



DUSSEHRA RALLY VS DUSSEHRA RALLY



'We are not traitors... You betrayed Bal Thackeray, Hindutva, your voters'

EKNATH SHINDE



'They are traitors. Even if they have ministers' posts, it won't be for long'

UDDHAV THACKERAY

PAGE 8

FIVE KILLED AS CAR HITS RESCUERS

Mumbai sea link staffer who stopped suicide bids run over at accident site



The crash site at the Bandra-Worli sea link. Ganesh Shirsekar

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU, SAGAR RAJPUT & ALIMOOSVI
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5



Kadam was among rescuers hit by another vehicle

ABOUT A decade ago, he was felicitated by the police for saving the life of a girl after a road accident in Mumbai's Worli. In 2016, CCTV footage showed him pulling back a man dangling from the Bandra-Worli sea link trying to end his life. Around 2.40 am Wednesday, he responded to yet another call — about a car

with four passengers hitting a railing on the sea link following a burst tyre.

This was the last distress call that 36-year-old Chetan Kadam, a security supervisor, would attend. Minutes later, another

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HIS FIRST RALLY IN VALLEY AFTER END OF ARTICLE 370

No talks with Pak, J&K under 3 families saw 42,000 die: Shah

'Gupkar model gave us Pulwama attack, Modi model gave hospital to Pulwama'

BASHAARAT MASOOD
BARAMULLA, OCTOBER 5

TARGETING "THREE families that ruled Kashmir for 70 years" and holding them "responsible" for the "death of 42,000 people" in terrorism in J&K since 1990, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Wednesday ruled out any dialogue with Pakistan, saying the "Modi government will not tolerate terrorism".

He urged people of the Valley to "come and join the mainstream and be part of development".

Addressing a rally attended

by an estimated crowd of over 10,000 people in Baramulla — his first public rally in the Valley since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 — Shah announced that elections to the Assembly will be held as soon as the Election Commission completes the revision of electoral rolls in the Union Territory.

"Some people are giving me suggestions that I should talk to Pakistan, those who have ruled here for 70 years are giving me suggestions. But I am clear I don't want to talk to Pakistan. I will talk to Gujjars and Paharis of Baramulla. I will talk to the youth

EXPLAINED
The Delhi message

SHAH HAS made it clear that Islamabad will have to first end its support to terror. Earlier, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's remarks drew a sharp response from India which said a "polity that claims it seeks peace with its neighbours would never sponsor cross-border terrorism".

of Kashmir. They (Pakistan) have spread terrorism here. What good have they done for Kashmir?"

He hit out at "three families that have ruled Kashmir for 70 years", identifying them as the "Mufti family, Abdullah family and Gandhi family".

"I saw a tweet of Mehbooba (Mufti) ji. She had said that the Home Minister should go back only after giving an account of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

J&K: 4 MILITANTS KILLED; STUDENT SHOT DEAD PAGE 12



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat with mountaineer Santosh Yadav, chief guest at the Sangh event in Nagpur. Dhananjay Khedkar

RSS chief: To progress, allow women equal rights, freedom to work

Calls for population control policy, says Sangh poses no danger to minorities

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

RASHTRIYA SWAYAMSEVAK Sangh Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat said Wednesday that "until women's equal participation in the workforce is ensured, efforts aimed at the progress of the country will not be successful".

Addressing the annual RSS rally in Nagpur on Vijayadashami, Bhagwat said, "If the entire society is to be organised, then 50% of it is maternal power. It cannot be ignored. We need to strengthen them. We call them Mother. We think of them as Jagat Janani (creators of the universe). While imagining

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Borders blur in Kartarpur as Bedi, Intikhab catch up over some jazz



Intikhab Alam behind Bishan Singh Bedi, and their families at Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara on Tuesday

SRIRAM VEERA & SANDEEP DWIVEDI
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

"WHEN THE saints go marching in..." The jazz of Louis Armstrong floats in Kartarpur on the Ravi river's west bank outside Lahore. A great Indian Sikh spinner, a respected Pakistani Muslim captain and a legendary African-American musician, who also sang gospel songs, have found a way to mingle at the fabled shrine. "I could see tears welling up in his eyes when I sang that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



EXPLAINED

NOBEL PRIZE CHEMISTRY THREE WHO MADE MOLECULES 'CLICK' PAGE 13

Scientist who brought cheetahs to India finds no place in task force

JAY MAZOOMDAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

DEAN OF THE Wildlife Institute of India, noted biologist Yadavendra Vikram Singh Jhala, who has been at the forefront of India's cheetah project for more than 13 years, and escorted the first batch of animals from



Jhala (centre) with Laurie Marker and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Twitter/Jyotiraditya Scindia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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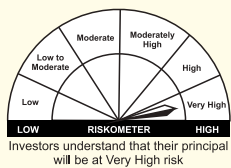
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● Borders blur in Kartarpur

- **RSS chief: To progress, allow women equal rights, freedom to work**

- **Scientist finds no place in task force**

● Sea link supervisor who stopped suicide bids killed

At Nair Hospital, the family of ambulance driver Salve, too, had arrived. Inconsolable, Salve's wife Sonali (26) was on the floor with her three children -- two sons aged seven and four, and a two-year-old daughter.

New Delhi

Caught stealing, man stabs elderly woman to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

AN 86-YEAR-OLD woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her former employee after she caught him stealing money from her house in Outer Delhi's Rani Bagh.

Police said the accused, Gopal Lal (22), has been arrested with Rs 3.2 lakh of stolen cash. The deceased, Murti Devi, sustained three stab injuries on her neck and face.

Lal worked as a driver at the woman's house but was fired for not coming in regularly. "He (Lal) recently got married and wanted

money to run his house. On Tuesday, he waited outside the victim's home with a knife. On finding that her son and daughter-in-law were out, he entered the house... but was caught by the victim. She screamed for help, but he... allegedly stabbed her..." said a senior police officer.

CCTVs showed a man roaming around the house and a nearby NDPL office for 2-3 hours. "... the suspect was identified as Lal, but the family didn't know his address. We conducted raids... Within hours, he was arrested from... Pitampura..." said DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma.

4 dead after cylinder blast brings down house

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR
GHAZIABAD, OCTOBER 5

FOUR PEOPLE, including a toddler, were killed when a two-storey house in Ghaziabad's Loni collapsed, after an LPG cylinder explosion, Wednesday morning.

Police said the explosion took place in the house of Munir, an auto driver. The collapse resulted in the deaths of his daughter Sania (15), his daughter-in-law Rukhaya (24), his granddaughter Inayat (2), and another relative Shabnoor (21). Munir's wife Mehraj (45) and a relative Baby (18) survived.

Locals said the incident took place around 10 am, leaving the house in ruins. Police, firefighters, NDRF personnel as well as senior officials, including Ghaziabad SSP Muniraj G and District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar, rushed to the spot.

Loni SHO Santosh Kumar said, "It seems the cause of the incident was an LPG cylinder explosion, and Mehraj has also said the same on record. However, the forensic team and NDRF are at the spot along with a sniffer dog. Based on evidence, we will carry out further investigation." He added that Munir was out of town at the moment.

Baby, who was admitted to Parakh Hospital in Ghaziabad, described the incident: "I was sitting downstairs while Shabnoor was cooking upstairs... suddenly, the cylinder exploded and the whole house collapsed." Her legs were injured by the falling rubble. Meanwhile, Mehraj was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi on account of burns on her hands.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

दिल्लीवाले



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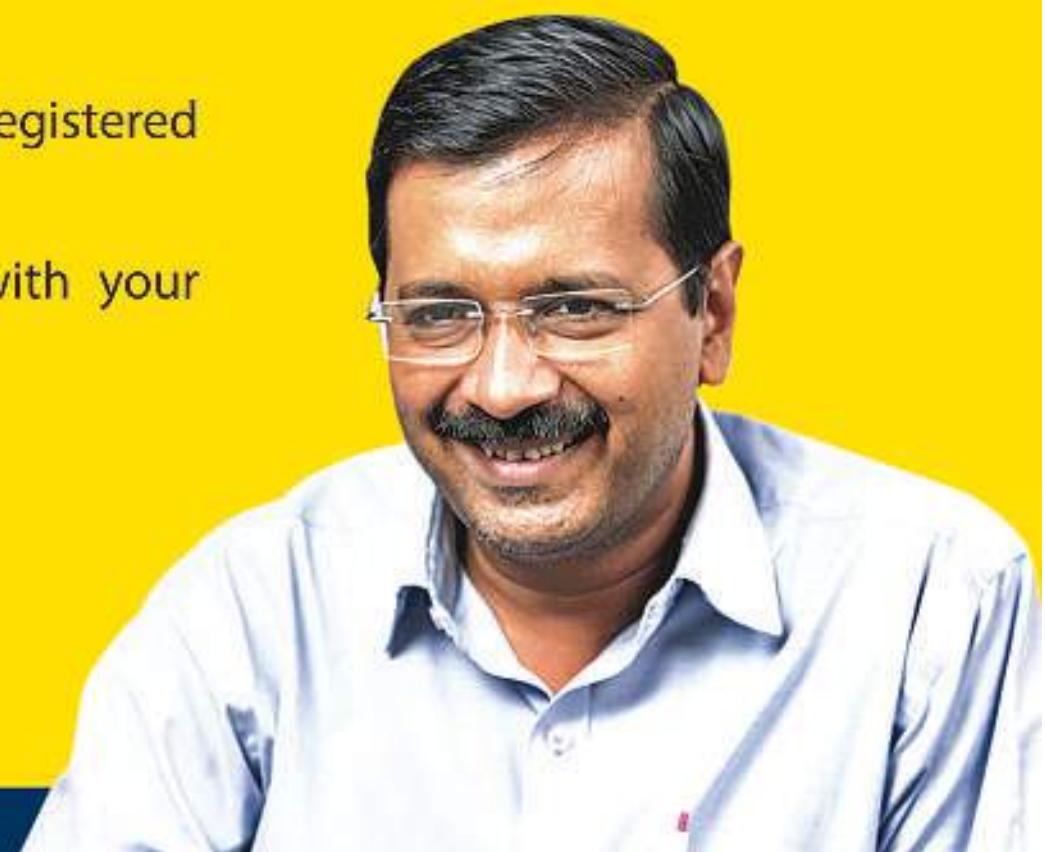
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OCTOBER 10, 2022

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President Tsai Ing-wen
Republic of China (Taiwan)

Island of Resilience

Double Tenth National Day is a time for the 23 million people of Taiwan to celebrate their hard-won freedom, democracy and world-class human rights. It is also a time for the country to recommit to strengthening strategic cooperation with diplomatic allies and like-minded partners in promoting peace, stability and prosperity regionally and worldwide. On Oct. 10, a salient message rings loud and clear: Taiwan will always be an island of resilience!



Striding Forward

Taiwan knows with challenges come opportunities. The high-tech powerhouse seized COVID-19 and climate change as chances to cement its position in global supply chains and transform its energy sector. The strategy is paying off: the economy grew 6.28 percent in 2021, and green power generation is poised to reach 15.1 percent by 2025.

Fueling this transition is the Six Core Strategic Industries initiative to boost resilience and realize the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. This National Day, Taiwan's people stand resolute in their determination to meet the future head-on.



6 THE CITY

VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS

7,858

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:

OXYGEN SUPPORT

VENTILATOR SUPPORT

45

10

2

DELHI TOTAL
CASES

20,03,746

HOSPITAL BEDS

ICU BEDS

Total

Vacant

Noida

Cases

Deaths

Gurgaon

Cases

Deaths

Total

Oct 4

Oct 5

Total

Total active cases in Delhi

Cases

Recoveries

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Prataprao Jadhav will replace Tharoor as panel head

STANDING PROBLEMS

AMONG THE new chairpersons of the revamped Parliamentary standing committees, the toughest task, perhaps, could be of Prataprao Jadhav who is taking over as the head of Communications and Information Technology, earlier headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. This Standing Committee has been hitting the headlines for the bitter fight between the ruling BJP and the Opposition over a number of issues. The team consisting of the likes of Mahua Moitra (TMC), Karti P Chidambaram (Congress), John Brittas (CPI-M) and Jawhar Sircar (TMC) seems to have already decided to be more aggressive when the committee resumes its meetings. If Tharoor also decides to take a stance, Jadhav will certainly have a difficult time. Also, Nishikant Dubey, who had taken a solemn pledge to attend the proceedings only if Tharoor is replaced, will have an arduous task to guard the ruling party interests.

DUSSEHRA, DRAMA

ON A day political leaders back home were busy celebrating Dussehra, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reached Bali, Indonesia, on Wednesday to attend the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit scheduled for October 6-7. He watched Kecak dance, a Balinese Hindu dance-and-music drama based on Ramayana that is traditionally performed in temples, thus not missing the festival entirely. Birla is expected to address the summit on the theme 'Effective Parliament, Vibrant Democracy'.

KUDOS FROM PM

DURING HIS visit to 750-bed AIIMS Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh for its inaugural event on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the efforts put in by the Union health ministry in setting up the state-of-the-art institute. He said the ministry completed the work on time, overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic and the hilly terrain. He also reminisced about the time he came for laying of the foundation stone of the institute when JP Nadda was the Union health minister. Nadda, too, was present at the event.

CALLS FOR CHANGE

WITH RAHUL Gandhi in Karnataka for his Bharat Jodo Yatra and Mallikarjun Kharge tipped to be the next Congress chief, demand for changes in the BJP's state unit seems to have intensified. Since the leadership has hinted there will be no change in the government, the focus is now on the state chief's post. Leaders seeking changes say only a fresh face can cheer up the party's rank and file ahead of state elections in 2023.

Rajnath Singh performs 'Shastra Puja' at military base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Wednesday performed 'Shastra Puja' (worship of weapons) on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami at a military base in Uttarakhand's Auli.

In his impromptu address to the soldiers, Singh hailed the "unparalleled bravery and courage" of the military personnel during the clashes in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley in June 2020.

He said India believes in the principle "the whole world is one family" but gives a befitting response if any outsider casts an "evil eye" on it.

Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Pandey and General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of Surya Command Lt Gen Yogendra Dimri were among the officials present on the occasion.

TRS is now BRS, will approach poll panel for status of national party

SREENIVAS JANYALA

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 5

THE TELANGANA Rashtra Samithi (TRS) is now the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), reflecting the national ambitions of its founder and chief K Chandrashekar Rao.

Rao, the Telangana Chief Minister, Wednesday held a meeting of the TRS State General Body at the party headquarters in Hyderabad. Among the attendees was Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, who arrived with 20 of his party MLAs. Tamil Nadu-based Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi's T. Thirumavalavan, a Dalit leader, also came with a group of party representatives.

The members of TRS, which was launched in April 2001, unanimously approved a resolu-

RIVAL SHIV SENA FACTIONS SQUARE OFF AT MUMBAI RALLIES

Show of strength in Dussehra showdown



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde's rally at Bandra Kurla Complex. Amit Chakravarty

You betrayed Bal Thackeray, Hindutva, your voters: Shinde

EESHANPRIYA MS

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Eknath Shinde Wednesday declared his faction of the Shiv Sena as the true inheritor of Bal Thackeray's legacy and accused former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray of betraying ideals of his father as well as the Hindutva ideology.

"We are not gaddars (traitors). Everyone knows who the real traitors are. The betrayal took place in 2019 when you joined hands with Congress. You betrayed Bal Thackeray, Hindutva and your voters," he said, addressing his faction's Dussehra Rally at Bandra Kurla Complex, a show of strength countering the rival rally by the Uddhav Thackeray faction at Shivaji Park.

While Thackeray's main thrust was on targeting the BJP, Shinde, in his 90-minute address, spoke largely about his rival.

"You should introspect why

I will never digress from the thoughts of Bal Thackeray. Today you called me Kattappa [the 'Baahubali' character who stabbed his king], but even he was self-respecting and not a two-faced politician like you"

— EKNATH SHINDE
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

we left, instead of calling us gaddars. Why did Raj Thackeray leave, and why did Narayan Rane leave? Were they all traitors?" Shinde said.

"I will never digress from the thoughts of Bal Thackeray," Shinde said, repeatedly invoking the Sena founder.

With the Shinde faction failing to get the Sena's traditional Shivaji Park venue for the rally, it used optics to reinforce its links to Bal Thackeray. The poster at

the back of the stage read 'Garv se kaho hum Hindu hain', a statement Bal Thackeray made after the 1992 Mumbai riots. At the centre of the stage was a chair the Sena founder used during his visits to Thane in 2009-2010—Shinde garlanded the chair after he arrived on stage at 7.30 pm.

Jaidev Thackeray, the elder brother of Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, shared the stage with Shinde at the rally.

Attacking Thackeray over his speech at Shivaji Park, which concluded a few minutes before his own speech began, Shinde said: "Today you called me Kattappa [the Baahubali character who stabbed his own king], but even he was self-respecting and not a two-faced politician like you."

Right at the beginning of his speech, Shinde kneeled on the stage and touched the ground with his forehead as tribute to the audience. He said: "I am one of you. This will mark the end of dynasty politics in Shiv Sena."



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's rally at Shivaji Park. Ganesh Shiresekar

Traitors conspired when I was at my most vulnerable: Uddhav

VALLABH OZARKAR

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

ADDRESSING HIS Dussehra rally, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray Wednesday, without naming the Maharashtra Chief Minister, labelled the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction as traitors, accusing them of conspiring against him when he was at his "most vulnerable physical state after suffering a debilitating illness".

The former chief minister questioned the BJP's version of Hindutva and said the idea of democracy was under threat under the dispensation at the Centre.

"Breaking the alliance with the BJP does not mean that we have left the ideology of Hindutva. I do not need to learn Hindutva from a party whose leaders have bowed their heads at the tomb of Jinnah and went uninvited to Pakistan to meet Nawaz Sharif," Thackeray said during his 45-minute address to party workers at Shivaji Park,

In the Ankita Bhandari murder case, the resort where it happened belonged to a BJP leader. In the Bilkis Bano case, sentences of the convicts were waived. These are the values of the BJP"

— UDDHAV THACKERAY
SHIV SENA CHIEF

which was packed to capacity.

Taking on the Centre, Thackeray said: "There is a genuine worry on whether democracy in this country can stay alive." The Sena chief said the BJP was trying to cover up its shortcomings by evoking its version of Hindutva. "You (the BJP) speak about the cow, but why don't you speak about the rising inflation in the country?" Thackeray said.

He also took a swipe at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's state-

ment that there was a need to empower women.

"In the Ankita Bhandari murder case in Uttarakhand, the resort where it happened belonged to a BJP leader. In the Bilkis Bano case, the sentences of the convicts who raped her and killed her child were waived. These men were felicitated and welcomed. These are the values of the BJP," Thackeray said.

Thackeray also targeted the Sena's breakaway faction, stating that they were traitors and would have to live with the "ignominy of being called traitors for the rest of their lives".

He said, "They are traitors only, even if they have posts of ministers now, it won't be the case for a long time..."

Without referring to Shinde by name, Thackeray said: "I feel sad about only one thing. I had given responsibility for handling the affairs of the party to an individual. But when I was in hospital, the same person was conspiring to break the party."

Hiccups in mind, small allies in Bihar coalition seek coordination panel

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, OCTOBER 5

DEMANDS FOR A coordination committee are back from smaller allies in Bihar's less than two-month-old Grand Alliance (GA) government comprising Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Janata Dal (United), Congress, CPI, CPI(M), and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular).

Leaders of the Congress, CPI, CPI (ML), and HAM(S) have reiterated their demand for setting up a coordination committee for "smooth functioning of the government".

The triggers seem to be the "corruption" cries of RJD legislator Sudhakar Singh on his way out as Agriculture Minister, resignation of Law Minister Kartik Kumar over a pending arrest warrant, and Women Development Corporation CMD Harjot Kaur Bamrah's out-of-place response to a girl's query on non-availability of sanitary pads in schools.

All these smaller parties had met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav soon after formation of the government in August with demands for a coordination committee and the two leaders had agreed to it.

CPI (ML) state secretary said: "So many things since formation of the government. Kartik Kumar had to resign following a pending arrest warrant and Sudhakar Singh resigned recently alleging corruption and irregularities in his department. Women Development Corporation CMD made a 'insensitive and irresponsible' statement over demand for sanitary pads by a school girl. This is why we need coordination committee at the earliest."

The CPI (ML) leader added: "We are also concerned with the poor people's houses being demolished in name of clearing en-

EXPLAINED

Apprehension in alliance

SMALLER PARTIES are wary of the power tussle between the JD(U) and the RJD. They are also apprehensive about internal bickering in RJD, especially in the wake of Sudhakar Singh's resignation and the "displeasure" of his father, RJD state chief Jagdanand Singh, with top party leaders. Meanwhile, Tejashwi says he is in "no hurry" to become CM while Nitish is keeping all guessing on the timing of calling it quits.

croachments or some other reason. If there is a coordination committee, we will be able to give our feedback that can ensure smooth functioning of the government."

Bihar Congress working president Kaukab Quadri said there was need for a coordination committee at two levels — to monitor overall functioning of the government, and also review works done by the two Congress ministers.

HAM(S) spokesperson Danish Rizwan said: "We hope to get a coordination committee anytime now. We were assured so by the CM during our previous meeting with him one-and-a-half months ago."

The RJD and JD(U) have left it to their top leaders to take a call on the issue. RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar said, "Since the matter is discussed at the level of our top leaders, Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav, it is entirely up to them," JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said.

EC move to regulate poll promises unwarranted, say Left parties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

THE LEFT parties on Wednesday said the Election Commission's proposal to amend the Model Code of Conduct to guide political parties to disclose how they plan to finance promises made in their election manifestos and how this would impact the financial situation of the state governments concerned or the Central government was a "totally unwarranted move".

While the CPM said it was strongly opposed to any effort to circumscribe or regulate the right of political parties to address people's concerns and offer policy measures to ameliorate their problem, the CPI said the EC has no authority to take steps to regulate the policies of the political parties.

"The Constitution mandates the Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections. It is not the job of the Election Commission to regulate the policy pronouncements and welfare measures that political parties promise to the people. This is an area which is solely the prerogative of political parties in a democracy," the CPM said in a statement.

It pointed out that the EC had, in an affidavit to the Supreme Court in April, stated that the panel cannot regulate policy decisions of political parties and that it would be an overreach of powers.

CPI general secretary D Raja said: "It has no authority to take steps to regulate the policies of the political parties. Hence, such moves are violation of the mandate, disrespecting the Constitution and curbing the statutory rights of political parties," the CPI leader said.

Stalin says DMK is not against spirituality, faith

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 5

THERE IS an organised campaign running online to portray the Dravidian model of governance as one against spirituality and belief, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said Wednesday.

Hitting out at right-wing Hindutva forces, Stalin further said those who use religion and faith to further their own vested political interests are spreading such disinformation online.

"Dravidian model is not against spirituality or belief but is opposed to those who use these to further their political agenda based on hatred," he said,

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam chief cautioned that his words will be distorted by vicious groups online to portray DMK in the dark.

Stalin's speech about the necessity to bust such "big lies from vicious communal groups online" was at the launch of the celebrations to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Ramalinga Adigal or Vallalar, a prominent Tamil saint, also considered to be one of the greatest Tamil poets who lived in the 19th century.

He further said that Hindu, Religious, and Charitable Endowments (HR & CE) department minister Sekar Babu visits temples more than he visits the state Secretariat.

Out of Raj Bhavan, Satya Pal Malik declares support to Jayant, Akhilesh

AMIT SHARMA

MEERUT, OCTOBER 5

WITH THE end of his gubernatorial assignment in Meghalaya on Monday, Satya Pal Malik Wednesday declared that he would support Rashtriya Lok Dal's (RLD) Jayant Chaudhary and Samajwadi Party's (SP) Akhilesh Yadav.

Speaking to reporters at his village of Hisawada in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat, Malik said he had no intention of joining active politics, but indicated that he wished to be a mentor to RLD and SP. He said he would help the "grandson of former PM Chaudhary Charan Singh



Malik's term as Meghalaya governor ended on Monday

(Jayant) and Mulayam Singh Yadav's scion, Akhilesh".

Malik was in his parental village to attend a programme organised in his honour, where he also had lunch with local residents and special invitees.

Malik said he will continue to fight for the welfare of farmers "who had been at the receiving end of the anti-farmer policies of the Narendra Modi government". He added that it was time that

BRIEFLY

MADHYA PRADESH
11-yr-old girl hit by bullet at garba pandal dies

Indore: An 11-year-old girl died after being hit by a bullet while watching Garba in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Tuesday. The incident took place in Sharda Nagar locality, when the victim, Mahi Shinde, who was watching a Garba performance with her family, suddenly collapsed, police said. She was wounded in the head and bleeding profusely and was rushed to the hospital where she died. Police said initial post-mortem report suggested a bullet had hit her in the head which led to her death. CCTV footage of the area is being scanned to find out who fired the bullet, they added. **PTI**

RAJASTHAN
6 drown during Durga idol immersion

Ajmer: Six people drowned in a ditch filled with rainwater during immersion of a Durga idol in Rajasthan's Ajmer district Wednesday. The incident occurred at Nandla village. Ajmer SP Chuna Ram Jat said the ditch was often used for idol immersion by locals, but it appeared they could not gauge its depth this time around. The deceased were identified as Pawan Raigar (35), Gajendra Raigar (28), Rahul Meghwal (24), Lucky Bairwa (21) Rahul Raigar (20) and Shankar. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot expressed grief over the incident. **PTI**

JHARKHAND
Five mowed down by speeding truck

Ramgarh: Five people, including two women and a child, were mowed down by a speeding truck in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Wednesday, three others were seriously hurt, police said. Four of the deceased are members of one family. Irked over the incident, locals blocked the highway, seeking action against the driver and administration, for allowing the truck to ply on that stretch during festivities. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH
5 injured in lightning strike in Kausambhi

Kaushambi: Five people, including four women, sustained injuries after being struck by lightning during heavy rains here on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred in Barauli village under Paschim Shariya Police Station area of the district, they said. Station House Officer Bhavani Singh said a youth and four women were seriously injured. They have been admitted to the district hospital for treatment, he said. **PTI**

In Himachal, PM sounds poll bugle, seeks 2nd term for BJP

Modi inaugurated 750-bed AIIMS-Bilaspur built at a cost of Rs 1,470 crore

AMIL BHATNAGAR
BILASPUR, OCTOBER 5

WHILE APPEALING to the people in Himachal Pradesh to change their "riwaaz" (custom) and give BJP a second term in the upcoming elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Wednesday that previous governments only laid foundation stones and forgot about actual projects once elections were over.

The PM, who was in Himachal Pradesh to inaugurate the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bilaspur, also sounded the poll bugle – literally.

At a rally, Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur presented the PM with a "Ransingha", a trumpet-like traditional instrument. In a show of strength, Modi played it and said, "This marks the beginning of each future victory."

He said that on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashami, people in the region have been gifted development projects worth hundreds of crores and dual gifts of education and health. He was addressing a meeting at Luhnu ground after inaugurating AIIMS hospital and a hydro engineering college, the foundations stones for which were laid by him in 2017.

"In the last eight years, there is a new thought process. For the longest time, there was just one university. Even in terms of healthcare, people had to go to Chandigarh or Delhi. No other option. The double-engine sarkaar has given the state new infrastructure at every step," the PM said.

The AIIMS-Bilaspur is a sign of change and will also be known as 'green AIIMS', the PM said. "It is a culture of our party that once we lay the foundation stone of a project, we also inaugurate. With us, there is no scope of delay or dilemma," Modi said, slamming the Opposition for photo ops and lack of development in the state.

He added that development in the state has been possible because its people voted the BJP to power both at Centre and in the state. Modi began his speech with the slogan "Jai Mata Naina Deviji", the temple to which is located in Bilaspur district itself. He also extended Dussehra greetings. He said Himachal Pradesh plays a crucial role in 'Rashtra Raksha' (national security) and now with the new AIIMS in Bilaspur, it will also play a pivotal role in 'Jeevan Raksha' (saving lives).

Modi said that beyond medical colleges, Himachal is also expanding its base in terms of medicines and drugs. The PM said that only three states in the country have been selected for building a bulk drug park, and these include Himachal Pradesh. The state is also one of the four selected for a medical device park, he added. "Himachal has a lot of scope for tourism. The natural beauty and clean air will attract people from across the world. People can come here and enjoy natural beauty and avail of medical facilities at the same time," the PM said.

Modi congratulated Himachal for becoming the first state to formulate a drone policy. Drones will be used for transportation of medicines and other goods, he added.

BJP president J P Nadda and Union Minister Anurag Thakur were also present at the rally. Modi's earlier appearance in Mandi was limited to a virtual address due to bad weather.

AIIMS-Bilaspur is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty and 15-20 super specialty departments along with 18 modular operation theatres. The 750-bed hospital will also have 64 ICU beds. The entire hospital has been built at a cost of Rs 1,470 crore. The hospital has also set up a Centre for Digital Health to provide health services in the inaccessible tribal areas of the state. **WITH PTI INPUTS**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur in Bilaspur on Wednesday . PTI

First PM to attend Kullu Dussehra

Shimla: PM Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister to participate in the International Kullu Dussehra Festival on the occasion of Vijaya Dashmi Wednesday. The PM traveled to Kullu amid high security to kick off Rath Yatra, and paid obeisance to chief deity Lord Ragnunath. With polls around the corner, the presence of the PM at Kullu festival is a significant development. PM Modi, during his address in Bilaspur, talked

about how he would walk the streets in different cities for party work. The BJP state unit has portrayed him as someone who has done immense work in 'Devbhoomi' Himachal and whose policies are no less than "divine interventions". BJP is looking to tap into the religious undertones with Modi's appearance in Kullu festival. The festival in Kullu is celebrated every year and is attended by people from all over the country. **ENS**

66 children deaths in Gambia, WHO flags 4 syrups made by Haryana-based firm as unsafe

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

FOLLOWING THE death of 66 children in Gambia, the World Health Organization (WHO) has raised an alert over four fever, cold and cough syrups made by an Indian company, urging people to not use them. All the four syrups -- Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup -- are made by Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

"Laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirms that they contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants. To date, these four products have been identified in Gambia, but may have been distributed, through informal markets, to other countries or regions," the WHO said in the alert.

All batches of the products "should be considered unsafe" till they are analysed by the respective national regulatory authorities, it said.

According to sources, India's



WHO DG Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

apex drug regulatory authority – the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) – has already launched an investigation into the matter after it was informed about the issue on September 29.

The state regulatory authority of Haryana confirmed that the company did manufacture and export the syrups to Gambia. The firm has so far sold the product only to Gambia.

Sources said four of the 23 samples tested by the WHO were found to be contaminated with diethylene glycol or ethylene glycol. However, the intra-government agency has not provided details to India on causal relation with the death – or documents to show that the syrups led to the deaths.

Diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol can cause toxic effects, including abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass

urine, headache, altered mental state, and acute kidney injury that may lead to death. "The substandard products referenced in this alert are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death," the WHO alert said. It said countries should increase surveillance of the supply chains to remove the products.

It also called for the surveillance of informal or unregulated markets. "If you have these substandard products, please do not use them. If you, or someone you know, have used these products or suffered any adverse reaction/event after use, you are advised to seek immediate medical advice from a qualified healthcare professional and report the incident to the National Regulatory Authority or National Pharmacovigilance Centre."

WHO Twitter handle in a post quoted its Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as saying, "The four medicines are cough and cold syrups produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited, in India. WHO is conducting further investigations with the company and regulatory authorities in India."

Uttarakhand avalanche: 10 bodies found, 19 still missing

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 5

THE DEATH toll in the avalanche in Uttarakshi district of Uttarakhand climbed to 10 on Wednesday, as six more bodies were sighted but are yet to be recovered. Four bodies were recovered on Tuesday.

A 41-member team from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) was trapped in the avalanche at Draupadi ka Danda-2 (DKD-2) peak on Tuesday morning. While 12 have been rescued, 19 are still missing.

"As of now, we have 25 people missing, of which six bodies have been located but are yet to be recovered. Four bodies have been recovered. Once we recover the six bodies, we will still have 19 people missing. The relief and rescue operation is over for the day, and it will resume on Thursday morning," said State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Inspector General Ridhim Aggarwal.

The multi-agency rescue teams have rescued 26 people so far – 12 who were part of the NIM team, and another 14 who were at the base camp. The NIM team included 34 trainees and seven instructors. The NIM said the ava-

Army chopper crashes in Tawang, pilot killed

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, OCTOBER 5

AN ARMY helicopter flying in the forward area near Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh crashed during a routine sortie on Wednesday, killing one of the two pilots on board, an Army statement said.

"An Army aviation Cheetah helicopter flying in the forward area near Tawang crashed on 05 October at around 10:00 am during a routine sortie. Both pilots were evacuated to nearest Military Hospital..." said the statement released by an Army Public Relations Officer at Tezpur.

It said one of the pilots who



The pilot who died has been identified as Lt Colonel Saurabh Yadav

was critically injured died during treatment while the second pilot was under medical treatment. Sources later identified the injured pilot who died as Lieutenant Colonel Saurabh Yadav.

The cause of the crash is be-

ing ascertained, the Army said.

Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed some helicopter crashes in recent years, largely due to bad weather. Since 2010, more than 40 people have died in six helicopter crashes, including former Chief Minister Dorjee Khandu.

Another Indian Army Cheetah helicopter crashed near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir in March this year. A pilot died in the incident while the co-pilot was severely wounded.

Among recent fatal chopper crashes in the country, former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat died in a crash of an Air Force Mi-17 V5 chopper along with his wife and 12 others in December last year.

Threat call to Ambanis: Mumbai police begin probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

THE MUMBAI police have initiated an investigation to locate an unknown person who allegedly dialled the landline number of Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital, threatening to blow it up. The caller also threatened to kill industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family, and blow up their house, Antilia.

According to the police, the call centre of the hospital received the calls at 12.57pm and 5.04pm on Wednesday. Reliance Industries Limited spokesperson said, "The caller also threatened to blow up Antilia and made multiple threats to members of the Ambani family. A police complaint has been registered and we are providing all the necessary details to the police in their investigations."

After the police officials were informed, anti-sabotage checking was carried out at the hospital and Antilia. Security was also beefed up at both the places, said a senior police official.

The D B Marg police have registered a case and are trying to locate the person through the call data record of the number.

8 dead, several missing after flash floods in Jalpaiguri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALPAIGURI, OCTOBER 5

AT LEAST eight persons drowned and several others were feared missing, after they were swept away due to flash floods in the Mal river in Jalpaiguri district during idol immersion on the occasion of 'Vijayadashami', a senior official said.

The incident took place in the evening when hundreds of people gathered on the banks of the Mal river to participate in the immersion ceremony.

"All of a sudden, flash floods struck and people were swept away. So far, eight bodies have been recovered, and we have rescued around 50 people," Jalpaiguri District Magistrate Moumita Godara told PTI.

"The search and rescue operations are underway and being carried out by teams of the NDRF, SDRF, police and local administration," she said.

IAS officer's initiative scales up students' learning level in Sangli schools

ALIFIYA KHAN
SANGLI, OCTOBER 5

IN NOVEMBER 2021, when the results of the National Achievement Survey (NAS) were released, the figures took 31-year-old IAS officer Jitendra Dudi, the Chief Executive Officer of Sangli district, by surprise. Students from Maharashtra, though better than the national average, still scored poorly – one in three students of Class III couldn't answer basic questions related to language and mathematics as per their expected learning level.

It was then that Dudi decided to take it up as a mission to im-

prove the learning outcomes among the zila parishad school students in his district and thus began the 'Learning Improvement Programme (LIP)' in Sangli.

From getting every child assessed individually, preparing report cards and distributing to class teachers, devising strategies to creatively teach students foundational language and numeracy skills, encouraging teachers to get creative, involving mothers in learning and forming WhatsApp groups – the project has come a long way in the last nine months.

Reaching over 1-lakh children, more than 5,500 teachers and 90 block-level and district-level cadre, the LIP has now completed

GOVERNANCE
AN EXPRESS SERIES
MAHARASHTRA

over six months. Its success is a case study in teaching-learning innovation.

In December 2021, Dudi collaborated with Pratham Foundation and conducted a baseline assessment of every single student.

"Sangli is the first district where every student from Class I to VIII was assessed. We prepared a report card of every student and



The success of the Learning Improvement Programme is a case study in teaching-learning innovation. Pavan Khengre

suggested interventions," said Machhindra Padwal, co-ordinator, Pratham Foundation.

Then began a six-month intervention programme. A group of 250 teachers was selected to develop content – albeit creatively. "Generally, when we give teachers ready-made content, their acceptance level is low. We asked them to develop their own content. We decided to use local stories... involved mothers who became our volunteers," said Dudi.

The 'volunteer mothers' ran a summer camp for the older kids in May, engaging children daily in innovative activities.

One such volunteer, Jayshree

Vithal Kharade from Kadegaon taluka's Hinganrao Budruk, said, "The teachers first called us to school and gave us a booklet, many worksheets and other material. They asked us to form groups of children living in our vicinity, I took responsibility of five students. We used objects like vegetables, leaves, or utensils to teach kids," she said. The mothers would meet weekly to discuss their progress and experience.

Besides all this, a radio programme – ShaleBaherchi Shala – was broadcast thrice a week.

In July 2022, six months after the project started, a midline assessment was conducted. The findings are such – the percent-

age of children in Grades 3-5 who are readers (can read a Grade 2 level text) has gone up to 79 per cent, an increase of nine percentage points. There was a 17% percentage point jump in the number of Grade 3 children who could solve a 2x2 addition problem. For Grades 4 and 5, there was an improvement of at least 10 percentage points in the number of children who could tackle the writing section of the pen-and-paper test.

"The improvement has been tremendous. Our aim is to get above 85 to 90 per cent score in all aspects of all our learners by our next survey in February-March 2023," said Dudi.



New Delhi



The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A POLITICAL PLUNGE

Freebie debate can — and should — go on in political domain.
The Election Commission has no place in it

ARTICLE 324 OF the Indian Constitution vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections to Parliament and state legislatures and to the offices of president and vice-president in the Election Commission. Over the decades, and especially ever since a till-then sleepy body re-energised itself in the 1990s, the EC has become a success story of India's democracy. It inspires widespread trust in its role as neutral and fair poll monitor. And the immense respect that it has gathered is as much a function of what it has not done, as it is an attribute of what it has. After all, in a complex mosaic formed by the interplay of elected and unelected power, institutional credibility can crucially depend on knowing the boundaries and abiding by the limits. It rests, often, in the judgment calls taken on when to push forward and when not to cross the line into the domain of others. By and large, the EC has shown admirable circumspection in the way it has interpreted its mandate under Article 324. The letter it wrote on Tuesday to political parties proposing they spell out how they will raise resources to finance their poll promises and its fiscal impact fails the high standards it has set itself.

In this case, quite literally so. Tuesday's letter is a disquieting departure from the position that the EC has taken on the same issue in the recent past. In response to petitions, in affidavits it has filed in court, the EC said, rightly, that it would be difficult for it to become the arbiter of what is or isn't a reasonable poll promise, what is a freebie and what isn't, because of problems of definition — "... freebies can have different impacts on society, economy, equity...", and "... both 'freebie' and 'irrational' are subjective and open to interpretation". It expressed reluctance to wade into policy decisions that are a matter between the party and the voter. It politely, and again correctly, declined to be part of a committee proposed by the SC to look into the issue. Now, in the name of disclosure to the voter, the EC seems prepared to cast aside its own legitimate reservations — to take a political plunge.

Because it would constitute a political plunge. If the EC arrogates to itself the power to sit in judgment on the feasibility of the promises parties make to voters, it would be guilty of stepping into a pact it is not part of. It would be doing so, moreover, by taking a cue from the party in power. In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, arguably in a bid to target the BJP's political opponents, cautioned people against the "revdi (freebie) culture", saying it is "very dangerous" for the country. Surely, the EC knows better than to endanger its own hard-won credibility, by intervening in a political matter in a way that seems to favour the incumbent and disadvantage the challenger. As for the "danger" posed by freebies, it is best left to the people's judgment, and checks and balances such as the FRBM Act that encourage fiscal discipline in governance. Of course, the debate on freebies can — and should — go on in the political domain, amid stakeholders and candidates, shaped by ideology and rhetoric. The EC has no place in that space, it must retrace its steps.

DECCAN DREAMS

TRS becomes BRS in a bid to step into vacuum in national
Opposition politics. But it will take more than a name change

ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao announced that his party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), will henceforth be known as Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The decline of the Congress has left a vacuum in the ranks of the national Opposition and the BRS is evidently trying to step into the space that has opened up. The transformation of TRS to BRS marks an audacious attempt by a regional party to shed its provincial character and launch itself as a pan-Indian party. But this is easier said than done.

For now, Rao's presumption that he could emerge as a national leader by rebranding his party stretches credulity. At the moment, the TRS is a Telangana outfit: Even if it wins all the Lok Sabha seats in its stronghold, it will have a total of 17 MPs. Moreover, the rebranding may hurt the original brand of the TRS. Rao, who was a middle-level functionary in Congress and the TDP, rose to prominence by investing in the cause for Telangana. He broke away from Congress and launched the TRS to capitalise on his leadership role in the struggle for a new state. It has paid him handsome dividends — the TRS has won consecutive assembly elections after the formation of Telangana state with enhanced majorities. By championing regional pride, it has come to dominate all political institutions in the state. However, Rao's record in office has been uninspiring: He has been a populist CM, whose tenure has been marked by controversial decisions — the expensive renovation of the Yadadri temple, making of a new secretariat and a bullet-proof CM's official residence, among them. Like many regional outfits, Rao has reduced the TRS into a family fief. In short, the TRS lacks a distinctive political or governance model to offer nationally.

In 2018, Rao promoted a federal front with Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar. More recently, he met the CMs of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Delhi. He has also reached out to farmers, trade unions and civil society groups. Rao's national outreach has elements of a federal pushback in the time of an overreaching Centre. However, without a national organisation or a credible and resonant counter narrative to the BJP's pitch, he may find it hard to realise his dream.

TERMS OF ENTANGLEMENT

Nobel winners in Physics provided evidence to suggest that
entanglement was not just real, but could also be harnessed

FEW PHENOMENA HAVE bewildered human beings more than the behaviour of tiny sub-atomic particles, and the "entanglement" property exhibited by them. Albert Einstein's description of it being "spooky" remains the most popular characterisation of quantum entanglement to this day. While a commonsensical explanation for the phenomenon continues to elude, scientists have gone ahead and shown that "entangled" particles behaved in a predictable manner that could be calculated using the laws of Quantum Theory. Not just that, scientists have already begun utilising this fascinating property to make technological progress in areas like quantum computing and secure electronic communications.

This year's Nobel Prize in Physics has gone to three scientists — Alain Aspect of France, John Clauser of the United States, and Anton Zeilinger of Austria — who designed experiments that were once considered impossible to do, and provided compelling evidence to suggest that entanglement was not just real, but could also be harnessed for solving complex modern-day scientific problems. They were helped immensely by the prior work of the brilliant Irish physicist John Bell, who created the mathematical framework that made it possible to test entanglement. Most scientists believe that Bell deserved this Nobel more than anyone else, but, unfortunately, died too early, in 1990.

The story of this year's Nobel Prize in Physics is a wonderful testament to the remarkable tenacity of scientists. Their success is a vindication of the argument that reputations or past achievements count for little in matters of science. No scientist has always been right, and therefore, science does not defer to authority. What must remain sacrosanct, instead, is observed data, in so far as it is collected accurately, and the scientific methodology in all its rigour. Facts, even if they appear to run contrary to intuition, must be respected. This is how science has made progress over the centuries, and continues to do so.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE EXTRAORDINARY PROTESTS by women in Iran. The growing repression needed to sustain the Communist Party Congress in China. Anxieties over the quality of liberal democracy. The looming political crisis in South Africa. These all seem like disparate, unconnected anxieties. But in a larger historical arc, they suggest that we might be in the midst of a global legitimisation crisis. The normative horizons within which politics was conducted in different parts of the world are simultaneously being questioned. During the Cold War, the basic terms of ideological competition were defined in terms of economic systems — capitalism vs communism. Or another axis is authoritarianism versus freedom. But there might be another way of thinking about the world. This is in terms of different "foundational" frameworks that have provided the starting point for thinking about politics.

At the first cut, take four foundational questions. In the Western world and other countries like India, the horizon was broadly some version of liberal, representative constitutional democracy. In a large part of the world, from Pakistan to Egypt, there was a quest for some version of modern Islamic constitutionalism, reconciling the sovereignty of God with the requirements of the modern world. In Africa, the political and moral aspiration of politics was shaped by trying to think of a political form that could be an effective bulwark against the creation of the colour line and imperialism in the organisation of the world system. And China has, for the better part of its recent history, been shaped by the idea of the party-state as a distinctive political form.

So, different regions have a "foundational" question within which politics is conducted. These horizons are fleshed out in a variety of ways, some better and worse than others. They are often challenged. They all have to be embedded in different national traditions. But they are foundational in the sense that any plausible answer to the question of political legitimisation in those societies must make reference to, or flesh out the meaning of this starting point. Countries like Pakistan, Iran and Egypt, have to take "Islamic" as a starting point, even if they interpret its meaning differently. Liberal democracies work within the entrenched "liberal" principles, however they

The fraying framework

Across the world, foundational ideas of major political
systems are under challenge

The foundational frameworks iconically represented by Madison, Mao, Maududi and Mandela are floundering. (Our Mahatma was already killed off in 1948). To be sure, the crisis is not symmetrical. Liberal democracies have great regenerative power; the Party-State has proved to be more resilient than its critics suggested. The politics internal to these horizons might be overshadowed by global problems, climate change and strategic competition. Nationalism might be used as more of an answer to this crisis.

might be interpreted. Most varieties of Chinese political thought, including many forms of neo-Confucianism, take the Party-State as an institutional form with which to work. Often, in these countries, the distinction between the "Left" and "Right" or "authoritarian" and "liberal" versions is a distinction within their foundational question; they all claim to be the true inheritors of this foundational legacy. Often, this foundational question is deeply institutionalised, not easy to shake off.

The Party-State as a distinctive 20th-century political form involved the thought that the Party would be a vanguard political formation that overcame, as Mao put it, the principal contradictions of society and catapult it to the next stage of development. All social mediation was to be carried out within the Party. In the Chinese case, the Party was also a stand-in for national identity as a whole. In China, in particular, the Party-State has a remarkable history, unleashing both immense violence but also creating unprecedented development success. But does the party face a legitimisation crisis? Perhaps in two senses. First, its ability to manage the principal economic contradictions will be open to question. Second, it will require more control and repression to retain its grip on power. Neither of these challenges means the party will collapse. It still has the nationalism engine to shore it up. But it will increasingly face legitimisation crises.

If the Party-State owes its strongest version to Mao, that of theo-democracy was shaped by Abul Ala al-Maududi, one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century. This was the project of reconciling an acknowledgement of the formal sovereignty of God, with modern democracy, and a theological role for clerics. Iran is one version of this project; Pakistan, half-heartedly another, and Qutb in Egypt a third. This model has been under strain in two respects. Even in Maududi, its insistence on politically, not just socially, sanctifying patriarchy was bound to evoke resistance of the kind we are now seeing in Iran. And its inability to handle the contradictions that come from an allegiance to notions of heresy and blasphemy in turn produces conflict. This framework has never stabilised enough to bring peace or prosperity. But it has enduring power in that it is proving hard to jettison.

Mandela might be the iconic figure in the battle against Apartheid. But so much of African political thought in the 20th century — from Fanon to Césaire — was haunted by the deep organising principle of power in international politics: The colour line as a deeply oppressive basis of subordination. African socialists and pan-Africanists were in search of a political form that could give Africa effective political agency. This project has been floundering for a while. But the South African experiment was meant not just to give ballast to the continent because of its power, but as an example. But South Africa is struggling to become the flag bearer of this project.

James Madison's version of democracy is arguably the most influential because it was the least ambitious. The Party-State wanted a vanguard function for the Party. The Madisonian party was less exalted. No party could represent the whole. The party was organised around interests. Social stability could be secured by orderly competition and rotation of power. Combined with the promise of individual liberty, this form of government would not only be stable, but produce prosperity, and require the least coercion. This model has a crisis of its own. In most democracies, including the US, we can no longer be as confident about peaceful transitions of power. There is impatience with individual liberty. The free competition of different groups has really descended into democracies being controlled by oligarchies, less able to solve collective problems.

The foundational frameworks iconically represented by Madison, Mao, Maududi and Mandela are floundering. (Our Mahatma was already killed in 1948). To be sure, the crisis is not symmetrical. Liberal democracies have great regenerative power; the Party-State has proved to be more resilient than its critics suggested. The politics internal to these horizons might be overshadowed by global problems, climate change and strategic competition. Nationalism might be used as more of an answer to this crisis. But it is unclear, as we grow weary of old horizons, what else will come in their wake.

*The writer is contributing editor,
The Indian Express*



SAMEENA DALWAI AND ASMITA SINGH

CONGRATULATIONS ON your victory in the Supreme Court.

We are delighted and disheartened at the same time. The journey towards becoming citizens is slow and arduous for women. Your victory has not been propelled by the constitutional rights of women citizens. You were lucky to be in a progressive courtroom. The Division Bench of the Delhi High Court had earlier refused you an abortion with the remark: "We will ensure that the girl is kept somewhere safe and she can deliver and go. There is a big queue for adoption." It's ironic that men are sitting on judgment on the rights of women to their own bodies. We thank you for your courage in representing all of us as the only woman facing male judges, male lawyers and the predominantly male ethos of the law.

We have to fight more battles. Section 3(g) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act talks about "women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations as may be declared by the government." What if the government does not recognise a particular situation as a humanitarian crisis? Consider women from Manipur, Kashmir or Gujarat 2002. What happens when the nexus of political agenda and bureaucracy ensures a stark difference between reality and official data?

The judgment expands the definition of rape to marital rape for the MTP Act. Marital rape is still not criminalised. If society does not accept "marital rape" as even a moral offence,

DEAR UNKNOWN FRIEND

Where women are defined by marital status, can SC abortion verdict make a dent?

An unmarried woman does not have an owner. Who owns her womb then? Who do the children belong to? It causes confusion and disorder. Women's sexuality is seen as a cause of disharmony. Remember Kunti told all her sons to share Draupadi equally? Because she understood that they all desire her and that could lead to fights amongst the brothers.

how will a woman convince doctors to terminate her pregnancy based on the exception provided by the SC's verdict? The tyranny of social norms and value systems is stronger than legislative intent.

The distinction between marriage and unmarried women is built into the Hindu ethos. Married women have a different world — attire, jewellery, rituals — compared to widows or unmarried or deserted women. Celebrations like Haldi Kumkum, Godbhara and Karva Chauth are only for them. So is the right to sexual intercourse.

In contrast, unmarried women do not have a right to sex. How can they get pregnant, then? So what does the right to terminate pregnancy mean for them? Denial of the right to abortion then is the mirror image of the refusal to criminalise marital rape. Unmarried women cannot have sex, married women cannot say no to sex because men own women's sexuality.

A Hindu marriage is a sacrament, a sanskar. A virgin daughter is given to a groom of the same caste. Kanyadaan, thus, is a transaction between the father, the giver, and husband, the taker. The kanya is merely a gift. Her consent is immaterial to the ritual. Can the gift then decide how it is to be used?

Husbands can use the legal remedy of "restitution of conjugal rights" against runaway wives. Ownership is integral here. Since the 1950s, the courts have struggled to do justice to women caught in unhappy marriages. In *T Sareetha v Venkata Subbaiah* (1983), the Andhra Pradesh HC said that

compelling a woman to have sexual intercourse deprives her of control over her own body. But the Delhi HC in *Harvinder Kaur v Harmander Singh Choudhary* (1984) and the Supreme Court in *Saroj Rani v Sudarshan Kumar Chadha* insisted that marital "consortium" defined as "companionship, love, affection, comfort" is more crucial and "living in the same household does not compel couples to have sexual intercourse". As if men want their wives back for chats and walks.

An unmarried woman does not have an owner. Who owns her womb then? Who do the children belong to? It causes confusion and disorder. Women's sexuality is seen as a cause of disharmony. Remember Kunti told all her sons to share Draupadi equally? Because she understood that they all desire her and that could lead to fights amongst the brothers. Infighting is "fitna" in Arabic — women can cause it by their mere presence, visibility of their body parts or hair. Clearly it is easier to cover women in hijab, naqab, chador than expect men to control their sexual urges.

In societies with such ethos, free and autonomous women cause trouble. They challenge familial ideologies and threaten state ideologies based on family, caste, and religion.

Ultimately, the issue pertains to citizenship. Are women citizens of the country? Or are we waiting to be enrolled?

*Dalwai is Professor, Jindal Global Law School
and Singh is Assistant Professor,
Jindal Global Law School*

OCTOBER 6, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ATTEMPT ON ZIA'S LIFE

THERE WAS AN attempt on the life of Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq at Rawalpindi airport, *The Washington Post* reported. *The Post's* report said the attack was made when a shoulder-feed missile was fired at General Zia's plane taxied on the runway at Rawalpindi airport for a flight to Lahore.

OPPOSITION UNITY

THE NON-COMMUNIST, NON-BJP opposition parties have once again resumed their efforts at unity for reassembling an old Janata-type party as an alternative to PM

Gandhi's Congress-I. H N Bahuguna, president of the Democratic Socialist Party and Karpoori Thakur, president of the new faction of the Lok Dal, had a long meeting. They talked about opposition unity and favoured merger of their two parties as a first step to a larger unity with Janata, Congress-S, and Chandrajit Yadav's Democratic Party.

POLICE DISCONTENT

OPPOSITION MEMBERS in the Lok Sabha alleged that the growing discontent in the police forces as evidenced by the recent agitations in Maharashtra and Haryana was due partly to increasing political interference in

police affairs. Members also accused the government of failing to implement the recommendations of the Police Commission which submitted its report in 1979 and 1980.

SPY CROCODILE

A THREE-AND-A-HALF FEET long crocodile with a foreign-made transmitter tied to its jaw was fished out by a fisherman at Ghattha village in East Champaran district, according to the police. The crocodile, suspected to have been sent by some foreign power to collect information in Indian waters, was later handed over to the local forest département, police said.

Age Group	Percentage
18-24	35%
25-34	25%
35-44	20%
45-54	15%
55-64	10%
65+	5%

New Delhi



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House panels, their leaders, and role in law-making

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

A REVAMP of the Standing Committees of Parliament on Tuesday could potentially worsen relations between the government and Opposition. Of the 22 panels announced, the Congress has the post of chairperson in only one, and the second largest opposition party, Trinamool Congress, none. The BJP has chairmanship of the important panels on Home, Finance, IT, Defence and External Affairs.

What are Committees of Parliament, and what do they do?

Legislative business begins when a Bill is introduced in either House. But the process of lawmaking is often complex, and Parliament has limited time. Also, the shrinking political middle ground has been leading to increasingly rancorous and inconclusive debates in Parliament — as a result of which a great deal of legislative business ends up taking place in the House Committees instead.

A Parliamentary Committee is a panel of MPs that is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker, and which works under the direction of the Speaker. It presents its report to the House or the Speaker.

Parliamentary Committees have their origins in the British Parliament. They draw their authority from Article 105, which deals with the privileges of MPs, and Article 118, which gives Parliament authority to make rules to regulate its procedure and conduct of business.

What are the various House panels?

Broadly, Parliamentary Committees can be classified into Financial Committees, Departmentally Related Standing Committees, Other Parliamentary Standing Committees, and Ad hoc Committees.

Financial Committees include the Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee, and Committee on Public Undertakings. These committees were constituted in 1950.

Seventeen Departmentally Related Standing Committees came into being in 1993, when Shivraj Patil was Speaker of Lok Sabha. The aim was to increase Parliamentary scrutiny and give members more time and a wider role in examining important legislation.

The number of Committees was subsequently increased to 24. Each of these Committees has 31 members — 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

Ad hoc Committees are appointed for a specific purpose. They cease to exist after they have completed the task assigned to

them, and have submitted a report to the House. The principal Ad hoc Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills.

Parliament can also constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) with a special purpose, with members from both Houses, for detailed scrutiny of a subject or Bill. Also, either of the two Houses can set up a Select Committee with members from that House. JPCs and Select Committees are usually chaired by ruling party MPs, and are disbanded after they have submitted their report.

How do discussions in the Committees differ from those in Parliament?

The time to speak on a Bill is allocated according to the size of the party in the House. MPs often do not get adequate time to put forward their views in Parliament, even if they are experts in the subject. Committees are small groups; in these meetings, every MP gets a chance and the time to contribute to the discussion. Parliament has only around 100 sittings a year; Committee meetings are independent of Parliament's calendar.

Also, because the discussions are confidential and off-camera, party affiliations usually do not come in the way of MPs speaking their minds in ways they are unable to do in Parliament, whose proceedings are telecast

live. As a result, many MPs concede that “real discussions” happen inside the Committees — agreeing in principle with the former US President Woodrow Wilson who observed that “Congress in session is Congress on public exhibition, whilst Congress in its committee rooms is Congress at work”.

The Committees work closely with multiple Ministries, and facilitate inter-ministerial coordination. Bills often return to the House with significant value-addition.

How are the Committees constituted, and how are their chairpersons chosen?

There are 16 Departmentally Related Standing Committees for Lok Sabha and eight for Rajya Sabha; however, every Committee has members from both Houses. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha panels are headed by members of these respective Houses.

Among the important Lok Sabha panels are Agriculture; Coal; Defence; External Affairs; Finance; Communications & Information Technology; Labour; Petroleum & Natural Gas; and Railways. The important Rajya Sabha panels include Commerce; Education; Health & Family Welfare; Home Affairs; and Environment.

There are other Standing Committees for each House, such as the Business Advisory

Committee and the Privileges Committee. The Presiding Officer of each House nominates members to these panels. A Minister is not eligible for election or nomination to Financial Committees, and certain Departmentally Related Committees.

Presiding Officers use their discretion to refer a matter to a Committee, but this is usually done in consultation with leaders of parties.

The appointment of heads of the Committees is also done in a similar way. By convention, the main Opposition party gets the post of PAC chairman; it is currently with the Congress. Chairmanship of some key committees have been allocated to opposition parties in the past. However, this pattern has changed in the latest rejig.

The heads of the panels schedule their meetings. They play a clear role in preparing the agenda and annual report, and can take decisions in the interest of the efficient management of the Committee. The chairperson presides over the meetings and can decide who should be summoned before the panel.

An invitation to appear before a Parliamentary Committee is equivalent to a summons from a court: If one cannot come, he or she has to give reasons, which the panel may or may not accept. However, the chairman should have the support of the major-

ity of the members to summon a witness.

MPs typically have a one-year tenure on the panels. Usually, the composition of a Committee remains more or less the same in terms of representation of the various parties.

How important are recommendations of the Committees?

Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committees are recommendatory in nature. They are not binding on the government, but they do carry significant weight. In the past, governments have accepted suggestions given by the Committees and incorporated them in the Bill after it has come back to the House. These panels also examine policy issues in their respective Ministries, and make suggestions to the government. The government has to report back on whether these recommendations have been accepted. Based on this, the Committees table Action Taken Reports, detailing the status of the action on each recommendation.

However, suggestions by the Select Committees and JPCs — which have a majority of MPs and heads from the ruling party — are accepted more frequently.

LONGER VERSION
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Scientists engineer mosquitoes that can’t spread malaria, offer hope of eradicating disease

SCIENTISTS HAVE genetically modified mosquitoes to slow the growth of malaria-causing parasites in their guts — an advancement that can help prevent transmission of the disease to humans.

The disease is transmitted between people through a female mosquito after it bites someone infected with the malaria parasite. The parasite develops into its next stage in the mosquito's gut and travels to its salivary glands, ready to infect the next person it bites.

Now, the mosquitoes have been engineered to produce compounds that slow the growth of malaria-causing parasites.

Though only around 10 per cent of mosquitoes live long enough for the infectious parasite to develop, malaria remains one of the most devastating diseases globally, putting at risk about half of the world's population. In 2021, it infected 241 million people and killed 627,000 people.

The research

Researchers from the Institute for Disease Modelling at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation developed a model to assess the impact of such modifications and found it could be effective even where transmission is high. While the technique, described in a paper published in *Science Advances* journal on September 21, has been shown to dramatically reduce the possibility of malaria spreading in a lab setting, if proven in the real world it could offer a powerful new tool to help eliminate malaria.

Researchers from the Transmission: Zero team at Imperial College London, UK, genetically modified the main malaria-carrying species of mosquito in sub-Saharan Africa, *Anopheles gambiae*, such that the mosquito produced antimicrobial peptides in its gut when it had a blood meal.

How it works

The peptides impair the malarial parasite's development and also cause the mosquitoes to have a shorter life span. The co-first author of the study, Tibebu Habtewold, said new tools are increasingly needed as mosquitoes develop resistance to insecticides and treatments.

To prevent malaria spread via genetic modification, the change needs to be spread from lab-bred mosquitoes to wild ones. The innovation is so designed that it can be coupled with existing 'gene drive' technology.

“Gene drive is one such powerful weapon that in combination with drugs, vaccines and mosquito control can help stop the spread of malaria and save human lives,” study co-lead author Professor George Christophides said. Gene drive would cause the anti-parasite genetic modification to be preferentially inherited, making it spread more widely among any natural populations.

Applicability

It would, however, require extremely careful planning to minimise risks before any field trials. The Transmission:Zero team is, therefore, creating two separate but compatible strains of modified mosquitoes — one with the anti-parasite modification and one with the gene drive.

They can then test the anti-parasite modification on its own first, adding in the gene drive once it has been shown to be effective. With partners in Tanzania, the team set up a facility to conduct some first tests. They are also risk-assessing potential releases of modified mosquitoes and taking into account potential hazards, but are hopeful that their intervention can help eradicate malaria.

PTI

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A FUNCTIONAL FORM OF CHEMISTRY

Barry Sharpless and Morten Meldal laid the foundation for click chemistry, a functional form of chemistry in which molecular building blocks snap together quickly. Carolyn Bertozzi took it to a new level.

CAROLYN BERTOZZI, 55
PROFESSOR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY, USA

MORTEN MELDAL, 68
PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

K. BARRY SHARPLESS, 81
PROFESSOR AT SCRIPPS RESEARCH, LA JOLLA, USA

NOBEL TO BE ANNOUNCED THURSDAY: THE PRIZE IN LITERATURE

Benjamin List & David MacMillan won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry “for their development of...organocatalysis, which has had a great impact on pharmaceutical research.”

cules that easily react with each other. In other words, look for molecules that easily fit into each other, or ‘click’ with each other. It makes the resultant chemical reaction more efficient,” said Sayam Sen Gupta, a professor of chemical sciences at IISER Kolkata who has worked in this field and collaborated with Sharpless in the past.

Sharpless, who is the originator of the concept of ‘Click Chemistry’, has now won the Nobel Prize for the second time, making him only the fifth scientist to achieve this distinction. His previous Nobel Prize had come in 2001 in recognition of a different kind of work.

Around the same time that he won his first Nobel, Sharpless, along with a few collaborators, published a paper making a case for adopting a simpler approach to carrying out chemical reactions, even if that meant junking the methods that mimicked nature.

He emphasised on the need to replicate

nature's efficiency, not necessarily its processes, or even products. It was fine even if ‘Click Chemistry’ was not able to produce the exact molecules found in nature. It would be adequate to synthesise other molecules that performed the same functions, Sharpless argued.

“Those days he used to give a lot of talks on this new idea of his. And at many places, he used to carry an airline seat belt to demonstrate what he meant by getting the right fit of reactants. The reacting molecules should be in a made-for-each-other-kind of situation for this particular reaction, so that the reaction was irreversible and 100 per cent efficiency was achieved,” Sen Gupta said.

Sen Gupta explained why the idea of ‘Click’ Chemistry is so appealing. “In the pharmaceutical industry, for example, which uses a lot of naturally occurring but industrially synthesised molecules, every kilogram of a drug produced results in the generation of

nearly 25-100 kg of chemical waste. This is clearly not an efficient outcome,” he said.

Sharpless was not just developing the ideas or identifying the criteria that would qualify a reaction to be called ‘Click’ reaction. He went ahead and found the first chemical reaction that satisfied the criteria he had laid out for ‘Click’ reactions.

It was a modification to a chemical reaction that had been known for 40 years. This reaction was meant to produce a nitrogen-containing cyclic compound that was used as a building block for a variety of molecules in the drug industry. The usual process also produced several by-products. However, Sharpless discovered that the use of copper as a catalyst eliminated the by-products altogether and only the desired chemical was produced.

Interestingly, around the same time, this discovery was also reported by Morten Meldal, a Danish scientist working independently on some pharmaceutical substances. Meldal's discovery was accidental, but once he realised the implications, he experimented with other molecules as well, and obtained quite a few successes.

These initial successes generated a lot of interest, and several other ‘Click’ reactions were found by different researchers. The next big breakthrough in this field came a few years later, when Carolyn Bertozzi showed in 2004 that ‘Click’ Chemistry could work in the chemical processes happening in the living cells as well. She went on to develop a few ‘click’ reactions that work inside living organisms.

Bertozzi's methods, which she has repeatedly refined over the years, have shown the promise of treating advanced cancer. Cancer drugs based on her approach are now undergoing clinical trials.

The Nobel Prize committee said that the work of the three scientists, besides being “elegant, clever, novel and useful”, also sought to bring the “greatest benefit to humankind”.

“This year's Prize in Chemistry deals with not overcomplicating matters, instead working with what is easy and simple. Functional molecules can be built even by taking a straightforward route,” Johan Agvist, the chair of the Nobel Prize Committee for Chemistry, was quoted as saying in the official statement.

THIS WORD MEANS

Collegium System: The way in which judges appoint themselves

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

WITH TWO MEMBERS of the five-member Supreme Court collegium against a proposal to recommend four new judges to the top court through a written note instead of a formal meeting, Chief Justice of India U U Lalit is learnt to have written to them again, seeking reconsideration of their stand.

CJI Lalit is due to retire in a little over a month. What is the collegium system, how did it evolve, and what criticism has it faced?

The collegium system

It is the way by which judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed and transferred. The collegium system is not rooted in the Constitution or a

specific law promulgated by Parliament; it has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court.

The SC collegium is headed by the incumbent CJI and comprises the four other seniormost judges of the court at that time. A High Court collegium is led by the incumbent Chief Justice and four seniormost judges of that court.

Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reach the government after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.

The role of the government is limited to conducting an inquiry through the Intelligence Bureau if a lawyer is to be elevated to an HC or the Supreme Court. The government can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the names, the government is bound to appoint them.

Sometimes the government delays appointments, especially in cases where it is perceived to be unhappy with the names recommended.

What the Constitution says

Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution deal with the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts. The appointments are made by the President, who is required to hold “consultations” with “such of the judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts” as he may think is needed. For appointments other than the Chief Justice, “the Chief Justice of India shall always be consulted”.

Evolution of the system

The collegium system evolved out of a series of judgments of the Supreme Court

that are called the “Judges Cases”.

FIRST JUDGES CASE: In *SP Gupta vs Union of India*, 1981, the Supreme Court held that the concept of primacy of the CJI was not really rooted in the Constitution.

The Constitution Bench also held that the term “consultation” used in Articles 124 and 217 did not mean “concurrence” — therefore, although the President will consult these functionaries, his decision doesn't have to concur with them.

This judgment tilted the balance of power in favour of the executive. This situation prevailed for the next 12 years.

SECOND JUDGES CASE: In *The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India*, 1993, a nine-judge Constitution Bench overturned the decision in *SP Gupta*, and devised a specific procedure called the ‘Collegium System’.

or whether the sole opinion of CJI could by itself constitute a “consultation”.

In response, the SC laid down nine guidelines. This has come to be the existing form of the collegium.

The SC laid down that the recommendation should be made by the CJI and his four seniormost colleagues instead of two. It was also held that even if two judges gave an adverse opinion, the CJI should not send the recommendation to the government.

Criticism of the system

Critics have pointed out that the system is non-transparent, since it does not involve any official mechanism or secretariat. It is seen as a closed-door affair with no prescribed norms regarding eligibility criteria or even the selection procedure. There are no official minutes of collegium proceedings.

14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



A surface-to-surface missile fired into the sea. Reuters

SOUTH KOREA

Missiles fired to protest 'reckless' North Korea test

Seoul: South Korea and the US military conducted rare missile drills and an American supercarrier was repositioned east of North Korea after Pyongyang flew a missile over Japan, one of the allies' sharpest responses since 2017 to a North Korean weapon test. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that North Korea risked further condemnation and isolation if it continued its "provocations." North Korea test-fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile farther than ever before on Tuesday, sending it soaring over Japan for the first time in five years. Washington called the test "dangerous and reckless" and the US military and its allies have stepped up displays of force. **REUTERS**

USA

Suit settled, film may resume after Baldwin shooting

Los Angeles: The family of a cinematographer shot and killed by Alec Baldwin on the set of the film "Rust" has agreed to settle a lawsuit against the actor and the movie's producers, and producers aim to restart the project in January, despite unresolved workplace safety sanctions. "We have reached settlement, subject to court approval, for our wrongful death case against the producers of Rust, including Alec Baldwin," said a statement Wednesday from Matthew Hutchins, widow of the cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with their 9-year-old son Andros. "As part of that settlement, our case will be dismissed." **AP**

DENMARK

PM calls general election on Nov 1

Copenhagen: Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday called a general election for November 1, seven months ahead of the end of her term. Frederiksen, who has headed a minority government since June 2019, has seen her popularity dwindle due to her role in a pandemic-related decision to wipe out Denmark's captive mink population. "We want a broad government with parties on both sides of the political middle," she said as she announced the election. She said "it is, of course, peculiar to have an election in the middle of an international crisis." **AP**

UAE

Hindu temple opens in Dubai

Dubai: A majestic new Hindu temple that blends Indian and Arabic architecture designs has been inaugurated in Jebel Ali Village, with a powerful message of tolerance and harmony on Tuesday. "Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence & Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir thanked UAE for their support," the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi tweeted. **PTI**



In a Paris tunnel, a mural depicts women cutting their hair to show support for Iranian women protesters. AP

Oscar winners chop off hair to back Iran women

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, OCTOBER 5

OSCAR-WINNING actors Marion Cotillard and Juliette Binoche, as well as other French screen and music stars, filmed themselves chopping off locks of their hair in a video posted Wednesday in support of protesters in Iran.

"For freedom," Binoche said as she hacked a large handful of hair off the top of her head with a pair of scissors, before brandishing it in front of the camera.

The video, hashtagged HairForFreedom, comes with Iran engulfed by anti-government protests. They were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest



Actresses Marion Cotillard and Juliette Binoche cut their hair in support to the protest. Reuters

for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code.

Some of the Iranian demonstrators have publicly hacked off locks of hair at the protests, and the gesture has spread.

Images of women elsewhere cutting their hair to show solidarity with Iranian women have gone viral — from Turkish singer Melek Mosso on stage last week, to women in Lebanon and Syria, to Swedish lawmaker Abir Al-Sahlani in the halls of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Tuesday.

A museum in Rome is collecting locks of hair to present to the Iranian Embassy.

"For women to cut their hair in Iran is a form of protest... a symbol to stand against the mandatory hijab," said Dorna Javan, an Iranian political scientist based in France. This highly symbolic gesture also echoes Iranian history and folklore in which for women to chop their hair is a sign of protest.

AMID UNREST, POLICE DEPLOYED AT VARSITIES

Dubai: Iranian security forces deployed at universities in several cities on Wednesday, witnesses said, stepping up efforts to quell more than two weeks of protests. Riot police fanned out in the cities of Urmia, Tabriz, Rasht and Tehran, particularly around universities, which have been a focal point of protests. Videos shared on social media on Wednesday showed high school girls in Tehran taking off their headscarves and chanting "death to (Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei". **REUTERS**

Asteroid struck by NASA's DART leaves 10,000 km trail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 5

AN ASTEROID, which was deliberately smashed by NASA's DART spacecraft has left a trail of debris stretching thousands of kilometres, a new image captured by a telescope in Chile shows.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) spacecraft intentionally crashed into Dimorphos, the asteroid moonlet in the double-asteroid system of Didymos, on September 26.

Two days after DART's impact, astronomers used the 4.1-meter Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) Telescope in

Chile to capture the vast plume of dust and debris blasted from the asteroid's surface.

The new image shows the dust trail — the ejecta that has been pushed away by the Sun's radiation pressure, like the tail of a comet — stretching from the centre to the right-hand edge of the field of view. At Didymos's distance from Earth at the time of the observation that would equate to 10,000 km from the point of impact, the researchers said.

"It is amazing how clearly we were able to capture the structure and extent of the aftermath in the days following the impact," said Teddy Kareta from Lowell Observatory.

Sikh family abduction in US: Person of interest in custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LOS ANGELES, OCTOBER 5

A 48-YEAR-OLD man considered a "person of interest" in the kidnapping of a four-member Sikh family, including an 8-month-old child, in the US state of California has been taken into custody and is in critical condition, authorities said, even as the victims are still missing.

The family, from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California, on Monday.

According to a news release,

detectives received information Tuesday that one of the victim's bank cards was used at an ATM in Atwater in Merced County.

"Investigators obtained the surveillance photo of a subject making a bank transaction where the person is similar in appearance to the surveillance photo from the original kidnapping scene," the Merced County Sheriff's Office statement says.

Before law enforcement involvement, the suspect, Jesus Manuel Salgado "attempted to take his own life," and is currently in "custody, receiving medical attention and in critical condition."

Armed forces to stay out of politics, says Pak Army chief; new head to be appointed in Nov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 5

PAKISTAN ARMY chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has assured the nation that the armed forces have distanced themselves from politics and wanted to continue to do so, according to a media report on Wednesday.

Gen Bajwa, who is in the US, also reiterated his promise to leave office after completing his second three-year term in November, adding that he would fulfill the pledge he made earlier, the Dawn news-



Bajwa's replacement was not decided, though names of five lieutenant generals was being considered, Pak defence minister said

paper reported.

Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif also confirmed that the general elections will be held as per schedule in 2023, while the new Army chief would be appointed next month in line with the law and the Constitution. "Any one of those general staff officers or someone not mentioned on the list can be appointed," he said, adding that all three-star generals were eligible for the post of Army chief.

Bajwa's remarks came at a lunch hosted at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington. According to those who at-

tended the event, Bajwa said the armed forces have distanced themselves from politics and wanted to continue to do so, the newspaper reported.

These remarks came in the wake of former premier Imran Khan making anti-military statements. Bajwa emphasised that reviving Pakistan's debilitated economy should be the top priority of all as the nation would not be able to achieve its goals without a robust economy. "There could be no diplomacy either without a strong economy," said the Army chief.

Jolie accuses Brad Pitt of abuse in court filing

THE NEW YORK TIMES
OCTOBER 5

ANGELINA JOLIE filed a cross complaint against her ex-husband Brad Pitt on Tuesday, disclosing new details about what she described in court papers as abusive behaviour by him on a private plane in 2016 that led to the dissolution of their marriage.

In a court filing in Los Angeles, filed as part of a legal battle over a winery the prominent Hollywood actors once owned together, lawyers for Jolie stated that negotiations to sell her share of the business to Pitt had broken down over his demand that she sign "a non-disclosure agree-

ment that would have contractually prohibited her from speaking outside of court about Pitt's physical and emotional abuse of her and their children."

Her filing goes on to describe an extended physical and verbal outburst in September 2016 as Pitt, Jolie and their six children flew from France to California. "Pitt choked one of the children and struck another in the face" and "grabbed Jolie by the head and shook her," the filing states, adding that at one point "he poured beer on Jolie; at another, he poured beer and red wine on the children." Federal authorities, who have jurisdiction over flights, investigated the incident but declined to bring criminal



Angelina Jolie countersued her ex-husband Brad Pitt as part of a legal battle over a winery they once owned together. Reuters file

charges. Days after the plane trip, Jolie filed for divorce.

A divorce lawyer for Pitt,

Anne Kiley, said Pitt had accepted responsibility for some things in his past but that he would not accept responsibility for things he did not do.

Kiley also said during divorce settlement negotiations this year — which were separate from the negotiations over the winery — a lawyer for Jolie had sent Pitt's lawyers a proposal to try to settle the case, and that one of the preliminary proposals had been a stipulation that neither party could make a derogatory comment about the other in public, except in court. Kiley said Pitt's side agreed to discuss the term, but when Jolie's side responded, she did not bring up the non-disclosure proposal again.

tremendously," said Dana Gunders, executive director of ReFED, a New York-based non-profit that studies food waste.

The United Nations estimates that 17% of global food production is wasted each year, most of that comes from households. In the US, as much as 35% of food available goes uneaten, ReFED says. That adds up to a lot of wasted energy — including the water, land and labour that goes into the food production — and higher greenhouse gas emissions when unwanted food goes into landfills.

There are many reasons food gets wasted, from large portion sizes to customers' rejection of imperfect produce. But ReFED

estimates that 7% of US food waste — or 4 million tons annually — is due to consumer confusion over "best before" labels.

Date labels were widely adopted by manufacturers in the 1970s to answer consumers' concerns about product freshness. There are no federal rules governing them, and manufacturers are allowed to determine when they believe products will taste best. Only infant formula is required to have a "use by" date in the US.

Since 2019, the Food and Drug Administration — which regulates around 80% of US food — has recommended that manufacturers use the labels "best if used by" for freshness and "use by" for per-

ishable goods, based on surveys showing that consumers understand those phrases.

But the effort is voluntary, and the language on labels continues to vary widely, from "sell by" to "enjoy by" to "freshest before." A survey released in June by researchers at the University of Maryland found at least 50 different date labels used on US grocery shelves and widespread confusion among customers.

"Most people believe that if it says 'sell by,' 'best by' or 'expiration,' you can't eat any of them. That's not actually accurate," said Richard Lipsitz, who owns a Grocery Outlet store in Pleasanton, California. **AP**

MEANWHILE

STEINBECK'S LETTER TO SON ON LOVE ON SALE

A tender and touching letter that author John Steinbeck, who won a Pulitzer for 'The Grapes of Wrath' in 1940 and the Nobel in 1962, penned to his teenage son, offering fatherly advice after the young man confided that he was in love, is going up for auction. Boston-based RR Auction says the handwritten draft of a letter shows the "Of Mice and Men" author's empathy.



GLOBAL OIL PRICES LIKELY TO SOAR

Oil cut complicates EU's plan to put a price cap on Russian crude supply

To make measure effective, US and EU will need to convince India and China

THE NEW YORK TIMES
BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 5

THE EUROPEAN Union was pushing ahead with an ambitious plan to limit Russia's oil revenue, but the Western effort to drain funding from President Vladimir V Putin's war machine faced a new hurdle: global oil producers on Wednesday decided to sharply cut the supply, making Russia's crude even more valuable on the world market.

OPEC and its allies, including Russia, announced a sharp reduction in crude output at a meeting in Vienna. By reducing supply, the decision by the group known as OPEC Plus, led by Saudi Arabia, was likely to keep global oil prices high, allowing Russia to continue earning significant revenue from its crude exports.

It also could lessen the chances that major non-EU buyers of Russian oil, especially China and India, would go along with the price cap. Without those countries' cooperation, the price cap plan would have far less of an effect.

The EU price cap was expected to gain final approval on Thursday, after negotiators reached an agreement late Tuesday on the measure as part of a fresh package of sanctions

EXPLAINED
Fallout of price cap

WHAT IMPACT a price cap on Russian oil may have remains a matter of conjecture. Analysts say the cap will add more bureaucratic procedures to a long series of sanctions already in place against Russia. Those extra steps may impede the flow of oil around the world and raise prices, causing the sort of major disruption that US appears to be trying to avoid.

against Moscow. Under the plan, a committee, including representatives of the EU, the Group of 7 nations and others that agree to the price cap would meet regularly to decide on the price at which Russian oil should be sold, and that it would change based on the market price.

To make the measure effective, and cut Russian revenue, the US, Europe and their allies would need to convince India and China, to purchase it only at the agreed upon price. Experts say that even with willing partners, the cap could be hard to implement.

Putin signs annexation of four regions, Ukraine calls it 'worthless'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV, OCTOBER 5

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed laws that claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russia's territory while his country's military struggled Wednesday to control the illegally annexed areas. Kyiv has dismissed it as "worthless".

The documents finalising the annexation, carried out in violation of international laws, were published on a Russian government website. In a defiant move, the Kremlin held the door open for further land grabs in Ukraine.

Speaking in a conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "certain territories will be reclaimed, and we will keep consulting residents who would be eager to embrace Russia."

The head of the Ukraine President's Office, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram that, "The worthless decisions of the terrorist country are not worth the paper they are signed on." "A collective insane asylum can continue to live in a fictional world," President Zelenskyy earlier said in his nightly address.

UK minister Suella blames Leicester riots on migrants

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, OCTOBER 5

Britain's Indian-origin Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, has blamed the recent "riots" in Leicester following an India-Pakistan cricket match on uncontrolled migration into the UK and failure of newcomers to integrate.

In her first speech since being appointed home minister at the Conservative Party annual conference in Birmingham on Tuesday, Braverman referenced her visit to the eastern England city after clashes involving many Hindu and Muslim groups last month.

"The unexamined drive towards multiculturalism as an end in itself combined with the corrosive aspects of identity politics has led us astray," Braverman told the audience of Tory MPs and members.

"I saw this when I went to Leicester recently. A melting pot of cultures and a beacon of religious harmony. But even there, riots and civil disorder have taken place because of failures to integrate large numbers of newcomers. Such conflict has no place in the UK," she said.

She insisted it was not "racist" to want to control the UK's borders as she pledged to cut "low-skilled foreign workers." "This isn't just about policy or economics for me. It's intensely personal." **PTI**

LABELS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SAFETY, MAY ENCOURAGE CONSUMERS TO THROW AWAY FOOD THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE

'Best Before' labels scrutinised as food waste concerns grow globally

DEE-ANN DURBIN
OCTOBER 5

AS AWARENESS grows around the world about the problem of food waste, one culprit in particular is drawing scrutiny: "best before" labels.

Manufacturers have used the labels for decades to estimate peak freshness. Unlike "use by" labels, which are found on perishable foods like meat and dairy, "best before" labels have nothing to do with safety and may encourage consumers to throw away food that's perfectly fine to eat.

"They read these dates and then they assume that it's bad,

they can't eat it and they toss it, when these dates don't actually mean that they're not edible or they're not still nutritious or tasty," said Patty Apple, a manager at Food Shift, an Alameda, California, nonprofit that collects and uses expired or imperfect foods.

To tackle the problem, major UK chains like Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Marks & Spencer recently removed "best before" labels from prepackaged fruit and vegetables. The European Union is expected to announce a revamp to its labelling laws by the end of this year; it's considering abolishing "best before" labels altogether.

In the US, there's no similar



The United Nations estimates that 17% of global food production is wasted each year. AP

push to scrap "best before" labels. But there is growing momentum to standardise the language on date labels to help educate buyers about food waste, including a

push from big grocers and food companies and bipartisan legislation in Congress.

"I do think that the level of support for this has grown

SECTOR WATCH
BIG TECH

How new EU digital safety law compares with India's IT Rules

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) has given final approval to an online safety-focussed legislation, which is an overhaul of the region's social media and e-commerce rules.

Called the Digital Services Act (DSA), the law tightly regulates the way intermediaries — especially large platforms such as Google, Meta, Twitter and YouTube — function when it comes to moderating user content.

"It will give better protection to users and to fundamental rights online, establish a powerful transparency and accountability framework for online platforms and provide a single, uniform framework across the EU," the European Commission said in a blog. The regulation will be published in the EU's Official Journal on October 13, with a majority of its provisions starting to apply 15 months after the DSA's entry into force.

What are the key features of the Digital Services Act?

As part of the overhaul, social media companies will have to add "new procedures for faster removal" of content deemed illegal or harmful. They will also have to explain to users how their content takedown policy works. The DSA also allows for users to challenge takedown decisions taken by platforms and seek out-of-court settlements.

One of the most crucial features of the legislation is that it avoids a one-size fits all approach and places increased accountability on the Big Tech companies.

Under the DSA, 'Very Large Online Platforms' (VLOPs) and 'Very Large Online Search Engines' (VLOSEs), i.e. platforms, having more than 45 million users in the EU, will have more stringent requirements. More importantly, these requirements and their enforcement will be centrally supervised by the European Commission itself — a key way to ensure that the companies do not sidestep the legislation at the member-state level.

VLOPs and VLOSEs will face transparency measures and scrutiny of how their algorithms work and will be required to conduct systemic risk analysis and reduction to drive accountability about the societal impacts of their products. VLOPs must allow regulators to access their data to assess compliance and let researchers access their data to identify systemic risks of illegal or harmful content.

Online platforms must ensure that users can easily identify advertisements and understand who presents or pays for the advertisement. They must not display personalised advertising di-

DIGITAL SERVICES ACT



Reuters file

■ The European Union has given final approval to the Digital Services Act, which is an overhaul of the region's social media & e-commerce rules

rected towards minors or based on sensitive personal data, according to the DSA.

How does it compare to India's online laws?

In February 2021, India had notified extensive changes to its social media regulations in the form of the Information Technology Rules, 2021 — or IT Rules — which placed significant due diligence requirements on large social media platforms such as Meta and Twitter, including appointing key personnel to handle law enforcement requests and user grievances, enabling identification of the first originator of the information on its platform under certain conditions, and deploying technology-based measures on a best-effort basis to identify certain types of content.

Social media companies have objected to some of the provisions in the IT Rules, with WhatsApp also having filed a case against a requirement which mandates it to trace the first originator of a message. One of the reasons that the platform may be required to trace the originator is if a user has shared child sexual abuse material on its platform. WhatsApp has, however, alleged that the requirement will dilute the encryption security on its platform and could compromise personal messages of millions of Indians.

This June, with a view to make the Internet "open, safe and trusted, and accountable", the IT Ministry proposed further amendments to the IT Rules. One of the most contentious proposals is the creation of government-backed grievance appellate committees (GACs) which would have the authority to review and revoke content moderation decisions taken by platforms.

India is also working on an overhaul of its technology policies and is expected to soon come out with a replacement of its IT Act, 2000, which is expected to look at ensuring net neutrality and algorithmic accountability of social media platforms, among other things.

AFTER FOUR REPO HIKES

Rising rates: Turbulent times ahead for home loan segment

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

FOUR SUCCESSIVE repo rate hikes by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have pushed up interest rates on home loans to the pre-pandemic levels of June 2019.

Now, with interest rates at a three-year high of 8.1-9 per cent across categories, housing loans may be staring at a slowdown, after witnessing a 16.4 per cent rise in outstanding during the 12-month period ended August 2022. This has come on top of a 11.6 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

According to the RBI data, housing loan outstanding jumped by Rs 2.51 lakh crore to Rs 17.85 lakh crore in the 12-month period ended August 2022 — against a rise of Rs 1.85 lakh crore to Rs 15.34 lakh crore a year ago.

While the RBI has already hiked the repo rate by 190 basis points (bps) from 4 per cent in May 2020, when the pandemic roiled the country, to 5.90 per cent, experts point to indications that more hikes are in the offing, which would further hit the sector. "Further aggressive rate hikes from hereon may dent economic revival and dampen consumer



PTI file

sentiment (in the housing segment)," said Ravi Subramanian, MD & CEO, Shriram Housing Finance. HDFC had hiked the retail prime lending rate by 50 bps soon after the RBI decision last week, taking home loan rates upwards to 8.10-9 per cent across categories.

According to Samantak Das, chief economist and head of research & REIS, JLL, the repo rate hike does not augur well for the real estate sector, especially the residential segment, as it will result in increased mortgage rates. Since April 2022, while the RBI has increased the repo rate by 190 bps, home loan rates moved up by an average of 80 bps and further hike is in the offing in the coming days.

Taking a cue from the previous transmission, home loan interest

rates are expected to go up in the range of 25-30 bps, JLL said. However, the interest rate after this hike would be still below what homebuyers had to pay 8-9 years ago — more than 10 per cent. It is likely that banks might also delay the transmission, taking into account higher housing demand during the festive season.

"However, if inflation remains at elevated levels, forcing the RBI to aggressively increase interest rates, there might be some turbulence in the market," said Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock group.

"Anarock's most recent Consumer Sentiment Survey finds that high inflation has majorly impacted the disposable incomes of at least 61 per cent of respondents. The survey also found that housing sales may be impacted to some extent if home loan interest rates breach the 9.5 per cent mark," he said.

Sales of residential units have increased more than two-fold during the first half of 2022, over the same period last year, and this growth trajectory has remained during the July-September quarter. "With the last week's hike in repo rate, the revised home loan EMI would increase by an average of 8-9 per cent as compared to six months back. The continuous rise

in home loan EMI is, hence, expected to act as a sentiment disruptor. We believe that home loan interest rates inching towards 9 per cent and above may result in moderation of housing sales growth in the medium term, especially post the current festive season," Das said.

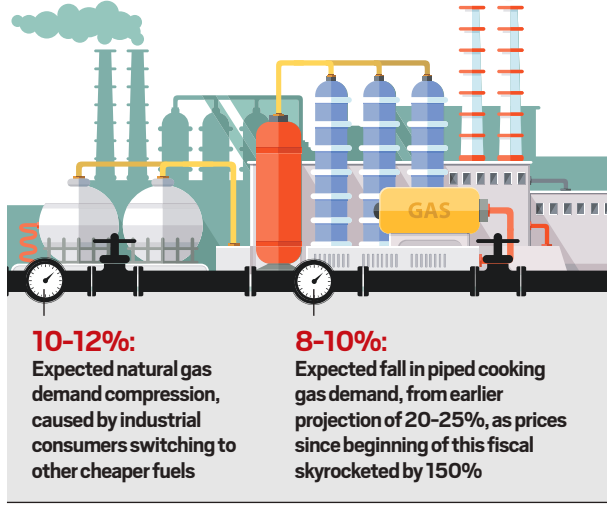
The sharp decline in interest rates was a key reason for the massive housing demand surge in the past two years. Also, the pandemic reinstated the importance of owning physical assets like real estate. This time around, the demand revival even included the previously rent-favouring millennials, who continue to be in the market for homes, Puri said.

The RBI had cut interest rates from 5.15 per cent, when the pandemic hit, to as low as 4 per cent. Since May this year, the financial system has witnessed interest rates on an upward climb again.

Banks and housing finance firms are now pinning their hopes on the festive season, when developers usually roll out various offers. This is the time, experts feel, homebuyers will zero in on those that directly help contain their overall transaction costs. The experts also foresee fixed interest rate guarantee plans announced this year.

‘City gas volume growth may more than halve to 8-10%

With natural gas cost rising 40% from this month on top of a steeper 110% hike in April-September, volume growth is seen more than halving to 8-10% in FY23, a Crisil report said



40% Hike in natural gas price, announced by Oil Ministry on September 30, to an all-time high of \$8.57 per mmbtu (metric million British thermal unit) for the second half of FY23

Over past 12 months

■ Average price of liquefied natural gas (LNG) contracts rose 45% to \$14.5-15 per mmbtu
■ Spot LNG prices have surged 150% to \$38-40/mmbtu

Elevated gas prices likely to reduce demand for industrial PNG by 10-12% this fiscal, as price-sensitive industrial consumers switch to alternative fuels such as propane and fuel oil

CNG demand, meanwhile, still likely to rise 25-30% on the back of an expanding network of CNG stations, despite narrowing price differential with petrol and diesel

Source: Crisil/PTI

‘Delay in crediting EPF interest due to software fix; no loss to subscriber’

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

THE FINANCE Ministry on Wednesday clarified that there is no loss of interest rate for subscribers of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and the delay in crediting of interest rate for FY22 is due to software upgrade being done due to the tax tweaks introduced last year.

"There is no loss of interest for any subscriber. The interest is being credited in the accounts of all EPF subscribers. However, that is not visible in the statements in view of a software upgrade being implemented by EPFO to account

for change in the tax incidence," the Finance Ministry said in a late night tweet in response to TV Mohandas Pai on Twitter.

"For all outgoing subscribers seeking settlement and for subscribers seeking withdrawal, the payments are being done inclusive of the interest," it added.

In June, the Centre had cleared interest rate of 8.10 per cent for over 6 crore subscribers of the EPFO for FY22. The rate was earlier recommended by the Central Board of Trustees in March, after which it was then ratified by the ministry. FY22 is the first fiscal when the Centre's proposal to tax interest on higher contributions to the EPF will come into effect.

‘Apple asks suppliers to produce some AirPods, Beats in India’

REUTERS
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 5

APPLE INC is asking its suppliers to move some AirPods and Beats headphone production to India for the first time, *Nikkei* reported on Wednesday, in what could be an another win for New Delhi in its push for local manufacturing.

Apple iPhone assembler Foxconn is preparing to make Beats headphones in India and hopes to eventually produce AirPods in the country as well, the report said, citing sources.

Luxshare Precision Industry, a Chinese supplier to the iPhone maker, and its units also plan to

As per *Nikkei*, Foxconn is preparing to make Beats headphones in India and hopes to produce AirPods here

help Apple make AirPods in India, according to the report.

However, Luxshare is focusing more on its Vietnamese AirPods operations for now and could be slower than its competitors in starting meaningful production of Apple products in India, the *Nikkei* newspaper said. Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

BRIEFLY

Musk, Twitter

Wilmington: Elon Musk and Twitter may reach a deal to end their litigation as soon as Wednesday and clear the way for him to close his \$44-billion deal for the social media platform, a source in the know said. **REUTERS**

ECLGS aviation

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has modified the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by raising loan limit under the scheme to ₹1,500 crore from ₹400 crore to help the Covid-hit aviation industry tide over liquidity stress. **PTI**

WTO: Trade growth to slow in 2023; ‘multipronged crisis’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA, OCTOBER 5

THE WORLD Trade Organization is predicting global trade volumes will grow a lackluster 1 per cent next year as crises and challenges weigh on markets, including high energy prices, rising interest rates and uncertainties about Chinese manufacturing output amid the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

The Geneva-based trade body said Wednesday that the amount of goods shipped between countries are expected to rise 3.5 per cent this year, up from the 3 per cent that WTO anticipated in its first forecast for the year in April. In 2023, the prediction is for such trade volumes to

grow just 1 per cent, down from the 3.4 per cent expected previously. "The risks are certainly to the downside" next year, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told reporters.

This year, the higher predicted increase in trade volumes stems from better data that arrived in the middle of the year, contributing to a clearer forecast, and a boom in trade volumes from oil- and gas-producing countries in the Middle East as supplies from Russia were shunned and consuming countries sought alternative sources, WTO economists say. The WTO laid out several factors weighing on trade, including higher energy prices resulting from Russia's war in Ukraine, which prompted a number of countries — to slap economic sanctions on Moscow.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER'S WELFARE

TENDER NOTIFICATION

TENDER NOTIFICATION Ref No. C4 / 9539 / 2022, Dated: 06.10.2022

Joint Director of Agriculture, Pudukkottai invites sealed Tenders in two cover system from the reputed entities for the following items.

Sl.No.	Name of the Item	Approximate Value for each item in Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit to be paid for each item in Rs.
1.	Transportation of Carrier based Biofertilizers and Liquid Biofertilizers	1,00,00,000/-	1,00,000/-
2.	Supply of raw materials for the production of Micronutrient Mixtures	17,53,40,700/-	17,53,407/-
	Total	18,53,40,700/-	18,53,407/-

Separate sealed tender (Technical Bid & Price Bid Cover) should be submitted separately for each of the work mentioned above along with specified EMD

The time schedule for opening of the tender is as follows:

I	Sale of tender document closes on	06.11.2022, 5.30 P.M.
II	Last date and time for receipt of tender	07.11.2022, 11.00 A.M. & 11.30 A.M.
III	Date and time of opening of tender	07.11.2022, 11.30 A.M. & 12.00 Noon
IV	Date and time for Pre-bid meeting	21.10.2022, 11.00 A.M. & 11.30 A.M.

Tender document can be obtained upto 06.11.2022, 5.30 P.M in the below address on payment of Rs. 1120/- by Demand Draft for Tender in all working days.

The Tender Document may also be obtained at free of cost in Government website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>
For Further particular, please contact: Joint Director of Agriculture, Kattupuduhkullam, Pudukkottai - 622 001. Ph: 04322-221 666, e-mail: jdapd@gmail.com

DIPR / 4432 /TENDER/2022

Joint Director of Agriculture (I.c) Pudukkottai.

"செய்ததை கூட்டுத் தொழிற்சாலைக்கு கட்டப்படும் தொகை பற்றித் தொழிற்சாலை பண்படுத்தப்படும்"

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹51,718	81.53/\$	\$88.71	₹61,997

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of October 3

OPEC+ agrees deep cuts to oil output despite US pressure



The OPEC office, Vienna, Austria, on Wednesday. Reuters

REUTERS
VIENNA/LONDON, OCTOBER 5

OPEC+ AGREED its deepest cuts to oil production since the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic at a Vienna meeting on Wednesday, curbing supply in an already tight market despite pressure from the US and others to pump more.

The cut could spur a recovery in oil prices that have dropped to about \$90 from \$120 three months ago on fears of a global economic recession, rising US interest rates and a stronger dollar.

The US had pushed OPEC not to proceed with the cuts, arguing that fundamentals don't support them, a source familiar with the matter said. "Higher oil prices, if driven by sizeable production cuts, would likely irritate the Biden Administration ahead of US mid-term elections," Citi analysts said in a note. JPMorgan said it expected Washington to put in place counter measures by releasing more oil stocks.

OPEC+ sources said the agreed production cuts of 2 million bpd or 2 per cent of global demand would be made from existing baseline figures.

That means the cuts would be less deep because OPEC+ fell about 3.6 million barrels per day short of its output target in August. Under-production happened because of Western sanctions on countries such as Russia, Venezuela and Iran and output problems with producers such as Nigeria and Angola. Goldman Sachs analysts said they estimated the real production cuts would therefore amount to 0.4-0.6 million bpd mainly by Gulf OPEC producers such as Saudi

White House: Biden disappointed

Washington: US President Joe Biden is calling on his administration and Congress to explore ways to boost US energy production and reduce OPEC's control over energy prices after the cartel's "shortsighted" production cut, the White House said on Wednesday. Biden will also continue to direct releases from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve as necessary, national security adviser Jake Sullivan and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese said in a statement. **REUTERS**

Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. Saudi Arabia and other members of OPEC+ — which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other producers including Russia — have said they are seeking to prevent volatility rather than to target a particular oil price.

Benchmarks up 2%

Following the OPEC+ announcement, Brent crude rose \$2.01, or 2.2 per cent, to \$93.81 a barrel by 1540 GMT, while US WTI crude rose \$1.78, or 2.1 per cent, to \$88.30 a barrel.

Meanwhile, Wall Street fell on rising Treasury yields. At 11:35 am ET, the Dow fell 293.33 points, or 0.97 per cent, to 30,022.99, S&P by 49.83 points, or 1.31 per cent, to 3,741.10, and Nasdaq by 207.34 points, or 1.86 per cent, at 10,969.07.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD			
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)			
Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	TOTAL
1.	CE/Ch/South	E.839	1

SECURITY GUARDS BOARD FOR BRIHAN MUMBAI & THANE DISTRICT (Constituted by the Government of Maharashtra)	
Central Office : D-301/E-301, Sanpada Railway Station Complex, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai - 400 705. Tele. No. (022)775 1385/ 2775 1386 E-mail : sgb_sanpada@yahoo.co.in	
NOTICE FOR E-TENDER	
Tender Notice No. SGB/SECY/2022-5887	Date :- 03.10.2022
The Security Guards Board for Brihan Mumbai & Thane District invites Tenders on-line, from reputed and experienced Companies or Authorised Dealers, on the Website https://sgb.etenders.in . The Tenders are as under :	

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Subject	Last Date & Time For Submission Of Tender	Opening Date & Time Of Tender
1.	SGB/ 2022-23 /45	Purchase of Uniform Cloths for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	27.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	28.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
2.	SGB/ 2022-23 /46	Purchase & Supply of Leather Shoes for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	27.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	28.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
3.	SGB/ 2022-23 /47	Purchase & Supply of Nylon Socks for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	18.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	19.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
4.	SGB/ 2022-23 /48	Purchase & Supply of Rainy Wear & Gumboot for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	27.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	28.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
5.	SGB/ 2022-23 /49	Purchase & Supply of Woolen Sweater for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	18.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	19.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
6.	SGB/ 2022-23 /50	Purchase & Supply of Uniform Accessories for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	18.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	19.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
7.	SGB/ 2022-23 /51	Stitching of Uniforms Caps for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	18.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	19.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)
8.	SGB/ 2022-23 /52	Stitching of Uniforms for Regd. Security Guards of the Board	18.10.2022 at 17.00 hrs	19.10.2022 From 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. (As per Board's Convenience)

For detailed information, Tender Documents, Specification and etc. please visit the Eprocurement portal <https://sgb.etenders.in>. For any queries please contact the helpline number given on the website.

Sd/-
(Deepa Ashok Bhise)
Secretary
Security Guards Board For Brihan Mumbai & Thane District.

‘Niemann has likely cheated in more than 100 online games’

Report by *chess.com* has found that the scope of the American Grandmaster’s cheating is far wider and longer-lasting than what he publicly admitted

ANIL DIAS
OCTOBER 5

A 72-PAGE report filed by chess.com, a website where top players compete, has found that American Grandmaster Hans Niemann has likely received illegal assistance in more than 100 online games, and as recently as 2020.

The entire fiasco started when Niemann, a 19-year-old who has had a meteoric ascent into the world’s top 50 over the past four years, shocked world champion Magnus Carlsen while playing with black pieces at the Sinquefeld Cup. Carlsen then abruptly quit the tournament. Though the Norwegian refused to divulge the reason, apart from a cryptic Twitter post, the chess community interpreted his action as a protest.

The shock defeat and Carlsen’s withdrawal ignited a maelstrom of comments and allegations that Niemann was cheating. The most vocal voice was of Hikaru Nakamura, an American grandmaster once ranked No. 2 in the world.

When the pair met again in an online event weeks later, Carlsen quit the game after making just one move. Then days later, he publicly confirmed his suspicions about Niemann.

When Carlsen had quit the Sinquefeld Cup and Niemann was under fire, the American launched an impassioned defence. Niemann admitted he had cheated in the past, but only at two points in his life, describing them as youthful indiscretions committed when he was 12 and 16 years old.

He said he was prepared to “play naked” to prove his innocence and that he has never cheated in over-the-board chess.

However, the recent investigation into Niemann’s play has found his cheating to be far wider and longer-lasting than he publicly admitted. Significantly, the matches in which he likely cheated included contests in which prize money was on the line.

The report states that Niemann privately confessed to the allegations and that he was subsequently banned from the site for a pe-



American Grandmaster Hans Niemann had earlier admitted to cheating as a 12 and 16-year-old in online chess.

Chess24/Twitter

riod of time, which Niemann too admitted last month.

The report, which relied on cheating-detection tools including a comparison of a player’s moves to those recommended by powerful supercomputers, has offered data-driven evidence that dramatically contradicts those statements by Niemann that he’s cheated only twice.

While the investigation made no conclusions regarding Niemann’s over-the-board games, it did flag contests from six of his stronger in-person events, stating they “merit further investigation based on the data”

After Carlsen had resigned from the online Julius Baer Generation Cup match after one move, the pressure on him to provide a reason for his withdrawals grew. He finally issued a statement saying, “When Niemann was invited last minute to the 2022 Sinquefeld Cup, I strongly considered withdrawing prior to the event. I ultimately chose

to play. I believe that Niemann has cheated more – and more recently – than he has publicly admitted. His over-the-board progress has been unusual, and throughout our game in the Sinquefeld Cup, I had the impression that he wasn’t tense or even fully concentrating on the game in critical positions, while out-playing me as black in a way I only think a handful of players can do. This game contributed to changing my perspective.”

Chess.com, which is in the process of buying Carlsen’s Play Magnus app, backed up his assessment of Niemann’s rapid climb up Fide’s world ratings – a gain of 350 Elo points in four years and an astonishing surge from 2,500 to 2,600 in just three months – describing his rise as “statistically extraordinary”.

“Outside his online play, Hans is the fastest rising top player in Classical (over-the-board) chess in modern history,” the report said. “Looking purely at rating, Hans should be classified as a member of this group of top young players. While we don’t doubt that Hans is a talented player, we note that his results are statistically extraordinary.”

Fide, the sport’s world governing body, issued a statement last week saying it will convene its own three-person panel to look into the allegations

How Carlsen would need to cheat just once in a game to be invincible

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
OCTOBER 5

AN INTERNAL report by chess.com, the sport’s most popular digital platform, has revealed that US Grandmaster Hans Niemann cheated much more than he has publicly admitted. Last month, Niemann, 19, had confessed to using illegal means in only a few “random games” after world champion Magnus Carlsen had hinted that he was a cheater.

The report, besides nailing Niemann’s lie, also underlines the overwhelming advantage those assisted by “chess engines” enjoy over their rule-abiding opponents. With apps and software programmed to play like Grandmasters with an unreal rating of 3500-plus and think close to 40 moves in advance, the superiority of Machine over Man has multiplied many folds in recent times.

In an alarming observation that casts a shadow on over-the-board chess too, the report says that cheaters playing at elite level can always get the better of their rivals by indulging in “selective cheating”. As Carlsen is quoted in the report as saying: “I would have just needed to cheat one or two times during the match... That is all I would need in order to be almost invincible.”

Quoting the report to understand modern-day chess cheating:

What’s the verdict on Niemann?

“Our investigation has concluded that he did, however, cheat much more than he has publicly admitted to, including in many prize events, at least 25 streamed games, and 100-plus rated games on chess.com, as recently as when he was 17 years old. Hans’ on-line and OTB behaviours may be completely different, and that should be taken into consideration. We have shared our findings with FIDE and will cooperate with any investigation or requests they pursue.”

Do cheaters take help from chess engines for all their moves?

Not always. The report says that there are two types of cheaters. “Common types of cheating examples range from “every move is an engine move” (i.e., where every moved played was the top move recommended by a chess engine) to “we don’t have enough evidence to close” (i.e., where the player’s moves are unusually sophisticated, but still within realistic bounds of statistical possibility).”

What’s the common modus operandi?

“Some, often newer, players use a chess engine like Stockfish to decide every move



Magnus Carlsen says he’s convinced no one would notice if he cheated. Reuters

they make. This form of cheating is obvious and easy to detect. Other players, especially those that play at Hans’ level, are much more sophisticated, and engage in “selective cheating,” using a chess engine to give advice only in key moments, and often intentionally making sub-par moves to mask their engine use. At the higher echelons of competitive chess, many games are won or lost in a critical moment, and having any sort of assistance during those moments can turn the outcome of the game. Indeed, many top players have expressed that using a chess engine in just a handful of key moments can add

hundreds of Elo in strength.”

Are chess engines impossible to beat?

“Human chess and computer chess are different, even at the highest levels. The best humans play at an Elo rating of 2800. “Stockfish,” the most powerful chess engine, has an estimated rating of more than 3500. In a theoretical match between World Champion Magnus Carlsen and Stockfish, we estimate that it is most likely that Magnus Carlsen would lose every single game – no wins and no draws.”

How are chess engines programmed?

“Most chess engines use neural nets which have been trained on millions of top-level chess games to capture the deepest of chess strategic understanding. They also have nearly infallible tactical calculation, as they can look more than 40-plus moves deep into the position and calculate poten-

tial outcomes.”

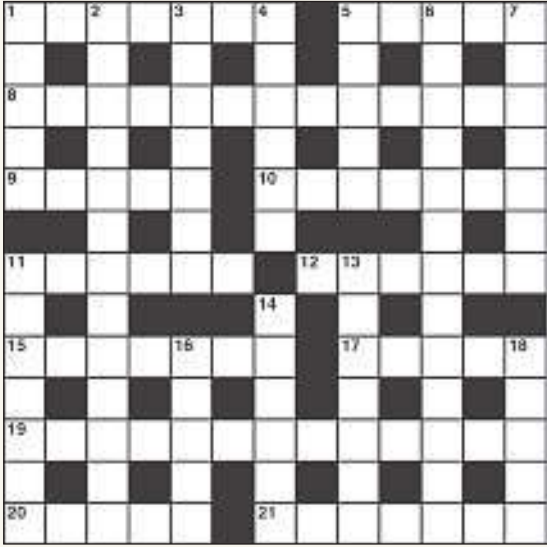
Why is ‘being human’ a fallibility in chess?

“Humans rely on past experiences, heuristics and guidelines, pattern recognition, and a fallible ability to calculate moves in the future where they cannot see the live position. This leads to humans dismissing potentially winning moves because they look to be bad based on past experience or general chess principles. But a computer is not constrained by these rules and will often make moves a human – even an elite player – would immediately reject. Similarly, even the best chess-playing humans often make moves that seem sound, but are bad due to a series of calculations which show it to be losing.”

How do top players see “selective cheating”?

International Master Levy Rozman says, “Top players [only] need to cheat three times a game. Literally. Top players know so much about the position that if you even insinuate that they might be better or worse, they might find the right move.” World champion Carlsen too is on the same page. “Had I started cheating in a clever manner, I am convinced no one would notice. I would have just needed to cheat one or two times during the match, and I would not even need to be given moves, just the answer on which move was way better, or here there is a possibility of winning, and here you need to be more careful. That is all I would need in order to be almost invincible, which does frighten me.”

CROSSWORD 4865



ACROSS

- Put on Medusa’s form (7)
- Didn’t stand around to see a furry animal (5)
- One who provides heaven-sent protection (8,5)
- She upsets Diana (5)
- It may be taken by the injured (7)
- About 19 billion miles right in outer space? (6)
- Way to gain an admission (6)
- Makes slow progress by streetcar (7)
- They fly or take a train (5)
- It’s showing lack of respect in a junior (13)
- Please quietly go to provide support for an artist (5)
- Deranged senator gives great offence (7)

DOWN

- Jason’s craft heads north in the atmosphere (5)
- They brighten beds with pink among other colours (8,5)
- Raised help in measure to negotiate (7)
- Formidable woman appears to be tedious (6)
- Support the employees (5)
- Manual performances pulling out all the stops? (5,8)
- Clerks at the information desk? (7)
- Still voice? (7)
- Red vehicle goes to one of the pits (7)
- Wit of a turbulent priest (6)
- Bella may form an attachment (5)
- Geese highly regarded as a group (5)

Solutions Crossword 4864: Across: 1 Leant, 8 Horseman, 9 Salad, 10 Sinister, 11 Faith, 12 Aha, 16 Feudal, 17 Madcap, 18 Ply, 23 Squat, 24 Have-nots, 25 Lathe, 26 Moreover, 27 Means. Down: 2 Emanated, 3 Neap tide, 4 Polish, 5 Astr, 6 Smita, 7 Inure, 12 Alp, 13 Army, 14 Adequate, 15 Marathon, 19 Litter, 20 Shame, 21 Every, 22 Snook.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

—be my friend. - William Shakespeare (8)

DLNEO



IKSYLN



COTSS



AENPBD

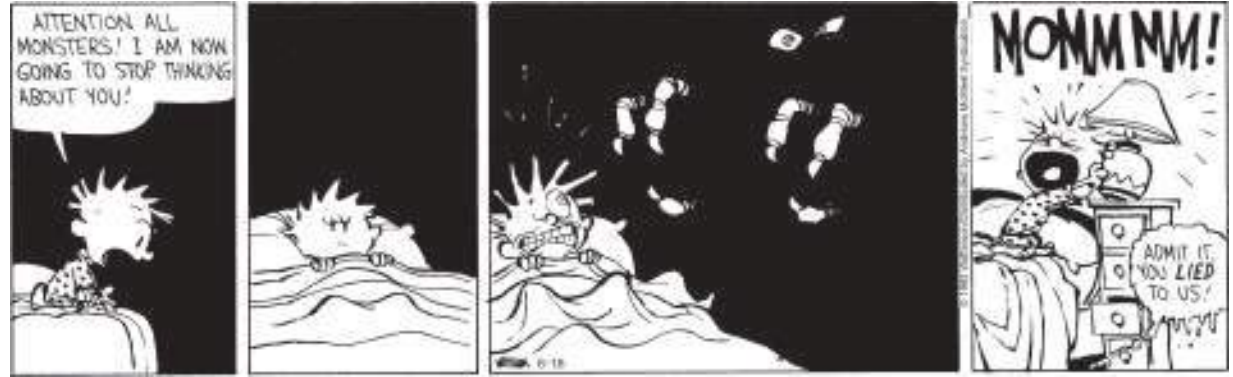


Answer: boldness be my friend. - William Shakespeare

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4979

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4978



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It’s impossible to completely let go of the past, however hard you try. Certain members of the family may now wish to reopen an old discussion. If so, they are responding to yesterday’s colourful Moon, but you may still have to sit and listen to their out-of-date complaints.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Most of your current problems seem to stem from a clash of personalities or wills. Yet, with the Moon playing up today, you can probably correct the balance in your favour, and feel a whole lot better as a result. Don’t let foolish pride get in the way of a reconciliation.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You are likely to be feeling emotionally under the weather. However, the stars are favouring extremes, so with careful attention to exercise and diet you could very rapidly begin to feel better than ever. Some people say there’s no gain without pain, but you may prove them wrong.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You’re difficult to fool, and you are well aware that others have been deceitful or dishonest, yet there is no reason for anger. Sometimes people just get themselves in an emotional twist, and they probably require your sympathy more than condemnation.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may realise that not everyone shares your vision of the future. The most positive way forward at work is to treat employers and colleagues as if they’re part of one vast family. Even in community or similar groups, you should base your actions on the network of emotional bonds.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Some people may be giving you less support than you expected, others may be offering more. In a sense it doesn’t matter, for even if nobody was on your side, you would still manage events to your advantage. I think that everyone needs to recognise your true talents now.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

As far as personal complaints are concerned, it is a case of least said, soonest mended. There is no point in dwelling on the past, especially as the people who caused trouble may have even forgotten what they were angry about. If you can’t cope with old disputes, how will you handle future ones?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Let employers and people in authority see that you are not only capable and reliable, but also that you have the best ideas. It often takes you a long time to formulate your suggestions, but no matter - you must take as long as you need to come up with the right answers. Other people may just have to wait.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

There doesn’t seem to be any sharp line between right and wrong. It’s more a question of finding the appropriate course of action. Don’t use a sledge-hammer to crack a nut, or carry on about what other people should or should not have done. The best thing you can do today is carry on with your personal chores with a minimum of fuss.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Out of all the uncertainty in close personal relationships, something of lasting value is bound to emerge. Today’s sympathetic Moon, by the way, opens the door towards pleasurable rewards, self-indulgence and a surprise encounter with the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Someone in a position of power and authority is about to give you a break or champion your cause. It is very important indeed that you offer them a chance to speak, so avoid the tendency to shout other people down. You might even decide that they’re right.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Some planets make life easy, but others couldn’t be more awkward. Venus and Jupiter are churning you up emotionally, but positive planets elsewhere in your chart are enabling you to take firm decisions. The truth may hurt, but there is no avoiding it now or in the future



I invite you to experience and benefit from the bouquet of exciting opportunities Rajasthan has to offer, and to join us in building a promising future for all of us.

ASHOK GEHLOT
Chief Minister, Rajasthan



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7-8 Oct 2022 ▶ JAIPUR

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40% of MoUs & Lols
implemented/under implementation

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**Inauguration and
Ground Breaking of Projects**

Employment Generation in the State

2.10 Lakh+
from implemented
and under
implementation Projects

9.5 Lakh+
from all
MoUs & Lols
of Invest Rajasthan

Department of Industries
& Commerce,
Government of Rajasthan

invest.rajasthan.gov.in




Confederation of Indian Industry

BRIEFLY

Indian women’s team knocked out of TT World Championship

Chengdu: The Indian women’s team’s campaign at the World Table Tennis Championship ended with a 0-3 pre-quarterfinals loss to Chinese Taipei here on Wednesday. The trio of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula and Diya Chitale lost their respective singles to concede the Round of 16 tie. Manika, whose form has been patchy throughout the tournament, was no match to the world number 22 Chen Szu-Yu as the Indian succumbed to a disappointing 0-3 (7-11, 9-11, 3-11) defeat. With India trailing 0-1, Birmingham Commonwealth Games mixed doubles gold medallist Sreeja couldn’t get past world number 35 Ching I-Ching and went down 1-3 (8-11, 11-5 6-11, 9-11). **PTI**

IBA allows return of Russian boxers

London : The Russian-led International Boxing Association (IBA) on Wednesday cancelled a ban on amateur boxers from Russia and Belarus and said it would allow them to compete with national flags and anthems in events with immediate effect. The world governing body, which is at odds with Olympic organisers, said in a statement that its board of directors had voted in favour of the change. Russian energy company Gazprom is the biggest sponsor of the IBA, formerly known as AIBA. “The IBA strongly believes that politics shouldn’t have any influence on sports. Hence, all athletes should be given equal conditions,” it said, adding that it remained “politically neutral and independent”. **REUTERS**

IOC claim no say over Asiad W Games call

Berlin : The International Olympic Committee said on Wednesday it was not consulted in the decision by the Olympic Council of Asia to pick Saudi Arabia as the hosts of the 2029 Asian winter Games. The choice for the 2029 Games at the OCA general assembly on Tuesday raised eyebrows in the sports world with the largely desert state of Saudi Arabia experiencing only rare snowfall and without any winter sports infrastructure or tradition. It also means that all or the majority of venues needed for this multi-sports event would have to be built from scratch. “The IOC was not consulted about the OCA decision with regard to the Asian Winter Games and was not involved in the decision-making process,” an IOC spokesperson said. **REUTERS**

LIV golfers set to get ranking points

Toronto : LIV Golf players are set to earn world ranking points starting this week after the developmental MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Tour said it had formed a strategic alliance with the Saudi Arabia-backed circuit. LIV Golf is holding the sixth event of its inaugural season this week just north of Bangkok and the MENA Tour said those competing at Stonehill Golf Course will immediately qualify for official world ranking points. **REUTERS**

Six Jharkhand girls at the heart of India’s World Cup team

ANIL DIAS
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

ASTAM ORAON grew up in a village in Jharkhand that’s so remote that she was, as a child, virtually cut off from the rest of the world. There was no phone connectivity and irregular electricity. Her parents work in the fields for most of the year and in the months when they did not, they’d find jobs as daily wagers elsewhere to make ends meet.

Like Astam, Sudha Ankita Tirkey’s parents, too, work in the fields as labourers. When her parents couldn’t find work during the Covid lockdown in 2020, food was scarce in their household. But Sudha’s parents never asked her to stop playing football.

Come October 11, Astam and Sudha will be two of the six girls from Jharkhand who are a part of the India team that takes on the USA in the first match of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. Apart from Astam and Sudha, the other players from Jharkhand in

the team are Anjali Munda, Purnima Kumari, Nitu Linda and Anita Kumari.

The tournament’s seventh edition will be played in three cities - Bhubaneswar, Goa and Navi Mumbai, which will host the final on October 30. The 16 teams, which include defending champions Spain and Brazil, are divided into four groups of four teams each, with the winner and runner-up in each group progressing to the quarter-finals.

For India, which qualified as hosts and are playing for the first time in a FIFA event, making it to the group stage will not be easy, given that they will be up against the US, Morocco and tournament favourites Brazil.

Coach Thomas Dennerby, however, will rely on his players’ abilities to overcome the odds. While there are no players in the squad from the three host cities, the five Jharkhand girls are expected to be in the playing XI.

Astam, who plays left-back, is likely to be captain. Realising the lack of opportunities in Gumla, her parents sent her to Saint Columbus Collegiate in Hazaribagh, about a four-hour drive away, so that she would get



Astam Oraon.

File

a chance to play football.

"Initially, she played as a left midfielder. While she was good on the ball, she wasn't able to track back to defend, something that's imperative for midfielders," S Pradhan, coach

of the Jharkhand team, told The Indian Express.

The U-17 nationals at Kolhapur in 2019 were where she was able to show her capabilities following which she was selected for the India camp. "She has worked tremendously on her game. Though she went into the camp as a midfielder, the coach must've seen she's suited for defence," Pradhan said.

Astam's partner in defence, Purnima Kumar, whose parents are farmers, has meanwhile developed a reputation of being a robust and fearless player.

One of the brightest prospects from Jharkhand is midfielder Nitu Linda, who trained at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Ranchi. Though she's one of the shortest players in the team, her skills and technical knowledge mean that she's often the first on the team sheet.

Linda had a rough childhood, with her mother passing away while she was young. Her father, a farm worker, struggled to make ends meet but always encouraged her to play. "She's going to make heads turn. I

wouldn't be surprised if big clubs come calling for her after this tournament," coach Pradhan said.

Like Linda, goalkeeper Anjali Munda, too, trained at the SAI centre. She wasn't always a goalkeeper though. She preferred playing as a defender. It was on Pradhan's advice that she took up goalkeeping. "She's always the tallest player on the pitch. She said she only wanted to be a defender. I managed to convince her that she'll have more opportunities as a goalkeeper," Pradhan said.

Anjali's teammate, Anita Kumar, paid no heed to the taunts she and her family got from the villagers "for wearing shorts", knowing that football could be her way out. Initially a right back, she now plays as a striker and has done phenomenally for India in the preparatory tournaments.

She isn't the only one who has stepped out of her comfort zone. Almost every player in the team has a story to tell - led by Astam, the player who was once cut off from the world but is now likely to lead her country at the U-17 World Cup.

ODI series will help T20 World Cup standby players: Dhawan

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW, OCTOBER 5

All the stand-by players for the T20 World Cup, playing in the South Africa ODI series will aim to use the three games to make a case for themselves for the main squad, stand-in skipper Shikhar Dhawan said on Wednesday.

With Jasprit Bumrah already ruled out, the series could be a shot-out between Deepak Chahar, who is in the stand-by list and Mohammed Siraj, who could make that list in the event that Mohammed Shami fails to become match-fit before October 15.

Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi and Chahar are the standbys named for the Indian team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia and will be travelling Down Under as reserves.

"Of course, it is very important because the more matches they (standby players) are going to play, they will be in better groove and better mindset. If the boys perform well, then obviously the confidence will help them. Who knows they might get a chance so they can look at this series as preparation," Dhawan said here on the eve of the first game.

With lot of uncapped players --- Rahul Tripathi, Rajat Patidar, Mukesh Kumar, Shahbaz Ahmed, in the squad, Dhawan feels that the exposure will only help these youngsters grow.

"If you look at the performance of our youngsters, the transition that happened that shows their confidence.

"The more they play they will get more experience, their confidence level will increase. They will learn from mistakes. Even for me as well. Keeping 2023 in mind, the more matches I play will be beneficial for me," he added.

"The team is very good and with this team we played in West Indies and Zimbabwe. Most of the players are the same, there are one or two new players. We share a good tuning. The new boys have brought in new energy. They have been doing well in the last few series."

India had defeated South Africa 2-1 in the preceding T20 series but Dhawan expects a tough fight from the Proteas in the ODIs.

"South Africa has a good team. Winning and losing are part of the game but it is important to learn from defeats," he said.

"Both the teams made plenty of runs in the T20 series. It depends on pitch, dew factor and plenty of other factors."

Shooting’s return to the 2026 CWG and the organisers’ decision to drop wrestling will even out for India medal-wise

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

Shooting in. Wrestling out. Or, from India’s point of view, half a dozen or so gold medals all but certain; other six lost.

On face value, shooting’s return to the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the organisers’ decision to drop wrestling will even out for India medal-wise, going by the tallies in these two sports in the last two editions. Yet, there’ll be mixed feelings: Relieved that both sports have not been dropped from the Victoria Games? Happy that shooting, after it was shot down this year, makes a return? Or outrage, as was the case when shooting was dropped from the Birmingham Games, over the exclusion of wrestling, a sport that the country has dominated in all but one edition since 2010?

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), on Wednesday, announced the final sports programme for the 2026 edition that will be held across the Australian state of Victoria. In April, the organisers had announced an initial list of 16 sports that would be a part of the Games four years later. Shooting and wrestling were not a part of that group, raising concerns that the two sports in which India is traditionally strong will be omitted, which would’ve severely impacted the medal tally.

However, after months of lobbying, shooting has made a comeback to the CWG while coastal rowing, cycling (BMX) and golf will make their Games debut. Another boost for India will be the increase in the number of para events, where Indians have won medals by the dozen in major competitions. Wrestling, in the process, became one of the big casualties.

Wrestling return in 2030?

The CGF’s strategic roadmap recommends that athletics and swimming be the only two compulsory sports at each Games. It goes on to suggest that host nations can pick sports that are ‘relevant’ to them and their culture.

This is where wrestling seems to have lost out. The sport, which did not feature at the Melbourne CWG in 2006, isn’t associated strongly with Commonwealth nations other than India, Canada and, to some extent, Nigeria. These three countries have largely dominated CWG wrestling, mostly due to poor competition and thin fields. At the



Shooting’s CWG 2026 inclusion may have been down to its gender parity card as it has equal representation of men and women along with a mixed team event. *File*

After months of lobbying, shooting has made a comeback to the CWG while coastal rowing, cycling (BMX) and golf will make their debut. Another boost for India will be the increase in para events, where Indians have won medals by the dozen

Birmingham Games, four of women’s wrestling six categories had eight or less wrestlers in the fray, with two lower weight categories having just four and six participants. It meant no bronze was awarded where there were just four wrestlers, with organisers having to scramble to make up a competitive format.

In India’s case, the fight to get into the wrestling team for the CWG is tougher than winning a medal at the Games themselves.

The countries that are traditionally strong in wrestling – Russia, USA, Japan, Iran and China apart from some Eastern European na-

tions – are not part of the Commonwealth. Countries in Oceania, Africa and the British Isles do not boast of a great wrestling culture and the hosts of the 2026 Games, Australia, have had modest results in wrestling compared to their stranglehold in other sports at the CWG, winning just two bronze medals in Birmingham.

It was hoped that at least beach wrestling, a variant that is likely to feature at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics alongside the traditional version, would feature at the Victoria Games but that wasn’t to be the case.

Given Australia’s poor record, it isn’t surprising that wrestling has been excluded from the 2026 CWG but the sport could make a return four years later when the Games will be held – most likely – in Canada, a Commonwealth wrestling powerhouse.

Shooting returns, but fewer events likely

In that sense, wrestling could go the shooting way.

Shooting was dropped from the Birmingham CWG because of the lack of availability of a decent range in the British West Midlands region, and the unwillingness

Napoli slam five past Ajax as Barcelona fall to Inter in UCL

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Barcelona’s high-powered attack faltered against Inter Milan and the Italian club gained an edge in the battle for second place in their Champions League group, while Bayern Munich and Napoli continued to impress and Club Brugge earned a surprising third straight victory.

Inter defeated Barcelona 1-0 at home to move into position to grab the second qualifying spot in Group C, which is led by Bayern Munich after it comfortably defeated Viktoria Plzen 5-0 to set record of 31 straight matches unbeaten in the competition’s group stage.

Napoli impressed with a 6-1 win at Ajax, while Belgian champion Club Brugge also kept a perfect record with a home victory against Atlético Madrid, which saw Antoine Griezmann miss a penalty kick.

Liverpool picked up its second win by beating Rangers 2-0, while Porto earned its first victory by defeating Bayern Leverkusen by the same score.

A moment of silence was held before all matches in memory of the victims of the stadium tragedy in Indonesia.



Napoli’s Giovanni Di Lorenzo celebrates scoring their second goal with staff while Ajax fans look on. *Reuters*

Bayern, which got two goals from Leroy Sané, also hasn’t lost at home in Europe’s premier competition since a 3-2 defeat to Manchester City in 2013. It has won 25

games and drawn one in Munich since then.

Bayern played without Thomas Müller and Joshua Kimmich because of coron-

KEY RESULTS				
Bayern	5	1	V Plzen	
C Brugge	2	0	A Madrid	
Ajax	1	6	Napoli	
Inter	1	0	Barcelona	
Liverpool	2	0	Rangers	

avirus infections.

Napoli’s rout

Napoli kept up its momentum by handing Ajax its worst ever European defeat, surpassing its 5-1 loss to Bayern Munich in 1980.

"It was a difficult, painful evening for us. Not worthy of Ajax," said the Dutch team’s coach, Alfred Schreuder. Napoli has now scored 13 goals in three Group A matches this Champions League campaign. It leads Serie A, where it also remains unbeaten.

Liverpool stayed close in the group by reaching six points after defeating Rangers at home with goals by Trent Alexander-Arnold and Mohamed Salah. It was Liverpool’s second consecutive European win after defeating Ajax and losing to Napoli in the group opener.

Ajax stayed third with three points, while

Rangers had zero. Meanwhile, Club Brugge’s dream run in the Champions League continued with the win over Atlético for an unprecedented third straight victory to start the group stage. Ferran Jutgla scored a goal and added an assist as the Belgian club moved six points in front of all other teams in Group B.

It was the second consecutive loss in the European competition for Atlético, which dropped to last place after Porto picked up its first points with a 2-0 win against Bayer Leverkusen, which missed a penalty kick.

After not scoring in two opening losses in Group D, Marseille ended Sporting’s perfect record with some help by the visiting goalkeeper’s blunders in a 4-1 win.

Antonio Adan made mistakes on the first two goals and was shown a 23rd-minute red card for handling the ball outside his area.

Sporting, looking for its third straight win, had opened the scoring in the first minute. The Portuguese side still leads the group with six points, two more than Tottenham and Eintracht, which drew 0-0 in Germany.

The game in Marseille, played without fans because of fan trouble last month, was delayed by more than 20 minutes after the bus carrying the visiting team’s players was caught in traffic and arrived late at the at the Velodrome.