



THE HINDU

National News

Need Mamata to keep BJP out of Bengal: CPI(M) leader

At a time when there is a tussle between the State and Central Committees of the CPI(M) over joining forces with the Congress, Central Committee member Gautam Deb has hinted that the party may join forces with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to keep the BJP out of power in Bengal. TMC secretary-general Partha Chatterjee, however, brushed aside Mr. Deb's remarks.

"If Mamata Banerjee is honest about fighting the BJP's communal politics, then she can talk to us. We want to ensure that the BJP does not get a single seat in Bengal," Mr. Deb told The Hindu on Sunday.

He said the CPI(M) wanted to "unify all the secular democratic forces against the BJP" and the TMC was "necessary" for the purpose. "Currently the main danger to the country and Bengal is the BJP. If such a right wing party gains influence in the State, there will be no democracy and minority rights. We need Mamata Banerjee in our fight [against the BJP]," he said.

Sovereignty

A supreme power or authority.

Radical

Radical to or affecting the fundamental nature of something.

Business News

Time for a digital Indian Rupee

With a vision to place India on the digital India landscape, the country is beginning to understand transformative agenda like demonetisation by the government. Digital transactions have soared with Net banking, credit cards, digital wallets, payment gateways, Aadhaar pay, PPI, UPI, payments bank and BHIM since demonetisation.

These are radical initiatives that used technology to ensure wider acceptance. But such formats come with their own limitations and security concerns. In India, where more than 95% transactions are cash-driven, the rural and semi-urban populations have not had complete inclusion in this financial methodology. Hence, it is imperative to introduce digital fiat currency as part of the remonetisation of the economy for monetary sovereignty and policy effectiveness.

The digital fiat currency, which we have proposed to the government, works in the same way as do notes and coins. By virtue of its digital nature, it has the potential to be the most financially inclusive instrument.

Interoperability

The ability of computer system or software to exchange and make use of information.

Counterfeit

Made in exact imitation of something valuable with the intention to deceive or defraud.

State News

Maharashtra set to get inter-caste marriage law

The Maharashtra government is planning to introduce an inter-caste marriage legislation to prevent heinous crimes like 'honour killings', State Minister for Social Justice Rajkumar Badole said here on Sunday.

"Many couples and families have had to endure trauma and a litany of atrocities for having challenged regressive social norms, despite the government providing financial incentives to encourage inter-caste marriages. This law is to ensure their security and to protect their children," Mr. Badole said during a lecture at the Balgandharva Rangmandir. The talk was organised as part of the celebrations of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 126th birth anniversary.

The plan to introduce the law was mooted in March, with Mr. Badole chairing a nine-member committee constituted to frame the legislation. The law will give inter-caste couples priority during employment, apart from financial aid.

Tussle

A vigorous struggle or scuffle, typically in order to obtain something.

Coruscant

Giving off flashes of light.