

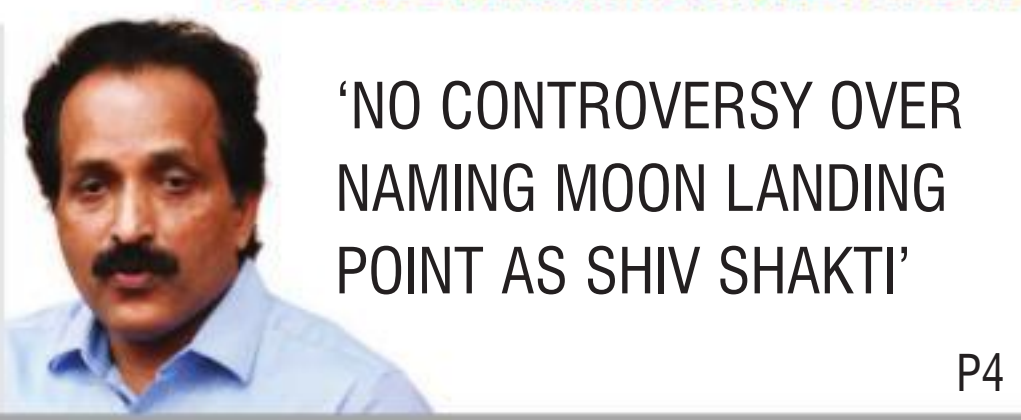
ONE ANSWER TO FOOD CRISIS MAY LIE BENEATH OUR FEET

P7



WAGNER LEADER CONFIRMED DEAD IN CRASH: RUSSIA

P9



'NO CONTROVERSY OVER NAMING MOON LANDING POINT AS SHIV SHAKTI'

P4



PRANNOY STUNS WORLD NO. 1 AXELSEN

P12

WEATHER

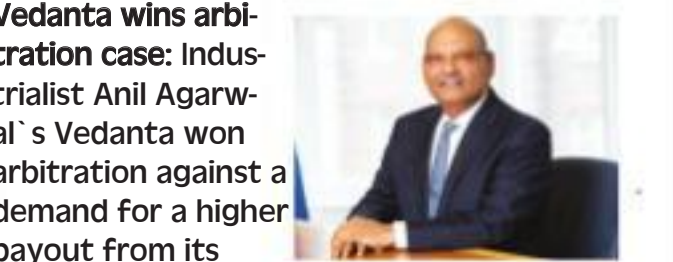
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY. THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WOULD BE AROUND 37 AND 27 DEGREES CELSIUS RESPECTIVELY.

RAINFALL: Nil
RELATIVE HUMIDITY: Max. 85% Min. 55%
TEMPERATURE: Max: 36.6 °C (+1) Min: 27.3 °C (0)
SUN RISES: 05:58 hrs
MOON RISES: 17:10 hrs
SUN SETS: 18:50 hrs
MOON SETS: 03:15 hrs

THUMBNAILS



An elderly vendor selling essential goods in the capital on Sunday. SUBRATA DUTTA



Vedanta wins arbitration case: Industrialist Anil Agarwal's Vedanta won arbitration against a demand for a higher payout from its Rajasthan oil and gas fields after a disallowance worth \$1.16 billion or Rs 9,545 crore in certain costs. The government had sought its share from the oil and gas fields after the reallocation of certain costs. It also disallowed a portion of the cost incurred on laying a pipeline to evacuate oil produced from the Rajasthan block. According to the contract, companies can recover all costs incurred before splitting profit with the government in a pre-determined ratio. If the government disallows a certain portion of the cost, it will get higher profits and shares. Vedanta challenged this demand before an arbitration tribunal.

Modi pitches India as global supply chain hub

PM invites African Union to become permanent member of G20

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Questioning the efficiency of the global supply chain that ceased to exist when the world required it the most during Covid-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared that India is the solution to the disruptions that the world is dealing with today. He highlighted India's position in creating a trusted supply chain in the world and emphasised the contributions of global businesses. The Prime Minister also said the country's role as the G20 host this year would focus on highlighting the concerns of the developing world, and has proposed the African Union to become permanent members of the forum.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the B20 Summit India 2023, in New Delhi on Sunday. SUBRATA DUTTA

"We have a vision of inclusiveness and with that vision, we have invited the African Union to become permanent members of the G20," Mr Modi said as he addressed the Business 20 Summit in New Delhi. Mr Modi also threw light on the transformations in life that have occurred with the onset of the pandemic and noted the irreversible change of disruptions in the global supply chain. Talking about the lessons learnt from the pandemic, Mr Modi said it taught the global community that the thing that needs most investment is 'mutual trust'. The PM said that as the pandemic shattered the edifice of mutual trust, India stood with confidence and humil-

ity, raising the banner of mutual trust. India, he said, made medicines available to more than 150 countries, living up to its status as the pharmacy of the world. Similarly, vaccine production was increased to save crores of lives. "India's democratic values show in its action and its response. India's democratic values show in G20 meetings in more than 50 cities of India," he added. Emphasising the attractiveness of partnership with India for the global business community, the PM mentioned India's young talent pool and its digital revolution. "The more your friendship deepens with India, the more prosperity accrues to both," he added.

He said: "Business can transform potential into prosperity, obstacles into opportunities, aspirations into achievements. Whether they are small or big, global or local, business can ensure progress for everyone." Therefore, the PM said, "the future of global growth is dependent upon the future of business." In the post-Covid world, the PM observed, every individual has become extra conscious about their health and its impact is clearly visible in day-to-day activities. People have also become more conscious of the future impact of any such activity, the PM said and added that businesses and the society should have a similar approach towards the

planet and analyse the impact of their decisions on the planet. "The well-being of the planet is also our responsibility", he said. The PM asked for a reconsideration of the traditional approach to business. He said there is a need to go beyond brand and sales. "As a business, we also have to focus on creating an ecosystem that will benefit us in the long term. Now, Due to the policies implemented by India in the past few years, 13.5 crore people have come out of poverty in just 5 years. These people are the new consumers. This neo middle class is also giving momentum to India's growth. That is, the net beneficiary of the work done by the government for the poor is our middle class as well as our MSMEs," he said. The PM stressed that businesses should focus on improving the purchasing power of more and more people as a self-centric approach will harm everyone. Referring to a similar challenge of uneven availability and universal needs in critical material and rare earth metals, Mr Modi said, "If those who have them do not look at them as global responsibility then it will promote a new model of colonialism." Mr Modi asked the global business to fix a day to talk about the interest of the consumer. "When we talk about consumer rights, should we also not be mindful of consumer care as it will automatically take care of many consumer rights issues?" he asked.

Sudhanshu Mittal's kin siphoned ₹1,777 crore out of India: ED

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
PANCHKULA, 27 AUGUST

The 177-page charge-sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate against Lalit Goyal, the brother-in-law of BJP leader Sudhanshu Mittal, accuses him, his family and associates in the Ireo group of companies, of serial acts of cheating investors and home-buyers, and siphoning off funds received from them to offshore entities in flagrant violation of extant laws, including the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Last week, Mittal was denied bail in the case.

The charge-sheet filed before the Special Judge of the Special Court for offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, accuses Goyal and other accused persons of being "directly and indirectly" involved in diversion of funds overseas which resulted in some companies of the group turning insolvent, and construction projects either being abandoned or inordinately delayed.

In all, Goyal and his associates are accused of having received Rs 8,300 crore by way of FDI from Ireo Fund, Mauritius and in turn transferred Rs 1,777.48 crore out of India under the cover of buy-back of shares and other instruments.

While Mittal, a BJP leader once considered very close to deceased leader Pramod Mahajan, has denied any links with Ireo and his brother-in-law, his name had featured in taped conversations found by authorities where he was alleged to have tried



to get the charges against Goyal diluted by attempting to influence a former Special Judge dealing with the case who was later arrested on charges of corruption.

Goyal, a mid-level executive with companies such as Pergo AB and Wimco until about two decades ago, had emerged a couple of years before Mahajan's murder as a major player in Gurgaon's real estate market, and then saw a meteoric rise.

While the source of Ireo's funding remained a mystery, the company quickly launched a series of ambitious projects. But it ran into trouble a few years after Mahajan's death when it failed to deliver on many of its commitments. This, according to ED, had resulted in as many as 30 criminal complaints being lodged against Goyal and his associates in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi.

The ED chargesheet says that Goyal, in collusion with key managerial persons, "placed customer receipts out of India by layering inter-company interest-free transactions in the form of interest-free loans, advances and other payments and finally integrated the same to its own offshore trust and companies, whose ultimate beneficiary is also Lalit



Goyal and his family." Using a complex web of companies based in Mauritius and Cyprus, Goyal is accused of investing in Ireo group companies in India for the purchase of land and transfer of development rights. Funds collected against projects from investors and home-buyers were sent overseas leaving the Indian entities short of funds and leading to some such as Ireo Fiveriver Private Limited and Puma Realtors Private Limited turning insolvent.

The charge-sheet says that analysis of digital records showed that Goyal, despite claiming not to possess any overseas assets, owned shares worth more than US \$3.2 million in foreign entities, including one in Bermuda, was a shareholder in a Mauritius-registered company named Park Chinois.

It is further alleged that after being enlarged on bail on medical grounds by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Goyal had tried to influence the investigation by colluding with the designated judge overseeing the case and was named in the FIR registered against the judge.

The charge-sheet says Goyal has "been involved in the destruction of evidence".

Amit Shah rules out any truck with BRS

SNS & AGENCIES
KHAMMAM, 27 AUGUST

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday ruled out any truck with the BRS and MIM and alleged that it is the Congress party which has secret understanding with the BRS. Addressing a public meeting here, he slammed chief minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao over family rule and exuded confidence that the BJP will form the government in Telangana with absolute majority. Mr Shah also came down heavily on KCR for his friendship with MIM and reiterated that the steering of car (BRS poll symbol) is in the hands

of Owaisi, referring to the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen chief, Asaduddin Owaisi. Stating that KCR is on his way out, the BJP leader exuded confidence that the party will come to power in Telangana. On the allegation made by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge at a public meeting in Telangana on Saturday that BRS and BJP have an understanding, Amit Shah said the BJP will never go with either Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) or Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM). "BJP can't even share the dais with MIM," he said. Mr Shah alleged that KCR is using repressive measures against BJP leaders as he

believes that they will not raise their voice against him. He claimed that KCR wants to make his son KTR the next chief minister. "Neither KCR nor KTR will become the CM. The next CM will be of BJP," he said. He termed Congress, BRS and MIM as family parties. "Congress is a 4G party. It is the party of four generations. BRS is a 2G party. MIM is a 3G party. Neither 2G nor 3G or 4G will come to power in Telangana," he said. Terming KCR government anti-farmer, anti-Dalit, anti-women and anti-youth, Amit Shah urged people to root it out and bring BJP to power. Mr Shah said KCR failed to fulfill his promises of hous-



es for the poor and unemployed. He has not fulfilled any promise, he said.

Bengal: Eight dead in massive explosion at fireworks factory

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 27 AUGUST

At least eight persons were killed and several others, including two children, injured in a massive explosion in an illegal fireworks manufacturing factory in Duttapukur of North 24-Parganas on Sunday, hardly three-and-a-half months after a blast in another illegal crackers factory at Khadikul village in Egra in East Midnapore claimed 12 lives.

The injured were taken to the Barasat Medical College Hospital with burn injuries. The explosion in Duttapukur factory was so power-



Rescue operation underway at Duttapukur on Sunday. SNS

ful that one lacerated body was found on the rooftop of a nearby house and around four concrete residential buildings were turned into rubble with

severely damaged roofs and walls. Sunday's incident once again exposed how the state government has failed to control the proliferation of illegal fireworks factories despite several such deadly incidents.

The incident took place around 10.40 am. The blast took place at the factory at Mochopole within the Nilganj gram panchayat, shaking entire area.

Seven bodies including those of Robiul Ali, factory owner Keramat Ali's son, were recovered from the spot and several injured might be there under the debris, locals said.

Dalit youth beaten to death, mother paraded naked in MP's Sagar district

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 27 AUGUST

In yet another incident of atrocities on Dalits by upper castes in Madhya Pradesh, a Dalit youth was beaten to death and his mother allegedly paraded naked by a dozen upper caste men accused of sexually harassing the deceased youth's sister. The incident occurred in village Barodia Naungar in Khurai tahsil of Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh. A large police force was deployed in the village after the incident. The family of the deceased staged a protest, keeping his body on the ground and demanding the demolition of the houses of the accused.

The family of the deceased staged a protest, keeping his body on the ground and demanding the demolition of the houses of the accused

had eve-teased their daughter in the past and a police complaint was lodged, after which the police had registered a case against the main accused, Vikram Singh Thakur (28). The accused had been putting pressure on the family to take the complaint back. Two days ago, Vikram Singh Thakur again pressurised Nitin Ahirwar to take the case back but Nitin refused and the accused called his family members and some other people and they attacked Nitin. They thrashed him and caused grievous injuries. When his mother came to

help, the accused allegedly disrobed her and paraded her naked in the village. The mother also suffered a broken hand in the attack. The accused are said to have vandalised the victim's house too. Following the incident, Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Uikey said eight accused, including Vikram Singh Thakur, Vijay Thakur, Azad Thakur, Komal Thakur, Lal Khan, Islam Khan, Wahid Khan and Golu Soni, had been arrested and booked for murder and under provisions of the SC/ST Act. The Congress launched an attack on the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government over the incident. MP Congress chief Kamal Nath sent a six-member team of Congress leaders to the village. The Congress probe committee alleged that the accused men have patronage of the ruling BJP.

Indian women now challenging space, says PM

ASHOK TUTEJA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Emphasising that the country has to strengthen women-led development as a national character, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said the "daughters of India" are now even challenging space which is considered infinite. Observing that India's Mission Chandrayaan is a living example of women power, he said: "When the daughters of a nation become so ambitious, who can stop the country from becoming developed!" In his monthly "Mann Ki Baat" programme, the PM noted that many women scientists and engineers have been directly involved in the Chandrayaan-3 mission. They have handled many important responsibilities like project director, project manager of different systems. "Where the might of women's power is added, the impossible can



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets women scientists of the ISRO team involved in Chandrayaan-3 mission in Bengaluru. ANI

also be made possible," he added. Stating that Mission Chandrayaan has become a symbol of the spirit of New India, which wants to ensure victory, and also knows how to win in any situation, Mr Modi pointed out that along with

meeting technical requirements. When everyone's efforts converged, success was also achieved. This is the biggest success of Chandrayaan-3. I wish that in future too our space sector will achieve innumerable successes like this with collective efforts," he added. Talking about the G20 Summit to be hosted by India next month, the PM said the heads of 40 countries and many global organisations are coming to the national capital to participate in this event. "This will be the biggest participation ever in the history of the G20 Summit. During our presidency, India has made G20 a more inclusive forum," he added. Mr Modi said India's Presidency of the G20 is a People's Presidency, in which the spirit of public participation was at the forefront. After a G20 meeting in Srinagar, there has been a huge increase in

the number of tourists to Kashmir, he noted and urged countrymen to come together to make the G20 summit successful and bring glory to the country. On the potential of the young generation, the PM noted that sports is one area where the youth are continuously achieving new successes and went on to refer to their achievements at different international games. India, he said, should bloom a lot in the world of sports and that is why he has been promoting these things a lot, but games like hockey, football, kabaddi and kho-kho are rooted to this land and India should never lag behind in them. Mr Modi noted that this time on 15 August, the country saw the power of 'Sabka Prayas'. The efforts of all the countrymen turned the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' into a 'Har Man Tiranga Abhiyan'.



THUMBNAILS



Department of Forest and Wildlife organises "Van Mahotsav" in presence of chief guest Environment Minister Gopal Rai at Babarpur Bus Terminal, in the Capital on Sunday.

Over 65,900 of 71,000 UG seats filled; spot rounds to fill remaining in DU: Over 65,900 of total 71,000 undergraduate seats have been filled in the Delhi University as the third round of admission concluded on Saturday, varsity officials said. The university may announce spot admission rounds to fill the remaining seats, a varsity official said. "The overall admission at the end of the third round of seats allocation are 65937. We may announce spot rounds to fill the remaining seats," the university official said.

Special Cell to probe pro-Khalistan slogans

Delhi Police have lodged FIR under sections 153A, 505 and section 3 of Defacement Act

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Special Cell of Delhi Police will probe the pro-Khalistan graffiti incident which appeared at several metro station in national capital on Sunday.

Days ahead of the G20 Summit, several Delhi metro stations in the national capital were Sunday defaced with pro-Khalistan graffiti allegedly by people associated with proscribed Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), a front for the separatist Khalistan Group. The anti-India slogans were seen on the walls of Shivaji Park, Udyog Nagar, Paschim Vihar, Nangloi, and Punjabi Bagh. The slogans read "India Banega Khalistan (India will become Khalistan)" and "Khalistan Zindabad (Long Live Khalistan)."

"Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) also released raw footage of Delhi Metro stations which were defaced with pro-Khalistan slogans," news agency ANI quoted an officer saying.



"Suspected SFJ activists defaced multiple Metro stations in Delhi - from Shivaji Park to Punjabi Bagh - with pro-Khalistan slogans," the officer added. In a video shared by news agency ANI, Delhi Police personnel were seen removing the Pro-Khalistan slogans written on the wall of Maharaja Surajmal Stadium Metro Station. "In more than 5 metro stations somebody has written 'Delhi Banega Khalistan and Khalistan Zindabad'. Delhi Police is taking legal action against this," the Delhi Police said.

Case registered under Defacement Act: Delhi Police

DCP Metro Ram Gopal Naik said that a case has been registered against unknown SFJ associates under sections section 153 A, section 505, and the Defacement Act.

The incident has raised security concerns ahead of the 18th G20 Summit scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 in Delhi under India's presidency. The G20 Summit will be attended by several top leaders of the world, including US President

Joe Biden, Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and French President Emmanuel Macron.

It has also come at a time when the national capital is playing host to the B20 Summit India, 2023.

The three-day summit started on August 25 and will end on Sunday. The was attended by around 1,500 delegates from 55 countries. Even the latest defacement incident, the security around metro stations is likely to be increased.

2 held for cheating bizman through email phishing

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The North Delhi Police has arrested two persons who duped a businessman through Email phishing. They generated the fake email from Nigeria through local internet service provider to dupe the victim.

A senior police officer said that they received a complaint in this regard from one Ajay Khandelwal. Khandelwal stated that someone cheated him to the tune of Rs 3,64,560 through email phishing.

"The complainant alleged that he is a client of OTS Ltd Kolkata, West Bengal who provides transportation services to his company Mahendra Steels. Both used to communicate through emails for bill payments and transport bookings. The communication is done through the registered E-mail ID of OTS Ltd.

But some unknown person sent numerous e-mails regarding payment clearance through fake E-Mail IDs. The complainant transferred Rs 3,64,560 to the account provided in fake E-mails," the official said.



Based on his complaint, the police lodged an FIR and formed a team to look into the matter. During the investigation, it came to notice that the fraud has been done by creating an exact replica of original mail ID of supplier.

"This is a new type of fraud which came in the knowledge of the team. Police conducted detailed meticulous technical analysis of call details and money transaction and reverse IP Address of fake Email received was tracked down. It was learnt that the mail was

originated from Nigeria through local internet service provider," said the official.

The official said that money trail revealed that alleged amount was transferred to an account of Indian Bank which was opened on a fake address. The linked mobile number with the alleged account was also obtained on a fake identity. When CDR analysis of linked mobile number with the alleged account was analysed, it came to notice that the same number has been used in opening of more than 10 accounts with same name and address.

Cab driver arrested for allegedly robbing passenger in South Delhi

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

A cab driver was arrested for allegedly robbing a passenger by threatening him with a pair of scissors in south Delhi, police said on Sunday.

The accused has been identified as Pankaj Sahni, a resident of Sangam Vihar.

The police said that the accused is a cab driver by profession and a habitual drinker.

"One robbed mobile phone, bag, pair of scissors, and one cab were recovered from him," the police said.

Police said that a robbery incident was reported at Defence Colony police station, where the complainant said that on the intervening night of August 20 and 21, he took a cab to reach his destination and when he reached South Extension-II bus stop, the cab driver and his associate robbed his bag containing Rs



500 in cash and a mobile phone at the point of a sharp weapon (scissors).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Chandan Chowdhary said that during the investigation, it was revealed that a cab driver named Pankaj Sahni and his associate were involved in multiple mobile phone robberies in the southern Delhi area.

He said that the accused was arrested on Saturday.

"Sahni confessed to his involvement in the incident and disclosed that he is fond of drinking and living a lavish life. To fulfill his needs, he started robbing passengers who booked his cab," the DCP said.

Man, with kin and friends, attacks neighbour's house, probe on

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

In an incident suspected to be the fallout of personal enmity, a man, along with his family members and friends allegedly pelted his neighbour's house with bricks and stones here at Ali Gaon in the national capital, police said on Sunday.

Police said they received two PCR calls - one at 5.41 pm and the other 17 minutes later, at 5.58 pm - on Saturday, with the caller reporting a quarrel and vandalism at Ali Gaon in the Badarpur police station of Delhi.

A local police team, which arrived at the scene - house number 129 on Ali Gaon Pushpa Road - along with an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV), found bricks and stones littered around the property and two private



vehicles damaged, an officer said.

According to the police, preliminary inquiry has revealed that Shankey (35), a local and one of the accused, had personal enmity with his neighbour, identified as Ashwani Kumar (37).

"On Saturday evening, the accused, along with his family members and friends, pelted his neighbour's house with bricks and stones. Two cars were damaged as well in the stone pelting. The windows and doors of the house of the victim's cousin were also damaged in the attack," police

said. Police added that the attackers also damaged CCTV cameras in the area to possibly evade police action.

"The rioters fled by the time the police reached the spot," the officer said.

Upon further inquiry, the accused were identified as Shanker, Amit, Sachin, Sagar, Chandermal alias Chandernal, Jatin, Baby, Vijender, Sonia alias Kalia and some other unknown miscreants.

"Prima facie an offence under IPC sections 147, 148, 149, 342, 452, 427, 506, 34 and 120B is being registered," the officer said.

Police said that Shankey is believed to have criminal antecedents and there are allegations that he is a bootlegger. "The allegations are being verified. A case of rioting is being registered (against him)," the officer said.

'Shocking to see BJP taking credit of AAP's developmental work'



SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

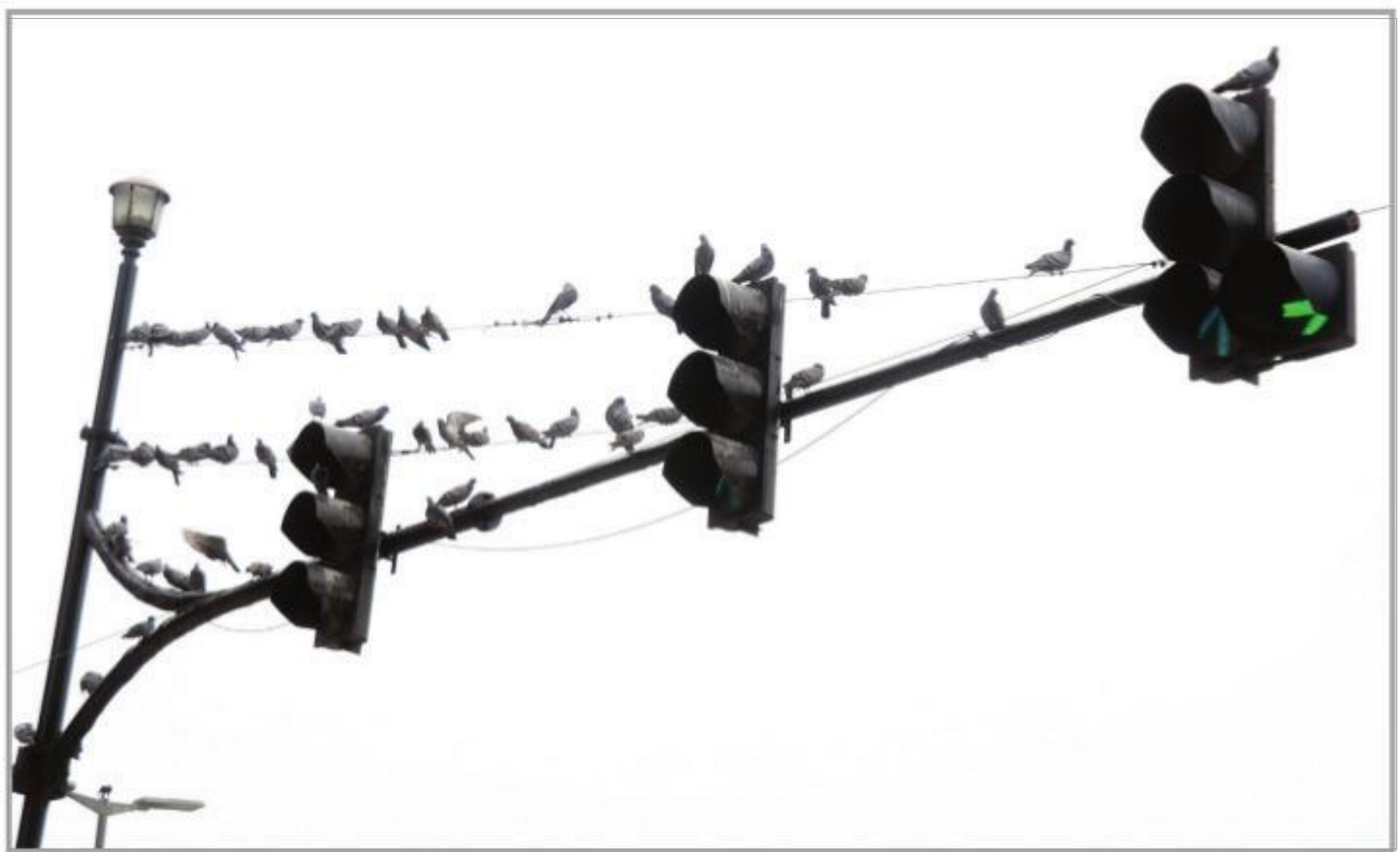
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday that it is shocking to see that the BJP takes credit of the developmental work done by the AAP government.

AAP said that all money on PWD roads was spent by the PWD of Delhi government, and

all money on the MCD roads was spent by the MCD.

"The Central government has only spent money on NDMC and NHAI roads. Such level of politics is not going to help the country. We are about to host the G20 summit where India but the only thing BJP cares about is playing dirty politics," AAP said.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL POST



Pigeons sitting on a traffic signal post in the Capital on Sunday.

SUBRATA DUTTA

63rd National Exhibition Of Art to be inaugurated at Kamani Auditorium today

SIYA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Professor V.Nagdas, Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi announced the inauguration of 63rd National Exhibition of Art (NEA) that will take place on Monday at Kamani Auditorium.

Manoj Joshi, a prominent actor will be inaugurating the NEA with Chandraprakash Dwivedi as the Special Guest and Vasudeo Kamath as the Guest of Honor.

During the opening ceremony, the National Award Winning artists will receive accolades at the inaugural function.

The National Exhibition of Art (NEA) invites visual artworks from various genres such as painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, digital art, video art, and installations.

The NEA, spanning a month, anticipates an atten-



dance of nearly fifty thousand individuals.

The Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) has orchestrated supplementary events to enhance the vibrancy of the NEA, as explained by the Chairman. These events will encompass illustrated lectures, curatorial tours, and interactive gallery sessions throughout the duration of

the NEA. The involvement of young interlocutors is also planned, facilitating engagement with the visiting public.

The LKA, founded in 1954, had celebrated its 69th Foundation Day this year on 5th August and is a renowned art exhibition in the country where the awardees are selected by a two-tier jury.

Woman found dead inside house in Sadar Bazar

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

A 25-year-old woman was found dead at her house in Delhi's Sadar Bazar area, officials said on Sunday. A senior police official said that they got a call on PCR call regarding the incident on Sunday. The caller told the police that his sister-in-law has been murdered.

Subsequently, a police team was immediately dispatched to the crime scene. "The team reached at Gali Darjiyan, Sadar Bazar, where it found that the incident occurred at the second floor of the house. The deceased, identified as Nazia, was lying in a pool of blood with a deep cut on her neck," the official added. The woman was survived by her husband, a street vendor and two kids - a seven-year-old son and one three-year-old daughter.

6.75 lakh potted foliage, flowering plants to adorn Delhi streets during G-20 Summit

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Six months down the line when greening efforts along roads and avenues associated with the G-20 Summit started in the national capital, with Delhi LG, VK Saxena taking the initiative of greening the Sardar Patel Marg, 6.75 Lakh pots of flowering and foliage plants will adorn the 61 roads and venues associated with the Summit, an official statement said.

According to the statement, after a preparatory meeting headed by the LG, directions were issued identifying agencies who would undertake this drive and they were tasked with procuring specific number of plants/pots, preferably from their own nurseries. This resulted in seamless coordination between 05 depart-



ments or agencies undertaking the procurement and placement of these potted plants, with LG personally monitoring the progress of work and inspecting different corridors in the last couple of months.

While the Forest Department and the Delhi Parks and Garden Society has placed 3.75 Lakh plants (1.25 foliage and 2.5 Lakh flowering), PWD has placed 50,000 (35,000 foliage and 15,000 flowering), DDA has placed 1 Lakh (85,000

foliage and 15,000 flowering), NDMC has placed 1 Lakh pots and MCD has placed 50,000 pots.

The statement said that while 4.05 Lakh potted foliage have already been placed along the 61 roads, the remaining pot-

Traffic police conducts carcade rehearsal

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Delhi Traffic Unit conducted a full dress carcade rehearsal on Sunday ahead of the upcoming G20 summit in the national capital.

The traffic police had also issued an advisory regarding the traffic diversions on some roads ahead of the rehearsal. "In view of the #G20Summit rehearsals to be held on August 26 and 27, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, traffic regu-



lations will be in effect on various roads. Kindly follow the advisory," the Delhi Traffic Police posted on X.

The roads where the regu-

lations were put included Sardar Patel Marg-Panchsheel Marg, Sardar Patel Marg-Kautilya Marg, 11 Murti, Roundabout GKP, C-Hexagon, Zakir Hussain Marg-Subramaniam Bharti Marg, Bhairon Road-Ring Road, Hoshiyar Singh Marg, Satya Marg, Shantipath, Windsor Place, Barakhamba Road Light Signal, Roundabout Claridges, Under Moti Bagh Flyover, Press Enclave Road-Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg.

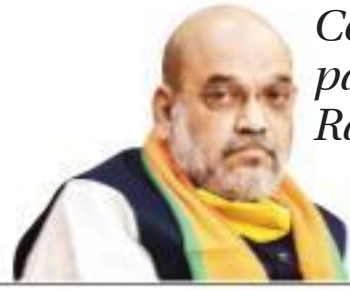
The police had said, "Apart from these, in order to facili-

tate the carcade rehearsals, there will be regulations on the movement of traffic at the following points: Joseph Tito Marg-Siri Fort Road, IP Flyover, Saleem Garh Bypass, Shanti Van Chowk, Roundabout Teen Murti, Gol Methi, Mansingh Road, Mathura Road, Yashwant Place, Kautilya, Janpath-Kartavyapath, Tolstoy Marg-Janpath, Vivekananda Marg, Under Lodhi Flyover, Under Chirag Delhi Flyover, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Rajghat Chowk, and Shershah Road."

Marg, Mother Teresa Crescent, Teen Murti Marg, Dhaura Kuan-IGI Airport Road, Palam Technical Area, India Gate C-

Hexagon, Mandi House, Akbar Road roundabout, Delhi Gate, Rajghat, ITPO, etc, added the statement.





Congress party is 4G party which means four generation party, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi...

AMIT SHAH
UNION HOME MINISTER

'Driver was behind wheel in Nuh Rolls crash'

Superintendent of Police says arrest in highway crash case soon

SHAMSHER CHANDEL
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Days after the alleged over-speeding Rolls Royce limousine of Kuber Group Director Vikas Malu collided with an oil tanker on the Delhi-Mumbai-Baroda expressway in Nuh, Haryana, interesting new details have surfaced. While the complainant in the FIR Muneel Yadav does not name the suspect, he mentions the registration number of the vehicle - MH 01 DZ 0001.

RK Thakur, the counsel of Vikas Malu says, he was not behind the wheel. In fact, his driver Tasbir was driving the car. Vikas sat with a woman named Divya in the rear seat of the car. Reportedly, Malu cannot drive.

Thakur has been quoted in various media reports as saying, that "Vikas Malu cannot drive. He has seven-eight drivers; why would he drive." While Malu is about to undergo a surgery for elbow dislocation on Monday and the woman named Divya who was accompanying him



has been discharged from the hospital, nothing is known about the driver -- Tasbir's -- medical condition.

Malu's Rolls Royce was part of a convoy of four other vehicles and they were headed to Jaipur for a family function.

Dr Kamal Soi, member of the National Road Safety Council says, "That a driver was driving the vehicle at a speed of 230 km/hour is a bit unheard of. And still the culpability lies with the owner

more so if he was in the vehicle." Almost twenty-five years later after the hit-and-run case in Delhi in 1999 in which Sanjeev Nanda, the grandson of a former Navy chief, was involved, such incidents are still on the increase. These accidents are a symptom of how rashly driven luxury cars have become a mode of entertainment for the rich brats, says Dr Kamal Soi. In the period between the accident of Malu's Rolls Royce and Sanjeev Nanda's ill-driven BMW that killed six pedestrians, and the hit and run case involving Salman Khan, several dozen other accidents have taken place. Dr Soi says our regulations are decorative.

He explains, "In 2019, a new act called the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019 came into force. As per that Act, penalties were increased for over-speeding from Rs 1,000 to Rs. 10,000. If the same violation is done a second time, the driving license is suspended. But if the law is not enforced it becomes a decorative piece. That's what has happened. Rich brats get away easily and they know it.

The law is not being enforced." Harman Sidhu, President of Arrive Safe, an NGO says, "This car was speeding at 230 km/hour. These days the CCTVs on the expressways and toll plaza tell the truth even if someone wants to hide. How could the vehicle cover 40 kms in 17 minutes? Who was behind the wheel? Obviously, there was no regard for traffic rules. Probably, the man behind the wheel felt the rush of adrenalin but it came at the cost of two poor lives," Sidhu adds.

Regarding the driver, Sidhu says, "The driver wasn't there in the picture for the past so many days. He would have undergone some injuries and also would have been admitted. Where are the details of the driver's admission to hospital, nature of injuries, medicines bought, etc?"

Rahul Verma, the member of Punjab State Road Safety Council also endorses this view. He says, the CCTV footage should be verified and also ascertain where was the driver admitted if he was behind the wheel? Regarding the laxity of regulations,

Verma says, "On the one hand government makes laws in Parliament and the same government issues directions not to issue challan on certain types of vehicles used for various trade purposes even if they flout law. And the likes of Salman Khan or Malu wield enough influence on law enforcement agencies."

He adds, "In such a scenario laws are rendered useless." "What will Malu's fate be now? Trouble seems to have mounted for Kuber Group Director Vikas Malu, after his high speed Rolls-Royce crashed into an oil tanker on the Delhi-Mumbai-Baroda expressway on Tuesday, killing two people. Malu now has been asked by the police in Nuh, Haryana to join the investigation. Regarding whether Malu or his driver was driving the car, Superintendent of Police SP Nuh, Narendra Bijamiya said, "The FIR has been registered on the basis of the complaint made by victim's son. How would he know the name of the accused? Based upon our investigation, the accused will be arrested soon."

Himachal rain fury: Kullu-Mandi road open to one-way traffic



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KULLU(HPI), 27 AUGUST

The Kullu Police has issued a traffic update in view of frequent landslides owing to heavy rain in the area.

The road from Kullu to Mandi via Pandoh is open one-way, the police statement read adding that from Kullu to Pandoh the traffic will be released from 12:00 PM to 10:00 AM and from Pandoh to Kullu, it will be released from 12:00 AM to 10:00 AM.

The road from Kullu to Mandi via Kamand is also open one way only for LMVs (light motor vehicles) as restoration work is going on, the statement read.

The road from Kullu to Pandoh Chailchowk is open one way, only for LMV. The Kullu Manali road via Right Bank will remain closed during the night from 10:00 PM to morning 06:00 AM from Patlikuhal to Manali for road maintenance.

The Bhuntar- Manikaran road will be open only for LMVs. The Kandugad to Khanag section of the Banjar -Anni road will be open only for LMVs as well, the police statement read.

The state has reported a total human loss of 379 people and 352 injured. 2457 houses have been completely damaged in the rains while 10569 houses reported partial

The Bhuntar-Manikaran road will be open only for LMVs. The Kandugad to Khanag section of the Banjar -Anni road will be open only for LMVs as well, the police statement read.

damage, according to a statement from the Revenue Department of the Himachal Pradesh government.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force, which has been fully involved in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the hill state continued its relief work and distributing relief material in far-flung areas on Sunday.

"IAF continues to provide humanitarian relief to flood-hit regions of Himachal Pradesh. More than 11,000 kg of relief material was air distributed in far-flung areas and 4 patients have been evacuated," wrote IAF in a statement from the official account of Headquarters, Western Air Command, IAF on 'X'.

Earlier on Saturday, the Kullu-Mandi National Highway was blocked following a landslide due to heavy rains in the district, an official statement said.

Sibal attacks Shah for targeting Ashok Gehlot over 'red diary'

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Former union minister and MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday attacked Home Minister Amit Shah after he asked Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to resign over the issue of 'laal diary' (red diary).

"In Rajasthan, Amit Shah targets Gehlot over a 'red diary'. Where is the red diary Amit ji? Produce it. Have you forgotten about the 'Birla-Sahara diaries' where the black deeds were 'writ-

ten' not hidden?" Sibal wrote on X while referring to the Shah's remarks against the Chief Minister during a programme in Rajasthan on Saturday.

Shah, who was in Gangapur in the poll bound state, to participate in the Kisan Sammelan had said: "Nowadays, Gehlot is very much afraid of red colour and red diary because black deeds are hidden inside the red diary, the black book record of crores of rupees black business is in the red diary. If you have even an iota of shame

left, resign and contest polls."

Earlier this month, the BJP had slammed the Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot after he sacked minister Rajendra Gudha who had released three pages of the 'red diary' and accused the ruling Congress of corruption.

Assembly elections in Rajasthan are scheduled to be held later this year. It is likely that 'corruption' will be among the major issues of the BJP in the upcoming polls to take on the Gehlot government.

Jal Abhishek Yatra will conclude in Haryana's Mewat, says VHP

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Vishwa Hindu Parishad's (VHP) International Working President Alok Kumar on Sunday informed that the Jal Abhishek Yatra will conclude in Haryana's Mewat on Monday. "Maintaining peace and harmony on the last day Monday of Shraavan (month), Hindu society will complete its Dharma Yatra in Mewat (now known as Nuh)," the VHP wrote on X, quoting Kumar as saying.

Security arrangements have been beefed up to avoid



untoward incidents after the Hindu groups' call to resume Jal Abhishek Yatra in Nuh despite denial of permission by the local administration. Nuh administration has

already denied permission to the organisers of the yatra in view of the meeting of the G20 summit scheduled to be held in Nuh from September 3 to 7. The officials said that even though permission had been denied for the yatra, there were inputs that certain organisations had invited people from Haryana and neighbouring states to reach Nuh on August 28.

All schools and colleges have been closed on August 28 and security has been stepped up in the district with the extension of Section 144.

Madhya Pradesh CM announces gas cylinder for Rs 450

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 27 AUGUST

With assembly polls three months away, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday announced several sops including domestic gas cylinders at Rs 450 from October onwards to women covered under Laadli Behna Scheme.

Celebrating the festival of Rakshabandhan with women at a grand Laadli Behna Sammelan at Jambhori Grounds in Bhopal in the afternoon, Mr Chouhan also transferred a sum of Rs 312.64 crore - Rs 250 each as a Rakhi gift - to all eligible women under Laadli Behna Scheme.

The CM announced that one gas cylinder would be provided at Rs 450 and permanent arrangements would be made so that women have no problem in getting the



cylinder.

He said that Rs 1000 would be credited to each Laadli Behna's account in September. He said that from October onwards Rs 250 would be increased and women would start getting Rs 1250 per month.

Mr Chouhan also declared that 50 per cent seats of school teachers would be filled by women. He also announced an increase in the quota for

women in police recruitment and other departments from 30 to 35 per cent.

He said that there would be no recovery of power dues till September in case of inflated electricity bills. Mr Chouhan said his aim is to increase the income of sisters in the state to Rs 10,000 per month.

He informed that so far a sum of more than Rs 3628.85 crore has been distributed to women in the first three months of the Laadli Behna scheme. He said till now more than 45.72 lakh daughters have become lakhpati from government scheme benefits.

The CM said that a Sum of more than Rs 544 crore has been given to more than 9.60 lakh daughters for encouraging their bright performance in studies.

The state assembly elections in MP would be held in November.

BJP core committee meeting underway in Haridwar

SNS & AGENCIES
HARIDWAR, 27 AUGUST

Hitting the poll mode early for the next Lok Sabha, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has called an important meeting of the party's Uttarakhand core committee in Haridwar on Sunday.

BJP national president JP Nadda along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami attended the party's state core committee meeting at Hotel Godwin in Haridwar.

BJP's national president JP Nadda is chairing the meeting. In this meeting, Nadda is reviewing the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections of the party in Uttarakhand.

State President Mahendra Bhatt, MP and former Chief Minister are present in the meeting.

PM Modi praises UP on Mann Ki Baat, broadcast, CM Yogi expresses gratitude

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 27 AUGUST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday once again praised Uttar Pradesh on his radio broadcast 'Mann Ki Baat'. He particularly praised the daughters of the state who won medals in G-20 Quiz, Varanasi Milk Group and World University Games in Varanasi.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath listened to Prime Minister Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme live at his official residence and thanked Prime Minister Modi by tweeting.

In the programme, PM Modi said that the participation of 1.25 lakh students from 800 schools in the G-20 quiz held in Varanasi has created a new world record.

Referring to the Varanasi Milk Group, he said that this group is working on joint management to increase the income of our milk producers and cat-



tle herders. This indicates the white revolution in Purvanchal. Also in the program, he praised the progress of Uttar Pradesh winning medals in archery in the World University Games and 20 km walk. PM also talked to Pragati and Priyanka who was part of the archery and race walk team. The PM learned about the experience of both the players and congratulated them.

CM Yogi Adityanath thanked PM Modi for mentioning topics related to Uttar Pradesh in the Mann Ki Baat

programme. He said in a X thread that "Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the world record made by the participation of 1.25 lakh students from 800 schools in the G-20 Quiz held in Varanasi today in Mann Ki Baat program. This interest of the new generation towards G-20 events and their participation in them is a reflection of the development of the country. Hearty congratulations to the Prime Minister".

In the second post, CM Yogi said that "Pragati and Priyan-

ka, the daughters of the state who won medals in the World University Games while glorifying Maa Bharti on the global stage, are the pride of the country. Millions of youth will be inspired by the mention of these daughters in the Mann Ki Baat program by respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Hearty thanks Prime Minister! After this, CM Yogi thanked PM Modi for appreciating the Varanasi Milk Group and tweeted that "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the double engine government in Uttar Pradesh has provided new heights to the dairy sector. The Prime Minister's mention in the Mann Ki Baat program through the 'Varanasi Milk Union', the prosperity in the lives of the Annadata farmers of Varanasi and surrounding areas and the continuous increase in their income is proof of this."

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August Presence

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Vice Chairman, DDA

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BJP leaderless in Karnataka: Congress' Jagadish Shettar on non-appointment of state party chief



UDUPI, 27 AUGUST

Taking a jibe at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership in Karnataka, former Karnataka Chief Minister and Congress leader Jagadish Shettar on Sunday said that the party is leaderless in the state. On the non-appointment of BJP state president, Shettar said, "The situation in which BJP is going through shows that it is without a leader. BJP is leaderless in Karnataka and that is the reason why it has not picked a new state president so far. BJP's appalling situation will further deteriorate in the state."

Shettar further said that many leaders in the BJP want to "come out of the party." "BJP leaders are approaching the Congress leaders in various parts of the state. BJP will deteriorate further," he said. The former CM denied the speculations that Union Minister Amit Shah spoke to him over the phone and said that nobody from the BJP high command contacted him.

Promises galore as Telangana Cong goes all out to woo voters

The party has now announced what it plans to do for the SCs and STs if voted to power

SNS & AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 27 AUGUST

With barely three months to go for Assembly elections in Telangana, the opposition Congress party has intensified its efforts to woo various sections of voters with promises.

After making a slew of promises to farmers, youth and beneficiaries of social security pensions, the party has now announced what it plans to do for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) if voted to power.

The Congress party is promising more financial support to various sections than what they are receiving under welfare schemes being implemented by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government.

The SC, ST Declaration unveiled on Saturday evening at a public meeting addressed by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge at Chevella shows that the party is



going all out to woo the voters.

While the BRS government last year announced a financial grant of Rs 10 lakh for every SC family under Dalit Bandhu scheme, the Congress has promised Rs 12 lakh under Ambedkar Abhaya Hastham per SC, ST family within five years starting from 2023-24.

The Congress promised reservations for SC, STs in private educational institutions and in jobs in private companies availing incentives

from the government.

The party has also promised that the reservations for SCs will be increased to 18 per cent. A house site and Rs 6 lakh for construction of houses will be given to every houseless SC and ST family under Indiramma Pucca housing scheme.

Alleging that lands assigned to SCs and STs in the past were usurped by BRS government, the Congress party announced that it will be restored back to the original assignees, with all the rights.

Recognition of Forest Rights (RoFR) Act to be implemented to provide pattas for podu lands to all the eligible beneficiaries. Sammakka Sarakka Girijana Graminabhirudhi Pathakam (SGGP) to provide an annual grant of Rs 25 lakh to each Tanda and Gudum Gram Panchayats.

The party had already announced several promises as part of declarations for farmers, youth and unemployed.

The party had released its declaration for farmers last

year while it released a declaration for youth and unemployed in May.

At a massive public meeting in Warangal on May 6 last year, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had unveiled the rythu declaration. The promises include Rs.2 lakh loan waiver and Rs15,000 direct benefit per acre annually.

'Indiramma Rythu Bharosa' scheme will be introduced to provide investment support of Rs 15,000 per acre per annum to both land owning farmers as well as to tenant farmers. Every landless farm labourer registered under MGNREGA will be provided Rs 12,000 per year. It promised to procure all crops grown by farmers in the state with improved MSP.

The Congress party also promised to reopen closed sugar factories and set up a turmeric board. A better crop insurance scheme will be introduced to cover crop losses due to natural calamities or other reasons. Agricultural work will also be integrated into MGNREGA scheme.

No controversy over naming moon landing point as Shiv Shakti: ISRO chairman

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 27 AUGUST

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath on Sunday said there is no controversy over naming of the place where Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the moon as Shiv Shakti.

Speaking to media persons after visiting Pornami Kavu Bhandrakali temple at Vengannur in Thiruvananthapuram, Mr Somanath said: "The country has the right to name the place where the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 landed on the moon. Many countries have named in this way before and there is no need to make it a controversy."

India has already assigned a few names to lunar regions and it is a tradition being followed by countries that conduct expeditions to the moon, he said.

The ISRO chairman said India is the first country to make a landing in the south pole of the moon.

He said the photographs taken by the rover will take



time to reach ISRO stations and that the ISRO has sought the ground stations of the US, UK and Australia for this.

Mr Somanath further said Chandrayaan-3 is working perfectly. "We got a lot of valuable information from the moon and in the coming days, after assessing those information, the scientists will explain the matters related to this," the ISRO chairman said.

He said that science and belief are two different entities and there is no need to mix the two.

Regarding ISRO's solar mission, Mr Somanath said the expedition to the Sun is ready and the launch date will be announced soon.

CPI demands three Assembly seats for alliance with Congress in Telangana

SNS & AGENCIES HYDERABAD, 27 AUGUST

The Communist Party of India (CPI) in Telangana is ready for

electoral alliance with the Congress party for the upcoming Assembly elections provided it is given three seats.

The Congress party has initiated talks with both the CPI and CPI-M for electoral alliance. CPI state secretary K. Sambasiva Rao has placed

the precondition before the Congress leaders.

The CPI is keen to field its candidates from Bellampalli, Husnabad, Kothagudem

and Munugode constituencies.

The party wants the Congress to leave at least three seats for it. The CPI-M is also

understood to have made a similar demand. The Congress has initiated the talks with the leaders of the Left parties after the ruling Bharat Rash-

tra Samithi (BRS) decided to go alone. Last week, the BRS announced candidates for 115 out of 119 Assembly seats.

Classified

LEGAL NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT

(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF Sh. Sanjay Sharma-I, District Judge (Commercial Court), East, Room No. 12, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Whereas the 16th November, 2023 has been fixed for hearing of the case, notice is hereby given that person having any interest in the Administration of estate of the said concerned may if he/she desire appear in this court the said 16th November, 2023 and see the proceedings before the grant of probate (or for letter of administration).

Code of Civil Procedure IN THE COURT OF Sh. Sanjay Sharma-I, District Judge (Commercial Court), East, Room No. 12, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

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Legal notices section containing various court orders and advertisements for The Statesman newspaper.

Chandrayaan-3 likely to send information about the Moon: Jitendra Singh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to send home information about Moon's atmosphere, soil, minerals etc which may be the first of its kind for the scientific community across the world and of far-reaching implications in the times to come, Union Minister for Space Jitendra Singh said today, adding that the Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover have started performing the Mission objectives exactly as per the schedule.

In an interview to a media agency which was also released by PIB, he said the main focus of the science payloads onboard Chandrayaan-3 is to provide an integrated assessment of the lunar surface features, including the thermal properties and surface elements of the lunar topsoil (regolith) as well as the plasma environment near the surface, he said. It will also assess the lunar seismic activities and the impact of meteorites on the lunar surface.

"All these are essential for the fundamental understanding of the lunar near-surface environment and for making future lunar habitat developments for explorations," said Dr Jitendra Singh.

The Vikram lander carries seismometer (ILSA), ChaSTE, Langmuir Probe (RAMBHALP), and a laser retroreflector array payloads and the Pragyan Rover carries Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS) and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) payloads.

"All these payloads are planned for continuous operations from 24th August 2023 till end of the mission," the minister said.

The Instrument for Lunar



Seismic Activity (ILSA) will make continuous observations of the lunar seismic activities as well as the meteor impacts on the lunar surface. ILSA is the first-ever seismometer sent to study the vibrations on the lunar surface at higher lunar latitudes.

"These measurements will help us plan for future habitat developments by understanding the frequency of potential hazards from meteor impacts and seismic activities," Dr Jitendra Singh said.

The study of the near-surface plasma of the Moon and its time variations will be carried out by the Langmuir probe. RAMBHALP will be the first-ever in-situ observation of the near-surface plasma and its diurnal variation in higher lunar latitude, where the Sun elevation angle is less, said Dr Jitendra Singh.

"These will help assess the lunar surface charging for future manned missions," he said.

Chandrayaan 3's lander Vikram sends first scientific data from Moon

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Vikram Lander of India's Moon mission Chandrayaan 3, which had landed near the south pole region of our closest celestial neighbour on August 23, has successfully started carrying out its mission and subsequently sending the data back to ISRO headquarters.

On Sunday, Vikram sent its first observations recorded by the Chandrayaan 3's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) payload it carried along with rover Pragyan.

Sharing the data sent by Vikram, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said that ChaSTE recorded variations of temperature on the lunar surface. The ISRO shared a graph on X (earlier known as Twitter) that showed the difference in temperature on the Moon's surface and underneath.

"At a depth of 8 cm, the payload attached to Chandrayaan 3's lander Vikram recorded temperature as low as (-) 10 degrees centigrade. With the gradual rise towards the surface, the temperature too could be seen rising. Above the surface, the graph showed a relative stagnancy in temperature between 50-60 degrees centigrade."

"This is the first such profile for the lunar south pole. Detailed observations are underway," the space agency said.

Meanwhile, rover Pragyan is also roaming around Shiv Shakti point in the south pole area of the Moon.

According to ISRO, the rover has so far moved a distance of eight metres. It is capable of moving half a kilometre during its 14-day mission.

Bengaluru voted best place to live in, but its citizens reel under inflation

SNS & AGENCIES BENGALURU, 27 AUGUST

The people of Karnataka despite it being one of the most prosperous and contributing states in the country are worst affected by inflation in every sector.

The results of the assembly elections in Karnataka showed how ordinary people suffered due to the rising prices of staples, and veggies and the overall cost of living index. The guarantee schemes of the Congress, which were rubbished by the BJP leadership as the politics of freebies, helped the grand old party to



register a mopping victory in the elections. The Congress and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah made inflation a major issue in the elections which struck a chord with the people.

However, the IT sector is giving a boost to this scenario

by helping the economy of Karnataka, according to experts.

Bhavesh Kothari, Founder and CEO of Property First, told IANS that, "The cost of living in Karnataka is 1.29 times more expensive as compared to the rest of India, thus putting the state in the 4th spot in the most expensive places to live. But at the same time, this higher CLI has a positive bearing and this is evident from the fact that the state is ranked as the best place to live in India."

"Owing to the region's overall vibrancy of business and economic activities, the standard of living in Bengaluru is also going through a major transformation. Being a global tech centre with a lot of opportunities, the city is attracting talent from other cities thus raising the cost of accommodation."

Kothari said that over the last few years, the city and its various submarkets have not only seen an uptick in rentals but also a considerable rise in the per sq. ft rate, resulting in rising property prices. Since the region offers good prospects and people have jobs, high salaries and disposable income, the focus has also shifted towards the upgradation of life.



The people of MP are not going to fall under the trap of BJP. It will get the answer to the agony of the deprived and exploited sections of the society. BJP's departure is certain.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CLAIMING THAT THE BJP-RULED MADHYA PRADESH HAS THE HIGHEST RATE OF CRIMES AGAINST DALITS

THUMBNAILED

Newly-wed woman, sister-in-law charred to death in refrigerator blast in Bihar: Two women, including a newly-wed and her sister-in-law, were charred to death after a refrigerator exploded in Dumri Parmanandpur village in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district on Sunday.

Himachal to set up police outposts in forests: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday issued the directions to integrate forest outposts with police outposts to combat timber smuggling.

'Global South seeks democratic, diversified re-globalisation'

Jaishankar made the statement while addressing the B20 Summit in New Delhi

SNS & AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar while drawing attention to the Global South said the core mandate of the G20 is to provide economic growth and development, and it cannot advance if the concerns of the Global South are not addressed.

"The core mandate of the G20 is to promote economic growth and development, and that cannot advance if the crucial concerns of the Global South in the areas that are not addressed," Jaishankar said on Sunday while addressing the B20 Summit here on the 'Role of the Global South in the Emerging World 2.0'.

He further said, "For a variety of reasons, the Global South was largely being reduced to being a consumer rather than a producer. Their contribution very often was to provide resources for manufacturing elsewhere. They only did not reap the full benefits of economic change but often ended up with unviable debts."



Global South would not be at the table when we met. This mattered very much because the real urgent problems are faced by them."

"To discuss their concerns without providing them a fair hearing, appeared extremely unfair. Therefore, Prime Minister Narendra

Modi decided to convene the 'Voice of the Global South Summit' in January this year. We heard from 125 countries directly about their challenges and priorities. On their behalf, this has been made a centre of the G20 agenda," he added.

Jaishankar further said, "It is an undeniable reality that the international system remains dominated by the Global North. This is naturally reflected in the composition of the G20 as well."

The minister said a more just, equitable and participatory global order will only happen when there were commensurate investment, trade and technology decisions directed at the Global South.

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Nuh violence: Security stepped up ahead of Yatra

SNS & AGENCIES GURUGRAM, 27 AUGUST

In view of Hindu groups' call to resume Jal Abhishek Yatra in Nuh on Monday (August 28) despite denial of permission by the local administration, security arrangements have been beefed up across Nuh to avoid untoward incidents.

Nuh administration has already denied permission to the organisers of the yatra in view of the meeting of the G20 Sherpa group scheduled to be held in Nuh from September 3 to 7.

The officials said that even though permission had been denied to hold the yatra, there were inputs that certain organisations had invited people from Haryana and neighbouring states to reach Nuh on August 28.

As a preventive measure, internet services have been suspended in Nuh from 26 Aug up to 29 Aug

have been closed on August 28 and security has been stepped up in the district with the extension of Section 144.

"The police deployment has been stepped up around mosques while paramilitary forces continue to keep vigil in Nuh district after the clashes. About 700 Haryana Police personnel and 13 paramilitary companies are deployed in the district alone. Police will check inter-state movement as outsiders will not be allowed," Narendra Bijamiya, SP Nuh said.

"The permission for the yatra has been denied and no gathering of any sort will be allowed. We are urging the locals to offer prayers at their village temples instead of converging at the Nalhar temple in Nuh on August 28," the DC said.

Cong questions high fuel prices despite Russian bounty

SNS & AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

With India's retail inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI), seeing a huge rise to 7.44 per cent in July owing to a hike in food prices as food inflation witnessed a massive jump of 11.51 per cent, the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) which is all set to take on the BJP-led NDA is leaving no stone unturned to target the government.



He invited Rameshwar, a vegetable vendor, to his home for lunch after a video showing his helplessness to buy vegetables moved the nation, highlighting the hardships being faced by the common people and the poor.

After his visit, Rahul Gandhi had targeted the government over inflation and the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities saying that the poor want an ear to listen to them and a shoulder to support them.

Speaking to IANS, Congress leader Manickam Tagore said, "The prices of diesel and petrol have already broken the back of the middle class and poor people."

He said that the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, which have been selling at exorbitant rates for the last few years, has led to an increase in the cost of essential commodities.

Tagore added that the price of LPG cylinders, which used to sell at around Rs 400 has also skyrocketed to over Rs 1,000.

Targeting the BJP government at the Centre, the Congress Lok Sabha MP from Tamil Nadu's Virudhu Nagar, said that the government is not ready to listen to the voice of the people, who have been hurt most by inflation and the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.

PM Modi to distribute over 51,000 appointment letters to new recruits in government today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits on Monday via video conferencing. The PM will also address the appointees on the occasion.

The Rozgar Mela will be held at 45 locations across the country.

Through this Rozgar Mela event, the Ministry of Home Affairs is recruiting personnel in various central armed police forces (CAPFs) such as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Shashtra Seema Bal (SSB), Assam Rifles, Central Industrial Security Force

(CISF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Narcotics control Bureau (NCB) as well as Delhi Police.

The new recruits, selected from across the country, will be joining the various positions such as Constable (General Duty), Sub-Inspector (General Duty) and Non-General Duty Cadre Posts in various organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Strengthening of CAPFs as well as Delhi Police will help these forces to play their multidimensional role more effectively like aiding in internal security, counter terrorism, combating insurgency, anti-left-wing extremism and protecting the borders of the nation.

9 bodies of victims of Madurai train inferno reach Lucknow

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, 27 AUGUST

The bodies of the victims killed in the fire in a train bogie at Madurai railway station in Tamil Nadu reached Lucknow airport on Sunday, as per reports.

People there became emotional and the family members of the nine deceased cried hugging each other.

Later the dead bodies were handed over to their relatives and then taken to their native places.

Nine people have died in the accident which included two from Lucknow, five from Sitapur, and one each from HarDOI and Lakhimpur Kheri.

UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak also reached airport to share the grief of the victims of the accident.

He expressed his condolences after meeting the family members and handed over the compensation envelope of Rs 2 lakh each given by the state government to the family members, as per reports.

Those who lost their lives in the accident include Manorama Agarwal (81) and her grand daughter Himani Bansal (22) of Lucknow's Chowk area.

At least 20 people suffered burn injuries in the accident. The coach which caught fire was a private party coach and was going from Lucknow to Chennai.

An LPG gas cylinder was being carried illegally in the coach, which apparently caused the blaze, as per reports.

Teacher held, principal absconding after thrashing student who wrote 'Jai Shri Ram' on blackboard

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, 27 AUGUST

Taking action against the teachers who thrashed a school student who wrote 'Jai Shri Ram' on the blackboard, police have arrested the senior lecturer (Urdu) Mohammad Farooq while the principal Mohammad Hafiz is absconding.



The committee headed by the SDM, Bani sub-division, to enquire into the incident that happened on Friday in the government higher secondary school at Bani.

The committee has been asked to fix the responsibility against the culprits and submit its report within two days with recommendations, as per reports.

Protests had erupted on Saturday in Jammu's Bani sub-division of the Kathua district

after the principal and a teacher of a government school thrashed a student who wrote 'Jai Shri Ram' on the blackboard.

The 10th class student, who is a minor, has been admitted to the hospital with internal injuries on his ear and arm.

Police have registered an FIR under the Sections 323, 342, 504, 506 of IPC and 75 Juvenile Justice Act in the Bani police station.

UP school running without recognition, asked to shut down

SNS & AGENCIES MUZAFFARNAGAR, 27 AUGUST

The school in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, where earlier this week a teacher allegedly asked students to slap a fellow classmate belonging to a minority community, has been ordered shut down as it was operating without required recognition.

A purported video of the incident surfaced online on Friday, in which the teacher was seen asking students to slap the child belonging to a minority community.

The incident reportedly took place on Thursday at Neha Public School, located in Khubbapur village under the jurisdiction of Mansurpur police station, as per reports.

An investigation was launched into the matter after the purported video went viral on social media,

An investigation was launched into the matter after the purported video went viral on social media.

as per reports. In the probe, it was found that recognition of the school has ended an year ago, as per reports.

Basic Education Officer Shubham Shukla said that in 2019, the school has taken recognition to run Classes from nursery to five.

The recognition was provided provisionally for three years, which ended in 2022. Subsequently, the school management had to get the recognition renewed done, but it was not done.

Orders have been given to close the school operating without recognition, as per reports.

Further action is being taken, he added.

NGT judge, who questioned MP gov't inaction on dam site encroachment, transferred

SNS & AGENCIES BHOPAL, 27 AUGUST

Justice Sudhir Agrawal, who questioned Madhya Pradesh government's inaction on dam site encroachment, has been transferred from the central bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) to the principal bench -- Delhi.

As per the order issued on Saturday, Justice S. K. Singh will now be taking charge of the central bench.

The development came one week after the central bench of NGT (Madhya Pradesh) headed by Justice Sudhir Agrawal expressed strong displeasure over inaction on behalf of the state government to remove encroachment from prohibited areas around Kaliyasot and Kerwa dam site in Bhopal. The tribunal had also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on the state gov-

ernment. The NGT also pointed out that the entire system of the Madhya Pradesh government seems incompetent, as counsel representing the case is willing to extend the date instead of arguing properly during the hearing.

Notably, the NGT had in 2014 issued an order to remove illegal construction within the 33.3-metre periphery of the river bed. NGT had given a month's time for compliance of order. The tribunal had also asked chief secretary Iqbal Singh Bains whether he had read the order. The tribunal further observed that "there is lack of coordination among the departments concerned in initiating action against the encroachers."

Immediate conservation of 178 Indian bird species needed, 40% species declining currently: Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

In a recent study, the status of 942 bird species from all over India were found to reflect various degrees of decline in comparison to the species that are doing well and are stable. The report was released by State of India's Birds 2023 which focuses on the range, trend and conservation of the birds in India.

online platform eBird and that data was largely used to assess the status of the 942 bird species in India. The report is based on 30 million field observations contributed by 30,000 birdwatchers across the country.

Out of 348 species assessed for long-term trend, 60% show a long-term decline. Out of 359 species assessed for current long-term trend, it shows 40% species are declining currently. The report mentions 204 species that have been declining in the last three decades, 178 species classified as high 'conservation priority'. This sets an alarm for urgent policies to be made for the conservation of these species.

Comparison with India's Birds 2020 report

There is not much improvement, out of the 101 birds categorised as High Concern (top priority) in 2020,



this year 74 remain in the same category. An additional 104 species have been newly listed as high priority in 2023. Four species that were categorised as declining and of 'High concern' (i.e., priority) this time did not have conclusive trends. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessment of black-necked

crane changed from 'vulnerable' to 'near threatened'; the endangered Steppe Eagle, which previously did not show conclusive trends, this time showed a stable current 'Annual trend', resulting in a lowering of its priority.

Bright side of the report

A bright side of the report talks about the increase of

Asian Koel in the last three decades. Other birds like Rock Pigeon, Ashy Prinia and Indian Peafowl are doing well and stable. The report mentions 217 species which haven't changed their habitat but whose numbers have increased in the last eight years. Indian Peafowl continues to thrive.

"In the report we have one specific case study from grasslands. At Nannaj in Maharashtra, some species are on high priority like the Great Indian Bustard whose numbers are declining in Nannaj as in other places across the country," said Neha Sinha, coordinator of the implications and recommendation section.

Species in Red List of IUCN

Using the three indices along with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) global red list

Threatened Species 2022 (IUCN Red List), species were classified into categories of conservation priority in India: 178 were classified as high priority, 323 as moderate priority and 441 as low priority. 14 species including Indian Roller, were recommended for IUCN Red List reassessment.

Species and accounts

In this section of the report, birds were examined within specific groupings.

The ecological group including diet and habitat specialization: Birds of grasslands and other open habitats, wetlands and woodlands are declining rapidly. In terms of diet, carnivores, insectivores, and granivores are declining more rapidly than omnivores or fruit and nectar-eaters.

The taxonomic group includes raptors, woodpeckers, ducks, large waterbirds and bustards

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The Statesman

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Navigating Inflation

The recent forecast of high inflation in coming months by the Union Finance Ministry has sent ripples among Indian consumers and businesses alike. The cautionary note from the government brings into focus the challenges that lie ahead and underscores the importance of strategic measures to weather the storm. The forecast blames high inflation on global and regional uncertainties, as well as domestic issues such as unfavourable weather conditions affecting crop prices. A silver lining in the report is that the recent increase in food prices is anticipated to be temporary owing to expected arrival of some vegetables and increased imports of some pulses. Retail inflation surged to a 15-month peak of 7.44 per cent in July, largely driven by steep increases in the prices of vegetables, pulses, cereals and spices. During its recent monetary policy review, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) adjusted its inflation projections upwards to 6.2 per cent for the September quarter and 5.4 per cent for the fiscal year 2023-24, while maintaining the policy rate at 6.5 per cent. For Indian consumers, the forecast of elevated inflation raises concerns about their purchasing power and daily expenses. As prices of essentials such as vegetables, pulses, cereals, and spices surge, households have felt the pinch. To brace for this, individuals might need to adopt prudent spending habits, prioritise needs over wants and explore alternatives to manage rising costs. Planning meals around seasonal produce, reducing food wastage and exploring bulk buying options could become essential strategies for consumers to maintain financial stability. Businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), are likely to face margin pressures due to increased input costs. These businesses must carefully assess their supply chains, evaluate pricing strategies and explore partnerships that offer cost-saving advantages. Adapting to leaner operations, optimising resources and exploring technological innovations can help mitigate the impact of elevated inflation on businesses. Additionally, businesses need to anticipate shifts in consumer behaviour and preferences, adapting their offerings accordingly to remain competitive. Governments, both at the Centre and states, have a pivotal role to play in mitigating the adverse effects of high inflation. Monitoring and addressing disruptions in supply chains, ensuring a consistent flow of essential commodities and applying brakes on speculative practices are crucial steps to stabilise prices. The allocation of resources towards infrastructure development, particularly in agriculture and storage facilities, can aid in reducing supply-side constraints. Furthermore, implementing targeted social safety net programmes can provide relief to vulnerable sections of society that are disproportionately affected by rising prices. The RBI stands at the forefront of managing inflation and economic stability. The central bank must balance its approach, considering the need to support growth and employment while maintaining price stability. Timely interventions through monetary policy tools can help manage inflation expectations and ensure macroeconomic equilibrium. Overall, bumpy times lie ahead.

Safe driving

Finally, India has introduced its own car safety rating system. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP), a voluntary star-rating system to assess and evaluate vehicle safety in crashes. It will come into effect from 1 October 2023, and vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes will receive one to five stars based on their collision performance. With this announcement, India is reported to have become the fifth country worldwide to implement such a programme. And about time too. With only one per cent of the world's vehicles, India accounts for almost 10 per cent of all road crash related fatalities. Poorer households bear a higher proportion of the socio-economic burden of road accidents due to loss of income (over 70 per cent of crash victims belong to economically disadvantaged households), high medical expenses and limited access to social safety nets. According to a World Bank study, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy up to seven per cent of GDP a year. Government data shows that each year road accidents in India kill about 1,50,000 people and injure another 4,50,000. More than half of the victims are pedestrians, cyclists, or motorcyclists and almost 84 per cent of all fatalities are among road users between the working ages of 18 to 60 years. The World Bank has already pledged to support the government's efforts to reduce incidents of road crashes by creating efficient institutional mechanisms for safer roads, vehicles, and strengthening efforts to provide better on-the-spot care to victims of road crashes. Indian automakers had previously subjected their vehicles to testing through the Global New Car Assessment Programme (GNCAP), which is an initiative under the United Kingdom-based Towards Zero Foundation striving for global adherence to vital United Nations vehicle safety standards. It serves as a standardised platform to foster international collaboration among new car assessment programmes (NCAPs), offering dependable crash safety insights based on common criteria. Indian authorities say Bharat NCAP aligns with global crash test protocols while considering Indian regulations. It allows manufacturers to test vehicles locally and cut costs associated with overseas NCAP-accredited centres. Though NCAPs are not obligatory, these are designed to encourage manufacturers to go beyond basic safety standards and promote competition in incorporating advanced safety features. Well done is half begun. But if the government is serious about achieving the primary objective of Bharat NCAP, which is to help raise road safety standards by encouraging vehicle manufacturers to prioritise safety in their vehicle design and features, clearing the B-NCAP test with a minimum of, say, three stars needs to be made mandatory. Sooner rather than later. It could be a form of extended producers' responsibility for the auto sector under a proper legal framework. Not only will such a move ensure fewer lives are lost on India's killer roads, it would provide a fillip to the global competitiveness of Indian car manufacturers and increase exports of made-and-safety-tested-in-India vehicles.

The Big Five ~ II

While a number of nations had been burning and were being destroyed what was the Security Council doing? It must be admitted that the Security Council had always been pretty active (almost in continuous session for consultations both inside and outside the Chamber) but had been absolutely ineffective in taking effective and timely action in the major conflicts owing to the application of veto power by the permanent members. In conflicts where any of the big five was involved or had interest, the Security Council was unable to pass any resolution for military intervention



Has the Security Council fulfilled its obligations and upheld the principles enshrined in the World Constitution - the UN Charter and the UDHR? The answer would obviously be a big 'no' because there have been more wars, armed conflicts and violence amongst the member States than they occurred in the century preceding the United Nations. According to Uppsala University, Sweden, there have been at least 285 armed conflicts in the world since 1946, out of which 23 conflicts have been devastating. The ten most devastating armed conflicts, wars or invasions engulfing the world have been:

1. The Korean War (1950-1953): UN Command led by USA; fierce fighting for more than 3 years; Korea is divided - conflict unresolved; casualties: 2-3 million.
2. The Vietnam War (1955-1975): Also known as 'Conflict in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia'; US-led Cold War lasted for about 20 years; deaths: about 3 million Vietnamese, 310,000 Cambodians, 62,000 Laotians, and 58,220 US service personnel. According to Bertrand Russell, short of dropping atom bombs, the US soldiers did every kind of inhuman torture, brutalities and genocide including using Napalm bombs on innocent men, women and children.
3. The Bosnian War (April 1992- December 1995): NATO-led forces; conflict continued for 5 years; 101,000 dead.
4. The Second Congo War (1998-2003): Also known as the Great War of Africa or Africa's World War, the deadliest war since WW II. Although a peace agreement (Sun City Agreement brokered by South Africa) was signed in 2002 and the war ended officially in 2003, violence has continued in many regions, especially in the East.
5. Nine African nations and twenty-five armed groups funded by 'blood diamond' are involved in the ongoing war. Casualties: 5.4 million deaths in war and disease, 3.4 million displaced, 2 million sought asylums, large-scale destruction of forests and protected animals as more than a million people who

fled to the forests lived on 'bush-meat'. Critics have alleged that the UN had played a dubious role in the conflict.

5. The Afghan War (2001-2021): A sordid story of war, conspiracy and terrorism. US led NATO invasion continued for 20 years ending with withdrawal of US forces in 2001. Terrorist organization, Taliban has recaptured power but armed conflict is going on. The State was in near-continuous state of war since 1970s. Casualties: 1.4 - 2.5 million dead and millions displaced.

6. The Second Gulf War (2003-2011): Also known as Iraq War started with the invasion by US-led NATO forces that overthrew the government of Saddam Hussain. The US was re-involved in 2014 but conflicts and violence are still continuing. Total casualties: 113,000 civilian deaths, Iraqi combatants - 71,000 dead, coalition forces - 25,000 dead and 117,000 wounded.

7. The War in Darfur (2003-present day): Nicknamed as the 'Land Cruiser War' - a major armed conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan involving ethnic cleansing and genocide, that began in 2003 and ended with the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement on 31 August 2020 between the Sudanese government and the various rebel groups. Conflict is going on. Casualties: 300,000 killed (UN estimate)

8. The War with ISIL (June 2014-present): This was a global war against the ISIL who rapidly gained large territories of Iraq and Syria and established the 'Islamic State of Iraq, Syria and Levant' with the objective of reviving the Caliphate. The ISIL and Al-Qaida operatives spread their tentacles to Iraq, Syria, Libya, Nigeria, Afghanistan, North Caucasus and South East Asia. In June 2014, a US-led coalition of 14 nations started air

strikes followed by many other coalitions to fight the ISIL. ISIL military was defeated in Iraq and Syria but the fight is going on. Casualties: at least 28,000 civilians killed by ISIL; about 13,000 killed by coalition airstrikes; 7,600,000 civilians displaced in Syria and 3,300,000 displaced in Iraq.

9. The Syrian Conflict (March 2011-present day): The Syrian Civil War has been going on for more than 12 years between Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and various domestic and foreign forces who are opposed to his government. A cease fire since 6 March 2020 is still holding with sporadic clashes. Casualties: 470,000-610,000 deaths.

10. The Russo-Ukraine War (2014-present day): This war which started with the annexation of Crimea in February 2014 by Russia turned into one of the deadliest. The conflict is going on for almost 10 years. Ukraine is supported by the Western powers and there is no sign of the war ending. Casualties: estimates vary widely. One estimate puts Russian losses at 110,000 (US Intelligence source) and probably an equal number on the Ukrainian side. As of November 2022, Russia occupied 18 per cent of Ukraine's territory.

While a number of nations had been burning and were being destroyed what was the Security Council doing? It must be admitted that the Security Council had always been pretty active (almost in continuous session for consultations both inside and outside the Chamber) but had been absolutely ineffective in taking effective and timely action in the major conflicts owing to the application of veto power by the permanent members. In conflicts where any of the big five was involved or had interest, the Security Council was unable to pass any resolution for military intervention.

The all-powerful Secretary General was powerless and had to be a helpless spectator on the goings on in the Council. The glaring example is the Ukraine war - because of Russian veto, the Security Council could not make any military intervention. If public memory serves right, only two Secretary Generals - Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden (who was killed in a plane crash in Africa - conspiracy theory remains) and Kurt Waldheim of Austria - could make a difference by their own efforts to negotiate peace in the conflict zones defying the machinations of the Big Five.

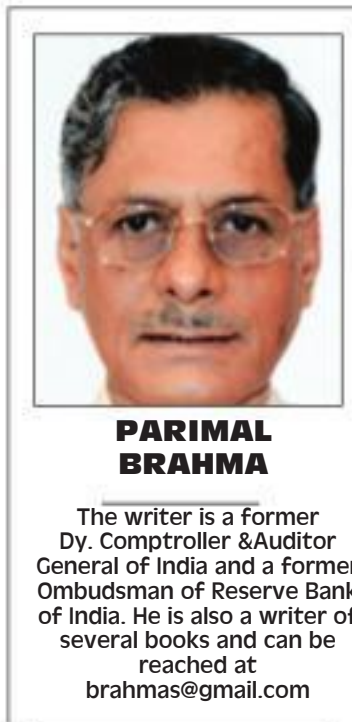
Notwithstanding the veto syndrome and severe constraints, the Security Council could manage to pass as many as 2692 Resolutions (as of 14 July 2023). The question remains whether all these resolutions could be implemented.

As of May, 2022, as many as 263 important resolutions of the UNSC had been vetoed - 121 times by Russia, 82 times by USA, 29 times by United Kingdom, 17 times by China and 16 times by France. This only shows that the major and most serious resolutions of the Security Council, which affected any of the permanent members, were summarily rejected or negated.

Concerning flare-ups in 285 war zones (recorded since 1946), the Security Council could manage to agree for military intervention and send peace-keeping missions only in 14 theatres of war - Korea, Congo, Cyprus, West New Guinea, Sinai Peninsula, Kuwait, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and DR Congo - with limited success as many of the conflicts remain unresolved and peace is fractured by recurring resurfacing of violence.

No evaluation about the fate of about 7,000 resolutions passed so far by the Council is available but it can be presumed that since implementation by the member-countries is voluntary, the majority of the resolutions might have remained unimplemented.

(To Be Concluded)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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The path for India

SIR, In her article "A good time for India to take stock" (19 August), Kalyani Shankar critiques democratic governance in the country, emphasising its achievements and the daunting challenges it is facing today. As compared to the political trajectories of Pakistan, Myanmar and even Bangladesh which experienced military regimes after getting freedom from the British, Indian democracy has survived due to judicious decisions made by the Constituent Assembly and the Cabinet during the Nehru era which kept the armed forces out of politics. Post Independence, the country has witnessed many successful elections and peaceful

transfer of power from one political party or alliance to another at the Centre and in the States; smooth and efficient functioning of the executive, legislature and judiciary; and citizens normally exercising their fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression, movement and religion as enshrined in the Constitution. The Right to Information Act (RTI) 2005, the Right to Education (RTE) 2009 and many welfare schemes have been introduced with the aim of empowering the people. With its highly liberalised and digitised economy like many developed nations, high growth rates, moderately stable coalition politics and an increased interest

in global politics, India is seeking to become a high-technology international leader. Over the years, successive governments have repeatedly claimed to have



focused on systematic growth and development in various fields which has brought significant

transformative changes in the country and people's lives. But at the same time, the glaring inequalities, injustice and non-fulfilment of social and economic aspirations of certain sections of society have often raised a serious concern. Indian democracy is beset with a host of problems such as over-population, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, gender discrimination, casteism, communalism and religious fundamentalism, regionalism, corruption and inefficiency, criminalisation of politics, political violence etc. Though constant official efforts have been made to tackle these, the situation has not improved much. India is a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-lingual and a plural society. But today, politics has been mostly re-

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Recent judicial controversies and public confidence

Public confidence in the judiciary finds its foundation in Article 21(1) of the Constitution, which unequivocally designates its role as the sentinel of justice. The Constitution mandates the judiciary to oversee an administration of justice that is not only impartial, but also guided by principles of equity, independence, and timeliness, all within the framework of the rule of law. This dedication to ensuring fairness, unprejudiced proceedings, and efficient resolutions cultivates a sense of trust and reliance among the public.

This, in turn, serves to amplify accessibility to justice, making it a reality for all segments of society. However, the recent suspension of two justices, an unprecedented incident, has starkly tested the very principles of impartiality and fairness upon which public trust in the judiciary rests.

Further, the Judicial Service Act of 2007 presents an encompassing code of ethics that judges are mandated to uphold. This comprehensive framework not only calls for an independent and impartial judiciary, but also champions the causes of equitable trials, facilitation of justice access, and the embodiment of judicial dignity. By steadfastly refraining from bias, partisan influences, and

KUENSEL

public pressures, judges affirm their commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the judicial process and boost public confidence in the institution. Additionally, their conscientious avoidance of public commentary that may sway pending cases underscores a dedication to upholding moral obligations and reinforcing public trust.

Lord Bacon once said, "The place of justice is a hallowed place and therefore not only the Bench, but the foot pace and precincts and thereof ought to be preserved without scandal and corruption.

No one would dissent from that proposition - the judiciary, in all its activities, must be free from scandal and corruption. But the problem of public confidence is larger; it mainly involves the lack of a set of standards adequate to enable federal judges to guide their behavior, both on and off the bench."

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime states that "the judicial misconduct breaks down the very fibre of what is necessary for a functional judiciary - citizens who believe their judges are fair and impartial. The judiciary cannot exist without the trust and confidence of the people.

Judges must, therefore, be accountable to legal and ethical standards. UNODC further provides that "judicial misconduct comes in many forms and ethical standards address problematic actions, omissions and relationships that deplete public confidence." An Indian court stated that "it will be an injury to the public if it tends to create an apprehension in the minds of the people regarding the integrity ability or fairness of the judge or to deter actual and prospective litigants from placing complete reliance upon the Court's administration of justice."

IN MEMORIAM

DEGUPTA MINTOO SANTOSH (Burnpur) - Remembering you today and everyday. - Your loved ones.

GUHA SAILENDRA NATH - Our sincere homage on your 27th death anniversary. - Dr. Santanu (son), Samayita (grandchild), relatives and friends. B-16, Subodh Park, Kolkata-700070. Phone: 033-24103640.

Yours, etc., D S Kang, Hoshiarpur, 24 August.

One answer to food crisis may lie beneath our feet

ANDREW SHENG

After a sizzling summer, the UN Secretary General has warned that the "era of global boiling has arrived". What can we do about it?

Climate change is systems change, and we all know it's tough, if not mission impossible. The pioneering systems thinker and co-author of the 1972 Limits to Growth report, the late Dana Meadows, argued that a critical way to change complex systems is to find the right leverage point, meaning those small changes that lead to large impact change. So what's the obvious common factor in climate boiling?

The scientific answer is carbon emission. Almost 99 per cent of the human body mass comprises six elements: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, calcium and phosphorus, with the rest from carbon-containing molecules. Water (H₂O) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) are vital in all forms of life. The atmosphere is mostly nitrogen and oxygen, but when sunlight hits more carbon particles in the atmosphere, the earth heats up. Prior to human life, there was a natural balance or carbon cycle, whereby plants and microbiological life captured the carbon through photosynthesis, keeping the temperature balance that sustains life on earth.

After humanity learnt to till the soil and burn fossil fuels, we accelerated carbon emission and climate warming, melting the global icecaps and the permafrost that holds lots of carbon dioxide and methane, as well as rising sea levels. This vicious circle threatens our food and water supply, biological diversity and human existence itself. With shortages of food, water and energy, wars and human conflict occur, with further damage to the environment, such as the massive war destruction of the Ukrainian farmlands.



So what is the leverage point that we can work on to deal with food, water and carbon capture? The answer is the soil on which we live, the primary producer of our food and water. The oceans are important in terms of carbon capture and marine food, but the bulk of our population lives on land and relies on food farming. Of the three biospheres, land, ocean and atmosphere, soil offers the best chance where we can do something about fixing.

Through land mismanagement, more than a third of the world's soil is already degraded. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimated that soil degradation could rise to 90 per cent by 2050 if nothing is done. The more degradation, the less food for a growing population.

Most rural communities grow their own food, but the urban society, which today is more than half of mankind, relies critically on large scale industrial food production. The 2019 EAT-Lancet Commission Food in the Anthropocene report stated: "The human cost of our faulty food

systems is that almost 1 billion people are hungry, and almost 2 billion people are eating too much wrong food". More than 40 per cent of adults (2.2 billion people) are now overweight or obese, while 3.1 billion people cannot afford healthy diets.

Industrially produced food not only contains genetically modified organism (GMO) food, but also lots of chemicals and preservatives that are neither healthy nor nutritious, truly junk food. Between 30 to 40 per cent of food in America is wasted during production, delivery, uneaten or thrown away due to poor logistics or excess consumption.

Increasingly, industrial food production and land is concentrated in very large corporations. Producing food through mono-culture crops like palm oil or soya bean may be efficient but also damaging in terms of hurting biodiversity, increasing inequality by driving out small farmers and also insufficient attention to carbon capture and environmental sustainability issues. Deforestation through clearing of virgin forests leaches the soil since the topsoil with all the inherited nutri-

ents is washed away. At the most basic level, soil comprises complex eco-systems of bacteria, fungi, worms and microbes that preserve biodiversity, conserve water and capture carbon. Saving the soil literally saves our future.

Recently, there is awareness that a farmer-centric effort to regenerate soil and food production can not only tackle our food crisis, water shortages but also capture carbon. Europe has formed a coalition to explore a farm-centric agriculture regenerative initiative.

After being hit by the grain and fertilizer supply shocks arising from the Ukraine war, the developing countries were further alarmed by India limiting the export of rice on 20 July this year. Suddenly food self-sufficiency is now high on the policy agenda, because all politicians are aware that high food prices (inflation) is socially de-stabilizing.

We should pay more policy attention to domestic farmers and the use of permaculture (regenerative farming practices) that produce crop diversity and regenerate the soil. Indeed, farm practices, such as re-forestation, that

can capture carbon would create new sources of income from selling carbon credits. Unfortunately, the global carbon market is not functioning evenly, so developing countries are not benefiting from higher carbon prices.

Recent archaeological finds in the Amazon showed that "terra preta", a nutrient rich composted soil derived from ancient inhabitants of the Amazon, was what sustained a large population before the arrival of white colonialists. Re-cultivating degraded land with natural composts, such as the Johnson-Su bioreactor method, could be a cheaper and more organic and healthy way of restoring soil quality and multi-crop farming. In short, the technology is available to increase food production organically to help raise not just rural incomes but also food well-being.

Regenerating the soil, forests and water sources are social impact projects, as important as public infrastructure such as transportation, roads and ports, with high social returns, but low financial rates of return. These are exactly the type of projects which social stock exchanges and philanthropic charities should be supporting. Even at the city level, vertical farming using organic composts and fertilizers can increase food self-sufficiency to absorb food disruptions.

Is this all pie in the sky? Solving climate change and social injustice is about doing more for many with less. Regenerating the soil beneath our feet uses the scarce land to produce healthier and more nutritious food for more people, reducing the need to fight each other. Climate change is change in context. Those who think systemically, but act and adapt locally will survive.

Those who deny change will not survive the coming crises.

(The writer is a former central banker who writes on global issues from an Asian perspective.)
Special to ANN.

100 YEARS AGO OCCASIONAL NOTE

The argument in Calcutta on the question of the "message" or "measured" as against the "flat" system of telephone charges has hitherto been one-sided. The Corporation has endorsed the recommendations of its committee in favour of continuing the fixed uniform charge in preference to either of the two systems based on the number of calls. The committee, however, was not entirely satisfied with the flat rate, for it suggested that a difference should be made between residential and commercial or between large and small users. Any such difference, if practicable, would obviously throw the heavier share of the charges on the large users. This would be one of the effects of a call system, so that as regards the question of cost to subscribers there is little to choose between the measured rate and the suggestions of the Corporation's committee. The measured rate is advocated on the grounds that it is fair to individual subscribers, encourages the development of the system, and results in an improved service, whereas it is urged that a flat rate is unfair to the small user, restricts the growth of the system, and leads to an impaired service. On the other hand, it is objected that the introduction of the call rate would involve expenditure ultimately falling on the subscribers, that the system is troublesome, and that its benefits to the small user are dubious.

NEWS ITEMS FLYING EXPERIMENTS

Official tests of the new Blackburn-Napier torpedo-carrying seaplane are to be carried out shortly in the presence of Government officials. This machine carries a torpedo weighing a quarter of a ton, and though only fitted with a single Napier engine can travel at 95 miles an hour, and, swoop at a speed of 120 miles an hour to launch a torpedo, presenting an almost impossible target to gunners. Further experiments, carried out by the Royal Air Force, have shown that it is possible for an aeroplane in flight to pick up mails and message bags from the ground. The primary object of these trials was to increase the value of aeroplane cooperation with the Army, but the experiments, which were originally made in Mesopotamia, have been eminently successful.

BOMBAY OFFICE TRAGEDY

BOMBAY, AUG 27
An altercation between two European partners resulted in a shooting tragedy in the business quarter of Bombay this morning. The scene of the tragedy was Fort Street, where the deceased Mr. J. Baker, aged 37, was trading with his partner, Mr. A. Boucos, under the name of J. Baker and Company. Over some business matters, there was an altercation between the partners, and Mr. Boucos is alleged to have fired three shots at Mr. Baker. One bullet penetrated Mr. Baker's body in the region of the heart and the other two hit him on the left arm. Mr. Baker staggered into his room bleeding profusely and soon after swooned. It is reported that Mr. Boucos then went straight to the police station and surrendered himself.

COMPULSORY WIND-UP

BOMBAY, AUG 27
On application by certain shareholders and creditors before Mr. Justice Kemp in the High Court, the Indian and Peninsular Steam Navigation Company has been ordered to be compulsorily wound-up. The company was incorporated in 1910 with an authorised capital of 50,00,000 lakhs, and an issued capital of nearly 22,00,000 lakhs. The judge in his judgment remarked that the Company's whole fleet now consisted of one steamer, 30 years old, though during the war the company had obtained 20,00,000 lakhs of rupees by chartering a steamer. A close investigation showed, says the judgment, that Mr. Padamsey Narseybhay, the managing director, regarded this company as a private financing agency for the settlement of his own affairs as well as those of his associates. No books of accounts were kept as from August, 1922.

AMERICA'S ATTITUDE

The Earl of Birkenhead's first speech has aroused controversy, resulting in a letter from Mr. Breckinridge, Assistant Secretary of War in Mr. Wilson's Cabinet, to the Bar Association. Mr. Breckinridge protests against Lord Birkenhead being permitted to speak at the Association's forthcoming convention. The cause of the pother was a speech made at Williamstown yesterday in which Lord Birkenhead argued the theme that self-interest and not altruism should determine American's attitude towards Europe. He warmly praised Mr. Wilson's idealism and superhuman zeal, but declared that his judgment of his countrymen was wrong, and he thereby became the agent of all those post-war developments from which his altruistic mind would have recoiled.

IT CAME TO MIND | MANISH NANDY

The Judge

The car stopped in front of our house in Nagpur. My parents went to the door and warmly greeted their friend, a judge of the High Court.

The judge had a scowl on his face. He pointed to the other person who had emerged from the car, his nine-year-old son, J (why his name cannot be mentioned will soon become clear). He sputtered, "I can't stand this wayward son of mine any longer." He turned to my parents, "I am leaving him with you. You do whatever you can to fix him." He went to his car in a huff and left.

I was nearly five and I knew J well. We often went to their home, and, while the adults talked, we kids played our games. I liked J. He was affable and high-spirited. I knew he detested his school: the teachers, the books, the classes, the whole lot. He had created so much trouble that, despite his father's august position, he had been thrown out of two schools. He did home schooling.

His father told my parents that the private tutors he engaged to teach his son invariably left after a few days. One tutor vomited after drinking his tea; J had surreptitiously put a dollop of salt in it. Another left after just two days; J had placed pins in his chair. A third struggled bravely for three weeks but left hurriedly for a reason he was too embarrassed to explain. The judge's slender hope was that, since my parents were both educators and



Illustration by : Debabrata Chakrabarty

knew J well, perhaps they could find a solution.

My father tried, to no avail, for J knew that he worked in a college. But J did not know that my mother was earlier a teacher. She enticed him by reading with him the storybooks she had bought for me and doing so only in the kitchen. We both read the same stories and he then discussed them with my mother, whom he seemed to like. His parents visited us every week to see J, but my mother requested them never to mention books or stud-

ies. We had a great time together and I missed J's companionship when his mother retrieved him after four months. Some months later, my father took a job in another city, Kolkata, and we moved permanently. I didn't see J for a long time.

When my university days ended, I took a vacation and visited Nagpur, the town where I was born and had lived some years. I was a guest in an elderly lawyer's home when a handsome young man, a lawyer, visited

him. My host introduced him as the star of the local bar. The man turned to me and said, "Don't you recognize me?" It was J.

We had a very pleasant conversation. He asked about my parents, especially my mother, and said he could or would never have tackled the huge lawbooks without the patient and loving instruction from my mother. My host thought highly of him and said that I was talking to a man destined to be a future judge of the High Court, just like his deceased father.

Years later, I went abroad and worked for an international organization in Washington. When the opportunity arose to work on a project in India for a couple of years, I took it. I lived in New Delhi near the Lodhi Garden and often went there for a walk.

A curious sight caught my attention one Sunday. A fifty-ish was man walking rapidly, followed by a muscular man three yards behind. What was curious was that, as he walked fast, the man behind walked fast too; when he slowed, perhaps because he was tired, the other man slowed too. Intrigued, I watched as they came near. Then a strange thing happened. As the man was about to pass me, an involuntary exclamation sprang from my lips, "J!"

It was indeed J, as debonair as before. I had no clue how I had recognized him after twenty-five years. We were both delighted and had an animated conversation. He asked what I

was doing in Delhi, since he had heard that I was abroad; I explained my temporary project. I asked then what he was doing in Delhi, since I had heard he had become a High Court judge in his hometown. He said he was now a Supreme Court judge and rued that he couldn't go anywhere without being followed by a security guard.

The conversation ended with his invitation to come to his home for dinner the following Saturday. It was a cheerful party. When the guests left and his wife went to the kitchen, we had the chance to talk about the intervening years. I mentioned the special months his father left him in our home and we got to know each other.

For me, the climax came at the end when he said, "There is something on my mind that I must share with you."

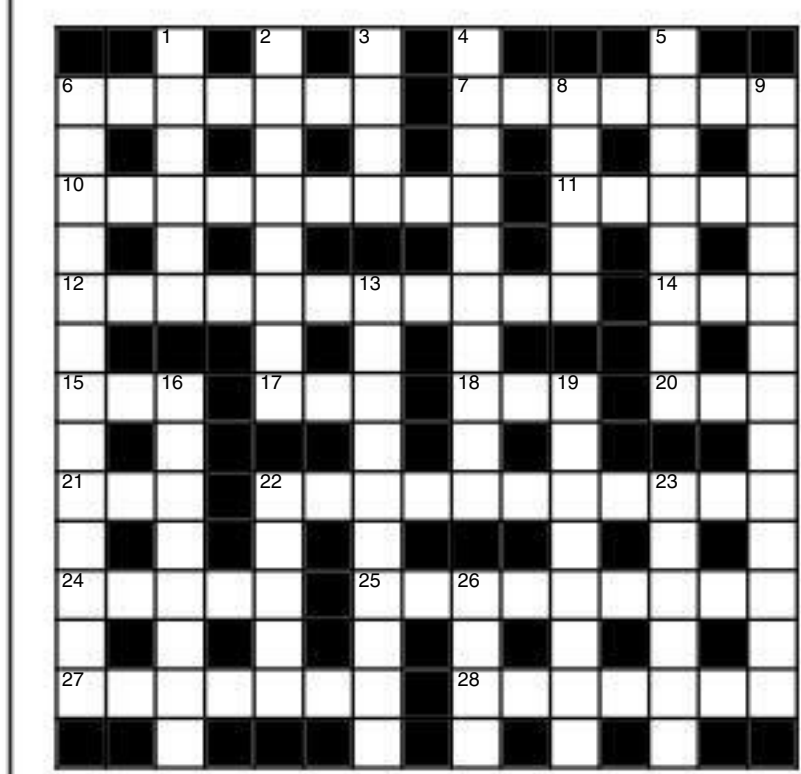
He paused and said, "You saw my young son. He is nine, apparently a quiet boy, but his teachers think of him as a menace. His school has thrown him out for repeated violation of class discipline. I got him a private tutor last month, but yesterday he gave the notice to quit. What do you think I should do?"

He looked expectantly at my face. I was speechless, for it seemed history was repeating itself.

(The writer is a US-based international development advisor and had worked with the World Bank. He can be reached at mnandy@gmail.com)

CROSSWORD

NO-292536



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

ACROSS

- 6 On returning, well off, embracing wife in city (7)
- 7 Wind, fair, beginning to end, near ground (7)
- 10 Reserve surprisingly nice tree, cheap initially (9)
- 11 Some serenade leading singer (5)
- 12 At work use one lorry in wrong way (11)
- 14 Son leaving girl to become fighter (3)

DOWN

- 1 Author, one making correction, by sound of it (6)
- 2 One painted a god, icon, in new way (8)
- 3 Avoid clipped military command (4)
- 4 Period, yet to finish, in aroused post-war amusement - dry it's not! (5,5)
- 5 Antagonise using a story in canteen regularly (8)
- 6 Beginners go down these (7,6)
- 8 Money study, ultimately dreary (5)
- 9 Echo men owe him for change in ETA (4,1,4,4)
- 13 Overbearing pop singers must reform (10)
- 16 Hear thieves? Nonsense! (8)
- 19 Convincing Catholic to cut minor weakness (8)
- 22 Mock pronunciation of river (5)
- 23 Radio presenter's shortened act getting the bird (6)
- 26 Change of heart in Helen's place for politician (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



THUMBNAILS

India's real estate sector to grow multifold to about \$6 trillion by 2047, says report: India's real estate sector is expected to expand to \$5.8 trillion by 2047 when the country celebrates its 100th year of independence, according to a report. The current real estate is estimated to be about \$ 477 billion. The report released by real estate consultant Knight Frank India in association with the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) stated this estimated real estate output value will contribute 15.5 per cent to the total economic output in 2047 from existing 7.3 per cent. Private equity investments in the Indian real estate sector have consistently grown over the past two decades. Projections for 2023 indicate that PE investments in Indian real estate are poised to reach \$ 5.6 billion, reflecting a YoY growth of 5.3 per cent.

'Northeast has natural advantage to emerge as hotspot for traditional medicine': Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the Northeastern states have a natural advantage to emerge as a hotspot for traditional medicine, and pledged the Centre's support to achieve it. Speaking at the Regional Review Meeting of Northeastern States on Ayush, he stressed on the need to encourage the use of traditional medicines and practices in the region. "The idea behind this meet is mainly to integrate the Northeast states and get their commitment for the promotion of Ayush in the region," he said.

Surgical robot for advanced medical treatment: One of the leading healthcare service providers - CK Birla group, has collaborated with 'Intuitive India' to launch the state-of-the-art latest da Vinci Surgical Robot. The debut of the Fourth Gen da Vinci Surgical Robot, renowned as one of the most advanced medical technologies in India, to enhancing patient care by providing them with access to cutting-edge healthcare solutions. With this MOU, the CK Birla Hospital® is ready to usher in a new age of surgical excellence and patient-centered care.

Centre imposes conditional curbs on Basmati rice export

APEDA told that contracts for basmati exports with the value of \$1200 per MT only and above should be registered for issue of RCAC

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

The Central government has issued fresh instructions to the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to introduce additional safeguards to prevent the possible illegal exports of white non-basmati rice in the form of basmati rice.

APEDA has been told that contracts for basmati exports with the value of \$1200 per MT only and above should be registered for issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificate (RCAC).

Contracts with the value of below \$1200 per MT may be kept in abeyance and evaluated by a committee to be set up by the Chairman, APEDA, for understanding the variation in prices and the use of this route for export of

non-basmati white rice, a press note today said.

The press note said it has been noted that there has been large variation in the contract price of basmati being exported with lowest contract price being \$359 Per MT in the backdrop of average export price of \$1214 per MT during the current month.

The committee should submit its report within a period of one month, after which a decision on lower price exports of basmati planned by industry can be taken appropriately.

"APEDA should hold consultations with trade to sensitise it about the matter and work with it to discourage any use of this window for export of non-basmati white rice," the press note said.

To check the domestic prices and to ensure domestic food security, the Gov-



ernment has been taking measures to restrict export of rice from India. The export of non-basmati white rice was prohibited on 20 July.

It has been noticed that despite restrictions on certain varieties, rice exports have been high during the

current year. Up to 17 August, total exports of rice (other than broken rice, export of which is prohibited) were 7.33 MMT compared to 6.37 MMT during the corresponding period of previous year, registering an increase of 15.06 per cent. There has been a

spurt in the export of par-boiled rice and basmati rice; both of these varieties did not have any restriction on exports.

While the export of par-boiled rice has grown by 21.18 per cent (3.29 MMT during the current year compared to 2.72 MMT during previous year), the export of basmati rice has increased by 9.35 per cent (1.86 MMT during the current year compared to 1.70 MMT during previous year). The export of non-basmati white rice, which had an export duty of 20 per cent since 9 September 2022 and has been prohibited w.e.f. 20 July 2023, has also registered an increase of 4.36% (1.97 MMT compared to 1.89 MMT during previous year).

On the other hand, as per third Advance Estimate of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, during the

Rabi Season 2022-23, the production was only 158.95 LMT against 184.71 LMT during Rabi Season of 2021-22 i.e., there was a decline of 13.84 per cent.

Internationally, due to strong demand from Asian buyers, production disruptions registered in 2022/23 in some major producing countries like Thailand, and fears of possible adverse effects of the onset of El Nino, international rice prices have also been rising continuously since last year.

The government has received credible field reports regarding misclassification and illegal export of non-basmati white rice, export of which has been prohibited with effect from 20th July 2023. It has been reported that non-basmati white rice is being exported under the HS codes of parboiled rice and basmati rice.

Revamped website of IT dept launched

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

In order to enhance taxpayers' experience and keep pace with new technology, the Income Tax Department has revamped its website with a user-friendly interface, value-added features, and new modules.

The newly revamped website, www.incometaxindia.gov.in, was launched by Nitin Gupta, Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

The website serves as a comprehensive repository of tax and other related information. It provides access to Direct Tax laws, several other Allied Acts, Rules, Income Tax Circulars, and Notifications, all cross-referenced and hyperlinked.

The site also offers a 'Taxpayer Services Module' featuring various tax tools to assist taxpayers in filing their income tax returns. Also, the revamped website has been redesigned with a mobile-responsive layout.

PM Modi pitches for 'Int'l Consumer Care Day' for strengthening trust between businesses, consumers

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while underlining that a profitable market can be sustained when there is a balance in the interests of producers and consumers, on Sunday suggested for a 'International Consumer Care Day'.

He also said that treating other countries only as a market will not work.

"A profitable market can be sustained where there is a balance in the interest of producers and consumers. This also applied to nations, treating other countries only as a market will never work. It will even harm the producing countries sooner or later," Modi said while addressing the B20 Summit India 2023 here.

He said, "Making everyone equal partners in the progress in the way forward. There are many global business leaders here, can we all give more thought on how to make business more consumer-centric. These consumers could be individuals or countries, their interest need to be taken care of as well." Can we think of a



yearly campaign for this? Every year, can global business leaders come together to dedicate themselves for the good of the consumers and their markets. We talk about consumer rights. The Consumer Rights Day is also celebrated across the world. Can we take the initiative for consumer care?" Modi asked the business leaders. He further said, "Once we start celebrating the Consumer Care Day, the environment will change with a positive signal. If we talk about the consumer care, then the issues related to rights, will automatically be solved. There-

fore, International Consumer Care Day, I want you all to think on this. This will further strengthen trust between the consumer and the business."

The Prime Minister elaborated that consumers are not confined to retail consumers within a particular geography but also the nations that are consumers of global trade, global goods and services.

Referring to climate change, water security, cyber security, among others, the Prime Minister said, "These all put an impact on business. We have to increase our efforts to tack-

le this." Talking about the challenges of cryptocurrencies, Modi said, "More and more integrated approach is required. For this, a global framework should be made in which all the stakeholders should be taken care of." Mentioning about the Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Prime Minister said, "Today the world is seeing excitement for AI. But, there are some ethical considerations, skilling and re-skilling. We have to unitedly solve this."

"Global business communities and governments together have to ensure that ethical AI gets expand," Modi added. The Prime Minister also said, "As a business, we also have to focus on creating an ecosystem that will benefit us in the long term. Now, due to the policies implemented by India in the past few years, 13.5 crore people have come out of poverty in just 5 years. These people are the new consumers."

"This new middle class is also giving momentum to India's growth. That is, the net beneficiary of the work done by the government for the poor is our middle class as well as our MSMEs," Modi said.

Expiry week could lead to some selling pressure

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

It was an eventful week at the markets which kept people glued to their seats as to which way they would move. Till Friday, they were positive for the week and then just gave way ending with small losses for the week. However, at the end of the week they have given enough indicators that going forward, markets could weaken further.

Markets gained on two of the five trading sessions, lost on two and remained flat on the fifth, showing how even-stevens things were. BSESENSEX lost 62.15 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 64,886.51 points while NIFTY lost 44.35 points or 0.23 per cent to close at 19,265.80 points. The broader markets saw BSE100, BSE200 and BSE500 gain 0.11 per cent, 0.22 per cent and 0.40 per cent. BSE MIDCAP was up 1.50 per cent and BSE SMALLCAP was up 2.19 per cent.

Indian Rupee recovered from the previous week's losses and gained 45 paise or 0.54 per cent to close at Rs 82.65. Dow Jones gained on two of the five trading sessions and lost on the remaining three. It was down 153.76 points or 0.45 per cent to close at 34,346.90 points. The US FED Chairman has in a meeting held on Friday indicated that there could be further rate hikes as inflation continues to remain high. This could be a cause for worry in US markets as well as globally.

In India too, RBI is cautioning on inflation and that they would do whatever is required to keep it under check.

Primary market saw a lot of action. We had one issue open and close for subscription, while yet another opened and would close next week. We also saw one issue have its roadshow and would open next week. We also had one issue list on the bourses.

The issue from Aeroflex Industries Limited saw its issue getting subscribed 97.78 times. The QIB portion was subscribed 190.97 times, HNI por-



tion 129.56 times and Retail portion 35.28 times. There were 27.64 lakh applications. The issue was open between Tuesday (August 24) and Thursday (August 26) and the price band was Rs 102-108.

The second issue is from Vishnu Prakash R Punglia which opened on Thursday (August 24) and would close on Monday (August 28). The issue is for 3.12 crore shares and the price band is Rs 94-99. The company is an infrastructure company involved in water projects, Railway projects, Road projects and Irrigation network projects. The company generates close to 85 per cent of its revenues from water supply projects which are executed for state governments, local municipal bodies, Ste PWD bodies and many more. They are integrated players doing EPC (engineering, procurement and construction).

The company reported revenues of Rs 1,171.46 crore for the year ended March 23 and a profit after tax of Rs 90.64 crore. The EPS on a fully diluted basis is Rs 10.41 and the PE band is very attractive 9.03-9.57. The company has a robust order book of over Rs 3,800 crore which would be executed in about 24-30 months. The issue is very attractively valued and offers scope for appreciation. At the end of the 2nd day of subscription, the issue was over-subscribed 10.63 times with QIB subscribed 0.35 times, HNI subscribed 19.39 times and Retail subscribed 12.89 times.

There are 7.61 lakh applications in all.

The issue from TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited which had issued shares at Rs 197 listed on Wednesday (August 23). The issue had received a tepid response during subscription. The share closed day one at Rs 200.95, a gain of Rs 3.95 or 2.00 per cent. It slipped during the balance of the week but still managed to close with minuscule gains at Rs 197.05.

The issue from Rishabh Instruments Limited opens on Wednesday (August 30) and closes on Friday (September 1). The issue consists of a fresh issue of Rs 75 crore and an offer for sale of 94.58 lakh shares in a price band of Rs 148-441.

The company is a global energy efficiency solution company focused on electrical automation, metering and measurement, precision engineered products, et al. with diverse applications across industries including power, automotive and industrial sectors. They supply a wide range of electrical measurement and process optimisation equipment, and are engaged in designing, developing and manufacturing, and sale of devices significantly under their own brand across several sectors. They provide comprehensive solutions to customers looking for cost-effective ways to measure, control, record, analyse and optimise energy and processes through the array of products.

IndianOil ropes in chef Sanjeev Kapoor as brand ambassador

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, 27 AUGUST

IndianOil has announced it is tying up with renowned celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor as the brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.

The announcement was made at the Indane XtraTej Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru, described as a confluence of culinary excellence and industry insights.

The event witnessed the unveiling of the new XTRATEJ TV commercial featuring Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, who commended IndianOil's commitment to culinary innovation and efficiency. Mr Kapoor praised the company's dedication to creating



a cost-efficient solution that conserves LPG while enhancing business operations, thereby meeting evolving customer expectations.

Mr. Satish Kumar, Director (Marketing), IndianOil, revealed the brand-new video commercial for the Indane

XTRATEJ LPG brand in the presence of Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor, Mr. K Sailendra, Executive Director (LPG)-HO, Mr. P Gur Prasad, Executive Director and State

Head of IndianOil in Karnataka, and Mr. Sandeep Sharma, Executive Director

(Corporate Communications & Branding), HO.

Mr. K Sailendra, Executive Director (LPG) in his address, highlighted the substantial efforts invested by the R&D team to craft an additive for LPG, resulting in the birth of the innovative product, XTRATEJ. The product's initial trial took place in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and since then, IndianOil has observed significant year-on-year growth in market volume.

Mr. Sailendra emphasized the forthcoming launch of a high-pressure variable regulator and a commercial LPG Hose, which are currently awaiting approval from LERC, underscoring IndianOil's commitment to supporting hoteliers and

caterers.

Sanjeev Kapoor emphasized how the landscape of cooking has transformed. He praised IndianOil's unwavering dedication to customer efficiency, underscoring how the hospitality industry now benefits from innovations like XtraTej that enhance business operations. Kapoor applauded IndianOil for providing a cost-efficient solution that conserves LPG, essential in an era where customer expectations continue to evolve rapidly. Kapoor said he was honoured in endorsing a brand as impactful as Indane XTRATEJ and extended his commendation to IndianOil for its commitment to culinary excellence.

Not just tomatoes: Wider range of food items drive 7%-plus inflation

AGENCIES NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Staples like cereals and pulses are unlikely to offer relief in the near term amid hardening international prices and subdued sowing domestically.

This raises the likelihood of inflation remaining above 7 per cent in August, said a research report by broking firm, Prabhudas Lilladher.

In July, India witnessed a surge in CPI inflation, reaching a 15-month peak at 7.44 per cent, a significant jump from June's 4.81 per cent. This reveals two primary insights for July's inflation narrative: Firstly, the primary driver of this inflation spike was food prices.

Secondly, the inflation isn't solely attributed to vegetables,

especially tomatoes. Instead, a wider range of food items, including cereals, pulses, and spices, have contributed to the price pressures.

Climate risks of irregular weather and rainfall patterns along with a pick-up in global food inflation resulted in domestic food prices presenting an absolute shocker in July 2023, the report said.

"El Nino can turn out to be a potential potboiler for food inflation in coming months. We have seen sharp increase in food inflation in last two months mainly due to damage to a few crops and unseasonal weather pattern," the report said.

The sowing of pulses is down by 9.2 per cent, while that of oilseeds is lower by 1.7 per cent. It is likely to impact the production of moong,

toor, urad and spices." Dry climate in the coming couple of months can impact height, density and yields of pulses in a major way as their cultivation is done more in the rain-fed areas. We note that prices of some of the spices are on the boil and don't rule out higher prices of pulses and oilseeds," the report said.

"We believe high inflation can be a political hot potato in an election year, forcing govt to slow down capex," it added.

In August, the monsoon has fallen significantly short of the long-term average, registering a deficit of 30 per cent, Motilal Oswal Financial Services said in a report.



cent surplus due to a wet July, the monsoon took a downturn in August, with an overall deficit of 7 per cent as on August 20, the report said.

While the Northwest (6 per cent above normal) has received above normal rainfall, Central India (2 per cent below normal), South Peninsula (13 per cent below nor-

mal) and Eastern and Northeastern regions have witnessed deficient rainfall patterns (20 per cent below normal).

El Nino has strengthened from a "weak" to a "moderate" state and the latest update from the US weather agencies said there is a 66 per cent chance of it developing into

a strong event later this year. Kharif sowing as of August 18 stands at 0.1 per cent higher than last year. The area under paddy cultivation is now 4.3 per cent higher than last year. However, the area under pulses is still 9.2 per cent lower than last year. Production of jute, cotton, and oilseeds is also lower.

Coarse cereals (1.6 per cent YoY) and sugarcane (1.3 per cent YoY) continue to do well, the report said.

Lower irrigation cover across the major states could have a more pronounced impact on the production of pulses. Inflation in pulses has nearly doubled in the past five months. Deficient rainfall, and consequently lower rice and pulses sowing, has pushed prices higher. Rice constituents around 4.4 per cent and

pulses have a weight of 6 per cent in the overall CPI basket.

The extent of the jump in food inflation and other upside risks to inflation can compel the RBI to go in for at least a symbolic rate hike to anchor inflationary expectations, said Sujan Hajra, Chief Economist and Executive Director, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers. This is even more likely because the RBI views inflation as primarily a monetary phenomenon requiring monetary policy action to control it, irrespective of whether it is supply or demand sided. These have adverse implications for the financial markets, Hajra said.

The case for a rate cut in the next 12 months seems to have vanished with adverse consequences for the financial markets, including debt

and equity.

Apart from high food inflation, the sharp jump in global crude oil and grain prices are serious concerns. While edible oil inflation is currently extremely benign, the global El Nino effect can change the situation. Progressive softening of core inflation is a silver lining. At 7.4 per cent in July, India recorded the highest inflation in the last 15 months. On an annualised basis, food inflation jumped nearly 70 per cent and fuel more than 20 per cent, resulting in an over 50 per cent jump in non-core inflation. The silver lining included the year on year fall in fuel and core inflation, Hajra added.

The year-on-year food inflation jumped from 4.7 per cent in June to 10.6 per cent in July.





We are living in this world in which we could expect to have more and maybe bigger supply shocks

PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS
CHIEF ECONOMIST AT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

WEATHER

CITY	MAX(°C)	MIN(°C)
SINGAPORE	30	26 R
HONG KONG	31	27 R
TOKYO	35	26 H
LONDON	21	11 H
DUBAI	42	31 S
SAN FRANCISCO	23	14 H
NEW YORK	24	20 H
MOSCOW	21	09 H

S= sunny, CL= clear, H=hazy, R= rainy...

Bare electrical wire and leaning poles on Maui were possible cause of deadly fires



HAWAII, 27 AUGUST

In the first moments of the Maui fires, when high winds brought down power poles, slapping electrified wires to the dry grass below, there was a reason the flames erupted all at once in long, neat rows—those wires were bare, uninsulated metal that could spark on contact.

Videos and images analyzed by The Associated Press confirmed those wires were among miles of line that Hawaiian Electric Co. left naked to the weather and often-thick foliage, despite a recent push by utilities in other wildfire- and hurricane-prone areas to cover up their lines or bury them.

Compounding the problem is that many of the utility's 60,000, mostly wooden power poles, which its own documents described as built to "an obsolete 1960s standard," were leaning and near the end of their projected lifespan. They were nowhere close to meeting a 2002 national standard that key components of Hawaii's electrical grid be able to withstand 105 mile per hour winds.

A 2019 filing said it had fallen behind in replacing the old wooden poles because of other priorities and warned of a "serious public hazard" if they "failed."

UK MP for inquiry into study under which Indian-origin women were fed 'radioactive chapatis'

AGENCIES
LONDON, 27 AUGUST

A UK MP has demanded an inquiry into a 1969 medical study on iron absorption under which 21 Indian-origin women, many of them pregnant, were fed chapatis containing radioactive isotopes in a city in central England.

Taiwo Owatemi, Labour MP for Coventry North West, said this week that she would be calling for a parliamentary debate on the issue in September, followed by "a full statutory inquiry".

"I am appalled and concerned about the information shared regarding the 1969 'Chapati' study using South Asian women from Coventry. My foremost concern is for the women and the families of those who were experimented on in this study," Owatemi said in a statement.



Under a nutrition experiment funded by Britain's Medical Research Council (MRC) in 1969, chapatis containing Iron-59 (an iron isotope with a gamma-beta emitter) were delivered every morning to the women who were then recent immigrants in Coventry.

Most of them were from Punjab and Gujarat, and

spoke very little English, local media reports said.

According to Owatemi, a researcher from University of Warwick seeking to identify these women, told her that neither their consent was sought nor any proper information was given to them at the time they took part in the experiment.

"This is horrifying, and I

am deeply disturbed that a community here in Coventry was targeted for research without them being able to give informed consent," she said.

The researchers conducted the study after they suspected that South Asian diets were to blame for widespread iron deficiency in these women.

These women were then taken to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment in Oxfordshire where their radiation levels were measured after consuming chapatis.

An inquiry report was commissioned in 1998 in response to a 1995 Channel 4 documentary, which raised concerns about participants, including pregnant women, being able to consent to the experiments, the BBC reported.

"A serious attempt was made to inform study par-

ticipants effectively. (However) it is possible that, despite the best intentions of the research team, full details of the study were not grasped by the women involved," the inquiry report had stated.

It was reported in 1995 that about 21 women were involved in the experiment conducted by Prof Peter Elwood from Cardiff University and funded by the MRC.

"I am equally appalled that it seems no follow up morbidity study was performed by Dr Elwood on the participants of the research to look at the long-term medical effects on the women," the Labour MP said.

In an online statement posted on Wednesday, the MRC said it remained committed to the highest standards, including "commitment to engagement, openness and transparency".

Women working in Antarctica say they were left to fend for themselves against sexual harassers

AGENCIES
CHRISTCHURCH, 27 AUGUST

The howling winds and perpetual darkness of the Antarctic winter were easing to a frozen spring when mechanic Liz Monahon at McMurdo Station grabbed a hammer.

If those in charge weren't going to protect her from the man she feared would kill her, she figured, she needed to protect herself. It wasn't like she could escape. They were all stuck there together on the ice.

So she kept the hammer with her at all times, either looped into her Carhartt overalls or tucked into her sports bra.

"If he came anywhere near me, I was going to start swinging at him," Monahon says. "I decided that I was going to

survive."

Monahon, 35, is one of many women who say the isolated environment and macho culture at the United States research center in Antarctica have allowed sexual harassment and assault to flourish.

The National Science Foundation, the federal agency that oversees the U.S. Antarctic Program, published a report in 2022 in which 59% of women said they'd experienced harassment or assault while on the ice, and 72% of women said such behavior was a problem in Antarctica.

But the problem goes beyond the harassment, The Associated Press found. In reviewing court records and internal communications, and in interviews with more than a dozen current and for-

mer employees, the AP uncovered a pattern of women who said their claims of harassment or assault were minimized by their employers, often leading to them or others being put in further danger.

In one case, a woman who reported a colleague had groped her was made to work alongside him again. In another, a woman who told her employer she was sexually assaulted was later fired. Another woman said that bosses at the base downgraded her allegations from rape to harassment. The AP generally does not identify those who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they publicly identify themselves.

The complaints of violence did not stop with the NSF report. Five months after its



release, a woman at McMurdo told a deputy U.S. marshal that colleague Stephen Bieneman pinned her down and put his shin over her throat for about a minute while she desperately tried to communicate she couldn't breathe. Bieneman pleaded not

guilty to misdemeanor assault. He was fired and sent back to the U.S., court documents show, and his trial is scheduled for November. His lawyer, Birney Bervar, said in an email to the AP that it was "horseplay" initiated by the woman and the evidence didn't sup-

port "an assault of the nature and degree she described."

The NSF report triggered a Congressional investigation. In a written response to Congress that is contradicted by its own emails, Leidos, the prime contractor, said it received "zero allegations" of sexual assault in Antarctica during the five years ending April 2022.

Kathleen Naeh, the chief operating officer of the civil group at Leidos, told a congressional committee in December that they would install peepholes on dorm room doors, limit access to master keys that could open multiple bedrooms, and give teams in the field an extra satellite phone.

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Calif., said the proposed fixes left him

flabbergasted.

"This should have been done before we sent anyone down to Antarctica," he said at the hearing.

Monahon and all but one of the workers quoted in this story are speaking publicly for the first time. Trapped in one of the most remote spots on Earth, the women say they were largely forced to fend for themselves.

"No one was there to save me but me," Monahon says. "And that was the thing that was so terrifying."

Monahon believes she only escaped physical harm in Antarctica because of her colleagues, not management.

She met Zak Buckingham in 2021 at a hotel in Christchurch, New Zealand, where McMurdo workers

were quarantining against COVID-19 before going to Antarctica. It would be Monahon's second stint in Antarctica, a place that had fascinated her since her childhood half a world away in upstate New York. At the hotel, Monahon says, male colleagues bothering her and a friend backed off when Buckingham—a plumber and amateur boxer from Auckland, New Zealand—sat with them.

Buckingham, now 36, was intimidating and a bit wild, but funny and charming. One night, Monahon says, she and Buckingham hooked up.

What Monahon didn't know was that Buckingham had a history of what a judge described as alcohol-related criminal offending in New Zealand.

Wagner leader Prigozhin confirmed dead in crash: Russia

"All 10 bodies recovered identified, findings conform to the manifest of the plane"

AGENCIES
MOSCOW, 27 AUGUST

Russia's Investigative Committee said Sunday that it confirmed that Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder and head of the mercenary force Wagner who led a short-lived armed rebellion against Russia's military, was killed in a plane crash.

Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Petrenko said in a statement that forensic and genetic testing identified all 10 bodies recovered at the site of Wednesday's crash and the findings "conform to the manifest" of the plane. The statement didn't offer any details about what might have caused the crash.

Russia's civil aviation authority earlier this week said Prigozhin, 62, and some of his top lieutenants were on the list of the passengers and crew members on board the



plane. All seven passengers and three crew died when the plane plummeted from the sky halfway between Moscow and St. Petersburg, Prigozhin's hometown. Two months ago, Prigozhin mounted a day-long mutiny against Russia's military, leading his mercenaries from Ukraine toward Moscow. President Vladimir Putin decried the act as "treason" and vowed punishment for those involved.

Instead, the Kremlin quickly cut a deal with Prigozhin to end the armed revolt, saying he would be allowed to walk free without facing any charges and to resettle in Belarus. Questions have remained, however, about whether Prigozhin eventually would face a comeuppance for the

brief uprising that posed the biggest challenge to Putin's authority of his 23-year rule.

A preliminary U.S. intelligence assessment concluded that an intentional explosion caused the plane to go down. As suspicions grew that the Russian president was the architect of an assassination, the Kremlin rejected them as a "complete lie."

Prigozhin's second-in-command, Dmitry Utkin, as well as Wagner logistics mastermind Valery Chekalov, also were killed in the crash. Utkin was long believed to have founded Wagner and baptized the group with his nom de guerre.

The fate of Wagner, which until recently played a prominent role in Russia's military campaign in Ukraine and was involved in a number of African and Middle Eastern countries, has remained uncertain. After the mutiny, the Kremlin said Prigozhin would be exiled in Belarus, and his fighters were offered three options: to follow him there, retire or enlist in Russia's regular army and return to Ukraine, where Wagner mercenaries had fought alongside Russian troops. Several thousand Wagner mercenaries opted to move to Belarus, where a camp was erected for them southeast of the capital, Minsk.

White shooter kills three Black people in Florida hate crime as Washington celebrates King's dream

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 27 AUGUST

A masked white man carrying at least one weapon bearing a swastika fatally shot three Black people inside a Florida store Saturday in an attack with a clear motive of racial hatred, officials said.

The shooting in a Dollar General store in a predominantly, neighborhood left two men and one woman dead and was "racially motivated," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters said. In addition to carrying a firearm with a painted symbol of the genocidal Nazi regime of Germany of the 1930s and 1940s, the shooter issued racist statements before the shooting. He killed himself at the scene. "He hated Black people," the sheriff said.

The shooting came on the same day thousands visited Washington, D.C., to attend the Rev. Al Sharpton's 60th anniversary commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for

Jobs and Freedom, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Rudolph McKissick, a national board member of Sharpton's National Action Network, was not in Washington, D.C., on Saturday. Yet his thoughts on the shooting touched on issues raised by the civil rights leader.

"The irony is on the day we celebrate the 60th commemoration of the March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King stood up and talked about a dream for racial equality and for love, we still yet live in a country where that dream is not a reality," McKissick said. "That dream has now been replaced by bigotry."

The gunman, who was in his 20s, wore a bullet-resistant vest and used a Glock handgun and an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. He acted alone and there was no evidence he was part of a group, Waters said.

Ukraine investigates incident that killed three pilots while Russia attacks with cruise missiles

AGENCIES
KYIV, 27 AUGUST

Ukrainian authorities have launched an investigation after a mid-air collision between two warplanes in the west of the country killed three pilots.

Ukraine's air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat told Ukrainian television on Sunday it wasn't immediately clear how long the probe would take.

According to the air force's Telegram page, two L-39 training military aircraft collided on Friday during a combat mission over Ukraine's western Zhytomyr region. Three pilots were killed, including Andriy Pilshchikov, a well-known pilot with the nickname "Juice" who was an outspoken advocate for Ukraine getting F-16 fighter jets.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his nightly



address on Saturday paid tribute to Pilshchikov, describing him as a "Ukrainian officer, one of those who helped our country a lot." Ukraine's Vasilkiv tactical aviation brigade on Sunday identified the other two pilots killed in the collision as Viacheslav Minka and Serhiy Prokazkin.

Russian forces, in the meantime, targeted central

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement Sunday that it targeted—and successfully hit—an airfield in the Kyiv region. Ukrainian officials did not immediately comment on the claim.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry reported bringing down two drones over the Bryansk and Kursk regions that border Ukraine. The drones, the ministry said, were launched by "the Kyiv regime" in "yet another attempt at terrorist attacks" on Russian soil.

Kursk Gov. Roman Starovoit, however, reported that a drone slammed into a multistory residential building in the region's namesake capital. It wasn't immediately clear if it crashed after being shot down by air defenses, like the Defense Ministry reported, or was targeting the building. Starovoit said no one was hurt, but a number of windows were shattered.

Ramaswamy faces curiosity and skepticism in Iowa after centre-stage performance in GOP debate

AGENCIES
PELLA, 27 AUGUST

Vivek Ramaswamy has charged back into Iowa, stoking curiosity and skepticism after his attention-grabbing performance in the first Republican presidential debate.

The charismatic 38-year-old businessman was met Friday by hundreds of GOP activists in small central cities near Des Moines, with more events planned in the coming days.

He is drawing new interest from Republicans who will participate in the nation's first caucuses next year, but also apprehension from attendees at his events and pointed criticism from a former GOP governor. Much of the negative feedback is about his foreign policy ideas, notably his argument that the U.S. should stop providing arms and funding to Ukraine as it fights Russia's



invasion.

"I like that he's young and energetic, and wants to tear the whole thing down," said Thomas Bean, a 23-year-old who attended a morning event south of Des Moines. He was referring to Ramaswamy's goal of reducing the federal bureaucracy by 75 percent.

"I like what he's proposing. They're not status quo," said Bean, a public relations professional. "I just don't know how much of what he's proposing is realistic."

Like Bean, several people who came to see Ramaswamy cited his youth, energy and out-

sider profile—punctuated by his criticism of and by better-known rivals Wednesday in Milwaukee. He drew larger than expected audiences on Friday, first to the Indianola breakfast restaurant and later a lunchtime event at a Pella brew pub.

Ramaswamy introduced himself as the son of poor Indian immigrants. But he spent most of his time speaking for what he describes as a frustrated generation seeking meaning in a nation that he says has lost its patriotism. The Ohio businessman has a background in investing and biotechnology.

"So what does it mean to be American? It means we believe in the ideals that set this nation into motion 250 years ago," Ramaswamy said, drawing applause. "That you get ahead in this country, not on the color of your skin, but on the content of your character and your contributions."



Mongolia has a great religious tradition that I will have the honor to know especially in the context of an inter-religious event during the trip on 3 Sept.

POPE FRANCIS DESCRIBING HIS VISIT LATER THIS WEEK TO MONGOLIA

N Korea to allow its citizens abroad to return home

Those returning to the nation will be put in quarantine for a week for 'proper medical observation'

ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL, 27 AUGUST

North Korea said Sunday it will allow its citizens staying abroad to return home in line with easing pandemic situations worldwide...



and Russia, because of the pandemic. The workers are a key source of foreign income for the country.

North Korea banned tourists, jettied out diplomats and severely curtailed border traffic and trade after the pandemic began.

insecurity.

Earlier this month, South Korea's spy agency said North Korea was preparing to further reopen its borders gradually in a bid to revive its economy.

On Tuesday, a North Korean commercial jet landed in Beijing in what was the North's first such commercial international flight known to leave

the country in about 3 1/2 years. The plane returned from Beijing later in the day, but it wasn't known who was aboard it.

Earlier in August, a group of North Korean taekwondo athletes and officials traveled by land to Beijing and then took a flight to Kazakhstan to participate in an international competition.

The group of around 80 men and women wearing white track suits with the North Korean flag on the front were seen in the departure hall of Beijing's international airport.

It was the first time such a big delegation from North Korea made an international trip since the pandemic began.

Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute, said the return of

workers from abroad will mean the loss of a rare source of foreign currency for North Korea, so the government will likely push to send other workers to replace them in China and Russia.

Accepting new North Korean workers would violate a U.N. Security Council resolution that required member states to repatriate all North Korean laborers from their territories by late 2019.

Given that North Korea intends to quarantine returnees for one week, Cheong said it seems unlikely North Korea would resume receiving Chinese and other foreign tourists anytime soon.

He said North Korea is expected to allow foreigners to enter the country next year if the return of its nationals does not cause any coronavirus outbreaks.

3 US Marines killed, 20 injured in an aircraft crash in Australia during a training exercise

ASSOCIATED PRESS CANBERRA, 27 AUGUST

A United States Marine Corps aircraft carrying troops crashed on a north Australian island Sunday, killing three Marines and injuring 20 during a multinational training exercise, officials said.

Three had been confirmed dead on Melville Island and five of the 23 on board were flown in serious condition 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the mainland city of Darwin for hospital treatment after the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft crashed around 9:30 a.m., a statement from the Marines said.

"Recovery efforts are ongoing," the statement said, adding the cause of the crash was under investigation.

A U.S. military official reported to Australian air traffic controllers a "significant fire in the vicinity of the crash site," according to an audio recording of the conversation broadcast by Nine News television.



Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft had been deployed to return from the remote location with the rest of the injured, Northern Territory Police Commissioner Michael Murphy said.

One of the injured was undergoing surgery at the Royal Darwin Hospital, Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles said around six hours after the crash.

"We acknowledge that this is a terrible incident," Fyles said. "The Northern Territory government stands by to offer whatever assistance is required."

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said only Americans were injured in the crash when happened during Exercise Predators Run,

which involves the militaries of the United States, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor.

Around 150 U.S. Marines are currently based in Darwin and up to 2,500 rotate through the city every year. They're part of a realignment of forces in the Asia-Pacific that's broadly meant to face an increasingly assertive China.

The 12-day exercise is scheduled to end Sept. 7. It involves troops on land, in the sea and in the air.

"The initial reports suggest that the incident involves just U.S. defense force personnel," Albanese said. "Our focus as a government and as the department of defense is very much on incident response and on making sure that every support and assistance is given at this difficult time."

The Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but during flight can rotate its propellers forward and cruise much faster like an airplane.

An attack by al Qaeda-allied group in Syria kills, wounds dozens of troops, activists say

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIRUT, 27 AUGUST

Insurgents in northwest Syria attacked an army position Saturday killing and wounding more than 30 troops, opposition activists said.

The attack came days after Russian and Syrian warplanes carried out several airstrikes on the last major rebel stronghold in the northwestern province of Idlib and parts of Aleppo killing several insurgents.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said the Ansar al-Tawhid group, which is allied with al-Qaeda, carried out the attack with its members first detonating a

The attack was carried out first by detonating a massive bomb and then storming the position manned by government troops

massive bomb and then storming the position manned by government troops.

Other activist collectives, including Amjad News, also reported the attack saying it killed and wounded dozens of soldiers without giving a breakdown. There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government or state media.

A truce reached between Russia and Turkey in March

2020 that ended a Russian-backed government offensive on Idlib province has been repeatedly violated resulting in scores of people getting killed and wounded.

Russia has been a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad and joined the war in September 2015 helping tip the balance of power in his favor. Turkey is a main backer of the armed opposition.

Syria's 12-year conflict that started with anti-government protests then morphed into a civil war killed half a million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million. More than 5 million Syrians are now refugees, most in neighboring countries.

Zimbabwe's Opp alleges 'gigantic fraud' in vote that extends ZANU-PF's 43-yr rule

ASSOCIATED PRESS HARARE, 27 AUGUST

Zimbabwe's main opposition leader alleged Sunday there had been "blatant and gigantic fraud" after President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared the winner of another troubled election, with international observers reporting an atmosphere of intimidation against voters.

The results were announced Saturday night, two days earlier than expected. Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa promised to address the country soon as his Citizens Coalition for Change party said it would reject the results as "hastily assembled without proper verification."

"They stole your voice and vote but never your

hope," Chamisa wrote in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, in his first public reaction to the results. "It's a blatant and gigantic fraud."

People in the country of 15 million are bound to view the results with suspicion.

International election observers have noted problems with the election, held Wednesday and Thursday, citing an atmosphere of intimidation against Chamisa's supporters. In the buildup to the vote, international rights groups reported there had been a crackdown on opposition to Mnangagwa and the long-ruling ZANU-PF party, which had used the police and courts to harass and intimidate opposition officials and supporters, the rights groups said.



Before the election, Chamisa alleged in an interview with The Associated Press that his party's rallies had been broken up by police and his supporters had often been intimidated and threatened with violence.

The actual election was also problematic and voting was extended into an extra day Thursday because of a shortage of ballot papers, especially in the capital, Harare, and

other urban areas that are opposition strongholds. People slept at polling stations to make sure they were able to vote.

Mnangagwa's victory meant ZANU-PF retained the governmental leadership it has held for all 43 years of Zimbabwe's history since the nation was re-named following independence from white minority rule in 1980. Mnangagwa, 80, was re-elected for a second and final five-year term with 52.6% of the vote, according to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. Chamisa, 45, who also lost to Mnangagwa in a very close and disputed election five years ago, won 44% of the vote this time, the commission said. ZANU-PF also kept its parliamentary majority.

"This is a very happy occasion indeed," said Ziyambi Ziyambi, an election agent for Mnangagwa and a Cabinet minister. "Zimbabweans have shown confidence in our president and ZANU-PF."

Zimbabwe has a history of disputed and sometimes violent elections in the more than four decades of ZANU-PF rule, most notably under autocratic former president Robert Mugabe, who was leader for 37 years and oversaw a period of economic collapse that gained Zimbabwe international notoriety.

Mugabe's regime also resulted in the United Nations and European Union applying sanctions on Zimbabwe for alleged human rights abuses. Those sanctions are largely still in place.

At Fukushima Daiichi, decommissioning the nuclear plant challenging than water release

ASSOCIATED PRESS FUTABA, 27 AUGUST

For the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, managing the ever-growing volume of radioactive wastewater held in more than 1,000 tanks has been a safety risk and a burden since the meltdown in March 2011. Its release marks a milestone for the decommissioning, which is expected to take decades.

But it's just the beginning of the challenges ahead, such as the removal of the fatally radioactive melted fuel debris that remains in the three damaged reactors, a daunting task if ever accomplished.

Here's a look at what's going on with the plant's

decommissioning: WHAT HAPPENED AT FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI?

A magnitude 9.0 quake on March 11, 2011, triggered a massive tsunami that destroyed the plant's power supply and cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and spew large amounts of radiation. Highly contaminated cooling water applied to the damaged reactors has leaked continuously into building basements and mixed with groundwater. The water is collected and treated. Then, some is recycled as cooling water for melted fuel, while the rest is held in tanks that cover much of the plant.

WHY RELEASE THE WATER? Fukushima Daiichi has struggled to handle the con-



taminated water since the 2011 disaster. The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say the tanks must be removed to make way for facilities needed to decommission the plant, such as storage space for melted fuel debris and other highly contaminated waste.

WILL THE WASTEWATER RELEASE PUSH DECOMMISSIONING FORWARD?

About 880 tons of fatally radioactive melted nuclear fuel remain inside the reactors. Robotic probes have provided some information but the status of the melted debris remains largely unknown.

Earlier this year, a remote-controlled underwater vehicle successfully collected a tiny sample from inside Unit 1's reactor - only a spoonful of the melted fuel debris in the three reactors. That's 10 times the amount of damaged fuel removed at the Three Mile Island cleanup following its 1979 partial core melt.

Trial removal of melted debris using a giant remote-controlled robotic arm will begin in Unit 2 later this year after a nearly two-year delay.

Spent fuel removal from Unit 1 reactor's cooling pool is set to start in 2027 after a 10-year delay. Once all the spent fuel is removed, the focus will turn in 2031 to taking melted debris out of the reactors.

CAN DECOMMISSIONING END BY 2051 AS PLANNED?

The government has stuck to its initial 30-to-40-year target for completing the decommissioning, without defining what that means. An overly ambitious schedule could result in unnecessary radiation exposures for plant workers and excess environmental damage. Some experts say it would be impossible to remove all the melted fuel debris by 2051 and would take 50-100 years, if achieved at all.

Experts and stakeholders blame grey market, IMF as Pak rupee in free fall

DAWN/ANN KARACHI, 27 AUGUST

As the rupee's alarming descent against the US dollar continues unabated, experts and stakeholders point fingers at the powerful grip of the grey market and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) "significant interference" in the country's banking and currency sectors.

Some said it was unprecedented that the IMF had allegedly got deeply involved in the country's financial framework, interacting at granular levels with local exchange companies and banks.

A known currency dealer alleged that this heightened engagement stemmed from the Fund's mistrust towards the government, leading the lender to directly ascertain dollar rates from the banking and open markets.

"The IMF people interact with the exchange companies and bankers in Pakistan at the lowest level, which was never witnessed before," a senior banker said.

Challenging conditions set by the IMF against a recently signed \$3 billion arrangement, which includes maintaining unrestricted imports and a hands-off approach to the exchange

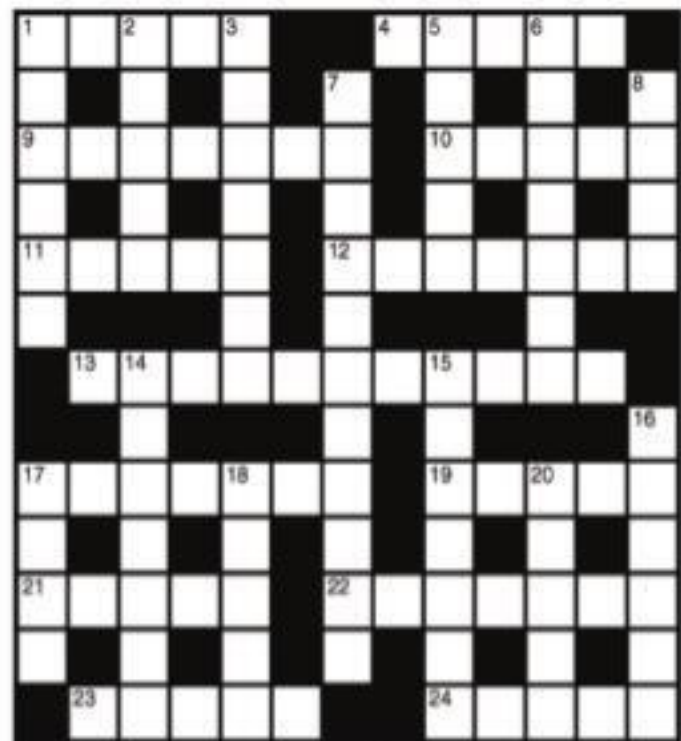
rate, have raised eyebrows. A high-ranking official of a private bank, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the government and State Bank of Pakistan had lost control over the exchange rate.

He described the situation as a "double-edged sword", which he said was detrimental to both the rupee and the broader economy.

Shamshad Akhtar, the interim finance minister, has expressed her willingness to remain within the IMF framework and is reportedly preparing for a crackdown on illegal exchange companies.

LEISURE

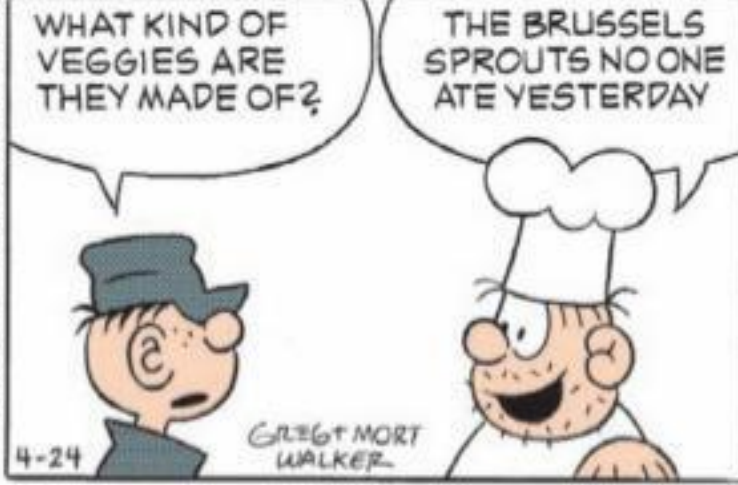
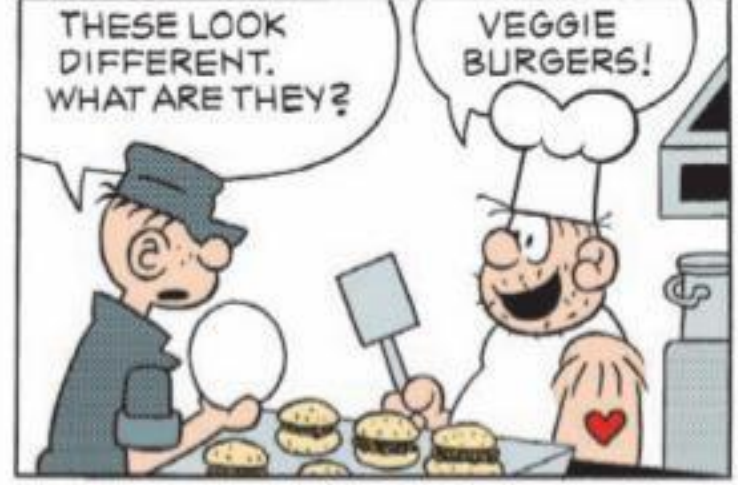
10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS: 1 Group of directors (5), 4 Place in a row (5), 9 Ancient jar (7), 10 Steam bath (5), 11 River mouth feature (5), 12 Inconsistent (7), 13 Vicissitudes (3,3,5), 17 Maybe (7), 19 Distress signal (5), 21 Haughty (5), 22 Ugly sight (7), 23 Bet (5), 24 Small clumps (5). DOWN: 1 Alcoholic drink (6), 2 Dismay (5), 3 Miniature three-dimensional scene (7), 5 Defeated competitor (5), 6 Greedy person (7), 7 Vendor of sewing items (11), 8 Soft mineral (4), 14 Assumed identity (7), 15 Eccentric (7), 16 Short-sided rugby (6), 17 Time signal (Informal) (4), 18 Make confused (5), 20 Supercilious (5).

- SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 12 Hard-hearted, 16 Parous, 18 Score, 20 Rinse, 21 Vulpine, 22 Ape, 23 Mud. DOWN: 7 Urge, 13 Arrange, 14 Result, 15 Legend, 3 Knuckle, 4 Tie-in, 5 Potted, 6 Progressive, 19 Oidium.

BETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



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Is Kukis' honeymoon with Amit Shah over?

YAMBEM LABA

In their bid to prove that they are more 'Indians' than the Meiteis, the Kukis held an Independence Day parade on 15 August somewhere in a 'liberated' zone in Churachandpur, with each marching contingent holding the Tri-colour and dipping it as they marched past the saluting base. Also, one of the contingents was marching brandishing the latest American-made automatic weapons, just as the Special Forces do on the Rajpath on Republic Day in New Delhi. This open public display of firearms by Kuki militants rattled the state government so much that it sought an explanation from the Deputy Commissioner and the SP of Churachandpur District. Kuldip Singh, the security advisor, told reporters that he had sought an explanation from the DC and the SP. Also seen in the post-parade rest hour was a Kuki militant resting his feet on an Indian flag on the ground. Such displays and acts would have evoked a outcry elsewhere in India, but this is Manipur, where the Chief Justice of India said that the Constitution of India does not seem to be prevailing in the state.

When Amit Shah had last visited Manipur, he had apparently told the Assam Rifles to look after the Kukis, which they did, and went overboard to the extent of blocking Manipur Police Commandos from giving chase to fleeing Kuki militants after having killed three Meiteis in the night in Kwakta village. This was the second time they were doing so, and in the process, two police FIRs were registered against the force, which is also India's oldest paramilitary force. Soon the Assam Rifles appeared to be the guardians of the Kukis, with Amit Shah as their archangel. Then the Kukis upped their demand for a separate administration to that of a Kuki state or Union territory. Then they petitioned Amit Shah for the appointment of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police officers



in the proposed Kukland, covering what they termed the Kuki-dominated five districts of Manipur, and also demanded a Rs 500 crore package as compensation for 'war' damages.

But the Kuki dream for a homeland soon turned into a nightmare after Amit Shah's lengthy explanation on the floors of the Indian Parliament in the course of the debate on the no-confidence motion levelled against PM Modi by the Opposition. During the course of his speech, Shah said that the genie of the Manipur imbroglio lay in the fact that the turmoil was caused by illegal infiltrators from across the international borders, meaning Myanmar. This had the various factions or groups of the Kuki civil society organisations up in arms. The Kuki Inpi Manipur has since written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to direct his majordomo Home Minister Amit Shah to seek an apology from the latter. They had also held rallies on 19 August to prove their point. It also unequivocally condemned the alleged "prejudicial and senseless" statements of Amit Shah. He was also accused of deliberately protecting chief minister Biren Singh and deliberately ignoring the crux of the current issue. The KIM thundered: "We strongly demand that the Hon'ble Union Home Minister tender an undue apology to the Kuki people and that his contempt speech

issues such as illegal immigration and Kuki-Chin narco-terrorists, who, in collusion with radical sectarian radical groups, have made an unwarranted aggression on the soil of India in Manipur.

Chief minister Biren also said that he was in touch with the 10 Kuki MLAs who had galvanised the demand for a separate Kuki state and had assured them of full protection and to return to Imphal, and also that he was in touch



be expunged from the records of the Parliament". He was also accused of complicity in the current crisis, and his remarks have added fuel to the fire.

Then came the last meeting of Home Minister Shah, CM Biren, and representatives of the Meitei civil society organisation, the coordinating committee on Manipur's Integrity (CoRCOMI), on 25 August. During the meeting, Shah is said to have assured the delegation that there is no question of granting the Kukis a separate administration, and Shah is said to have given the Centre's firm stand on not allowing any form of illegal immigration into Manipur from Myanmar, and to that effect, measures such as border fencing and biometric readings, including retina scans of all illegal immigrants, are underway. The delegation also met with the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, during which a detailed report was also submitted on

with Meitei Civil Society Organisations not to harm any Kuki MLAs while they visit Imphal and also reiterated that there can be no division of Manipur. The 10 Kuki MLAs were quick to retort, stating that none of them have been in touch with CM Biren since the outbreak of violence on 3 May.

As the stage is being set for the monsoon session of the Manipur Legislative to open on 29 August, the lone minister in the Biren Singh cabinet and prominent leader Nemcha Kipgen have informed the Speaker that she will be unable to attend the session, asking for leave of absence. She had cited security reasons for her inability to attend the session, adding that security professionals have also advised her against visiting Imphal due to the volatile law and order situation prevailing in Imphal. Nemcha Kipgen's husband is also the president of the oldest Kuki rebel group, the Kuki

National Front, and he is also the chairman of the United People's Front, the conglomerate of Kuki groups currently under suspension of operations with the Centre and state.

Likewise, the remaining nine Kuki MLAs have also stated their inability to attend the same session, citing the near-murderous attack on Kuki MLA Vungazin Valte on 4 May. His driver was killed, and he was left for dead but was rescued by security forces and airlifted to Delhi, where he is slowly recovering. Imphal has become a 'valley of death' for the Kuki people, they stated. They also stated that the private houses of ministers Nemcha Kipgen and Letpao Haokip were burned and looted, and how the identities of security forces are stopped and checked on the streets of the valley by the Meira Paibis or Meitei women torch bearers. And they also reiterated their demand for a separate state under the Indian Constitution. And throwing a spanner in the works is the voice raised by the Naga inhabitants of Chandel and Tengnoupal districts that these two districts cannot be part of the proposed Kukiland, which comprises five districts of the state. And as a follow-up to the bid to expel illegal immigrants, the state government is all set to deport 2,500 illegal immigrants back to Myanmar, who are currently staying in five districts of Manipur bordering Myanmar.

On the battle front, three Kuki militants were killed while on duty at their bunker in Thawai Village in Kamjong district on 18 August, and two of their weapons were taken away. The attackers are believed to be members of a Meitei underground group who are highly trained in jungle guerilla warfare, not members of the irregular village volunteer guards of the valley. This attack adds a different dimension to the ongoing Kuki-Meitei war, for it indicates the presence of trained Meitei guerillas in the war theatre who might not be targeting security forces but Kuki militants in a change of objectives.

But all said and done, this little paradise on earth is today turning into a little hell, with prices of essential commodities skyrocketing and even the Deputy Commissioner of districts being stopped en route on the streets and asked to prove their bona fides and their vehicles searched. Nobody still seems to be in charge of the state, and it is the woman patrollers and the many CSOs who seem to be in charge on both sides of the fence, each directing the chief minister as to what steps he should take next, with Manipur a distant thought in Modi and Amit Shah's thoughts. Manipur seems to be heading towards an uncertain future, but different administrations apart, no Kuki IAS or IPS officers are able to attend office these days, citing fear for their safety and security of life. This is on top of the fact that more than 1,200 police personnel are missing from their original postings. At this juncture, caution must be given to the Centre that any move to balkanise Manipur would lead to a bloodbath that would put the India-Pakistan partition to shame, as both sides are equipped with sophisticated weapons and trained at that.

CORRIGENDUM

In the article 'A tripartite stand on Kuki Meitei Crisis' carried in these pages in the issue dated 21 August 2023, Dr. P Lorho, MP from Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, was quoted as having told the media that he was advised by his friends in the BJP not to speak on the burning issue in Manipur during the parliamentary debate on it. He was also quoted as saying that the same thing happened to Dr. R. K. Ranjan Singh, MP from the inner Manipur parliamentary constituency in the Lok Sabha and also the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education.

Dr. Lorho has since clarified to this writer that he was misquoted by the media.

Dr. R. K. Ranjan has also clarified to this writer that being a minister at the Centre, he could not speak independently as the Home Minister Amit Shah was speaking on the issue. However, he stated that he could intervene during the debate and he had to that extent had asked the Speaker of the Lok Sabha for permission to intervene but the permission was not granted.

Any discomfort caused in this matter is deeply regretted.

- Yambem Laba

The writer is a senior Journalist at The Statesman



Asserting nationalism in times of conflict

NAVA THAKURIA

Even though public responses continue to erode, separatist militant outfits in northeast India do not forget to issue boycott calls on Independence Day and Republic Day. Following the decades-long tradition, some banned armed outfits once again imposed a complete shutdown on 15 August across the region (terming it the western part of southeast Asia). The militants asked the north-eastern people to boycott the celebration relating to the 77th Independence Day of India and also avoid saluting the national flag.

But the question that arises is whether this kind of boycott call will have any impact on the 60 million residents of the region. This year itself, millions of north-eastern residents participated in the celebrations with full patriotic fervour, outright defying the rhetorical diktat of militants and raising the Tricolour everywhere. The chief ministers of the north-eastern states took the lead in unfurling the national flag in their respective state capitals and paying homage to the known and unknown martyrs and freedom fighters of India. The government chiefs also highlighted various welfare schemes and future plans for the benefit of the people. Citizens joined in various programmes while observing the sacred day at both the government and community levels.

While Manipur was still burning in ethnic violence that resulted in the killing of over 175 people (injuring 1,000 others), the destruction of many public and private properties, including religious institutions, and the displacement of over 50,000 people (who are taking shelter in more than 500 relief camps), the militants did not forget to issue their diktat. A number of armed groups, namely the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), PREPAK-Pro, Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), and United National Liberation Front (UNLF), boycotted



the I-Day celebrations across the state. They were preceded by the United Liberation Front of Assam (independence) and the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagalim (Yung Aug-led faction) by calling a general strike in five north-eastern states.

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh unfurled the Tricolour in the capital city of Imphal and remembered the supreme sacrifice made by martyrs of the freedom movement against the imperialist British regime. However, the Imphal valley wore a deserted look as only a few people and vehicles stepped out of their residential complexes. Most of the shops in the marketplaces remained closed for the whole day. However, the employees of all government offices across Manipur arrived at their workplaces to join the I-Day celebrations. Significantly, the national flags were seen both in public places and in a limited number of personal buildings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the nation after

unfurling the Tricolour at Red Fort in the national capital on 15 August, asserted that the entire nation was standing with violence-torn Manipur. The saffron leader promised that necessary actions would be taken to resolve various burning issues and that peace would slowly return to the region. Earlier, both houses of the Indian Parliament debated rigorously over the situation in Manipur, which was triggered by various factors like narco-terrorism and illegal infiltration from neighbouring Myanmar, land rights disputes between the majority Meitei people and tribal Kuki groups, etc.

Significantly, a large number of residents from Kuki, Zomi, Mizo, Chin, and Hmar villages came forward to observe I-Day in Churachandpur locality, which is around 60 kilometres away from Imphal. Thousands of rural volunteers, led by a group of women, participated in a ceremonial march-past organised at Lamka public ground. They also publicly reposed faith in the Constitution of India while

saluting the Tricolour. Even the Hmar Students' Association organised a makeshift arrangement for the public screening of some Hindi movies for the first time in more than two decades inside Manipur, which was banned by some separatist militant outfits, terming those as 'foreign films negatively influencing Meitei or Manipuri culture'.

The Hindi movies (precisely the commercial films produced in Mumbai or Bombay) were stopped for public screening in Manipur by various militant outfits, who identify themselves as Manipuris (not Indians). Since September 2000, the theatre halls have avoided screening Bollywood movies as the Revolutionary People's Front, a political wing of the outlawed PLA, dictated to the owners to stop showing such movies. Thousands of Hindi video-audio cassettes and compact discs were also publicly destroyed by the rebels. Even the biopic made on Olympic medalist boxer MC Mary Kom from Manipur

was not allowed to be screened in her home state.

The celebrators of I-Day in Churachandpur openly declared that the Meiteis (meaning armed militant groups based in Imphal) banned Hindi movies in Manipur. On the sacred day, they not only enjoyed the movies, defying the militants, but also played the Indian national anthem before the screening. Thus they directly projected the Meitei-dominated armed groups, specifically Hindus, as anti-Indians and themselves (mostly Christians) as nationalists. Amidst the violent ethnic conflicts between the Meitei language-speaking people and Kuki tribal communities that started on 3 May, their stand signifies a lot for the region. No doubt, they have also pushed a large section of the Meitei population into an unwanted debate on their Indian identities.

The people of Manipur as well as northeast India showed their bravery and patriotism in the freedom movement against the British imperialists. They wholeheartedly joined in the agitation, and most of them supported the Indian National Army (INA, Azad Hind Fouj) led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to form the first provincial government of independent India at Moirang in Manipur, defeating the imperialist forces. The Tricolour was hoisted at Moirang, which is 45 km away from Imphal, on 14 April, 1944, for the first time in a liberated area of India. Even though the occupying forces recaptured the area after some months, it generated new hope and aspiration for the patriotic citizens of the land.

However, there was a time when both the auspicious days (I-Day and R-Day) were greeted with a very low response by the people following the relentless threats by a large number of militant outfits. Public places like markets, business centres, private offices, etc. in the entire region were closed, and no vehicles were spotted on the roads. For many, both days were holidays, and they preferred to stay home to avoid any unwanted (also violent) incidents. But a small group of Assamese journalists and patriotic cit-

izens dared to challenge the militants, and ignoring enormous insecurities, they assembled at the Guwahati Press Club to salute the Tricolour.

They asserted that the sacrifice of Moje Riba, Matmur Jamoh, Kushal Konwar, Tilak Deka, Bhogeswari Phukanani, Kanaklata Barua, Mukunda Kakati, Nidhanu Rajbangshi, Piyali Phukan, Maniram Dewan, Piyali Barua, Kamala Miri, Lerela Boro, Madan Raut, Hemoram Patar, Gunabhi Bordoloi, Thagi Sut, Balaram Sut, Sambhudan Phonglo, Beer Tikendrajit Singh, Paona Brajabashi, Tirot Singh, Shoorvir Pasaltha Khuangchera, Rani

The small but distinctive initiative of those brave individuals slowly attracted more and more like-minded citizens to join in the celebration both at community and government functions. As the ethnic insurgents lost their support bases in the last few decades, their mentors in the mainstream media also disappeared because of aggressive social media outbursts against those self-centred intellectuals. The situation becomes more comfortable slowly, and today the media houses in Guwahati celebrate both auspicious days with utmost conviction to pay tributes to hundreds of thousands of martyrs.

Lately, a group of nationalist citizens started appealing to the north-eastern people to observe both I-Day and R-Day regularly. In a media statement, the Patriotic People's Front Assam urged everyone, irrespective of their religions, ethnic and linguistic divides, and political ideologies, to pay respect to the martyrs by saluting the Tricolour. The forum expected that citizens of Manipur would come forward to honour the tricolour, as it does not belong to the government and political parties in power but to every Indian across the vast land. And barring a few Meitei people, the appeal seemingly attracted the residents of Manipur as they showcased their love and affection for the motherland, which manifested in distinctive ways this time.

The writer is a Guwahati-based Special Representative of The Statesman



'NUMBER 1 ODI RANKING A RESULT OF OUR PERFORMANCES, HARD WORK'

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam believes that his team's ascension to the Number 1 spot in the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings was a result of their hard work and discipline. A 3-0 series sweep over Afghanistan helped Pakistan to the pole position in Men's ODI Team Rankings. They are now marginally ahead of Australia, with 2725 points and 118 rating points. They had won the first ODI by 142 runs at the back of a brilliant bowling display. The second game was a nail-biting thriller, with the Men in Green eking out a one-wicket win in the last over of the game. In the third game, they batted well on a tough wicket to set a commanding total, before regular strikes from their bowlers ensured a 59-run win.



For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Indian women's blind cricket team wins historic gold, beat Australia in IBSA World Games final: The Indian women's blind cricket team on Saturday scripted history as it won a gold medal after defeating Australia in the rain-curtailed final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 on the back of their scintillating show Birmingham. The Indian women's blind cricket team has won everyone's hearts with their spectacular show at the World Games. The Women in Blue remain undefeated, having won all their league games in the tournament. India restricted Australia to 114/8 in the allotted 20 overs and then chased down the revised target of 42 in the fourth over. This was the first final in the World Games and India won the ultimate showdown beating Australia by 9 wickets. Opting to bat first, Australia got off to a poor start as the side lost the first wicket in the 4th over. Feeling the pressure of finals, Australia carried their innings slowly, scoring 29 runs in the Power-play. India picked two wickets in the eighth and ninth over as Australia were left reeling at 39/3. C. However, India came back into the game picking wickets at regular intervals reducing Australia to 109/8. In the end, the team from Down Under was just able to score 114/8 in the allotted 20 overs.

World Athletics C'ships: Men's 4x400m relay team enters final

Indian men's 4x400m relay team breaks Asian record in Budapest, Hungary



AGENCIES
BUDAPEST, 27 AUGUST

Indian men's 4x400m relay team qualified for the final with a new Asian record at the ongoing World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. The Indian team comprising Muhammed Anas, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh clocked 2:59:05 to finish second overall in the heats at Budapest.

The Indian team finished behind the USA in a nine-team heat 1. The USA clocked a time of 2:58.47 and finished first while Great Britain finished third with 2:59.42 to take the final qualifying spot in heat 1.

The Indian men's 4x400m relay team clocked a new Asian record and progressed to the final on Saturday. They broke the Asian record of 2:59.51, set by Japan at the world championships in Oregon last year. The Indian team finished behind the USA in a nine-team

heat 1. The USA clocked a time of 2:58.47 and finished first while Great Britain finished third with 2:59.42 to take the final qualifying spot in heat 1. The first three finishers from each of the two heats and two other teams with the fastest times made the cut for the final.

PM Modi lauds team's success

AGENCIES
BUDAPEST, 27 AUGUST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated athletes Muhammed Anas, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh for qualifying for the final of the men's 4X400 m relay team event at the ongoing World Athletics Championships and setting a new Asian record in the process. Indian men's 4x400m



relay team qualified for the final with a new Asian record at the ongoing World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. "Incredible teamwork at the World Athletics Championships! Anas, Amoj, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammed Ajmal sprinted into the finals, setting a new Asian Record in the M4X400m Relay. This will be remembered as a triumphant comeback, truly historical for Indian athletics," tweeted PM Modi.

Indian men's timing also shattered the national record of 3:00.25, set by Muhammed Anas, Noah Nirmal Tom, Aroka Rajiv and Amoj Jacob at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. In the race, India was sixth after the first leg run by Muhammed Anas but Amoj Jacob's stunning dash in the second leg put India in second place. Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh did well to hold onto the pace in the

final two legs to see India through to the final. The Indian team was also the second-fastest team across both heats. The final is scheduled on Sunday - the last day of the global athletics meet. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra will also be in action in the men's javelin throw final on Sunday alongside compatriots Manu DP and Kishore Jena.



We are well prepared Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier, says captain Mandeep Mor: Captain Mandeep Mor on Sunday asserted that Indian team is well prepared for the Men's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier, set to take place from 29th August to 2nd September in Salalah, Oman. Speaking before the team flew to Salalah, Oman, he said "We have a solid squad and we have prepared well for the upcoming competition. All the teams are strong in this format, so it will be a tough tournament. But with a chance to qualify for the 2024 FIH Hockey 5s World Cup at stake, our team is hungry and determined to get positive results." India is placed in the Elite Pool along with Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, Oman, and Bangladesh. India will open their campaign on, 29th August, against Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the Challengers Pool consists of Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Iran. After their opening contest against Bangladesh, India will take on Oman and Pakistan on Wednesday, and then follow it up with matches against Malaysia and Japan on Thursday.

Antim Panghal, Aman to lead Indian challenge at World Wrestling

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Two-time U-20 world champion Antim Panghal, Asian Champion Aman Sehrawat will lead a 30-member Indian challenge at the World Wrestling Championships scheduled in Belgrade, Serbia, from September 16 to 24.

The meet is the first wrestling qualifier for the Paris Olympics. Indian wrestlers, however, won't be able to compete under the national flag at Belgrade since the United World Wrestling (UWW), the global governing body for the sport, has provisionally suspended the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for not conducting elections on time. The suspension came into effect on Thursday.

The squad consists of 20 Freestyle (10 men, 10 women) and 10 Greco Roman Wrestlers selected at two-day trials which concluded in Patiala on Saturday.

Antim Panghal, who became the first Indian woman to become a two-time U-20 world champion in Amman earlier this month, won the 53kg trials to punch her ticket to Belgrade. The category also featured Manju, Pooja Jat and Rajni.

The 19-year-old Antim Panghal had won the Asian Games trial last month as well but was kept as a standby for Vinesh Phogat in the women's



53kg category. Vinesh was granted direct entry to the team despite missing the trials. However, in what was a double boost for the youngster on Friday, the sports ministry included her name in the list of Asian Games-bound Indian athletes as Vinesh is unavailable after suffering a knee injury.

Sarita Mor, a former world championships bronze medalist, sealed the women's 57kg berth. Sarita had missed out on an Asian Games spot after suffering a shock defeat to U23 World Championship bronze medalist Mansi Ahlawat at the continental trials.

Another wrestler who made the cut after missing out on an Asian Games spot was Divya Kakran, in the 76kg berth. She beat Kiran, who was responsible for her ouster from the Asian Games trials. Antim Kundu, who won the 65kg U20 World Championships silver medal in Amman, also confirmed her

participation in Belgrade.

On Saturday, the wrestlers for the 10 men's freestyle categories were shortlisted. Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia and former world championships silver medalist Deepak Punia had earlier excused themselves from Saturday's trials.

Aman Sehrawat, a 2022 U23 world champion and the reigning Asian champion, ensured his place in the squad by winning the 57kg trials. Aman is also part of the Indian wrestling contingent for the Asian Games.

In Bajrang Punia's absence, the 65kg category went to Anuj Kumar, who beat Vishal in the final. Sumit Malik ensured he'll be competing in the 125kg division both in Belgrade and Hangzhou while Naveen Malik edged out Sagar in the 74kg trials.

Sahil and Abhimanyu, bronze medal winners at the U23 world championships in June, also booked their tickets to Belgrade.

World Badminton: Prannoy stuns World No. 1 Axelsen to enter semi-finals

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

HS Prannoy ensured a medal for himself as he chalked a stunning come from behind win over World No. 1 and defending Viktor Axelsen to storm into the singles semi-finals at the BWF World Badminton Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Prannoy beat the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and 2022 world champion 13-21, 21-15, 21-16 in the quarter-final match at the Royal Arena.

Reaching the last four ensures a medal for a shuttler at the global meet as both losing semi-finalists are awarded bronze medals at the badminton world championships. This will be India's 14th medal at the BWF World Championships.

However, the World No. 2 doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty suffered a 21-18, 21-19 defeat at the hands of Denmark's Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen in their last eight encounter.

Buoyed by the home crowd, Viktor Axelsen dominated Prannoy early on and led 11-5 at the first break. As the game progressed, the Indian found his footing and put on a solid defence to stay in the match. But the Dane's superior net play saw

Prannoy beat the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and 2022 world champion 13-21, 21-15, 21-16 in the quarter-final match at the Royal Arena.

him win four consecutive points to close out the first game.

Prannoy found his rhythm early in the second game and took the game to the reigning Olympic champion who tried hard to get back into the match but the Indian maintained control over the proceedings and forced a decider.

The Indian carried the momentum into the third game and raced to a 14-10 lead. He put on a solid defence and kept a firm grip on the match to win the encounter and book a place in the final four.

"The only thing which is in my control is me. I was not really thinking about what's happening around me. I was pretty much in the zone after the second game and (for matches like these) you need to be in the zone because otherwise the game will just get away from you," he said after his come-from-behind victory.

Messi scores goal as Inter Miami beats NY Red Bulls

AGENCIES
NEW JERSEY, 27 AUGUST

Lionel Andres Messi once again worked his magic in his Major League Soccer (MLS) debut to seal off an impressive 2-0 victory against NY Red Bulls at the Red Bull Arena on Sunday.

Miami manager Gerardo Martino named the playing XI with Messi being the most notable absentee. However,

he came on as a substitute in the second half to keep his goal-scoring streak alive and seal another victory for Inter Miami. Even without the World Cup-winning Argentinian, Miami fared well in the first half. Jordi Alba carried the attacking threat on the left side, cutting back passes every now and then.

The first opportunity to break the stalemate fell in Miami's account, with Alba making a run down the left flank,

making a cutback pass to find Diego Gomez who sent the ball wide off the goal post. Miami continued to play out from the back, while Red Bulls players tried to hunt them and regain possession occasionally in pair of two. Bulls finally got their much-awaited moment in the 35th minute of the game, when a cutback pass fell in the path of Omir Fernandes, who ended up missing a sitter from a close range.

Bumrah's return will add depth to Indian attack: Curtly Ambrose

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

West Indies legend Curtly Ambrose was one of the best fast bowlers of his time. Running in at a height of 6 feet and 7 inches and delivering thunderbolts from over a height of 9 feet, Ambrose was one of the most difficult bowlers to encounter for any batter. Now commentator and coach, Ambrose spoke about the forthcoming ICC Cricket World Cup in India this year and on the return of Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah, saying that his presence will make India favourites in the tournament at home and advised him to increase his pace gradually.

ICC CWC 2023 will start in India from October 5 onwards and India will kickstart their campaign against Australia in Chennai on October 8.

"Jasprit Bumrah is a fine bowler and as he returns to the Indian team it will add a lot of depth and variety to the Indian attack. And his presence in the World Cup will make India favourites. He will bowl at the death and that's what you need. Having said that, a comeback is never easy. Jasprit should go a little slow in the early stages. My advice to him will be to go gradually. If he starts to bowl full steam in every match it is not the best way to go about it." "He should give himself time to get back to full pace and take it a little slow on his return. That is how he can get back to his best. However much he bowls in training, match sit-

uations are different and in matches, he should not rush himself to bowl like he used to. Once he has a few matches under his belt, he can do what he used to do before the injury," said Ambrose while speaking to Revsportz on the Backstage With Boria show.

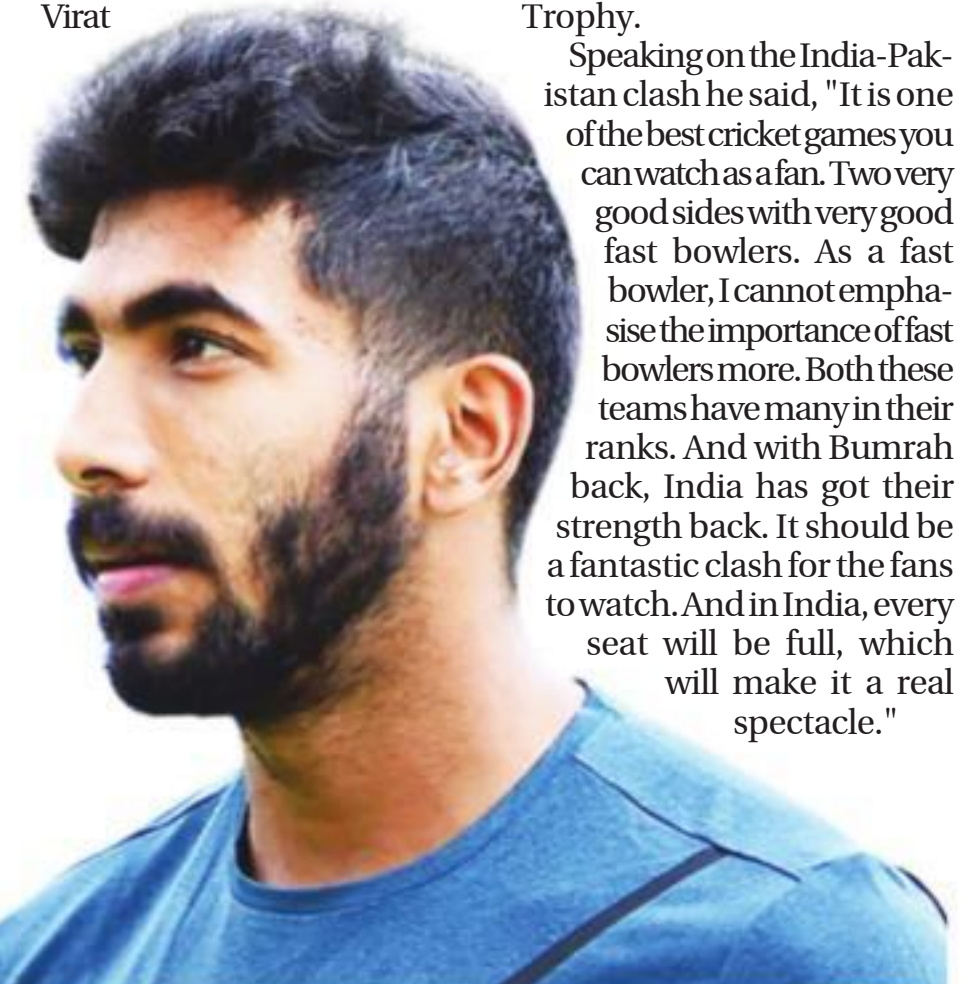
He further added, "He makes you the favourites in the World Cup. He will bowl in every situation whenever his team needs him. He is the equivalent of Virat Kohli in the Indian bowling unit."

Bumrah proved his fitness and form in the recently-concluded T20I series against Ireland. Leading a young Indian side to a 2-0 win in a three-match series, he took four wickets in two matches, with the best figures of 2/15. Ambrose is very hopeful about Virat Kohli. Saying he is one of the best, Ambrose argued, "I have seen Virat

for several years now and I do not need to tell you that he is a great player. And like every great player in history, he went through a lean period. But that does not mean he is finished or that he is over the hill or he is not the same player of old. He looked hungry to me, looked disciplined and fit. These are all important signs to observe. I think Virat can make a telling difference for India in the World Cup at home. He has all the talent and hunger to do so."

Virat has been in good form this year. In 10 ODIs this year, he has scored 427 runs at an average of 53.37, with two tons and a fifty and a best of 166 against Sri Lanka. In 17 matches across formats this year in 19 innings, he has scored 984 runs at an average of 54.66 with four centuries and two fifties. His best score is 186 against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Speaking on the India-Pakistan clash he said, "It is one of the best cricket games you can watch as a fan. Two very good sides with very good fast bowlers. As a fast bowler, I cannot emphasise the importance of fast bowlers more. Both these teams have many in their ranks. And with Bumrah back, India has got their strength back. It should be a fantastic clash for the fans to watch. And in India, every seat will be full, which will make it a real spectacle."



Indian beat Thailand in Women's Asian Hockey 5s WC Qualifier

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 27 AUGUST

Indian overcame spirited Thailand 5-4 in the Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier on Sunday in Salalah, Oman.

Navjot Kaur (1'), Monika Dipi Toppo (1', 7'), Mahima Choudhary (20') and Ajmina Kujur (30') scored for the winners. For Thailand, Piresram Anongnat (3'), Aunjai Natthakarn (10', 14') and Suwapat Konthong (19') were on target.

India opened the match on



blistering pace, putting the rivals under pressure from the word go. Captain Navjot Kaur scored in the first minute. They doubled their lead quickly as Monika Dipi Toppo (1') found the back of the net

which put Thailand on the backfoot.

However, Thailand pulled one back through their Captain Piresram Anongnat (3') after the successful conversion of the Challenge Goal.

Monika Dipi Toppo (7') was on the scoresheet for the second time making it 3-1 to India.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Aunjai Natthakarn's (10') strike got Thailand back in the game. With a minute remaining in the first half, Aunjai Natthakarn (14') found the back of the net for Thailand and levelled the scores. (3-3)

In the second half, India kept the momentum and held most of the ball possession. The strikers made dangerous runs inside the striking circle, particularly creat-

ing a threat on the left flank. However, it was Thailand who took the lead through Suwapat Konthong (19'). India immediately equalised by in-form Mahima Choudhary (20') as she flawlessly converted the Challenge Goal.

With 5 minutes left on the clock, India started showcasing urgency to get in the lead as Monika Dipi Toppo created an opportunity from the left flank, but the ball just went wide. With just a minute left in the game, Ajmina Kujur (30') gave India the lead.

