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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** & ALI MOOSVI MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

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



Kadam was among rescuers hit by another vehicle

with four passengers hitting a railing on the sea link following

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 tol-

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

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

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

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

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

rights, freedom to work

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 coun-

in Nagpur 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

try will not be successful". **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** Scientist who brought cheetahs to India finds no place in task force

JAY MAZOOMDAAR

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

DEAN OF the Wildlife Institute of India, noted biologist Yadavendradev Vikramsinh 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ihala (centre) with Laurie Marker and Únion Minister Ivotiraditya Scindia. Twitter/Jyotiraditya Scindia

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,

"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

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

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TEN YEARS OF ENGLISH VINGLISH: DIRECTOR GAURI SHINDE ON 'BLIND DATE' WITH SRIDEVI

Filmmaker Gauri Shinde shares that the last time she saw English Vinglish was after the sudden demise of

TECHNOLOGY



APPLE ULTRA WATCH REVIEW Is this watch the right choice for everyone? Here's our review

ENTERTAINMENT



GODFATHER MOVIE REVIEW Packed with elements to surprise fan base of Salman and Chiranjeevi

EXPRESS AUDIO

Delhi's toxic groundwater, minor dead after sexual assault, and a CBI raid

Investigating the toxic groundwater near the Bhalswa landfill, a minor boy's death after being sexually assaulted, and an update on a CBI raid to combat cybercrime

Gujarat demolition drive | FROM PAGE ONE | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM continues, BJP video boasts: Anti-nationals, extremists bull-dozed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, OCT 5

THE GUJARAT government con $tinued\,its\,demolition\,drive\,on\,Bet$ Dwarka island in Devbhumi Dwarka district for the fifth consecutive day on Wednesday, even as the ruling BIP posted a video on Twitter terming the alleged encroachers as kattarpanthis (extremists) and deshvirodhi (antinational) The official Twitter account of

BJP 'Gujarat Pradesh' posted a video with visuals of bulldozers demolishing structures, sub-titles and voice-over that said, "Krushnanagarine karvama avi kattarpanthiothi mukt. Atikramankarnao par chalyu Gujarat sarkarnu bulldozer. (The Gujarat government's bulldozer ran on encroachments - The Land of Lord Krishna has been rid of extremists)." It added that 1.8 lakh square feet of land had been freed

"Bhajap sarkarni deshvirodhi sangathano ane kattarvadio same sidhi karyavahi (The BJP government takes direct action against anti-national organisations and extremists)," the voice-over says in the video as images of JCB demolishing a structure resembling a religious structure and other premises, are flashed. The video also has images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

Amit Pandya, Chief officer of Okha Municipality that has jurisdiction over this island, had told The Indian Express Tuesday that the demolition drive is being led by the Devbhumi Dwarka district administration after a survey identified unauthorised structures. He said that the affected parties were "duly served notices on September 30, a day before the drive began". The video claimed that the Bet Dwarka island is important from the national security perspective and therefore, the state government sent bulldozers and 1,000 "security personnel" for running over "anti-national activities going on there.

The video goes on to add how among the residential and commercial spaces, "more than halfa-dozen illegal religious places were demolished", while mentioning the demolition of "Kamruddin Shah's dargah in Survey No.550" as a case in point. "Gradually, the task of making

Bet Dwarka, the city of Lord Krishna, free from the clutches extremists is getting over," the video says, adding that the Modi government at the Centre "has blocked 55 Pakistani YouTube channels and two websites". Residence of a man, who is an

accused in the Rs 266-crore Khambhalia drug haul case of November 2021, was among the premises razed.

Police claim the accused had sent a fishing trawler from Rupen harbour near Dwarka town to the Pakistani side of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Arabian Sea allegedly to receive the drug consignment from Pakistani suppliers.

"So Gujaratis, it is for you to decide now. Do you want to support the strong BJP government, which has delivered double blow to antinationals or those who shed tears for terrorists, those who declared terror accused innocent and supported infiltrators," the video says as it ends with images of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, MP Rahul . Gandhi and Delhi chief minister Arvind Keiriwal.

Congress, however, said the video showed the failure of the BJP government in the state and that the drive is to send a message ahead of the Gujarat Assembly elections. "By releasing the video. the BJP has confessed that contrary to its claims till date, it has not done development work," Congress spokesman Manish Doshi said. adding, "The BIP must clarify during whose reign these places were encroached? Who made money out of the encroachment?'

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No talks with Pak, terror claimed 42,000: Shah

what they have given to Kashmir," he said.

"Mehbooba ji, listen with your ears and eyes open. What we have done, I will give its account, but what you and Farooq (Abdullah) Sahib have done, you too should give that account... Tell us how much investment has come to Kashmir in 70 years, how many industries have been set up, how many factories have been opened and how many youth have been given employment? (There has been an investment of) only 15,000 crore in 70 years. In three years, Modi ji brought investment of 56,000 crore." he said.

He said the Modi government's "achievement" was to take democracy to the grassroots in J&K. "Earlier, democracy was limited to 87 legislators, six parliamentarians and three families – Mufti family, Abdullah family and Gandhi family," he said. "We 30,000 panchs and sarpanchs." Calling the National

have taken it to villages, to

Conference as "Abdullah & Sons" and the PDP as "Mufti & Company", Shah held them responsible for the "stones and guns" in the hands of Kashmiri youth. "Modi ji brought industry here and gave mobiles and laptops in their (youth's) hands," he "We have two models – Modi

ji's model of development, peace and employment and the Gupkar model," he said. "The Gupkar model gave us the Pulwama attack. The Modi model gave a Rs 2,000-crore hospital to Pulwama. The Gupkar model gave stones and machine guns in youth's hands and closed colleges whereas the Modi model gave us IIMs, IITs, AI-IMS. NIFTs and NEET." he said.

Shah said 42,000 people have been killed in J&K due to terrorism since the start of militancy in 1990. "Who is responsible for the deaths of these 42,000 people? The three families, who ruled Kashmir for 70 years, are responsible," he said.

"The most difficult thing is to shoulder the coffin of your son... 42,000 people have been killed here. Has the son of any leader been killed ever? We want the fear of separatism to go away from Kashmir, terrorism to go away, and make Kashmir the paradise of India.'

He said Kashmir was a "hotspot of terrorism" earlier, but has now turned into a "hotspot of tourism".

"In the past, six lakh tourists would visit Kashmir annually," he said. "I have come here in October - 22 lakh tourists have already visited Kashmir so far this year, and it has given employment to five lakh youth." Shah listed the developmen-

plan on arranging resources when

tal works undertaken by the Centre in J&K since 2014 and highlighted the setting up of new medical colleges, electricity to every village, free health cards to people among its key achievements.

He said terrorism in J&K has virtually ended, and appealed to its people to join the mainstream. "The Modi government will not tolerate terrorism. Come and join the mainstream and be part of development," he said.

Shah later visited the border town of Uri to offer condolences to the family of Mudasir Ahmad, a policeman killed in a gunfight with militants in May this year.

Earlier in the day, the Home Minister chaired a security review meeting in Srinagar which was attended by top officers of J-K Police, Army, paramilitary forces and intelligence agencies besides Lt Governor Manoj

• Borders blur in Kartarpur

song," Intikhab Alam says over the phone about meeting his old friend Bishan Singh Bedi at Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara on Tuesday. "We both go a long way and that song, too, plays a role in it. In fact, we all cried when we met." Bishan Bedi's wife Anju, too,

was left in tears. "Intikhab, Shafqat Rana (a Pakistan international from the 1960s), Bishan, all holding hands and crying. It was some sight, Right through Bishan's illness and recovery, Intikhab would call every third day. So would Zaheer Abbas, who is not well these days. All the Pakistani players who live in England, like Mushtaq Mohammad, are all his buddies and would keep calling. Intikhab has been a great, true friend and Bishan has always been much loved in Pakistan," she says.

In February 2021, three days after Bedi underwent a heart surgery, he suffered a stroke because of a brain clot. An emergency surgery was done. The progress was slow. Initially, he couldn't recognise people around him and couldn't walk. But Bedi recovered. And when they met in Kartarpur, Alam gave Bedi a watch. "He put it on Bishan's wrist," says Anju, who received several gifts from Alam and his family.

Before Kartarpur, Intikhab's wife had pressed Anju with a 'simple request".

"She asked me to bring a mixer - steel-waali, that blender. She said 'In Pakistan, you get plastic and glass ka mixie and it frequently gets broken. Can you bring a steel mixie from India?' I bought two of them in Amritsar and wasn't sure whether it would be allowed. My son Angad said, Take it mummy, who is going to stop my dad?" says Anju, laughing. "And so. I took it along with other gifts. No one in Customs here or there said anything. In fact, we had forgotten about the Covid test also but it was all done sweetly by the authorities... We went on a one-day visa," she says.

The meeting in Kartarpur was Bedi's great desire. Anju had kept Intikhab and his wife in the loop. "On October 3, we were celebrating our grandson's birthday and Bishan said we should go to Kartarpur now. I told Intikhab's wife, and they said 'Don't worry, we will be there'. I was surprised that border forces from Pakistan were also dving to take photos with Bishan," Anju says.

Intikhab says he didn't need an invitation. "It was five hours of bliss. Old memories dusted up. Laughter. And as your countrymen will know. Bedi is a magnificent personality. What a heart. Courage. Honest man. And a humorous man. We laughed and laughed. Louis Armstrong was

it was Anju-ji who told me to sing," Intikhab laughs. Says Anju, "I told him now you have to sing that song. He said 'Are you mad, we are in a Gurdwara' but I said you have to sing. It was so lovely. The song connection dates back to the 1970s during Kerry

also part of our relationship. And

Packer's rebel league that changed the cricketing world. Intikhab and Bedi were in the Rest of the World team. "We had a Sunday club during that tournament. We had players from so many different countries. Someone would dance. someone would sing or play an instrument and so on. I used to sing this song the way Armstrong sang or tried to, and Bishan loved it. I guess he still does," says Intikhab, a jazz lover who had picked up the song during his playing days in Scotland. His family, Intikhab says, was

the last in Shimla to flee to Pakistan during Partition. His father had played for the Maharaja of Patiala's team, and had friends in the Army. He recalls that a brigadier had sent a truck that took the family to Ludhiana. They moved to Kalka, and then took a train to Lahore. "The first was a passenger train... But a wrong signal said the first train was a goods train, and the second was carrying passengers, and that's how we made it across the border." Intikhab says. "Very lucky. That was the last train. No other train came from India."

He first met Bedi in a match. "I hit him for a six or two, and he ioked 'Bhai, why are you hitting me? There are other spinners also in the team.' I immediately knew that we were going to hit it off. Then, that Australia tournament (Packer's World Series) happened and we have been thick friends since." Referring to Bedi, he says. "Allah inko lambi umar dein and give him all the good health. Aise insaan toh kum paide hote hain aaikal (People like him are very rare these days. May God give him a long, healthy life)."

Anju says, "I know Bishan is much loved in Pakistan. But the way Intikhab, Shafqat and all his Pakistani friends have been in touch was amazing. They just hugged and cried." Intikhab says. "When Bishan left, he told me 'Come to India'. I have been there before and roamed Purani Dilli (Old Delhi) with him in the past. It's been years now. I shall come. Inshallah.' Anju awaits that day. Until

then, she will also cherish another lasting memory from Kartarpur. "A Pakistani journalist asked me what I liked most from Pakistan: Dry fruits, shawls, clothes... I replied 'Apka pyaar sabse behtar lagta hai (I like your love the best)'."

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

these things, I don't know what got into us that we limited their sphere of activity. And later, when foreign invaders came, these restrictions got legitimacy. The invaders went away but we continued with the restrictions. We never liberated them.'

"We either lock them in the prayer room, or treat them as second class and shut them in the house. To do away with this, we need to make them active by giving them equal rights in the domestic and public sphere and independence in decision-making," Mountaineer and former ITBP

officer Santosh Yadav was the chief guest at the RSS rally - there are not many instances of a woman as chief guest at the Sangh's Vijayadashami event though Bhagwat did mention a few examples.

He tried to play down the perception that the RSS is male-dominated.

"Presence of women who have been achievers, part of the intelligentsia and source of inspiration in RSS functions has been a norm in the Sangh since the time of Doctor Sahab (RSS founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar). Anasuyabai Kale was present at our event at that time. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, then chief of All India Women's Conference, has also been part of our shivir. In December 1934 too, the chief guest was a woman," he said.

He said separate wings for

an organisational imperative, but in every sphere, workers of both genders worked together. "So, the work of nation-build-

men and women in the RSS was

ing is done by different sets of organisational units for men and women, but in all social work (taken up by the Sangh), men and women work together. This has been going on," he said. Expressing concern over the

"population imbalance" in the country which has led to "division of countries", the RSS chief called for a comprehensive population control policy which "must apply to all without any exception". The main reason for popula-

tion imbalance, he said, was conversion. "There has to be a balance in population. When there was an imbalance 50-odd years ago, we suffered serious consequences. It hasn't just happened to us. In today's time, new countries such as East Timor, South Sudan and Kosovo were created. So, when there is population imbalance, new countries are created. Countries are divided." "Birth rate is only one part of

this imbalance. But conversion by force and allurement are the biggest factors. Infiltration from across the border is also responsible. In national interest, it is necessary to keep an eye on this imbalance." he said. India's large population of the

young, the RSS chief said, can be leveraged as a demographic dividend but the country needs to

this population grows old in 50 years. But he warned against excessive control over population as in China. "We came up with a (population control) policy a few years ago. It was 2.1. We did better than the world expected and we have come down to 2. But coming further down could be detrimental. Children learn social behaviour in the family and for that you need numbers in the family. You need people of your age, you need those older to you, also those younger. When population stops increasing, societies disappear, languages disappear," he said. Bhagwat reached out to

Muslims, saving "misinformation" had been spread about Sangh's agitations which were only aimed at defending the nation against terrorist forces. "We do not want to conquer

others. We just don't want to be conquered and so we seek strength... But there is scaremongering that 'arrey, Sangh wale marenge' (RSS workers will beat you) 'the Hindu Sangathan will kick everyone out'. This misinformation has been spread. Because of this fear, some members of the minority community have been meeting us over the past few years. We are also meeting people from the community," he said. Underlining that the Sangh

has been doing this for quite some time, he said, "We will continue

this conversation." "It is a strange reality that to be heard in this world, truth also needs strength. There are evil forces also in this world and to save oneself and others from them, virtuous forces need to have organised strength of their own. Spreading... national thought, the Sangh works to develop the entire society as an organised force. This work is Hindu Sangathan work... called as thought of Hindu nation, and it is so. Without opposing anybody, Sangh organises all who subscribe to this thought i.e. organises the Hindu society for protecting the Hindu dharma, sanskriti, samaj and all-round development of the Hindu Rashtra," he said. Speaking on the killing of two

persons in Udaipur and Amravati by Islamic radicals protesting remarks on the Prophet by the nowsuspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma, Bhagwat said all communities must condemn such attacks, not just Hindus. "It doesn't happen always, but

this time some prominent people from even the Muslim community opposed it, called it anti-islamic. This should not be an exception. All societies must speak out." he said. He also cautioned against

provocative speeches. "Even while staying within the limits of the law and the Constitution, one must make expressions of protest in a manner that does not hurt others or creates division in the society. No one's shraddha (faith) should be hurt." he said.

Sea link supervisor who stopped suicide bids killed

Namibia last month, has not found a place in the government's new Cheetah Task Force.

His exclusion has raised guestions since it was Jhala who prepared the technical ground for the ambitious cheetah project under successive governments since 2009. He was a member of the Cheetah Task Force set up in 2010 under conservationist MK Ranjitsinh and headed the project's technical team ever since.

On September 16, when the first batch of cheetahs finally took off from Namibia, it was Jhala who accompanied the animals to Kuno national park where they were quarantined in bomas (small enclosures) under his care. He monitored the cheetahs in Kuno for a week before going on leave.

When contacted, Jhala declined to comment.

With Ranjitsinh, Jhala had prepared the first report on potential cheetah release sites after then Environment minister Jairam Ramesh entrusted them with the survey in 2009. In January 2022, he was the lead author when India finalised the Cheetah Action Plan. Ihala had also led technical negotiations with wildlife biologists in Namibia and South Africa. However, on September 20,

Scientist finds no place in task force

when the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) set up a new nine-member task force to monitor how the eight cheetahs from Namibia adjust to their new home and decide when to release them in larger enclosures and then in the open, Jhala found no place in it. Shot down by the Supreme

Court in 2013, the Cheetah project was revived by NTCA in 2017. In 2020, the SC allowed it "on an experimental basis" under a three-member panel headed by Ranjitsinh since "it is not desirable that (the project)... be left to the sole discretion of NTCA". Asked by The Indian Express

about Jhala's exclusion and its possible impact, Ranjitsinh said he wasn't consulted on forming the new task force or selecting its members. NTCA member-secretary SP

Yaday declined to comment on Jhala's exclusion from the task force which includes officials from the MP government. An official close to Yadav said that Ihala's presence could be a conflict of interest. "The mandate of the new

task force is to monitor the project. He (Jhala) cannot monitor his own work," he said.

That's a thin reason, said an expert who did not wish to be named. "The mandate of the task force is highly technical and there is no technical member on it. The task force's job is to monitor the cheetahs and not the task force it-Sources said Jhala may have

"rubbed the establishment" the wrong way. For example, sources said, he declined to let cheetahs fly from Gwalior to Kuno in a Chinook, a tandem rotor helicopter used for the trial run and earmarked for the event, for the extremely high noise stress it would have caused the cats.

Incidentally, Jhala was also not on the list of 20 dignitaries – ministers and officials — who had access to and were photographed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he visited Kuno to release the cheetahs on September 17, his birthday.

Asked about this, the senior NTCA official said: "These things happen. He (Jhala) was not the only senior official whose proximity pass could not be made."

speeding car slammed into the handful of rescuers, including Kadam, who had gathered at the site. And he was among the five people who were killed.

"Kadam had been on night duty since 2009 and attended most of the accident calls. Today, he himself became a victim,' Pramod Sawant, Kadam's childhood friend, said.

"He specialised in distracting people who wanted to commit suicide by jumping off the sea link. When he began his career, he had saved the life of a young girl at Worli and was felicitated by the then police commissioner Arup Patnaik. Thereafter, he saved many lives. He was also a professional in removing accident victims from mangled cars and getting them admitted to hospitals," said Rajesh Kedar, a former senior supervisor of Kadam.

The four others killed were ambulance driver Somnath Salve (29), and toll employees near the link Gajraj Singh (42), Satyendra Singh (35) and Rajendra Singhal (40). The three toll employees hailed from Uttar Pradesh. Ten others were injured, including Kadam's colleague Hemant Toraskar who is undergoing treatment at Lilavati Hospital.

According to police, all of them were providing help to those injured in the first accident when, about 15 minutes later, a speeding Hyundai Creta driven by a south Mumbai resident identified as Irfan Abdul Raheem Beelkia hit the group at high speed. Beelkia, who is a real estate developer, has

been arrested in a case of rash and

negligent driving. Detailing the sequence of events, police officers said the first accident occurred when the driver of a Maruti Swift car "lost control" of the vehicle after the front tyre on the left burst and they hit the railing on the fourth southbound lane of the link. The four persons in the car, who suffered minor injuries, have been identified as Siddharth Joel, Rehan Patel, Aliya Bhateen and Shahane Fortunal.

Rajendra Singhal, who was posted on the link, informed the toll plaza about the accident following which a six-member team of Kadam, Toraskar, Gajraj, Satendra, tow vehicle driver Krishna Yadav and Salve in his ambulance, reached the spot. They were in the middle of rescue operations when the second vehicle rammed them.

Later Wednesday, as news of Kadam's death spread, his relatives rushed to the Nair Hospital where doctors had declared him dead, and to his residence in Prabhadevi. A native of Kudal in Sindhudurg, Kadam is survived by his wife, their three-year-old son and his mother. He was a vice president of the NCP's youth wing, and had founded a non-profit Yugg Prayarthak Pratisthan that provides free ambulance services.

One of those who had reached the hospital, Kadam's "close associate" Jitendra Pawar, recalled a viral video from six years ago. It showed Kadam trying to convince a 27-year-old youth, who was facing "family problems and financial hardships", to not jump off the sea link before pulling him back to safety. "He had helped many such people," Pawar said.

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 twoyear-old daughter.

New Delhi

(M): 9212665841, 9212008155









THECITY

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

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

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

ing 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 twostorey house in Ghaziabad's Loni collapsed, after an LPG cylinder explosion, Wednesday morning.

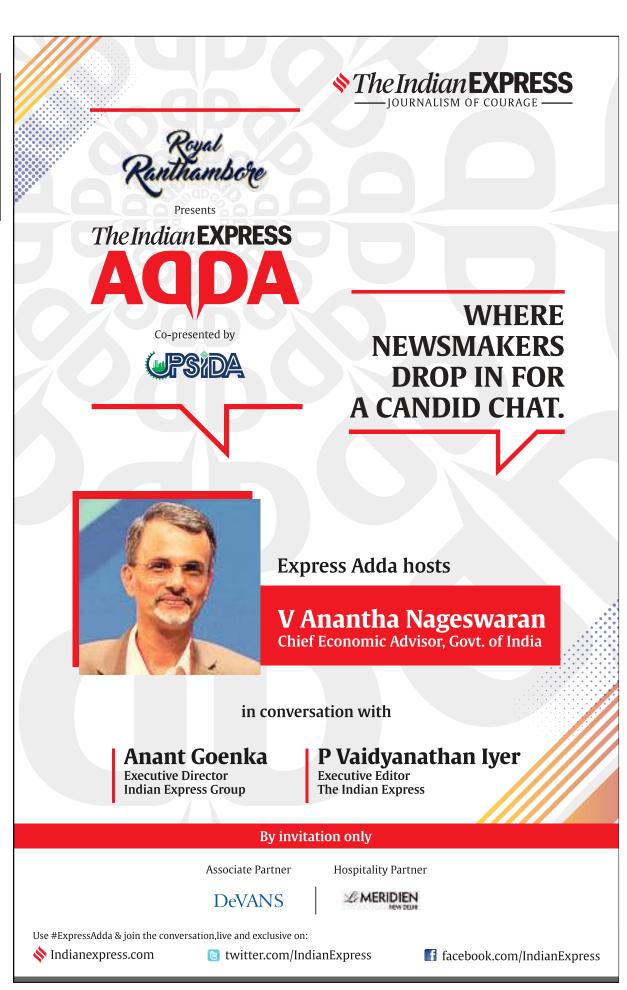
Police said the explosion took place in the house of Munir, an auto driver. The collapse resulted in the deaths of his daughter Sania (15), his daughter-in-law Rukhaya (24), his granddaughter Inayat (2), and another relative Shabnoon (21). Munir's wife Mehraj (45) and a relative Baby (18) survived.

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 Munirai 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.









Industries Commissionerate, **Industries and Mines Department** Government of Gujarat

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

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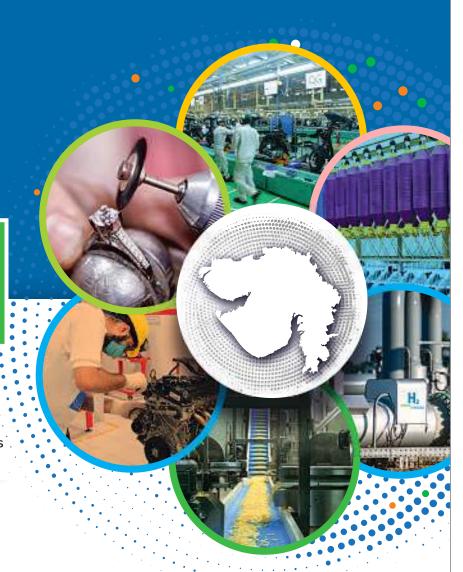
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Power Department, Government of NCT of Delhi







VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS 7.858 PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **OXYGEN SUPPORT VENTILATOR SUPPORT**

DELHI TOTAL		lotal		Vacant
CASES				7 8,811
20,0	3,746	ICU BEDS	2,08	6 2,073
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Oct 4	74	71	0	6,903
Oct 5	96	75	0	6,773
Total *Total act	380* ive cases in E	19,76,863 Pelhi	26,503	4,02,68,474

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SUDDEN DIP IN 24 HOURS

Delhi air quality poor, GRAP measures kick in

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

Management

The order comes after the air quality deteriorated to be in the 'poor' category in Delhi Wednesday. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) bulletin, the AQI in Delhi on Wednesday was 211 (AQI between 201 and 300 is considered to be 'poor'). The AQI in other parts of NCR, like Noida, Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad, was also in the 'poor' category Wednesday, having deteriorated from the 'moderate' category

This is the first time that measures under the revised GRAP are being enforced this season. According to the order issued by the CAQM: "It was noted that there has been a sudden dip

HOW THE GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN WORKS

■ 0-50 Good ■ 51-100 Satisfactory ■ 101-200 Moderate ■ 201-300 Poor ■ 301-400 Very Poor ■ 401-450 Severy

construction

activities with

plot size of or

above 500 sqm

■ Enforcing guidelines on use

■ Enforcing ban on open burning of waste and PUC for

■ DISCOMs to minimise

■ Encourage offices to start

of anti-smog guns at

construction sites

■Mechanised

on roads

vehicles

power cuts

unified commute

water sprinkling

portals

STAGE 1 (AQI 'Poor') ■ Stopping all

STAGE 2 (AQI 'Very poor') ■ Not allowing coal/firewood in tandoors at hotels ■ Stopping use of diesel gensets except for which have not been registered on dust mitigation monitoring

essential and emergency services ■Enhance parking fees to discourage private transport ■Boost CNG, e-bus, metro services

STAGE 4 (AQI 'Severe +') ■ Stop entry of trucks into Delhi (except for essentials, CNG and electric trucks) ■Ban on plying of Delhi registered

diesel medium and heavy goods vehicles, except for essentials ■Ban on plying of 4-wheeler diesel vehicles in Delhi and NCR districts bordering Delhi, except

Actions under Stages II, III and IV will be invoked three days in advance of the AQI reaching the projected level

last 24 hours in the region which this is likely to be a localised in-

in air quality parameters in the into the 'POOR' category. While

predict any further deterioration. in an effort to maintain the AQI led to the AQI for Delhi moving fluence and the forecasts do not in the moderate category, as a

STAGE 3 (AQI 'Severe')

■Ban on construction and

demolition activities except for

■ Closure of industries with PNG

■NCR states' govts may impose

restrictions on BS III petrol and

■State govts may consider

measures like closure of

schools, odd-even drive

■NCR state govts to decide on

allowing public, municipal and

private offices to work on 50%

strength and the rest to WFH

■Ban C&D activities in linear

roads, flyovers

public projects such as highways,

railway, Metro, hospitals etc

supply and not running on

BS IV diesel 4-wheelers

additional emergency

approved fuels.

committee decided that ALL actions as envisaged under Stage I of the GRAP -'Poor' Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 201-300), be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned, with immediate effect in NCR."

The measures that kick in with immediate effect include stopping all construction and demolition activities with a plot size of 500 square metres or more which have not been registered on the web portals of the governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for monitoring of dust mitigation measures. Other measures include ensuring mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, enforcing guidelines on the use of anti-smog guns at construction sites, enforcing the ban on open burning of waste, and PUC (pollution under control norms) for vehicles. The ban on firecrackers is also to be strictly enforced and discoms are to minimise power supply disruptions.

These measures are to be enforced by the pollution control

agencies and departments including transport.

The revised GRAP also contains measures to be taken by the public: keeping engines of vehicles properly tuned, turning off engines at red lights, keeping PUC certificates up to date, maintaining proper tyre pressure in vehicles, and not disposing of

Last year, a delayed withthan last year.

A forecast issued by the Air **Ouality Early Warning System** on Wednesday said the AQI would remain in the 'moderate' to the lower end of the 'poor' category on Wednesday and Thursday. The air quality could improve but remain in the 'moderate' category on Friday, going by the forecast.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) from their homes in Northeast Delhi and booked them under sections of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Police claim the accused were involved in illegal activities and had "supported the PFI", even though the Centre had banned the organi-

This is the second case registered by the Delhi Police: on Monday, four people were arrested from Jamia Nagar and

A senior police officer said, 'We registered an FIR based on the complaint of a police officer and booked the accused under sections of criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity between different groups and UAPA. The men have been arrested for allegedly planning and conspiring against the government and the

Last week, 33 persons were detained after Delĥi Police along with senior officials conducted raids at six districts and sealed

'Our team received inputs that the accused are active members of the PFI and work odd jobs to support their families. We have taken their electronic devices and will examine them," said an officer. Other organisations which have been declared banned and booked under the are Rehab India Foundation, Campus Front of India, All India Imams Council, National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation and

"We are looking for other PFI members working on the ground and online. Raids are being conducted at different districts to identify and arrest any person linked with PFI," said the

Meanwhile, many of the accused persons picked up from Southeast Delhi have been denied bail and sent to Tihar Iail. Police claim they have found "incriminating evidence" against the accused as many of them were actively involved in "dis-

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GURGAON, OCTOBER 5 FOUR SANITATION workers died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a sewer pit at a private hospital in Faridabad

kin allege negligence

Wednesday afternoon, police The victims were identified as Rohit, his brother Ravi, Vishal and Ravi Goldar. Police said the men – all between 25 and 30 years of age — were from Sanjay Camp, Dakshinpuri in Delhi and had been working with Delhi-based company Santushti Allied Services, which provides cleaning services. According to police, the incident took place around 1 pm at QRG hospital in Sector 16,

Faridabad.

Sube Singh, spokesperson, Faridabad police, said the hospital hired the company to clean its sewer, which was done every month. "Today afternoon, two workers first entered the sewer and fainted after inhaling a poisonous gas that had built up inside it. When they did not return, two more workers went in to rescue them after which they too fell unconscious. The workers suffocated to death and did not have any safety equipment. Some workers and hospital staff rushed to help them. Their bodies were retrieved from the manhole with help from the fire brigade. Though they were rushed to a hospital, they were declared dead on arrival," said Singh.

Police said two staffers of the private hospital. Narender and Shahid, were also admitted to the ICU after they tried to rescue the

A police officer said, "The sewer was at least 10-12 feet deep. On the complaint of the victims' families, legal action shall be taken against the hospital and the firm which supplied the workers. The bodies have been kept at the mortuary of a civil hospital for post-mortem.'

Satish Kumar, supervisor, Santushti Allied Services, said, "The men had been working with us on a contract for four-five years. We have a contract for cleaning certain areas of the hospital. But our scope is limited to cleaning of drainage lines, pits and chambers,





(Clockwise from top left) Vishal, Rohit, Ravi, Ravi Goldar

which are only 4-6 feet deep, and does not include the sewer. I do not know under what circumstances the workers were asked to go inside the sewer pit for cleaning. In the afternoon, we got a call informing us that the workers had died."

Dr Mahinder Singh Tanwar, medical superintendent, QRG Hospital, Faridabad, said, "We are saddened by this unfortunate incident and the loss of four lives, and we stand by the families. QRG Hospital has a contract with a company for cleaning and maintenance of the sewer pit, which has been going on for a few years now. The company had the sole responsibility for the safety and security of the manpower deployed for this task and this is a practice adopted by most healthcare organisations...

Safety gear not provided, allege kin

Vishal's cousin brother, Ravi, said, "If my brother was provided safety equipment, this incident would not have occurred. Bina safety ke sewer mein bhejna, maut ka kuan mein bhejne jaisa hai... everyone knows there is gas in the pit. He had been working with the contractor for five-six months and got Rs 350-400 a day. I don't know under what circumstances he agreed to enter the sewer pit without safety gear...'

Harikesh, brother-in-law of Rohit and Ravi, said, "Their lives have been cut short due to negligence of hospital authorities and the contractor. They should have provided them safety gear.. The brothers earned Rs 400-450 a day and got married last year...'

At Campus of Open Learning, candidates can finish new MBA course in four years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

CANDIDATES WILL have up to four years to complete the MBA programme which is being introduced by Delhi University's open learning school this year, and those from the health and government sectors will be given preference for admissions.

The MBA programme is among six new 'job-oriented' courses being introduced by DU's Campus of Open Learning and registrations for admissions to it will begin Friday. Unlike other courses, the MBA programme has a cap of admitting 20,000 students and will release merit lists to select candidates. Registrations will close on October 25 and the first merit list will be released on October 27.

There are three categories of candidates for which preference will be given for admissions to the MBA course: MBBS/BDS/MD/ MDS degree holders or persons having 2 years' experience in hospital administration; Group A officers of government and Public Undertaking Organisations; and those having experience of 2 or more years in corporate houses/hospitality and transportation sector/industry/service sector/self-employed professionals. For other candidates, their merit will be calculated with 80% weightage to graduation marks and 20% weightage to

"Professional work experience of any reputed Govt. or non-Govt/Corporate Organisation": 20% for four years of experience, 15% for three years, 10% for two years and so on.

"Our MBA programme is de-

THERE ARE four categories in which admissions will be given for the

criteria

MBA programme: ■Category 1:80% weightage for graduation marks and 20% weightage of marks for professional

work experience.

■ Category 2: For MBBS/ BDS/MD/MDS degree holders or persons having experience in hospital administration with 2 years.

■ Category 3: For Group A officers of govt. and public undertaking organisations having grad-

uation in any discipline. ■ Category 4: For those having experience of 2 or more years in corporate houses/hospitality and transportation sector/industry/service sector/ self-employed profes-

mocratising learning and developing students into highly adept professional managers, who continuously strive for excellence. What sets MBA programme at the Campus of Open Learning apart from any other institution is the ideal mix of flexible scheduling and a wide array of learning opportunities. Apart from this, we are providing MBA by charging a nominal fee. The programme is closely aligned with contempo-

Sisodia seeks CBI probe into 'Rs 6,000-cr scam' by MCD

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia wrote to L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena Wednesday, asking him to recommend a CBI probe into an alleged Rs 6,000 crore scam by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. This is the second time Sisodia has written to the L-G regarding the matter. In a letter he wrote in August, Sisodia said the MCD has failed to collect revwere tasked with collecting toll and paying the government.

able to see the corruption in the matter despite proof because the BJP is involved. In your effort to hamper the work of the government, you have been making false allegations against the chosen government in Delhi and have been ordering inquiries... all of these are baseless, which is why you've not found anything against

that the MCD awarded a tender to a private company in 2017 for collecting toll tax and as per the contract, the company had to pay Rs 1,200 crore to MCD every year.

The company, however, paid the full amount to MCD in the first year but after that, the company, in connivance with MCD, stopped giving the collected tax to the civic agency. The MCD, which should have cancelled the tender, blacklisted the company and issued a tender to a new since the last four years," he alleged.

He also alleged that the MCD in 2021 awarded a tender to the sister organisation of the previous company and that too for a very less amount. "The company was also given relaxation of Rs 83 crore in excuse of Covid pan-

said the company awarded the contract in 2017 suffered losses after the opening of the Eastern and Western Peripheral expressways as well as a court order to stop toll collection from the free lane. The company instead sought compensation for the loss it alleged to have suffered. The MCD held several rounds of meetings to resolve the matter and on failure of the company to make due payments, it terminated the contract, it said.

Praveen Shankar Kapoor said: "Sisodia's letter to the Lt-Governor of Delhi is nothing but a reflection

tion after exposure of scams in each and every department of the Arvind Kejriwal government." Sisodia had written to the L-G on Tuesday as well, after the L-G Secretariat directed the Chief

Secretary to inquire why the power department had not implemented the Direct Benefit Transfer model for power subsidy in the city. In his letter on Tuesday, Sisodia said Saxena's orders for inquiries were "illegal

waste in open spaces.

drawal of the southwest monsoon meant that Delhi saw its first 'poor' air day only on October 16. This year, the SAFAR forecasting system has said the withdrawal of the monsoon will make the atmosphere stable a little earlier, leading to "mild deterioration" of the AQI earlier

Two PFI members arrested under UAPA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

DELHI POLICE has arrested two

booked under the UAPA.

three PFI offices.

National Women's Front.

rupting public order".

of his Aam Aadmi Party's frustra-

and unconstitutional".

signed with the objective of de-

New Delhi

4 die cleaning sewer at Faridabad hospital,

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MEASURES UNDER 'stage-1' of the Graded Response Action Plan

(GRAP) will be enforced in the NCR with immediate effect, according to an order issued by the Commission for Air Quality Wednesday.

BRIEFLY — Fire breaks out at Gandhi Nagar textile market

New Delhi: A major fire broke out at Delhi's Gandhi Nagar textile market on Wednesday evening, said officials, adding that many shops have been gutted. The Delhi Fire Services said over 150 firemen, along with local police, have been trying to douse the blaze for five hours. No casualties have been reported so far. Visuals from the site show firemen lining up with hoses to douse

Ahead of Diwali. L-G reviews fire

safety prep New Delhi: Holding a review meeting on fire safety preparedness in Delhi ahead of Diwali, L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) to rationalise and simplify the procedure for obtaining fire NOC without compromising the safety parameters. According to officials, he has directed them to identify at least 50 locations prone to fire mishaps and deploy fire tenders and integrate them with the ambulance services to ensure quick response in

case of emergency. **ENS** 3 cops hurt after attack by 4 men

Gurgaon: Three police personnel were injured after a group of four men allegedly attacked them in a private hospital, officials said Wednesday. Police said the four accused, who were creating ruckus at the hospital. first tried to allegedly hit the cops with their car and later thrashed them with sticks and iron rods. PTI

CM draws on teachings from lord Ram's life: 'Could have been king if he wanted' **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5 **DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind** Keiriwal Wednesday attended Dussehra festivities at the Red Fort ground and spoke of how 'Lord Ram sacrificed his leadership and power and fought

Ravana". along with Kejriwal, President Droupadi Murmu and Bahubali actor Prabhas, were invited as chief guests at the Ramlila event organised by the Luv Kush Ramlila committee at Red Fort. The president could not attend the celebration. After performing 'Ravana Dahan', Kejriwal addressed the

crowd: "I wish everyone present here a very happy Dussehra. I pray that Lord Ram blesses you all with good health, happiness, fortune and fulfils all your wishes... I am very happy to see such large number of people. This is important because thanks to Ramlila, on one hand we connect with our culture, and on the other, we get a very inspirational message from the life of Lord Ram of how he sacrificed his leadership and power and fought

He said that when he was a child, he would go to see Ramlila with his parents. "The teachings of Ram make us good persons. These days, we have television and mobile phones, but I suggest you go watch Ramlila live at the grounds. Lord Ram lived a life of sacrifice, he could have become a king if he wanted, the public was with him... but at the behest of

his parents, he left the kingdom and went to exile for 14 years..." He added: "We all can come together and make India number one and become the best and most powerful nation in the

world. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena participated in Ramlila celebrations organised by Dharmik Ram Lila committee along with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar and former President Ram Nath Kovind. "May the ideals of Bhagwan Shri Ram guide us forever! May truth

and goodness always prevail," Saxena tweeted. The 10-day celebration was organised this year on a large scale with several political leaders participating in the festivities after a gap of two years due to the Covid pandemic and restrictions.









(Clockwise from top left) Actor Prabhas wields a bow and arrow; Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal; a child in the crowd; L-GVK Saxena, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar and former President Ram Nath Kovind. Tashi Tobgyal & Amit Mehra



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

enue from private agencies that

'Perhaps you have not been the government," he wrote.

Sisodia had in August alleged

company, has done nothing

demic," he added.

The MCD, in a statement, had

Delhi BJP spokesperson

rary business requirements," said

Campus of Open Learning

Director Payal Mago.



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Sh. Anurag Jain

Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Gol

Sh. Amitabh Kant

Sherpa to G20, & Former CEO, NITI Aayog

Sh. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Chairman & Managing Director, India Trade Promotion Organization

Dr. Ravi P. Singh

Secretary General, QCI

Sh. Adil Zainulbhai Chairperson, QCI

Program Venue Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, 15, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001

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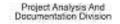
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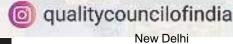
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RIVAL SHIV SENA FACTIONS SQUARE OFF AT MUMBAI RALLIES

Show of strength in Dussehra showdown



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.



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



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

You betrayed Bal Thackeray, Hindutva, your voters: Shinde

EESHANPRIYAMS 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 Thackery of betraying ideals of his father as well as the Hindutva ideology. "We are not gaddars (trai-

tors). 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 selfrespecting and not a twofaced 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 Shivaii 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."

JD(S) have decided to jointly con-

non-Congress alliance. KCR has

met in recent months a number

closely watching Rahul Gandhi's

Bharat Jodo Yatra and the meet-

ings of regional party leaders.

In his bid to form a non-BJP,

The TRS camp has also been

Telangana Congress chief A

Revanth Reddy ridiculed KCR for

removing the word Telangana

from his party. "The word repre-

sents this region and its people.

It is an identity and a sentiment.

By removing the word, KCR has

butchered it and disrespected it.

He has also severed all connec-

test elections in Karnataka.

pf of top Opposition faces.

Traitors conspired when I was at my most vulnerable: Uddhav

VALLABHOZARKAR 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 statement 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.'

EC move to

regulate poll

unwarranted,

say Left parties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

promises

Rajnath Singh performs 'Shastra Puja' at military base

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Manoi Pande and General-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief of Surya Command Lt Gen Yogendra Dimr were among the officials present

TRS is now BRS, will approach poll panel for status of national party breakfast. Sources said BRS and

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 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 minister H D Kumaraswamy, who arrived with 20 of his party MLAs. Tamil Nadu-based Viduthalai 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-



Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao with JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy (left) and VCK's Thirumavalavan (extreme left) in Hyderabad on Wednesday. PTI

tion to change its name and make it a national party. Now, a party delegation led by politburo member B Vinod Kumar will approach the Election Commission and submit an application seeking the name change and registration as a national party. Leaders said changes were also made to the party's consti-

Before the meeting, Rao hosted Kumaraswamy, Thirumavalavan and their party members for

Out of Raj Bhavan, Satya Pal Malik

declares support to Jayant, Akhilesh

tution during the meeting.

tions of the party with Telangana," he said.

K Krishna Sagar Rao, chief spokesperson of the Telangana BJP unit, said KCR's national entry while "struggling to keep his government operational" financially is a "misadventure".

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(ML), 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 gov-

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 Bamhrah'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 Teiashwi Yaday 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-

New Delhi



SMALLER PARTIES are

in alliance

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 Ouadri 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.

spokesperson Danish Rizwan said: "We hope to get a coordination committee anytime now. We were assured ous meeting with him one-and-

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.

AMITSHARMA 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 governor ended on Monday

(Jayant) and Mulayam Singh Yadav's scion, Akhilesh". Malik was in his parental vil-

lage 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 farmers joined hands so that no political designs of any party could breach their unity. He also expressed apprehension that now he has been relieved from a seat of power in (Meghalaya), he may face probes from central agencies. "Kitni bhi jaanch kara lo, mein

fakir hoon kuch bhi nahi milega (You may go for many probes against me, but you will find nothing as I am a ascetic)," he said. The Modi government ap-

pointed Malik as the Bihar Governor in October 2017 and transferred him to J&K in August 2018. During his J&K tenure, the Modi government scrapped Article 370. Malik had been governor in four states and also held the additional charge of Odisha.

HAM(S)

so by the CM during our previa-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.

EXPRESS NETWORK

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.

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 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.

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 Sharira 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 BIP 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 inaugurated 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 trumpetlike 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

He added that development in the state has been possible because its people voted the BIP 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-ofthe-art hospital with 18 specialty and 15-20 super specialty departments along with 18 modular operation theatres. The 750bed 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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam 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 Ragunath. 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 hasportrayed 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 vear and is attended by people from all over the country. ENS

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

Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal dis-

trict, officials said Wednesday as

rescue operation came to an end.

Disaster Response Force (SDRF),

a rescue team recovered 30 bod-

ies and found 20 injured people,

two of whom died on the way to

a hospital. The bus, part of a mar-

riage procession, fell into the

500-metre-deep gorge at around

8 pm on Tuesday near Simdi vil-

lage in Dhumakot area. The

driver had lost control of the ve-

hicle during a turn. The bus was

on its way to Kandagaon from

Dhami, along with former CM

Ramesh Pokhrival, met the in-

jured people at the Kotdwar Base

Hospital on Wednesday. He said

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh

Laldhang in Haridwar.

According to the State



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

SDRF personnel at the

health facilities to them.

the government has made all

arrangements to provide proper

idents who worked as first re-

sponders and helped authorities

after the accident. He directed the

district administration to identify

such people and provide them re-

ward money. The Uttarakhand

government has announced ex-

gratia relief to all affected families:

Rs 2 lakh for death. Rs 1 lakh for

serious injury, and Rs 50,000 for

Dhami also thanked local res-

accident site. SDRF

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 alongwith 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.

registered a case and are trying to locate the person through the call data record of the number.

The D B Marg police have 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.

lack of development in the state. 66 children deaths in Gambia, Uttarakhand avalanche: 10

Haryana-based firm as unsafe AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, OCTOBER 5

ANONNA DUTT NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5 FOLLOWING THE death of 66 chil-

dren 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 re-

gions." the WHO said in the alert. All batches of the products 'should be considered unsafe" till they are analysed by the respective national regulatory authori-

ties, 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."

WHO flags 4 syrups made by bodies found, 19 still missing

THE DEATH toll in the avalanche in Uttarkashi 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 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-



Twenty-six people have been rescued so far. SDRF

lanche struck at around 8.45 am on Tuesday, when the team was returning after scaling the peak as part of the advanced mountaineering course According to a PTI report, the

missing are said to be stuck in the crevasse in Dokriani Bamak glacier where the avalanche struck. The trainees hail from West Bengal, Delhi, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, Haryana, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. The bodies recovered include

that of mountaineer Savita Kanswal who had climbed Mount Everest in May this year, said PTI.

"In order to reduce the time taken by teams to reach the site, we have set up a base camp at a height of 15,000 feet, about 1,000 feet below the site of the incident.

incident. A team from the High Altitude Warfare School in Jammu and Kashmir is also arriving to help us," said Aggarwal. Earlier in the day, Chief

A temporary helipad has also

been set up closer to the site of the

Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami did an aerial survey of the rescue and relief operation. The Uttarakhand government has announced ex-gratia relief to all the affected families: Rs 2 lakh each for the families of those killed, Rs 1 lakh each for those with serious injuries, and Rs 50.000 for the others injured, "The chief minister has cancelled all Dussehra engagements and travelled to NIM control room in Uttarkashi to be updated by officials on the progress of rescue efforts," said a statement issued by the state government.

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

age of children in Grades 3-5 who

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

pected learning level. It was then that Dudi decided to take it up as a mission to im-

mathematics as per their ex-

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



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 in-

tervention 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

summer camp for the older kids in May, engaging children daily in innovative activities.

One such volunteer, Jayshree

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

Vithhal Kharade from Kadegaon

Besides all this, a radio programme - ShaleBaherchi Shala -The 'volunteer mothers' ran a 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-

their progress and experience.

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 penand-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.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE A PHYSICIST IS JUST AN ATOM'S WAY OF LOOKING AT ITSELF.

— NIELS BOHR

The Indian EXPRESS

Sounded 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

RTICLE 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

N 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

EW 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.

The fraying framework



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

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 legitimation 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 legitimation 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 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 standin 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 legitimation 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 legitimation crises.

If the Party-State owes its strongest version to Mao, that of theo-democracy was shaped by Abul A'la al-Maududi, one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century. This was the project of reconciling an acknowledge-ment 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 Cesaire — 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.

lames 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



Dear Unknown Friend

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

how will a woman convince doctors to termi-

nate her pregnancy based on the exception

provided by the SC's verdict? The tyranny of

social norms and value systems is stronger

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,

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, Godbharai and Karva Chauth are only for them. So is the

than legislative intent.

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

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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-make transmitter tied to its jaw was fished out by a fisherman at Ghatha 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.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

THE IDEAS PAGE

Is a manifesto an IPO?

Should it be put to regulatory scrutiny in a democracy where entry barriers to politics are already so high? Is it the place of the EC to curb political and economic imagination?



P Vaidyanathan Iyer

No, manifestos of political parties are not Initial Public Offering documents. Ahead of listing itself on a stock exchange, a company is required to get a prospectus published and approved by the market regulator. In this, the company has to provide endless details, including revenue and profit projections, describe the various risk factors that might hurt its business interests, and spell out the planned use of resources being raised from prospective shareholders.

The Election Commission of India's proposal asking parties to quantify poll promises and explain ab initio the funding of these promises, and further assess their impact on fiscal sustainability of the state or the sovereign, is almost akin to the "IPO-isation" of a political manifesto ahead of polls.

A manifesto is much more than just a few promises here and there entailing financial costs; in a democracy, it is supposed to serve as a vision document with both subjective and objective elements. It is about the party's convictions, and the salience it attaches to certain issues, so that people are wiser about its position and place in the social, economic and political landscape. Should this be put to regulatory scrutiny in a democracy where entry barriers to politics are already so high? Is it the place of the Election Commission of India, constitutionally entrusted with the conduct of free and fair elections, to curb political and economic imagination? What about the gains — tangible and intangible — these promises bring to their intended beneficiaries over time? And finally, is it even possible for the election watchdog to specify parameters for promises which do not have a financial cost? Like, for instance, reservations in jobs and education for a community.

It is not that the election watchdog does not know that given the stage of development India is in today — the levels of poverty, the scale of unemployment, and the huge inequality – welfarism will drive the political economy. It also knows for a fact that defining freebies is impossible, and terming any promise as an "irrational freebie" is fraught with contestation – for the record, the Election Commission did state in an affidavit to the Supreme Court that "irrational" and "freebie" are subjective, and open to interpretation. A promise of one political party may be a freebie for another and

Is a small waiver on an electricity bill for poor person in Delhi a freebie? And free foodgrains to each poor person across the country, not a freebie? What about television sets for BPL families in Tamil Nadu back in the time of cable TV, or free internet or a mobile handset to reap the Digital India advantage today, a bicycle for girls so that they ride to study in states where schools are being merged for optimisation and thereby increasing distances, cash purse to a wouldbe mother for better nutrition, or some monthly income to the 70-year-old in a country, which doesn't provide much in terms of social security?

The debate over freebie politics does not end, and the Election Commission knows it well, just like other statutory institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India and the

P R Shankar

THE APPOINTMENT of General Anil

Chauhan as the second CDS of India is wel-



C R Sasikumar

Comptroller and Auditor General, and those not backed by law such as the Niti Aayog and the Finance Commission. It is not without reason that the Prime Minister set the cat among the pigeons in a public rally when he warned voters about the harmful effects of the revdi culture. That is the platform where politicians tear into the policies of their rivals, leaving the voters informed, or even confused, prompting a larger discussion within the electorate. If democracy is a contestation of ideas, free and fair elections would mean that political parties slug it out to debunk one idea over the other, and draw the voters' attention with their own

The Prime Minister belled the cat: it is to his political ingenuity that the issue – gained traction. But the Modi-led central government itself staved away from issuing any guidelines on freebies because doing so would have attracted huge political backlash from so many chief ministers. So did the RBI, the CAG and the Niti Aayog, all of which deal with states and the Centre, given their remit. The RBI does bring out a report on state finances and manages the market borrowings of states; the CAG audits state finances and flags discrepancies, and these are placed before the state assemblies and Parliament to be scrutinised by all, and the Niti Aayog works closely with states on larger macro policies; the Finance Commission decides on devolution of resources between the states and the Centre

As the freebie debate found its way into the Supreme Court, the Election Commission resisted being drawn into it citing a lack of powers over state policy making and even acknowledged in one of its affidavits that 'freebies can have different impacts on society, economy, equity, depending upon the situation, context and time period'. It was seen as a prudent call. For political parties to decide a priori which expenditure to cut, or which assets to monetise or sell, just like in the case of a corporation.

and has its own incentive/disincentive mechanism. Besides all this, states have enacted their own Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts, with prescribed ceilings on deficits. The issue was discussed internally by all these institutions -- they put their minds to this, but none thought it was their business.

As the freebie debate found its way into the Supreme Court, the Election Commission resisted being drawn into it citing a lack of powers over state policy making and even acknowledged in one of its affidavits that "freebies can have different impacts on society, economy, equity, depending upon the situation, context and

time period". It was seen as a prudent call. For political parties to decide a priori hich expenditure to cut, or which assets to monetise or sell, or borrow to what extent, for raising resources to fulfil a promise could trigger fears of it being the first step, just like in the case of a corporation. At the next level of voter disclosures, would rating agencies decide which of the political parties' manifestos should get a BBB or a AAA rating? This may seem absurd today, but one never knows how the market evolves. Making such disclosures a part of the Model Code of Conduct may eventually put the onus of assessment of proformas submitted by political parties on the poll watchdog. Does the Election Commission

want to extend itself thus?

pv.iyer@expressindia.com

How the Congress fails itself

"Protecting other children from a fate similar to Molly Russell should not be a party-political issue. MPs from all sides should commit to ensuring that in future

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

they will not be pointed towards such harmful material."

With the 'unofficial official' candidature of Mallikarjun Kharge, a crucial chance at reform may well be lost



THE GRAND Old Party has a knack for scripting soap operas on the fly. It calls for great, creative screenplay writing skills. While it may or may not deliver electoral success, unbridled entertainment is usually assured. Nothing else can explain the roller-coaster $ride\,that\,was\,engineered\,by\,the\,current\,Chief$ Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot. Putatively favoured by the Congress High Command as the potential party president, the avaricious Gehlot wanted to kill two birds with one stone. The supposedly canny politician wanted both the coveted positions (he dreads Sachin Pilot's brio and charisma will obliterate his legacy in the desert state), but it was a bit more than he could chew. Dumped unceremoniously by Sonia Gandhi for instigating an internal rebellion in Rajasthan in an atrocious manifestation of political naivete, Gehlot's departure created a conundrum. Who then could be a more compliant, compromised candidate, which satisfied the ageing party still reluctant about breakthrough reforms?

With Shashi Tharoor publicly stating his intention for the top job, the choice of a suitable lame-duck status quoist had clearly narrowed down to the usual suspects --Mallikarjun Kharge, Mukul Wasnik, Digvijay Singh, et al. Not surprisingly, despite the melodramatic cameo appearance by Digvijay, it is the 80-year-old veteran Kharge who has emerged as the "unofficial official" candidate of the Congress. While his bio is impressive, Kharge's candidature is at odds with a party that needs a drastic structural makeover. It is a missed opportunity of gargantuan proportions.

Congress has been correctly castigated for remaining in an organisational torpor for over two decades. This was a perfect platform for the much-delayed organisational transformation, in the absence of which the party has been electorally drubbed into a humiliating side corner of the political ecosystem. The Gandhis not contesting for Congress president was a salutary signal that the party would at least belatedly abandon its dynastic character and usher in democratic decision-making. Of course, there was always the fear that there would be an inanimate puppet-on-the-string candidate, who would be a glorified courtier. Kharge may be a seasoned veteran, but he is hardly the combative, inspirational and visionary leader of a young India (average age is 28 years) that is perpetually restless, immeasurably hungry and prodigiously alert to goings-on. I am assuming Rahul Gandhi has discovered that already during his 3,500 km-long Bharat Jodo Yatra, an ambitious programme that must be applauded for its message of unification of a polarised society. That is why the choice of Kharge is baffling. It also begs a more straight-

forward question: Why could not Shashi Tharoor be the consensus candidate? This is why the Congress with immaculate certitude always walks into the BJP courtyard -the latter's rhetoric of "remote control" management gathers credibility. It makes the entire election process, delayed by several years, look shambolic. Congress, as always, creates a perception problem and then battles valiantly to douse the conflagration of doubt.

Let us be blunt. Head-to-head, Tharoor vs Kharge is a no-contest. Tharoor is not just a suave, sophisticated, English-speaking author and speaker who can captivate Buckingham Palace and the avocado-ontoast elite, he can also charm the youth, urban middle-class and India Inc. — three critical constituencies that have evidently divorced the Congress of late. Besides, his extraordinary understanding of the Idea of India (which mirrors Congress's liberal ideology) would help Congress take on the majoritarian populism and meretricious hyper nationalism of the BJP, which has left the Congress so discombobulated, it has struggled to counterattack it. Kharge, with due respects, does not tick too many boxes. Harping on his Dalit antecedents does little good for the Congress, which must look beyond identity politics to take on the aggressive Hindutva mobilisation of the BJP. That is why I have publicly proposed that Congress must not be shy of its Gandhi family obsession but must also simultaneously decentralise power by creating a trifecta of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sachin Pilot and Shashi Tharoor at the helm. Any one of them can be a Congress president supported by the other two as vice-presidents. But running the party via legerdemain, a la Kharge, is bad optics. This will only perpetuate the fault lines and ensure the party remains running on a treadmill.

who can help it win the 2024 general elections, and as many state elections before that. What it does not need is a pallbearer of bland homilies and darbari subservience. The fact that several august members of the G-23 who were once vocal when it came to demanding urgent internal reforms and a change in political leadership have meekly acquiesced with the "official candidate" is symptomatic of the gigantic problems confronting the Congress. Leaders within the party have for several years got accustomed to living within a comfort zone, Risk-taking has vanished as an attribute or a political strategy. No one trusts the other and selfpreservation precedes organisational imperatives. But what Congress must recognise at least now is that reinvention is never done in easy instalments: resurrection must be spectacular. At stake is the future of a great nation which is being ruthlessly railroaded by an authoritarian regime that has shed all inhibitions about its autocratic predilections. India at least large sections of it — are still hoping that Congress rediscovers its mojo.

Bottom-line: Congress needs a president

On October 19, 2022, we will know how the party that inspired Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr has made its choice.

The writer is a former spokesperson of Congress. He was dismissed from his post in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA'S POSITION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Dear Indian friends' (IE, October 5). Despite India's long standing relationship with Russia, we need to position ourselves - in clear terms - with regard to Russia's military aggression. India's abstinence during crucial votes against Russia in various international fora has given the latter enough time to de-escalate. PM Modi's communication with Vladimir Putin on the margins of the SCO summit and his recent communication to Zelenskyy all point to India finally beginning to take a decisive stand.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

SELF-RELIANCE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Lifting off' (IE, October 5). The indigenisation of technology in general and defence production in particular is a long drawn process. The production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCH) in India is a step in the right direction. This, along with other launches, suggest that India is focused on reducing external reliance in critical

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

POWER TUSSLE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Secondguessing Beijing' (IE, October 5). After the American pivot to Asia, China clearly understands the importance of neutralising India in the Indo-Pacific. Despite the tensions in Ladakh, the size of bilateral trade between India and China soared to \$124 billion, with the balance favouring China. Given the power differential between the two nations, India needs at least a decade of robust growth to be an Asian power in our own right. Until then, India must hold its robust military posture in the Himalayas.

HN Bhagwat, Chiplun

REDUNDANT POLLS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The winning idea' (IE, October 3). With the direction the Congress presidential election has taken, one thing is clear: The more things change, the more they stay the same. The expectation of a clean and unbiased election has now been lost. Mallikarjun Kharge, the Gandhis' choice, clearly stands victorious with the election remaining a formality.

Bal Govind, Noida

SHAMEFUL EVENT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Dark in the stadium' (IE, October 4). The stampede marked another tragedy in Indonesian football. Some suffocated and others were trampled as hundreds of people ran to the exit in an effort to avoid tear gas. Tear gas is banned at soccer stadiums by FIFA. Appropriate authorities need to conduct a swift, thorough, and independent investigation into this issue. This will forever be a

shameful day for sports. CK Dorai Ramani Suresh, Ghaziabad

come news. Though delayed, this appointment has the potential to bring sanity back into a system which has gone off rails. The officer assumes his appointment on the back of a solid professional reputation. There are voices which say that re-commissioning a retired officer is not the best thing to do. There are also views that the second CDS could have been from another service. While there is some merit in such discussion the need is to look ahead. The second CDS has a few challenging, and complex tasks cut out ahead of him. In my opinion, the first major task of national concern is to modify the ill-conceived and poorly planned Agnipath scheme which

is being executed with indecent haste. Interaction with those who are executing Agnipath from the lowest to the highest levels indicates that the flaws of this scheme are surfacing at a fast clip. The road ahead is potholed. The system is at constant risk of disappearance into one of the potholes. If the Agnipath is not modified, India will not need China to defeat it. Very simple. As part of NSCS from May 21, Chauhan was part of the flawed process which visualised Agnipath. In such a situation, he represents both an opportunity, and a danger in the Agnipath rollout. It will be interesting to see what tack he takes hereafter. Converting Agnipath into a success will be his acid test.

Capacity development in the army has been adrift. For reasons beyond comprehension, the MOD and the Government have lost focus. Those in the know of things feel that the acquisition and procurement pipelines are getting clogged. The propensity to use the emergency route in acquisition is worrisome. Capability development is at national risk since the Russian and Ukrainian lifelines are paralysed. The "import and rebrand" trick of defence atmanirbharta has entered a phase of diminishing returns. Stasis is in the air, and we have a CDS who does not have much experience in defence acquisition. In fact, he has no track record whatsoever in this complex business. How he approaches and handles defence modernisation will be interesting to watch.

The next priority is to bring jointness and theatrisation back to life. From December 21 last year, each service has been steadily propagating and ploughing its lonesome path. India's rise cannot be on the back of disjointed armed forces. Ever since the untimely demise of General Bipin Rawat, the only vestige of jointness was symbolised in a long and moralistic speech by the Additional Secretary Department of Military Affairs during the Agnipath opening ceremonies. That speech would have done politicians proud and made servicemen cringe. Leaving that aside, theatrisation and iointness is often a chicken and egg story. Which comes first? However, in this disjointed situation, theatrisation can wait for some time. The focus must be on enhancing jointness in my opinion. However, the optics of theatrisation make it a political mandate and expediency will rule. Our second CDS has difficult choices to make.

The general's labyrinth

Converting flawed Agnipath into a success will be new CDS's acid test

In the past year or so, I have often heard comparisons drawn between the times of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and now. Many old timers feel that the hubris of those times bears resemblance to the present. To some extent, it is borne out by the fact that India's rise and status in global affairs are largely being projected through the PM, the External Affairs Ministry and the National Security Agency. They are doing an excellent job. However, a rising power like India needs to back such moves with matching military credentials. The challenge for

Chauhan is that he has to emerge from the shadows of his last appointment in the NSCS and create greater space for military diplomacy. While he must adhere and follow government policies, his office should not be an echo chamber of the government.

General Chauhan has been chosen over and above the chiefs. Does it indicate that the government does not have confidence in the chiefs of services to appoint one of them as a CDS? This issue will not be lost on the serving chiefs. It has its own ramifications. More significantly, General Chauhan has been in NSCS since May 21. Yet he has been appointed as a CDS after a 10-month delay and not as the obvious first choice. His appointment seems to be premised on political comfort. Hence the process adopted by the government raises its own issues.

Overall, our military has been wallowing in doldrums in recent times. It is hoped that the professional in General Anil Chauhan trumps all other peripheral issues and steers the Indian Armed Forces into fair winds. India wishes its second CDS all the

> The writer is a retired director general of artillery, Indian Army

In Valley, 4 militants shot dead; student killed, cops say firing was accidental

NAVEED IQBAL

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

A 23-YEAR-OLD civilian, identified as Asif Ayoub, a college student from Shopian, was killed in what the police said was "accidental" firing by a policeman at a checkpoint in Haal area of Pulwama district in South Kashmir on Wednesday morning. The policeman has been arrested

In two separate incidents, four militants were killed in encounters with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Condemning the death of the student in Pulwama, political parties have demanded a probe into

Ayoub's family members said he was with a cousin on a motorcycle when he was shot. "This is the harvesting season, and he was going on a bike when they shot him at Haal bridge. I don't know whether they shot him deliberately or if it was a misfire," said a cousin, Naseem Ahmad.

Today, while on duty at Haal, Pulwama, the rifle of a policeman accidentally went off, resulting in injuries to a person. The injured person was immediately evacuated to the hospital by police. Later on, the injured person... succumbed to his injuries at hospital," said ADGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar. He said a case was registered and the policeman had been arrested. "Further investigation is going on," he said.

Condemning the killing, former chief minister and NC leader Omar Abdullah sought a "swift, credible and transparent probe". "Those responsible must be pun-



The site of an encounter at Drach area of Shopian district on Wednesday, in which three militants were killed. PTI

ished to the fullest extent possible," he said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti blamed the "paranoia" of the security forces in the light of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit. "An overcautious & paranoid security apparatus in J&K has snuffed out an innocent life in Pulwama today. The need to prove normalcy overrides the sanctity of lives here. For how long will people of J&K bear a human cost to further GOI's 'all is well'agenda," she said. Mufti had alleged house arrest on Wednesday morning.

J&K Peoples Conference also condemned the death and demanded a probe.

Meanwhile, three Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants were killed in an encounter that began on Tuesday night in Drach area of Shopian. In the second encounter that began early Wednesday, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant was killed in Moolu area of the

south Kashmir district, police

Police identified the three Iaish militants killed in Drach as Hanan Bin Yaqoob, Jamsheed Ahmad Magray and Zubair Magbool Wani, and said they were involved in the killing of Special Police Officer (SPO) Javed Dar in Pulwama on October 2, and the killing of a migrant labourer from West Bengal in Pulwama on September 24.

The LeT militant killed in the Moolu encounter has been identified as Arif Rashid Wani, Police said he was involved in "several terror crime cases including attacks on police/ security forces and civilian atrocities.'

"Three local terrorists linked with proscribed terror outfit JeM killed in encounter at Drach Shopian," tweeted ADGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar. He added that a local operative of the LeT was also killed in an encounter in



SHAH MEETS POLICEMAN'S FAMILY: Union Home Minister Amit Shah offers condolences to the family of Mudasir Ahmad, a policeman killed in a gunfight with militants in May, in the border town of Uri on Wednesday. PTI

SHAH'S CONTRIBUTION QUERY

Omar says list exhaustive; Mehbooba hits back with 'no validation needed' remark

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 5

REACTING TO Home Minister Amit Shah questioning the contribution of "three families that ruled Kashmir for 70 years" to the development of J&K, former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti sought to know if the performance of former CMs was so dismal then why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders have been inviting the 'Gupkar leaders' for meetings to Delhi?

"We are grateful to @HMOIndia @AmitShah ji for challenging Dr Farooq Sb to account for @jknc_'s contribution to the development of J&K. As the list is rather exhaustive. please expect our response tosponding to the Home Minister's speech, who used most of his 25minute address at a public rally in Baramulla to target National Conference and People's Democratic Party.

In his address, Shah sought account of 70-year rule from the NC and the PDP. Shah said: "I have come here to ask you, Mehbooba ji and Farooq sahib, tell us how much investment has come to Kashmir in 70 years, how many industries have been set up, how many factories have been opened. (There has been investment) of only Rs 15.000 crore in 70 years. In three years, Modi ji brought an investment of Rs 56,000 crore.'

To the Home Minister's Gupkar model gave Pulwama attack...Modi ji's model gave a Rs 2,000-crore hospital for Pulwama" comment, Omar hit

Anti-social

elements, not

back to remind Shah that the Pulwama attack happened under the BJP rule.

"@HMOIndia @AmitShah ji says 'Gupkar model gave us Pulwama attack'. Just to remind everyone that Pulwama attack happened when J&K was under central (BJP) rule with their handpicked Satyapal Malik running the state from Raj Bhavan," Omar said.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said that her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed doesn't need validation from Home Minister for his welfare work. "Dedicating his speech to answer my questions, HM forgets that Mufti sahab was CM for just 3.5 years & doesn't need validation from him for his work for welfare of J&K. Even after ruling J&K directly since 2018, BJP has nothing to show," Mehbooba **INCIDENT IN KUTCH**

RTI activist injured, son dead after man he accused of illegal mining rams scooter

Activist had filed complaints: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, OCTOBER 5

A DALIT RTI activist's son was allegedly run over and the activist seriously injured after a man rammed his car into the scooter the father-son duo was riding near Junachay village in Gujarat's Kutch on Monday, police said, adding that the man was arrested on Tuesday.

According to the police, the RTI activist had filed complaints of illegal mining against Navalsinh Jadeja, 24.

Police said the incident took place around 6.30 pm on October 3 when Ramesh Balia and his son Narendra were on their way home in Meghpar village from Dayapar. In his complaint with Nara police station in Nakhtrana division of Kutch, Ramesh, the RTI activist from Meghpar village stated that Jadeja, a resident of Junachay village, rammed his SUV into his scooter and killed his 23-yearold son Narendra.

Police said Narendra was driving the scooter, while Ramesh was riding pillion when the incident took place. In his complaint, Ramesh also stated that Jadeja tried to kill him.

The injured duo was first rushed to a hospital in Dayapar from where they were referred to Bhuj for further treatment late on Monday, Narendra, however. succumbed to his injuries on his way to the hospital, while

Ramesh was admitted to a charitable hospital, police said.

'Ramesh is an RTI activist who keeps filing complaints with police and the mining department, alleging illegal mining. He had filed a police complaint against the same accused around a year ago complaining about illegal sand and soil mining. In response, we had seized vehicles used by the accused and then transferred the matter to the mining department," Saurabh Singh, Superintendent of Kutch (west) Police told The Indian Express on Wednesday.

Based on Ramesh's complaint, Nara police on Tuesday booked **Jadeia under IPC sections 302** (murder), 307 (attempt to murder) and under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Meanwhile, several members of the Dalit community gathered at the Bhuj hospital and refused to accept Narendra's body, demanding strict action against the accused. "Our Local Crime Branch even-

tually rounded up the accused from near Dayapar," Singh said. It was only after this that Narendra's family accepted his body. Police said Jadeja was ar-

rested formally on Tuesday evening.

Police were supposed to produce Jadeja in a local court Wednesday with a remand application. The SP said Ramesh's condition was reported to be out

After fodder squeeze, Govt calls meet of Central and state officials today to chalk out action plan

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI. OCTOBER 5

FOUR DAYS after The Indian Express flagged a fodder deficit that is affecting agricultural households in parts of the country, the Government has called a meeting Thursday of Central and state officials to chalk out an "immediate action plan" to address the shortage. The meeting has been called by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry

medicalcollege.dnh@gmail.com

SVBCH- est.dmhs@gmail.com

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Neem Wali, Nawab Gani, Azad

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Mohd Ilyas, R/o 9758, Gali

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CHERUBALA PATHAPURA

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Sources said the meeting, to be chaired by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, is expected to be attended by senior Central officials, including Agriculture Secretary Manoi Ahuia, Officials from states facing a fodder crisis and those that have surplus stock have also been asked to join the meeting. Sources said that during the

meeting, a plan will be chalked out to explore the possibilities of

AN EXPRESS SERIES-I Fodder inflation at 9-vr high, late rains, crop damage deepen crisis



The Indian Express report on October 3

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UT ADMINSTARATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU transporting fodder from surplus

to deficit areas Date: 28/09/2022 Officials from northern as

well as southern states have been asked to join the meeting, where a state-wise assessment of the situation will be undertaken, sources said. In a series of two reports starting Monday, The Indian Express had flagged the deficit in the backdrop of fodder inflation soaring to a nine-year high with late rains and damaged bajra crop affecting the availability of green fodder.

Tuesday's report highlighted how the Government's ambitious plan to create 100 fodder FPOs (Farmers Producers Organizations), under a scheme to set up 10,000 FPOs, has remained on paper.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo) namely Sarika W/o Shyam Sunder R/o H.No.M-400, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi Age - 30 Years has been reported missing since 26.08.2022 at 01.00 PM from her house. In this regard a DD No. 68A, Dated 27.08.2022 has been lodged at Police Station-Khyala, Delhi.

Her physical description is as under: Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'4" Face: Round, Built: Strong, Clothing: Yellow Colour Kurta and Blue colour Leggi and

Cream Colour Chappal in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Khyala, Delhi on following

Telephones/e-mails:-E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

-ioor, Moli Nagar, New Delini-11/001s, is in intending purchaser of Second Floor with ro-ight of Property Bearing No. 129, situated a Partap Nagar, New Delhi- 110064, if an person has any claim/objection regarding th transaction of the above said property pleas contact to undersigned or Mr. Manoj Kum Tele No.: 11-24368638 or 24368641 Fax No.: 11-24368639 over, husband of my client on his mobil. 9811270585 within 15 days from blishing of this Notice. DP/1499/WD/2022

DP/1543/OD/2022

SHO P.S., Khyala, Delhi Ph.: 9599730246

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person

namely **Altaf @ Md. Nasir @ Naseer Ahmed, S/o Md. Nasir @ Md** Nasim, R/o. E-5/156, Jalebi Chowk, Sultanpuri, Delhi, Also At H.No. 136. Street No. 5. Prem Nagar III. Delhi. has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case FIR No. 489/2018 dated 04.07.2018 U/s 376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act registered at PS Sultanpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Altaf @ Md. Nasir @ Naseer Ahmed cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Altaf @ Md. Nasir @ Naseer Ahmed has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) Proclamation is hereby made that the said Altaf @ Md. Nasir @ Naseer Ahmed accused of FIR No. 489/2018, dated 04.07.2018 U/s 376 IPC & 6 POCSO Act. P.S. Sultanpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 07.10.2022 By Order

Ms. Pooja Aggarwal Additional Session Judge, (FTSC) (POCSO) (North-West) Room No. 318 Rohini Courts, Delhi

any community, behind Kheda clashes: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SURAT. VADODARA. OCTOBER 5

MINISTER OF State for Home Harsh Sanghavi Wednesday said that a gang of "anti-social elements" were responsible for the violent clashes during a garba event in Kheda and not people from "any community". When asked about the video

clips that purportedly show a man flogging those arrested for pelting stones at the garba event, Sanghavi told The Indian Express, "I will be going to Gandhinagar and (then) check all the details." Sanghavi was in Surat for the

Dussehra celebrations where, speaking to mediapersons, he said. "We have seen the incident of Kheda, where the Navratri was being enjoyed by people. All the villagers, devotees of the goddess, were playing garba at the temple. At that time, not any community. but some anti-social gang from the village made a definite attempt to disrupt the peace in the village. I truly believe that in Gujarat those who abide by the law will truly benefit."

Sanghavi, who is an MLA from Majura constituency in Surat, went to Surat police head quarter to attend Shashtra puja Vijayadashami, in presence of Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Tomar, and several other police officials. He addressed the media after the puja.

At least nine people were injured in clashes that broke out during a garba hosted by the Undhela village sarpanch near the Tulja Bhavani temple that was located close to a madrassa.

Meanwhile, a local court in Nadiad Wednesday remanded three of the 13 accused in two-day police custody while sending 10 others, including a woman, to judicial custody. The Matar police station and Kheda Local Crime Branch continued to conduct combing operations in the area to nab 30 other identified accused. An additional mob of 150 people, who are yet to be identified, have also been booked in the case.

MANDSAUR DEMOLITIONS

Speeding case sparked clash near garba site: kin of accused

IRAM SIDDIQUE BHOPAL, OCTOBER 5

A DAY after the houses of three Muslim families were razed in Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district over allegations of stone pelting at a garba pandal, the family of one of the accused, a minor, alleged that the clash had been painted with a communal colour and was triggered by an incident of speeding.

istration demolished the homes of the families on October 4, two days after a dispute between Salman Khan, 14, and Shivlal Patidar, a few feet away from a garba pandal in Surjani village.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sandeep Shiv told The Indian Express that the clashes between the two groups took a communal turn with stone pelting on the pandal, and that an FIR was registered in Sitamau police station leading to seven people being nabbed, including Salman. "The panchayat department

accessed the documents and found that the houses of three accused, including Salman's fa-

were constructed without taking the building permissions. A notice was put up on October 3 and the houses were razed on October 4," said the SDM. Shiva also said that the fami-

ther Aklu Pathan, Sohail's fa-

ther's Jafar Khan and Raes Khan

lies did not produce any documents despite being given time.

In the FIR registered on October 3, Shivlal alleged that he saw Salman speeding on his motorcycle on October 1 and complained about it to his father Aklu.

Shivlal said on October 2, at around 9 pm, while he was standing near the pandal along with his friends, Salman along with his father Aklu and grandfather Hafiz Khan; Sohail Khan along with his father Jafar Khan; and Raes Khan with 13 others came near the garba venue armed with sticks

The group began pelting stones on the pandal in which two other people sustained injuries, alleged Shivlal.

Countering Shivlal's FIR, Salman's grandfather Hafiz, 62, claimed that it was on October 2 at around 6:30 pm, while he was garba pandal, that Shivlal approached him to complain about "Salman then misbehaved

seated a few feet away from the

with Shivlal. I slapped Salman. Then Salman's friends arrived on the spot, followed by Shivlal's friends who were armed with sticks," he told The Indian Express. Hafiz said there was stone

pelting from both sides. Calls to the police control rooms were made at around 8 pm

and around 200 police personnel rushed to the spot. Raes's mother, Shamabi Rahman, alleged that the author-

ities demolished her house instead of her son's. Asked about this, SDM Shiv said: "The demolition was done as per the findings of the panchayat department. If there is any family

who has any complaint, they can

approach us.' A truck on the main road was also set on fire at around 11 pm. "When we tried to approach the police to register our complaint, instead of registering the FIR they told us that we will also be named in the FIR," said a relative who did not wish to be named.

13 Indians taken illegally to Myanmar reach Chennai after rescue: Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. CHENNAI OCTOBER 5

THIRTEEN INDIANS who had been taken illegally to Myanmar by unscrupulous travel agents reached Tamil Nadu on Wednesday after being rescued from Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar's Kayin state bordering Thailand, the govern-

ment said

"Another 13 Indian citizens have now been rescued, and reached Tamil Nadu today...we have been actively pursuing the case of Indians being trapped in fake job rackets in Myanmar. Thanks to the efforts of

@IndiainMyanmar @IndiainThailand, around 32 Indians had already been rescued," Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Arindam Bagchi said in a series of tweets on Wednesday.

Myawaddy area is not fully under the control of the Myanmarese government and certain ethnic armed groups have influence over it. "Some more Indian citizens

have been rescued from their fake employers and are in custody of Myanmar authorities for illegal entry into that country,' Bagchi said, adding legal formalities have been initiated to get them repatriated at the earliest. "Details of agents allegedly

involved in

this job racket have been shared with relevant authorities in various states in India for appropriate action," Bagchi said.

"Instances of similar job rackets have

Cambodia. Our Embassies in Vientiane, Phnom Penh and Bangkok have been helping in repatriating people from there," he added. On July 5, the Indian mission

also come to light in Laos and

issued an advisory, cautioning against unscrupulous elements offering jobs. Meanwhile, the 13 Indians

who reached Chennai on Wednesday were received by Gingee KS Masthan of the Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare body at the airport. He said they had been taken illegally to Myanmar and were "brought back following steps taken by Chief Minister MK Stalin". "Some 50 Tamils are still in Myanmar. We are in the process of bringing them back, too," he said.

A Coimbatore resident, who was among the 13 people, said they had originally applied for jobs in Dubai and were taken to Thailand. "After reaching Thailand, we realised there was no job. We were put in a car, travelled for many hours and at the end of the journey we realised we were in Myanmar. We were forced to work for up to 16 hours a day," he said on condition of anonymity.

तकनीकी शिक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं रोजगार विभाग कौशल विकास संचालनालय, मध्यप्रदेश

क्ष्यप्रदेश राज्य कौशल विकास एवं रोजगार निर्माण बोर्ड भोपाल द्वारा मध्यप्रदेश में स्थित विभिन्न आईटीआई में प्रशिक्षणरत प्रशिक्षणार्थि की ऑनलाईन परीक्षा आयोजित कराने के लिये एजेंसी का चयन किया जाना है। जिसके लिये आरएफपी दिनांक 28.04.2022 से 04.06.2022 तथा पुनः 13.07.2022 से 27.07.2022 तक जारी की गई थी, जिसमें प्राप्त निवदायें अपात्र पाई गईं। पुनः आवेदन हेतु दिनांव o6.10.2022 से 19.10.2022 तक ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। पूर्व में आवेदित एजेंसी भी पुनः आवेदन कर सकती है निविदा प्रपत्र तथा संबंधित शर्ते एवं संपूर्ण विवरण www.mptenders.gov.in एवं www.dsd.mp.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

रिक्वेस्ट फॉर प्रपोजल- आईटीआई में ऑनलाईन परीक्षा हेत्

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, हस्ता./-अतिरिक्त संचालव मास्क पहनना और अपनाना दो गज दरी। कौशल विकास संचालनालय

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

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

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.

gins 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 majority 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 malariacausing 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

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 cofirst 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.

NEW RESEARCH

Applicability

It would, however, require to assess the impact of such modifications 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.



"elegant, clever, novel and useful", also sought to bring the "greatest benefit to humankind".

AMITABH SINHA

THERE HAS always been a strong urge among scientists to learn from nature - to replicate natural processes, recreate natural environments or grow naturally-occurring substances. Nature is known to function in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner. Mimicking nature is expected to bring in effectiveness and sustainability in manmade processes and products as well.

But nature also has vast resources at its command that provide the enabling atmosphere to achieve efficiency or sustainability That enabling atmosphere is not always easily accessible to human beings without incurring a cost. For example, there are several naturally-

occurring enzymes that facilitate complex biochemical reactions in living organisms during which a particular desirable molecule might be produced.

Human beings can replicate some of these reactions in laboratories or even on an industrial scale, to produce the same desirable molecule, but for that to happen, they first have to access those enzymes. Producing those enzymes can add several layers in the original objective of reproducing the biochemical reactions to get the desired molecule. This is time-consuming and can lead to wastage and cost escalations.

This year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry has gone to three scientists who, through their work, have made a strong case for adopting an alternative approach to producing new complex molecules in the laboratory or industry, which minimises waste and increases overall efficiency.

Carolyn Bertozzi and Barry Sharpless of the United States and Morten Meldal of Denmark have been given the Prize for developing the relatively recent field of 'Click Chemistry' and demonstrating its vast potential in the pharmaceutical and other industries.

"Click these days is most commonly associated with a mouse click. Well, this has got nothing to do with that. The name has instead been taken from the click sound that airline seat belts make when they are fastened. The idea is that while trying to produce any particular compound or a complex molecule, one must look for starting mole-

A FUNCTIONAL FORM OF CHEMISTRY

NOBEL PRIZE CHEMISTRY

Making chemistry click

The Nobel Prize committee said that the work of the three scientists on Click Chemistry, besides being

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.



BERTOZZI, 55 PROFESSOR AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY, USA



PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, DENMARK



SHARPLESS, 81 PROFESSOR AT SCRIPPS



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 Savam 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

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

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

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 clearly not an efficient outcome," he said. Sharpless was not just developing the

nearly 25-100 kg of chemical waste. This is

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 reac-

tion that had been known for 40 years. This reaction was meant to produce a nitrogencontaining 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

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 ears 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 Aqvist, the chair of the Nobel Prize Committee for Chemistry, was quoted as saying in the offi-

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 UU 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'.

The verdict in the case accorded primacy to the CJI in appointment and transfers, and ruled that the term "consultation" would not diminish the primary role of the CJI.

The verdict said that the recommendation should be made by the CJI in consultation with his two seniormost colleagues.

It added that although the executive could ask the collegium to reconsider the matter, if the collegium reiterated the recommendation, the executive was bound to make the appointment.

THIRD JUDGES CASE: In 1998, then President K R Narayanan issued a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution over the meaning of the term "consultation". The question was whether "consultation" required consultation with a number of judges in forming the CJI's opinion,

New Delhi

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



MEANWHILE

STEINBECK'S LETTER TO SON ON LOVE ON SALE

A tender and touching letter that author John Steinbeck, who won 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

To make measure effective, US and EU

will need to convince India and China

plan to put a price cap

on Russian crude supply

Fallout of

price cap

WHAT IMPACT a price cap

on Russian oil may have re-

mains a matter of conjec-

ture. Anlaysts 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 repre-

sentatives 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

tive, 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.

To make the measure effec-

based on the market price.



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 a settlement, subject to court approval, for our wrongful death case against the producers of Rust, including Alec Baldwin," said a statement Wednesday from Hutchins, Matthew rapher Halyna Hutchins and a plaintiff in the lawsuit along with their 9vear-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 Wednesday called a genelection 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 pandemicrelated 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 & Amb @sunjaysudhir inaugurated the Temple. On the occasion, Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir thanked UAE for their support," the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi tweeted. PTI

Oil cut complicates EU's

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-yearold 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-Sahlanion in the halls of the European Parliament 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**

THE EUROPEAN Union was

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 5

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 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

Britain's Indian-origin Home

Secretary, Suella Braverman, has

on migrants

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, OCTOBER 5

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 moonof Didymos, on September 26.

Two days after DART's impact, astronomers used the 4.1meter 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.

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

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

Jolie accuses Brad Pitt of abuse in court filing

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, leave office after completing his second three-year term in November, adding that he would fulfill the pledge he made earlier, the Dawn news-



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

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

gible for the post of Army chief. Bajwa's remarks came at a lunch hosted at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington. According to those who attended 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 achieve its goals without a robust economy. "There could be no diplomacy either without a strong economy," said the Army chief.

blamed the recent "riots" in Leicester following an India-Pakistan cricket match on unconfailure of newcomers to integrate. In her first speech since being appointed home minister at the Conservative Party annual confer-

ence 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 to-

wards 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 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 "lowskilled foreign workers"."This isn't just about policy or economics for me. It's intensely personal." PTI

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-monthold 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 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.

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 agreement 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,

cepted 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

Anne Kiley, said Pitt had ac-

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 nondisparagement proposal again.

taken place because of failures to integrate large numbers of newcomers. Such conflict has no

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 labeling 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. AF

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

Gunders, executive director of ReFED, a New York-based nonprofit that studies food waste.

tremendously," said Dana

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

New Delhi

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 perishable 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 Lipsit, who owns a Grocery Outlet store in Pleasanton, California.

15 ECONOMY

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



③ ₹61,997

SENSEX: 58,065.47 ▲ 1,276.66 (2.25%) NIFTY: 17,274.30 ▲ 386.95 (2.29%) NIKKEI: 27,120.53 ▲ 128.32 HANG SENG: 18,087.97 ▲ 1,008.46 FTSE: 7,021.54 ▼ 64.92 DAX: 12,548.92 ▼ 121.56

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

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-ofcourt settlements.s

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' ing 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 memberstate 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



■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 reis 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 REPOHIKES

Rising rates: Turbulent times ahead for home loan segment output despite

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

FOUR SUCCESSIVE reporate 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 12month period ended August 2022. This has come on top of a 11.6 per cent growth in the yearago 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 setcor. 'Further aggressive rate hikes from hereon may dent economic revival and dampen customer

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

According to Samantak Das, chief economist and head of research & REIS, JLL India, 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 reporate 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 Anui Puri, chairman, Anarock group.

"Anarock's most recent Consumer Sentiment Survey finds that high inflation has maiorly 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

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)

Average price of liquefied natural

gas (LNG) contracts rose 45% to

■ Spot LNG prices have surged

reduce demand for industrial PNG

consumers switch to alternative

fuels such as propane and fuel oil

CNG demand, meanwhile, still

of an expanding network of CNG

differential with petrol and diesel

likely to rise 25-30% on the back

for the second half of FY23

Over past 12 months

150% to \$38-40/mmbtu

Elevated gas prices likely to

price-sensitive industrial

\$14.5-15 per mmbtu

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.

Wipro asks staff to be in office thrice a week

New Delhi: IT major Wipro has asked its employees to come back to office at least three days a week. While the office will remain closed on Wednesdays, employees have been told to work on any three of the remaining four weekdays. In a statement, Beginning October 10, employees in leadership roles will return to work from offices in India, thrice a week.

"Our offices will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Our carefully deliberated back-to-office policy is meant to allow employees the flexibility that our teams can access experiences, as well as opportunities, and build meaningful relationships at work," it said. FE

OPEC+ agrees deep cuts to oil 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 mated 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 30,022.99, S&P by 49.83 points, or 1.31 per cent, to 3,741.10, and Nasdag by 207.34 points, or 1.86 per cent, at 10,969.07.

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

'City gas volume growth may

With natural gas cost rising 40% from this month on top of a

seen more than halving to 8-10% in FY23, a Crisil report said

steeper 110% hike in April-September, volume growth is

more than halve to 8-10%'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 5

Expected natural gas

demand compression caused by industrial

other cheaper fuels

consumers switching to

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

Expected fall in piped cooking

since beginning of this fiscal

projection of 20-25%, as prices

gas demand, from earlier

skyrocketed by 150%

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'

Source: Crisil/PTI

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.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process SI. No. **Tender inviting Authority** TOTAL For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening ,viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in

SECURITY GUARDS BOARD FOR BRIHAN MUMBAI & THANE DISTRICT

E-mail: sgb_sanpada@yanoo.	co.m
NOTICE FOR E-TENI	DER
r Notice No. SGB/SECY/2022-5887	Date :- 03.10.
curity Guards Board for Brihan Mumbai & Thai	ne District invites Ter
, from reputed and experienced Companies or A	outhorised Dealers, c
e https://sqb.etenders.in. The Tenders are as a	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)

Stitching of Uniforms for Regd. Security Guards of the Board

(Deepa Ashok Bhise

Convenience)

19.10.2022 From

nrs. (As per Board's

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 \$44billion 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 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 for the following items Name of the Item

Earnest Money Deposit to be paid for each items in Rs. for each item in Rs Transportation of Carrier based Biofertilizers and 1.00.00.000/-1.00.000/ Liquid Biofertilizers Supply of raw materials for the production of 17,53,40,700/-Micronutrient Mixtures 18,53,40,700/-18,53,407/-

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

The time schedule for opening of the tender is as follows Sale of tender document closes on 06.11.2022, 5.30 P.M Last date and time for receipt of tende 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

he Tender Document may also be obtained at free of cost in Government website http://www.tenders.tn.gov. For Further particular, please contact: Joint Director of Agriculture, Kattupudhukkulam Pudukkottai - 622 001. Ph: 04322-221 666, e-mail: jdapdk@gmail.com Joint Director of Agriculture(i.c) Pudukottai DIPR / 4432 /TENDER/2022

by via Demand Draft for Tender in all working days.

New Delhi

SGB/

Tender

(Constituted by the Government of Maharashtra)

Central Office: D-301/E-301, Sanpada Railway Station Complex,
Sanpada, Navi Mumbai - 400 705. Tele. No. (0222775 1385/2775 1386

		Board		Convenience)
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7.	SGB/ 2022-23	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

the Eprocurement portal https://sgb.etenders.in. For any gueries pleas ontact the helpline number given on the website.

Security Guards Board For Brihan Mumbai & Thane Distric

18.10.2022

at 17.00 hrs

'Niemann has likely cheated in more than 100 online games' How Carlsen would need to cheat just once in a game to be invincible

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

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 Sinquefield 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

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 Sinquefield Cup and Niemann was under fire, the American launched an impassioned defence. Niemann admitted he had cheated

no conclusions regarding

Niemann's over-the-board

person events, stating they

"merit further investigation

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 games, it did flag contests prove his innocence and **from six of his stronger in**that he has never cheated in over-the-

However, the recent **based on the data**" 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.

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 Niemann that he's While the investigation made cheated only twice.

While the investigation made no conclusions regarding Niemann's over-theboard 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 Sinquefield 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 Singuefield Cup, I had the impression that he wasn't tense or even fully concentrating on the game in critical positions, while outplaying 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

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 100plus rated games on chess.com, as recently as when he was 17 years old. Hans' online 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.'

EXPLAINE

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 mak-

ing 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 toplevel 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 potential outcomes.

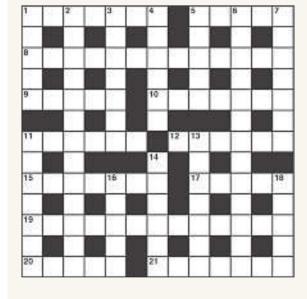
Why is 'being human' a fallibility in

"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 invinci-

CROSSWORD 4865



ACROSS

- Put on Medusa's form
- Didn't stand around to see a furry animal (5) One who provides heaven-
- sent protection (8,5) She upsets Diana (5)
- outer space?(6)
- streetcar(7)
- a junior (13)
- 21 Deranged senator gives great offence (7)

11 About 19 billion miles right in

10 It may be taken by the injured

- 12 Way to gain an admission
- 15 Makes slow progress by
- 17 They fly or take a train (5)
- 19 It's showing lack of respect in
- 20 Please quietly go to provide support for an artist

JUMBLED WORDS

the answer for the given guip.

DLNEO

COTSS

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
- Manual performances pulling out all the stops? (5,8)
- Clerks at the information desk?(7)
- Still voice? (7) 13 Red vehicle goes to one of the pits(7)
- 14 Wit of a turbulent priest
- 16 Bella may form an attachment
- 18 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 Neaptide, 4 Polish, 5 Astir, 6 Smite, 7 nure, 12 Alp, 13 Amy, 14 Adequate, 15 Marathon, 19 Litter, 20 Shame, 21 Every, 22 Snook.

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to

 $the \, respective \, squares \, below. \, Select \, the \, letters \, in \, the \, shaded \, squares \, and \, jumble \, them \, to \, get$

IKSYLN

AENPBD

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis









CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







2

3 9



1 9 8 4 7 6

Difficulty Level 2s

every digit from 1 to 9must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

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

8 3 2 6 5

5 9

1

SOLUTION SUDOKU 497 8 6

2 7 3 8 5 9 4 8 4 7 3 5 6 1 2 9 8 2 9 7 5 2 6 1 3 8 9 4 8 4 7 5 6 1 2 3 5 9 8 1 2 4 7 9 8 4 7 6 2 5 3 1 5 3 4 9 6 8

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) completely let go of the past, however members of the family may now wish to reopen an old discussion. If so, they are

responding to vesterday'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



wills. Yet, with the Moon playing up today, you can probably correct the balance in vour 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



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

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You're difficult to fool, and you are well

prove them wrong.

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

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

condemnation.

sympathy more than



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

New Delhi

BY PETER VIDAL

As far as personal

complaints are

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

concerned, it is a case 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)

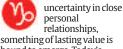


the best ideas. It often takes you a long time to formulate your suggestions, but no matter - you must take as long as you need to come up with the right answers. Other people may just have to wait.

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

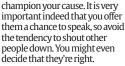


bound to emerge. Today's sympathetic Moon, by the way, opens the door towards pleasurable rewards, selfindulgence and a surprise encounter with the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Someone in a position of power and

authority is about to

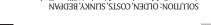
give you a break or



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





Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

nine boxes.

5



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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MoUs & LoIs worth Rs. 10.44 Lakh crore

40% of MoUs & LoIs

implemented/under implementation

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Employment Generation in the State

2.10 Lakh+

from implemented and under implementation Projects

9.5 Lakh+

from all MoUs & LoIs of Invest Rajasthan

Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan invest.rajasthan.gov.in











Confederation of Indian Industry



India's PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia were voted FIH Men's and Women's Goalkeeper of the Year for the second year running, on the back of their strong shows under the bar. Sreejesh is the third player to win back-to-back FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award while Savita is now only the third athlete to win the Goalkeeper of the Year (women) for consecutive years.

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 Diva 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 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).

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".

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

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

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

ANILDIAS

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 5

ASTAM ORAON grew up in a village in Iharkhand 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 Colombus Collegiate in Hazaribagh, about a four-hour drive away, so that she would get



Astam Oraon.

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

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

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.

Win some, lose some

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 y 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

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.

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 It was hoped that at least beach wrestling.

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 sur-

prising 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

CWG 2026 ROLL CALL

IN: Shooting Wrestling, judo

DEBUT: Coastal Rowing, cycling (BMX),

PARA EVENTS: Athletics, swimming, 3x3 basketball, track cycling, lawn bowls, shooting, table tennis, triathlon, powerlifting

on the part of organisers to invest in building

After it was shot down from the Birmingham Games, shooting has been on its toes and was quick to react when it did not feature in the initial list of sports for the 2026 edition. It helped that Australia has had a decent medal haul in shooting - topping the overall tally and finishing behind India in all but one edition between 2002 and 2018.

So, led by its world governing body ISSF and Shooting Australia, the sport made a concerted effort to be reintegrated into the CWG by forming working groups and launching various campaigns. In August, the ISSF submitted an expression of interest for the inclusion of shooting to the CGF.

Among other aspects, shooting is believed to have played its gender parity card – it is among the sports that have equal representation of men and women along with a mixed team event - while the City of Greater Bendigo in central Victoria offered to host the

According to Shooting Australia, the Exhibition and Event Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds are the proposed venues for Air Rifle and Air Pistol events. The organisers also have the option of hosting shooting at the Wellsford Rifle Range, which hosted the full-bore rifle competitions during the 2006 CWG. Shotgun events are likely to be conducted at the Victorian State Range in the nearby town of Echuca.

The CGF did not specify the city that will host shooting events in 2026. It is also likely that the number of events in rifle, pistol and shotgun could be reduced compared to the previous Games to make it more cost-effective for the organisers. Australia has traditionally been strong in shotgun events while India has dominated rifle and pistol categories.

ODI series will help T20 World Cup standby players: Dhawan

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA 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

"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 hows their confidence.

"The more they play they will get more experience, their confidence level will in-They will learn from mig 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 bee 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

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS MADRID, OCTOBER 5

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

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

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

Hakan Çalhanoglu scored the winner in first-half stoppage time to give Inter the win over Barcelona and sole possession of second place in the group dominated by Inter prevailed as its defense success-

contained striker Robert fully Lewandowski and Barcelona's attack, which had outscored opponents 24-4 in nine matches Barcelona loudly complained after it had a goal disallowed by a handball and was then denied a penalty for another handball by Inter in stoppage time.

"I'm mad because it wasn't fair," Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández said. "We don't understand anything. The referee needs to explain what happened publicly." The victory eased some of the pressure on Inter coach Simone Inzaghi after the team's poor start to the season.

Inter now faces Barcelona at the Camp Nou in the next round. The Catalan club is three points behind Inter and six behind

With the home victory over Plzen, Bayern surpassed a 30-match unbeaten run set by Real Madrid in the group stage of the Champions League between 2012-



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

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

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

KEY RESULTS

Bayern	5	1 V Plzen
C Brugge	2	A Madrid
Ajax	1	6 Napoli
Inter	1	O Barcelona
Liverpool	2	O 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.

New Delhi

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

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 goal-

European competition for Atlético, which

keeper'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

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