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Putin mobilises more troops, says nuclear threat 'not a bluff'

We have lots of weapons to respond, says Russian President | About three lakh reservists have been roped in to fight in Ukraine | A shell damages water pipe at Zaporozhzhia nuclear power plant

Reuters
LONDON

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called up 3,00,000 reservists to fight in Ukraine and backed a plan to annex parts of the country, hinting to the West he was prepared to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia.

It was Russia's first such mobilisation since the Second World War and signified the biggest escalation of the Ukraine war since Moscow's February 24 invasion.

It followed battlefield setbacks for Russian forces, who have been driven from areas they had captured in north-east Ukraine in a counter-offensive this month.

In an address to the nation, Mr. Putin said: "If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we



will use all available means to protect our people – this is not a bluff." Russia had "lots of weapons" to respond, he said.

Ukraine and its Western allies responded by saying the move showed Russia's cam-

aign in Ukraine was failing. Mr. Putin accused Washington, London and Brussels of pushing Kyiv to "transfer military operations to our territory". Ukraine has sporadically struck targets inside Russia, using weapons sup-

plied by the West. "Nuclear blackmail has also been used," Mr. Putin said, citing Ukraine's Zaporozhzhia nuclear power plant. Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of endangering the plant in the fighting. Rus-

Nuclear threats against Europe 'reckless': Biden

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday called out Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying Mr. Putin's nuclear threats against Europe were "reckless. In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly, he also called on countries to stand up for the UN Charter.

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IN BRIEF

Bihar free of Naxal presence, says CRPF chief

NEW DELHI
Kuldip Singh, Director-General, CRPF, said on Wednesday that Bihar was free of left-wing extremism now and security forces have made inroads into areas in Jharkhand that were once inaccessible due to the presence of Maoists.

NEWS
» PAGE 12

Thackeray faction moves HC to hold rally

MUMBAI
With the BMC yet to take a decision on the applications submitted by the rival factions of the Shiv Sena to hold the annual Dasara rally at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on October 5, the Uddhav Thackeray camp moved the Bombay High Court on Wednesday.

STATES
» PAGE 5

Ready to take up any responsibility that Congress gives me, says Gehlot

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Before meeting Congress president Sonia Gandhi for nearly two hours to discuss the party presidential election, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday said he was ready to shoulder any responsibility that the party gave him.

In an indication of his unwillingness to give up his chief ministership, Mr. Gehlot told presspersons that he did not have to step down as Chief Minister to contest an open presidential poll.

He was, however, quick to add that "only time will



Next move: Ashok Gehlot leaving after meeting Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

tell whether he would continue in Chief Minister's post".

The other contender for the top party post, Lok Sabha member Shashi Tha-

room, visited the Congress headquarters and met Central Election Authority (CEA) chairman Madhusudan Mistry to verify the electoral rolls, check the

nomination process and the appointment of election agents.

And amid reports that senior leader Digvijaya Singh could be the third contender, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that he had "not discussed the idea of contesting the polls with anyone".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12



Watch our detailed analysis
Talking Politics with Nistula Hebbar | Can the Bharat Jodo Yatra save Congress?
bit.ly/NistulaCong

Show of strength



United effort: Students take part in a game of tug of war at a school in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday. NISSAR AHMAD

A century later, Nizam's sword set to return to India

SPECIAL

Serish Naniseti
HYDERABAD

A 14th-century ceremonial sword that was sold in Hyderabad to a British General in the early 20th century is set to return to India. The sword is among the seven objects being repatriated by Glasgow Life, which manages Glasgow's museums.

While the objects were described as stolen, the acquisition document for the sword says it was purchased from Maharaja Kishen Pershad.

Bought in 1905
Jonathon Reilly, communications officer of Glasgow Life, said: "The *tulwar*



Back soon: The 14th-century serpent-shaped sword on display during a transfer of ownership ceremony in Glasgow last month.

(sword) was purchased in 1905 by General Sir Archibald Hunter, Commander-in-Chief, Bombay Command (1903-1907), from Maharaja Sir Kishen Pershad Bahadur Yamin us-Sultanat, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad. The *tulwar* was donated by Sir Hunter's nephew, Mr. Ar-

chibald Hunter Service, to Glasgow Life museums' collections in 1978."

The sword, shaped like a snake, has serrated edges and a damascene pattern, with gold etchings of an elephant and tigers.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

RSS chief to Muslims: clear stand on cow slaughter

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat has, at a recent closed-door meeting in the national capital with representatives of the Muslim community, asked them to clear their stand on cow slaughter. He also questioned the use of terms such as 'kafir' (non-believer) and 'jihad' (holy war) against Hindus and suggested that they be avoided.

The Muslim delegation, which had asked for the meeting in the wake of now suspended Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments on the Prophet, in turn apprised the RSS chief of the growing sense of fear in the community in recent times.



Mohan Bhagwat

The 75-minute interaction, an RSS source said, explored ways to foster brotherhood and promote the theme of religious inclusivity. Prominent Muslim representatives in attendance included former Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung, former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, former Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor Lieutenant General (retd.) Zameer Uddin Shah, Rashtri-

Mohan Bhagwat tells community representatives that words such as 'kafir' and 'jihad' against Hindus should be avoided

ya Lok Dal (RLD) national vice-president Shahid Siddiqui and businessman Saeed Shervani.

'Wrong interpretation'
"Bhagwatji at the outset asked them to clear their stand on cow slaughter and all of them asserted that they are against it. He was told that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of AMU, had banned beef on campus in deference to the sentiments of all communities," the source said.

The RSS chief also questioned the use of the word

'kafir' for Hindus and was told that it means a person who is in denial (mostly about the existence of god). "How can Hindus be 'kafir'? They also have faith in god," the RSS office-bearer quoted a member from the Muslim delegation as telling Mr. Bhagwat.

On 'jihad', the attendees reportedly told him that they never use the term and explained that it was being wrongly interpreted by "antisocial elements" intent on dividing the country. It is actually an inward journey of correcting the self, the delegates told the RSS chief.

Sharing pain
Taking the discussion forward, the representatives of the Muslim community shared the pain of being dubbed as 'deshdrohi' (anti-national) for activities

that are simply part of their freedom of expression.

Explaining the context of the interaction, RSS functionaries told *The Hindu* that Mr. Bhagwat keeps meeting people from various sections of society in every city he goes.

'Promoting peace'
While Mr. Jung remained tight-lipped, Mr. Siddiqui said the meeting was held to promote peace among people and ended on a positive note. "We didn't meet Bhagwat as the representatives of any community but as concerned citizens. Things that happened in the country in the recent past have raised the temperature. We want to bring it down and bridge the gap between communities," the RLD leader said.



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FRANKE'S AIR EXPERT

Four killed as truck runs over people sleeping on road divider in Seemapuri

Driver arrested from Shamli in Uttar Pradesh, CCTV footage shows he was speeding, says DCP; family of one victim decides to donate his eyes to honour his 'kind heart and vivacity'

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Four persons sleeping on a road divider were killed and two injured when a speeding truck ran over them in the early hours of Wednesday in north-east Delhi's Seemapuri area, the police said.

The accused driver, Sudhir Kumar, 36, has been arrested from Shamli in Uttar Pradesh and his truck has been seized, said DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram. The arrest has been made after analysing CCTV camera footage, which showed the truck hitting an electricity pole after running over the victims, said the DCP, adding that the accused was driving negligently.

The victims have been identified as Shah Alam, 38, Chhote Khan, 25, Kareem, 52, and Rahul, 45, all scrap dealers, while Manish, 16, a ragpicker, and Pradeep, 30, a labourer, sustained injuries. According to the police, two persons died on the spot while four others were rushed to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital in Dilshad Garden. One victim was declared brought dead and another died during treatment, the police added.

Waiting outside the hos-



Killed in sleep: Mattresses lying on the road divider where the truck ran over six victims in the early hours of Wednesday at Seemapuri in north-east Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

pital for Chhote Khan's body, his elder brother Mumtiaz said his family members are still in shock as they had last seen him around 8 p.m. going out for a walk with some neighbours. "He said he might get late. I told Chhote to come home and not loiter around without a reason," Mr. Mumtiaz said.

Chhote worked as a scrap dealer and earned ₹300-₹400 a day. "Since Chhote was famous for his 'zinda dili (large-hearted)', we have decided to donate his eyes to a needy person," Mr. Mumtiaz said.

Families of most of the victims said the men chose to sleep on the divider due to cramped space at home.

Hafiza Bibi, wife of Shah Alam, said her husband had stepped out for a while as he had a long day on Tuesday. He met his friends near the Seemapuri bus depot and decided to stay back.

Around 1.51 a.m., the truck speeding towards DLF T-point hit the six men sleeping on the divider while crossing the traffic signal, said the police.

Sole breadwinner

Ms. Hafiza said she doesn't know how to sustain her family now. "My husband was the sole breadwinner of our family of five persons," she said.

Kareem's son-in-law Sheikh Habibul, who was

one of the first relatives to reach the spot, said, "I saw crushed bodies with organs scattered on the road. I went numb and couldn't speak."

He said Kareem did multiple odd jobs to sustain his family, which was under financial stress due to a recent eye surgery of his son.

One of the injured, Manish, a resident of Harsh Vihar, said he had gone to the spot to sell his scrap. "Since it was getting late, I slept on the divider. I had done so in the past too," he said. The truck ran over Manish's right hand. "It then ran over the others, hit a pole and sped away," he said. Manish was discharged from the hospital after treatment.

MPD-2041 to be placed before DDA in December: Centre

Muneef Khan
NEW DELHI

The Centre has informed the Supreme Court that the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2041 will be placed before the Authority, the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) highest decision-making body, in the first week of December 2022.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, also informed the apex court that further modifications in the draft MPD-2041, if any, will be done by the last week of December.

The letter regarding final approval and notification of MPD-2041 will be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), by January 15, 2023, the ASG added.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S. Oka, which was hearing various pleas about illegal use of the city's residential areas for commercial and industrial purposes, asked the Centre to stick to its

The Centre also informed the apex court that further modifications in the draft MPD-2041, if any, will be done by the last week of December

timeline.

"Even though the dates given are tentative, we expect these dates to be strictly adhered to as the matter cannot remain in limbo for ad infinitum. We are sure that the final Master Plan would be published on or before April 30, 2023," Supreme Court said in its September 13 order. When contacted, senior officials of DDA and MoHUA declined to comment.

The top court also appointed a two-member committee to hear challenges on orders passed by the Supreme Court-appointed monitoring committee in connection with sealing of properties, demolition of unauthorised construction etc.

Two women booked for fight in salon

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A scuffle broke out between a beautician and a customer at a salon in INA market after the latter allegedly didn't like her work, the police said. The customer alleged that the beautician bit her on the arm while the latter said the woman tore her clothes. FIRs have been lodged against both of them, the police said.

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Over 300 cases of lumpy skin disease in city

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A total of 311 cases of lumpy skin disease have been reported in the city this month so far. However, no cattle deaths have been reported, government officials said. The government is in the process of procuring 25,000 doses of vaccine and is likely to start vaccinating cattle later this month, said animal husbandry director Rakesh Singh.

"The number of cases is more in the South West district, where we have deployed four extra teams. We will also focus on areas where cases have been reported for vaccination," Mr. Singh added.

He also said that even if a cow is found to have the disease, its milk would still be fit for consumption after being boiled. "Since the disease spreads by ticks, mosquitoes, flies etc. and not through water or air, it is not spreading very fast. Animals are recovering in 8-10 days," the official said.

Over 500 cases lodged for property damage 'during anti-CAA protests', HC told

Have initiated appropriate legal action against persons involved in damaging public and private properties, Delhi Police tells High Court in response to a PIL seeking compensation

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police told the High Court on Wednesday that it has registered 535 cases of damage to public and private properties "during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in 2019 and 2020".

In an affidavit, filed on the orders of the High Court, the police submitted that they have initiated "appropriate legal action against the persons involved in causing damage to public and private properties during the protest".

The Delhi High Court had appointed Justice Sunil Gaur (ret.) as "Claim Commissioner" to investigate claims of property damage and award compensation.



Security personnel during a flag march in north-east Delhi in February 2020. FILE PHOTO

The Claim Commissioner has, as per the police's affidavit, passed its judgment in eight separate cases of damages to shops and vehicles during the riots that broke out in north-east Delhi following the protests. Most of the FIRs regis-

tered for damage to public and private properties are either in the stage of "pending investigation" or "pending trial", the court was informed.

Delhi Police said that due to the measures taken by it, the violence was contained in a few days.

On March 21 this year, the High Court sought the response of the Centre, Delhi government and Delhi Police to a PIL filed by a lawyer and a student, who sought the setting up of an independent body to investigate the damages and award compensation.

HC tells DDA, city police to reply on sewer death

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the city police, the Delhi Development Authority and the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) to submit their respective stands in a case relating to two persons who allegedly died while cleaning a sewer earlier this month.

A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad was hearing a public interest litigation initiated on its own, based on a news report which stated that a sweeper and a security guard died on September 9 in Outer Delhi's Mundka area after they inhaled toxic gases inside a sewer.

Senior advocate Rajshankar Rao, who was appointed as amicus curiae to assist the court in the case, said the police and the NCSK shall also be made parties to the petition. The Bench listed the matter for September 27.

'Data suggest Rohingya migrants have links with Pak. terror outfits'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that it has contemporaneous data from security agencies' input indicating the linkage of some of the unauthorised Rohingya migrants with Pakistan-based terror organisations, which is a "serious security concern".

The government said the most disturbing part is that there is an "organised influx of illegal migrants" from Myanmar through agents and touts who facilitate Rohingya into India via Benapole-Haridaspur and Hilli (West Bengal) and Sonamora (Tripura), Kolkata and Guwahati.

The Centre, in an affidavit filed before Justice Yashwant Varma, said due to an already existing large influx of illegal immigrants from the neighbouring countries, the demographic profile of some of the bordering States in India has already undergone a serious change, which is

There is an 'organised influx of illegal migrants' from Myanmar through touts, Centre told HC

causing far-reaching complications in various contexts and has a direct detrimental effect on the fundamental and basic human rights of country's citizens.

The Centre's affidavit was filed in response to a petition by a woman, who claims to be a Myanmar national, challenging the Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreigners Regional Registration Office's decision to refuse her application to leave India for resettlement in the U.S. where her husband is residing.

The woman submitted that she is not a Rohingya. The government said she has not produced any document to show that she is a Myanmar national and she has not mentioned in the petition as to when did she enter India and which travel documents she used.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
In the Court of the III Addl. Dist. Judge Guntur, Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh
MVOP No: 74 / 2020
Between:
Marthala Chakravarthi ...Petitioner
and
Shiv Poojan Panika & Others ...Respondents
To: R-1: Shiv Poojan Panika, S/o. Shiv Bhan Panika, R/o Gram-Dadaur, Teh. Mahajuli-Sidhi, Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh. (Driver of Lorry bearing No. AP07X8415).
Please take notice that the above petitioner filed a claim Petition before the above said Hon'ble court for compensation and the Hon'ble court ordered notice to you number of times, but you intentionally evade to receive the said notice. At last the Hon'ble court ordered notice to you by way of this paper publication. Hence you are hereby requested to appear before the Hon'ble court on 31-10-2022 at 10-30 AM, either in person or through advocate failing which the matter will be decided in your absence as ex-parte.
Hearing Date: 31-10-2022
K. RAMA KRISHNA REDDY
Advocate for Petitioner
Guntur, A.P. Cell: 9848361788

IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE OF SALEM SSJ - II COURT MCOP No.871/2019

Senthil @ Senthikumar, S/o. Eshwaran, D.No.4/82, Singarathoppu, Ammapalayam Ooratchi, Sandiyyar Altiyampatty Po, Salem Tk & Dt. ... Petitioner
-Vs-
M/s. Delhi Baroda Road Carrier Pvt Ltd., P/A, ADD.23, Transport Centre, 480, Udyog Vihar Phase, V.Gurgaon, Azadpur, Mandi, Delhi-110003.
...1st Respondent

NOTICE
That the Petitioner was injured in Motor Vehicle Accident. That the petitioners was filed a petition for compensation before the District Court of Salem SSJ-II Court which was numbered as MCOP No.871/2019 and stand posted for your appearance on 15.10.2022 to the above court at about 10.00 AM in person or your advocate, otherwise ex-parte order will be passed against you.
R.VELMURUGAN B.A., B.L., Advocate, S.R. Garden, New Court Near, Muthukalipatty (PO) Rasipuram (TK), Namakkal (Dt.) Mob: 98427-41214

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Anil Bhatnagar & his wife Smt. Geeta Bhatnagar both r/o Flat no 91, Pocket E, Mayur Vihar Ph II, New Delhi 110091 have served all their relation with their son Sh Sahil Bhatnagar and his wife Smt Apra Tewari because of bad habits and unethical behaviour. Both of my above said clients have also disowned and debarred their son and his wife from all their movable and immovable properties. Anyone dealing with Sahil Bhatnagar and Apra Tewari will do so at its own risk and responsibilities and my client will be not responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by him or his wife.
Prithvi Raj Chauhan
Advocate
Enrl No. PH/160/2019

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

We are deeply saddened to share the news of the demise of



Mr. N. VENKATARAMANI
Expired on 18.09.2022 at 6.25 pm US time
Beloved son, brother, husband, father, father in law and grandfather, respected community member, cherished friend and humble servant of God.

Memorial services and Rites at Frederick Funeral Home Flushing, NY - 11358. Link to Obituary and Live stream of Services:
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/flushing-ny/narayanan-venkataramani-10932846

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to The Hindu Temple Society of North America:
https://nyganeshtemple.org/donations-annadanam/
II Om Shanti II
Email: anithav1002@gmail.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



RADHA. B
W/o Late
Ramachandramurthy B
Passed away peacefully on
20 Sep 2022 in Chennai.

A very strong and assertive personality who lived her life the way she wanted.

Family members:
Harikrishna & Kavitha
Boddupalli
Aparna & Ravikhiron
Indukuri
Grandsons: Rajkumar
I, Tarun B & Shreyas B
Email: hrkavi7@gmail.com

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BJP demands inquiry into 'illegal' DDC appointments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday accused Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of appointing "his people" in the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) and demanded that Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena institute an inquiry into the matter.

West Delhi MP Parvesh Sahib Singh alleged that the Chief Minister had misused his powers and "illegally appointed AAP workers" in the DDC, an advisory body set up by the Delhi government.

He also alleged that the DDC members were paid salaries and facilities on a par with administrative of-



BJP leader Parvesh Verma

ficers, which amounted to another "scam".

The Aam Aadmi Party termed the allegations "slander" being levelled at the Delhi government since the BJP was devoid of any "real issues".

"All vice-chairmen and members who have been appointed in the commission [DDC] are AAP social media workers and have

nothing to do with the development of the city," Mr. Singh said.

"The AAP workers go to different States and do the work of the party on the government's funds. This is not only wrong but also misuse of public money," he said. The MP added that a complaint to this effect had been lodged with Raj Niwas which, according to sources, is being examined.

Responding to the charges, AAP dared the BJP to initiate an investigation into the issue and "throw all of its leaders in jail".

"The truth is, neither the CBI nor the ED could find anything in their investigations, be it the [now-scrapped] excise policy or our schools," AAP stated.

HRERA restrains sale and purchase of Vatika project

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority has restrained sale and purchase related to the Vatika Limited's residential project, "Vatika India Next2", in Sectors 88-A and B here for alleged incomplete application for registration and expiry of licence. The authority has also served 30 days' notice to the developer.

Besides Vatika, the authority has also sent stern messages to the promoters

A large number of documents in an application filed by the promoter are still pending

of Neo Square, Centra One, Zen Residence1 and others, asking them to conform to the rules by or before the next date of hearing on October 17.

The Vatika Limited had procured the licence for the project from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department in 2013

to develop a plotted township "Vatika India Next2" and applied for the Real Estate Regulatory Authority registration in August 2022, which is five years after the RERA was notified in the State in July 2017, said a statement issued by the RERA, Gurugram.

The authority said large numbers of documents in an application filed by the promoter are still pending, including the deficit registration fee and the licence of the project has also expired.

Event for IAS aspirants on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An inter-college meet is being organised by The Hindu in association with GS Score, an Institute for Civil Services. The interactive event, open to all the civil service aspirants, will be held at Shah Auditorium, Civil Lines, New Delhi, on September 23 at 11 a.m.

The meet will be addressed by experienced bureaucrats, former IPS, DGP and one of India's leading social activists Amod Kanth and IRS, Deputy Commissioner (Income Tax) Jyoti Meena, who will share their vast experience with the aspirants.

The programme will see participation of the various civil service societies of DU colleges. There will also be a live quiz to test students' preparedness for the exam and attractive prizes will be given to the winners.

Timings

THURSDAY, SEP. 22	RISE	06:10	SET	18:18
	RISE	02:33	SET	16:35
FRIDAY, SEP. 23				
	RISE	06:10	SET	18:17
	RISE	03:31	SET	17:09
SATURDAY, SEP. 24				
	RISE	06:11	SET	18:16
	RISE	04:27	SET	17:41

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	25
Safdarjang	34	25
Palam	33	26

Delhi Palam Today
34°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty windst occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be comfortable. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is possible.

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With BMC yet to take a decision, Uddhav faction moves HC to hold Dasara rally at Shivaji Park

Thackeray group suspects that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will use his office to get their application rejected by the BMC, as he too eyes addressing the 'real' Shiv Sainiks at the historic park on October 5. Court to hear the matter today.

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

With the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) yet to take a decision on the applications submitted by the Uddhav Thackeray and rival Eknath Shinde factions of the Shiv Sena to hold the annual Dasara rally at Shivirth (as Shivaji Park is referred to by the Shiv Sena) in Mumbai on October 5, the Thackeray camp on Wednesday knocked on the doors of the Bombay High Court.

The petition by the Thackeray camp sought directions to the BMC for permission for the rally, as it suspected that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde would use his office to get its application rejected, as he too "eyes" to address the "real" Shiv Sainiks at Shivaji Park. The court posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

With Shivaji Park becoming the bone of contention between the two factions,



Political showdown: Uddhav Thackeray at the annual Dasara meeting held at Shivaji Park in October, 2019. Bal Thackeray addressed his first meeting of party workers here on October 30, 1966. FILE PHOTO

the entire State, not just Mumbai, is headed for a showdown over who carries the baton of the "real" Shiv Sena, which was founded by Bal Thackeray in 1966. The Shinde camp is confident of holding the meeting at the park as a "show of strength". While it has gone ahead with making arrangements without waiting for the BMC per-

mission, the Uddhav camp is pulling out all the stops to hold the rally.

The annual Dasara rally at Shivaji Park holds immense significance as Shiv Sainiks from all corners of Maharashtra converge in a show of strength and listen to their party supremo's speech.

Bal Thackeray addressed his first meeting of party

workers here on Dasara on October 30, 1966. This is also the place from where he gave speeches, criticising the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party.

Weeks before his death on November 17, 2012, the senior Thackeray's recorded video was broadcast at the Dasara rally. In it, he sought support of the party workers for his son Uddhav

Thackeray and grandson Aaditya Thackeray. "You took care of me. Now, take care of Uddhav and Aaditya," he said.

Political analyst Surendra Jondhale said Shivaji Park was an extremely important and sentimental site for the Shiv Sena, and that it was the "legitimate right" of Mr. Uddhav to hold the rally there as the party's supremo.

"The place has a history. The breakaway Eknath Shinde group doesn't have any moral right to hold a rally, especially when the matter of 'real' Shiv Sena is *sub judice*," he said.

Mr. Shinde was the frontman during Balasaheb's days in organising the Dasara rallies and was a known face in Mumbai.

"While *saheb* used to address the Shiv Sainiks, it was our leader, the chief of 'real' Shiv Sena, Eknath Shinde, who used to take care of all the arrangements. He knows the pulse of Shiv Sainiks," an elected public representative from the Shinde faction said.

Hold BMC polls in 30 days, dares Thackeray

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday challenged the Shinde-Fadnavis government in the State to hold elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in the next 30 days.

Describing the BJP as a 'divide-and-rule party', Mr. Thackeray said he was confident that all the communities in Mumbai would support his party. "For Mumbaikars, Shiv Sena is trust, support and development. Our relationship with them is unbreakable," Mr. Thackeray said, addressing a huge congregation of party functionaries at Goregaon here. "Recently, Amit Shah asked his party to show Shiv Sena its place in the BMC polls. I dare them to try it," he said.

Governor withdraws order to summon Punjab Assembly

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit on Wednesday withdrew the order for summoning a special session of the Assembly, citing absence of specific rules regarding summoning of the Assembly to only bring a confidence motion.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had announced that it would convene a special session of the Assembly on September 22 to bring a 'confidence motion', following allegation that attempts were being made to topple its government in Punjab by offering bribes to its legislators.

The Governor's decision invited sharp criticism from the AAP, but was welcomed by the Opposition parties including the Con-

While the ruling AAP criticises Banwarilal Purohit's decision, opposition parties welcome move

gress, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"In absence of the specific rules regarding summoning of the Assembly for considering the 'confidence motion' only called by the Punjab government on September 22, 2022 through 3rd special session of 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha, I Banwarilal Purohit, hereby withdraw my orders dated September 20, 2022 regarding summoning the sixteenth Vidhan Sabha of the State of Punjab to meet for its 3rd (Special) session at 11 A.M. on Thursday in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha hall..." read the Governor's order.

Mukhtar Ansari gets seven-year jail term for threat to jailer

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court on Wednesday sentenced gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to seven years in prison for pointing a pistol at a jailer and threatening him. The Bench of Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh found Mr. Ansari, 59, guilty of offences under Sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

As per the complainant, S.K. Awasthi, who was serving as a jailer in the Lucknow district jail on April 23, 2003, Mr. Ansari had threatened to kill and abused him when the jailer ordered frisking of some persons who had come to meet Mr. Ansari in the prison.

**WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD DIVISION
VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**
E-tender notice No. 19 of 2022-2023 dated 16.09.2022; (01) e-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-90-2022-23; Name of work:- Augmentation and construction of ORH at Gandhidham, Construction of CPW's office at Gandhidham (East) & Gandhidham (West), Sectional SSE/JE (P/W) office and tool room for artisan staff at Samakhiali & Providing pipeline connection from GWSSB to Samakhiali Railway colony under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN (NW)-Ahmedabad; Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 4,12,74,408.91; EMD Cost: ₹ 3,56,400.00; (02) e-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-91-2022-23; Name of work:- Supply of pipe line network for tapped water and provision of UG drainage system in various way side stations of under jurisdiction of ADEN-Gandhidham; Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 3,81,74,248.67; EMD Cost: ₹ 3,50,000.00; (03) e-Tender No.: DRM-ADI-92-2022-23; Name of work:- Providing and augmentation of station watering, train watering, drainage and charging arrangement on platforms for passengers and customer amenities i.e. Waiting rooms, Goods office, parcel office etc. at Asarva and other associated works under jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (Works) Ahmedabad; Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 6,66,42,018.87; EMD Cost: ₹ 4,83,200.00; For All above tenders: Closing date & time of e-tender: Date 11.10.2022 at 15:00 hrs; Office Address: Sr. Divisional Engineer, (Co. Ordination), Ahmedabad, DRM Office, Near Chamunda Bridge, Opp. New Swadeshi Mill, Naroda Road, Amdupura, Ahmedabad - 382 345, Website for participating e-tender: www.ireps.gov.in

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- Narendra Modi

World Car Free Day

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Car Pooling

Cycling

Public Transport

Haryana Government's significant steps towards environment conservation

'Kachre se Kanchan Yojana', environment conservation with self-reliance

Expansion of forest and vaticas from Panchkula to Morni

Protection and expansion of trees through 'Pran Vayu Devta Pension Yojana' and 'Oxyvan'

Avoid the use of private vehicles as far as possible

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INBRIEF



Karnataka Congress unit launches 'PayCM' campaign

Opposition Congress on Wednesday launched "PayCM 40% accepted here" campaign, a QR code with the face of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, on the lines of the Paytm QR code payment gateway. These posters were pasted on walls at various places. As the campaign went viral, Mr. Bommai hit back, calling it an effort to tarnish his and the State's image. "Officers have been asked to identify those behind this campaign and file a case," he said.

Kerala Governor signs five Bills, withholds assent for six

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan signed into law five Bills passed by the Assembly. However, Mr. Khan withheld assent to the remaining six Bills, putting him at odds with the government and provoking a sharp response from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The laws awaiting gubernatorial assent included the University Laws (Amendment) Act, 2022, and Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Act, 2022. Mr. Khan had openly opposed the legislation at a press conference in Raj Bhavan last Monday.

Man and son among three killed in fire in Chittoor town

Three persons, including a man and his son, were killed after a fire broke out in a two-storey building, which housed a paper-plate manufacturing unit at Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. According to the police, Bhaskar, 65, and his son Delhi Babu, 35, operated the cottage industry. Delhi Babu's friend Balaji, 25, also died. The police suspect a short circuit on the ground floor as the cause of the fire.

Assam and Mizoram to set up panels to study border sectors

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Assam and Mizoram are in the process of forming regional committees to study the disputed sectors along the 164.6 km border between them.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma made the announcement after meeting his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga in New Delhi on Wednesday for resolving the four-decade-old boundary issue.

"We discussed a gamut of issues pertaining to resolving our vexed border problem. We are also in the process of forming the regional panels to discuss and resolve the issue," he said. The meeting between the two CMs at the Assam House was primarily to review the Minister level talks held in Mizoram capital Aizawl on August 9. "The progress of the talks has been satisfactory," Mr. Zoramthanga said.

At least half a dozen people, mostly from Assam, have been killed in the conflicts since October 2020. There were flare-ups earlier too.

Mr. Sarma also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and apprised him of a slew of development initiatives and schemes in Assam. These included the status of a tunnel under the Brahmaputra river connecting Kaliabor and Jamuguri.

He Mr. Sarma also invited Mr. Modi the Prime Minister to the concluding function of the 400th birth anniversary of Lachit Borphukan, a 17th century Ahom general, to be held on November 24.

Bid to drop NTR and bring YSR in varsity name sets off furore

Telugu Desam Party MLAs oppose the Amendment Bill, say all such acts will be undone once the party comes to power in Andhra Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

On the last day of the ninth session of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on Wednesday, there was uproar as the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) members stormed the Speaker's podium to protest against the State government's move to rename Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (NTRUHS) as Dr. YSR University of Health Sciences (YSRUHS).

The TDP MLAs, holding placards, raised slogans such as 'NTR Amar Rahe' and 'Johar NTR' and opposed the 'Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2022'.

The protesting members threw pieces of paper on Speaker Thammineni Seetharam. Enraged over it, the Speaker threw his



Loud and clear: TDP cadres staging a protest near Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences in Vijayawada on Wednesday. K.V.S. GIRI

headphones, and announced a "break for some time."

Earlier, a wordy duel ensued between the ruling YSRCP and the Opposition TDP members.

TDP up in arms

Opposing the State government's move, TDP leaders staged protests at different places in the State.

The Opposition party leaders staged a dharna at NTRUHS and raised slogans demanding that the government withdraw the decision.

Tension prevailed on the university campus when the TDP activists tried to storm into the premises. Later, the activists staged a 'rasta roko' on the National Highway.

Karnataka passes anti-conversion Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed the Karnataka Protection of Religion Bill, 2022, (popularly called the anti-conversion Bill) by voice

vote amid walkout by Opposition Congress members.

The Legislative Council passed the Bill on September 15. With its passage in the Assembly, both the Houses of the Karnataka legislature have passed the Bill, which will now await

the Governor's assent.

The Bill was first passed in the Legislative Assembly during the winter session in Belagavi in December 2021. But it was not cleared in the Council last year. An Ordinance was promulgated on May 17, 2022, which the law will now replace.

Deny reports of Jagan voted as party chief for life: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday ordered the YSRCP to publicly come out against media reports that said party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had been elected as president for life.

In July, media reports had stated that the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP founder was unanimously elected as the permanent president of the party. The EC had written to the party on July 19 seeking its comments on the matter. In its reply on August 23, the party informed the EC of "unanimous" election of Mr. Reddy as president, but "did not categorically admit or deny the specific allegation as forwarded in Election Commission of India's reference", the EC order said.

Any action against periodic elections was in complete violation of its instructions and if not denied, had the potential to create confusion among other parties, the EC said.

Ex-Lucknow varsity acting V-C stands surety for Kappan

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

For ten days after the Supreme Court granted bail to Siddique Kappan, his lawyers could not find a single Uttar Pradesh resident who was ready to come forward to stand surety for the Kerala-based journalist.

Their wait ended on Tuesday when two persons, including former acting Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University, Roop Rekha Verma, appeared in a Lucknow court as sureties. The identity of the second person was not disclosed by Mr. Kappan's lawyers.

The apex court had, on September 9, granted bail to Mr. Kappan in the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) case, stating that "every citizen has the right to free expression". The conditions set for his release included producing two individual sureties, who are residents of Uttar Pradesh, having ₹1 lakh worth of value either in their account or by way of assets.

"The two individuals appeared on Tuesday in court as sureties. But the process will take two to three days to be completed, while the court verifies all the details," Mr. Kappan's lawyer Mohamad Dhanish said.

However, despite his bail conditions set by SC being fulfilled, the jailed scribe may not be able to walk out of jail soon. He is yet to get relief in the Prevention of Money Launder-



Siddique Kappan was granted bail on September 9.

ing Act (PMLA) case lodged against him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The next hearing in the PMLA case is scheduled for September 23 in a Lucknow court.

Doing my duty

Speaking to *The Hindu* about her decision to stand as a surety, Ms. Verma, 79, said, "This is the minimum I can do as a concerned citizen in these dark times. I reasoned in my mind... I am not doing anything against the government. I am only helping him to come out of jail and fight his legal battles."

Ms. Verma, who taught at Lucknow University for almost 40 years, added, "Why does it happen under the present regime that people are arrested for doing their duty on charges of disturbing law and order or treason? What were the ED, NIA and other agencies doing a minute before Mr. Kappan arrived on the scene?"

Ms. Verma was herself among the public figures who expressed solidarity with the family of the Hathras teenage gang-rape victim, for which she was put under house arrest.

ISRO successfully tests hybrid propulsion system, to aid future technologies

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Wednesday that it successfully demonstrated a hybrid propulsion system that used a solid fuel and liquid oxidiser.

The hybrid motor was tested at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, on Tuesday evening. The hybrid system is more efficient, "greener" and safer to handle, and paves the way for new propulsion technologies for future missions, the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), which tested it with support from the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), said.

In the ground-based test, the flight equivalent 30 kN hybrid motor used HTPB-based (hydroxyl-ter-



The propulsion system used a solid fuel and liquid oxidiser. ISRO

minated polybutadiene) aluminised solid fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidiser. The test was performed for 15 seconds on a 300-mm sounding rocket motor.

Conventional HTPB-based solid propellant motors used in rockets use ammonium perchlorate as oxidiser. In rocket engines, oxidisers supply the oxygen needed for combustion. While both HTPB and LOX are green, the cryogenic LOX is safer to handle. And unlike conventional solid motors, the hybrid technology permits restarting and throttling capabilities on the motor. The use of liquids facilitates throttling and control over the flow rate of LOX.

Frozen cruise



Port of call: An aerial view of the cruise liner Empress that sails from Vishakhapatnam to Chennai via Puducherry, which had a successful run from June this year, anchored at the VCTPL berth, in Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. This is the last trip for the luxury liner on this route for this season. K.R. DEEPAK

Telangana Congress wants Rahul back at the helm

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

With the voices getting shriller to bring back Rahul Gandhi as the president of the All India Congress Committee, the Telangana Congress passed a unanimous resolution requesting Mr. Gandhi to take back party reins.

Another unanimous resolution was also passed authorising AICC president Sonia Gandhi to nominate Pradesh Congress Commit-

tee (PCC) office-bearers and AICC members of Telangana. Poll Returning Officer for TPCC elections Rajmohan Unnithan said at a press conference that the resolution requesting Mr. Gandhi to come back as

party president was moved by CLP leader Bhatti Vikramarka, and it was supported by Nalgonda MP N. Utam Kumar Reddy, MLA D. Sreedhar Babu and former PCC chiefs Ponnala Lakshmaiah and V. Hanmanth Rao.

He also said that the membership drive was held successfully across the country for the first time in the digital mode and Telangana enrolled second highest number of members in the country.

'Modi govt. taking away wealth of people'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Narendra Modi government is taking away the wealth of people and handing it over to his few friends, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the Kochi leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on Wednesday, Mr. Gandhi said millions of Indians, including farmers, traders, fishermen, and petty businessmen, were struggling to survive even as three or four friends of the Prime Minister were enhancing their wealth.



Kochi connect: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kochi on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

The BJP and the RSS are dividing the country along caste, religious and language lines and spreading hatred among various

sections. "We want a country where people live in peace and prosperity and care for one another," Mr. Gand-

hi said. "India will not accept the unfair practice of ill-treating majority of its people. We will not accept an India where its youth have to beg for a job," he said.

Some friends of the Prime Minister were the beneficiaries of the hike in prices of fuel and essential commodities.

"Every Indian, while buying fuel for their vehicles, should ask who was benefiting from price hike," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Gandhi resumed the rally from Kalamassery in Ernakulam to conclude at Aluva.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

1ST CORRIGENDUM

Tender No.- 30-Elect-33-T-2022-23-E3 Name of Work: Electrical work in connection with repair, renovation and provision of various facilities in officers club in Delhi area. The amendments in above said tender are as under:

Tender No.- 30-Elect-33-T-2022-23-E3

	Earlier published	Amended
Name of Work	Electrical work in connection with repair, renovation and provision of various facilities in officers club in Delhi area.	Electrical work in connection with repair, renovation and provision of various facilities in officers club in Delhi area.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 123.21 Lacs	Rs. 124.29 Lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Bid Security	Rs. 211600.00	Rs. 212200.00
Date & time of submission of tender	06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.	06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

The tender document of above mentioned tender has been modified kindly go through the amended documents available on www.ireps.gov.in and submit your offer accordingly. 2467/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Ref.- Tender Notice No. 37/2022-2023 Dated 22.08.2022
ii) Tender No.07225005 due on 30.09.2022 (S.No. 1)

In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 30.09.2022 to 14.10.2022. Pre bid conference will be held on 30.09.2022.
All other terms and condition remain unchanged.
The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in 2468/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HPPWD TENDERS

Sealed item rate tenders on forms 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Dharamshala Division, HPPWD., Dharamshala for the below mentioned works from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD so as to reach in his office on or before **30.09.2022 upto 11:00 AM** and the same shall be opened on the same day at **11:30 AM** in the presence of the tender opening committee and intending contractors/firms or their authorized representatives. The tender documents can be had from this office against cash payment/Non refundable) up to **4:00 P.M. on 29.09.2022**. The applications for issue of tender forms shall be received upto **3:00 P.M. on 28.09.2022**.

The Earnest Money in the shape of NSC's / FDR's Deposit/Bank Guarantee at Call of any of the Post office/Bank duly pledged in favour of XEN HPPWD., Dharamshala must be accompanied with the tender documents. Please note that no exemption orders of earnest money will be entertained. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money as mentioned above will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 90 days. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reasons. The contractors should be registered 72XCVML / PLOK as a dealer under H.P. Sales Tax Act, 1962 and also produce the clearance certificate from the Excise and Taxation department. The tender documents shall only be issued to those contractors/firms who will produce the photo copy of their enlistment/renewal, if it happens to be a holiday on the day of opening of tenders the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue:-

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost in Rs.	EMD	Time limit	Cost of Tender form
1.	Construction of Science Block in Govt. Degree College at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O approach road to Science Block building side)	498500.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
2.	Construction of link road from Durga Mal Bad Bahadur Park to village Jharki including bridge over souli khad in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O R/wall at RD 0/440 to 0/451.50)	139268.00	2800.00	Three Months	350/-
3.	Annual repair and maintenance of various roads under HPPWD Sub Division No. II in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/L Patch work at various RDs)	497865.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
4.	Construction of Tang to Tangroti road Km 0/000 to 2/000 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O C.C. Pavement at RD 1/105 to 1/515)	470500.00	9500.00	Three Months	350/-
5.	Construction of Tang to Tangroti road Km 0/000 to 2/000 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/L G-I, G-III & Bitumen macadam at RD 1/517 to 1/765 including U-Shape drain)	380450.00	7700.00	Three Months	350/-
6.	Construction of link road Sakoh to Chigliani Km 0/000 to 1/400 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. against the A/A & E/S of various development works (Deposit) (SH- C/O R/wall at RD 0/795 to 0/811)	286648.00	5800.00	Three Months	350/-
7.	Restoration of Rain damages on link road Sakoh to Chellian km 0/000 to 4/000 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O R/wall & Edge wall at RD 1/340 to 1/370 including parapets)	490612.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
8.	Special repair to Zonal Hospital Complex in Dharamshala front of O.P.D. Block and eye mobile unit P.C.C. retaining wall, Distt. Kangra HP (Deposit work) (SH- C/O 2 Nos. Car Shed and 1 No. M.S entrance gate in Type- V Residential Accommodation near C.M.O. Residence at Gamru Dharamshala)	499500.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
9.	Construction of Smart road from Upper Dharamkot to Lower Dharamkot in Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra HP (Deposit work) (SH- P/F Crash barrier at RD 0/150 to 0/234)	339999.00	6800.00	Three Months	350/-
10.	Special repair to Operation Theatre in Zonal Hospital Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra HP (Deposit work) (SH- P/F Crash barrier at RD 0/150 to 0/234)	484178.00	9700.00	Three Months	350/-
11.	P/L flooring & tiling on 1st & 2nd floor of the Deputy Director Animal Husbandary office building at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- P/L tiles, steel work, aluminium work and sanitary installation etc. in Veterinary Hospital) (Balance work)	287926.00	5800.00	Three Months	350/-
12.	Construction of Link Road to village uppar Dar in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. Under SCSP (SH- P/L C C Pavement at RD 0/850 to 0/940 & R/wall (Balance work)	490168.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
13.	Construction of I.T.I. building at Dari in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Balance work of 2nd floor Block - C)	486013.00	9800.00	Three Months	350/-
14.	Construction of Link road from Karmu Mode to Dusalan Chohla RD 0/000 to 1/915 km in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O Breast wall with Stone masonry at RD 0/470 to 0/500)	419768.00	8400.00	Three Months	350/-
15.	Restoration of Rain damages on Link road Sakoh to Chellian km 0/000 to 4/000 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O R/wall at RD 0/764 to 0/774 including Parapets)	221751.00	4500.00	Three Months	350/-
16.	Restoration of Rain damages on Dharamshala to Jule via Aghanjar Mahadev Slate Godown road km 0/000 to 22/500 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Shoulder at RD 7/000 to 13/250)	450000.00	9000.00	Three Months	350/-
17.	Construction of Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 against the A/A & E/S of various development works - Deposit (SH- Providing Gabion structures with PCC at RD 0/060 to 0/070)	425869.00	8550.00	Three Months	350/-
18.	Annual repair and maintenance of Dharamshala to Jule via Aghanjar Mahadev Slate Godown road km 0/000 to 22/500 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Laying thermoplastic at RD 17/501 to 19/500)	497600.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
19.	Repair and Maintenance of N.G.Os Home at Dharamshala in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Construction of Septic tank and other repair work)	495740.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
20.	Construction of Pedestal for hosting National Flag in the Campus of HP School Education Board Dharamshala in Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- C/O Pedestal and railing etc)	171903.00	3500.00	Three Months	350/-
21.	Improvement & beautification of Bhagsunag Temple at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/F cladding/ desing cobblelling, polishing & wood work) (Balance work)	497480.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
22.	Construction of link road from Bangotu to Lindi Behi and Lindi Behi to Tilla Mata Temple km 0/000 to 5/150 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. against the A/A & E/S of various development works (SH- C/O Formation cutting)	297303.00	6000.00	Three Months	350/-
23.	Construction of A.C. Sheet Roofing providing and fixing G.I. Sheet roofing, steel work and other minor repair work at GCTE at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (Balance work)	252000.00	5100.00	Three Months	350/-
24.	Restoration of rain damages on approach road to officers colony Chigliani at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O Breast wall at RD 0/047.50 to 0/050)	161536.00	3300.00	Three Months	350/-
25.	Special Repair to Zonal Hospital at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Providing and laying tiles, aluminium work, sanitary work, expansion joint etc.)	495000.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
26.	Construction of Science Block in Govt. Degree College at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- C/O Drain along the retaining Wall Back side and Right side)	189827.00	3800.00	Three Months	350/-
27.	Restoration of rain damages on Khara Danda road Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Earth filling and P/L stone aggregate for soling, wearing at R.D 0/870 to 0/930 km)	198528.00	4000.00	Three Months	350/-
28.	Restoration of rain damages Khara Danda road Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O wire cratess at RD 0/885 to 0/897.50 km)	375034.00	7500.00	Three Months	350/-
29.	Restoration of rain damages Khara Danda road Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O wire cates at RD 0/900.50 to 0/913 km)	375119.00	7600.00	Three Months	350/-
30.	Restoration of rain damages Khara Danda road Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/L Cement Concrete Pavement at RD 0/870 to 0/930 km)	497250.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
31.	Construction of Science Block in Govt. Degree College at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- P/L Paver Block, C/O Drain and steel work in grating)	475700.00	9600.00	Three Months	350/-
32.	Annual repair and maintenance of Non Residential Buildings in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Providing and fixing WPC wall paneling)	497250.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-
33.	Modification of sound proof & meeting Hall in Administrative Block -A and B of HP School Education Board Dharamshala in Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- Providing and fixing conference table) (Balance work)	495000.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
34.	Repair of old building of RTO office at Dharamshala in Distt. Kangra HP (Deposit work) (SH- C/O 1 No. Hall in 2nd floor and repair of building (W.S & S.I. and other minor repair work) (Balance work)	490000.00	9800.00	Three Months	350/-
35.	Repair of 4 No. residential family quarters at police line Dharamshala in Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- Repair of quarters)	255550.00	5200.00	Three Months	350/-
36.	Restoration of Link Road from Sakoh to Chellian km 0/000 to 4/000 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O Pusta and retaining wall at RD 2/114.50 to 2/149)	493410.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
37.	Restoration of rain damages on link road form Sanoura to Jatehar at Dharamshala km 0/000 to 10/340 in Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O P.C.C. retaining wall at RD 3/362 to 3/373)	187931.00	3800.00	Three Months	350/-
38.	Annual repair and maintenance of Dharamshala to Jule via Aghanjar Mahadev Slate Godown road km 0/000 to 22/500 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/F cat eyes at RD 11/500 to 13/333)	482690.00	9700.00	Three Months	350/-
39.	Annual repair and maintenance of Dharamshala to Jule via Aghanjar Mahadev Slate Godown road km 0/000 to 22/500 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- P/F cat eyes at RD 20/665 to 22/500)	481500.00	9700.00	Three Months	350/-
40.	Construction of Darnu to Indrunag road 0/000 to 2/700 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. against the A/A & E/S of various development works - Deposit (SH- C/O PCC Retaining wall at RD 1/215 to 1/225)	465570.00	9400.00	Three Months	350/-
41.	Construction of Link road from Karmu Mode to Dusalan Chohla RD 0/000 to 1/915 km in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- C/O Breast wall with Stone masonry at RD 0/500 to 0/530)	420278.00	8500.00	Three Months	350/-
42.	Construction of Toilet Block for Girls (Near B.C.A. Block) in complex Govt. Degree College at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (Deposit work) (SH- Providing Civil work and sanitary work etc) (Balance work)	160500.00	3300.00	Three Months	350/-
43.	Construction of Kotwali Bazar Dharamshala to Medeodgan upto Delek Hospital Km 0/000 to 1/315 against the A/A & E/S of various development works - Deposit (SH- Providing & erecting crash barrier Gabion structures with PCC pushta at RD 0/072 to 0/082)	494869.00	9900.00	Three Months	350/-
44.	Annual repair and maintenance of Dharamshala to Jule via Aghanjar Mahadev Slate Godown road km 0/000 to 22/500 in Tehsil Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra H.P. (SH- Laying thermoplastic at RD 11/501 to 13/500)	497600.00	10000.00	Three Months	350/-

Executive Engineer, Dharamshala Division, HPPWD., Dharamshala.
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NAGAR PARISHAD, CHAIBASA West Singhbhm (Jharkhand)

Corrigendum

This is with reference to E-tender notice no. CNP/109/2022-23 Published in news papers vide PR No. 277721 West Singhbhm (2022-23):D due to administrative reasons date sheet are being modified as below :-

NIT

Request for Proposal Tender Reference No.- CNP/109/2022-23

1	Name of Work	Bio-remediation & Bio-mining of legacy waste sites utilizing various methodologies/technologies under Nagar Parishad, Chaibasa
2	Estimated Project Cost and duration	9,00,84,700.00 Nine Month
3	Date of starting of sale of tender Document (Published on website Jharkhandtenders.gov.in)	24/09/2022 17:00 Hrs
4	Pre-bid meeting date, Time & Place	Online
5	Date of start of submission of bids	27/09/2022 11:30 Hrs
6	Last date for submission of bids (Online)	08/10/2022 21:00 Hrs
7	Last date for submission of bids (Hard copy)	10/10/2022 12:30 Hrs
8	Technical bid opening date	13/10/2022 11:30 Hrs
9	Financial bids Opening Date	Will be Informed on portal
10	Cost of Bidding Document (Tender Fee)	Cost of Tender document : 10,000/- (Non Refundable) to be paid through Demand Draft/DD) Payable in favor of "Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chaibasa" Payable at Chaibasa
11	Earnest money deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,000,00.00 (Two lakh only) (Refundable) in the form of Demand Draft) in favor of "Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chaibasa" Payable at Chaibasa
12	Name & Address of Office Inviting tender	Office of the Executive Officer, Nagar Parishad, Chaibasa
13	Contract no. of Procurement officer	8797629742
14	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	npcchaibasa@gmail.com

Chaibasa Nagar Parishad, CHIBASA reserves the right to cancel the NIT as whole or in part without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Tender document shall be available on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

**Executive Officer,
Nagar Parishad, Chaibasa**

PR.NO.278246 West Singhbhm(22-23):D

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHER, PROPRIETOR, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director's, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Priya, D/o-Vinod Kumar, R/o Sub cafee BSZ Marg Opposite Express Building ITO, Delhi. Age : 26 years, Height : 5', Complexion-Fair, Face-Long, Built-Medium, Wearing-Yellow colour T-shirt, Black colour lower and Black colour shoes has been reported missing from his house since **23.08.2022**. In this regard a **GD No. 81A dated 24.08.2022** has been lodged at **PS. I.P. Estate, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax : 011-24368639 **P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi**
DP/791/CD/2022 **Ph. : 011-23378387, 23370928, 8750870426**

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1 E-Tender No.:	23-TRD-NDL5-2022-23	24-TRD-NDL5-2022-23
2 Name of Work with its location	"Load Flow Study of modified 125KV system over NDL-S-CZY section"	"Low frequency oscillation study of DLI area in zone CB-275 SBB/TS3."
3 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 19,03,733.33/-	Rs. 16,97,833.33/-
4 Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 38,100/-	Rs. 38,000/-
5 E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period :	30.09.2022 (10.30 hrs.)	
6 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time :	14.10.2022, (15.00 hrs.)	
7 Fund Allocation :	EBR	
8 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen :	www.ireps.gov.in	

2473/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender for Supply of Following Spare Parts for Track Machines

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description of Item	Quantity	Tender Closing Date/Time
1	TM225201	Working Chair	12 Nos	24.09.2022/14:30
2	TM225169	Cutting Chain for BCM	08 Set	06.10.2022/14:30
3	TM225204	Brake Lining & Brake Shoe	As Per Tender	06.10.2022/14:30
4	Tm225232	Tamping Unit Spares	As Per Tender	14.10.2022/14:30
5	TM225216	Hydraulic Pump & Motors	As Per Tender	19.10.2022/14:30

For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may login to the website : www.ireps.gov.in. No manual tenders will be entertained against E-Tender.

**Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/HQ
S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**

CPR/10/223 **@secrail**

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA

E-mail: sspkathua@jpolice.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01922-234010

LOOK OUT NOTICE

On 02.09.2022, one Anu Bala W/O Kall Dass R/O Khanpur Tehsil Marheon District Kathua lodged a written report at P/S Rajbagh stating therein that on 01.09.2022 during night hours, her daughter namely Tania Devi has left the house or somebody has kidnapped her. She has enquired about her from her relatives and known persons but no any due could be struck out. On this, instant case FIR No. 171/2022 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at P/S Rajbagh and investigation of the case is entrusted to PSI Fazal Raja Dev. During the course of investigation, best efforts were made to locate missing individual, whereas she is still un-traced.

As such Description Roll/Photograph of said missing individual is being shared with the appeal that anybody having clue/information about her whereabouts may inform us accordingly. The informer will be rewarded suitably-

DESCRIPTION ROLL

Name	Tania Devi
Father	Kall Dass
Permanent Address	Khanpur
Present Address	Khanpur
Tehsil	Marheon
Police Station	Rajbagh
Age	17 years
Height	04 Feet 10 Inch
Complexion	Whiteash
Built	Average
Face	Long
Eyes	Black
Languages known	Dogn/Hindi.

PHOTOGRAPH



Any information related to the whereabouts of the subject may be communicated on following Contacts:-

1. DPO Kathua- 01922-234010 (Phone/Fax)
2. Dpkathua@jpolice.gov.in (Mail/ID)
3. PCR Kathua-01922-234311(Phone/Fax)
4. Police Station Rajbagh 9419156719

**Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Kathua.**

DIP/J-8900/22

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, CHAIBASA.

Mobile No. : 9006914020
E-mail: eenh.chaibasa@gmail.com & eenhchaibasa-jhr@nic.in

Notice Inviting Bid

NIT No. NH/CHAIBASA/EPC/AE/2022-23/01 **Date:-19.09.2022**

Consultancy Services for Authority's Engineer for Supervision of "Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction of existing pavement to two lane with paved shoulder from km 116.00 to 176.220 (except km 155.00 to 156.00, km 160.368 to 161.368, km 164.500 to 165.500 and km 168.800 to 169.800) of NH 75E (New NH-20) in the State of Jharkhand under EPC mode. (Job No. NH-75E-2021-22-JHR-307)"

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways represented by Chief Engineer, National Highways Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi as part of endeavor to undertake Consultancy Services for Authority's Engineer for Supervision of "Widening and Strengthening/Reconstruction of existing pavement to two lane with paved shoulder from km 116.00 to 176.220 (except km 155.00 to 156.00, km 160.368 to 161.368, km 164.500 to 165.500 and km 168.800 to 169.800) of NH 75E (New NH-20) in the State of Jharkhand under EPC mode. (Job No. NH-75E-2021-22-JHR-307)". Request for proposal (RFP) are invited online from MoR&TH empaneled consultants for engaging Authority's Engineer (AE) on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for the following contract package in the State of Jharkhand.

Sl. No.	NHNo.	State	Project Stretch	Project length (km)/ Project Cost (Rs. in cr)	Assignment period (months)
1	NH-75E (New NH-20)	Jharkhand			



Dangerous moment

Putin should see setbacks as evidence of the irrationality of war

Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a partial troop mobilisation marks an acknowledgement of the limits of his "special military operation" in Ukraine and a readiness to escalate the conflict in response to setbacks. His original plan was to meet his military objectives through a limited war. He had mobilised more than 1,50,000 troops and ordered a sharp thrust into Ukraine from multiple fronts on February 24, but this plan did not quite work as Ukrainian forces, backed militarily and economically by the U.S. and Europe, slowed down the enemy's advances and made the invasion costly for the Russians. Earlier, Mr. Putin had to withdraw troops from around Kyiv and Kharkiv and focus on Ukraine's east and south where the Russians made territorial gains. But Russia suffered its first major battlefield defeats earlier this month in Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast where its troops had to retreat in the face of a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive. This setback seemed to have quickened Kremlin's move to consolidate its positions in captured Ukrainian territories. Pro-Russia separatists in Luhansk, Donetsk in the east and Kherson and Zaporizhzhya in the south are now planning to hold referendums on joining the Russian Federation. As the results are known even before the first ballot is cast, the door is now shutting on the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the conflict based on the pre-war borders.

For Mr. Putin, the escalation comes with added risks. He went into Ukraine with limited forces in the first place because he knew that a general mobilisation, which would need nationwide conscription, could be unpopular. But almost eight months later, his war has not only failed to meet its declared objectives, which includes Ukraine's "demilitarisation", but has also seen a reinvigorated NATO throwing its collective weight behind Ukraine and expanding itself further into the Russian borders by taking in Finland and Sweden as its members. Mr. Putin and his Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu acknowledged the challenges on Wednesday. If Mr. Putin, who dialled up the nuclear threat, said his troops are facing the best of "the Western military machine" in Ukraine, Mr. Shoigu, whose Ministry till now avoided calling the military operation a war, said Russia today "is at war with the collective West". Faced with battlefield setbacks, sanctions and geopolitical challenges, Mr. Putin believes escalation is the way forward. But there is no certainty that a partial mobilisation would produce quick results and it could well trigger a cycle of escalation. All this means that the war is entering a far more dangerous phase.

Trade tactics

Foreign trade policy revamp comes amid stuttering growth in key markets

The Government will release a new foreign trade policy in the coming week, that could include measures to help push up goods and services exports as well as rein in the runaway import bill. The current trade policy was introduced in 2015. When its five-year term ended a week after the national lockdown to curb the pandemic, it was extended for a year considering the extenuating circumstances. However, the old policy's extensions beyond March 2021, especially the current six-month stretch that drags its end-date to September 30, are not as understandable. Beginning the new policy in the middle of a financial year, unlike the traditional clean slate in a new fiscal year, is not ideal. Moreover, exports have been one of the few growth engines firing up the post-COVID recovery, so putting off a policy to bolster outbound shipments was baffling. Enunciating India's strategy to cash in on a world seeking to become less dependent on China would also enable exporters (and importers) to plan their investments ahead. Last January, a WTO-compliant export incentive scheme was kicked off to refund domestic taxes to exporters, but the rates were only notified months later with a few sectors left out. Despite this completely avoidable uncertainty, goods exports touched a record \$422 billion in 2021-22.

This year, the Government expects goods exports to hit at least \$450 billion, but growth has slipped to the low single digits over July and August, while imports have been over \$60 billion each month since March. A global growth slowdown and recession fears in Europe and the U.S. do not augur well; and though order books are still full, many buyers are seeking to defer deliveries. The new policy will have to find ways to provide a leg-up to exports and address some of industry's key concerns, including a buffer against rising interest rates. With revenues buoyant, it is also time to reconsider the stance to exclude key growth sectors such as pharma, chemicals, and iron and steel from the duty remission scheme. Having decided to keep away from the trade track of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for now, assertions that the Government has 'no bandwidth' left for new free trade pact negotiations through more countries are wooing it, and is seeking to slow talks with the Gulf Cooperation Council, are unnecessary. If there is a genuine constraint, a solution must be sought, perhaps, by roping in economic policy makers with residual bandwidth. But surely, there are better ways to drive home India's rising clout than by driving away potential partner countries, however small.

The ambit of fraternity and the wages of oblivion

These principles of liberty equality and fraternity are not to be treated as separate items in a trinity. They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy; said B.R. Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly, in 1949.

It is often forgotten that 'fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation' is, along with Justice, Liberty and Equality, among the basic values inscribed in the Preamble of the Constitution of India whose first line asserts, 'We, the People of India' have solemnly resolved to 'secure' to all the citizens of India.

The responsibility of the individual citizen

B.R. Ambedkar provided its rationale with remarkable foresight: 'We must begin by acknowledging the fact there is a complete absence of two things in Indian society. One of these is equality' and as a result of it we would enter into 'a life of contradictions' on January 26, 1950.

However, practical adherence to this commitment was given shape only by the Forty-Second Amendment (1976) in Article 51A (e) on Fundamental Duties.

It makes it the duty of every citizen of India 'to promote harmony and the spirit of common among all the people of India, transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities.

Significantly, the responsibility for bringing this about does not rest with the state but seems to be the responsibility of the individual citizen. We, therefore, need to comprehend the meaning



Hamid Ansari

is the former Vice President of India, 2007-2017

It is often forgotten that 'fraternity' is among the basic values inscribed in the Preamble of the Constitution of India



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The new look

As a long-time reader of *The Hindu* — for 56 years — I find that the redesign and its new format make it even easier to read; there is less eye strain. The white space has not been compromised and the new format is more clutter-free, bold and very sharp. The most appreciable design aspect over the years is a better 'aspect ratio': there is no need to flip to a different page or column. The 'snippets-photo feature' on the 'World' page, which gives a reader an idea of world happenings at a glance, is a welcome change. It is news in a nutshell. *The Hindu* has been evolving over time and the attempt this time to make the daily reader-friendly, or rather, senior-citizen friendly, is appreciated. I feel the space for the Editorials looks a bit cramped. It was interesting to note how *The Hindu* has evolved since 1889.

A.V. Narayanan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

The new look is extraordinary. My compliments to Dr. Garcia and *The Hindu* for making it so pleasant to read the paper early in the morning. Remarkable is the word. I can say with all the conviction under my command that the very sight of *The Hindu* leaves all other papers far behind.

K.R.A. Narasiah,
Chennai

The new product is aesthetically pleasing as a result of the arrangement of the text in an easy-to-read manner. The eyes ran through the columns seamlessly and without strain. The makeover has bolstered the reading experience. *The Hindu* is a serious newspaper and a 'window of the world'. The changes reflect great care and attention to detail. In one word: *The Hindu* in its new format has been

'unputdownable'. The daily exemplifies the maxim, 'comment is free, but facts are sacred' and advances the causes of democracy, freedom and justice.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

It was a shock to find the space for readers' letters, under the 'Letters to the Editor' column, drastically reduced. Letters from readers on various topics also add to the rich experience of thought and enhance the pleasure of reading. In this connection, I wish to recollect the comments made by Khushwant Singh, which was published as a letter [October 18, 2011]: "I go over a dozen morning papers every day. The only one I read from cover to cover including readers' letters is *The Hindu*. I find its news coverage reliable, authentic and comprehensive. I cannot say that about any other daily, Indian or foreign. It is a pleasure going through its columns: they inform, teach and amuse. I even wrestle with its crossword puzzle every day. You, Mr. Editor, and your staff deserve praise for giving India the most readable daily in the world. Congratulations."

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

I am an octogenarian who has been reading *The Hindu* for the last 65 years. I have seen many a change effected in the format of the daily. Now, at 144, the redesigned *The Hindu* is 'bold and beautiful'. Some of the design changes are a bit odd. And, when did the phrase 'In brief' become a single word though an attempt has been made at a differentiation using two colours? Dr. Garcia deserves our compliments for his grand work.

R. Soundararajan,
Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

I would like to congratulate

The Hindu, a mass leading newspaper for having completed 144 years of service to the reading fraternity. The redesign is a whiff of fresh air. The increase in font size keeping in mind the senior citizen is laudable. My best wishes for being steady in a changing world of journalism.

N. Nanjundaswamy,
Bengaluru

The increase in font size and the thought given to white space make the reading experience a pleasant one. I find the headings in bold with their increased font size to be a bit jarring. Some of the old can still be good.

K. Jaganathan,
Chennai

The redesigned daily looks young after its facial. The space between the columns is 'palatial'. The larger-than-life quotation marks are ornamental like a turban. With pointers such as underlining and arrow heads, there is much visual delight. However, the 'Letters to the Editor' column looks like a lost girl searching for a balloon in a festive crowd. With its head held high, in its quest for the truth and nothing but the truth, *The Hindu* marches on with the same old resolve, but in a shining new uniform.

P. David Balasingh,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

I have been an avid reader of the daily for over five decades. The new design and layout are good and I can read without experiencing much of a strain. I do appreciate the efforts that have been taken to redesign the pages. But I would also suggest that the earlier system of reporting the quantum rise or fall of the Sensex with green or red indicators on the 'Business' page be revived. It was eye catching and helped a reader perceive developments at a glance.

Otherwise, one has to calculate the quantum with the given percentage and know the closing figure of the previous day. Or, the percentage may also be given with a plus or minus sign along with the index.

Cauvery Palani,
Chennai

The daily is now even more striking than ever before. The new-look headlines with bold typefaces, the increased font-size, new layouts, and increased column width with distinctive lines all add to a resplendent look. These elements provide an altogether new and delightful reading experience. Media consultant and renowned designer Mario Garcia deserves huge appreciation. It has been a phenomenal and incredible journey for *The Hindu* over 144 years. It is heartening that it is committed to adapting itself to the changing times.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

True to the description in the Editor's note, the new version of *The Hindu* is bold and beautiful. I also add that it is impressive. The methodical arrangement of news items along with accompanying photographs makes it convenient for the reader to navigate through the pages and grasp their contents. The increase in font size makes it reader-friendly, especially for senior citizens. I hope the space for 'Letters to the Editor' is not reduced. On the whole, the latest *avatar* of the daily is a perfect birthday gift.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

I have been a reader for nearly six decades. What separates the daily from its Indian counterparts is the quality of its writing and the depth of its content. If these cardinal virtues are maintained, then the

redesign will be a net positive. An area of concern is the steady erosion of space allocated for the 'Letters to the Editor' section. This column, based on reader feedback, captures the true pulse of the nation.

G. Parameswaran,
Coimbatore

I have been an addict of *The Hindu* since boyhood. A cup of hot coffee in the morning along with *The Hindu* is always a refreshing experience. Now about the pros and cons. The pros outweigh the cons, which are minimal. As a senior citizen, what attracted me is the visual appeal now with an 'eye-friendly' font size. I can now read at night without much of a strain to the eyes. The new look is contemporary in its layout and it is far easier to navigate through the news content. Some suggestions if they can be accepted: The day and date line could find a place in the centre under the masthead. The tag line, "India's national newspaper since 1878", could be in bolder font on top or just below the masthead. The Editorials should have the day of publication mentioned as this is a feature very useful for future reference. The new *avatar* is 'clean, sharp and bold'.

V. N. Gopal,
Chennai

Better than the best! I have been reading *The Hindu* for 55 years and have seen quite a few redesigns over the years. Each one has progressed to be more sophisticated than its previous version. I am tempted to comment on the redesign by highlighting the eight elephant stories in Kottarathil Sankunni's famous book in Malayalam, 'Iteehya Maala (A garland of ancient stories)'. In his forward to each story of an elephant which lived in ancient Kerala, he would say 'no elephant more

the new Republic formally described as 'A Union of States'. In the words of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 'the inspiration and the stimulus came from above rather than from below and unless the transplanted growth takes a healthy root in the soil, there will be a danger of collapse and chaos.' This was amplified by V.P. Menon as the integration 'of the minds of the people'.

In a speech in the Constituent Assembly on December 22, 1952, B.R. Ambedkar dwelt on what he called 'Conditions Precedent for the Successful Working of Democracy'. He listed these as: absence of glaring inequalities; presence of an opposition; equality of law and administration; observance of constitutional morality; avoidance of tyranny of majority over minority; a functioning of moral order in society, and public conscience.

Over time, uneven development has characterised the States of the Indian Union. Regional and linguistic diversity characterises them. And so does uneven economic development and progress, resulting in uneven levels of education, employment, social cohesion and contentment.

Question for the leadership

Seventy-five years on, a candid assessment of the state of the Republic makes us cogitate on evidence of regional diversity, assertion of linguistic identity and emergence of diverging political orientations. While the first two are physical and social realities, the third is a product of thriving diversity. Each is real, each is also disconcerting from the viewpoint of federal governance hitherto practised, and each seeks accommodation in a divergent framework.

Where does this take fraternity? Article 51A(e) of the Constitution does not differentiate between citizens on any of the categories mentioned above and makes it an all-encompassing duty. Its ambit therefore is universal; its observance, by the same logic, has to begin at the base of the ladder of citizenship rather than the top but does not spare the leadership from the obligation to promote and practise it.

Has this been done in practice? How often have social and political leaders of opinion promoted fraternity, incidentally or specifically, locally, within the region or nationally? The record is depressing; hence the ease with which non-fraternal patterns of behaviour seem to emerge in our society. Does this promote national integration, rhetoric apart? Was the bloodshed of 1947 ('10 million or one in every 35 persons in the subcontinent') a forerunner of lesser ones that followed?



To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

gorgeous, more handsome and clever than this one has ever set his feet in this Malayalam world', leaving the reader to wonder which tusker was the best among them. Similarly, the new format shines gloriously. But the old never pales.

Sanath Kumar T.S.,
Thrissur, Kerala

It has been nothing but sheer joy to experience the redesigned newspaper. The bold new look and fonts make it easier to navigate from one article to another effortlessly. The bigger photos and graphics are pleasing to the eye. The facelift curated by Dr. Garcia is a visual treat, especially for the avid reader.

Deepa Viswanath,
Bengaluru

I was a bit taken aback to receive a copy of the new look *The Hindu*, which claimed to be 'cleaner, sharper, and bolder' (J1, "Bold and beautiful", September 20). The previous *avatar* was more reader-friendly. My only suggestion, as a reader of the esteemed daily for over three decades, is please allocate more space for the 'Letters to the Editor' column.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

I am a retired professor of engineering and an avid fan of *The Hindu* over five decades. With the redesign, the new look *The Hindu* has lost its grace and looks ordinary.

D.L. Manjunath,
Gowrikoppal, Karnataka

A risky new status quo

India and China appear to be mending fences, gingerly. Relations have been icy since China launched multiple incursions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in mid-2020. After years of inconclusive military talks and halting “disengagement” from sites of confrontation, the rivals made inching progress last week. They completed disengagement in an area known as Patrolling Point 15 (PP15), pulling troops back to create a demilitarised buffer zone, and their leaders met in person at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand.

The tentative conciliatory steps between two nuclear-armed rivals are important; but they also carry risks, especially for India.

Despite the latest round of disengagement, the LAC remains deeply unsettled. Observers have pointed out that the buffer zones produced by the crisis inhibit India’s ability to patrol its own territory. And India and China have tacitly agreed to postpone settlement at two other confrontation sites, including a particularly tactically valuable area known as Depsang. The buffer zones and Depsang’s status both suit China’s objectives because they limit India’s military activities near the LAC, which analysts judge had partly motivated China’s initial incursions in 2020.

Similarly, the military threat on the border is not only undiminished, but has actually grown over the course of the crisis. The reinforcements that each side deployed since 2020 have not returned to garrison. Even if future rounds of talks continue “disengagement and de-escalation,” and reduce those forces, returning to the status quo ante is now impossible. Both sides have raced to build permanent military infrastructure near the border, to help them surge forces to the border. Unsurprisingly, China seems to have outpaced India in building these roads,



Arzan Tarapore

is a South Asia Research Scholar at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Centre at Stanford University

help pads, and communications nodes.

China still claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own, and just as it has pressed its maritime claims once its growing capabilities permit, its military build-up may portend increasing pressure in coming years. Even without a deliberate attack, the increasing capabilities and mobility on both sides of the border means that a crisis can more quickly escalate to a large military stand-off anywhere on the LAC, and possibly even trigger a conflict.

Strategic implications

As vexatious as the tactical picture may be on the border, the strategic implications are more dire. For over two years, the land border has become the overwhelming priority in India’s military competition with China. India has reassigned one of three originally Pakistan-facing Strike Corps to the China front. It has deployed its newest artillery, fighter jets, and drones to the China border.

At the same time, India has not significantly improved its capabilities or posture in the Indian Ocean region. Granted, a suite of impressive new capabilities – from cruise missile-equipped fighters and U.S.-origin naval helicopters to a brand-new indigenously-built aircraft carrier – are inching towards fruition. But these

programmes were all initiated before the border crisis, when the Indian military was incrementally modernising its capabilities for the Indian Ocean.

Whether or not by design, this must delight Beijing. As India and China jostle for security and influence in Asia, the contest in the Indian Ocean will inevitably intensify. Their respective capabilities to project military force across the Ocean, to coerce or defend smaller regional States, and to establish an enduring strategic presence there, will determine the Asian balance of power. With the border crisis, China seems to have successfully fixed India’s gaze to the land border, at the expense of that more consequential competition over the Indian Ocean.

Disengagement at PP15, and especially continued “disengagement and de-escalation,” has the potential to ameliorate this strategic trap. A progressively less urgent threat will tempt New Delhi to de-emphasise military readiness on the border. This could be a golden opportunity for Indian planners to work towards long-term military modernisation and political influence across the Indian Ocean region. But a likelier and riskier outcome is that decision makers will prioritise other, more politically salient issues, like gaining quick wins in the campaign for *Atmanirbharta* in defence industry – which may come at the expense of modernisation.

Paradoxically, then, a cooling crisis on the border may teach India the wrong lesson: that the short-term expedient of greater readiness is enough to see off the Chinese threat. In fact, and especially for the strategic prize of the Indian Ocean region, the challenge posed by China cannot be met without long-term growth in Indian national capacity. That, in turn, requires coherent strategic assessments and the political will to balance readiness with modernisation.

The tentative conciliatory steps between nuclear-armed rivals at the LAC are important, but come with riders for India



The failure of fire safety norms

The Secunderabad accident has brought back focus on illegal building structures

STATE OF PLAY

Swathi Vadlamudi
swathi.v@thehindu.co.in



The horrific fire accident on September 12 in Secunderabad, Telangana, in which eight guests of a hotel were asphyxiated, was just one among several occasions when debate on illegal structures gets stoked, only to die away eventually in the humdrum of urban life.

Leaders, right from the mayor of the city up to the Prime Minister of the country, expressed sorrow over the mishap. For the common public, the accident and the whole line-up of regret to ex-gratia, was just a *deja vu* from six months ago, when 12 persons, all of them daily wage labourers from Bihar, died in a fire accident at Bhoiguda, another part of Secunderabad.

In the recent incident, fire erupted in the basement of the structure, and the plumes of smoke enveloped the hotel in the upper floors, choking the guests. The basement was unauthorised, as also the top floor of the building, both of which represented gross deviations from the plan sanctioned by the civic body.

A report by the Regional Fire Officer pointed out several irregularities, including absence of set-back spaces and escape routes, defunct fire-fighting equipment, spiral staircase around the elevator shaft, basement utilised illegally for commercial purposes, and absence of smoke management and emergency lighting. The building has been thriving for the past 8-9 years, under the protection offered by the Building Regularisation Scheme (BRS), 2015.

Since 1998, the era of the joint State of Andhra Pradesh,

the BRS has become a hope for deviant builders to circumvent the norms, and a pretext for successive governments to make money under the justification of ‘fait accompli’. The standard defence had been that the builder would go scot-free in case of any action, while the innocent occupants of the building would have to suffer for no fault of theirs.

This went on till 2016, when the BRS announced by the Telangana State government the previous year was challenged in the High Court. The process then came to an abrupt halt, not before 1.13 lakh property owners submitted their applications seeking regularisation. The owner of the ill-fated building at Secunderabad where the fire occurred, was one of the applicants to the scheme. Though the process has been since stalled, the authorities have not taken any action against the deviations, except charging the owners double the normal amount of property tax and power bills.

Seeking safety clearances

Applicability of fire safety norms is another gap through which several builders escape. As per the Telangana Fire Services Act, 1999, only residential buildings above 18 metres’ height and commercial buildings above 15 metres’ height are obligated to seek fire safety clearances. Almost all commercial establishments where fire mishaps took place in re-

cent past did not fall into the category. The Secunderabad building, inclusive of all deviations, was one such. It was never inspected by the fire services until the accident.

Amendment to the law to encompass commercial structures for fire safety inspections, irrespective of their height, will go a long way in ensuring compliance. A 2016 clause introduced into building norms was instrumental in preventing several fire mishaps in the making, by stipulating mandatory 10% mortgage of the constructed space of any multi-storeyed building with the municipal authorities as indemnity for compliance with rules. The clause, if extended to all commercial buildings irrespective of their size, could save many lives in the future.

Enforcement is another key aspect with failure by the civic authorities writ large. Much fanfare preceded the launch of the Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management (EVDMM) wing four years ago, as an adjunct to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). After initial buzz against lack of fire safety in hospitals and pubs, the wing has been now reduced to slapping penalties against illegal flexi banners and boards.

Special task forces were formed at zonal level of GHMC over a year ago, with the express mandate to crack the whip against illegal structures. Since then, enforcement has become nobody’s baby. Complaints against illegal structures go unheeded across various grievance platforms of the GHMC and the Municipal Administration. Continuance of such anarchy, incentivised by frequent regularisation offers, puts a big question mark on the very relevance of building norms.

Flood woes are a recent phenomenon in Karnataka

Karnataka’s share in India’s flood-related deaths surged to 7-8% in the last two decades

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Rebecca Rose Varghese

Heavy rainfall during the last week of August and first week of September brought Bengaluru to a standstill. Flooding of offices and houses, traffic bottlenecks and power outages were recorded across the Silicon Valley of India. On August 27, the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway was inundated with flood water after the Inrapalya lake breached the banks. Three days later, the outer ring road was flooded as water from Savalakere lake overflowed.

While the Bengaluru floods made headlines in recent days, the monsoon season has claimed many lives and damaged several public and private properties across the State this year. As many as 96 lives were lost since June, crops in 5.8 lakh hectares of land were lost, 1,471 bridges and 2,223 km of roads were damaged. In total, the estimated losses amounted to ₹7,647 crore.

A recent phenomenon

In the last two decades, the number of lives lost to floods have sharply increased in the State. In the last decade (2011-20) and the one before (2001-10), Karnataka’s share in India’s flood-related deaths ranged between 0-3% in all the previous decades. **Table 1** lists a State’s share in India’s total deaths due

to flood in each decade. For instance, Gujarat formed 10% of the total fatalities in the 2001-10 period, and 8% in the last decade (2011-20).

Across all decades, Uttar Pradesh’s share has consistently been 17% or above. West Bengal, Gujarat and Bihar also accounted for a high share in India’s flood-related fatalities in most decades.

The above trends have to be read with caution, given the wide variation in States’ population. Also the numbers were for undivided Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Unique pattern

Table 2 lists the decadal share of a State’s total flood-related deaths in the 1953-2020 period. For instance, of all the deaths due to floods recorded in Karnataka in the period, 34% occurred in the last decade, while 39% happened in the decade before that. Similar to the trend observed in **Table 1**, Karnataka’s flood-related fatalities were significantly lower in the decades before the 2000s.

Infact, in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, Karnataka’s share in India’s fatalities as shown in **table 1** and the decadal share in State’s overall deaths as shown in **table 2**, were either barely present or non-existent. This reiterates the fact that Karnataka’s troubles related to floods are a recent phenomenon.

Outliers

In 1977, 11,316 lives were lost to floods – the most for any given year – of which 9,974 were lost in Andhra Pradesh. Floods damaged 39.6 lakh houses in India in 2015 – the highest number of houses destroyed due to floods in any year between 1953 and 2020.

(With inputs from Bengaluru Bureau)

The deluge meter

The following tables show whether the share of flood-related deaths have increased, decreased or stayed put over the last seven decades across States. The charts highlight the outlier years when floods caused the most damage in terms of human lives lost, cattle lives lost and houses damaged. The data were gathered from “State-wise flood damage statistics: 1953-2020”, report prepared by the Central Water Commission



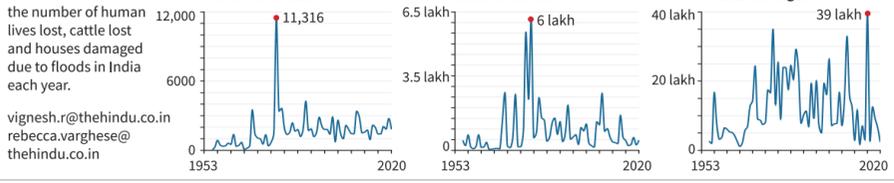
Table 1: Table lists a State’s % share in India’s total flood-related deaths in each decade

Decades →	1953-60	1961-70	1971-80	1981-90	1991-00	2001-10	2011-20
U.P.	26	16	14	24	20	17	17
M.P.	1	2	1	2	3	7	11
Bihar	4	8	3	9	15	20	9
Gujarat	5	10	10	11	4	10	8
Maharashtra	4	3	1	11	6	2	8
Kerala	1	3	2	4	7	2	8
W.B.	8	30	8	5	13	7	7
Karnataka	0	1	0	2	3	8	7
H.P.	4	0	2	2	5	3	4
Assam	3	3	2	4	3	5	4
T.N.	1	1	5	4	3	3	3
Rajasthan	0	1	4	2	3	3	3
J&K U.T.	6	0	1	2	4	0	2
Arunachal	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Punjab	22	2	1	5	3	1	1
Andhra	6	16	43	10	5	6	1
Odisha	6	2	2	2	1	3	1
Haryana	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2: Table lists the % decadal share of a State’s total flood-related deaths in 1953-2020 period

Decades →	1953-60	1961-70	1971-80	1981-90	1991-00	2001-10	2011-20	Total
Manipur	0	0	18	19	0	4	59	100
Arunachal	0	0	0	3	12	38	47	100
M.P.	1	3	7	7	13	27	43	100
Meghalaya	0	0	1	38	9	9	43	100
Karnataka	0	3	1	10	13	39	34	100
Kerala	1	6	12	14	27	9	31	100
Sikkim	0	0	1	50	21	0	28	100
H.P.	4	0	15	10	29	16	26	100
Maharashtra	3	5	6	36	21	5	24	100
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	76	24	100
Assam	3	8	12	19	14	25	19	100
Tripura	0	12	8	29	16	17	18	100
J&K U.T.	12	0	9	18	43	0	17	100
Rajasthan	1	2	34	13	15	17	17	100
Bihar	1	6	6	14	25	32	15	100
Gujarat	2	9	26	20	8	20	15	100
T.N.	1	2	33	19	16	15	15	100
U.P.	5	7	18	21	19	15	15	100
W.B.	3	26	18	8	22	11	12	100
Goa	0	0	0	0	26	63	11	100
Mizoram	0	0	0	5	7	78	10	100
Odisha	9	9	20	18	9	24	10	100
Punjab	27	7	9	28	19	3	7	100
Andhra	1	9	65	11	5	7	2	100
Haryana	9	21	26	18	14	11	1	100
Delhi	7	6	38	0	50	0	0	100

Chart 3: Charts show the number of human lives lost, cattle lost and houses damaged due to floods in India each year.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The *Hindu*

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1972

Low milk yield in India

Madras, Sept. 21: A survey on the economics of milk production in five selected areas of Mysore, Kerala and Tamil Nadu has revealed that about 70% of the cow and buffalo population in these areas is now descript with a low milk yield of about 300 kg per lactation. Adopting the suggestion of the National Commission on Agriculture, a synthesis of the maintenance cost of an animal at viable level under existing conditions has been attempted by the survey and it has been recommended that the base price of milk should be Rs. 1.30 paise in urban areas and Rs. 1.09 paise per litre in rural areas. It has been suggested that the Government in co-operation with Co-operative Milk Union should enter the distribution field and suitable arrangements should be made to handle at least 50% of the public needs. Releasing the findings of the survey undertaken at the behest of the National Commission on Agriculture, Dr. B. Natarajan, Chairman, Institute of Techno-Economic Studies, said the survey studied the economics of milk production in different breeds and stable sizes of cattle and among different income groups of milk cattle owners; and to suggest the sizes, breed and other conditions necessary for the settling up of viable units for milk production.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1922

Import of motor cars

The figures given by Mr. Innes in the Legislative Assembly on Friday in regard to the import of motor cars into India for the five months ending on August 31 during the last three years are strikingly eloquent of the damage which has been done to the British motor trade by the recent increase in the so-called luxury tax. For that period in 1920, the total number of cars imported was 5,292, the value being Rs. 195 lakh. Of those cars, 600 were British to the value of Rs. 40 lakh. In the following year, of 759 cars imported, only 184 were British, the respective values being Rs. 57 lakh and Rs. 24 lakh. That year, of 1,024 cars imported to the value of Rs. 40 lakh, only 88 were British to value of Rs. 9 lakh. That is to say that whereas in the two previous years, the proportions of British cars imported to the total number coming into the country were 11% and 25%, respectively, with proportionate values of 20% and 42% during the current year.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Putin's comments push dollar to two-decade high

110.87 The level at which the dollar index, which measures the greenback's value against other major currencies, jumped on Wednesday, its highest level since 2002. The dollar's new two-decade high was prompted by Russia's President Vladimir Putin's decision to mobilise more troops for the conflict in Ukraine. REUTERS

Ukraine grain exports down by over 40% in 2022-23 season

43.2 The percentage by which Ukraine's grain exports are down in the 2022/23 season so far. The government has said Ukraine could only harvest 50-52 million tonnes of grain this year, down from a record 86 million tonnes in 2021. Exports so far include 3.95 million tonnes of corn, 2.30 million tonnes of wheat and 598,000 tonnes of barley. REUTERS

Share of deaths due to non-communicable diseases: WHO

74 The percentage of deaths globally due to non-communicable diseases (NCD) like heart disease, cancer and diabetes according to the World Health Organization (WHO). A report from the UN health agency shows that so-called NCDs, which are often preventable and caused by an unhealthy lifestyle or living conditions, kill 41 million people every year. AFP

Prisoners released on interim bail yet to return to Delhi jails

19 The percentage of prisoners, released on interim bail or emergency parole from different jails of the national capital over the past two years, who are yet to return, according to data shared under the Right to Information Act. Of the 5,525 prisoners released on interim bail and emergency parole, 1,063 of them are yet to return to serve their remaining sentences. PTI

Germany nationalises the country's biggest gas importer

8 In billion euros, the amount Germany will spend to assume 99% ownership of Uniper, the country's largest importer of Russian gas. Nationalising Uniper is the second move in a week by the government to take control of the energy business and is part of a wider European response to the winter crisis, including France taking over the EDF (Electricité de France). REUTERS

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Rules for identifying criminals

What do the recently notified rules of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 state? Is there scope for misuse?

EXPLAINER

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

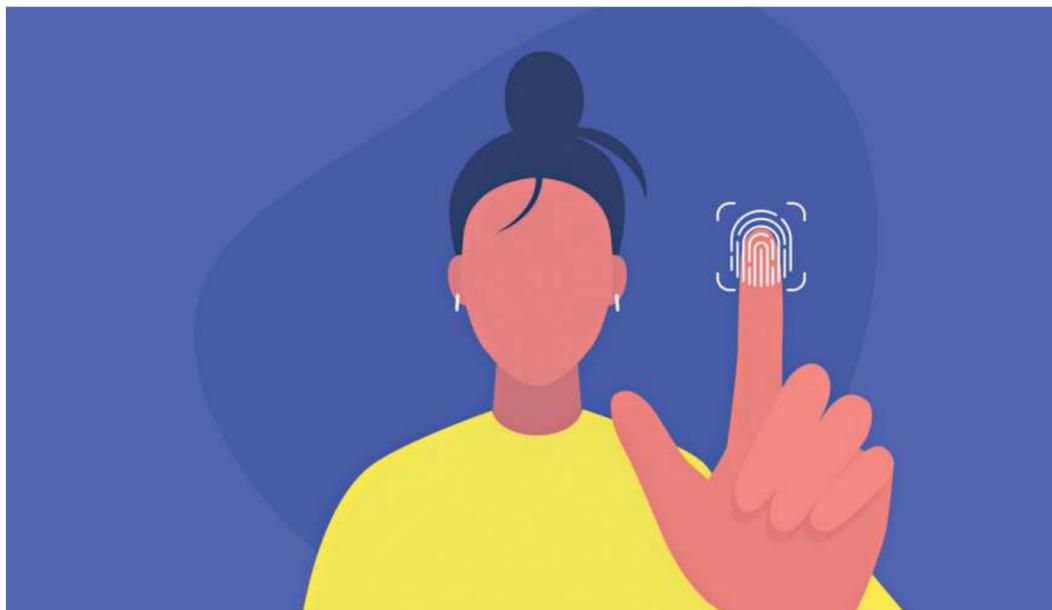
On September 19, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the rules governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022. The Act was passed in March by the Parliament. Until rules are notified, an Act cannot be implemented or come into force. The legislation would enable police and central investigating agencies to collect, store and analyse physical and biological samples including retina and iris scan of arrested persons.

What is the legislation about?

The Act seeks to repeal the Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920, which is over 100-years-old. The old Act's scope was limited to capturing of finger impression, footprint impressions and photographs of convicted prisoners and certain category of arrested and non-convicted persons on the orders of a Magistrate.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill when it was introduced in Parliament said that new "measurement" techniques being used in advanced countries are giving credible and reliable results and are recognised world over. It said that the 1920 Act does not provide for taking these body measurements as many of the techniques and technologies had not been developed then. The Act empowers a Magistrate to direct any person to give measurements, which till now was reserved for convicts and those involved in heinous crimes. It also enables the police upto the rank of a Head Constable to take measurements of any person who resists or refuses to give measurements.

As per the rules, "measurements" include finger-impressions, palm-print, footprint, photographs, iris and retina scan, physical, biological samples and their analysis, behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination referred to in Section 53 or Section



53A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974). Though it has not been specified, analysis of biological samples could also include DNA profiling.

What about concerns that the Act will be misused?

When the Bill was debated in Parliament in March this year, the Opposition members termed it "unconstitutional" and an attack on privacy as it allowed the record of samples of even political detainees.

However, the rules notified on September 19 state that samples of those detained under preventive Sections such as 107, 108, 109, 110, 144, 145 and 151 of the CrPC shall not be taken unless such person is charged or arrested in connection with any other offence punishable under any other law. It can also be taken if a person has been ordered to give security for his good behaviour for maintaining peace un-

der Section 117 of the said Code for a proceeding under the said Sections.

The rules do not mention the procedure to be adopted for convicted persons.

Who will be the repository of the data?

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under MHA will be the one-stop agency for storing and preserving the data of arrested persons. The State governments can also store the data, but it shall provide compatible application programming interfaces for sharing the measurements or record of measurements with the NCRB. The rules state that the NCRB will issue Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for collection of measurements which would include specifications of the equipment or devices to be used, specifications and the digital and physical format of the measurements etc. The rules said that in

case any measurement is collected in physical form or in a non-standard digital format, it shall be converted into standard digital format and thereafter uploaded in the database as per the SOP. Only authorised users could upload the measurements in the central database in an encrypted format.

What are the provisions for destruction of records in case a suspect is acquitted?

The procedure for destruction and disposal of records are yet to be specified by the NCRB. The rules state that any request for destruction of records shall be made to the Nodal Officer who is to be nominated by the respective State Government. The nodal officer will recommend the destruction after verifying that such record of measurements is not linked with any other criminal cases.

THE GIST

On September 19, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the rules governing The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022. The Act was passed in March by the Parliament. Until rules are notified, an Act cannot be implemented or come into force.

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The politics over Jharkhand's domicile policy

Why is there opposition against keeping 1932 as the cut-off year for the State's domicile policy? Has this caused fractures in the ruling UPA alliance?

Amarnath Tewary

The story so far: On September 14, the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand cabinet approved the long pending demand of Adivasi-Moolvasis (original inhabitants) to make 1932 as the cut-off year for domicile under the title 'Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons and for Extending the Consequential, Social, Cultural and Other Benefits of such Local Persons Bill, 2022'. The draft Bill will be passed in the next Assembly session and then sent to the Centre with a proposal to place it in the ninth schedule of the Constitution (which contains the list of Central and State laws and will accord it protection from challenges in courts).

Why has 1932 been decided as the cut-off year for the policy?

Different tribal groups have been demanding 1932 as the cut-off year for several years because of the land survey and revenue register done that year in large parts of the State. Shibu Soren, who is the father of Chief Minister Hemant Soren and patron of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, has also been advocating for 1932 as the cut-off year. As per the proposed domicile policy, people who have their names or their ancestor's name in the land records of 1932 or before, will be considered as local inhabitants of Jharkhand. But those who have lost their land records or have land records which are illegible or are landless people, can approach their respective Gram Sabhas for their inclusion.

Besides, the cabinet note of the State government claims that 1932 was fixed as the cut-off year for domicile policy as the migration of people from other States to

Jharkhand (undivided Bihar) had resulted in negatively impacting the "original inhabitants/moolvasis/aboriginals." "This can be verified as the percentage of population of the aboriginals/[STs] since the 1941 census has seen a steady decline in Jharkhand", said the note while adding that, "there needs to be affirmative action at the policy level for the development of STs and moolvasis and the identification of local persons was a compelling necessity to provide social, cultural, educational service and other benefits".

However, records show that land and revision surveys were done in Jharkhand at different times in different districts and areas. It has been done several times in the State at different points. Therefore, marking 1932 as the only cut-off year for domicile policy would leave lakhs of citizens of the State as "refugees". The first land survey, especially in the Santhal

area of the State, was done in 1872 and then in 1922. J. F. Gantzer had a complete land survey of the Santhal Pragana done with amendments in 1932, 1934 and 1936.

How have the government's coalition partners and other parties reacted?

There has been a split among the Congress party leaders over this issue. Geeta Koda, Member of Parliament from Singhbhum and the working president of the party in Jharkhand has said that an agitation would be launched if the government does not reconsider its decision. According to her, the Kolhan region of the State comprising East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Saraikela districts had land surveys done in 1964-65, and the government's decision to make 1932 as the cut-off year for domicile, will affect around 40-44 lakh people of the area. After Jharkhand was bifurcated into a separate State in 2000 from Bihar, the Babulal Marandi-led BJP government brought in the domicile policy with 1932 as the cut-off year. However, it led to violent widespread protests. Later, while hearing a PIL over it, a division bench of the Jharkhand High Court stayed the government's decision. The BJP government came back to power in 2014 and put forward a domicile policy with 1985 as the cut-off year and that too was protested by local people who demanded 1932 as the cut-off year.

THE GIST

The Hemant Soren cabinet of Jharkhand has approved the proposal to use 1932 as the cut-off year for the domicile policy of local inhabitants, provided that the Union government puts it in ninth schedule of the Constitution.

Different tribal organisations and groups have been demanding 1932 as the cut-off year to decide the domicile policy because of the land survey and revenue register done in 1932 in large parts of the State. As per the proposed domicile policy, people who have their names or their ancestor's name in the land records of 1932 or before, will be considered as local inhabitants of Jharkhand.

The ninth schedule contains the list of Central and State laws which cannot be challenged in courts. This is to keep the Act from judicial review in the future.



What ails the current approach to Ayurveda and what needs to be done

Valuable observations on health need to be delinked from outdated theories, implausible conjectures and superstitions. A dispassionate sifting through of the contents of Ayurveda's ancient treatises is a prerequisite for their prudent practical use

G.L. Krishna

The National Medical Commission has proposed to integrate modern medicine with other branches such as Ayurveda and Homeopathy by establishing departments of Integrative Medicine Research in medical colleges. In this article dated July 11, 2022, G.L. Krishna elaborates on the need for a reform in the practice and teachings of Ayurveda.

Ayurveda, India's traditional medicine, has been in practice for close to three millennia. Even today, this ancient system serves the health-care needs of millions of Indians. The adaptation of a traditional knowledge-system for current use comes with its challenges, which, if dealt with lackadaisically, can endanger the welfare of its users. A few challenges that the Ayurveda establishment has for long failed to skilfully address are discussed here.

Speculations versus facts

Ayurveda's ancient treatises, for obvious reasons, cannot be expected to retain relevance in their entirety. They contain useful portions alongside obsolete ones. Therefore, a dispassionate sifting through their contents is a prerequisite for their prudent practical use. Valuable observations relating to health promotion and illness management need to be carefully sifted from outdated theories, implausible conjectures, and socio-religious superstitions.

An example would make this point clear. While documenting its observations on the benefits of physical exercise, an Ayurveda classic notes: "A sense of ease, improved fitness, easy digestion, ideal body-weight, and handsomeness of bodily features are the benefits that would accrue from regular exercise." These observations are as valid today as they were 1,500 years ago when they were first documented. But, such continued validity cannot be claimed for the physiological and pathological conjectures the same

text contains.

On urine formation, for instance, the text posits that tiny ducts from the intestines carry urine to fill the bladder. This simplistic scheme of urine formation has no role for the kidneys at all. Needless to say, this very outdated idea can have no place in current medical education except as an anecdote from history. Placing such conjectural ideas side by side with modern physiology and implicitly equalising the truth value of both is a serious malaise that has been plaguing the current approach to Ayurveda. Teachers of Ayurveda physiology have the unenviable job of constantly grappling with the difficulty of reconciling ancient speculations with established scientific facts.

Factors responsible

Two main factors – one theoretical and the other epistemological – have led to this sad situation. The tridosha theory of Ayurveda is a rough-and-ready model that the ancients devised to systematise their medical experience. Clinical features of illnesses and therapeutic measures to manage them were all classified on the basis of this heuristic model. In the absence of a cogent understanding of the biological processes underlying health and illness, speculations on these topics were also woven around the same model. The theory thus has aspects that are heuristically tenable alongside those that are merely conjectural. Recasting the theory in a way that retains the relevant aspects while jettisoning the obsolete parts is a priority area in Ayurvedic research. The research centres under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) have remained oblivious to this important work and their omissions have resulted in retaining the theory, lock, stock, and barrel. Consequently, outdated pathophysiological conjectures have become fossilised in the current approach to the subject.

The other factor that has been

instrumental in choking the renewal of Ayurveda is the widespread belief among its academics that ancient texts, by virtue of their being divined by sages in deep yogic states, retain timeless relevance. This notion of epistemic superiority has its roots in the hugely influential memorandum on the *Science and Art of Indian Medicine* authored by G. Srinivasa Murthi. The memorandum formed part of two reports: of the Usman Committee (1923) and later, of the Chopra Committee (1948). The flawed idea, antithetical to the *yukti-vyapashraya* (reason-based) character of classical ayurveda, has kept the field from demystifying its theories and achieving the reforms long overdue. In short, the belief in epistemic superiority has dethroned ancient medical writings from being revisable scientific treatises into being dogmatic scriptures.

A century ago, P.S. Varier of the Arya Vaidya Sala Kottakkal noted that the "Sareerasthana (section on body structure and function in the Ayurvedic classics) must firstly be revised and made clearer and the remaining parts must be suited to it (sic). Secondly, after this, the other important works should also be corrected. Necessary additions must be made either by translations or by collaboration with experts in portions still deficient." Ironically, Varier's submission also forms part of the Usman Committee report alluded to earlier. His suggestions though appear to have fallen on deaf ears. More recently, scholars such as Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya and Priyavrat Sharma have also drawn attention to the myth of epistemic superiority that has rendered Ayurveda texts non-revisable. But the Ayurveda establishment and its research centres have stayed intellectually inept to address the issue. What can enhanced funding do in a field that lacks a vibrant intellectual resource?

A renewed plea to reform

A recent article in the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* has renewed the plea to

reform and update Ayurveda. Titled "Confessions of an Ayurveda Professor", the article is authored by Kishor Patwardhan, a faculty member of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Prof. Patwardhan has candidly admitted that the anatomy and physiology contained in the Ayurvedic classics is mostly outdated and that the official approach to this subject is misguided. He has also disclosed the ecosystem-influences that made him adopt a wrong approach to the subject and the ill-effects this approach has had. While implicitly retracting his book *Human Physiology in Ayurveda*, he has called for a thorough change in the curriculum.

This article also points out the flawed approach of making ancient concepts sound relevant by super-imposing current scientific findings upon them. In addition to resulting in a travesty of truth, such misinterpretations in a practical field such as Ayurveda carry the risk of leading to dangerously wrong clinical choices. While petitioning for a scientific scrutiny of Ayurveda's foundational theories, the professor hopes that Ayurveda students get to unreservedly study current anatomy and physiology.

The basic truth

The Ministry of AYUSH must wake up and take cognisance of the points made here. Academics drawing handsome salaries from government-run AYUSH institutes need to see how sinful it is to hand over an unprocessed proto-science to gullible youngsters and then mislead them into believing that it is a super-sophisticated advanced science. As a medical system, Ayurveda is valuable immensely for its observations, only marginally for its theories, and not at all for its speculations. The sooner the establishment comes to terms with this basic truth, the better.

G.L. Krishna is an Ayurveda physician and Homi Bhabha Fellow. He is also a visiting scholar at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

KEYWORD

Shrinkflation

Shrinkflation refers to the tampering of a product while maintaining retail price

G.S. Bajpai
Sangeeta Taak

Shrink inflation is when a product downsizes its quantity while keeping the price the same. For example, reducing the scoops of ice cream in a container or reducing the number of chips in a packet would count as shrinkflation. In other words, shrinkflation occurs when goods shrink in size but consumers pay the same price. It occurs when manufacturers downsize products to offset higher production costs but keep retail prices same.

The effect of inflation

The effects of inflation on consumers' daily lives are numerous. Rent, food, gas, and other living expenses are some of the ways inflation negatively impacts consumers. Shrinkflation deceives consumers into believing that the brands they buy are not affected by inflation, since container and vessel sizes are reduced by very small amounts, saving manufacturers more money in the long run. From toilet paper to yogurt and coffee to corn chips, manufacturers worldwide are quietly shrinking package sizes without lowering prices.

Shrinkflation occurs when materials or ingredients used to make products become more expensive and when there is intense competition in the market. As a result, instead of raising prices, they might just give you less of the product so as to maintain their profit margins. Companies think that they can keep profits rolling in by keeping the change under the radar – all while the consumer is unaware.

Shrinkflation can occur in different ways. It's not just the weight that will be compromised as it is not uncommon for companies to look for alternative options. If consumers are aware that the quantity is constantly declining, they would switch or change brands. To prevent this, a product can reformulate or remove ingredients while maintaining its price. For example, Cadbury Dairy Milk stopped using foil which it used to prevent chocolate from losing its quality and flavour in order to save expense. Though downsizing products reduces costs for manufacturers, it is an unfair practice toward consumers. It can lead to a loss of trust if companies fail to properly communicate with them. Shrinkflation can lead to customer frustration and deterioration of consumer sentiment towards a producer's brand. However, it is quite common nowadays for producers to practise shrinkflation.

Variou implications

In the event of shrinkflation, it is more difficult to accurately measure price changes or inflation. Price points become misleading when the basket of goods cannot always be measured by considering the product size. Tackling shrinkflation means tackling inflation. In India especially, inflation is a complex phenomenon caused by several factors, such as demand-pull factors, cost-push factors, and structural factors. Therefore, we need a mix of macroeconomic policies to manage demand and supply, as well as address structural rigidities in the economy. In India, the Right to Information has been recognised as a consumer right under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. This means that the consumer has the right to know the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard, and price of goods. Therefore, the Central Consumer Protection Authority needs to bring some guidelines to inform consumers when the weight of a product is reduced, instead of letting consumers be fooled by companies.

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

World Rose Day is annually celebrated on September 22 in dedication to the welfare of cancer patients. Here's a quiz on the disease.

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

QUESTION 1

Greek physician Hippocrates described several kinds of cancer, referring to them with the Greek word 'karkinos'. This name comes from the appearance of the cut surface of a solid malignant tumour, with "the veins stretched on all sides". Which animal do the word and description denote?

QUESTION 2

What is the name given to any substance or radiation that promotes the formation of cancer?

QUESTION 3

Name the branch of medicine that deals with the study and diagnosis of cancer.

QUESTION 4

The pink ribbon and the colour pink

are used as motifs to raise money and increase screening for which type of cancer?

QUESTION 5

This actor, who died from colon cancer in 2020, recently earned a posthumous Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Character Voice-Over Performance. Identify him.

QUESTION 6

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines are vaccines that prevent infection by certain types of HPV. Which cancer do these vaccines protect against?

QUESTION 7

The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer is a book written by an Indian-born American physician and oncologist. Published in November 2010, it won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction. Name the author.



Visual Question: Name this scientist who discovered radiation in the late nineteenth century and stumbled on the first effective non-surgical cancer treatment. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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

- This is the earliest recorded peace treaty and is prominently displayed on a wall in the UN Headquarters in New York. **Ans: The Egyptian-Hittite peace treaty**
 - The four original charters of this important symbol of liberty were displayed together at the British Library in 2015. **Ans: Magna Carta drafted by Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury**
 - The Louisiana Purchase culminated with this series of forced displacements of approximately 60,000 Indigenous people. **Ans: Trail of Tears**
 - This was the site of the Armistice between the Allies and Germany at the end of World War I. **Ans: Forest of Compiègne; The Armistice of 1940 between Germany and France during World War II also happened here**
 - This peace agreement refers to one of three peace agreements that were signed between the government of this country, and rebel groups in 2006, 2011 and 2020. **Ans: Darfur Peace Agreement**
 - This treaty is being signed here. **Ans: The Indus Waters Treaty signed in Karachi by Jawaharlal Nehru and Ayub Khan**
- Early Birds:** Sayanti Sarkar | Shivani Bhardwaj | Ansif Abdul Azeez | Settem Anjaneyulu

Word of the day

Mull
to reflect deeply on a subject

Synonyms: speculate, meditate, muse, ponder, contemplate

Usage:
I mullled over the events of the afternoon

Pronunciation:
<https://forvo.com/search/mull/en/>

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

From Page One

Putin says nuclear threat 'not a bluff'

Mr. Putin also accused officials of NATO countries of making statements about "the possibility and admissibility of using weapons of mass destruction against Russia – nuclear weapons". "I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction, and in some components more modern than those of the NATO countries," he said.

Mr. Putin restated his aim was to "liberate" the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland, and said most people there did not want to return to what he called the "yoke" of Ukraine.

In an apparently coordinated move, pro-Russian regional leaders on Tuesday announced referendums for September 23-27 in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, representing around 15% of Ukrainian territory.

Russia already considers Luhansk and Donetsk, which together make up the Donbas region that Moscow partially occupied in 2014, to be independent states. Ukraine and the West consider all parts of Ukraine held by Russian forces to be illegally occupied.

Ready for any duty that party gives me: Gehlot

Mr. Gehlot's position on "one man, two posts" could become problematic for the party's top leadership as supporters of Sachin Pilot are hoping that the Rajasthan Chief Minister's elevation as the All India Congress Committee (AICC) president will pave the way for Mr. Pilot to become the Chief Minister.

The meeting at Ms. Gandhi's official residence could also be an indication of the challenge that the leadership is likely to face if Mr. Gehlot insists on continuing in both the positions or strongly opposes Mr. Pilot's possible elevation.

The Rajasthan Chief Minister also said that he was going to meet party leader Rahul Gandhi in Kerala to persuade him one last time before he decides on his next step.

On August 23, *The Hindu* first reported that Ms. Gandhi has asked Mr. Gehlot to lead the party. In Wednesday's meeting, also attended by party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Ms. Gandhi, however, made it clear that the Gandhi family would remain neutral in a presidential contest.

"The party and high command have given me everything. I have been on posts for 40-50 years. For me no post is important, I will fulfil any responsibility given to me," Mr. Gehlot said, adding, "I am very fortunate that I have got love and affection of Congress men and women across the country and they have faith in me. Therefore, if they ask me to fill the nomination form I will not be able to refuse."

Strengthening decisions

Speaking with reporters at the Delhi airport before his meeting with the party chief, he said he would take decisions that would strengthen the Congress. On whether holding on to the posts of the Chief Minister and the party president violates the "one-man-one-post" principle adopted in the recent Udaipur conclave, Mr. Gehlot said the rule applied to people who were nominated by the high command.

The presidential election is open to everyone and any of the 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates can contest; be it an MP, an MLA, Chief Minister or a Minister.

However, during his interaction with party MLAs in Jaipur late on Tuesday night, many of the participants got the impression that Mr. Gehlot wanted to continue in both the positions for some more time and present the next State budget as that would be his 10th budget.

While CEA chief Mr. Mistry said there was nothing in the party constitution that says Mr. Gehlot could not hold two posts, others like Mr. Digvijaya Singh argued that the Udaipur Declaration insisted on the principle of one man, one post.

Nizam's sword set to return to India

According to the museum documentation, the sword was "exhibited by Mahbub Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VI, Nizam of Hyderabad (1896-1911) at the 1903 Delhi or Imperial Durbar, a ceremonial reception held to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra as Emperor and Empress of India".

"The Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad is the perfect repository for the sword as it is from this region. However, we are yet to get intimation about the repatriated object," says SJM director A. Nagender Reddy. The SJM has a gallery dedicated to arms and armoury that has swords, knives, and battle axes belonging to the Mughals, Nizams and other rulers of India.

How this ceremonial sword exhibited by Nizam Osman Ali Khan was later sold by his prime minister Maharaja Kishen Pershad remains a mystery. "The affection Mahbub Ali Khan had for Maharaja Kishen Pershad is well known. The Maharaja was wealthy. He might have gifted the sword to the British officer," says historian Sajjad Shahid.

Kishen Pershad hailed from the family of Maharaja Chandoo Lal, who was the prime minister for Nizam Sikander Jah twice. Kishen Pershad was known for his munificence where he was known to throw out coins to people chasing his motorcar.

Bihar free of Naxal presence; the fight is in the last stages in Jharkhand, says CRPF chief

Hotbeds of left-wing extremism have been cleared in three States, says Kuldip Singh: Operations Octopus, Double Bull, Thunderstorm and Chakarbandha led to the arrest or surrender of 592; Maoists using improvised grenade launchers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kuldip Singh, Director-General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), said on Wednesday that Bihar was free of left-wing extremism now and security forces had made inroads into areas in Jharkhand that were once inaccessible due to the presence of Maoists.

Mr. Singh said the fight was in its final stages, and the number of districts affected by violence stood at 39, down from 60 in 2010. He said the number of most affected districts, accounting for 90% of the violent incidents, had reduced from 35 in 2015 to 25 in 2021. These districts are mostly in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Singh said that considerable success was achieved in 2022 in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh as the CRPF launched Operation Octopus, Operation Double Bull, Opera-



Into the lair: An anti-Naxal operation 'Octopus' being carried out by security forces in the heavily mined 'Burha Pahar' hill range on Chhattisgarh-Jharkhand boundary on September 15. V.V. KRISHNAN

tion Thunderstorm and Operation Chakarbandha in the three States. The operations led to the arrest or surrender of 592 Maoists.

Security camps

"Barring stray elements or extortionists, we can say that Bihar is completely free of Naxals. In Jharkhand too, we reached the top of the Budha Pahar area for the first time on September 5. This was an

area under the control of the Maoists so far, we have established a security camp there and road construction has also started," Mr. Singh said at a press conference. He said that in Chakarbandha in Bihar, an area of 8x7 km had been cleared of Maoist presence and in the Budha Pahar area, around 4x3 km had been cleared. A helicopter landed in Budha Pahar for the first time in September.

The officer said that since 2019, a unique policy has been adopted against Maoists and in the past four years, the Union Home Ministry had provided ₹4,000 crore to the CRPF to purchase the latest weapons and equipment. The CRPF was one of the largest Central armed police forces deployed in the affected States.

Mr. Singh said that in all,

20 forward operating bases or security camps have been established in Jharkhand and 11 bases had come up only in the past six months.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted, "For the first time, permanent camps of security forces have been established by successfully evacuating Maoists from the inaccessible areas of Budha Pahar, Chakarbandha and Bhimabandh." The Minister said the Ministry's "zero tolerance" to terrorism and left-wing extremism would continue, and the fight would intensify.

Mr. Singh said Maoists were using improvised grenade launchers to target security camps in Chhattisgarh. "The grenade launchers are assembled locally in a factory. The camps were attacked 28 times by the launchers this year," he said.

He said in Jharkhand, security forces recovered a U.S.-made rifle but Maoists mostly used country-made weapons or those snatched from security forces.

Rice output in kharif season may fall short of target: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's rice production during the kharif season is likely to fall short of the target of 112 million tonnes (mt) and will reach only 104.99 mt, said the first advance estimate for 2022-23 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Wednesday.

Overall, the Centre has estimated foodgrain production of 149.92 mt during the kharif season. The decrease in cultivation of kharif crops is in about nine lakh hectares till the end of last week. But the Centre is hopeful of an increase in the production of some crops, particularly in maize and sugar cane.

In 2020-21, the production was 105.21 mt.

Will EWS quota cut share of pie of those competing on merit, asks CJI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Has the government ended up "diminishing" the opportunities of candidates who compete for jobs and seats in government institutions purely on merit by carving out a 10% quota for economically weaker sections (EWS) from the general category, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court asked the Centre on Wednesday.

A five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit said 50% academic seats and jobs in the general category were open to all, including the creamy layer of the Other Backward Classes (OBC), Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and forward classes.

The court questioned



By taking 10% of this 50% and reducing it to 40%, are you not diminishing the chances of a meritorious candidate to compete in that arena?

U.U. LALIT
Chief Justice of India

the necessity for the state's "affirmative action" to carve out an EWS quota from the general or unreserved category. The Bench noted that those in the general category who were below the poverty line came to only one-sixth of the total general population.

The questions came after Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, for the Centre, submitted that the EWS quota was not an "addi-

tion" to the 50% caste-based quota already available to backward classes, but was cut from the remaining 50% seats in the "general, open or non-reserved category".

"The 50% available in the general category is open to all. Anybody – be they from the SC, ST or OBC or non-reserved classes – can compete purely on the basis of merit. By taking 10% of this 50% and reducing it to 40%, are you

not diminishing the chances of a meritorious candidate to compete in that arena? Are you not reducing the share of the pie for those persons who could have competed on the basis of their own individual merit and got the seats?" the Chief Justice asked Mr. Venugopal.

The EWS quota, introduced through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, excludes the poorest of the poor among the OBC/ST/SC communities, saying they already have access to the 50% quota for backward classes.

But the court pointed out that the creamy layer members of the OBC communities would be competing in the general category. Taking 10% from the open category would affect them too.

How will students prepare for diversity when none is allowed in classrooms: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

How will students prepare for the great diversity of the country when none is allowed in their classrooms, Supreme Court judge Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia asked on Wednesday.

Justice Dhulia, who is part of the Division Bench led by Justice Hemant Gupta, is hearing a series of petitions challenging the prohibition on wearing hijab in classrooms in Karnataka.

Petitioners, mostly students affected by the ban, have challenged a Karnataka High Court decision that wearing hijab is not an "essential religious practice" in Islam.



Hijab should be seen as an eye-opener, a window to prepare students for the diversity of the country

JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA
Supreme Court judge

The State of Karnataka, represented by Additional Solicitor General K.M. Natraj and Advocate General Prabhuling Navadgi, argued on Wednesday that the uniform dress code in

classrooms ensure equality among students. The children are not banned wearing hijab outside their classrooms. The move by the State was religion-neutral. Students, regardless of their religion or belief, have been classed together.

Justice Dhulia asked whether he meant hijab had created a wall of separation. He also said hijab should be seen as an eye-opener, a window to prepare students for the diversity of the country.



Watch | Karnataka's hijab controversy explained
bit.ly/hijabrowid

DGCA extends flight capacity restrictions on SpiceJet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has extended by a month its 50% cap on the number of flights SpiceJet can operate. It was imposed following concerns over the safety and the airline's inability to pay for maintenance.

"The review has indicated that there is appreciable reduction in number of safety incidents. However, as a matter of abundant caution, the competent authority has decided that the restriction imposed shall continue to be in force till the end of the summer schedule," said the DGCA order.

The summer schedule begins on the last Sunday of March and ends on the last Saturday of October.

No criminality found in Niira Radia tapes, CBI tells top court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) orally informed the Supreme Court that it could not find anything criminal in the intercepted conversations of corporate lobbyist Niira Radia with some politicians, businessmen, media persons, and others.

"Fourteen preliminary inquiries were registered and the report was placed before your lordships in a sealed cover. No criminality was found in those," Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the CBI, told a three-judge Bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.

The Bench had taken up the case which includes in-

Ratan Tata, K.T. Thomas are trustees of PM CARES

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday appointed veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, former Supreme Court judge K.T. Thomas, and former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker Kariya Munda as trustees of the PM CARES Fund, the Prime Minister's Office said on Wednesday.

A meeting of trustees was held on Tuesday where the newly appointed members and other trustees, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were present. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a statement of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Trust further decided to nominate other eminent persons for the constitution of Advisory Board to the PM CARES Fund. They included Rajiv Mehrishi, former Comptroller and Auditor General, Sudha Murthy, former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and Anand Shah, co-founder of Teach for India and former CEO of Indicorp and Piramal Foundation.

At the meeting, a presentation was made on the various initiatives undertaken with the help of the PM CARES Fund.

BJP spent ₹340 crore on 2022 election campaigns

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP spent more than ₹340 crore on its campaigns for the Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Punjab Assembly elections this year, according to the party's election expenditure report.

At the same time, the Congress spent ₹194 crore on the five campaigns, according to its own expenditure report submitted to the EC, which published the reports on Tuesday night. The BJP's spending report showed that the party spent ₹221.31 crore in U.P., ₹23.51 crore in Manipur, ₹43.67 crore in Uttarakhand, ₹36.69 crore in Punjab and ₹19.06 crore in Goa.

Bench had taken up the case which includes Radia's petition seeking right to privacy

industrialist Ratan Tata's petition seeking right to privacy in view of the emergence of the Radia tapes.

The court posted the case for October 12, after the Dasara holidays, and asked the central agency to file a status report.

In 2013, the apex court had directed a CBI probe while observing that "Radia's conversations reveal deep-rooted malice by private enterprises in connivance with government officials for extraneous purposes".

IN BRIEF



Rubaiya Sayeed appears before court in kidnap case

Rubaiya Sayeed, sister of former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Mehbooba Mufti, presented herself before a special Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) court in Jammu for a cross-examination. JKLF chief Yasin Malik is likely to cross-examine Ms. Sayeed on October 20. Ms. Sayeed, also daughter of Union Home Minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed in the 1990s, was kidnapped by the militants of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) on the evening of December 8 and held hostage till December 13, 1989.

EC proposes doing away with postal ballot for poll workers

The Election Commission last week wrote to the Law Ministry proposing that poll workers cast their ballot at voter facilitation centres set up for them instead of sending it via post, a move that would minimise the potential for misuse, an EC source said on Wednesday. It decided during a meeting on September 16 to send the proposal to the Ministry that the voters on election duty cast their votes at the facilitation centres only, the source said. It proposed amending Rule 18 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 accordingly. While they have the option of going to a voter facilitation centre, many poll workers choose to send in their votes via post and keep the postal ballots at their homes for a long time after completing their election duties, the source said.

SC condemns hate speech aired on TV

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the role of TV anchors is critical in monitoring that their shows do not descend into a flurry of hate speech.

The court said content on mainstream electronic media and social media remain largely unregulated.

On TV, it is the duty of anchors to prevent hate speech. A Bench led by Justice K.M. Joseph said “we

cannot give hate any air” on TV.

The court wondered why the government continues to remain a mute spectator to hatred peddled in the electronic media. The court was hearing a batch of petitions against the strident increase in volume of hate speech. The court posted the case for hearing on November 23.

The Supreme Court has been consistent in its efforts to stop hate on TV. In January 2021, the then

SIT files chargesheet against Setalvad, Sreekumar, Bhatt

The Gujarat Police accuse them of conspiring to create false cases against Modi, other BJP leaders in an attempt to seek ‘capital punishment’ by implicating them in cases related to the 2002 riots

The Hindu Bureau AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against social activist Teesta Setalvad and former IPS officers R.B. Sreekumar and Sanjiv Bhatt, accusing them of conspiring to create false cases against then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others in an attempt to seek “capital punishment” by implicating them in cases related to the 2002 riots.

While both Mr. Sreekumar and Mr. Bhatt are in prison, Ms. Setalvad was recently granted interim bail by the Supreme Court.

The three accused have been charged under Sections 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 194 (giving or fabricating false evidence with intent to procure conviction of capital offence), 211 (to institute criminal proceeding against a person or falsely charge him with committing an offence while knowing there is no just ground for such proceeding), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record or writing with intent to



Conspiracy charge: Social activist Teesta Setalvad was recently granted interim bail by the Supreme Court in the case. FILE PHOTO

save person from punishment) and 120 (B) (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

In the chargesheet, the Special Investigation Team of the Gujarat Police has accused them of instituting false and malicious criminal proceedings against innocent people, including Mr. Modi, his then Cabinet colleagues and other BJP leaders, to frame them in connection with the riots cases. The police have named Ms. Setalvad as the prime accused in the case. “Accused number one

(Setalvad) tried to create false cases against then Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and senior BJP leaders and conspired to fabricate evidence against them in these cases to establish their involvement in the February 28, 2002 and other riots cases in which a large number of people were killed and in which the punishment is death sentence,” the police said.

The chargesheet, exceeding 6,000 pages, cites as many as 90 witnesses, including Congress’s Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh

Gohil and former IPS officer Rahul Sharma, who is now a lawyer in the Gujarat High Court.

The police have also named former IPS officer A.K. Malhotra, who was a member of the Supreme Court-appointed SIT headed by former CBI chief R.K. Raghavan, as a witness.

As per the chargesheet, Ms. Setalvad received ₹30 lakh at the behest of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel in 2002, and as secretary of the non-governmental organisation Citizens for Justice and Peace, she worked with leaders of the Congress to spread misunderstanding among people in relief camps that Gujarat was unsafe for minorities and they would not get justice in the State.

The police said Ms. Setalvad tutored witnesses to give false testimony against Mr. Modi in the riots cases.

The trial in the case will be held before a sessions court.



Watch our video What is Teesta Setalvad? bit.ly/teestavid

Sudarshan TV chief not allowed to meet Staines murder convict

Satyasundar Barik BHUBANESWAR

Suresh Chavhanke, editor-in-chief of Sudarshan TV, on Wednesday failed in his bid to meet Graham Staines murderer Dara Singh. Keonjhar district jail authorities denied him permission to meet Singh, a lifer involved in three separate cases of murder including that of the Australian Christian missionary and his two minor children in 1999.

The jail authorities had made it clear on Tuesday that they would not allow anyone to meet the prisoner except his lawyer and family members.

Enraged over the refusal, Mr. Chavhanke sat on a protest outside the jail along with Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Mohan Majhi and some locals.

A similar protest was held outside Odisha Bhan in Delhi.

Demand for release

Mr. Chavhanke, who has been demanding the convict’s release, was on a two-day visit to the State. “Dara Singh has been in jail for the past 21 years. There is hardly anyone who is imprisoned for more than 20 years in the country. I had sent a mail to the Odisha

Jail authorities said only the prisoner’s lawyer and family members would be allowed to meet him

government seeking permission 15 days ago and was given the impression that I would be permitted to meet him,” he said.

He said the jail authorities did not give any valid reason in their written response.

“We will approach Supreme Court challenging the refusal,” he said.

Mr. Majhi, BJP chief whip in the Odisha Assembly, said Mr. Chavhanke’s demand was just and the party could discuss backing him if the situation warranted it. Ahead of Mr. Chavhanke’s visit, the Special Branch of Odisha Police had been instructed to gather intelligence inputs and provide him security after assessing the ground situation.

In 1999, Staines and his two minor sons were sleeping in a wagon when Singh led a mob and set the vehicle on fire, charring the trio to death. In 2003, a trial court in Khordha district awarded him death sentence for the horrendous crime and life terms to 12 of his accomplices.

Three police medals to be discontinued

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has discontinued three police medals that were instituted in 2018, it said in a notification on Wednesday. The awards are the Police Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak, J&K State/LWE Region/NE Region, the Utkrisht Seva Padak and the Ati Utkrisht Seva Padak.

Advertisement for Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran (P) Limited, Mysuru. Includes details about renovation works and health check-ups.

Advertisement for Directorate of Handicrafts, Odisha. Expression of Interest (EOI) for GI Registration of Handicrafts of Odisha.

Advertisement for State Health Agency (SHA Kerala). Tender notice for competitive quotations for hospital audits.

Advertisement for Uttar Pradesh Housing and Welfare Corporation. Notice for construction of housing units.

Advertisement for ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED NCR REGION ALWAR. Notice inviting bids for construction work.

Advertisement for State Health Agency (SHA Kerala). Tender notice for competitive quotations for hospital audits.

Advertisement for Uttar Pradesh Housing and Welfare Corporation. Notice for construction of housing units.

Advertisement for OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DN. IST, AJMER. Notice for water supply schemes.

Advertisement for उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद. Notice for housing and welfare projects.

Advertisement for Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project. Training and research in financial administration.

Advertisement for Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project. Corrigendum and contact information.

Advertisement for PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. Extension notification for road works.

Advertisement for Office of Additional Chief Engineer PHED, Region Bharatpur. Notice for water supply schemes.

Advertisement for KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED. Notice for power supply projects.

Advertisement for KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED. Notice for power supply projects.

INBRIEF



VHP asks U.K. PM to take action on Islamic extremists

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Wednesday requested the Prime Minister of United Kingdom Liz Truss to take immediate efforts to end the "continued violence against Hindus in Leicester and Birmingham". "VHP is deeply concerned and alarmed at the ongoing violence in Leicester and Birmingham in which a large number of Hindus and places of their worship, their cultural and religious symbols have been wantonly targeted and damaged by Islamic extremists," said VHP international working president Alok Kumar (in photo) in his letter. "Nothing of that sort has happened to Muslims, Islamic symbols or places of worship," he added.

Yechury discusses Opposition unity with Nitish, Lalu

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Wednesday met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad in Patna separately and discussed opposition unity. Mr. Kumar, the de facto leader of the JD(U), met Mr. Yechury during his visit to New Delhi earlier this month. "Was warmly received by Nitish Kumar ji (@NitishKumar) when I called on him in Patna today. We followed up on our discussions in Delhi to mobilise the broadest unity of secular democratic forces to safeguard the Indian Constitution and the unity & integrity of our country," the Left leader tweeted. Mr. Yechury also called on RJD chief Lalu Prasad at his home.

ABG Shipyard's Rishi Agarwal arrested in bank fraud case

The CBI arrested Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal, former chairman and managing director of ABG Shipyard Ltd., in New Delhi, in connection with the ₹22,842-crore bank fraud case. According to the CBI, Mr. Agarwal was part of the conspiracy to cheat 28 banks that had given loans to the company from 2005 to 2012. Among the accused are Santhanam Muthaswamy, Ashwini Kumar, Sushil Kumar Agarwal, Ravi Vimal Nevetia and ABG International Private Limited. The alleged fraud was detected during a forensic audit of the loan account involving transactions from April 2012 to July 2017.

FSSAI's draft notification out on rating for packaged food

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has issued a draft notification on front-of-package labelling, which proposes "Indian Nutrition Rating" (INR) modelled on the health star-rating system. The draft of the amended Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Regulations, 2020 made public on Tuesday requires packaged food to display the prescribed format of INR by assigning a rating from 1/2 star (least healthy) to five stars (healthiest). The INR is to be calculated on the basis of contribution of energy, saturated fat, total sugar, sodium and the positive nutrients. Stakeholders have been given 60 days to submit their responses to the draft notification.

With ₹19,500-crore PLI plan, sun shines on solar cell units

The project is expected to save India close to ₹1.37 trillion in imports; Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is also anticipating direct investments of around ₹94,000 crore for the project

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a ₹19,500-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to incentivise manufacture of domestic solar cell modules to reduce the industry's reliance on Chinese-made panels. This follows the ₹4,500-crore tranche cleared in November 2020.

Bidders for projects will be given PLI to set up and run manufacturing facilities that will span the entire production cycle of modules from making the polysilicon cells, ingots, wafers and panels to assembling modules that are used to produce electricity.

The PLI will be disbursed to firms after they set up their manufacturing units and the money disbursed over five years.

Officials from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, the nodal body tasked with administering the programme, estimate manufacturing capacity worth 65,000 MW of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules to be installed over five years.

The bulk of the allocation, of nearly ₹12,000 crore, is to incentivise the setting up of integrated manufacturing facilities because there is no installed capacity in India to manufacture polysilicon and wafers (the raw material for solar panels).

This would bring in a direct investment of around ₹94,000 crore, directly employ about 1,95,000 persons and indirectly around 7,80,000 persons. It would save India close to ₹1.37 trillion in imports, they estimated.

India has committed, as part of climate commitments, to a target of installing 5,00,000 MW of electricity capacity from



Bright and clean: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy estimates installation of manufacturing capacity worth 65,000 MW in five years. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

non-fossil fuel-based sources by 2030 and this translates to 280,000 MW to 300,000 MW from solar electricity alone. "We would need nearly 30-35 GW (IGW = 1000 MW) of modules. With these schemes, we expect to have 70-80 GW of capacity, which would take care of our domestic requirements as well as exports," Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, MNRE said.

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Logistics Policy, which aims to reduce cost of logistics and bring efficiency through "streamlining processes, regulatory framework and skill development". It aims to improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking by 2030.

Logistics policy aims at reducing cost by 2030

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Logistics Policy, which aims to reduce cost of logistics and bring efficiency through "streamlining processes, regulatory framework and skill development". It aims to improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking by 2030.

For a detailed analysis, read India's solar capacity: Milestones and challenges bit.ly/solarexplainer

NSCN(I-M) seeks meet with PM over Naga issue

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Naga insurgent group NSCN(I-M) on Wednesday held a meeting with a government representative in an effort to find a permanent solution to the decades-old vexed problem, officials said.

An NSCN(I-M) delegation, led by senior leader V.S. Atem, met interlocutor A.K. Mishra at an undisclosed location in the national capital. The participants discussed the rebel group's core demands, including a separate flag for the Nagas. The dialogue remained inconclusive and is likely to resume on Thursday, an official privy to the talks said. The delegation also requested for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Raju Srivastava, inimitable artist of observational comedy, passes away

Anuj Kumar
GURUGRAM

One of the foremost comedians of India who found humour in the smallest of real-life experiences, Raju Srivastava, 58, passed away in Delhi on Wednesday more than a month after a heart attack. He had been admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and put on ventilator for 41 days. He is survived by his wife, Shikha, and two children.

Kanpur-born Raju, whose official name is Satya Prakash Srivastava, was known for bringing an endearing quality to his observational comedy, making the most incisive comments without hurting the sentiments of the subject. Until the end, he retained the image of a boy next door who kept the



Raju Srivastava. PTI

community in good humour.

Raju grew up in a culture of poetic soirees, which his father, a government employee and poet, used to attend. In one of those soirees, a neighbour introduced him as 'Raju' and the name stuck. The grooming helped him write his own sets.

Those were the days

when stand-up comedy had yet to find roots in India, but Raju could mimic film stars and soon emerged as a talented artist who could copy Amitabh Bachchan. He became a regular feature on Doordarshan shows and film award functions, and worked as a filler during concerts by prominent singers.

At the turn of the millennium, when the genre of stand-up comedy reached Indian shores with *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge* and several spin-offs, Raju's career saw a spike and he won the title of "King of Comedy".

It also gave new life to his character of Gajodhar bhaiyya, a simpleton villager whose witty comments on the issues of rural India in the dialect of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar,

At international meet, a push for framework on farmers' rights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the second day of the governing body meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the issue of farmers' rights remained the focal point of discussions.

The Union Agriculture Ministry said India stood for the creation of an option for implementation of farmers rights, and proposed that use of Global Information System (GIS) for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture needs capacity building among contracting parties. The Centre said an expert group on farmers rights was constituted in 2017 with efforts taken by India and the country led the group as co-chair.

"India ensured discussion of the group even during pandemic and prepared a set of options and future process for implementing farmers rights in any country," the release said.

India also pushed for the revival of enhancement of multilateral system as from 2019, all formal meetings of the ITPGRFA were suspended.

"India along with Switzerland organised an infor-

mal meeting at UN-Geneva and prepared a document for the ninth meeting of the general body to deliberate. As a result, a Contact Group is constituted under the co-chairmanship of India to decide the future process," the release added.

India wants continued efforts towards sustainable use of plant genetic resources

Use of GIS
India also called for capacity building to use the GIS on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. "India, as member of the Scientific Advisory Committee, proposed that use of GLIS needs capacity building among contracting parties," the release said.

It also mentioned that the country wants continued efforts towards conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. "India, as member of Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use, proposed joint programs with international and regional organisations/institutes to fulfil this agenda," the Centre said.

Protests force Gujarat govt. to withdraw cattle Bill

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

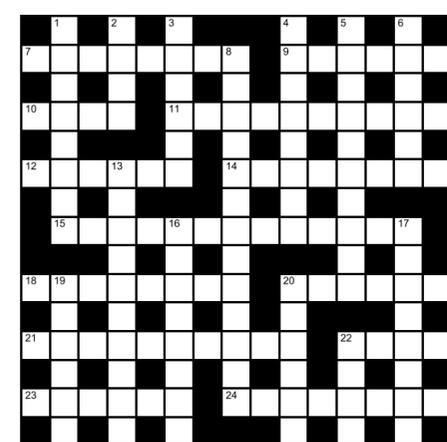
After Governor Acharya Devvrat returned the Gujarat Cattle Control (Keeping and Moving) In Urban Areas Bill with a request to "reconsider it and make necessary amendments", the Gujarat government on Wednesday took back the Bill passed in the Budget Session in April.

On September 18, the cattle-rearers held a huge convention warning the State authorities that if the Bill was not withdrawn, they would launch State-wide protests and stop supplying milk to dairies. The Bill mandated cattle-rearers to obtain a licence to keep animals such as stray cows and bulls in cities and towns and get them tagged.

THE CROSSWORD + 13667
(set by Hyapatia)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



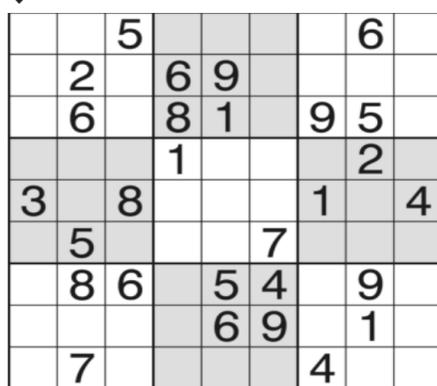
- 12 People from South failing Hindi (6)
14 Support group hires new criminal lawyer for contract killer? (8)
15 Pretty simple ones, yet he struggles (4,2,3,4)
18 Not possible to store dill without covers or fresh leaves (8)
20 Graceful female close to you donated clothes (6)
21 Possibly in fun, setter's set about that lady - It's not done! (10)
22 Poor Anarkali initially separated from her lover (4)
23 Contents of cellar can expose secret (6)
24 Study about concealed weapon brought in focus (8)

Down

- 1 Perhaps Uncle, about 50, had drip injected (8)
2 Discharge after old work (4)
3 Doctor Smith joining current strips of tissue (6)
4 Lift computer key in the middle, far behind (8)
5 Wholesome words of praise (4,3,3)
6 Seed of a plum joined regularly (6)
8 Overstretched in hard set at indoor exercises (6,3,4)
13 Carnegie, say almost accepts request and a suggestion about book (3,7)
16 Got a debit on mobile (8)
17 Guard dispatched home well within limits (8)
19 Overlook independent company protecting neither partner (6)
20 Part of stuffed orangutan's hat (6)
22 Pickle stain (4)

- Across**
- 7 English parliamentarian interrupts trials to cause commotions (8)
9 Must hold us at fault (6)
10 Roasts in pots (4)
11 Presently approach and question Spooner (4,3,3)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13666

T	R	I	S	O	M	E	G	A	R	L	I	C
O	O	G	I	P	M	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
B	E	L	A	R	U	S	L	E	B	A	N	O
A	L	A	G	A	E	G	O	D	O	O	O	O
G	R	U	F	F	H	E	Y	P	R	E	S	T
O	P	E	I	I	U	N	O	O	O	O	O	O
R	I	S	E	A	N	D	S	H	I	N	E	
A	E	T	F	G	A	T	S					
C	O	N	F	I	R	M	A	T	I	O	N	
H	A	T	A	H	U	G						
I	N	A	P	I	C	L	E	N	D	O	L	A
E	I	N	J	E	D	R	G					
V	I	L	L	A	I	N	O	U	R	E	N	S
E	E	N	G	O	E	E	N					
R	U	D	D	E	R							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Envy corrupts thoughts

If we do not curb jealousy, it grows, until it totally corrupts our thoughts. This is what happened with Duryodhana, said Kidambi Narayanan, in a discourse. After he attended the Rajasuya yaga conducted by Yudhishtira, Duryodhana was unable to think of anything else but the grandeur of the yaga, and the honours that Yudhishtira received from kings and scholars. Dhritarashtra tried to reason with him. He told his son that he (Duryodhana) had studied the Vedas, and their angas. He had learnt archery. He had studied the Sastras under Kripacharya. He had been a student of Balarama. Why should he be afraid of anyone or anything? How could another man's prosperity be responsible for one's loss of mental peace, Dhritarashtra asked.

But Duryodhana was unconvinced. He repeatedly recalled the yaga and expressed his anguish. Krishna had Himself anointed Yudhishtira with water from a gem-studded conch, he said. The special hall built for the yaga had many unusual features. Where Duryodhana thought there was a pool of water, he found it was just an illusion created by the architect. A little further on, was what seemed like a pool. Thinking this too was an illusion, Duryodhana stepped into it, only to discover that it was really a pool. He fell into it, and the Pandavas and Draupadi laughed at him. Servants then brought dry garments for him to replace the ones which had been drenched.

Even the doors and pillars had been built to give illusory effects. All this was in his mind, he said. How could he forget his humiliation before so many? How could he not be jealous of the Pandavas, he asked.

UNITED NATIONS

In a first in more than a decade, Turkish President meets Israel PM



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday met Israeli PM Naftali Bennett on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the first meeting between the leaders of the two countries in more than a decade. Mr. Bennett said he "commended" the recent restoration of full diplomatic ties between the countries. REUTERS

TAIPEI

U.S. and Canadian warships sail through contested Taiwan Strait



A U.S. destroyer and a Canadian frigate sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday in the latest joint operation aimed at reinforcing the route's status as an international waterway. Beijing views as its own both Taiwan and the narrow body of water separating the island from mainland China. AP

ISLAMABAD

Disease, malnutrition threaten to raise Pakistan flood toll, says UN



An internally displaced flood-affected man offering noon prayers under the shade of a charpai at a makeshift camp in Pakistan on Wednesday. The water-borne diseases and malnutrition that are plaguing swathes of Pakistan after record monsoon floods threaten to be more deadly than the initial deluge, UN officials warned. AFP

BERLIN

Germany nationalises Uniper with €8 billion deal in dash to secure gas



Klaus-Dieter Maubach, CEO of Uniper, addressing the media after Germany reached a deal to nationalise the troubled gas giant on Wednesday. Berlin will inject €8 billion in cash into Uniper and buy €500 million of shares from its majority shareholder, the Finnish state-owned energy company Fortum. REUTERS

Put patriotism first, China tells its Muslim citizens

Official asks Islamic groups to fully implement the Party's basic policy on religious affairs and take efforts to rally Islamic figures and Muslims closely around the Party and the government

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

The Chinese Communist Party's top leader in charge of religious affairs has called on the country's Islamic associations and Muslim communities to "maintain the correct political direction" and "uphold the banner of patriotism".

Wang Yang, the fourth-ranking member of the party's top Politburo Standing Committee, who heads the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, in a meeting with the official China Islamic Association "called for full implementation of the Party's basic policy on religious affairs and efforts to rally Islamic figures and Muslims closely around the Party and the government." State media reported.

He also called on the association's new leadership "to maintain the correct political direction, uphold the banner of patriotism and socialism, further strengthen the Chinese orientation in developing Islam in China, and facilitate the adaptation of Islam in China to socialist society." His comments came weeks after an August 31 report released by the Of-



Tit for tat: The remarks come after a UN report said China had committed "serious human rights violations" against its Uighur Muslim minority in the western Xinjiang region. ANANTH KRISHNAN

fice of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said China had committed "serious human rights violations" against its Uighur Muslim minority in the western Xinjiang region.

Arbitrary detention

The report said the "extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups", referring to a network of reeducation centres built by China in the past five years which the government has called "vocational training" institutions, "may constitute... crimes against humanity".

China slammed the report as "a patchwork of disinformation that serves as a political tool for the U.S. and some Western forces to strategically use Xinjiang to contain China". "The fact that this assessment, despite its illegality and zero credibility, did not go so far as to play up false allegations such as 'genocide', 'forced labour', 'religious oppression' and 'forced sterilisation' shows that the lies of the century concocted by the U.S. and some Western forces have already collapsed," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

Most Muslim countries have kept a studied silence

on Xinjiang, as has the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which has often criticised India over Kashmir.

On Tuesday, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in a meeting with Foreign Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, said China "appreciates the GCC countries for their upholding justice on issues related to Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and human rights, as well as their understanding of and support for China's legitimate demands."

Eight killed as protests spread in Iran over Kurdish woman's death

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

At least eight protesters have been killed in Iran in several days of unrest, according to a count of officially announced deaths and those reported by a human rights group.

Public anger has flared over the death of Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini, 22, after her arrest by the morality police responsible for enforcing a strict dress code for women.

Protests first erupted on Friday in her home province of Kurdistan, where governor Ismail Zarei Koosha said on Tuesday

that three persons had been killed, without specifying when.

Like other officials, he blamed the deaths on "a plot by the enemy".

On Wednesday, Kurdistan police commander Ali Azadi announced the death of another person, according to *Tasnim* news agency.

Blaming 'enemy'

Two more protesters were killed in Kermanshah province, the region's prosecutor Shahram Karami was quoted as saying by *Fars* news agency.

"Unfortunately, two persons were killed during

the riots yesterday," he said. "We are sure that this was done by counter-revolutionary agents."

On top of these deaths, the Norway-based Kurdish rights group Hengaw said on Wednesday that two more protesters had been killed overnight in West Azerbaijan province.

The two, aged 16 and 23, had died in the towns of Piranshahr, which was rocked by fierce clashes, and Urmia, Hengaw said.

Another male protester who was wounded in Divandareh, Kurdistan, on September 17 died from his injuries in hospital, the group said.

POWs reach Saudi Arabia from Russia

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Ten prisoners of war from countries including the United States and Britain have been transferred to Saudi Arabia as part of an exchange between Russia and Ukraine, the Gulf state said on Wednesday.

The group includes five British nationals, two Americans and one each from Morocco, Sweden and Croatia, according to a Saudi official briefed on the operation.

British Prime Minister Liz Truss said that the release of the British nationals was "welcome news."

A-G doubles down on Trump for fraud

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Donald Trump and family members lied to tax collectors, lenders and insurers for years in a scheme that routinely misstated the value of his properties to enrich himself, according to a suit filed by New York's

Attorney-General on Wednesday.

Top state prosecutor Letitia James said that with the help of his children and others at the Trump Organization, the former President provided fraudulent statements of his net worth and false asset valuations "to obtain and satisfy

loans, get insurance benefits, and pay lower taxes."

"In short, he lied to gain massive financial benefits for himself."

Mr. Trump repeated his oft-used defence that the suit is "another witch hunt" against him, while his spokesperson denounced it as a political

move by Democrats against the Republican businessman.

Ms. James requested that the former President pay at least \$250 million in penalties — a sum she says he made from the fraud — and that his family be banned from running businesses in the state.

Putin has 'reckless disregard' for nuclear non-proliferation: Biden

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

U.S. President Joe Biden, on Wednesday, called out Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying Mr. Putin's nuclear threats against Europe were "reckless", in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Earlier in the day, Mr. Putin had called for the mobilisation of 3,00,000 potential combatants and suggested that Moscow could use nuclear weapons to defend its interests.

'Overt threats'

"Again, just today, President Putin has made overt nuclear threats against Europe, in a reckless disregard for the responsibilities of the non-proliferation regime," Mr. Biden said, in a speech



Calling out: U.S. President Joe Biden addressing the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York City on Wednesday. AFP

in which he called on countries to stand up for the UN Charter.

The U.S. President also called for a "more inclusive" UN, reiterating the U.S. position that it supports the expansion of the UN Security Council, by increasing the number of permanent and non-per-

manent members.

He talked about the climate crisis and food security, announcing a \$2.9 billion food assistance package for this year.

"In every country in the world, no matter what else divides us, if parents cannot feed their children, nothing...nothing else mat-

ters," he said, adding that U.S. sanctions on Russia did not target Russian exports of fertilizers and food.

China policy

On China, Mr. Biden said that in the context of shifting geopolitical trends, the U.S. would act as a "reasonable leader".

"We do not seek conflict. We do not seek a Cold War. We do not ask any nation to choose between the United States or any other partner," he said.

At the UN on Wednesday, however, Mr. Biden said the U.S. was committed to its One China Policy, wanted "peace and stability" across the Taiwan Strait and opposed unilateral changes to the status quo by either China or Taiwan.

BEWARE OF TOUTS & MIDDLEMEN IN RRB EXAMINATIONS

Know the Truth & Facts

Q Bogus claims are being made to deposit the form for application for recruitment by RRBs. Is the application process still open?

A: No. The applications were invited by RRBs for CEN RRC 01/2019 - Level 1 (Erstwhile Group D) recruitment in year 2019. The exam could not be held earlier due to COVID pandemic. Now, application process is closed.

Q Is it possible to provide answer key to the candidate before or at the start of exam?

A: The question paper is in highly encrypted form (256-bit encryption), and no one other than the candidate can have access to the question paper. Candidate gets to see the question paper once he does second & final login into the computer at the time of commencement of the examination. Final decryption of question paper takes place at this instance only. Hence no answer key can be prepared by any person and such claims are totally false, baseless and misleading.

Q What other safeguards are in place to prevent malpractices in the RRB examinations?

A: The sequence of questions in the question paper is randomized/shuffled along with the randomization/shuffling of all four options available for the question. Each candidate in the exam centre thus has a unique question paper and no two candidates can have same question papers with given sequence of questions & options. This is a system generated through computer logic without any manual intervention. Therefore it is impossible to make answer key for the unique question paper given to the candidate.

Q Is it possible to get the desired center, desired lab/room or desired node/seat in the exam center?

A: The allocation of the centre to the candidates is randomized through computer logic. The exam center is made known to the candidate only four days before the exam date. Once candidates report at the exam center and register themselves, the allocation of lab/room is done through computerized randomization. Node/seat in a lab/room is allotted in the similar fashion once candidate reaches at the lab/room. Hence no one can ensure you desired center, desired lab/room or desired node/seat.

Q What additional mode of verification has been introduced by RRBs?

A: First time in the history of examinations, real-time Aadhaar based biometric authentication of candidates and the exam centres has been introduced at all India level by the RRBs. This is in addition to the measures already in place, like CCTV coverage of each and every computer, capturing and verifying biometrics at each stage of the recruitment process (right upto joining), taking photographs and handwritten paragraph, mid-exam biometrics including every time after bio-break etc.

Q What is the level of supervision and control over the exam process?

A: Strict vigilance is being done by Railway Staff pre/during/post exams. As a result, a number of candidates involved in malpractice/unfair means are being regularly caught. RRBs also deploy two persons including one RPF personnel in Server Room to keep watch on any suspicious activities.

Q Can a candidate answer all the questions towards the end of exam?

A: A complete log record of all the responses given by the candidate along with time for those responses is maintained and such candidates gets identified for abnormal activity from their nodes.

Q Can someone ensure you job in Railways through dubious means?

A: As enumerated above it is impossible for someone to get the candidate selected in Railways through dubious means. RRBs have filed FIRs/GDs in Police Stations against candidates and individuals indulging in malpractices and such candidates have been debarred from appearing in future RRB exams for life.

Q Where should candidates report all these false claims of providing employment through bogus means?

A: As lots of touts and dealers are active, candidates are advised not to fall prey to such elements and damage their career prospects. All such cases should be reported immediately at following number and email id: **Contact Number: 0755-2746660 • Email Id: msrrbbpl@gmail.com**

Anyone who is offering such false promises for job is befooling the candidates. RRB aspirants should not explore Touts/Unscrupulous elements as it is impossible to manipulate RRB system of examination by any means. This may invite penal action as well as debarment from future examinations.



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IN BRIEF



Volkswagen to raise prices from October 1 on input costs

With commodity prices at an elevated level, Volkswagen Passenger Cars India has announced that it will increase the prices of its models by up to 2% effective October 1. A company spokesperson attributed the price increase to 'rising input costs.' The company's models include sedan Virtus, SUV Taigun, hatchback Polo and sedan Vento.

Amazon to set up utility scale green-energy units in India

Amazon announced three new solar farms in India – the first in the country – with a combined capacity of 420 megawatts (MW) as it aims to use 100% renewable energy across its business by 2025. The three Indian projects include a 210 MW project to be developed by ReNew Power, a 100MW project to be developed by Amp Energy India, and a 110MW project to be developed by Brookfield Renewable, said Abhinav Singh, Director, Customer Fulfilment, Supply Chain and Amazon Transportation Services, Amazon India.

BorgWarner Morse Systems India inaugurates plant in T.N.

BorgWarner Morse Systems India, which makes engine-timing components for cars, commercial trucks and motorcycles, opened its second plant in Tiruvallur District for making variable camshaft timing (VCT) systems. The firm said its VCT technology optimises efficiency and reduces emissions in combustion-powered vehicles. "Currently, the second plant has a production capacity of three lakh VCTs with a single line," said R. Murali, director. "We will be adding more lines in the next four years and the capacity will increase to 30 lakh per annum," he added.

ADB pares India FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7%, from 7.5%

Lender says inflation has been more persistent than expected leading to sharper monetary tightening, and eroding consumers' purchasing power

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) cut its forecast for India's economic growth in 2022-23 to 7%, from 7.5% estimated in April, terming it a "modest downward revision" driven by higher-than-anticipated inflation and monetary tightening.

The lender also raised its inflation projection for India for this year to 6.7%, and widened the current account deficit (CAD) estimate to 3.8% of GDP. The ADB sees the CAD narrowing to 2.1% of GDP in 2023-24, while inflation is anticipated to slow to 5.8% as demand pressures from strengthening economic activity are seen offset by easing supply bottlenecks.

India's first-quarter growth of 13.5% reflected strong growth in services, but GDP growth forecasts were being revised downward as price pressures were expected to adversely impact domestic consumption and sluggish global demand and elevated oil prices would likely be a drag on net exports, the bank said. The ADB pegs FY24 growth at 7.2%.

Observing that inflation had turned out to be more persistent than expected, and led to a sharp tightening in monetary policy, the



Consumption dampener: ADB sees sticky core inflation adversely impacting spending over next 2 years if wages don't adjust. K.V.S. GIRI

ADB said price gains were eroding consumers' purchasing power. "Sticky core inflation will adversely impact spending over the next two years if wages fail to adjust," it warned.

"Subsidised fertiliser and gas, the free food distribution programme, and the excise duty cuts will help offset some of the effects of high inflation on consumers, but the tax on packaged food products will likely be a burden on consumers already dealing with rising inflation," the ADB noted in its update.

China concerns

China's economy would grow 3.3% in 2022, slower than the rest of developing Asia for the first time in three decades, the ADB said in an update to its Asia Development Outlook

(ADO) on Wednesday, less than the 5% forecast earlier, marred by lockdowns triggered by its zero-COVID strategy, property sector problems and weaker external demand.

South Asia outlook

The lower growth outlook for India along with a sharp contraction in Sri Lanka would translate into slower growth for South Asia, at 6.5% in 2022, from 7% projected earlier, the Asian lender said. India accounts for 80% of the region's economy.

The ADB also expects inflation in South Asia to be pushed up by higher energy and food costs to 8.1% in 2022, faster than the 6.5% estimated earlier.

"The revision mainly reflects the pattern of inflation in India," it added.

Cabinet approves uniform 50% support for chip, display units

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved uniform fiscal support of 50% project cost for all technology formats for chip fabrication units under the scheme for development of semiconductor and display manufacturing.

The Cabinet had in December approved the programme for the sector with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore. "Given the niche technology... the modified programme will also provide fiscal support of 50% of

The government said that the changes would help expedite investments in the semiconductor sector

capital expenditure in paripassu mode for setting up of compound semiconductor / silicon photonics / sensors / discrete semiconductor fabs," the Centre said in a statement.

The scheme had attracted many global semiconductor players and the changes would help expedite investments in chip manufacturing, it added.

Wipro fires 300 for moonlighting with firm's competitors

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI

Wipro has sacked some 300 employees for 'moonlighting' as the IT services firm toughens its stand against staffers taking a second job after work hours.

Wipro chairman Rishad Premji, who has been a vocal critic of moonlighting, said Wipro had no place for anyone who chose to work with rivals while being on Wipro's payroll.

Moonlighting is a "complete violation of integrity in its deepest form," he said speaking at an event.

"The reality is there are people today working for Wipro and working directly for one of our competitors and we have actually discovered 300 people in the last few months who are doing exactly that."

He added services had been terminated in specific instances of violation.

"Certain employees found to be operating in circumstances that are in direct conflict with Wipro's interests have been terminated," the company said in a statement.

(With inputs from Mini Tejaswi)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	CHANGE
Sensex	59,457	-0.44
US Dollar	79.96	-0.27
Gold	49,871	-0.21
Brent oil	89.78	-0.83

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	932.90	-37.35
Apollo Hosp	4604.80	45.45
Asian Paints	3356.05	-37.15
Axis Bank	806.55	-6.20
Bajaj Auto	3730.60	-38.00
Bajaj Finserv	1802.00	2.40
Bajaj Finance	7690.65	55.25
Bharti Airtel	780.20	-11.95
BPCCL	320.05	-2.85
Britannia Ind	3765.65	115.05
Cipla	1070.40	-21.90
Coal India	231.55	1.70
Divis Lab	3573.70	-57.85
Dr Reddy's Lab	4152.75	-63.25
Eicher Motors	3682.05	29.50
Grasim Ind	1719.85	-21.80
HCL Tech	900.95	-13.05
HDFC	2459.85	-26.40
HDFC Bank	1518.35	-2.35
HDFC Life	551.40	-8.35
Hero MotoCorp	2776.65	5.10
Hindalco	411.35	-10.10
Hind Unilever	2623.60	40.05
ICI Bank	915.25	-1.50
IndusInd Bank	1224.25	-39.85
Infosys	1377.25	-11.30
ITC	340.95	4.95
JSW Steel	684.85	-4.15
Kotak Bank	1318.50	-21.25
L&T	1389.65	-37.05
M&M	1306.65	-3.70
Maruti Suzuki	9247.90	-52.95
NestleIndia	18649.90	33.25
NTPC	168.60	-3.30
ONGC	130.90	-2.30
PowerGrid Corp	227.05	-5.65
Reliance Ind	2509.75	6.90
SBI Life	1306.30	-3.00
State Bank	569.70	-4.35
Shree Cement	22023.95	-1218.75
Sun Pharma	905.30	-6.65
Tata Consumer	804.20	0.00
Tata Motors	427.65	-6.60
Tata Steel	104.45	-1.35
TCS	3001.20	-39.10
Tech Mahindra	1060.15	4.00
Titan	2666.65	-17.35
UltraTech Cement	6313.75	-170.90
UPL	717.50	-2.40
Wipro	400.75	-4.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.78	80.10
Euro	79.14	79.46
British Pound	90.46	90.83
Japanese Yen (100)	55.39	55.61
Chinese Yuan	11.32	11.37
Swiss Franc	82.77	83.11
Singapore Dollar	56.44	56.67
Canadian Dollar	59.67	59.91
Malaysian Ringgit	17.51	17.60
Australian Dollar	53.21	53.43

Source: Indian Bank

SBI raises ₹4,000 cr. via Tier 2 bonds

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) said it had raised ₹4,000 crore via Basel III compliant Tier 2 bonds on Wednesday at a coupon rate of 7.57%. "The issue attracted an overwhelming response from investors with bids of ₹9,647 crore and was oversubscribed by about 5 times against the base issue size of ₹2,000 crore," SBI said.

The coupon rate, it said, "represents a spread of 14 bps over 10-year Gsec. The 10-year SDL cut-off was 7.69% annualised on September 20, 2022."

Bank GNPA's may hit decadal low of 4% in FY24: Crisil Ratings

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The gross non-performing assets (GNPA's) of banks is expected to improve 90 basis points (bps) to 5% this fiscal year-on-year, and another 100 bps to a decadal low of 4% by March 31, 2024, riding on post-pandemic economic recovery and higher credit growth, Crisil Ratings said.

The asset quality of the banking sector would also benefit from the proposed sale of NPAs to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL), it said.

Gross NPAs in MSME segment may rise to 10-11% by March 2024 from 9.3% as on March 31, 2022

However, not all segments would perform equally well, the agency said, adding the biggest improvement would be seen in the corporate segment, where gross NPAs may drop below 2% next fiscal from 16% as on March 31, 2018. Gross NPAs in the MSME segment may rise to 10-11% by March 2024 from 9.3% as on March 31, 2022.

Recession unlikely to hit India, as it's 'not so coupled' with global economy: S&P

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Global rating agency S&P on Wednesday said even though the U.S. and the Euro zone are headed towards recession, India is unlikely to face the impact given the "not so coupled" nature of its economy with the global economy.

"Indian economy is a lot decoupled from the global economy than we normally think of, given its large domestic demand, even though you [India] are a net importer of energy. But



India has enough forex reserves and your companies have managed to maintain healthy balance sheets

PAUL F. GRUENWALD
S&P global chief economist and MD

you have enough forex reserves on one hand and your companies have managed to maintain healthy balance sheets," Paul F. Gruenwald, S&P global

chief economist and MD, told reporters. In fact, India was never coupled fully with the global economy and so is relatively independent of global markets, he said, adding that a lot depends on how global fund flows behave if there is a recession in the U.S. and Europe.

Their inflation numbers continue to dodge monetary actions by their central banks as the gap between the U.S. core inflation target and the actual number is three times at 6%.

'TVS Motor Co. taps alternative sources to meet chip shortage'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company has sorted out the semiconductor-shortage issue by tapping an alternative source, said a top official.

During the first quarter of FY23, TVSM lost quite a bit with respect to deliveries of Apache and Raider motorcycles following chip shortage, the official said.

"But thanks to our team, we were able to develop alternate [sources] and now, Raider is fully back," said K.N. Radhakrishnan, director and CEO.



"Apache is [also] fully back. I don't think there will be any problem in the season. Now, this month and next month, you will see very good [sales] numbers." The firm said it would unveil many EV products over 8-12 quarters.

Sport

Nearly ten years later, have we come full circle?

When the Justice Lodha Commission recommended a series of changes to streamline the functioning of the BCCI, there was much acclaim



BETWEEN THE WICKETS
Suresh Menon

It is nearly a decade since the Supreme Court was forced to enter cricket administration in the country following spot-fixing allegations in the IPL and the recommendations of the Justice Mudgal Commission. In 2016, the Justice Lodha Commission, with its larger remit, set about reforming the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

As skeletons began tumbling out of the BCCI's cupboard,

its President and Secretary were sacked, and reform measures were laid out which were endorsed by the Supreme Court. A Committee of Administrators was appointed by the Court to run the BCCI, and handle the transition.

When the Justice Lodha Commission recommended a series of changes to streamline the functioning of the BCCI, there was much acclaim. The BCCI – despite everything, still the best-run sports organisation in the country – had got itself into a mess. People were hanging on to power, and cricket appeared to be of less importance than political and personal glory. Egos ruled, and it took the power of

the Supreme Court to bring things under control.

The clean-up operation initiated by the Supreme Court was aimed at (among other things) riding the board of office-bearers across the country who believed they had life-long postings that were hereditary, with the son or daughter or a relative anointed to take over from them. Conflict of interest was rampant, and systems had to be put in place.

The BCCI's new constitution incorporated the Lodha reforms, although the officials made no secret of their unhappiness at the changes. Now the spirit of the reforms barely survives.

Justice Lodha's two key

rulings were the 'cooling off period' which ensured there was a break after six years in office, and the cut-off age of 70 beyond which no one could be in office. There were others, some of which the BCCI accepted and others they asked to be reviewed.

Had the original Lodha recommendations been followed, the current President and Secretary of the BCCI would have been disqualified. The recent rollback – number of years as official at the State-level cannot now be added to the number of years at the BCCI – means they can stay in office till 2025 if re-elected. In effect an elected official can stay in office for 12 years in a row before

the three-year cooling off period kicks in.

There was no particular worry about the age limit (which has been retained) since President Sourav Ganguly is 50 and Secretary Jay Shah is only 33. And neither is likely to be keen on opening the door to former office-bearers past that age.

For a while, with the appointment of a high-profile CEO, the BCCI had the feel of a professionally-run organisation. Neither the domestic season nor the international calendar was adversely affected, and there was a hint then that professionalism in administration was a way out of the BCCI's fear-and-favour policy which had been in

existence for years.

It was felt that elections, especially in the way they were handled, might not be the ideal solution across the various cricket associations and indeed the board itself. The CEO was an important early step towards appointing professionals to run an organisation with a turnover in the billions of dollars.

The BCCI is more corporate entity – with all that it implies – than a restricted sporting body dependent on government handouts for their very existence. This change has come about in recent years, with the influx of new money and new ways of making more money. To have a bunch of amateurs behol-

den to another set of amateurs for electing them to office handling the big issues is anachronistic in this day and age.

As the roles developed, one hoped that the professional office-bearers would be responsible to the share-holders from the players and fans to the sponsors and television. The Supreme Court probably envisaged this when they introduced the CEO, a salaried point-man responsible for the working of the set-up. But the BCCI didn't give it enough time.

The BCCI has traditionally been about power and political gain. It has been an opaque body with little accountability. This was the original problem the

Supreme Court had set out to eliminate, and with time might have too.

The election of Ganguly, a former India captain as its President was a nod to the sport, but with the Home Minister's son, businessman Jay Shah, as Secretary, the politician wasn't far behind. If Ganguly decides to move to the International Cricket Council as its next chairman at the end of the year, it will alter the balance.

In just under a decade, cricket administration in India has gone from a feudal system to something more modern and transparent and now it seems to be steadily moving back. So what was all that fuss about?

TENNIS

Federer eyes dream pairing with Nadal for farewell match



Federer said he will play in the Laver Cup doubles on Friday evening but will not play a singles match in London. As for his doubles partner for the last hurrah? He would not say definitively — he said that's up to Borg — but the not-so-hidden secret is that it is expected to be Nadal. **AFP**

ASIA CUP

No big changes in Indian women's squad for continental event



The Indian team for the Asia Cup in Bangladesh from Oct. 1 to 15: **The squad:** Harmanpreet (Capt.), Smriti, Deepti, Shafali, Jemimah, Meghana, Richa, Sneha Rana, Hemalatha, Meghna, Renuka, Pooja, Rajeshwari, Radha, Navgire. **Standbys:** Taniya and Simran.

CRICKET

Maiden five-day Test for women to be held during Ashes next year



The first women's cricket Test played over five days will take place next year when England and Australia meet in the Ashes. Women's Tests have traditionally been played over four days as opposed to five in the men's game. The Test will be played at Trent Bridge from June 22 to 26 that also includes three T20s and three ODIs.

FOOTBALL

Atletico Madrid denounces racist chants against Vinicius



Atletico Madrid condemned the racist chants made by some of its fans against Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior and pledged to work with authorities to identify those responsible. A group of Atletico fans outside the Metropolitan Stadium chanted "Vinicius, you are a monkey" before Real's win last weekend.

Harmanpreet special hands Women in Blue a series win

The skipper's unbeaten 143 off just 111 deliveries, studded with 18 fours and four sixes, takes the visitors to 333 for five; Harleen chips in with a maiden half-century; Renuka wrecker-in-chief with four for 57 as England loses by 88 runs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CANTERBURY

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur rekindled memories of the 2017 World Cup as she stroked a magnificent unbeaten 143 to power India to its highest total of 333 for five and secure a memorable 88-run victory against England in the second ODI here on Wednesday.

With this win, India went 2-0 up in the three-match ODI series, marking its first series win in England since 1999.

Wyatt lone fighter

Danni Wyatt (65, 58b, 6x4) top-scored for the home team, while seamer Renuka Singh broke the back of the England batting line-up with a four for 57, including the wickets of opener Emma Lamb and No. 3 batter Sophia Dunkley.

The chase began badly and England never really recovered, and folded up for 245 in 44.2 overs.

Earlier, player-of-the-match Harmanpreet smashed 18 fours and four sixes during her 111-ball knock, stitching together a stand of 112 for the fourth wicket with Harleen Deol (58 off 72 balls).

The India skipper also added 50 with Pooja Vastrakar (18) and 71 off just four overs with Deepti Sharma (15 not out) for the

unbroken sixth wicket. It was in the last three overs that Harmanpreet took the game away from England, the target of 334 looking daunting even on a batting beauty.

Going berserk

Off the final 18 deliveries, the Indians scored 62 runs, courtesy Harmanpreet, who was in imperious touch while reaching her fifth hundred in ODIs.

The innings had Harmanpreet's trademark slog sweeps over cow corner which fetched her a couple of sixes. She also smashed sixes over covers.

With the pitch offering little help for the bowlers, hitting through the line was easy.

The England attack suffered a lot, with only off-spinner Charlie Dean (one for 39) finishing with respectable figures.

Debutant left-arm seamer Freya Kemp, who bowled decently till her seventh over conceding only 28, was hammered all over the park in the final three overs.

Going after Kemp

Harmanpreet went after Kemp, hitting boundaries at will. The bowler ended with figures of one for 82 in 10 overs, one of the worst performances by a debutant for England in women's cricket.



Masterclass: Harmanpreet went ballistic in the final three overs, hitting boundaries at will. **REUTERS**

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shafali Verma b Cross 8 (7b, 2x4), Smriti Mandhana lbw b Ecclestone 40 (51b, 4x4, 1x6), Yastika Bhatia c & b Dean 26 (34b, 4x4), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 143 (111b, 18x4, 4x6), Harleen Deol c Wyatt b Bell 58 (72b, 5x4, 2x6), Pooja Vastrakar c Lamb b Kemp 18 (16b, 3x4), Deepti Sharma (not out) 15 (9b, 2x4); Extras (lb-1, w-24): 25; Total (for five wks. in 50 overs): 333.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-12 (Shafali, 1.3 overs), 2-66 (Yastika, 11.4), 3-99 (Smriti, 19.1), 4-212 (Harleen, 39.6), 5-262 (Pooja, 45.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Bell 10-0-79-1, Cross 10-0-68-1, Kemp 10-0-82-1, Dean 10-0-39-1, Ecclestone 10-0-64-1.

ENGLAND

Tammy Beaumont run out 6 (8b, 1x4), Emma Lamb lbw b Renuka 15 (18b, 2x4), Sophia Dunkley b Renuka 1 (8b), Alice Capsey c Shafali b Deepti 39 (36b, 6x4), Danni Wyatt b Renuka 65 (58b, 6x4), Amy Jones st. Yastika b Hemalatha 39 (51b, 3x4, 1x6), Freya Kemp run out 12 (11b, 1x4), Sophie Ecclestone c Harleen b Renuka 1 (2b), Charlie Dean st. Yastika b Hemalatha 37 (44b, 3x4), Kate Cross lbw b Shafali 14 (14b, 1x4), Lauren Bell (not out) 11 (16b, 1x4); Extras (b-3, w-2): 5;

Total (in 44.2 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Beaumont, 1.5), 2-12 (Dunkley, 3.3), 3-47 (Lamb, 7.4), 4-102 (Capsey, 16.4), 5-167 (Wyatt, 29.3), 6-169 (Jones, 30.3), 7-182 (Ecclestone, 31.5), 8-183 (Kemp, 32.3), 9-211 (Cross, 37.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Jhulan 7-0-31-0, Renuka 10-0-57-4, Pooja 7-0-45-0, Rajeshwari 8-0-45-0, Deepti 7-0-40-1, Harleen 2-0-13-0, Hemalatha 2.2-0-6-2, Shafali 1-0-5-1.

Toss: England. *India won by 88 runs to take a 2-0 lead in three-match series.*

Third and final ODI: Sept. 24, Lord's, 3.30 p.m. IST.

Gutsy Het pulls West out of trouble with unbeaten 96; others fail to get going

S. Dinakar
COIMBATORE

A green seaming track with bounce and deviation, pacers on the prowl, and the team in deep trouble. Het Patel stared at adversity at 64 for four when he walked in. And with the eye of the tiger, the sharply-focused youngster turned the game around.

With an organised game of footwork, balance, judicious stroke-making and exquisite timing, the 23-year-old Gujarat wicket-keeper batter remained unbeaten with a gutsy 96 (178b, 6x4, 1x6).

Riding on Het's heroics, West finished day one of the Duleep Trophy final at the Ramakrishna College on a competitive 250 for eight here on Wednesday.

Unbeaten stand

Frustrating South Zone, Het and Jaydev Unadkat (39 batting) added 82 runs for the unbeaten ninth wicket stand in 126 deliveries. Two shots stood out — a pull, getting on top of the bounce, and a lovely lofted six over long-on, both off left-arm seamer C. Stephen.

The resolute Unadkat defended well and squeezed the ball through the open spaces.

Stephen impresses

For South, Stephen, included because of the conditions, made an impression with his left-armer's



Budding star: Het displayed organised footwork, balance, judicious stroke-making and exquisite timing. **M. PERIASAMY**

angle and movement. He struck with the new ball, getting the left-handed Yashasvi Jaiswal to nick outside off and brought one back to dismiss Priyank Panchal.

West skipper Ajinkya Rahane gambled by opting to bat. He too departed soon, playing the whip early at pacer Basil Thampi and was caught brilliantly at covers by Ravi Teja off the leading edge. Thampi's seam position was good. And he worked up pace.

Shreyas Iyer (37) and Sarfaraz Khan (34) got starts but could not consolidate.

Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore, with his height and high-arm action, was also a threat on this surface because of the bounce he could extract.

Shreyas (37) attempted to drive Sai, saw the ball getting big on him and was smartly held by Indrajith at cover.

Sai bowled well, using the seam cleverly. And he plotted his dismissals well. Skipper Hanuma Vihari and Sai were spot on with the tactics when they had a man at short fine-leg for the miscued sweep from Sarfaraz.

After day one, the match is on a knife edge.

The scores:

West Zone — 1st innings: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Bhui b Stephen 1, Priyank Panchal lbw b Stephen 7, Ajinkya Rahane c Ravi Teja b Thampi 8, Shreyas Iyer c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 37, Sarfaraz Khan c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 34, Het Patel (batting) 96, Shams Mulani lbw b Sai Kishore 0, Atit Sheth c Mayank b Thampi 25, Tanush Kotian c Pandey b Gowtham 2, Jaydev Unadkat (batting) 39; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (for eight wks. in 90 overs): 250. **Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 2-10, 3-16, 4-64, 5-99, 6-101, 7-164, 8-167. **South Zone bowling:** Thampi 15-2-42-2, Stephen 10-2-39-2, Sai Kishore 32-6-80-3, Ravi Teja 7-3-15-0, K. Gowtham 26-1-73-1. **Toss:** West.

MoU signed, MotoGP could come to India next year

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a massive boost for motor sport in the country, the MotoGP organisers on Wednesday announced that the biggest two-wheel racing event could come to India as early as next year.

An MoU, which promises seven races in as many years, was announced, but MotoGP organisers Dorna Sports and Indian promoters Faristreet Sports did not set a date for the first race, which is being branded as 'Grand Prix of Bharat'.

If 2023 doesn't work out, both parties aim to conduct a testing event the same year before the inaugural round in 2024.

The MoU was announced in the presence of Dorna Sports MD Carlos Ezpeleta and Indian promoter Fairstreet Sports (FSS) COO Pushkar Nath and director Amit Sandill. The round when it happens will also include races in junior category — Moto2 and Moto3.

Bonafide finisher Wade aces yet another death-overs test

Ayan Acharya
CHENNAI

Matthew Wade isn't a name that immediately springs to mind when it comes to finishers in T20 cricket. However, the left-hander has excelled during the death overs at crucial moments in major tournaments for Australia.

On Tuesday night, the Indian bowlers got a taste of Wade's finishing prowess as he smashed an unbeaten 21-ball 45 to catapult Finch's men past the finish line in the first T20I in Mohali.

Wade's 360-degree approach makes him ideal for the finisher's job. In all T20s, Wade strikes at 153.15 against pace and it jumps to 183.27 between overs 17 and 20. His strengths are accentuated by his arrival at the crease in a batting-heavy Australian side.

Wade, at No. 7, is likely to face more pace than spin. The left-hander has a strike-rate of 109.59 against



Wad(e)ing into the Indian bowlers. **R.V. MOORTHY**

spin. While it improves marginally to 114.28 against the spinners at the death, the average drops drastically to 14.40 from 30.65. Wade has got out to spinners five times at the death while scoring 72 off 63 balls.

When Wade walked out to bat in the opening T20I on Tuesday, Axar Patel, In-

dia's most successful bowler of the night (three for 17), was finishing his spell.

The Australian faced just four deliveries from the left-arm spinner before feasting on a hapless Indian pace attack. Australia needed 40 from 18 balls when Harshal Patel was handed the ball for the 18th over. Wade tore him apart, collecting 15 with two sixes.

In the penultimate over, bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the left-hander hit three fours as 16 came off it. The match was sealed there.

Pulling off such heists isn't uncharted territory for Wade. He pulled off a similar one during the 2021 T20 World Cup semifinal against Pakistan in Dubai. With Australia needing 20 off 10, he was dropped by Hasan Ali. He made Barbar's men pay, smashing the next three deliveries for sixes, including two scoops off Shaheen Afridi. Wade is a bonafide finisher indeed.

I was not willing to risk it all, always said that was never my goal: Federer

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Roger Federer is known for his elegant style of play, for his longevity, for his 20 Grand Slam titles — and for occasional tears in his most emotional post-match moments, whether after victory or defeat.

There was none of that sort of sadness on Wednesday, just smiles and some chuckles at his own jokes, as Federer appeared at a news conference to discuss his retirement from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations.

Federer said he is now at peace with the decision to walk away, which comes a few weeks after Serena Williams played what is expected to be her last match at the US Open, and he wants this farewell to be a celebration.

"I really don't want it to be a funeral," Federer said. "I want it to be really happy and powerful and party mode." Wearing a blue blazer with the



Party mode: Federer said he is at peace with the decision to walk away and wants his farewell to be a celebration. **GETTY IMAGES**

sleeves rolled up to his elbows and a white polo shirt, Federer took questions for about a half-hour at the arena that will host the team competition founded by his management company.

"I'm nervous going in, because I haven't played in so long," he said.

"I hope I can be somewhat competitive," Federer, who announced last week via social media that he would be retiring after

the Laver Cup, said it took him a bit to get used to the idea of stepping away from competition.

But it was something he understood he needed to do after running into setbacks in July during his rehabilitation from what was his third surgery on his right knee in about 1 1/2 years.

"You try to go to the next level in training, and I could feel it was getting difficult... Then, I guess, I was

also getting more tired, because you have to put more effort into it to be able to sort of believe that it was going to turn around. You start getting too pessimistic. Then I also got a scan back, which wasn't what I wanted it to be," Federer explained.

"At some point, you sit down and go, OK, we are at an intersection here, at a crossroad, and you have to take a turn. Which way is it? I was not willing to go into the direction of: 'Let's risk it all.' I'm not ready for that. I always said that was never my goal." And the hardest part came when he knew he needed to stop.

"You're sad," Federer said, "in the very moment when you realise, OK, this is the end." The last procedure on his knee came shortly after a quarterfinal loss to Hubert Hurkacz at Wimbledon in July 2021, which will go into the books as the last singles match of a superlative career that began in the 1990s.

IN BRIEF



Mirabai to compete in National Games

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chhanu will be seen in action at the National Games in Gujarat while Commonwealth Games gold medallist Jeremy Lalrinnunga (67kg) will skip the event due to an elbow issue. Both Mirabai and Jeremy were among the eight lifters who returned home on Monday after spending more than three weeks at a rehab camp in St. Louis (USA) after the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Anil Khanna quits as IOA acting president

Anil Khanna quit as the acting president of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday, almost two weeks after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) refused to recognise any "acting/ interim president".

On September 8, the IOC issued a suspension threat, saying the IOA must hold elections by December.

Khanna took charge of the IOA after a court ruling ended Narinder Batra's reign as the chief of the apex sports body in the country.

Suryakumar leapfrogs Babar to third spot in T20 rankings

India's Suryakumar Yadav has replaced Pakistan captain Babar Azam to occupy the third spot in the T20I batter's list in the latest ICC Men's Player Rankings issued on Wednesday.

Suryakumar impressed with a classy 46 during India's four-wicket loss to Australia in the opening match of the three-game series at Mohali on Tuesday.

The knock helped him to close in on Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan at the top of the T20I batter's chart. He dethroned Babar from the third spot. South Africa's Aiden Markram is second.

India-A starts favourite in one-day series

We are looking forward to testing our skills and make sure they are as good and sharp as possible to come out with a win, says New Zealand-A captain O'Donnell

NZ-A IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

After the three-match unofficial Test series (four-day matches), India-A and New Zealand-A will fight for honours in a three-match one-day series starting here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Thursday.

The hosts won the 'Test' series 1-0 with a 113-run win in the final match in Bengaluru.

The first one in the same city was drawn while rain played spoilsport during the second match at Hubballi.

Decent show

Like in four-day matches, India-A will go into the series as firm favourite even though the visitors put up a decent show in the red-ball series.

For India-A, Prithvi Shaw and Rituraj Gaikwad provide a solid front, with the middle order set to be taken care of by skipper Sanju Samson, Rajat Patidar and Rahul Tripathi.

Experienced players

The squad also has the likes of Tilak Varma, who impressed for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, and pacer Angad Bawa, a star of the last under-19 World Cup, besides experienced all-rounders like Shardul Tha-



Raring to go: India-A's Rishi Dhawan and Rahul Tripathi will look to make the most of the opportunity. M. VEDHAN

For India-A, Shaw and Gaikwad provide a solid front, with the middle order set to be taken care of by skipper Samson, Patidar and Tripathi. It is a chance for the Kiwi players to show what they can do here in sub-continental conditions with an eye to the 2023 World Cup to be held in India

kur and Rishi Dhawan.

Apart from the challenge of going up against a strong Indian side, the visi-

tors also have had only two days of practice in the city to get used to conditions that are hotter than what it was in Bengaluru.

Eye on 2023 WC

It is a chance for the Kiwi players to show what they can do here in sub-continental conditions with an eye to the 2023 World Cup to be held here.

"The Indian team has changed across the for-

ms. We have a whole new challenge with the white-ball squad with a bit more experience coming in terms of players who have played for India. We are looking forward to testing our skills against [them].

"We are trying to make sure our skills are as good and sharp as possible to come out with a win," said New Zealand-A captain Robert O'Donnell.

Cristiano Ronaldo wants to play till Euro 2024

Agence France-Presse
LISBON

Cristiano Ronaldo has set his sights on reaching Euro 2024 and the Portugal and Manchester United forward says he has no plans to retire any time soon.

"My journey is not over yet, you're going to have to put up with 'Cris' for a while longer," said Ronaldo on Tuesday, after receiving a trophy at the Portuguese football federation's (FPF)

Quinas de Ouro awards in Lisbon for being the top national team goalscorer of all time.

"I want to be part of the World Cup and the Euros ... I feel very motivated. My ambition is great," the 37-year-old said.

Ronaldo has scored 117 goals in 189 Portugal appearances and is expecting to play in his 10th major international tournament for his country at the Qatar World Cup.

Ankita Raina loses in pre-quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Qualifier Ankita Raina lost 6-1, 6-3 to Lin Zhu of China in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$251,750 WTA tennis tournament in Seoul on Wednesday.

The results:

\$251,750 WTA, Seoul:

Pre-quarterfinals: Lin Zhu (Chn) bt Ankita Raina 6-1, 6-3;

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Astra Sharma (Aus) & Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) bt Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) & Ankita Raina 6-3, 6-3.

\$45,730 Challenger, Sibiu, Romania: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ivan Sabanov & Matej Sabanov (Cro) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 7-5.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir (Tunisia): First round: Mu Tao

(Chn) bt Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta 6-2, 6-4;

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Samir Hamza Reguig (Alg) & Alexandros Skorilas (Gre) bt Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Parikshit Soman 6-4, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt): First round: S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Leonardo Rossi (Ita) 6-4, 6-0; Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam bt Adam Jones (GBR) 6-2, 6-3;

Women: Jasmine Conway (GBR) bt Anjani Maheshkumar 6-1, 6-0; Nino Natsvlishvili (Geo) bt Sravya Shivani 6-4, 6-2.

\$25,000 ITF women, Darwin (Australia): First round: Milan Krish (Aus) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-1, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Guayaquil (Ecuador): First round: Samantha Imbo Nioga (USA) bt Priyanka Rodricks 6-2, 7-6(4);

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Smriti Bhasin & Priyanka Rodricks bt Isidora Dereso & Javiera Verdugo (Chi) 6-3, 6-2.

Arjun slips to second behind Carlsen; Praggnanandhaa in joint fourth

CHESS

Sports Bureau

Arjun Erigaisi made way for a resurgent Magnus Carlsen at the top after 12 rounds of the league stage in the \$150,000 Julius Baer Generation Cup rapid online chess tournament on Tuesday.

Overnight leader by two points, Arjun gained from a blunder from veteran Vassily Ivanchuk in the day's first round but lost to

Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the next. After Boris Gelfand could not find the precise continuation in the middle game to let Arjun breathe easy for a draw, the Indian teenager defeated American youngster Christopher Yoo to tally 24 points from a maximum of 36.

Carlsen (25) displayed his class by scoring three wins in four unbeaten games to overtake Arjun. His victims included Ivan Saric, Duda and Gelfand. In fact, he let Ivanchuk off the hook in the 10th round.

The top seed also became the first to qualify for the eight-player knockout phase.

R. Praggnanandhaa (19) was tied for the fourth spot with Vincent Keymer and Duda. He drew all four games of the day against teammate B. Adhiban, third-placed Le Quang Liem, David Navara and Hans Moke Niemann.

Adhiban (8) moved out of the cellar, ahead of Gelfand, after scoring his first win. After drawing with Praggnanandhaa, Adhiban

defeated Saric, drew with Ivanchuk but lost to Duda.

Meanwhile, in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix in Astana, Kazakhstan, R. Vaishali (1.5 points) held Chinese favourite Tan Zhongyi in 32 moves in the fourth round.

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8 p.m.

Nations League: Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 SD & HD, LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday).

Gujarat men and West Bengal women emerge champions

TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
SURAT

Having finished with a silver in the previous edition of the Kerala National Games in 2015, Gujarat (men) and West Bengal (women) did one better by winning the gold in the table tennis event of the Games here on Wednesday.

Host Gujarat couldn't have asked for a better outcome as it put up a top-class performance defeating Delhi 3-0 in the final.

Experience to the fore Earlier, West Bengal's experience came to the fore as its women's team won the gold, defeating a youthful Maharashtra 3-1 in the summit clash.

Gujarat, the top seed, has played true to form, winning all its group



Top team: The West Bengal table tennis team which took the honours the National Games. A.M. FARUQUI

matches and knockouts in regal 3-0 fashion.

Manav Thakkar raced past Sudhanshu Grover 11-3, 13-11, 14-12 in the first rubber, while Harmeet Desai was flawless in his 11-7, 11-3, 12-10 win over 17-year-old Payas Jain in the second tie. Manush Shah drubbed Yashansh Malik 11-4, 11-9, 11-4 in the third match.

In the women's summit

clash, Ayhika Mukherjee gave Bengal a headstart with an easy 11-3, 11-5, 11-3 win over Swastika Ghosh. Swastika was all at sea against the spin employed by Ayhika through her soft-pimpled rubber on her forehand.

Onus on Mouma

After Reeth beat Sutirtha in three straight games in the second tie, the onus fell on

the 38-year-old Mouma Das in the crucial third rubber.

The veteran didn't disappoint, proving that motherhood hasn't dulled her instincts and fighting spirit one bit. Mouma saved two match-points at 9-10 and 10-11 in the fourth game to script a five-game win over Diya Chitale.

In a match that saw fluctuating fortunes, Sutirtha outwitted Swastika in five games to win the fourth tie.

The results (final):

Men: Gujarat bt Delhi 3-0 (Manav Thakkar bt Sudhanshu Grover 11-3, 13-11, 14-12; Harmeet Desai bt Payas Jain 11-7, 11-3, 12-10; Manush Shah bt Yashansh Malik 11-4, 11-9, 11-4).

Women: West Bengal bt Maharashtra 3-1 (Ayhika Mukherjee bt Swastika Ghosh 11-3, 11-5, 11-3; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Reeth Rishya 9-11, 11-13, 9-11; Mouma Das bt Diya Chitale 6-11, 16-14, 10-12, 14-12, 11-6; Sutirtha bt Swastika 11-4, 11-13, 11-9, 10-12, 11-6.

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