



Maha loses \$20 billion project to Gujarat, blame game begins

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# Afternoon

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## CYBER POLICE ARRESTED

## AMRUTA FADNAVIS'S FEMALE TROLL

Smruti Shekhar Panchal, a resident of Bhayanderpada, Thane, reportedly having hundreds of fake facebook accounts and several Gmail accounts got arrested by Cyber police for not only trolling Amruta Fadnavis but by using a fake account she posted abusive messages in response to a post by Amruta Fadnavis, a complaint filed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) youth wing functionary Pallavi Sapre. According to the complaint, Sapre came across a post by Amruta Fadnavis on September 7, which pertained to a function and included some photographs.

A Facebook user named Ganesh Kapoor made three objectionable comments as responses to that post. The comments were "highly abusive, vulgar and derogatory in nature," a cyber-police officer said. Following Sapre's complaint, the Mumbai cyber police sought details of the account holder and the IP address of the electronic device from which the comments were posted.

This led them to Panchal, in whose name the device was listed. She was arrested

from her residence on Monday evening. Panchal has been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act, 2000, and both her mobile handsets have been seized by the police for the investigation. Police interrogation revealed that Panchal had created a fake account on the social media platform and abused Fadnavis. They also found that this was not the first time she had done so.

Yashasvi Yadav, special inspector general of police, state cyber police said "Panchal is a serial offender and she had similarly abused people using her original Facebook account, following which in November 2021 the authorities wrote to Facebook to "take down" her account as it was abusive. The account was taken down by Facebook. She then created another Facebook account in the name of Ganesh Kapoor. For this she has also created a similar sounding fake email account," the official quoted above said. "We have found 53 fake social media accounts and 16 fake email accounts from her mobile phones.

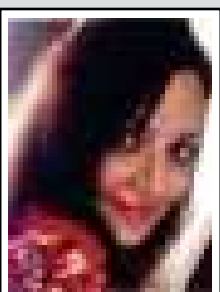
She has been harassing Amruta Fadnavis for the last two years. After we managed to take down her account last year she created this fake account in the name of Ganesh Kapoor,"

Amruta Fadnavis always maintained dignified calm on social media trolls and she gave several statements to the media stating that she ignores the trolls. "It's natural to get trolled on social media "I post on social media and then forget. I don't look back to keep tabs on trolls, but focus on giving positive criticism when needed. It's about endurance. You have to change your mind-set about trolls so they don't attack you."



## Bharat Jodo Yatra: good attempt but going to be less fruitful

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

Congress party is in its revival mode but BJP has successfully hijacked media and social media by negative narrative. In such a scenario it is difficult to say how much Rahul Gandhi will fetch it for the ailing party. Congress actually cleaned the carpet by removing Gandhi family members as party president. The allegation of nepotism and family control will take a back seat. Bharat Jodo Yatra, was kicked off by Rahul Gandhi from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 7, may be the last resort for the party's revival ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, but for the rival BJP it is a topic to mock the principal opposition party.

The Congress has put its heart, mind and soul in the 3,570-km Kanyakumari to Kashmir padyatra which comes about a month ahead of the crucial election for the post of party president on October 17. These two are the most significant events in the Congress calendar ahead of the next parliamentary election. While Yatra looks to be super successful as hundreds of people are joining the march with Rahul Gandhi. You can see a mesmerising female fan following Rahul during this yatra.

However, the BJP has sought to downplay the yatra which the Congress leaders claim is not political. Bharat Jodo Yatra was conceived by Sonia Gandhi at the party's 'Chintan Shivir' held at Udaipur in Rajasthan in May.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Editoritis

# Bharat Jodo Yatra: good attempt but going to be less fruitful

▶▶▶ PAGE 1

*The yatra, therefore, may be the last ditch effort by the Congress to win back the support of the masses and galvanise the party workers by instilling a sense of hope and confidence.*

*BJP's opinion about Bharat Jodo Yatra may be a desperate effort for the Congress; it is a topic of ridicule for the BJP.*

*Congress is one of the world's largest and oldest political parties of its kind; the Indian National Congress was formed on December 28, 1885, by British civil servant Allan Octavian Hume.*

Congress organised this padyatra as one of the measures to revitalize the party. The Congress's stocks have been falling in the last eight years. It has lost two Lok Sabha and majority of the assembly elections during this period proving that its mass support has radically gnarled. Besides, several of its leaders have quit the party, dealing a major blow to the strength and image of the party.

After continued defeat Congress leaders got demoralised. The yatra, therefore, may be the last ditch effort by the Congress to win back the support of the masses and galvanise the party workers by instilling a sense of hope and confidence. Padyatras have a significance of their own and this is transformational politics. This is what politics is about, not of abuse, vendetta and vilification. The Congress seems to be convinced that yatras do help political parties, be it by Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March, former prime minister Chandra Shekhar's Kanyakumari to Rajghat padyatra, former PM Rajiv Gandhi's Bharat Yatra in 1990, BJP veteran leader LK Advani's rath yatra over Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya or, more recently, Andhra Pradesh chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's padyatra in 2017. Though the South to North main Bharat Jodo Yatra will pass through 12 states and two Union territories before culminating in

BJP's opinion about Bharat Jodo Yatra may be a desperate effort for the Congress; it is a topic of ridicule for the BJP. The Congress states that the Bharat Jodo Yatra was not only aimed against the alleged divisive politics of the BJP, but to revive the entire party organisation from the block to the state-level in the country. AICC General Secretary in-charge of Communications Jairam Ramesh said the yatra is a "listening yatra" where concerns of the people from all walks of life would be heard by Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi as he walks 3,570 km from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul Gandhi interacts with common people, living in vans, having food at party workers office and leading a very normal life during yatra. He is hell bent on giving people a sense of belonging. Gandhi would be interacting with the fishermen who are protesting against the Vizhinjam port project as well as leaders of the anti-K-Rail movement and other such agitations in the state.

Meanwhile, BJP is engaging in divisive politics and spreading fear and anger in the country. 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by party leader Rahul had unsettled the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which had resorted to unnecessary diversionary tactics. The padyatra has evidently worried the BJP and has prompted them to target T-shirts, containers, socks, shoes and hairstyles. Let them raise whatever question they want and play whatever mischief on the social media. Their only objective is to derail Congress. Congress is not in a mood to get bullied and diverted. While the 'Bharat Jodo Yatras' will pass through 12 States over 148 days, smaller rallies will be organised in the other 'non-yatra' States including Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Congress is one of the world's largest and oldest political parties of its kind; the Indian National Congress was formed on December 28, 1885, by British civil servant Allan Octavian Hume. In its initial days, the party was not formed to demand independence from British rule. It was rather set up to bring together a group of educated individuals on a common platform to influence policy making. Even after Independence, the Congress party has ruled over Indian politics. In the 15 general elections since independence, the Congress has won on six occasions and has led the ruling coalition another four times.

Seven Indian Prime Ministers have been elected from the party and six others had been former members. Jawaharlal Nehru, Gulzarilal Nanda, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, P V Narsimha Rao and Manmohan Singh were active members of the party during their prime ministerial tenure. On the other hand, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, V P Singh, Chandra Sekhar, H D Deve Gowda, I K Gujral had been members of the Congress before their appointment.

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Vaidehi has received several Awards like I Congo-karmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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# Voices



## Letters to the Editor

### Pakistan needs monetary help

Torrential rains and sudden floods have caused an unimaginable disaster in Pakistan. Half of the country's croplands have been washed away. As a result of this, the prices of essential commodities, such as foodgrains and vegetables, have reached tremendous heights.

The devastating floods have killed over 3,000 people, damaged over 15 lakh houses and caused at least \$15 billion loss to Pakistan's economy.

The floods are arguably the worst natural disaster the country has ever faced in the last 100 years or so, displacing millions and causing billions worth of property and infrastructure damage. It is clear from the many videos of the flash floods circulating on social media, that a large number of the damaged and destroyed buildings are either unsafe or have been erected on encroached land.

The heavy rains have not only broken down houses, killed people and damaged crops but have also given birth to deadly diseases like malaria.

Many people are seen dying of the deadly disease. This problem has further increased due to lack of medical facilities and mosquito nets.

Jubel D'Cruz

### Plantation Drive

In country, To create a greeny environment, Many plantation drives are being run by Private organizations and Government agencies. Contribution of people will play a immense role in achieving this goal. Along with prioritizing Plantation drive, awareness programme must be conducted. This will make others self responsible to keep around clean and greany.

Anushka Panwar

### Dr. Govind Nandakumar is a real life hero

A surgeon Dr Govind Nandakumar ran for 15 minutes to reach the hospital as his car was stuck in the traffic jam following heavy rains and waterlogging and Bengaluru traffic is one of its kind. He had to run for 15 minutes, his video of running towards the hospital has gone virals on social media winning him appreciation by netizens. Dr Govind Nandakumar, a gastroenterology surgeon at Manipal hospital, was on his way perform an emergency laparoscopic gallbladder surgery on August 30 when he got stuck in the traffic jam on the Sarjapur. It was noted that the doctor reached on time for the surgery of a female patient. When the team was ready with initial arrangements for the procedure, Dr Nandakumar arrived on schedule time to proceed further. Sugery was successful and the patient was discharged on time.

Ashima Sisodiya

# FROM WEAK TO PEAK HEALTH

The infectious disease 'outbreaks' or 'epidemics' or 'pandemics' share a fate — there is a day when the majority of them run their course and fade away. However, a small proportion (of epidemics or pandemics) transitions to the stage of endemicity, i.e., a level of transmission which is not considered to be a threat in our life.

Your first line of defense is to choose a healthy lifestyle. Following general good-health guidelines is the single best step you can take toward naturally keeping your immune system working properly. Every part of your body, including your immune system, functions better when protected from environmental assaults and bolstered by healthy-living strategies such as these: As we age, our immune response capability becomes reduced, which in turn contributes to more infections and more cancer. As life expectancy in developed countries has increased, so too has the incidence of age-related conditions.

A reduction in immune response to infections has been demonstrated by older people's response to vaccines. For example, studies of influenza vaccines have shown that for people over age 65, the vaccine is less effective compared to healthy children (over age 2). But despite the reduction in efficacy, vaccinations for influenza and S. pneumoniae have significantly lowered the



rates of sickness and death in older people when compared with no vaccination.

There appears to be a connection between nutrition and immunity in the elderly. A form of malnutrition that is surprisingly common even in affluent countries is known as "micronutrient malnutrition." Micronutrient malnutrition, in which a person is deficient in some essential vitamins and trace minerals that are obtained from or supplemented by diet, can happen in the elderly. Older people tend to eat less and often have less variety in their diets. One important question is whether dietary supplements may help older people maintain a healthier immune system. Older people should discuss this question with their doctor.

Seniors striving hard for perfect health conditions with proper exercise and that in turn give us a perfect platform to live longer. With English medicines helping out the longevity of life it is a senior's paradise on earth. We seniors are not afraid about our health conditions but at the same time work towards betterment of life with good eating habits and perfect sleep schedule. Despite

these inevitable difficulties in measuring the relationship of stress to immunity, scientists are making progress.

Regular exercise is one of the pillars of healthy living. It improves cardiovascular health, lowers blood pressure, helps control body weight, and protects against a variety of diseases. But does it help to boost your immune system naturally and keep it healthy? Just like a healthy diet, exercise can contribute to general good health and therefore to a healthy immune system. We live for another day with good habits and that include just eating to live and not living to eat. This keeps your body having control over your weight and that is a great bonus to live an active life. We have undergone weak health conditions after covid19 and other health hazards during the pandemic days and now recovering fast to achieve peak health for a better tomorrow.

- C.K. Subramaniam

Writer

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

## Maha loses \$20 billion project to Gujarat, blame game begins



Oil, gas and metals conglomerate Vedanta Limited, along with its joint-venture partner Foxconn, a Taiwan based multinational contract electronics manufacturer, will jointly invest \$20 billion (approximately Rs 1.5 lakh crore) in Gujarat. The JV's decision to choose Gujarat for the project comprising a semiconductor fabrication unit, a display fabrication unit, and a semiconductor assembling and testing unit instead of Maharashtra triggered a political blame game in the

state, with the opposition targeting the Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis government for losing out on a mega opportunity and deputy CM Fadnavis blaming the erstwhile MVA government for not inviting Foxconn for two years when they were working on the deal with Gujarat. While Shiv Sena's Aaditya Thackeray said he was shocked to see that a project "almost finalized" had been lost, Fadnavis told TOI, "If at all a blame game is to start, it's the earlier government that is to be blamed. Our government came just a few days back."

## Maha: PM Modi has assured CM Eknath Shinde of Vedanta-Foxconn project says, Uday Samant

Under fire from the Opposition for losing out on the mega Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project to Gujarat, the Maharashtra government on Wednesday said Prime minister Narendra Modi has assured the state will get a similar project or even a better one.



Talking to reporters in Thane, state Industries Minister Uday Samant said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde spoke to the prime minister on Tuesday after Gujarat bagged the project. The project was proposed to come up

in Maharashtra but the Vedanta-Foxconn finalised Gujarat and jointly inked a Memorandum of Understanding with that government on Tuesday, triggering a political blame game.

The chief minister put forth his views before the prime minister on Vedanta (Foxconn semiconductor project). The CM held a detailed discussion with the prime minister on this matter. The PM has assured the youth that a similar project, or a better one, will be given to Maharashtra, Samant said

### Gujarat wasn't even in competition for Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project, claims Ambadas Danve

A day after Gujarat bagged a mega Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project, leader of opposition in Maharashtra legislative council Ambadas Danve claimed Gujarat did not have the infrastructure required for it and hence was not even in competition for the project. "Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka were competing for the Foxconn-Vedanta semiconductor manufacturing

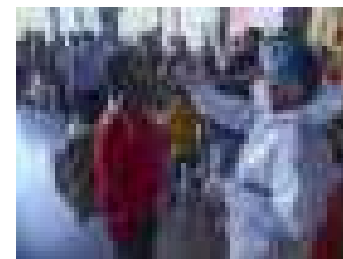


plant. It requires a very high-end technology environment, hence these three states were competing with each other," Shiv Sena leader Danve told a TV channel. (PTI)

## Maharashtra's COVID-19 has reported 881 cases and five fatalities : Health Department

Maharashtra on Wednesday reported 881 coronavirus cases and five fatalities, the health department said in a bulletin. With the fresh additions, the state's COVID-19 tally rose to 81,12,857 and the death toll to 1,48,298. A day earlier, the state recorded 730 infections and four fatalities.

Mumbai recorded 203 fresh coronavirus cases. Of the five fatalities, two each were recorded in Mumbai and Thane city, while



one death was reported from the Raigad district, it said. Maharashtra's case fatality rate stands at 1.82 per cent.

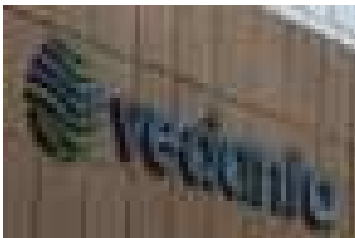
The state is left with 5,426

active cases after 963 patients recovered from coronavirus infection in the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative tally of recoveries to 79,59,133, the department said. A total of 28,539 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, taking the number of samples tested so far in Maharashtra to 8,44,38,115.

Maharashtra's COVID-19 figures are as follows: Fresh cases: 881, total cases 81,12,857, fatalities 1,48,298, active cases 5,426, tests 28,539, recoveries 79,59,133.

### Maharashtra at the cost of losing the mega Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project- NCP

As Covid-19 fades, other communicable diseases have started to make a comeback in the state. In fact, some infectious diseases like influenza H1N1 are now witnessing an surge in incidence, the highest in five years. Data shared by the public health department on Monday showed that active cases of Covid have dropped by 54% over the last 40



days— from 12,808 on August 1 to 5,862 on September 12. Deaths are down to single digits for almost 50 days now.

### Nearly 100mm rain in Mumbai in 12 hrs, orange alert for Thursday

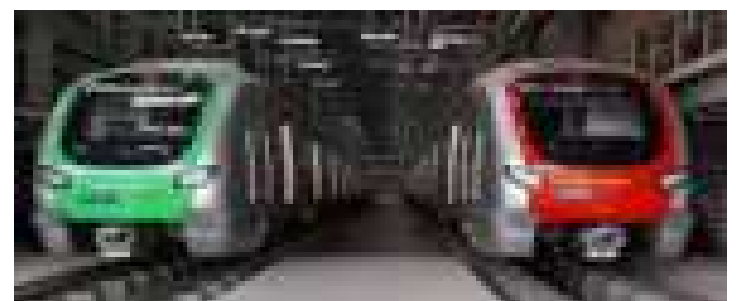
Several parts of the city recorded heavy showers overnight between Monday and Tuesday. Till 8. at 30am on Tuesday, the Indian Meteorological Department's obser-

vatory recorded nearly three-digit rainfall. As the showers began late at night and came in intervals, no case of severe waterlogging was reported. Rainfall figures indicated that most

of the rainfall was recorded after 8. 30pm. In the 12 hours ended 8. at 30pm on Monday, the IMD's Colaba observatory had recorded 2. 8mm rain and the one at Santacruz 4mm.

## Nine Metro 3 trains to roll into Mumbai by June 2023, trials on

The executing authority for the underground Metro 3 corridor (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz) has targeted bringing all nine rakes required to commence Phase I services (Aarey-BKC) by June 2023. The first rake arrived for trials in Mumbai from Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, this July. Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) is currently conducting the "initial design-proving" trial run of the first prototype train. MMRCL's managing director Ash-



wini Bhide said, "A second rake will arrive by the end of November. Nine trains required for the commis-

sioning of Phase I would be made available by June 23 and the remaining will arrive by May 2024."

### 50 year old man been held for allegedly pushing two women into 'Flesh Trade'

Police have rescued two women and arrested a 50-year-old man who was allegedly pushing them into flesh trade in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Wednesday.

Based on a tip-off, police raided a house in Kamla Park area on Monday and found the

two women, aged 18 and 19, being forced into prostitution by the accused, police spokesperson Sachin Navadkar said. The police sent the two women to a shelter home and arrested the accused, he said. A case was registered against the accused under provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, the official said.

# Nation

## Health Ministry to launch mega drive for blood donation on PM Modi's birthday

On the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, the Union Health Ministry will start a mega drive for voluntary blood donation from September 17 to October 1 which is the national voluntary blood donation day.

The Union Health Ministry has also launched the E-Rakt Kosh portal where donors can register for blood donation, starting from September 17 onwards. Another option is Arogya Setu App registration where donors



can register

Union Health Minister, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, tweeted,

"Blood Donation for Humanity. Rakhtdaan Amrit Mahotsav is going to start from 17th Sep-

tember.

Donate by registering on Arogya Setu App today or Register yourself for blood donation by visiting <https://eraktkosh.in>. Let us take a pledge to donate life by donating blood with our participation in this campaign."

According to an official, India has enough capacity to store the blood units. It is expected that India may create a world record, but it depends on the donations. "We are trying to motivate donors and create a database so that

they can make repeat donations," said an official

"The purpose behind the campaign launch is to increase awareness about the need for regular non - remunerated voluntary blood opportunities for social mobilization and social cohesiveness for the noble cause of blood donation. To ensure that blood/components (whole blood /packed red cells// plasma/platelets ) are available, accessible, affordable and safe," said an official.

## Goa: 8 Congress MLAs join BJP



Eight Goa Congress MLAs including former Chief Minister Digambar Kamat and Leader of Opposition Michael Lobo joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in Goa on Wednesday.

All the eight MLAs Digambar Kamat, Michael Lobo, Delilah Lobo, Rajesh Phaldesai, Kedar Naik, Sankalp Amonkar, Aleixo Sequeira and Rudolf Fernandes joined BJP after meeting Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Assembly complex in the day.

"We have merged with BJP with a majority of 2/3rd to strengthen the hands of PM Modi and CM Pramod Sawant... 'Congress Chhodo, BJP ko Jodo', said former Congress MLA Michael Lobo. Meanwhile, Goa CM

Sawant also took a jibe at Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra and said that "Congress Chhodo Yatra will begin from Goa now" while welcoming the leaders.

The BJP already holds a majority of 25 in the House of 40 of which its own 20 MLAs with two others from the Maharashtra Gomantak Party and three independent leaders. After the joining of eight Congress MLAs, its count will rise to 33

. The development came amid Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra to combat the BJP-led Centre and awaken the country's people to the dangers of economic inequalities, social polarisation, and political centralization.

## Mother - Son duo found hanging in Bengaluru

A mother and son were found hanging at their house at Hosaguddahalli in Karnataka.

The duo has been identified as Laxamma (48) and her son Madan (13). "The information was received around 2.15 pm at the limits of Byatarayanapura police station, wherein it was reported that Laxamma and her son Madan were found hanging

from the window at their house at Hosaguddahalli," said Lakshman B Nimbaragi, Deputy Commissioner of Police, West Bengaluru.

He further said that the bodies have been shifted to the Victoria hospital.

The DCP added that the reason for the "suicide" is yet to be ascertained and they are looking into the matter.

## Delhi HC grants 6 weeks to Subramanian Swamy to vacate government accommodation

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted a time of six weeks to the Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy to vacate the government accommodation.

The accommodation was allotted to him for five years on account of the security threat. Subsequently, he became the Rajya Sabha MP and the accommodation remained with him.

His tenure as an MP ended in April 2022 and he had sought re-allotment of the government accommodation after the period of five years lapsed, citing security reasons.

Justice Yashwant Varma directed Swamy to ensure the possession of his government bungalow is given to the Estate officer within a period of six weeks. The bench said that the petitioner has his own private



property where he can shift.

As the petitioner is a Z category protectee, the protecting agency shall ensure the safety and security of the petitioner at his private premises. The High court today passed the order while disposing of the plea of Swamy. It was submitted on behalf of the petitioner Subramanian Swamy, as he is a Z category protectee, the government accommodation should be

re-allotted to him in view of the security threat to him.

The bench noted the submission made on the behalf of the State that it is not obligated to those being extended security cover. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) submitted that it is practically not possible to re-allot the accommodation to the petitioner.

## Have no legal power to de-recognise parties or leaders, EC tells SC

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court that the poll panel does not have the legal power to withdraw the recognition of a political party or disqualify its members if a party or its members indulge in hate speech.

The affidavit of the Director (Law) of the ECI pointed out that hate speech has not been defined under any existing law in In-

dia, but there are a few legislations that have a bearing on hate speech.

It said that the issue of hate speech had been dealt with by the top court in a matter and the court had referred the matter to the Law Commission of India to define hate speech and make recommendations to Parliament to strengthen the ECI to curb its menace.

The poll panel said that the

Law Commission of India's 267th Report neither answered the Court's question as to whether the poll panel should be conferred the power to derecognise a political party, disqualifying it or its members, if a party or its members commit the offence of hate speech nor expressly made any recommendations to the Parliament to strengthen the Election Commission of India to curb the menace of hate speech.

# World

## CECPA fosters trade ties between India, Mauritius



The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) offers new opportunities for trade, investments, and services activities between Mauritius and India and can accelerate our economic growth, said Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth on Tuesday.

"The CECPA will act as a support to Mauritius in the wake of ongoing global challenges, Jugnauth said, adding that, "India has been a partner and a friend like no other to Mauritius." as he launched the CECPA

forum in Pointe aux Piments, Le Matinal reported.

During the event being held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mauritius, PM Jugnauth expressed gratitude to the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his unwavering commitment to making the trade pact CECPA a reality, which he emphasised is the first Agreement that India has signed with an African country.

"The CECPA forms part of a broader strategy between the Governments to broaden our

economic horizons and plays an integral part in facilitating cross-border trade and investment," he stated. Speaking of the event, he said that the initiative aims at elevating the economic and cultural ties between Mauritius and India as well as celebrating the diplomatic relationships between the two countries. This event, he said, "further highlights our long-lasting friendship and the deep-rooted ties shared by our people.

According to Le Matinal, Jugnauth further highlighting the technical, financial, and diplomatic support India has provided to Mauritius, said that the successful completion of recent projects namely the Metro Express, the New Supreme Court, and the New ENT hospital was possible due to the support India has provided.

## Pakistan's economy continues to sink despite international support

Despite support from Saudi Arabia and International Monetary Funds (IMF), Pakistan is on the verge of economic collapse with a lack of funds.

The political instability, deteriorating business environment and mismanagement of the economy have pushed the country into investment fatigue from the traditional partners exposing the country to economic risks as well as political uncertainty, reported Asian Lite International.

Initially, there was hope for Pakistan, when on August 29, the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the combined seventh and eighth reviews under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan, allowing the authorities to draw the

equivalent of SDR 894 million (USD 1.1 billion).

But the recent floods and heavy monsoons in the country have dampened the hope of a quick revival from the economic crisis, reported Asian Lite International.

The initially estimated losses due to the natural disaster have accumulated in the range of USD 18 billion. Pakistan's agriculture sector faces the worst blow as at least 18,000 sq km of agricultural land have been wiped out.

The agriculture growth might remain zero or slide into negative against the envisaged target of 3.9 per cent for the current financial year 2022-23. Nearly 80 districts of Pakistan have been worst hit by the floods.

## Pakistan Navy criticises Chinese-made helicopters over maintenance



Pakistan purchased the Chinese Z-9EC helicopters in 2006, an ASW variant specifically produced for the Pakistan Navy and Air Force, however it is marred by poor maintenance capabilities of the Chinese supplier.

Pakistan purchased these helicopters equipped with pulse compression radar, low frequency sonar, radar warning receiver and doppler navigation system to counterbalance India, however, it has little chance of doing harm to New Delhi, reported Difesa Online, an independent newspaper specialized in the defence sector and related industry

The problem would mainly concern the poor maintenance capabilities of the Chinese supplier (the helicopters were produced by

the Harbin Aircraft Industry), as they would not be able to repair damaged helicopters, thus compromising the operational capabilities of the anti-submarine aircraft.

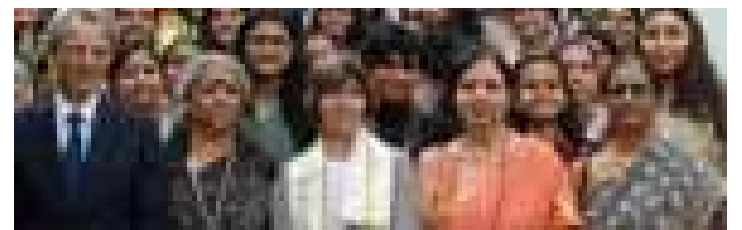
It is certainly not the first time that Chinese weapons systems have been the subject of harsh criticism from Pakistani naval circles. In fact, many countries that militarily depend on low-cost supplies from Beijing complain of major deficiencies, especially from the point of view of maintenance, reported the Italian publication. The ASW Z-9EC helicopters are embarked, as previously mentioned, on the Zulfiqar class frigates (photo), the latter designed and built jointly in the Hudong-Zhonghua shipyards in China and KS&EW Ltd in Pakistan.

## Want number of Indian students in France to climb to 20,000

France wants the number of Indian students in the country to rise to 20,000 by 2025, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said on Wednesday.

Colonna is currently on a three-day visit to India.

"We want the number of Indian students to rise up to 20,000 by 2025. I know it's an ambitious target, but I also know that between India and France, sky is the limit," she said during an interaction with students at the Lady Shri Ram College here.



The French minister stressed that gender balance was a necessity in the field of education.

"Much has changed when it comes to gender balance but we are still not there yet," she said. As part of her official visit from September 13-15, Colonna will

travel to Mumbai for engagements with industry leaders and site visits on Thursday.

She will also hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on September 14 "on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest".

## New Covid variant omicron BA.4. Is spreading



A sub variant of the omicron COVID, BA.4.6, which has been quickly gaining traction in the US, is now confirmed to be spreading in the UK.

The latest briefing document on COVID variants from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) noted that during the week beginning August 14, BA.4.6 accounted

for 3.3 per cent of samples in the UK. Similarly, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, BA.4.6 now accounts for more than 9 per cent of recent cases across the US. The variant has also been identified in several other countries around the world.

**What we know about BA.4.6, and should we be worried?**

1) BA.4.6 is a descendant of

the BA.4 variant of omicron.

2) BA.4 was first detected in January 2022 in South Africa and has since spread around the world alongside the BA.5 variant.

3) It is not entirely clear how BA.4.6 has emerged, but it's possible it could be a recombinant variant.

4) While BA.4.6 will be similar to BA.4 in many ways, it carries a mutation to the spike protein, a protein on the surface of the virus which allows it to enter our cells.

5) This mutation, R346T, has been seen in other variants and is associated with immune evasion, meaning it helps the virus to escape antibodies acquired from vaccination and prior infection.

## Column

# Dr Visveshvaraiya : Engineer the great



Many sages, great men and personalities have taken birth on the pious land of India, who have shown a new path to its prosperity and development by their great deeds. Dr. Mokshagundam Visveshvaraiya, a great engineer, efficient administrator, true nationalist and the backbone of development, was among these precious gems. Service to the nation was his aspiration, his motto and his life. Even at the age of 92 years, in 1952, he did the wonderful job of connecting the two scattered banks of the river Ganga at Mokama (Bihar) through a rail-cum-road bridge (Rajendra Setu), which was then beyond the imagination of the common man. This immortality on the soil of Bihar is still inspiring people to keep moving forward by refreshing their memories.

Dr. Mokshagundam Visveshvaraiya was a divine gift to Bharatvarsha. He was born on 15 September 1861 in an ordinary Brahmin family in Mudanahalli village of Kolar Mandal of Karnataka (erstwhile Mysore State). His mother was Mrs. Vekkamma and father was Sri Srinivas Shastri. Only four years before his birth, the great revolt of 1857 took place for the liberation from the slavery of the British. When Visveshvaraiya was only 15 years old, his father died. Then the destitute mother went to her maternal home with him. Despite his poverty and deprivation, this child did not lose courage and continued his education by taking tuitions. He completed his graduation (honours) examination from Central College Bangalore under

Madras University in 1880. Thereafter, he enrolled in Civil Engineering at the Engineering College in Pune, from where he secured first class in the engineering examination in 1886 and for which he was awarded the "James Varkle Award". He got a lot of support from his maternal uncle Sri Ramaiah and the erstwhile Mysore state in pursuing higher education.

Dr. Visveshvaraiya started his public career in 1884 as an Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department of the then Government of Mumbai. In 1893, he got the "Sugar Varese and Water Works" constructed, for the purpose of supplying drinking water from the Sindh river. He first introduced the Tatil system for proper use of irrigation water. In the year 1901, he presented a report on the block system of irrigation before the first Irrigation Commission in India, and showed the way to the economy. His invaluable contribution is the design and construction of fixed roller and driven gates at Khadgwasla Dam and Gwalior Dam in Pune.

Due to his sharp intellect, hardworking personality and amazing work ability, he reached the post of Superintending Engineer in the year 1904 at the age of just 33 years. In the same year he became a member of the Institution of Engineers, London. It was a big deal for an Indian to reach the post of Superintending Engineer during the British rule. By then, Dr. Visveshvaraiya had made his mark in the field of construction. The construction work of "Sugar Varese and Water Works" brought him all India fame. E. K. Ronald, the then Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department of the Government of Mumbai, addressed him as the "Wonder of India". He served the Bombay government till 1908. Due to day-to-day neglect by the British rule, he resigned from the service of the Bombay Government in 1908.

Due to his ability, efficiency, punctuality, selfless devotion to the nation, the Maharaja of Mysore State Shri Krishnaraj Wadiyar appointed him as the Chief Engineer of the state in the year 1909. From 1909 to 1912, he was the chairman of the Mysore State Technical Education Committee. He not only gave shape to the big irrigation projects in the Mysore state, but also gave a new dimension to the railway system. The Krishnasagar dam built by him on the Kaveri river was the largest reservoir in India at that time and for this, a tunnel of about 2.8 km long dug

in the mountains was the first great construction in the field of Indian engineering. The Vrindavan Gardens adjacent to the Krishnasagar Dam was like a worthwhile attempt to bring heaven to earth. From 1912 to 1916, he served as the 19th Diwan of the Mysore State, during which he proved that he was a successful engineer as well as an efficient administrator, dedicated social worker and an accomplished politician by executing several development works.

Dr. Visveshvaraiya not only contributed as a successful engineer in the state of Mysore, but also made a lot of efforts for the promotion of education. In 1913, he established the Agriculture School and in 1916 the College of Engineering. Along with Mysore and Mumbai, the history of grandeur and development of cities like Sangli, Baroda, Ahmednagar, Nagpur, Bhavnagar, Rajkot etc. is the result of Dr. Visveshvaraiya's thinking and action. Due to his tireless efforts, the University of Mysore was established in the year 1916. Setting up the Bhadravati Steel Plant in Mysore had then become a challenge, as the economy of the project was questioned by the British consultants. But Dr. Visveshvaraiya got it completed by making it a matter of prestige and the steel produced from this plant was exported to advanced and developed countries like America.

After being parted away from the post of Dewan of Mysore, he held important positions such as officer, chairman and advisor in several government, semi-government and non-government establishments and organizations. He successfully discharged his administrative and political responsibilities as the head of the scholarship institution for the students of backward classes in 1916, as the chairman of the political committee of all-party representatives in 1922, as the director of the Tata Iron & Steel Company and as the president of the Indian Economic Conference in 1927, and as the chairman of the Bangalore Riot Enquiry Committee in 1929. Impressed by his achievements, the then Nizam had taken his services for the reconstruction of Hyderabad city. He did many development works like protection from floods of Musi river in Hyderabad, sewerage, drinking water supply, road construction etc.

Dr. Visveshvaraiya's suggestion was at the core of the protective



Er. Prabhat Kishore

The Author is a technocrat and educationist

measures to get rid of the scourge of the Koshi river in Bihar. The Dimna Nala Dam (1947) in the state of Bihar and the Hirakund dam in the state of Orissa are also a part of his plan. He traveled to America and Europe with the aim of opening a workshop for motor vehicles and aircraft in the country. Due to his invaluable and sincere services to the nation, Dr. Visveshvaraiya was awarded the highest national title of "Bharat Ratna" by the Government of India in 1955. In 1961, on his birth centenary, the Government of India saluted the work of this great personality by issuing a special postage stamp in his honour. Dr. Visveshvaraiya also authored some well-known and popular books named "Reconstructing India", "Planned Economy for India", "Unemployment in India, its causes and cure" and "Memories of my working life" etc.

As a result of showing his charisma in every field of construction, he was honoured by the British Government with the distinction of "Compendium of the Indian Empire" in 1911 and "Knight Commander of the order of Indian Empire" in 1915 and later on "Sir". Due to his extraordinary talent and acumen, he got C.I.A. certificate in 1911, D.M.C. by Kolkata University in 1913, K.C.I. in 1915, I.L.D. by Mumbai University in 1918, D.Lit. by Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya in 1939. In 1944, Patna University has honored him with D.Sc. and many other degrees.

Dr. Mokshagundam Visveshvaraiya was rich in innate talent and was never afraid of hard work. This eccentric personality who nurtured "simple living high thoughts" never used government resources for personal gain. Not only was he praised openly for his role and contribution in the new construction of India, but he was also called the "Vishwakarma of modern Bharat". This immortal engineer, who scored a brilliant century of his life, breathed his last on 14 April 1962 and left this elusive world forever. The great personality and creativity of Dr. Mokshagundam Visveshvaraiya, the epitome of nation building, is now our eternal source of inspiration.

# Entertainment

## Anupam Kher, Anil Kapoor recalls memories outside Yash Chopra's house



On Wednesday, veteran actors Anupam Kher and Anil Kapoor met each other on a morning walk. During their quick meeting session, the duo halted in front of late director Yash Chopra's house to relive the memories of their struggling days. Anupam Kher recorded their candid chat and shared it online via Instagram.

The short video begins with Kher quizzing Kapoor about their location. To this, the latter revealed that the duo was standing in front of the prolific filmmaker's house. Travelling down memory lanes, Anupam Kher spoke about the time when he was a struggling actor in the Hindi film industry, it was Yash Chopra's house that he first visited looking for work.

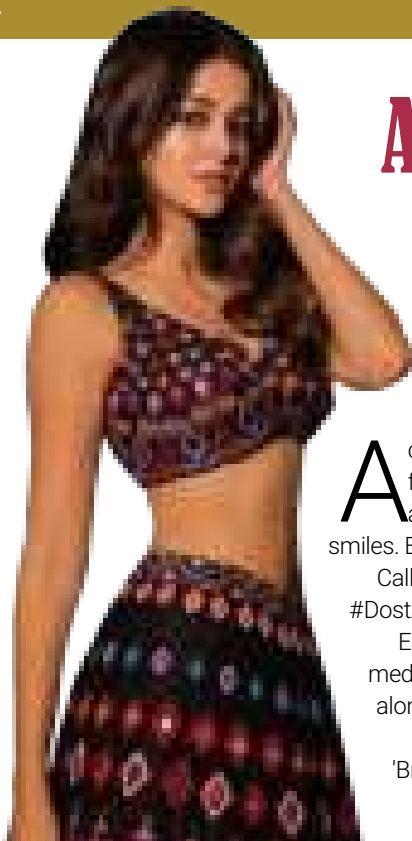
Anil Kapoor joins the conversation revealing that the filmmaker wasn't the first person to who he went for work, but in his career span of over four decades, he approached the director multiple times in search of work.

Kapoor added that his first collaboration with the iconic filmmaker was in Mashaal. Responding to the same, Kher added that his maiden project with Yash Chopra was Vijay.

Upon looking at his play, the director assured Kher that one day he will carve a niche for himself in Bollywood, which eventually turned out to be true.

When the veterans found each other in the vicinity of Yash Chopra's house, they decided to recall the olden days and seek his blessings.

While sharing the clip online, Kher also penned a heart-warming note for the late director. He wrote, "In front of Yash ji's house: While going for morning walk, Anil Kapoor and I stopped in front of #YashChopra ji house to relive old memories and seek blessings too! Yash ji has a huge contribution to our (especially my) life! Thank you, Sir ji, for your love and the moments spent with you!"



## Ananya Panday calls Ranbir Kapoor 'new best friend', share pictures

Actor Ananya Panday on Tuesday shared pictures with her "new best friend" Ranbir Kapoor from their first shoot. The 'Gehraiyaan' actor took to her Instagram handle and dropped a couple of monochrome pictures with Ranbir where they can be seen flashing their big smiles. Both of them wore ethnic attire.

Calling this new friendship 'DostAstra', she wrote, "new day, new shoot, new best friend #DostAstra."

Earlier, Ananya and Ranbir were spotted together and this created lot of buzz on social media. Meanwhile, on the work front, Ananya was recently seen in Puri Jagannadh's 'Liger', alongside Vijay Deverakonda.

Ranbir has already won hearts with his great performance in Ayan Mukherjee's 'Brahmastra'. He will next be seen in Luv Ranjan's untitled movie with Shraddha Kapoor.



## Legendary jazz musician Ramsey Lewis passed away at age of 87

Legendary jazz musician Ramsey Lewis, known for hits such as 'The In Crowd' and 'Wade in the Water', passed away at the age of 87 at his home in Chicago.

According to Fox News, Jazz fans hold Lewis in high regard for songs from the 1960s like 'The 'In' Crowd,' 'Hang on Sloopy,' and 'Wade in the Water.'

Three Grammys and seven gold records were earned by him. The group's debut album, 'Ramsey Lewis and the Gentlemen of Swing,' was released in 1956.

Lewis died Monday in his sleep at his Chicago home, according to his son, Bobby Lewis. Lewis began learning the piano at the age of 4. His early years were spent in Chicago, where he used his background in gospel and classical music to forge his own jazz style in the countless local clubs that employed burgeoning jazz musicians.

"It gave us a lot of opportunity to try our ideas and learn what it means to perform in front of an audience," Lewis said as he was named National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master in 2007.

He went on a globe tour and gave a performance at the state dinner for President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil that was hosted by then-President Bill Clinton in 1995.

"I believe that my father -- his love for the piano and his passion for the piano and how he coveted this love and how he protected it -- that gave him longevity," Bobby Lewis said.

Lewis spent the final year of his life working on his memoirs, which are finished and slated to be released next year, according to Brett Steele, whose Tampa, Florida-based Steele Management has represented Lewis since 2011.