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Who should succeed Rahul Gandhi as the new Congress president?

SACHIN PILOT ELIGIBLE



Sachin Pilot is the most eligible candidate for Congress president. The deputy CM of Rajasthan, he is young and vibrant. He served in Manmohan Singh's ministry as a minister of corporate offices. He was commissioned as an officer in the Indian Territorial Army and is known as Lieutenant Pilot. I think he will be able to build a strong party with no corruption to help in the progress of the Indian economy.

MAYUK JAYASIMHA, class VI, Gitanjali Devshala, Hyderabad

ALL FOR MOTILAL VOHRA

Motilal Vora, the former CM of Madhya Pradesh, is the best contender. He has everything which Rahul lacked and what a politician needs – experience, smartness, knowledge and leadership. He has seen India since the British Raj and is most suitable for the job.

KRISH KOTECHEA, class IX, Delhi Public School, Rajkot

SHASHI THAROOR IDEAL

I feel Shashi Tharoor will be the right choice to succeed Rahul Gandhi as Congress president. He is well educated, very experienced political leader and a former diplomat. He can lead the Congress ably, giving it the much needed direction through his erudite knowledge, oratory and diplomacy skills.

ANSHU SINGH, class X, St Gregorios School, New Delhi

SACHIN RIGHT CHOICE

Sachin Pilot, the deputy chief minister of Rajasthan, should take over from Rahul Gandhi. Sachin is young, honest, hard working and has a clear vision of what he wants for the future of India. The son of late Rajesh Pilot, a Congress leader himself, Sachin will be able to steer the Congress party out of troubled waters and help the Grand Old Party regain its lost glory and respect.

NANDINI DESHWAL, class IX, The Shriram Millennium School, Noida

BRING PEOPLE CLOSER

India is a country of diversity with multiple cultures and languages. This makes it difficult for people of different cultures to understand each other. Making Hindi compulsory will not only unite the people, but will help to increase efficiency in communication. Besides, this will also help to increase the importance of our national language.

PRACHI JAIN, class VII, St Helen's School, Howrah



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IS INDIA READY FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

70% of electricity generated from dirty sources

India's EV policy aims to cut emissions, even though more than 70% of electricity is generated from dirty sources such as coal. With thermal power as the mainstay, more will be needed to seamlessly charge the batteries for electric vehicles, thereby denting the credibility of India's emission-reduction goals. That notwithstanding, the plan envisages 30% EVs on India's roads by 2030. With an existing vehicular population of more than 210 million and swelling, it's hard to see how this transformation will happen in about a decade.

Comparison with developed countries

Compare this with countries like Britain, chasing similar outcomes. Britain seeks to halve fossil fuel vehicles by 2030, but has just about 38 million vehicles on its roads, is power surplus, and by 2025, will eliminate coal-fired power. All of which lends some credence to its green goals.

India's planned EV journey, on the other hand, has many dead ends. Instead of developing EVs, automakers in India have been busy recalibrating vehicles to meet the Bharat Standard-VI (BS-VI) emission norms. By 2020, India will switch to BS-VI standards to cut vehicular emissions. These are in line with European guidelines. Manufacturers who have already pumped in money to meet this deadline have little incentive to rev up on EVs, which needs billions more in investment and thousands of engineering hours, despite no assured demand.

EV batteries are costly

Once you dismiss this bungle as oversight, there is the question of creating a market for EVs. Even those who plan to make such vehicles are reluctant participants be-

Most discussions on electric vehicles (EVs) focus on benefits and sidestep serious questions. India's national EV policy lacks spark. In a country that is power deficit, the current EV plan seems a sham

cause of the high costs and lack of profit. There is every reason why existing standard lithium-ion batteries use expensive materials such as cobalt, bumping up price. In an e-car, battery performance is what matters most, hence, cutting corners on the battery is not an option.



India, a value-conscious market

This is not to say carmakers from Toyota to General Motors aren't chasing electric dreams. They are, but mostly by targeting developed countries with higher incomes and sophisticated infrastructure capabilities. India, is a value-conscious market and the bulk of the vehicles on its roads are entry-level ones where price is everything.



India is power starved

GoI is hoping consumers will overcome cost hurdles through subsidies it offers. That may be so. But it's not possible to race past inadequate infrastructure. For EVs to run smoothly, India will need assured excess power supply that can be fed to charging stations throughout the country.

Even tony metropolitan areas in Delhi's hinterland struggle with outages. Outside urban areas, power can be scatty. And in vast swathes of rural India, electrification means a supply line and an hour of power a day.

Given the infrastructure bottlenecks, GoI will have to limit EV use to within the radius of charging stations, which would hardly be acceptable to most buyers. To penalise buyers for fossil fuel vehicles, while failing to guarantee power for electric vehicles, lacks wheels.

What should be done

If the government is serious about reducing emissions and encouraging cleaner vehicles, it needs to vastly improve public transport and shared mobility so that fewer commuters opt for private vehicles. It must curb the ownership of vehicles per household and make it prohibitively expensive to own more than one vehicle. It should also incentivise remote working where possible, cut



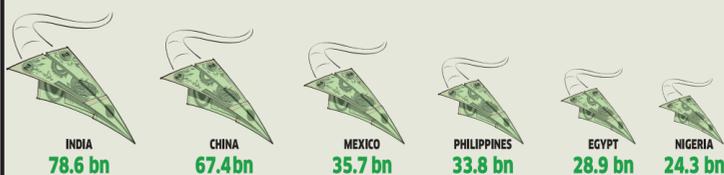
ting back on the need to travel. India's shift to EVs should be kickstarted by converting intracity public transport to green, and by generating enough surplus power through clean energy.

Once it is able to deliver on these basics, it will be easier to convince all stakeholders to convert.

SOURCE: ET/BY ANJANA MENON. THE WRITER IS CEO, CONTENT PIXIES

What are remittances?

India got a 'Kenya' in remittances for 2018. We're talking \$78.069 billion (around ₹546 lakh crore) or equal to the nominal GDP of Kenya



WHAT IS A REMITTANCE?

Starting with the basic definition, a "remittance" is the transfer of money to a person or place. In other words, a remittance is basically the same as an international money transfer. Many remittances are sent from foreign workers who moved abroad seeking economic opportunities, sending their money to their country of origin

BENEFIT

International remittances have been an important source of foreign exchange for the Indian economy for four decades, with estimates of inflows ranging between 2.4% of gross domestic product. For 2018, that was 2.9% of India's

2018 GDP. And the latest \$79 billion financial bonanza, while playing an important role in India's foreign exchange management, will also lower the growing noise over a 'brain drain'.

HURDLES

The future growth of remittances is vulnerable to lower oil prices, restrictive migration policies, and an overall moderation of economic growth. "Remittances have a direct impact on alleviating poverty for many households, and the World Bank is well positioned to work with countries to facilitate remittance flows," said Michael Rutkowski, Senior Director of the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice at the World Bank.

About one in nine people globally are supported by funds sent home by migrant workers: Around 800 million in the world – or one in nine people – are recipients of these flows of money sent by their family members who have migrated for work.

Remittances remain expensive to send: On average, globally, currency conversions and fees amount to 7 per cent of the total amounts sent.

Dramatic finish Cricket World Cup 2019 signs off with a cliffhanger

It was perhaps the wildest of cricket ODI World Cup finals. And in the end, literally, nothing could separate England and New Zealand. But it was England who were crowned champions on account of the number of boundaries they hit – 26 to New Zealand's 17. While the method of deciding the winner by the number of boundaries scored might be controversial – for example, one can argue that wickets taken should be valued more than sixes or fours – but that was the rule in this tournament.



True, the end result was heart-breaking for New Zealand – they lost out on a technicality – but England deserve full credit. They played aggressive cricket throughout the World Cup and had the depth in their team to cover all bases. Hopefully, this win will revive cricket's popularity in the UK, where the game had originated.

Cricketeer Ambati Rayudu retired recently. Do you think selectors have been unfair to Rayudu?

RAYUDU NOT UP TO MARK



It's unfortunate that this talented guy was not given an opportunity to prove himself. There is always pressure on the selectors to include only those players in the team who are performing continuously better than others.

Rayudu was not able to satisfy the selectors, so he was dropped. This may appear cruel and unfair, but we cannot ignore the fact that due to this strategy, our Indian cricket team is number one in the world.

HARSH SINGHAL, class XII, Delhi Public School, Hapur

UNFAIR TO RAYUDU

Though not as well appreciated as Virat Kohli or MS Dhoni, Rayudu proved his potential through his match winning centuries and innings. He was treated unfairly by the selectors for reasons best known to them. I feel Rayudu has done a lot for his team and received nothing in return for it.

YASHIKA M PANDEY, class XII, CMR National Public School, Bengaluru

QUIT ONUS ON BCCI



Ambati Rayudu is an exceptional player even though his batting may have not been good in the IPL. Despite being at the top in the stand-by list, he wasn't selected for the World Cup, an event which holds an exceptional place in any cricketer's life. Ambati's retirement is mainly due to the BCCI's rejection.

SUNAINA UPPAL, class IX, DL DAV Public School, New Delhi

DISAPPOINTING MOVE

Rayudu is a talented batsman, but he couldn't perform as expected from a No. 4 batsman. I would've preferred him as Shikhar Dhawan's replacement for the WC, but the selectors went with Rishabh Pant as he is a southpaw who can score runs aggressively when required. I'm disappointed that Rayudu as a good sportsman gave up so easily and quit over his rejection.

MOKSH DALAL, class VIII, Smarten School, Najafgarh, New Delhi

STAND BY DECISION



It's never unfair to any player as every player gets a chance based on his talent and performance. Rayudu was doing good and almost had a confirmed berth, but his form declined just before the WC, making the selectors to go for an alternative. We must stand by the decision taken by Team India.

RAVIKAR B REDDY, class VII, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

NOT A GOOD IDEA

The selectors have been unfair. Rayudu is a good and experienced cricketer and was named as a standby for the World Cup. But despite numerous injuries he was not chosen. He is a big hitter and could stabilize the middle order. Ignoring him wasn't a good idea.

ANISH VEERAKUMAR, class IX, St Paul's English School, Bengaluru