

# DAILY PT POINTERS

14 August, 2024



## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

### Glitches in portal hit issuance of birth and death certificates

**Vijaita Singh**  
**Abhinav Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

The Civil Registration System (CRS), the Union government's centralised portal to register births and deaths, has been facing glitches for the past four months, several State government officials have told *The Hindu*. The malfunction has led to delays in issuing birth and death registration certificates.

Under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in India from October 1, 2023 should be registered through [crsorgi.gov.in](https://crsorgi.gov.in). So far, 23 States and six Union Territories have made the shift. Those such as Tamil Nadu which have their own portals send the data to the Centre in real-time as mandated by the 2023 amendment.

*The Hindu* accessed an August 5 letter by the Chief Registrar (Birth and



All reported births and deaths occurring from October 1, 2023 are to be digitally registered.

Death), Bihar, to the Registrar-General of India. Bihar migrated to the new portal on June 10. "Due to the revamped CRS portal being extremely slow, the OTPs not being generated in time and continuous display of error message on the page, there has been a huge backlog in all the registration units in the State," the letter said.

As a result, it said, the Registrars are forced to face the ire of the people and public representatives. The glitches are leading to

disruption of the entire system, it added. There is a mismatch between 1,408 registration IDs in the State and those available on the portal, and despite informing the RGI multiple times, several difficulties remain on the ground.

An official in Nagaland said sometimes they were not able to issue certificates for three days in a row.

"Nagaland migrated to the new portal on May 13. Since then, many complaints have been piling up. We have complained to the RGI office in Delhi. District authorities are not able to generate certificates," an official said.

#### 'Teething problems'

A district official in Chhattisgarh said that ever since the State started using the new portal in March this year, there "appears to be teething problems" with the system.

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» PAGE 12

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- The Registrar General of India (RGI) at the Central level coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country and at the same time allowing enough scope for the State Governments to evolve an efficient system of registration suited to the characteristics of the respective administration and notify rules.

## The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page-10

### An overview of governance in Delhi

Why is there constant tension and friction between the Union government and the Delhi government? What did the 1989 Balakrishnan committee recommend? How has the Municipal Corporation of Delhi been involved in the power tussle? What can be done?

#### EXPLAINER

Rangarajan, R

#### The story so far:

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi can nominate 10 members to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on his own without the aid and advice of its council of ministers. This has added to the friction between the Union government, the Delhi government and the local government.

#### How did Delhi government evolve?

At the time of the commencement of the Constitution in 1950, Delhi was a Part C State. During the States reorganisation carried out in 1956, it was made a Union Territory to be governed by an administrator. The MCD was established in 1958, and a limited local government was established since 1966. Subsequently, as per the recommendations of the Balakrishnan committee (1989), the Constitution through the 69th amendment (1991) provided for a legislative Assembly and council of ministers for the NCT of Delhi. However, the subjects of public order, police and land were excluded from the Delhi government; the Union government has control over them. The Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 contains the detailed provisions relating to its legislature, executive and administration.

#### What are the issues?

Since 2015, the Union government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Delhi government led by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have been at loggerheads on various issues. While political differences play a pivotal role in such conflicts, there are also important legal angles. The judgments of the Supreme Court have resulted in amendments to the



In rage: AAP leader and party supporters stage a protest against the Delhi LG on August 3. ANI

curtailed the powers of the elected government in Delhi. A brief summary of these developments in the last decade is provided in the above Table.

Apart from the issues between the Union and the Delhi government, the MCD with its elected representatives add another dimension to the problem as was witnessed in the recent unfortunate loss of lives due to electrocution and flooding in Delhi. The public at large witnessed the shifting of blame between elected representatives at all three levels.

#### What can be the way forward?

As part of its judgment in 2023, the Supreme Court mentioned that there is a triple chain of accountability in a democracy. The officials are accountable to the ministers; the council of ministers are collectively responsible to the legislative assembly; and the legislative

#### The Union versus Delhi

Since 2015, the Union government led by the BJP and the Delhi government led by AAP have been at loggerheads on various issues

Case / Amendment	Brief description	Implication
Govt of NCT of Delhi vs Union of India (2016)	The Delhi High Court ruled that the LG of Delhi exercised complete control of all matters relating to the NCT of Delhi	It made the appointed LG the executive head, reducing the powers of the elected government of Delhi
Govt of NCT of Delhi vs UOI (2018)	On appeal against the Delhi HC judgment, the Supreme Court held that the LG was bound by the 'aid and advice' of the council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister of Delhi except on matters relating to public order, police and land	This restored the powers of the elected government of the NCT of Delhi in matters of day-to-day administration
Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023	It required the council of ministers to obtain the opinion of the LG before any executive action on matters specified by the LG	This amendment tilted the balance of power again in favour of the LG
Govt of NCT of Delhi vs UOI (2023)	A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in May 2023 had held that the Delhi assembly and government shall have legislative and executive powers over 'services' except in relation to public order, police and land	This restored the powers of the elected government of the NCT of Delhi in matters of day-to-day administration including postings and transfers
Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023	It created the National Capital Civil Service Authority for deciding on matters relating to 'services'. This authority will consist of the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary of Delhi	This had the effect of again reducing the importance of the elected government and Chief Minister in decisions relating to 'services'

**As part of its judgment in 2023, the Supreme Court mentioned that there is a triple chain of accountability in a democracy. The officials are accountable to the ministers; the council of ministers are responsible to the legislative assembly; and the legislative assembly members are accountable to the people**

people. The constant tussle between various layers of government ruptures such a chain of accountability.

The NCT of Delhi is spread over 1,450 sq kms while the capital of our country 'New Delhi' that houses most of the central government offices and foreign embassies is around 50 sq kms. In the

district is spread only around 177 square kilometres. A similar approach may be considered where the area in 'New Delhi' of 50-100 square kilometres can be under the complete control of the Central government. The rest of the areas may be brought under the powers of the Delhi assembly. This would require a constitutional amendment after detailed deliberation and consensus. Nevertheless, under the existing set up, the spirit of the judgment of the Supreme Court in 2023 should be honoured.

This would ensure that the people of Delhi get responsible and responsive governance from all three layers of government irrespective of whichever party is in power.

Rangarajan, R is a former IAS officer and author of 'India Simplified'. He currently trains civil service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are

#### THE GIST

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The judgments of the Supreme Court have resulted in amendments to the Government of NCT of Delhi Act that have curtailed the powers of the elected government in Delhi.

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- However, the subjects of public order, police and land were excluded from the Delhi government; the Union government has control over them.
- The Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 contains the detailed provisions relating to its legislature, executive and administration.
- Since 2015, the Union government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Delhi government led by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have been at loggerheads on various issues.

### Does India have laws on the movement of ballast water?

How is ballast water facilitating the spread of invasive mussels on the coast near the Kamarajar Port?

**M. Kalyanaraman**

**The story so far:**

The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (WRD) has informed the National Green Tribunal that it has sought ₹160 crore from the Kamarajar Port in Ennore, Tamil Nadu, to facilitate the removing of invasive mussels on the coast near the port in connection with an ongoing case on the proliferation of *Mytella strigata*, or charru mussel that harms marine ecosystems and hinders fisher boat movements, affecting their livelihood. The WRD has charged that Kamarajar Port is the main reason for the spread of the invasive species by not regulating the ballast water from ships.

**What is ballast water?**

Ships need to have a certain level of immersion into the sea to be stable. When a ship discharges cargo, it rises up in the water and therefore, to keep a minimum level of immersion, ship staff take in sea

water called ballast water inside tanks in the ship. And when the ship loads cargo, leading to more immersion, the ballast water is pumped out of the ship. Until recently, there was no bar on taking in and pumping out of ballast water at ports, in the ocean, along the coast and so on. Since ballast water carries invasive species into other countries that destroy ecosystems, global shipping has sought to regulate ballast water discharge.

**How serious is the problem?**

In India, scientists have recorded nearly 30 invasive species coming from ship ballast water. Among the most harmful in recent times is the charru mussel, *Mytella strigata*, says Biju Kumar, professor and head of the department of aquatic biology and fisheries at the University of Kerala. In the Pulicat lake in Tamil Nadu, as in Ashtamudi lake in Kerala, this mussel has replaced almost all other species, he says. Its survival rate and egg production is very high. Though of marine origin, it can survive even in fresh water, he adds.

**What are global regulations?**

The Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) came into force in 2017 to help prevent the spread of potentially harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water. From September 8, 2017, ships must manage their ballast water so that aquatic organisms and pathogens are removed or rendered harmless before the ballast water is released in a new location.

Recently constructed ships with functioning ballast water management systems continuously take a small portion of the ballast water they had taken in after discharge of cargo and dose it with chemicals so that all the water is rendered free of any biological organism before the water is pumped out during the loading of cargo. Ships built before the BWM convention that don't have these systems are required to exchange the ballast water they took in a port with "neutral" water from the middle of the oceans enroute to the loading port.

Among the countries most serious about preventing ship ballast water damaging their marine ecosystems are Australia and New Zealand. Australia, as a major supplier of coal and iron and other raw materials, sees much ballast water pumping out in ports. Australia is home to ecologically sensitive areas such as the Great Barrier Reef where such water can cause immense harm. Ships calling on Australian ports are often subject to rigorous checks including of ballast water management systems.

**THE GIST**

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**What is India's position?**

Documents of the IMO show that as of July 2, 97 countries have signed on to the BWM as contracting states. India is not on the list of countries. This means that there is no obligation on the part of ships calling on Indian ports to enforce the BWM convention. While other rules such as relating to discharge of oil apply in Indian ports, the discharge of ballast water brought in from other countries is not subject to checks or regulation.

"No restriction is seen regarding discharge of ballast water in Indian ports," says V. J. Mathew, senior advocate who specialises in maritime law. In any case, ports are only a facilitator of ship traffic and cannot be held liable in such cases. If there is any evidence that a vessel has pumped out the ballast water that led to the invasive species, then the vessel owner can be held liable if a law is in force, says Mr. Mathew, adding that it is time India signed on to the convention.

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## DRDO carries out flight test of long-range glide bomb

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Tuesday successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MK-I fighter jet of the Indian Air Force. The test was conducted off the coast of Odisha. “Gaurav is an air launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distance. After being launched, the glide bomb steer towards the target using highly accurate hybrid navigation scheme,” the DRDO said in a statement. The LRGB has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad. During the flight test, the glide bomb hit the target erected at Long Wheeler’s island with pinpoint accuracy, the DRDO said.

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## The Hindu–Welfare Schemes-Page 14

### Kiren Rijiju launches portal for Jiyo Parsi Scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday launched the portal for the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, a Central sector scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

Emphasising the rich heritage and culture of the community, the Minister said the Parsi population is decreasing and this needs to be addressed.

He added that the government's intervention is

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- Emphasising the rich heritage and culture of the community, the Minister said the Parsi population is decreasing and this needs to be addressed.
- He added that the government's intervention in the form of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme is expected to help the community in the future

## The Hindu-Economy(GSIII)

### ILO to help farmers eliminate child labour, forced work in cotton fields

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

As cotton and hybrid cotton seeds from India continue to remain in the United States Labour Department's 'List of Goods Produced by Child Labour or Forced Labour', the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has joined hands with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to help farm workers and small and medium farmers engaged in cotton cultivation.

The joint project – Promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) – aims to promote effective recognition of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, elimination of child labour, abolition of forced labour, elimination



The project aims to promote effective recognition of freedom of association.

of all forms of discrimination, and the promotion of a safe and healthy working environment among the cotton growing community in India. The project was launched here on Tuesday and is expected to reach out to 65 lakh cotton farmers in 11 States.

Insaf Nizam, ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Specialist, said the issues at the fields

can be addressed through a productive approach by understanding what is happening at the grassroots level.

"ILO's agenda is to promote freedom, equity and dignity," he said and added that economic growth should not be at the cost of decent work.

"The fundamental principles and rights at work convention (of the ILO) applies to all ILO member States whether they have ratified it or not. It is part and parcel of the ILO's Constitution," he said and added that the ILO will work with all stakeholders to address problems of cotton cultivators.

CITI secretary general Chandrima Chatterjee said by leveraging the confederation's existing farmer connections and network in

the region, and by capitalising on the knowledge products developed by the ILO, the new initiative will ensure stronger collaboration with government bodies, employers' and workers' organisations, and civil society groups. "Together, we will work to ensure that cotton-growing communities are well-informed and empowered to assert their rights under the FPRW."

Ms. Chatterjee said that by upholding the FPRW, cotton-growing communities can foster a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous environment for all workers, leading to long-term benefits for individuals and families.

The project also aims to promote financial inclusion and bank linkage for the farmers and agriculture workers.

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- The joint project — Promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW) — aims to promote effective recognition of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, elimination of child labour, abolition of forced labour, elimination of all forms of discrimination, and the promotion of a safe and healthy working environment among the cotton growing community in India. The project was launched here on Tuesday and is expected to reach out to 65 lakh cotton farmers in 11 States.

### Stay lifted on release of Hema committee report on Malayalam film industry issues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 13

THE KERALA High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition challenging the release of the report of the Justice Hema committee, which looked into the problems faced by women professionals in the Malayalam film industry.

On July 24 the high court, in an interim order, stayed the release of the report following a petition moved by producer Saji Parayil, who had challenged the State Information Commission's July 6 directive to make the findings public. The information commission stepped in after the cultural affairs department, which appointed the Hema committee in 2017, declined to disclose the report under the Right to Information Act.

A bench of Justice V G Arun lifted the stay and ordered that the report be published within a week. The court had given the interim stay hours before the state government was slated to

In July 2017, the Government formed a three-member committee headed by retired high court judge K Hema to look into the woes of women in the film industry, including their safety, salary and working conditions. The demand for a committee to examine the issues faced by women in the industry came after a leading woman actor was abducted and sexually assaulted in a moving van in Kochi in February 2017. The incident exposed the insecurity of women professionals in the industry.

After recording statements from several women professionals in the film industry, the committee submitted a 300-page report to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in December 2019. It had recommended the formation of a tribunal to look into the issues faced by women in the industry.

Instead of disclosing it, the Government in January 2022 formed a panel to study the report and work out a plan to implement its recommendations.

In May 2022, the Government released a draft of

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### WHAT IS A DDoS ATTACK, CAUSE OF TRUMP-MUSK INTERVIEW GLITCHES?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

BILLIONAIRE ENTREPRENEUR Elon Musk hosted former US President and Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump on his social media platform X on Monday evening for a live audio interview. However, their conversation started after a 40-minute delay and witnessed several glitches. This happened due to what appeared to be a "massive DDoS attack on X", Musk said in a post.

#### What is a DDoS attack?

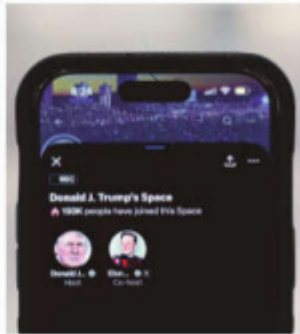
A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack simply means that a website or any other online service cannot be accessed because it has been the target of attacks from a malicious actor. This is done by directing many users towards an online server simultaneously to "flood" it. It results in slow page loading times or a stoppage in internet services.

Computers connect to the Internet and one another through unique Internet Protocol (IP) addresses assigned to each device. The data they exchange is divided into smaller chunks, called "packets". The tech company IBM's website notes, "By using up a resource's available bandwidth, DDoS attacks prevent these resources from responding to legitimate connection requests and packets."

In a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack, multiple sources work against one target. This makes the culprit harder to locate.

#### How do such attacks work?

DoS attacks can be carried out in



The XSpace with Donald Trump and Elon Musk. Reuters

work and receive an acknowledgement. However, they deliberately leave out the necessary step of confirming that connection. Multiple incomplete connections result in a load for the server, making completing real connections difficult.

#### What are the signs of a DoS attack?

Slowing internet speed and difficulties in accessing sites can mean a DoS attack.

In the past, X systems have faced difficulties due to other reasons. In 2023, Musk hosted Florida Governor Ron DeSantis on Spaces, the same audio platform on X where he hosted Trump. That interview also began after a delay of 30 minutes. Musk blamed the high volume of listeners — around 4,20,000 — for the strained system. This time, more than a million people tuned in.

Anti-virus software can help detect

- Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk hosted former US President and Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump on his social media platform X on Monday (August 12) for a live audio interview. However, their conversation started after a 40-minute delay and witnessed **several glitches**, due to what appeared to be a "massive DDoS attack on X" A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack simply means that a website or any other online service cannot be accessed because it has been the target of attacks from a malicious actor. According to the US government's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, this targeting is done by directing a large number of users against a particular online server at the same time to "flood" it.
- Bots can also be used to overwhelm the network, resulting in slow loading times or a total pause in internet services.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## Air-IR(GSII)

### India & US Sign MoU To Promote Cooperation On Small & Medium Enterprises



- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the Government of the United States of America to promote Cooperation on Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs).
- It envisages the exchange of expertise between the two sides on issues related to improving MSME participation in the global marketplace. It also provides for the joint conduct of programmes for women entrepreneurs to empower them and facilitate trade partnerships between women-owned small businesses of the two countries.