources, teacher training, curriculum design, etc. But NGOs have other expenses too. In order to achieve long-term and sustained impact, they need to pay for administrative and support expenses not specifically tied to programmes – for instance, rent, electricity, technology and human resource costs. These organisational development and indirect costs, combined with programme expenses, make up an NGOs' true costs. And underfunding an NGO's true costs reduces the efficacy and impact of the very programmes that funders support.

To understand how funders and NGOs perceive an NGO's true costs, and what it takes to build a financially resilient social sector, we surveyed and interviewed over 500 NGOs, funders and intermediary organisations across India as part of our multi-year Pay-What-It-Takes-India initiative.

The funder archetypes

Based on a recent survey of nearly 80 diverse social sector funders, we discovered three distinct funder archetypes – programme proponents, adaptive funders, and organisation builders. The three archetypes represent different beliefs in terms of how philanthropy becomes impact. And those beliefs manifest in different practices around funding indirect costs and organisational deve-



GETTY IMAGES

loment. Programme proponents value programme outcomes above all. Adaptive funders are not rigid and support indirect costs and organisational development, if the NGO makes a case. Organisation builders see value in investing in stronger organisations in addition to programmes.

CSR funders, who now represent a fifth of all private giving in India, principally fall under programme proponents. They mostly contribute little or no money to organisational development and limit what they pay for indirect costs to a fixed rate often below 5%. Our 2020 primary research showed that NGOs' indirect costs range from 5% to 55%, depending on their mission and operating model, much as a corporate's sales and administration costs vary significantly by industry and product.

These practices are partly a consequence of CSR funders' focus on regulatory compliance – amendments to the CSR law in 2021 include substantial financial penalties for non-compliance. Roughly 90% of the CSR funders are relatively small, unlisted companies – and companies that spend less than ₹50 lakh annually on CSR are not required by law to have a CSR committee. They generally leave decision-making and action plans to company boards, who may have little to no experience working with NGOs or on social impact. Hence, their priorities tend to sway towards risk avoidance, compliance, and cost minimisation. Several larger companies have added CSR to the responsibilities of their HR or administration or communications head, rather than hiring professional leads, expe-

rienced in the social sector.

Further, not every company is aware of all the facets of the CSR rules they are complying with. For instance, the 5% cap on administrative overhead costs is applicable only to a business' internal CSR operation cost, not to the grantee's administrative costs, as is widely perceived. Many CSRs make errors on safety with the unintended consequence of leaving an NGO with unpaid bills or worse still, drawing on its scarce core funding from other donors to pay for these essential costs.

How might this change? For one thing, companies can pool their resources with other mission-aligned CSR or social sector stakeholders, increasing their collective impact potential, and also hire or tap into professionals with experience working with NGOs. Since 2020, the number of philanthropic collaborators, such as the Migrants Resilience Collaborative that supports migrant workers or Revive Alliance that finances semi- and unskilled workers, have more than doubled.

Learn from peer organisations

In addition, CSR funders would learn from peers who view organisational development and indirect costs differently. For example, ASK Foundation, the CSR arm of ASK Group, is working to enable better livelihoods for rural communities. Until four years ago, the ASK gave annual programme grants to NGOs, limited indirect cost coverage to between 5% and 10%, and did not provide organisational development expenses. Then, it shifted to a multi-year grant making approach and started providing

up to 20% support for indirect costs. The shift in practice came after the CSR team presented benchmarks of the higher rates paid by peer CSR organisations and the beneficial effects of a stronger NGO partner on its programme outcomes. These peer examples and impact stories were instrumental in ASK getting board approval for changing its NGO funding policy.

The pandemic also exposed how vulnerable NGOs are to financial stress. Our research revealed that 54% of NGOs had less than three months in reserve funds in September 2020. This number stood at 38% before the pandemic. Without adequate reserves, NGOs cannot pay salaries or bills when faced with an unexpected funding shortfall.

The CSR programmes cannot currently contribute to NGOs reserves/corpus by law. However, by covering indirect costs and organisational development, they still help to relieve financial pressure and make organisations more resilient. What's more, corporates have considerable accounting and finance capabilities that they can offer to NGOs, in addition to their funding. NGOs don't have clear financial reporting standards and many lack the internal capabilities to undertake a true-cost analysis. A corporate that has developed a relationship of mutual trust with an NGO could offer volunteer financial analysis services to help the NGO calculate true costs and communicate with other funders, and build financial resilience.

Not many CSR funders think this way right now, but CSR practices are maturing. As our research has shown, more CSR decision-makers are shifting their focus from compliance with CSR laws to the social impact they are making. CSR funders are following several themes to make this transition, such as hiring professionals, coming together in collaboratives, and defining and publishing their impact metrics to hold themselves accountable. The idea is to move beyond signing cheques to recognising that, ultimately, what's good for Indian society is also good for business.

Pritha Venkatachalam is Partner and Co-Head, Asia and Africa, and Kanika Gupta is Senior Associate Consultant, Bridgespan Group.

Time for a joint space exercise

If India is to become a defence power, then an Indo-U.S. military collaboration in every field is necessary



VINAYAK DALMIA & VRINDA KAPOOR

India and the U.S. will undertake joint military drills in October in Auli, Uttarakhand. Auli is at an altitude of 10,000 feet and some 95 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The time is ripe for the inaugural India-U.S. joint space military exercise. First, this single act will push India's defence partnership into a new orbit. Second, it will send a strong message to a common adversary. Third, it will have other ripple effects for the wider Quad.

Space has been singled out as a critical area of cooperation in the recent Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting between India and the U.S. For the first time in history, both countries are jointly staring at a common adversary. Nothing binds friends together as sharing the same displacement anxiety.

A military domain

Space as a military domain is a well-accepted fact. In 2019, the U.S. stood up its space force as a branch under the department of the Air Force. At the time, it became the world's only independent space force. In India, historically, space has remained the sole jurisdiction of its civilian space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). However, the successful demonstration (dubbed Mission Shakti) of anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test in 2019 changed things forever. The same year, India conducted its first ever simulated space warfare exercise (IndSpaceX) with an eye on Chinese threats.

Furthermore, the launch of the tri-service Defence Space Agency (DSA) has permanently taken the military away from the shadows of civil space. The government has also set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA) to help develop space-based weapons for the DSA. Space is as much recognised as a military domain as land, water, air and cyber.

India and the U.S. do drills on land, in air and at sea. Why not extend it to the fourth domain? It is inevitable as both countries can expect the exact same conversation happening in their adversary's strategy rooms.

It will have actionable spill overs for the Quad, transform the moribund DTTI from a talk shop and send the right message to the adversary.

The lowest hanging fruit would be a joint anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test. It is essen-

tially a missile launched from the Earth's surface to destroy a satellite passing overhead. Both countries have demonstrated capability in this. The test would be against a simulated orbital target as that does not create space debris and is not included in the wording of the U.S. moratorium.

Eventually, this will lead to other space military collaborations such as directed energy weapons, rendezvous and proximity operations (RPOs), co-orbital ASATs (in space micro satellites as a kinetic kill option), etc.

Space programmes

Every country worth its weight in salt is working on the military aspects of space. France conducted its first space military exercise, ASTERIX, in 2021. China is marching ahead to the Cis-Lunar space (region beyond the geosynchronous orbit) with an ambition to establish a permanent presence on the Moon by 2024.

The doctrine in space is still evolving with the U.S. urging partner countries to lay down rules and norms. China and Russia have released a draft binding treaty of their own. Red lines and norms will eventually emerge but until then it provides an ideal new theatre to push Indo-U.S. military collaboration forward.

Space has assets that form the bedrock of the modern economy – GPS (PNT – position navigation timing), telecom networks, early warning systems for missiles and weather forecasts all are enabled by our satellites in GEO or LEO orbits.

But there could be some expected push-back from the usual naysayers. First, it will provoke our eastern neighbour and compel them to draw a new redline. Second, our eastern neighbour will use our western neighbour as a proxy state. Third, it will derail the ongoing Core Commanders dialogue in Ladakh. Fourth, the United States cannot be trusted. Fifth, it will fastback militarisation for space. Our response to all the above is that it is an inevitable trend unfortunately, notwithstanding our action or inaction.

Changing times now require us to innovate on doctrines, technologies and deterrence. Xi Jinping is on his way to building a "world-class" Chinese military by 2049. If India is to become a space power and if the Indo-U.S. partnership is to become the alliance of alliances, then imaginative steps will be needed.

It is time for the India-U.S. military collaboration to get bolder and travel from mountains to outer heavens.

The authors work at the intersection of national security and technology

STATE OF PLAY

Congress and the Tharoor factor

The diplomat-turned-politician has positioned himself as an alternative to the establishment

BIJU GOVIND

Outwardly, Congress leaders from Kerala appear neutral on the possible candidature of Shashi Tharoor for the Congress president's post, but their real stance on the sitting MP from Thiruvananthapuram running for the office in the upcoming organisational polls remains unclear.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran said that if Mr. Tharoor wishes to contest the polls, there is nothing wrong in it as the Congress is a democratic party.

Although Mr. Tharoor said that he would take a final call on entering the fray only after the election notification was issued, he wants the speculation of his possible candidacy to be a kite-flying exercise because he knows that a candidate not sponsored by the Gandhi family will be at a huge disadvantage.

Therefore, it is still uncertain whether Mr. Tharoor would eventually take a shot at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president's post.

Nonetheless, like any shrewd politician, Mr. Tharoor has been keeping people guessing. When, for instance, he was asked whether the next Congress president should be from a Hindi-speaking State, Mr. Tharoor said, "See, these days if you have to be in politics, you need to speak Hindi. People from the south are able to speak Hindi, I, too, can do it."

But, he first has to charm Congress leaders in his home State, of which most are said to be Gandhi loyalists. Considering his stature, the role of Congress Working Committee member A.K. Antony, a steadfast supporter of the Gandhi family, will be keenly watched. Mr. Antony has not taken any position on the organisational polls after the Gandhi family made it clear that none from the family will be contesting.

Then there is the looming presence of AICC general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal, a close aide of Rahul Gandhi, whose disapproval can hurt Mr. Tharoor badly.

But it is also a fact that now the Congress party in Kerala is driven by a new crop of independent-minded and feisty leaders such as V.D. Satheshan, for whom Mr. Tharoor could be a promising choice.

Since he is identified with the dissident G-23, the chances of Mr. Tharoor emerging as a compromise candidate in the event of loyalists such as Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge opting out of the race look bleak. Mr. Tharoor was not among the G-23 leaders the Gandhi family had tried to engage after the ginger group sought an organisational rejig and called for collective and inclusive leadership.

He has already positioned himself as an alternative to the traditional Congress establishment symbolised by the Gandhi family. Like Manish Tewari and Karti Chidambaram, Mr. Tharoor has also called for transparency in the poll process and has written to the party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry, demanding the publication of electoral rolls for the upcoming poll to the post of AICC president. This looks like a show of defiance as this demand was already shot down by Mr. Venugopal saying that the Congress presidential poll was an in-house process and that electoral rolls need not be made public.

As a former international diplomat, public intellectual and a best-selling author, Mr. Tharoor is also a non-conformist who had several run-ins with former KPCC presidents. This trait in him perhaps provokes sneers in traditional Congressmen but for the aspirational middle class, a constituency the Congress can ignore only at its peril. Mr. Tharoor is definitely perceived to be a class apart. But to get elected as the AICC president, only the votes of these Congressmen count.


KERALA

THE HINDU / Biju Govind

DATA POINT

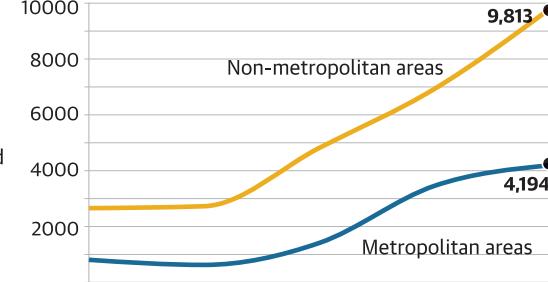
Cyber criminals now after non-urban residents

With the awareness improving in urban pockets, cyber criminals are increasingly targeting bank customers from non-metropolitan areas. Frauds related to credit/debit cards, OTP, online banking and ATMs have all recorded a steady increase in the non-metropolitan areas in 2021, while among cities with over 2 million population, the case count has stagnated. This trend has to be watched closely given the increasing number of bank accounts in rural areas. Worryingly, about 25% of cyber fraud investigations are closed with the final report saying "cases true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue". And even among those few which reach the court, less than 1% end in convictions. So, often in such cases, prevention is better than cure.

By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1 Moving away

The chart shows the number of registered cyber fraud cases which includes frauds involving credit/debit card, OTP, online banking, ATMs and other similar products. ● denotes cases in 19 metropolitan cities with over 2 million population and ○ shows cases in other places.

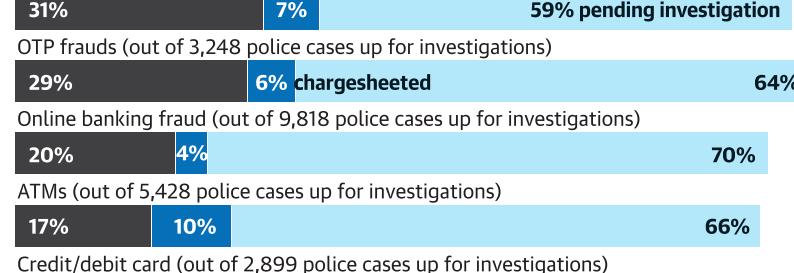


2 True but no evidence

| In 2021, between 17-31% of cyber frauds cases were closed by the police as "true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue", and only 4-10% got ● charged.

An overwhelming share of cases continue to be in limbo ● pending investigation

Other cyber frauds (out of 5,928 police cases up for investigation in 2021)



3 Physical crimes

In 2021, the share of cases closed by the police as "true but insufficient evidence or untraced or no clue" ranged between 3-13% in violent physical crimes.

The average for all IPC crimes is 12%.

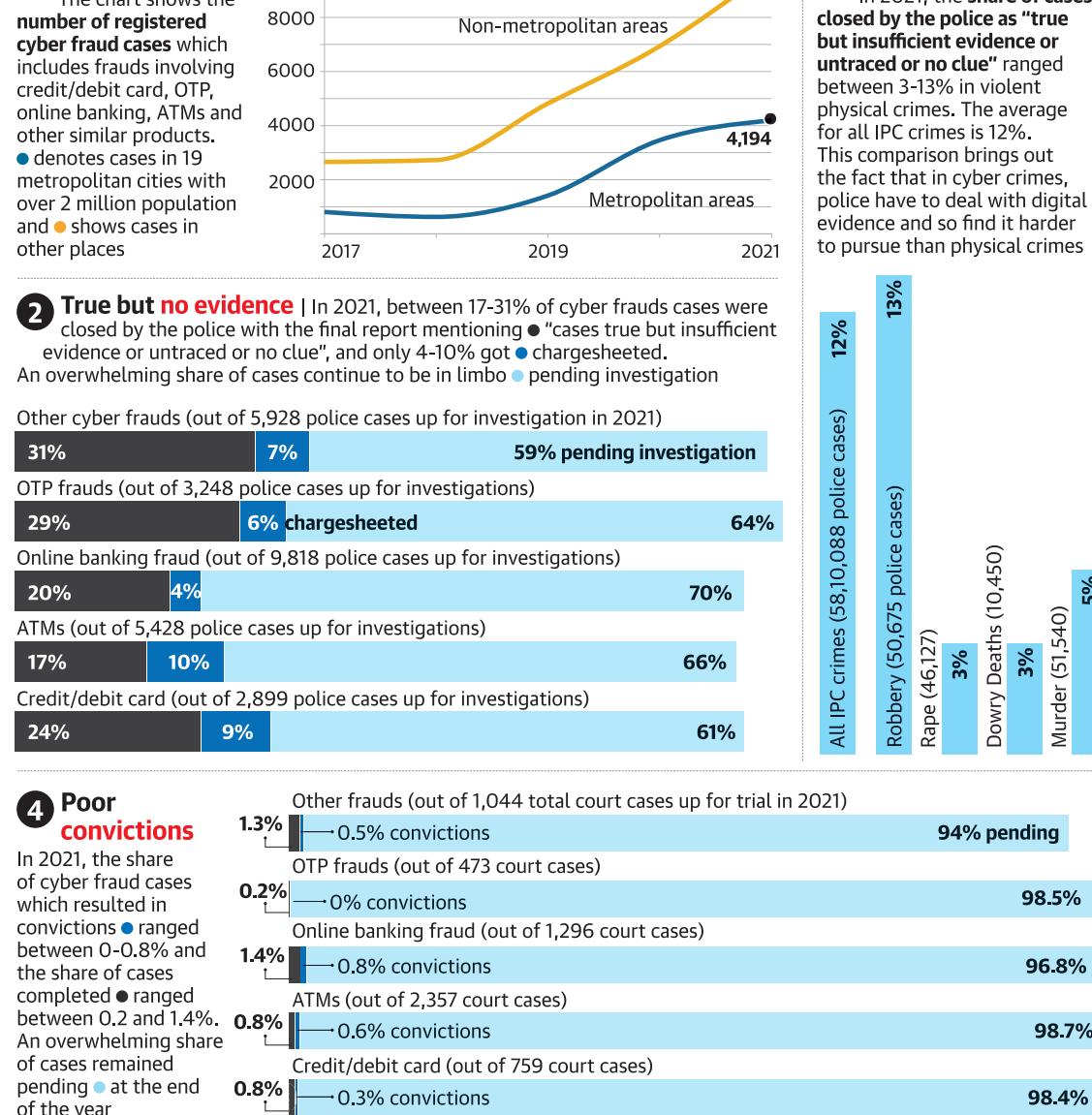
This comparison brings out the fact that in cyber crimes, police have to deal with digital evidence and so find it harder to pursue than physical crimes

4 Poor convictions

In 2021, the share of cyber fraud cases which resulted in convictions ● ranged between 0.8% and 1.4% and the share of cases completed ● ranged between 0.2 and 1.4%.

An overwhelming share of cases remained pending ● at the end of the year

Other frauds (out of 1,044 total court cases up for trial in 2021)



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 8, 1972

Resumption of Olympics

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Air quality management

10 In lakh, the number of people who need to be trained in the next five years for air quality management, according to a new report. It also states that around 50,000 jobs could be created in the sector. The report has been prepared by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (Iforest) with the support of the World Bank Group. It highlights the need for a national-level programme to develop the capacity of all stakeholders – cities, State and central agencies, private sector, NGOs – to effectively tackle air pollution. PTI

Unapproved antibiotics

47 The percentage of antibiotic formulations used in India's private sector in 2019 that were not approved by the central drug regulator, a study published in *The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia* revealed. The research also found that Azithromycin 500mg tablet was the most consumed antibiotic formulation (7.6%) in India. The total defined daily dose (DDD) – the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug in adults – consumed in 2019 was 5,071 million, out of which 2,408 million were centrally unapproved formulations. PTI

Quality of govt. schools

80 The percentage of schools that are worse than junkyards, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleged on Wednesday in a letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Calling the Prime Minister's decision to modernise 14,500 schools "a drop of water in the ocean", Mr. Kejriwal again pushed for a plan to upgrade all 10 lakh government schools in the country. On Monday, Mr. Modi announced that 14,500 schools across the country would be developed and upgraded under the PM-SHRI scheme. PTI

Somalia famine

1 In \$ billion, the amount required urgently to avert famine in Somalia, the UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths predicted. The fund would be needed in the coming months and early next year when two more dry seasons are expected to compound the historic drought that has hit the Horn of Africa nation. Up to 7.1 million people across Somalia need urgent assistance to treat and prevent acute malnutrition and reduce the ongoing hunger-related deaths, according to an analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification or IPC. AP

Bengaluru floods

300 In ₹ crore, the amount released by the Karnataka government to manage the flood situation in Bengaluru, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced. The torrential downpour continues to create havoc in the city. A total of ₹1,500 crore has been allocated for the construction of stormwater drains in Bengaluru, Mr. Bommai said, adding that the work will begin once the water recedes. Additionally, ₹9.5 crore is being released for boats and other equipment to deal with the floods. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Content moderation on Wikipedia

What are the mechanisms Wikipedia uses to ensure that users do not have unrestricted editorial privilege?

TRISHEE GOYAL

The story so far: On Tuesday, India summoned officials of Wikipedia, in response to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page being edited with misleading information that stated he was a "khalistani". This was done by online trolls after Arshdeep Singh dropped a catch in India's match against Pakistan. The Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar tweeted that "no intermediary operating in India can permit this type of misinformation" as it violated the government's expectation of a safe and trusted internet. To determine the role and liability of the Wikimedia Foundation (the owner of Wikipedia), in such instances, it is important to understand how content on the platform is moderated.

What is Wikipedia and its model for functioning?

Since its inception in 2001, Wikipedia has become a household name. It describes itself as a "multilingual free online encyclopedia written and maintained by a community of volunteers through open collaboration and a wiki-based editing system". Unlike traditional encyclopedias that have entries from pre-identified authors, all of Wikipedia's encyclopedic content is user generated. This means that anyone can contribute to its pool of knowledge by making edits to existing pages for updation or correction and can even add new pages.

While this model has its advantages in so far that it allows democratisation of knowledge, unhindered access to edit has also resulted in concerns relating to the reliability of information that it hosts.

Are there no control mechanisms for content on Wikipedia?

Even though majority of the content is user generated, the Wikimedia Foundation has instituted some content moderation practices.

First, to increase its reliability and also to prevent vandalism and disruptive edits, over time restrictions have been placed on edits to the content that Wikipedia hosts. One of these restrictions is to allow certain "protections" to be accorded to particular pages. A page may have varying degree of protection depending on the vulnerability of

the page to vandalism, disruption and abuse. To implement this system of protection, Wikipedia classifies users depending on the edit rights that they have. For example, one of the highest levels of protection that can be accorded to a page is "full protection". This means that only those users (called administrators) that have been given full edit rights (as per Wikipedia community review process) can make modifications. A slightly lower level of protection is "semi protection". "Semi protected" pages cannot be edited by unregistered users. Another category of protection is "pending changes", which means that changes made will not be reflected on the page unless the changes are accepted by an editor with those rights.

Second, given that edit rights are widespread there have been instances of "content disputes" and "edit warring". Content disputes occur when editors disagree with each other's content. This could also lead to edit warring where editors repeatedly override each other's contribution in a specific page. In such circumstances also, administrators can provide temporary or permanent protection to a page to prevent edits.

However, most of the individuals that perform tasks for Wikipedia such as those holding the designation of bureaucrats, administrators or other editors with varying levels of edit rights are not employees of Wikimedia. These individuals gain such designations and exercise attendant rights through a community review process. Essentially, the more the trust they gain from the Wikipedia community, the greater is their degree of editorial responsibility. They are not given or removed from a particular designation by the Wikimedia Foundation per se.

Although Wikimedia's terms of use state that it "generally does not contribute, monitor or delete content" there are ways in which the Wikimedia Foundation exerts control over Wikipedia. First, the Wikimedia Foundation legally controls the servers on which Wikipedia's content is hosted. This means that even though they do not have ownership of the user generated content hosted on Wikipedia, they are in control of the user activity information generated on the servers. Second, Wikimedia Foundation also exercises control on who the "system administrators" of Wikipedia are. System

administrators are in a position to exercise considerable power because they can take decisions of blocking users or reversing edits in some circumstances, which can have content moderation implications.

Therefore, can the Wikimedia Foundation be held responsible for the content that Wikipedia hosts?

There is no settled position on this. Typically, the architecture of Wikipedia is that of an intermediary i.e. it hosts content generated by its users. Under most laws regulating online content, intermediaries are endowed with immunity from the user generated content they host, provided they maintain some due diligence over their platforms. Intermediaries are afforded this immunity because first, the sheer volume of content generated makes it impossible to monitor this content and second, being personally responsible for user content would inundate them in legal battles making operations at that scale infeasible.

In previous challenges to content on Wikipedia, there have been rulings that the Wikimedia Foundation does not own the content, and does not have the legal responsibility for it. However, administrators or editors have taken heed of the content concerns arising out of the situation and have made suitable edits. In case volunteer editors do not make suitable edits, Wikimedia, as per its terms of use states that it can "contribute, monitor or delete content" for legal compliance. Therefore, it is arguable that since Wikimedia can exercise such power, it can be held responsible for illegal content being hosted on Wikipedia.

What can the Indian government do if it is aggrieved by content on Wikipedia?

In India, for intermediaries to claim the "safe harbour" of not being responsible for the content they host, under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, they must abide by due diligence requirements under the Act and its Rules. As per the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, there are certain categories of information that an intermediary should not allow to be hosted or uploaded on its platform. One such category is information



The Wikipedia Monument in Stibice, Poland. CC BY-SA 4.0

that is "patently false and untrue, and is written or published in any form, with the intent to mislead or harass a person, entity or agency for financial gain or to cause any injury to any person". Therefore, in the Indian context, even if the Wikimedia Foundation does not own the information hosted on Wikipedia, once Wikimedia Foundation has "actual knowledge" of such content being hosted on its platform, it would be held responsible for the same.

In the context of the IT Rules, 2021 "actual knowledge" occurs when an intermediary has been notified by either a court order or through an order of the appropriate agency demanding removal of the offending content. In this case while neither has happened, Wikipedia administrators and editors have removed the distortion from Arshdeep Singh's page and granted it certain protection such that only "trusted editors" can edit the page.

Trishee Goyal is a research fellow at the Centre for Applied Law and Technology Research, Vidhi Centre for legal policy

THE GIST

■ India has summoned officials of Wikipedia, in response to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page being edited with misleading information that stated he was a "khalistani".

■ To increase Wikipedia's reliability and also to prevent vandalism and disruptive edits, there are restrictions on edits to the content that Wikipedia hosts. One of these restrictions is to allow certain "protections" to be accorded to particular articles. An article may have varying degree of protection depending on the vulnerability of the article to vandalism, disruption and abuse.

■ In the case of social media platforms, platform owners such as Meta or Twitter are responsible for exercising due diligence in content moderation through individuals on their payroll. However, in Wikipedia, the situation is slightly different given that content moderation decisions are not taken by employees.

EXPLAINER

The mandatory requirements for packaged commodities

Why is it necessary to list out the constituents of a product on the front packaging?

G.S. BAJPATI
SANGEETA TAAK

The story so far: The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has notified a draft amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011. As stated in the notification, the Department of Consumer Affairs Legal Metrology Division has observed that many manufacturers/packagers/importers do not clearly label necessary declarations or prime constituents on the front of packaged commodities, which are deemed essential to be disclosed in order to protect consumer interests.

What are the mandatory provisions under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011?

It is mandatory under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 to ensure a number of declarations, such as the name and address of the manufacturer/packer/importer, the country of origin, the common or generic name of the commodity, the net quantity, the month and year of manufacture, the



Maximum Retail Price (MRP) and consumer care information. As a consumer-oriented policy, all prepackaged commodities should also be inspected.

As stated in Rule 2(h), the "principal display panel", in relation to a package, means the total surface area of a package containing the information required in accordance with these rules, namely that all the information should be grouped together and given in one place – the pre-printed information could be grouped together and given in one place

and the online information in another place.

Additionally, Rule 9(1)(a) provides that the declaration on the package must be legible and prominent. The consumers' 'right to be informed' is violated when important declarations are not prominently displayed on the package.

If there is more than one major product, Rule 6(l)(b) states that ".....the name or number of each product shall be mentioned on the package." This sub-rule is however, not applicable to mechanical or electrical commodities.

What are the proposed amendments?

As many blended food and cosmetic products are sold on the market, the key constituents need to be mentioned on the product packaging. It is common for consumers to assume that brands' claims are accurate, but such claims are usually misleading. Additionally, the front side of the package must contain the percentage of the composition of the unique selling proposition (USP). As the name suggests, a USP also known as a unique selling point, is a marketing strategy designed to inform customers about the superiority of one's own brand or product. Listing the USP of a product on the front of the package without disclosing its composition percentage violates consumer rights. Also, packages displaying key constituents must display a percentage of the content used to make the product. For example, if a brand sells aloe vera moisturiser or almond milk/biscuits, then the maximum percentage of the product should be aloe vera and almond, otherwise, the product name is misleading.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has suggested that at least two prime components

should be declared on the package's front side along with the brand name. Currently, manufacturers list the ingredients and nutritional information only on the back of the packaging.

The proposed Section 6(l)(ba) states that when a commodity contains more than one constituent, the front side of the package must include a declaration of two or more of the commodities' prime constituents along with the brand name. This declaration must also include the percentage/quantity of the USPs of the product in the same font size as the declaration of the USPs. However, mechanical or electrical commodities are excluded from this sub-rule.

Moreover, public comments were solicited from all stakeholders, including industries, associations, consumers, and voluntary consumer organisations, in order to obtain their viewpoints.

When the new provision of Section 6(l)(ba) is added, consumers will not be misled by the fake claims of manufacturers relating to the content in blended foods and cosmetics.

G. S. Bajpati is the Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab where Sangeeta Taak is Assistant Professor.

THE GIST

■ The Department of Consumer Affairs, Legal Metrology Division has notified a draft amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011.

■ The Department of Consumer Affairs has suggested that at least two prime components should be declared on the package's front side along with the brand name. Currently, manufacturers list the ingredients and nutritional information on the back of the packaging.

■ Public comments were solicited from all stakeholders, including industries, associations, consumers, and voluntary consumer organisations.

TOOLBOX

Building an image classifier for sorting images

A picture speaks a thousand words. Perhaps this is the reason why the number of pictures stored on our devices have grown dramatically. Don't we all recognise the inclination to use an emoji instead of an over-long text response making services such as SnapChat, Instagram and TikTok to become some of the most popular internet platforms. Organising these images on our devices can be tedious which is why cloud-based storage platforms by Google and Apple offer automatic sorting of images. These are driven by advancements in computer vision algorithms, particularly, developments in Machine Learning (ML) methods. In this tutorial, we will attempt to build a simple image classifier and run it on a local computer which has Python installed on it. Just to make it more interesting we will try to tell jalebis from samosas! By Raghavendra Selvan

EXTRACTING THE DATA

The starting point of all ML model development is to get well-curated data. The data for the purposes of this tutorial can be downloaded from this link <https://bit.ly/foodclassifier>. Once the data has been downloaded locally onto your computer, try and extract the archive in such a manner that the folder structure is retained. You should see the following contents inside the folder.



data



food_classifier.ipynb

Browse the contents of the data folder, and you should see two more folders with the names of the food items we are trying to classify. Additionally, the folder also contains the Python code in the form of an interactive Python notebook (ipynb), which the reader can tweak for later projects. Inside the data folder, there are some images of jalebis and samosas, which were crawled from the web released under the Creative Commons licence, which allow us to work with them.



MAKING THE DATASET

Now that the data has been downloaded, we will start using the Python programme for building the image classifier. The recommended environment for this project is the Jupyter-Lab Python environment, but more advanced users can use any other integrated development environment. Once inside your favourite Python programming environment, load the initial libraries necessary for reading and visualising the images. Browse the folder where the contents from the downloaded archive are present.

```
# Some of the essential Python Packages to be loaded
# See how you can load a package using a different name;
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import glob
from skimage.transform import resize

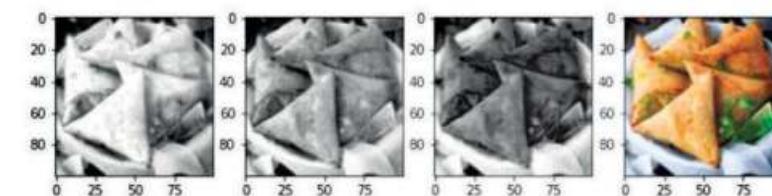
# add any other packages you might need
```

It must be noted that JPG images are stored as numerical arrays and that each number represents the intensity of that pixel. Usually, 0 intensity corresponds to black and 255 corresponds to white and all numbers in between capture the 256 shades of grey. For colour images, there are three channels corresponding to the Red-Green-Blue (RGB) content in the images.

By using the image reading and viewing packages in the Matplotlib library, we can visualise the different channels of the images

```
# Show some sample Jalebis and Samosas using pyplot
# Images are stored as RGB arrays. We can view each of
# these channels in grayscale to see the amount of RGB
# content in the images.
plt.figure(figsize=(10,8))
plt.gray()
imgA = plt.imread(samosa_list[1])
plt.subplot(241)
plt.imshow(imgA[:, :, 0])
plt.subplot(242)
plt.imshow(imgA[:, :, 1])
plt.subplot(243)
plt.imshow(imgA[:, :, 2])
plt.subplot(244)
plt.imshow(imgA[:, :, :])
imgA.shape
```

(100, 100, 3)



We will need to standardise these images, for which we will use the amount of RGB content in each of the images to describe them to the algorithms. So, the dataset we create will resize all these images to a fixed size and compute the average amount of RGB in each image. Thus, every image will be represented using only three features.

```
# We would like to extract some features
# to be able to compare jalebis from samosas

num_features = 3

# Initialise empty arrays to hold some features
jal_features = np.zeros((num_jalebi,num_features))
sam_features = np.zeros((num_samosa,num_features))

# Feature extraction
# One of the basic features that can be extracted is the average intensity
# of the R, G, B channels.
# Steps:
# 1. Load image data
# 2. Convert it into numpy array
# 3. Extract 3 features

# Make Jalebi features
for i in range(num_jalebi):
    img = plt.imread(jalebi_list[i])
    img = resize(img,(64,64))
    jal_features[i] = img.mean((0,1))

# Make Samosa features
for i in range(num_samosa):
    img = plt.imread(samosa_list[i])
    img = resize(img,(64,64))
    sam_features[i] = img.mean((0,1))
```

As computers cannot fully comprehend what jalebis and samosas are, we will use numbers to represent their labels. For instance, a jalebi can be 0 and a samosa can be 1.

```
# We need to assign "labels" to distinguish
# jalebis and samosas
```

```
# Usually the two classes are mapped to two numbers
# We use 0 -> jalebi and 1 -> samosa
labels = ['Jalebi','Samosa']
jal_labels = np.ones(num_jalebi)*0
sam_labels = np.ones(num_samosa)*1
```

The final step of making the dataset is to stack the two classes of data into a single array. This is a requirement for the ML framework we will be using in the next step.

Make the dataset

```
# Combine features of both Jalebis and Samosas into
# a single array. Same for labels.
X = np.concatenate((jalFeatures,samFeatures),axis=0)
print(X.shape)
Y = np.concatenate((jalLabels,samLabels))
print(Y.shape)
```

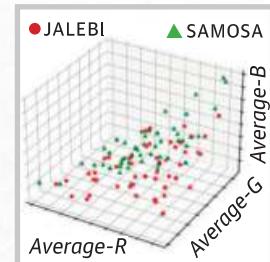
(100, 3)

We can now visualise all the jalebis and samosas in the average RGB feature space. Each marker in this plot captures the amount of R,G and B content in these images.

```
from mpl_toolkits.mplot3d import Axes3D
```

```
fig = plt.figure(figsize=(6,6))
ax = fig.add_subplot(111,projection='3d')
ax.scatter(jalFeatures[:,0],jalFeatures[:,1],
           jalFeatures[:,2],c='r',marker='o',
           label='Jalebi')
ax.scatter(samFeatures[:,0],samFeatures[:,1],
           samFeatures[:,2],c='g',marker='^',
           label='Samosa')
```

```
ax.set_xlabel('Average-R')
ax.set_ylabel('Average-G')
ax.set_zlabel('Average-B')
plt.legend()
ax = plt.gca()
ax.xaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.yaxis.set_ticklabels([])
ax.zaxis.set_ticklabels([])
```



TRAINING AN IMAGE CLASSIFIER

Now that our dataset is ready, we can train a simple image classifier to automate the detection of jalebis and samosas. We will use the Scikit-Learn Python package, which has a comprehensive set of tools and algorithms that can be used for ML.

The first step of training an ML algorithm is to split the dataset for training and testing purposes. As the name suggests, the training set is used to train the ML algorithm and the test set is used to test the performance of it. The performance on the test set is more representative of how the algorithm will fare on new real-world data. We use 75% of the data for training and the remaining 25% for testing purposes.

```
# Let us shuffle the data!
from sklearn.model_selection
import train_test_split
xTrain, xTest, yTrain, yTest = train_test_split
(X,Y,test_size=0.25,shuffle=True)
print(xTrain.shape,xTest.shape)

(75, 3) (25, 3)
```

The next step is to load the Python modules from Scikit-Learn which will be used to initialise our simple classifier. Here, we will use the simplest of the classifiers based on logistic regression. This classifier is constrained as a linear classifier and can be restrictive. However, these models can also be quite useful and for this tutorial we will confine to using such linear models. We will initialise the Logistic Regression classifier, train it on the training set and test it on the test set.

```
# Now that our data is ready. Let us use a classifier.
# Logistic regression learns a linear boundary
# to classify the data
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
clf = LogisticRegression().fit(xTrain, yTrain)
print('Training set accuracy is %.3f'%
clf.score(xTrain,yTrain))
print('Test set accuracy is %.3f'% clf.score(xTest,yTest))
Training set accuracy is 0.693
Test set accuracy is 0.760
```

For this random training-test split, we obtain a training accuracy of about 70% and a test set accuracy of 77%. One must note that these numbers could vary quite a bit due to the randomness in the data shuffles and the initial model parameters.

Once you have trained a classifier, we can use the trained model to make predictions on new data. The Logistic Regression classifier predicts a score for how likely it believes a certain image belongs to a certain group. This can be treated as a probabilistic score.

WHAT NEXT?

For now, we have explored the procedure to build a simple image classifier that can tell jalebis from samosas. Using this template, one can build more sophisticated algorithms. Simple extensions to this project could be to include additional food categories or to try out more complex algorithms. For the latter, Scikit-Learn has well documented algorithms with examples and could be a starting point.

Raghavendra Selvan is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Copenhagen.

```
### Load new image
new_img = 'data/new_img.jpg'
img = plt.imread(new_img)
### Resize and compute features
img = resize(img,(64,64))
x_inference = img.mean((0,1)).reshape(1,-1)
```

```
### Obtain classifier prediction
pred = int(clf.predict(x_inference))
prob_pred=clf.predict_proba(x_inference)[0]
### Output model prediction
print('Prediction: '+labels[pred]+' with
confidence%.2f'%prob_pred[pred])
plt.imshow(img)
```

```
Prediction: Jalebi with confidence 0.53
<matplotlib.image.AxesImage at 0x7efcbc325100>
```



THE DAILY QUIZ

Onam is being celebrated on September 8. A quiz on one of the most important festivals in Kerala.

1 In which month of the Malayalam almanac is Onam and what does it celebrate?

2 What is the name given to the clay pyramid with four faces and a flat top that is used during Onam to symbolise Vamana?

3 If the festivities conclude on the tenth day known as Thiruvonam, what is the day on which it begins called?

4 Leucas aspera is an integral part of the Onam festivities. What is it called locally and where is it used?

5 One of the highlights of the festivities is the Onam Sadhya or Onasadya. Traditionally how many dishes make up the lavish spread?

6 Which signature Sadhya dish is made with yogurt, yam, or raw banana and grated coconut, and which dish is made with pumpkin, red beans, and coconut?

7 What competitive event, said to be the oldest of its kind in Kerala, takes place on the Uthirattathi Nakshatra near the Sri Parthasarathy Temple as part of Onam festivities?



◀ What is this dance called and on what day of Onam is it traditionally performed? • NAJEEB K. K.

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

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This bank, considered the oldest bank in India, eventually became one of the four banks that were merged to form the Bank of Madras in 1843. It was once closed and restarted in 1806. **Ans: The Madras Bank founded in 1683**

2. This agency house established the Bank of Hindostan which is now a defunct bank. **Ans: Alexander and Company. Agency houses were trading companies.**

3. This Indian private sector bank, founded in 1920, sponsors the Gokulam Kerala FC. **Ans: The CSB Bank Limited. It was earlier known as the Catholic Syrian Bank Limited**

4. The Oriental Bank Corporation, a British imperial bank founded in India in 1842, was the first bank to issue banknotes in this country. **Ans: Hong Kong, currently part of China**

Visual: The stamp of this bank was released by India Post during its 150th anniversary. **Ans: Standard Chartered Bank of India. It was earlier called the Chartered Bank of India**

Early Birds: Lakshay| M. Suresh Kumar

FROM PAGE ONE

Rahul Gandhi calls for defending Tricolour

He started the day with a prayer meeting at the Rajiv Gandhi memorial at Sriperumbudur, where his father was assassinated by LTTE suicide bombers.

"I lost my father to the politics of hate and division. I will not lose my beloved country to it too. Love will conquer hate. Hope will defeat fear. Together, we will overcome," Mr. Gandhi tweeted. In the evening, addressing a rally that saw an impressive turnout, Mr. Gandhi explained the need for Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"It is very important that we bring the people of India together and make sure they are united so that India remains strong. And that is the aim of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' which is designed to listen to the people of India," he said.

Along with him, 118 party workers and leaders, classified as Bharat yatraris, will walk the entire distance of 3,570 km and will cover a distance of 22-25 km on average every day.

Divisive agenda

The Bharat Jodo Yatra not only seeks to highlight the

India, Bangladesh laud panel on Ganga waters

These include the conversion to dual gauge the Tongi-Akhra line, supply of rolling stock, Kaunia-Lalmonirhat-Moghalhat-New Gitalda link and Hili-Birampur upgradation of track. Similar works are also on the Benapole-Jashore and Burimari-Changrabandha lines. These multiple rail track projects will create a smooth flow of goods and people within Bangladesh overcoming infrastructure bottlenecks. India and Bangladesh have been in talks for the construction of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Sirajganj in the north-west of capital Dhaka and help in movement of bulk items.

Both the delegations appreciated the growth in bilateral trade but Bangladesh sought "predictable" supply of "essential food commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar, onion, ginger and garlic."

Both sides also took steps to connect the energy supply lines and make them synchronous. The leaders "agreed to expeditiously implement" projects to connect the power grids of both sides through the proposed high capacity 765 kV transmission line from Kathi in

"socially divisive agenda of the Narendra Modi government and the BJP" but also issues like inflation and unemployment ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

"Today every single institution is under attack by the BJP. They think that this flag is their personal property. They think they can single-handedly determine the future of this country and the future of the States of this country. They think they can frighten the opposition using ED, CBI, Income Tax [department]. The problem is that they do not understand the Indian people. The Indian people do not get scared. It doesn't matter how many hours of interrogation they do... not a single opposition leader is going to be scared of the BJP," Mr. Gandhi said.

"The BJP thinks it can divide the country on the lines of religion and language, but the country will always remain united," he added.

The former Congress chief alleged that the BJP government had systematically attacked farmers, labourers and small and medium businesses.

Bihar to Bornagar in Assam through Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh asked greater support from India to import power from Nepal and Bhutan and the Indian side "informed that the guidelines for the same are already in place". The two delegations also reviewed the progress of the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline which will further boost energy supply in Bangladesh, which is currently dealing with a spike in energy prices.

The joint statement mentioned that the Prime Ministers of both sides emphasised that the project should be completed at the "earliest". "The Bangladesh side also requested the Indian side to assist in meeting its domestic requirement for petroleum products. The Indian side agreed to facilitate discussions between the authorised agencies of both sides," said the statement.

In a separate event, Ms. Hasina awarded the Mujib scholarships to 200 descendants of the Indian soldiers who were martyred or injured in the 1971 war. She will travel to Ajmer Sharif on Thursday.

The EC had also forwarded lists of 1,897, 2,202 and 2,351 parties for action under the Representation of the People Act and the Income Tax Act, as they had not submitted the annual contribution reports for the financial years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. As it turned out, 66 such parties had claimed I-T exemptions without submitting the required reports.

According to a January-2022 report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), the number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased to more than twice in 10 years - from 1,112 in 2010 to 2,858 in 2021. It was observed that the figure would go up disproportionately during the year of parliamentary elections.

Political parties are exempted from Income Tax if they submit their I-T returns to the Department and details of the donations above ₹20,000 to the EC annually. Even those parties which declare that they did not receive any donation above ₹20,000 get the exemption.

The ADR report stated that the annual audit reports of only 230 or 8.23% of the total 2,796 registered unrecognised parties were available in the public domain for 2019-20. As on September 23, 2021, the number of such parties was 767 in Uttar Pradesh, 66 in Punjab, 37 in Uttarakhand, 10 in Goa and nine in Manipur.

The report also pointed out that there were 2,858 political parties registered with the Commission, of which 97.83% were unrecognised parties.

An MLA from Asansol Uttar, Mr. Ghatak is an influen-



Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan (left) and Anurag Thakur addressing media on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Government schools will be selected if a State agrees to implement NEP in 'entirety'

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the 'PM Schools for Rising India' (PM SHRI) scheme to turn existing government schools into model schools for implementation of the National Education Policy, 2022.

The scheme will be implemented as a Centrally sponsored scheme with a total project cost of ₹27,360 crore, with the Centre's share being ₹18,128 crore for the period of five years from 2022-23 to 2026-27 for transforming nearly 14,500 schools across the country.

However, schools will be selected only if the State government agrees to implement the NEP "in entirety" with the Centre laying down commitments for supporting these schools for achieving specified quality parameters" to become PM SHRI schools, according to a press statement of the Ministry of

Education. These schools will also be "monitored vigorously" to assess their progress in implementing NEP.

The scheme has been announced at a time when some States, including Tamil Nadu, continue to oppose the NEP for imposing a centralised education system on the entire country when

ities, promotion of vocational courses from Class 6 at the cost of formal education, as well as the option to exit schools in Class 10 with the option to re-enter in Class 11.

"A school will receive nearly ₹2 crore, and the money will be transferred directly to the school's account through Direct Benefit Transfer. The principal or the local committee will be given the flexibility to determine the use of 40% of the fund," Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said at a press conference.

The PM SHRI scheme also provides a "School Quality Assessment Framework" which will be developed for measuring key performance indicators for carrying out quality evaluation of schools selected from the current academic year.

The quality parameters that will be evaluated once a school is selected for the scheme will include imple-

mentation of NEP 2020, student registry for tracking enrolment and learning progress, improvement in learning outcomes of each child to achieve levels above State and national average, linkage of school with higher education institutions and local entrepreneurial ecosystem for mentoring as well as creating students rooted in the heritage of India, proud of values of Bharat, conscious of duties towards society and responsibilities towards nation-building".

Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the scheme and said there was a need to pay attention to all government schools, which he said were worse than "kabaad-hana" (scrapyard).

"You have only prepared a scheme for 14,500 schools. There are more than 10 lakh government schools in the country," he wrote

IN BRIEF



Bengal CID to probe murder of teens

KOLKATA

Following allegations of negligence being levelled against the police in the murder of two teenagers in the city's Baguiati area, the West Bengal government on Wednesday suspended the officer-in-charge of the police station and the investigating officer of the case. The government also handed over the probe to the State Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The police have arrested three persons in the case.

Statute Bench to hear Shinde's claim on party

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench on Wednesday decided to hear on September 27 the question whether the Election Commission of India can hear Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's claim over the Shiv Sena party and its symbol. "We will list the interim applications on the question whether the Election Commission should go on or not. We will decide this on September 27. We will see if any directions are necessary for the Election Commission or not," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said.

Centre-Delhi dispute may be heard on Sept. 27

NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday listed the dispute between the Centre and Delhi government for control over bureaucrats in the Capital on September 27. The five-judge Bench, however, said the hearing may tentatively begin from October 11. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said they were appearing before another Constitution Bench, which may begin hearing on the question of reservation for the economically weaker section (EWS) of society from September 13.

'Salaries delayed due to imminent revival of SDF'

CHANDIGARH

After finding itself in a soup over the delay in the payment of salaries to its employees, Punjab government on Wednesday said the pay was held up as the State was gearing up for the revival of the Special Drawing Facility. Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said the majority of pending payments had been made with the day's release by the treasury and any other pending payments should be released within a few days, adding that the the delay was all due to an exercise done to ensure long-term financial welfare of State.

I-T Dept. searches in 100 locations

Fraud through unrecognised parties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Income-Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday conducted searches at more than 100 locations in different parts of the country in connection with suspected tax evasion through several unrecognised political parties. The searches were carried out in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States.

The move came after the Election Commission of India (ECI), in June this year, ordered the deletion of 111 registered unrecognised political parties that were found to be "non-existent".

Information related to three of these parties was also shared with the Department of Revenue for legal action in view of "serious financial impropriety".

On May 25, the ECI had deleted 87 non-existent registered unrecognised political parties. It had earlier announced that it would take action against over 2,100 registered unrecognised political parties for violating the rules. The alleged violations also pertained to donations made to these parties.

The joint statement mentioned that the Prime Ministers of both sides emphasised that the project should be completed at the "earliest".

"The Bangladesh side also requested the Indian side to assist in meeting its domestic requirement for petroleum products. The Indian side agreed to facilitate discussions between the authorised agencies of both sides," said the statement.

The EC had also forwarded lists of 1,897, 2,202 and 2,351 parties for action under the Representation of the People Act and the Income Tax Act, as they had not submitted the annual contribution reports for the financial years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. As it turned out, 66 such parties had claimed I-T exemptions without submitting the required reports.

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The report also pointed out that there were 2,858 political parties registered with the Commission, of which 97.83% were unrecognised parties.

An MLA from Asansol Uttar, Mr. Ghatak is an influen-

Coal scam: CBI searches Bengal Minister's properties

Agency has filed a chargesheet against 41 people in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday conducted searches at half-a-dozen properties and the residence of West Bengal Law Minister Moloy Ghatak in connection with the investigation in the coal pilferage scam. The officials conducted searches at the Minister's residence at Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district, and in Kolkata at Alipore, Lake Gardens, and near Raj Bhavan. According to the investigation agency, the search was carried out after the Minister failed to appear before the agency despite summons being issued to him several times.

"I have been summoned as a witness and I have cooperated with the investigation," Mr. Ghatak told journalists later in the evening. The Minister said that his phone had been seized by officials and investigators found ₹14,000 from his residence, which they did not put on the seizure list. Responding to questions by journalists on why he was being summoned, the Minister said, "being summoned, the Minister said, "only attempt is to malign".

Mr. Ghatak also added that as the State's Law Minister, there were a number of classified documents at his residence which the CBI went through. An MLA from Asansol Uttar, Mr. Ghatak is an influen-

tial Trinamool Congress leader. The agencies started an investigation into the coal pilferage scam in November 2020. Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also probing the coal scam. The ED and CBI have also questioned TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in connection with the scam. On September 2, 2022 the ED had questioned Mr. Banerjee for over six hours in connection with the scam in Kolkata.

The scam involves fraudulently misappropriating coal from the coal reserve of leasehold areas under the dominion of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), and also from coal stock parked in Railway sidings for sale and supply. The ECL coal mines from where the coal is alleged to have been stolen are located in Kunustoria and Kajora areas in and around Asansol.

The CBI had in July 2022 filed a chargesheet against 41 persons in the scam, which includes public servants of ECL and a former youth leader Vinay Mishra. Mr. Mishra is absconding and agencies have issued a look out notice against him. Along with the CBI, the

Professor from Chennai to head mathematics panel

Sanoli Gun is the first chief of AOWM

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN
CHENNAI

The Committee for Women in Mathematics, which is a part of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), announced on its website that the Asia-Oceania Women in Mathematics (AOWM), the continental organisation for women mathematicians, has been established by an online meeting on August 1.

With over 200 founding members from the continents, the organisation will have as its first president Sanoli Gun, a Professor of Mathematics at The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, who specialises in Number Theory. There are two vice-presidents - Melissa Tacy from University of Auckland, New Zealand, and Polly Sy from Philippines Diliman, Philippines - and executive committee members including women mathematicians from Korea, Indonesia, Japan, China, Kazakhstan and Iran.

The goal of committee is threefold - facilitate exchange of knowledge between all the member countries, and improve the number of women mathematicians working on their Ph.Ds in mathematics and the mathematical sciences.

awards the Fields Medals, the highest honour in mathematics.

"We have to set the tone, and generate funds to actually make all the programmes happen. We have to create a logo and a website to start with. We also have to integrate... Asia is a very diverse continent, and there is Oceania," said Prof. Gun.

The IMU is the body that

300 cargo terminals to be developed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the revised policy for railway land, allowing leasing of such land for cargo use for longer periods at lower costs.

The move is expected to enable integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals, helping improve revenues for the Railways.

As per the new policy, the land can be now leased for cargo-related activities for up to 35 years (as against five years earlier) at 1.5% of market value of land per annum, down from 6% earlier.

Additionally, 300 cargo terminals would be developed over next five years and about 1.2 lakh employment would be generated. The existing entities using railway land for cargo terminals will have the option to switch to the new policy regime after transparent and competitive bidding process.

The policy also provides for use of railway land to set up solar plants at a nominal cost, and encourages development of social infrastructure at an annual fee of ₹ per sq. m per annum.

be no discrimination on the ground of any religion.

The senior lawyer said the State should show 'reasonable accommodation' of Muslim students' right to wear hijab to school as a part of her expression, religion and dignity. "If you say the right to dress is a fundamental right then the right to unaddress also becomes a fundamental right..." Justice Gupta remarked.

"Secularism does not mean that students of only one faith are banned from displaying their religious identity," he argued. At one point, the court asked Mr. Kamat how quoting foreign judgments would help his case in the Indian context.

"Their judgment came in the context of their societies. We are a conservative society," Justice Gupta said. "But let us allow good things to flow, as the Vedas say," Mr. Kamat replied.

<p

Army undertakes major infra drive along LAC in Arunachal

Road infrastructure, aviation facilities, upgrade of communications planned

DINAKAR PERI
DINJAN

After significantly upgrading firepower and infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh, the Army is on a major drive for capability and infrastructure development in the rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

This includes road, bridges, tunnels, habitat and storage facilities, aviation facilities and upgrade of communications and surveillance, especially in the Upper Dibang Valley region, according to multiple Army officials.

A capability development matrix was being employed and road development, construction of habitat and aviation facilities were under way, Major General M.S.



Complete overhaul: A capability development matrix was being employed to cover the entire region. ■ RITU RAJ KONWARA

Bains, General Officer Commanding of the Army's 2 Mountain Division, headquartered at Dinjan, told a group of journalists. "We are in the process of linking various valleys," he said.

"We have gone for clear timelines for capability development based on a very clear perspective plan for fu-

ture. Our overall combat readiness in the region is of a very high order," Maj. Gen. Bains added.

Five verticals

Another official, who did not wish to be identified, explained that the capability and infrastructure development in the region was being

undertaken under five verticals – habitat, aviation, road infrastructure, operational logistics and security infrastructure.

Of this, the strategic roads and border roads were being constructed by Central government agencies and Border Roads Organisation, while the Army was building the last mile tracks to connect these roads to the forward posts on the Line of Actual Control.

A third official noted that apart from construction of roads, aviation facilities were being created along them which was also benefiting the civil population.

India has two road axis in the forested area in Lohit and Siang; now, efforts were underway to improve infrastructure across the board.

BRO to maintain paths to Amarnath temple

People are against concreting them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The J&K administration has handed over the twin routes to the Amarnath cave temple in the highly ecologically sensitive locations in south and central Kashmir to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for maintenance.

In the latest order by the Roads and Buildings Department on Tuesday, the government decided to transfer the tracks via Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panchtarni, which is rocky and unpaved, and via Baltal to the BRO "for development, maintenance and management".

"The Government has al-

so approved transfer of Ranga to Baltal Road, including Nilgrath to Y-Junction to the Border Roads Organisation for development and maintenance," the order said.

The previous J&K regimes faced opposition in the past from local people and parties for laying any concrete path up to the temple located at an altitude of 3,657 metres. The surrounding basins of the temples are feeding glaciers for many streams, including the famous Lidder stream in Pahalgam. Both Pahalgam in south Kashmir and Sonamarg in central Kashmir are used as base camps and are covered by dense forests.

Ukraine returnees can finish medical courses elsewhere'

Admission in Indian colleges would have worked better, say students

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
A.S. JAYANTH
NEW DELHI/KOZHIKODE

The decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to allow Indian medical students who have returned from war-torn Ukraine to relocate to universities in other countries and complete their studies has failed to lift the confusion and uncertainty that prevail among these students.

While the NMC Act requires students pursuing courses in foreign colleges to complete their education and obtain a degree from a single university, considering the special circumstances, the NMC has agreed to re-

cognise the academic mobility programme offered by Ukraine to allow such students to complete their education elsewhere but receive the degree from the parent Ukrainian university.

The recent public notice issued by NMC said that the mobility programme offered by Ukraine has been considered in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, wherein it was intimated that the programme is a temporary relocation to other universities in different countries globally.

However, the students, who claim that their education has been adversely hit due to the war, online classes

Breather for coal plants draws anguish

For the third time, Centre extends deadline for fixing pollution control devices

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has for the third time extended the deadline by which coal plants must install pollution-control technologies to reduce emissions, drawing criticism from environment and clean-energy activists.

The Ministry first specified emission norms for the control of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and mercury (Hg) from coal-fired power plants in December 2015, giving thermal power plant operators time until December 2017 to install equipment to contain emission of these pollutants.

The deadline was then extended to 2022.

Power plants in the National Capital Region, which witnesses some of the worst pollution levels, were given a tighter deadline of 2020. However, non-compliance and



The new deadline spans from December 2024 to 2026.

limited progress by the plants in the region and elsewhere in the country led to a new extension in March 2021, followed by the notification on Monday pushing it to 2025.

According to the latest notification, power plants within a 10-km radius of the NCR and in the vicinity of cities with a population of more than one million have until December 31, 2024, to

meet the deadline. For power plants within a 10-km radius of "critically polluted" areas (as designated by the Environment Ministry), the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025. Finally, for all other power plants across the country, the deadline stands at December 31, 2026.

While multiple timeline extensions have been given for the installation of flue gas de-sulphurisation equipment, there are sustained efforts toward diluting or doing away with the norms by the power plants, say environmentalists.

"This is evident from the communications in the past and studies put out by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and the Union Ministry of Power (MoP), which ignore the basic science and chemistry of SO₂'s role in building up PM_{2.5} concentrations through sulphate

formation," said Sunil Dahya, analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Ritwick Dutta, environmental lawyer and founder of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), said, "The fact that another extension has been given clearly shows that the emission norms will never be implemented. All power plants were required to achieve the target for emission standards by December 2017. All missed the target."

Nivit Yadav of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said, "Our analysis shows that till date, only 4% of India's coal power capacity has installed equipment to control SO₂ emissions and another 41% has identified the vendors for equipment. The remaining 55% of the capacity has not taken any concrete steps to meet the norms."

Lancet series on metabolic health in the works

Journal editors on exposure trip in Chennai, to experience field-level work

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

A *Lancet* series on metabolic health in the southeast Asian region is in the works, Marta Koch, Editor-in-Chief, Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, said.

In Chennai, along with Shalini Garg, Editor-in-Chief of *The Lancet Regional Health*, Southeast Asia, Dr. Koch hopes to learn about the actual inequities that impact health care delivery. She is embedded with Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre (DMSC) and is visiting its outreach programmes to get a grounding on the realities of health

care. "It's just a great opportunity for me to you know, come out of my editorial ivory tower, to come to India and to come to Chennai, specifically, to be able to have high-level discussions in person, but also to meet the people behind work, to see what is going on at the field level."

The Metabolic health series, which is in the planning stage, is a consequence of the experiences she and her colleague have had while on this exposure trip. "We have a domestic diabetes, endocrinology programme, in addition to the regional health Southeast Asia chapter. But



Marta Koch ■ S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

we have been discussing with Dr. Mohan, founder-chairman, and Anjana Ranjith Mohan, managing director, DMSC, about this interesting collaboration on metabolic health. It is still in the early stages, but we are excited about it."

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Dr. Koch spoke freely about the growing awareness of the

need to incorporate patient voices even in scientific journals. While this beneficiary point of view has assumed much significance post the pandemic, it was way back in 2019 that Dr. Koch and colleagues announced in the journal that the "In Focus section has now been expanded to include Patient Perspectives and Patients' Voice – informal, conversational-style pieces authored by patients or patient advocates, respectively".

Given that research is done to improve the lives of patients, their lived experiences must be heard, she noted. "So, we are very keen to have a new format, where we can offer a platform for people who have the lived experiences, but also per-

haps unable to express these voices by themselves – people in neglected settings in resource limited settings, challenging situations." She doesn't see a conflict that might arise in such a circumstance with the *Lancet*'s demand for rigour in scientific publications, as "this is a different format...and we feel it's all about education, about raising awareness on diabetes".

Even as concerns about getting reliable data from around the world are relevant, Dr. Koch and Dr. Garg talk about the prudence of being able to work with available data, but use scientific tools to make sure the data can contribute towards influencing government policy on health issues.

WHO to stress prevention of non-communicable diseases

Southeast Asia regional committee session in Bhutan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region on Wednesday resolved to accelerate progress for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including oral and eye afflictions.

"The region must build on the progress made in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Though the trends are in the right direction, we need to accelerate efforts to achieve global, regional, and

national goals," Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said at the ongoing 75th regional committee session of the WHO Southeast Asia in Bhutan.

Non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes, account for almost two-thirds of all deaths in the region.

Nearly half these deaths occur prematurely between the ages of 30 and 69 in 2021.

The meeting noted the

continuing high burden of disease and death due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, a large number of untreated cases of dental caries and oral health conditions, and challenges in the provision of comprehensive eye care.

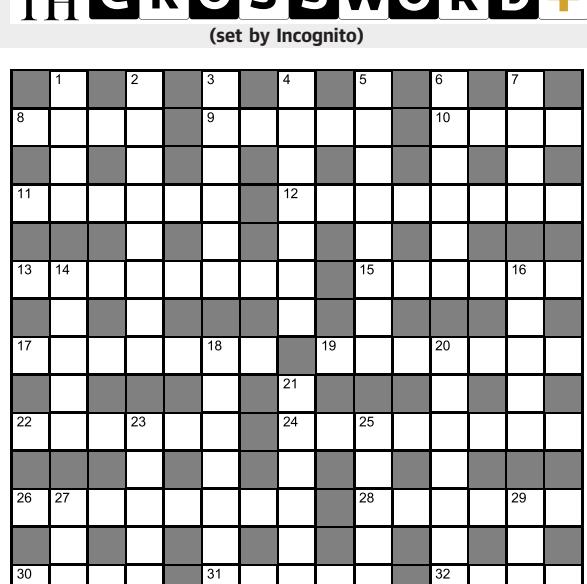
The member countries endorsed the road map for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, an action plan for oral health and another plan for an integrated people-centred eye care during the session.

CROSSWORD

13655

(set by Incognito)

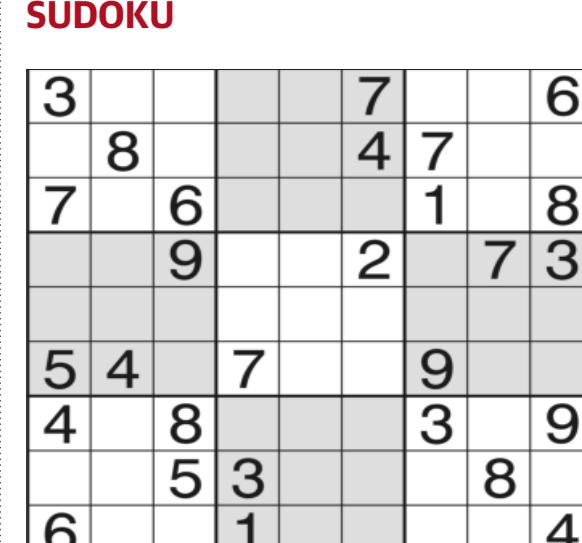
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site at <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>



Across
8 Heads of Japanese university departments overrate martial art (4)
9 Reset traps to get fish (5)
10 Nursemaid from Malaya helped (4)
11 Brine sprinkled around large city (6)
12 Formerly informed "Revised edition includes Foxtrot" (8)
13 A bachelor despatched with sweetheart? He is not an attender! (8)

Down
1 Husband, having love, get annual recurring deposit started initially for moneys accumulated for future use (6)
17 Setter returned my ape injured; resulting in pus pocket (7)
19 Agrees donkeys consumed book (7)
22 Line on map is followed by wild boar (6)
24 Sailor on ship carrying criminal duke runs away (8)
26 Forefather dances to reggae to some extent (8)
28 Pipe fitter disposes off piano, an unwanted piece taking up storage space (6)
30 Mineral found hospital chamber (4)
31 Fighter has height and power (5)
32 Wrongly sue ring leader and consumer (4)
33 Speechless and tailless mongrel has energy (4)
34 Pass falsehood on railway in coal mine (8)
35 1980s version of online discussion forums? American teen is confused! (6)
4 Allowed dragnet to be cast (7)
5 Sutures its chest badly (8)
6 Royal Air Forces initially flies incredible African fibre (6)
7 Girl gets drink in strong wind (4)
14 Things mobs explode around 6th of November (5)
16 Old romantic encounter with daughter (5)
18 Nautical item thrown after French queen endlessly (8)
20 Very large mouse scampered around neck of rhino initially (8)
21 Anger after prohibition results in continuous bombardment (7)
23 British arrive at gap in fortification (6)
25 Greeting Tesla when walking around youth centre (6)
27 North eastern Arkansas is within reach (4)
29 Adam's mate gets new flat (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13655

B	A	A	N	U	T	M		
B	O	S	S	B	L	A		
I	S	B	R	E	L	K		
A	L	C	O	V	E	G		
E	C	O	L	L	E	G		
P	R	O	T	E	S	T		
Z	E	T	S	T	E	S		
S	E	T	E	S	E	S		
E	R	E	E	E	E	E		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Xi, Putin set to hold talks in Uzbekistan

Narendra Modi will also attend the SCO summit; he will hold talks with the Russian leader

ANANTH KRISHNAN

BEIJING

China's President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold talks next week on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend.

Russia's Ambassador in Beijing Andrey Denisov said on Wednesday, "In less than 10 days, we will have a regular meeting of our SCO leaders in Samarkand, we are getting ready for it. In general, this summit promises to be interesting, because it will be the first full-fledged summit since the pandemic."

"One way or another, there will be plenary sessions and various kinds of group meetings, and we are planning a serious, full-



A file picture of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. AP

fledged meeting of our leaders with a detailed agenda, which we are now, in fact, working on with our Chinese partners," he was quoted as saying by Russia's TASS news agency. This will be their first meeting since talks in Beijing in February, which took place shortly before Russia's

invasion of Ukraine. Both leaders then affirmed a "no limits" relationship.

Xi's first visit

Mr. Xi's travels to Kazakhstan on September 14, and attendance at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on September 15 and 16, will be his first outside of China in close to three years.

The Chinese leader hasn't left the country since a mid-January 2020 visit to Myanmar, days before the lockdown of Wuhan where the pandemic began.

China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday didn't confirm Mr. Xi's travel plans. On Monday, Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Aibek Smadiarov said Mr. Xi will meet with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

on September 14 and sign a number of agreements.

Modi to meet Putin

Prime Minister Modi will also be present at the SCO summit and is expected to also hold talks with Mr. Putin on the sidelines. Indian and Chinese officials haven't confirmed whether the two leaders, who haven't spoken since a November 2019 meeting along the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Brasilia, will hold talks, amid the continuing Line of Actual Control (LAC) stand-off, which began in April 2020.

India has conveyed to China it cannot accept normalcy in ties as long as the situation along the LAC remains disturbed and has called for a return to the status quo and restoration of peace on the boundary.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON

Prime Minister Liz Truss held her first Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in London on Wednesday after announcing one of the U.K.'s most diverse Cabinets, with key frontline posts going to ethnic minority members of Parliament, including Indian-origin Suella Braverman as the Home Secretary.

Another Indian-origin minister in the Cabinet, Agra-born Alok Sharma, retains his climate action job as the COP26 President, as does Defence Secretary Ben Wallace in a new top team that is otherwise a complete shake-up of the old guard.

London-born junior minister Ranil Jayawardena, of



Liz Truss

vice secretary Dominic Raab, transport secretary Grant Shapps and health secretary Steve Barclay.

The process of appointing the Cabinet and junior ministerial roles began on Tuesday and will continue into Wednesday, when Ms. Truss addresses her first Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons.

Ms. Truss has packed the top tier of her Cabinet with close allies, such as Therese Coffey as the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Many senior Tories, who had backed Ms. Truss' rival, British Indian former finance minister Rishi Sunak, find themselves without a job - including former jus-

Unacceptable censorship by govt.: Imran

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ISLAMABAD

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan accused the government on Wednesday of "unacceptable" censorship after authorities apparently blocked national access to YouTube to prevent a rally speech from being broadcast live.

"They are imposing complete blackout of my speeches not only from mainstream media but also by blocking YouTube," he tweeted.

"This fascist govt. of cabal of crooks & their backers are willing to harm the interests of Pakistan simply out of fear of [his party] PTI's soaring popularity. Utterly callous & unacceptable."

Ukraine backs UN peace force at nuclear plant

No military equipment at plant: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KYIV

Ukraine's nuclear operator said on Wednesday it would support the deployment of UN peacekeepers at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia plant, a day after the UN atomic watchdog called for a security zone around the site.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a report on Tuesday saying the situation at the nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, was " untenable". The agency sent a team to the site last week.

It called for a demilitarised security zone to be established at the plant in southern Ukraine, which the Russians took over in

March. There has been repeated shelling around the site, sparking fears of a nuclear disaster.

Ukraine's nuclear operator Energoatom said on Wednesday it would support the deployment of UN peacekeepers to the facility and called for Russian troops to leave.

The head of Ukraine's nuclear security agency warned Wednesday that a nuclear accident at the site could affect neighbouring countries.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that there was "no military equipment" at the plant in southern Ukraine, adding that he "certainly trusts" the IAEA report.

EU to propose price cap on Russian gas: Von der Leyen

European Commission President was speaking to reporters

REUTERS

BRUSSELS

The European Commission will propose a price cap on Russian gas, alongside measures including a mandatory EU cut in electricity use and a cap on the revenue of non-gas power generators, the bloc's chief said on Wednesday.

"We will propose a price cap on Russian gas... We must cut Russia's revenues which Mr. Putin uses to finance this atrocious war in Ukraine," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters.

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Rus-

sia will stop supplying gas and oil if price caps are imposed.

Some EU countries - which would need to approve the EU proposals - are wary of capping Russian gas prices in case that costs them the dwindling supply they still receive from Moscow.

Von der Leyen outlined the EU's upcoming emergency proposals to lower soaring gas and power prices, which have hiked bills for households and hammered Europe's energy-intensive industries.

The EU wants to cap the revenue of non-gas fuelled generators and rechannel

their "unexpected profits" into measures that support households and companies, von der Leyen said.

European power prices are typically set by gas plants, and the cap would aim to reduce the cost of electricity generated by wind farms, nuclear plants and coal generators that have lower running costs as they are not exposed to surging gas prices.

Other measures Brussels will put forward include a requirement for countries to cut electricity use during peak hours. EU countries' energy ministers will discuss the proposals at an emergency meeting on Friday.

Russia to halt supply if price caps imposed: Putin

'World to face even higher energy costs'

REUTERS

VLADIVOSTOK

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday threatened to cut off energy supplies if price caps are imposed on Russia's oil and gas exports, warning the West it would be "frozen" like a wolf's tail in a famous Russian fairy tale.

Cutting supplies from Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia and the world's top natural gas exporter, would roll global energy markets, leaving the world economy facing even higher energy prices.

Speaking at an economic forum in Russia's Pacific city of Vladivostok, Mr. Putin said European calls for a

price cap on Russian gas were "stupid", and would lead to higher global prices and economic problems in Europe.

The Group of Seven (G7) wealthy democracies announced plans to impose a price cap on Russian oil exports last week in a move that could also restrict Russia's ability to secure tankers and insurance from countries beyond the G7. Russia would walk away from its supply contracts if the West went ahead with its plans, Mr. Putin said. Europe usually imports about 40% of its gas and 30% of its oil from Russia. Since the conflict with Ukraine began, EU has pledged to reduce their reliance on Russian energy.

+ Five convicted of sedition in Hong Kong over children's book

REUTERS

HONG KONG

Five Hong Kong speech therapists were found guilty on Wednesday of a conspiracy to publish seditious children's books that were deemed anti-government, a decision denounced by rights campaigners as a blow to free speech in the China-ruled city.

The five were accused of publishing three picture books, featuring cartoons of sheep and wolves, which government prosecutors alleged had spread separatism and stirred up hatred and opposition to the government.

Lorie Lai, Melody Yeung, Sidney Ng, Samuel Chan and Marco Fong, aged between 25 and 28, had pleaded not guilty and chose not to testify nor summon any witnesses. They will be sentenced on Saturday.

The picture books referenced actual events, including the city's mass pro-democracy 2019 protests, as well as 12 pro-democracy protesters who fled Hong Kong by speedboat in 2020 and were captured by the Chinese Coastguard.

Israeli troops kill Palestinian man in West Bank firefight

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM

Israeli troops killed a Palestinian man during a firefight on Wednesday in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The violence erupted after Israel carried out an arrest raid in a refugee camp near the city of Tubas.

The Israeli military said it carried out arrest raids across the West Bank as part of a months-long crackdown on Palestinian militants. It said its soldiers came under fire during the arrest of a wanted person in the Faraa refugee camp in the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said 21-year-old Younis Ghassan Tayeh died from a bullet wound to the chest. It wasn't immediately clear whether he was participating in the clashes with the Israeli forces.

Israel has been conducting near-daily arrest raids in the West Bank for months, which were prompted by a spate of deadly attacks against Israelis earlier this year that killed 19 people.

Dozens of Palestinians have been killed during that time.

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED (A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking) UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR						
e-mail: theoccldt@odishaconstruction.com GSTIN - 21AAC0251K22M						
e-Procurement Notice No. 15 /OCLL/2022-23 (on-line)						
Odisha Construction Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar invites short tender call notices for the following works:						
Name of Works	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Bid Security	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
1. Construction of Revetment/Rip-rap stone packing near Kusabhadra mouth left site to restore the Eco-retreat Konark for the year 2022-23	Rs.517.43 lakhs	OCLL-HQP/02/2022-23	03 (three) Calendar months	Bid Security Declaration as per W.D.O.M. 8484, dated, 05.04.2022 is to be furnished	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.
2. Dredging of sediment from the Kusabhadra river mouth and filling the same at the location of Eco-retreat Konark for the year 2022-23	Rs.175.60 lakhs	OCLL-HQP/03/2022-23	03 (three) Calendar months	is to be furnished	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.	09.09.2022, 03.30 P.M. to 15.09.2022, 5.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 16.09.2022, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Managing Director
OIPR-34120/11/0021/2223

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RFP No. 42155 File No. 62 XC-FV MANPOWER RFP/2022/22 Bid Identification No. _____ Email Id : bmcpcmu@bmc.gov.in		
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA		
On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Deputy Commissioner (Health), BMC invites bids for undertaking the work of providing Manpower Services at various Urban Health & Wellness Centres (UHWCS) under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) in Bhubaneswar City through e-procurement in conformity with the terms and conditions of this Advertisement and Request for Proposal (RFP) in Two Bid System, (Part-I) : General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid/ Price Bid (BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in the RFP. Agreement is to be drawn up by BMC with the successful / selected bidder in the prescribed contract as provided by BMC. Each bid should be submitted online through the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this RFP, intending bidders may contact ADUPHO, Urban Health, NUHM / Deputy Commissioner (Health), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar.		
Sl No	Name of the Work	EMD Tender Document Cost including GST
1.	Selection of an Agency for providing Manpower Services at various Urban Health & Wellness Centres (UHWCS) in Bhubaneswar City under National Urban Health Mission (NUHM)	Bid Security Declaration Form Rs.11,800/- 2 Years
Time Schedule for Bidding:		
S.No.	Activity	Date & Time (IST)
1	Period of availability of RFP online for bidding	From Dt. 06/09/2022 From 10:00 AM to Dt.26/09/2022 Up to 5:30 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	Dt. 13/09/2022 at 12.00 Noon
3	Last date & time of bidding online	Dt. 26/09/2022 Up to 5:30 PM
4	Date & Time of opening of the Technical Bids received online	Dt. 27/09/2022 (12.00 Noon)
5	Date & Time of opening of Price Bid / Financial Bid	To be intimated later on to the qualified Bidder after evaluation of technical bids
2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document/ RFP available in website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC website i.e. www.bmc.gov.in (for view and download only).		
3. Subsequent corrigendum, if required, shall appear in these websites		
4. BMC reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.		
By Order of Commissioner, BMC Deputy Commissioner (Health), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation OIPR-13002/11/0090/2223		



BusinessLine



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Here's to the
dreamers, doers
and champions
of change.

The prestigious BusinessLine Changemaker Awards is here once again to honour the ones who dared to make a difference and bring positive change in our society.

Together, let us celebrate the changemakers.

Venue: ITC Maurya, New Delhi

Date: September 9, 2022

Time: From 5:30 pm onwards

Entry by invitation only



MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	59,029	-0.28
US Dollar	79.95	-0.16
Gold	50,761	-0.65
Brent oil	88.55	-5.62

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE	
Adani Ports	874.90	+24.55	
Apollo Hosp	4376.50	+39.00	
Asian Paints	3400.35	+5.10	
Axist Bank	755.40	+5.40	
Bajaj Auto	3845.65	+83.75	
Bajaj Finserv	17055.60	+86.65	
Bajaj Finance	7166.50	+47.15	
Bharti Airtel	753.10	+8.15	
BPCL	326.85	+2.60	
Britannia Ind	3667.90	+59.10	
Cipla	1051.50	+10.65	
Coal India	238.85	+6.15	
Divis Lab	3590.95	+5.45	
D Dr Reddys Lab	4249.30	+10.10	
Eicher Motors	3383.65	+26.70	
Giasin Ind	1750.15	+27.10	
HCL Tech.	931.70	+6.10	
HDPC	2427.80	+20.70	
HDPC Bank	1482.30	+7.05	
HDPC Life	576.95	+3.45	
Hero MotoCorp	2854.75	+11.80	
Hindalco	432.85	+1.90	
Hind Unilever	2564.60	+8.50	
ICICI Bank	876.20	+7.45	
IndusInd Bank	1089.95	+18.85	
Infosys	1457.65	+2.55	
ITC	326.10	+1.05	
JSW Steel	684.60	+0.05	
Kotak Bank	1908.25	+7.45	
L&T	1958.10	+4.20	
M&M	1289.70	+16.70	
Maruti Suzuki	8784.90	+103.85	
Nestle India Ltd.	19179.30	+137.40	
NTPC	167.30	+1.15	
ONGC	132.50	+0.40	
PowerGrid Corp	224.40	+0.65	
Reliance Ind	2581.75	+15.10	
SBI Life	1331.55	+20.20	
State Bank	532.85	+4.95	
Shree Cement	23181.05	+1526.70	
Sun Pharma	893.75	+6.00	
Tata Consumer	Products Ltd.	823.10	+6.85
Tata Motors	445.85	+11.90	
Tata Steel	107.60	+1.00	
TCS	3149.60	+22.55	
Tech Mahindra	1055.85	+7.85	
Titan	2637.75	+6.10	
UltraTech Cement	6770.80	+275.30	
UPL	741.10	+3.00	
Wipro	407.45	+3.00	

EXCHANGE RATES

Source: Indian Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Inflation is not a 'red lettered' priority for govt. now, says FM

Job creation, equitable distribution of wealth, growth key priorities: Sitharaman

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

Inflation was not a 'red-lettered' priority now for the government as it had been brought down to a 'manageable level' over the past two months, and job creation and equitable distribution of wealth were instead the key current priorities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday.

"I am not sure I can have the luxury of sequencing priorities, several things will have to happen simultaneously," Ms. Sitharaman said, speaking at the U.S. India Business Council's annual general meeting titled 'India Ideas Summit'. "Of course, some are red-lettered and some others may not be,"



Focus on jobs: The red-lettered priorities would be jobs and making sure India stays on the growth path, says FM. ■ AFP

she replied, when queried by Nasdaq executive vice chairman Ed Knight on the top policy priorities for India and how their implementation may be sequenced.

"The red-lettered ones will definitely be jobs, equit-

able wealth distribution and making sure that India is still moving on the path of growth. In that sense, inflation is not red-lettered, I hope that we have shown in the last couple of months we were able to bring it to some

manageable level," she said.

Retail inflation in India moderated to 6.71% in July, from an eight-year high of 7.79% in April. Ms. Sitharaman exuded confidence that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which was 'fairly clued in' to developments arising from the steps taken by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, would be able to handle the monetary policy challenges 'without major blips'.

The economy's revival, she said, had largely been helped by the government as it followed the right kind of policies, executed quick reforms and ensured there was 'hand holding' for targeted sectors, instead of 'spurting money'.

India eyes IMF support ahead of G20 chair

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will soon release the list of focus areas to be pursued during its tenure as the G20's chair, which it is set to assume in December this year, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, hours before she met the International Monetary Fund (IMF) top boss Kristalina Georgieva to discuss IMF's support through its G20 presidency.

"We will be taking over the G20 chair at a very challenging time," Ms. Sitharaman said, noting India's presidency period would coincide with a time when the world was concerned about debt and climate challenges.

"Some of the ongoing issues will continue on the agenda, some which India will like to take up on its own," she added.

CBDC to reduce time, cost in cross-border business: RBI's Sankar

'Digital rupee will cut settlement risk'



system integrity, which essentially means technical stability.

"It just doesn't mean that the technical failures of transactions have to be minimised, it also means that transactions themselves have to inspire confidence; we cannot have too many instances of frauds," the RBI Deputy Governor added.

Fraud management "Fraud management is an area that we also need to focus on if we have to scale it up [digital payment]," he said. Citing the example of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for non-feature phones, Mr. Sankar said the RBI pays special attention to the fact that digital payment technology should be inclusive.

"The third is of course innovation. I've talked about it in terms of what the RBI India Innovation Hub has been doing. But this innovative impulse is something that we would want the industry to rise up to," he said.

On data security, he said the RBI had to keep working on it on a continuous basis.

"We need to understand [that] there's never a moment when we feel we are secure enough because that is the moment you get vulnerable," he added.

Maruti eyes mid-SUVs to lift market share to 50%

Firm to unveil car this month: official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA



Shashank Srivastava

In \$70 bn green push, Adani to build giga units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Asia's richest man Gautam Adani on Wednesday said his ports-to-power conglomerate will build three giga factories for manufacturing solar modules, wind turbines, and hydrogen electrolyzers as part of a \$70-billion investment in clean energy by 2030.

The group aims to become the world's top renewable-energy producer by 2030.

"The Adani Group has already committed \$70 billion (for climate change and green energy). This will see us building three giga factories in India, leading to one of the most integrated green energy value chains," he said.

Fintech space may see a slowdown: KPMG study

Focus shifts to cash flow, profitability

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Asia-Pacific region, which includes India, could see a considerable slowing down in fintech activities, compared with the record-high growth seen in 2021, following rising inflation, interest rates and continuing geopolitical uncertainty, KPMG said on Wednesday.

The region received fintech investments worth \$41.8 billion in 607 deals in the first six months of 2022.

However, verticals such as retail payments and B2C solutions saw a cooling off during the period. And areas that had seen significant investment interest at

the height of the pandemic had lost some attractiveness, KPMG said in its 'Pulse of Fintech HI 2022'.

"The fintech space has witnessed a correction in valuation and investment flow," Sanjay Doshi, Partner and Head, Financial Services Advisory, KPMG in India, said.

"Focus on building scale has now been supplemented by focus on cash flow and profitability."

The height of the pandemic had lost some attractiveness, KPMG said in its 'Pulse of Fintech HI 2022'.

"The fintech space has witnessed a correction in valuation and investment flow," Sanjay Doshi, Partner and Head, Financial Services Advisory, KPMG in India, said.

"Focus on building scale has now been supplemented by focus on cash flow and profitability."

Temenos, Bahwan sign pact to expand reach

CHENNAI

Banking platform Temenos and Bahwan CyberTek (BCT) signed a deal to scale up former's operations in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

Bowlers look for more assistance in second 'Test'

It will be interesting to see if Umran gets an opportunity to go full tilt at the New Zealand-A batters

SPORTS BUREAU

Yuki-Myneni duo enters quarterfinals
Yuki Bhambhani and Saketh Myneni beat Jason Taylor and Brandon Walkin 7-6 (4), 6-2 to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in Cassis, France.

In the Challenger in Nonthaburi, Thailand, Prajneesh Gunnawaran lost 7-6(2), 6-1 to Arthur Cazaux of France, in the pre-quarterfinals.

Other results:
\$37,520 Challenger, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Anirudh Chandrasekhar & Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) bt Adil Kalyanpur & Sidharth Rawat 5-7, 6-3, [10-5].

\$25,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: First round: Sasikumar Mukund bt Miguel Gomes (Por) 6-1, 6-1.

\$25,000 ITF, Cairo: Men: First round: Nitin Kumar Singh bt Karim Ibrahim (Egy) 6-3, 6-3.

Women: First round: Ayla Aksu (Tur) bt Sravya Shivani 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Vittoria Modesti (Ita) & Doga Turkmen (Tur) bt Hala Fouad (Egy) & Sravya Shivani 6-4, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: First round: Bharath Kumaran bt Mohamed Ali Abibsi (Alg) 7-5, 6-2; Karan Singh bt Nikolay Nedelchev (Bul) 3-6, 7-5, 6-4; Yash Chaurasia bt Yousef Labebne (Tun) 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishabh Agarwal & Karunayudh Singh bt Yash Chaurasia & Tushar Sharma 6-3, 7-5.

Women: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Dong Na (Chn) & Jennifer Luikhant bt Emilia Durska (Pol) & Annika Kannan 6-2, 6-1; Nagomi Higashitani (Jpn) & Teja Tirunelveli (USA) bt Angelina Graovic (Aus) & Smriti Bhasin 6-0, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF women, Can-cun: First round: Ava Markham (USA) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-0, 6-4.

Men: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishabh Agarwal & Karunayudh Singh bt Yash Chaurasia & Tushar Sharma 6-3, 7-5.

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Left-hander strategy didn't prove right

Benching Karthik to accommodate Pant flopped; India to play for pride against Afghanistan

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Having exited the tournament, India has nothing more than pride to play for in its last Asia Cup Super 4 outing against Afghanistan here on Thursday.

India, with two losses in two Super 4 clashes, will use the match to solve a few team combination puzzles that have stumped the team. The most pertinent among them is the curious case of Dinesh Karthik.

During the death overs of India's Asia Cup Super 4 match against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, substitute Karthik came onto the field with a pair of gloves and a word of advice for the batters. If ever one needed tips on how to finish with a flourish, Karthik is the man for the job.

Why then was Karthik carrying drinks and not batting in the middle?

The Indian team management believes that the batting line-up needs a left-hander to fill the spot left vacant by injured all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Enter southpaw wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant – the match-up answer to tackling leg-spinners and left-arm orthodox spinners.

While this reads well in theory, it did not produce the desired results. Walking out



Not getting his due: In the garb of tactical finesse, Karthik probably got a raw deal.

• FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

in the 15th over, Pant only managed a scratchy 13-ball 17. His partner, Hardik Pandya, was not at his best either, resulting in India losing the tempo.

There would be no acceleration provided by Deepak Hooda, who came in at No. 7. Hooda normally bats in the top-order, and was therefore bound to find it tough to succeed in the unfamiliar role of finisher. Hooda only lasted four balls, before being cleaned up by pacer Dilshan Madushanka in the 19th over.

Hooda, a handy off-spinner, has not been used as an all-rounder. The 27-year-old has not been called to bowl in the two matches he has played. India sorely missed a finisher of the calibre of Karthik. The Tamil Nadu cricketer has not been given a fair go, having faced just one ball in this tournament.

According to captain Rohit Sharma, Karthik's only drawback is that he is a right-hander. "We wanted a left-hander to bat in the middle. That's why Dinesh Karthik was out. Not because of form or anything. We wanted a left-hand batter in the middle to take the pressure off, but it didn't happen. But by no means has Karthik been dropped because of poor form," Rohit said after the defeat against Sri Lanka.

If Pant has to feature in the XI, he should perhaps be used as an opener. He can replace K.L. Rahul who is struggling for runs. After showing some signs of regaining his touch with a 20-ball 28 against Pakistan, Rahul was back to jabs and pokes in the Sri Lanka encounter.

The silver lining for the Indians was Rohit's fine 72. The skipper looked fluent, picking the lengths early and attacking with venom. His individual brilliance, however, was not enough to mask bigger team failings.

Naseem's strikes stun Afghanistan

Pakistan books a final with Sri Lanka; India knocked out

AYAN ACHARYA
SHARJAH

Pakistan aced a last-over thriller to beat Afghanistan by one wicket and qualify for the final of the Asia Cup. Wednesday's result knocked India and Afghanistan out of contention. Sri Lanka will face Pakistan in the summit clash on Sunday.

Chasing 130, Pakistan lost captain Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman early.

When Rashid Khan came on in the seventh over, Pakistan was 35 for two. Rashid unfurled his array of leg spinners and googlies in a brief but edge-of-the-seat face off with Mohammad Rizwan; the latter survived a huge lbw appeal off Rashid in the seventh over only to be given out leg-before in the bowler's next over.

Shadab Khan (36, 26b, 1x4, 3x6), promoted in the order, turbocharged the chase with his power-hitting. Shadab's 42-run stand with Iftikhar Ahmed provided stability before Fazalhaq Farooqi turned the match on its head with two wickets in the 18th over. Needing 11 in the final over, Naseem Shah struck two back-to-back sixes off Farooqi to seal it.

Earlier in the evening, Rahmanullah Gurbaz pulled Mohammad Hasnain for successive sixes. But Gurbaz was soon walking back, bowled by Haris Rauf. Afghani-



Maximum impact: With 11 needed off six deliveries, Naseem sealed it with sixes off the first two balls. • AFP

tan was 48 for two in six overs. With two right-handers Karim Janat and Ibrahim Zadrان at the crease, leggie Shadab and left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz, dried up the boundaries.

The pressure told as Janat holed out to Fakhar Zaman off Nawaz. Left-hander Najibullah Zadrان then smacked Shadab for a six, the first maximum off his bowling in

Super 4 points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	4	0.351
Pakistan	2	2	0	4	0.241
India	2	0	2	0	-0.125
Afghanistan	2	0	2	0	-0.452

North locks horns with East

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DINAKAR
PUDUCHERRY

It rained rather heavily here on Wednesday evening. And more rain has been forecast on all the four days of this encounter in the revived Duleep Trophy. Both North and East Zones will be watching the weather with keen interest ahead of their quarterfinal beginning here on Thursday; it will influence their strategy and the selection of the eleven.

Rain or shine, Duleep Trophy will be returning in its original inter-zonal format. Then matches will have a context and a purpose.

Duleep Trophy, once the pride of the Indian domestic calendar, was thoughtlessly made into a caricature with teams being called Red, Blue, Green and so on, and randomly picked from different parts of the country which resulted in sides having minimum cohesion. And they were made to play day/night matches with pink balls.

A long-duration match which should ideally have been a test of character and resilience was made into a tamasha.

The present version, although welcome, will be no patch on the Duleep Trophy



• FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

matches of the 70s and 80s when these games almost had the aura of a Test match.

North Zone, led by the irrepressible Bishan Bedi, and possessing the Amarnath brothers, Rajinder Goel and Kapil Dev will be up against Sunil Gavaskar-led West Zone with men such as Dilip Vengsarkar, Sandeep Patil, Padmakar Shivalkar and Pandurang Salgoankar.

The matches would be bitterly fought and sparks would fly.

And the star-studded South Zone will feature Gundappa Viswanath, Tiger Pataudi, Erapalli Prasanna, B.S. Chandrasekhar, S. Venkatachavan, Syed Kirmani, Bri-

jesh Patel, Roger Binny and K. Srikanth. What line-ups they used to be!

But with a cramped international calendar, it is impossible to lift the Duleep Trophy to those glory days again.

Nevertheless it will be a good opportunity for youngsters such as North's batter Yash Dhull and teammate and pacer Navdeep Saini to showcase their talent or re-establish their claims, as the case may be.

Despite his successful foray into politics, it is good to see Manoj Tiwary, leading East, retaining his passion for the game. Shahbaz Nadeem is a capable left-arm spinner. And Shahbaz Ahmed is an all-rounder with promise.

The teams (from):

North Zone: Mandeep Singh (Capt.), Mayank Dagar, Yash Dhull, Jagjit Singh, Siddharth Kaul, Anmol Malhotra, Pulkit Narang, Qamar Iqbal, Himanshu Rana, Navdeep Saini, Dhruv Shorey, Nishant Sidhu, Akash Vashisth, Vikas Mishra and Manav Vohra.

East Zone: Manoj Tiwary (Capt.), Abhishek Porel, Akash Deep, Sudip Kumar Gharami, Kumar Kushagra, Anupst Majumdar, Mukhtar Hussain, Manishankar Mura Singh, Shahbaz Nadeem, Nazim Siddiqui, Riyaz Parag, Ishan Porel, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shantanu Mishra and Virat Singh.

All eyes on Rahane, Shaw in West vs NE

Former has experienced players and the latter inexperienced local talent

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

After two years of truncated calendar due to the pandemic, a full-fledged Indian domestic cricket season (2022-23) is all set to get underway, with the Duleep Trophy quarterfinals between West Zone and North East Zone starting on Thursday at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

If reputations and pedigree stay true, this quarterfinal could well end up being a lop-sided contest in favour of West Zone.

The team has players with international and IPL experience – Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Rahul Tripathi, Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya, to name a few.

North East does not have the same luxury and comprises just inexperienced local talent. The selectors have not included professionals who play for the various North East teams in the other BCCI tournaments.

More than the result, all eyes will be on how West skipper Rahane and opener Shaw use the fixture to score runs and find a way back to the Test side.

"I'm looking forward to starting from zero again. We



Time to stretch it: Rahane will look to put his international career back on track. • K. PICHUMANI

will see what happens in the future and I believe it is important to be in the moment and focus on what's in hand right now rather than focus on your future," said Rahane ahead of the match.

"You always get goosebumps when you go on the field and I always like that feeling. When you get that, you get the motivation, whether it is a domestic game or an international one," he added

The 34-year-old is back after suffering a hamstring injury during the IPL.

"The rehab was really good. It took me two months to get fit. I had to follow a strict diet and routine for those two months, but it was really good. I just want to be fit throughout the season and keep scoring runs," said Rahane.

The teams (from):

West Zone: Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Yashasvi

Jaiswal, Hardik Tamore (wk), Shams Mulani, Tanish Kotian, Rahul Tripathi, Satyajeet Bachhav, Het Patel, Chintan Gaja, Jaydev Unadkat, Chirag Jani, Atit Sheth and Chetan Sakariya.

North East Zone: Hokaith Zimmomi(Capt.), Jonathan Rongsen, Khrievitsos Kense, Muhammed Al Bashid, L. Kishan Singh, Bishwori Singh Konthoujam, Rajkumar Rex Singh, Ashish Thapa, Ankur Malik, Techi Neri, Techi Doria, Dippu Sangma, Kishan Lyngdoh, G. Lalbiakvela and Bobby Zothansanga.

I try to provide guidance, says Anand

The legend elaborates on the role played by WACA in grooming talented players

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

With the teen trio of D. Gukeesh, Arjun Erigaisi and R. Pragganandhaa busy making up for the time lost due to the pandemic and briskly climbing the rating ladder, Indian chess never had it this good.

If Gukeesh and Arjun have joined Club 2700 in rating and currently figure in the world's top 25 list, Pragganandhaa is closing in. Moreover, his online victories over Magnus Carlsen have contributed significantly to bringing in new followers for Indian chess.

The three, along with Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani, Leon Mendonca, R. Vaishali and the 15-year-old B. Savitha Shri, the latest recruit, are all part of the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA). Clearly the cream of India's talent is blooming under the mentorship of Anand and the five-time champion has every reason to feel elated.



Special ones: Anand with Gukeesh and Pragganandhaa. • FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

ed. Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Anand elaborated on his role in grooming these hand-picked players.

"If we (at WACA) are just an extra layer of support. We try to take a lot of practical issues out of the way. I try to provide guidance that maybe even the coaches appreciate."

The main relationship would still be between the coach and the player, because it's also personalised. Quite often, I work with the coaches R. B. Ramesh and Vishnu Prasanna. Thanks to the conversation I had with N. Srinath, we got Arjun (Eri-

gaisi) in. During a chat with Shyam Sundar, he mentioned Savitha Shri and I thought that was a good idea. So I interact with them.

"If I cannot ask the player, I can even ask the coach, 'what do you think your player will need in the next tournament?' I will then see if I can arrange that material. So that sort of thing."

Ranked second behind Anand, Gukeesh underplayed his massive leap of 112 rating points since March 1 to reach 2726 on September 1.

"The last couple of months have been great and I've improved a lot. I think it was the result of the hard work done during the pandemic. Also, I have been continuously working hard and my confidence has improved. The Olympiad gold (on the top board) was obviously a very special achievement. I do set goals, but the main one is to perform at my best every time."

Pragganandhaa said he was not under any pressure of expectations despite his recent exploits. "I thank my family and Ramesh Sir for helping me (deal with the rising demands from the media and fans for his time) because they control everything. That helps me really focus on chess."

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"It was a crazy match I was expecting it would be like this. I'm ready to run, to fight to play five sets. We played almost four hours and that's the only way to beat Nick."



Marathon man: Khachanov showed that he had the legs to last the distance. • AP

Kyrgios, who had knocked out defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the last-16, hit 31 aces in his 75 winners. However, his unforced error count of 58 was almost double the 31 of Khachanov.

Khachanov fired 30 aces and a total of 63 winners past Kyrgios. "Did it, guys. Finally, you are showing me some love," Khachanov told the mostly pro-Kyrgios crowd on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It was a crazy match I was expecting it would be like this. I'm ready to run, to fight to play five sets. We played almost four hours and that's the only way to beat Nick."

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LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs New Zealand: 2nd ODI, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.50 a.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Ten 1, 2, Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Diamond League: (final), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 10.30 p.m. onwards
US Open: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m. onwards (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Anupama becomes junior World No. 1

NEW DELHI
Anupama Upadhyaya became only the second Indian shuttler in under-19 girls singles category to win the top title in the latest BWF junior rankings. The 17-year-old, who had won junior international titles in Uganda and Poland earlier this year, replaced fellow Indian Tasnim Mir from the top position on Tuesday. She jumped two places to grab the pole position with 18,060 points from 18 tournaments.

England recalls Hales for T20 WC

CRICKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON
Alex Hales's long international exile is over after he was recalled to the England squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia as a replacement for the injured Jonny Bairstow.

Hales will also be available for the upcoming tour of Pakistan.

England squad for ICC Men's T20 WC and T20I series against Australia:

Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Alex Hales, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood.

T20 squad for tour of Pakistan: Buttler (Capt.), Moeen, Brook, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Liam Dawson, Richard Gleeson, Hales, Tom Helm, Will Jacks, Malan, Rashid, Salt, Olly Stone, Topley, Willey, Woakes, Luke Wood and Mark Wood.

Kuala Lumpur City trumps ATK MB

Second successive elimination at this stage of the tournament for the hosts



On a high: Kuala Lumpur City players are over the moon after beating ATK MB. ■ DEBASISH BHADURI

AFC CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

ATK Mohun Bagan's attacking frailties were badly exposed as it lost 3-1 to Kuala Lumpur City FC in the AFC Cup inter-zonal semifinals here on Wednesday.

KL City FC's Brazilian captain Paulo Josue struck once (60th) and set up another for substitute Fakru Aiman (90+3) with a brilliant free-kick.

Colombian forward Romel Morales came off the bench to hit the final nail in ATK Mohun Bagan's coffin (90+6) here.

Crumbling
ATK Mohun Bagan equalised in the 90th minute through substitute Fardin Ali Molla but it later crumbled in front of home supporters.

This is ATK MB's second successive elimination from

Sparkling start to campaign by Manchester City and PSG

High-flying Haaland and Mbappe score a brace each; Dinamo Zagreb upends Chelsea; AC Milan held by Salzburg

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland took their high-flying scoring acts into Europe as the Champions League returned on Tuesday, while last season's standout star Karim Benzema limped off with an injury after less than 30 minutes.

Mbappe and Haaland both netted two goals as their respective clubs Paris Saint Germain and Manchester City began their European campaigns with victories, underlining just why those two teams are again among the favorites for the title.

Benzema injured

Real Madrid's chances of defending its crown probably depend largely on having a fully fit Benzema, but the France forward had to come off with an apparent knee injury in the 30th minute against Celtic.

Second-half goals from



Lethal in the box: Haaland and Mbappe, right, took their goal-scoring prowess on to the continental stage for Man City and PSG respectively. ■ AFP

Vinicius Junior, Luka Modric and Eden Hazard still secured a 3-0 win for the Spanish giant in Glasgow.

Mbappe scored his double in the first 22 minutes of a 2-1 home win over Juventus to become the youngest player

to reach 35 goals in the competition – beating the mark held by teammate Lionel Messi. The 22-year-old Haaland has 25 goals in 20 Champions League games – also a record – after scoring once in each half of Man City's 4-0

win at Sevilla. The Norway striker has now netted on his Champions League debut for three clubs – Salzburg, Borussia Dortmund and City.

Also, Dinamo Zagreb upset Chelsea 1-0 at home while Serie A champion AC Milan

was held to a 1-1 draw at Salzburg.

The results: Group E: Dinamo Zagreb 1 (Orsic 13) bt Chelsea 0; RB Salzburg 1 (Okafor 28) drew with AC Milan 1 (Saelamaekers 40).

Group F: Celtic 0 lost to Real

Madrid 3 (Vinicius 56, Modric 60, Hazard 77); RB Leipzig 1 (Sismanovic 57) lost to Shakhtar Donetsk 4 (Shved 16, 58, Mudryk 76, Traore 85).

Sevilla 0 lost to Manchester City 4 (Haaland 20, 67, Foden 58, Dias 90+2).

Group H: Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Mbappe 5, 22) bt Juventus 1 (McKennie 53); Benfica 2 (Silva 50, Grimaldo 54) bt Maccabi Haifa 0.

NCC Blue edges past Govt. HS, Kawnpu

NEHRU HOCKEY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

H. Madhusudan beat fifth seed Sathashivam Kannupayam 6-3, 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals of the AITA wheelchair tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

The results: Men (pre-quarterfinals): D. Mariappan bt K Keshavan 6-0, 6-1; James Alexander bt Tejal Yadav 6-2, 6-2; K. Karthik bt Panduranga Swamy 6-1, 6-0; Inderjeet Pandey bt Ani Almeida 6-4, 6-0; S. Sureshkumar bt Tej Bhan Vashish 6-0 6-0; S. Balachandar bt D.N. Hanumanthappa 6-2, 6-2; H. Madhusudan bt Sathashivam Kannupayam 6-3, 6-1; V. Shekar bt Abdul Gafar 6-0, 6-1.

India came close to adding another in the 29th minute, but even as Ranjana's left footer beat Shahid under the bar, it hit the post.

Changing over, India earned its first corner in the 55th minute. Off the counter, Pakistan earned a free-kick outside the Indian box, but Indian goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan collected Maria's shot with effortless ease.

With the Indians pressing hard, Pakistan was not able to break the shackles and go all out into attack. Instead, it preferred to stay back and defend, with Zulfia Nazir waiting upfront around the centre circle.

Soumya made it 3-0 in added time, clinically finishing Ranjana's cross from the left. India next plays Maldives on Saturday.

The result: India Women 3 (Maria Jamil Khan 21, Dangmei Grace 23, Soumya Gaguloth 90+4) bt Pakistan Women 0.

Ranjana's leg and rolled into the net.

The second goal, nevertheless, came straight out of the drawing board.

Collecting the ball just outside the box, Anju, caught in between a jungle of legs, set it up for an unmarked Dangmei Grace with her left foot.

Grateful, Grace received it, and slipped it between Shahid and the near post to

give India a 2-0 lead.

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