

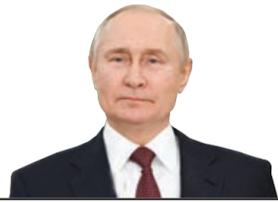
THE ASIAN AGE

NEW DELHI MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024



NATION | 3

Jaishankar: No response from India to 26/11 terror attacks; it won't be the case anymore



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Putin says will respond if West helps Ukraine to strike deep into Russia

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Jalandhar's Rachel Gupta is the first Indian to win Miss Grand International crown



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Miss India Nikita Porwal offers prayer at the Mahakal temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain on Sunday. — PTI

Amid festive rush, 10 hurt in stampede at Bandra rly station

Mumbai: At least ten persons were injured in a stampede at Mumbai's Bandra railway station on Sunday when hundreds of people attempted to board a Gorakhpur-bound train to head to their native places for the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals, civic officials said. The Western Railway, however, stated two persons were injured in the incident. The figures cannot be reconciled immediately. The condition of one of the injured persons is critical, a civic official said. According to the officials, the train was moving slowly from the yard towards the platform when several passengers made a dangerous attempt to board it. Full report on Page 4

At least 50 flights get bomb threats; 2 diverted

New Delhi: At least 50 flights operated by Indian airlines received bomb threats and two of them were diverted on Sunday, according to sources. In 14 days, more than 350 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Full report on Page 2

Actor Vijay holds his party's 1st political rally

Villupuram (Tamil Nadu): Tamil actor Thalapaty Vijay hosted his inaugural state-level political meeting in Vikravandi in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram on Sunday. The latest entrant to Tamil Nadu politics, TVK (Tamilzhaga Vetri Kazhagam) founder Vijay took an apparent dig at the DMK and its first family. Full report on Page 4

COUNTERPOINT



They must be rebel candidates who were denied party tickets!

WEATHER

Max: 33°C
Min: 22°C
RH: 52%
Rain: 10

Forecast: Sunny

ASTROGUIDE

Shubhkrut: Dakshinayana
Tithi: Aswayuja Bahula
Ekadasi full day
Star: Makha till 12.25 pm
Varjyam: 9.24 pm to 11.12 pm
Durmuhurtam: 4.11 pm to 4.57 pm
Rahukalam: 4.30 pm to 6 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.31 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.35 AM
MOONSET TODAY 3.31 PM

Hails success of 'Made by Indians' animation in Mann ki Baat Stop, think, take action: Modi cautions all on 'digital arrest'

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday flagged the issue of "digital arrests" during his monthly radio show "Mann Ki Baat" and cautioned people against cyber scams. Referring to the popularity of "Made in India" and "Made by India" animated series such as *Chhota Bheem*, *Hanuman* and *Krishna*, Mr Modi said that a wave of creative energy is sweeping India. He also urged people's participation in the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

Pointing out the growing cases of "digital arrests" by cyber criminals, the Prime Minister said that there is no such provision in the law. He assured that the probe agencies are working with states to deal with the issue but added that awareness is essential in protecting oneself from cyber crimes. Also, he urged the people to adopt



BJP president J.P. Nadda with party workers listens to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann ki Baat" at Lalitpur in New Delhi on Sunday. — PTI

the mantra of "stop, think and take action" when faced with such a scam. During his broadcast, Mr Modi also shared a conversation between a victim and a fraudster to highlight the cybercrime of digital arrest. Explaining the modus operandi of such fraudsters, he said they collect personal information as their first move. Then, as part of their second move, they create an atmosphere of fear and the third move of such fraudsters is to create the pressure of time.

"As soon as you get a call, stop... Don't panic, stay calm... don't take any hasty steps. Don't give away your personal information to anyone. If possible, take a screenshot and record it... So, the first step is 'stop'. The second step is 'think'... No government agency threatens you on the phone like this, neither enquires nor demands money on a video call like this," he said, adding, "The third step is 'take action'."

The Prime Minister urged the victims to dial

CERT-In advisory on how to stay safe from scams

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

Indian cyber-security agency "CERT-In" on Sunday issued an advisory flagging several ways used by cyber fraudsters, including "digital arrest", to dupe people by stealing their money and private data. The advisory came on a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi too cautioned people against such frauds in his monthly "Mann ki Baat" radio broadcast. The Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) advisory said "digital arrest" is an online scam as "government agencies do not use platforms like WhatsApp or Skype for official communication". "Verify their identity by directly contacting the relevant agency," it recommended.

More on Page 4

Assam CM urges Bengal, others to check Rohingyas' influx from B'desh

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, OCT. 27

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that states bordering Bangladesh — West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura — should coordinate with the BSF to check the ongoing influx of Rohingya Muslims into India.

Speaking with the media, Mr Sarma said, "Security forces have arrested and pushed back at least 138 Rohingya Muslims while trying to enter Assam through the border in Assam in the past month."

Pointing out that the majority of those apprehended by security forces are Rohingya Muslims, the Assam chief minister, adding that it is not the Hindu Bengalis who are seeking refuge because of Bangladesh's internal instabilities. Data suggests primarily Muslim Rohingyas are crossing over.

"Contrary to common perception, we're not seeing Hindu Bengalis. Rather, it is Rohingyas Muslims trying to enter various states in the country, including Assam," the chief minister said.

More on Page 4

Shah calls for TMC's ouster from power in WB in 2026

'Peace will return if infiltration stopped at border'

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, OCT. 27

In his first visit to West Bengal after the Lok Sabha election, Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday gave a call to oust the Trinamul Congress from power in the state in 2026. He also claimed that peace would return to the state if infiltration was stopped at the border.

Mr Shah, who reached the state late on Saturday night on a two-day visit, inaugurated a passenger terminal building and Maitri Dwar, a cargo gate land port terminal, at Petrapole in North 24



Union home minister Amit Shah at the BJP's membership drive in Kolkata on Sunday. Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty is also seen. — PTI

Parganas. The top BJP leader later chaired a party membership drive pro-

gramme at Salt Lake in Kolkata. At both events, chief minister

Turn to Page 4

BJP, JMM face rebel trouble in Jharkhand polls

Both fear rebels as Independents will split votes ■ Shivraj, Himanta lead BJP's efforts to woo dissidents

AMRESH SRIVASTAVA NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The rebels are posing formidable challenges for both the BJP and the ruling JMM as Jharkhand prepares for the Assembly polls. Anticipating division of votes in the impending elections, the leaders of both parties are trying to woo the dissidents who have rebelled after being denied tickets. Both the BJP and the

JMM want their rebels to either withdraw their nominations as Independents or pledge support for their respective parties' official candidates.

According to sources, BJP Jharkhand in-charge and Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with co-in-charge and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, are personally approaching the party rebels to assuage

their concerns and to get them to withdraw their nominations as Independents. The party's strategists admit that these rebels pose a "significant threat" to the BJP's

poll prospects in the state. The BJP is facing a lot of heat in the Ranchi seat, where the maximum number of rebel candidates have filed nomination papers as Independents.

According to sources, Mr Singh, who is the sitting MLA, also believes that if the rebels contest the elections, the party's vote share will likely get split. He said that their anger is justified, but its solution can be found only by discussing the issues within the party and not by leaving the party.

Similarly, Kamlesh

contest as Independents against him. According to sources, Mr Singh, who is the sitting MLA, also believes that if the rebels contest the elections, the party's vote share will likely get split. He said that their anger is justified, but its solution can be found only by discussing the issues within the party and not by leaving the party.

Similarly, Kamlesh

Turn to Page 4

Japan's LDP loses majority in Diet polls, in blow to new PM

Tokyo, Oct. 27: Japan's ruling LDP party fell short of a majority in snap elections on Sunday for the first time since 2009, national broadcaster NHK projected, in a blow to new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. It was unclear whether Mr Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party would be able to secure a majority in the Diet (Parliament) together with its long-term coalition partner, the Komeito party. Mr Ishiba, 67, took office on October 1 after being



Shigeru Ishiba narrowly selected last month to lead the LDP, and called a snap election within days of taking office.

The self-confessed defence "geek" and maker of model planes set as his

target in the election the coalition winning a majority.

Missing this objective would seriously undermine his position in the LDP and mean finding other coalition partners or leading a minority government.

Voters in the world's fourth-largest economy have been rankled by rising prices and the fallout from a party slush fund scandal that helped sink previous premier Fumio Kishida. — AFP

More on Page 6



Women compete in a boat race at the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Sunday. — PTI

Losing seats to Uddhav faction, favouritism irk Congress netas

SONU SHRIVASTAVA MUMBAI, OCT. 27

Resentment in the Mumbai Congress is rising over the allegations of favouritism and groupism in the party. The Congress cadre is also unhappy over the party losing key seats in the city to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena in the seat-sharing arrangement.

Maharashtra Congress leader Sachin Sawant, initially nominated for Andheri West, expressed disappointment and requested a shift to Bandra East, where he has "worked extensively."

Party insiders claim Congress leader Varsha Gaikwad prioritised close associates for nominations, including her sister, despite opposition. This decision, among others, has fueled dissatisfaction within the party ranks, with some candidates being sidelined due to internal alliances.

An office-bearer from the Congress said that the party was insisting for Versova, Bandra East and Byculla, but the Mumbai Congress chief failed to get any of these seats from the Shiv Sena (UBT). Political observer Aditya R. Dubey said that by fielding weak candidates, the Mumbai Congress has given a walkover to the BJP.

More on Page 3

Spanish PM to be in Guj today, hold talks with Modi

Both PMs to launch aircraft project

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will land in Vadodara, Gujarat, in the early hours of Monday, after which he will hold delegation-level talks shortly before noon with Prime Minister Narendra Modi covering the entire range of bilateral relations and also regional and global issues at Laxmi Vilas Palace there. A number of MoUs and agreements are expected to be signed during the visit, which will give a boost to bilateral cooperation. The visit "underscores the importance attached by both countries to their bilateral partnership and the consistent upward trajectory of India-Spain relations"

The Spanish PM will earlier on Monday morning participate in a "Shobha Yatra" after which he and Mr Modi will jointly inaugurate the Tata Final Assembly Line Plant Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 aircraft at Tata Advanced Systems Ltd campus, in collaboration with Airbus Spain, a flag-



Pedro Sanchez

ship "Make in India" initiative in the aviation sector. A total of 56 aircraft are envisaged under the C-295 programme, of which 16 are being delivered directly by Airbus from Spain and the remaining 40 will be made in India by the Tata company.

This is the first visit by a Spanish PM to India in 18 years. Mr Modi had earlier visited Spain in 2017 during his first term. Spain is also an important member of the European Union. It has cordial ties with India. Mr Sanchez will also visit Mumbai on Tuesday, where he will, apart from

THE VISIT 'underscores the importance attached by both countries to their bilateral partnership and the consistent upward trajectory of India-Spain relations'

Truck rams into Tel Aviv bus stop near Mossad HQ; 1 dies, many hurt

Ramat Hasharon (Israel), Oct 27: A driver rammed his truck into a bus stop in central Israel on Sunday, killing a man and injuring more than two dozen people, medics and police said. The police did not immediately say whether the incident, near the Mossad spy agency's headquarters and other Israeli intelligence sites, was an attack or an accident.

The truck ramming in Ramat Hasharon, north of Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv, left at least 40 people injured, including several in serious condition, the police said in a statement.

One of those hurt died later of his injuries, said the hospital where he was taken for treatment. Preliminary police findings showed the truck driver also hit a bus that had stopped at the same station to drop off passengers, the police said, adding that civilians at the scene "shot the truck driver and neutralised him".

Agencies More on Page 6



US vice-president and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris with former First Lady Michelle Obama during a campaign rally in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on Saturday. Report on Page 6

■ AQI severe in few areas ■ 'Stubble burning rising in UP'

Delhi air deteriorates to very poor category

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

After a two-day gap, Delhi's air quality plunged into the "very poor" category again on Sunday, as winds in the city that improved pollution levels in the last couple of days came to stand still. Meanwhile, a political blame game broke out between the ruling AAP and the Opposition BJP and the Congress.

At 8 pm, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 382 at Anand Vihar and 378 at Wazirpur while the average AQI stood around 360, a marked increase from Saturday's reading, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Data from 36 out of 40 monitoring stations was shared by the department. Among these, eight stations — Anand Vihar, Alipur, Bawana, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Wazirpur, Vivek Vihar and Sonia Vihar have AQI readings in the "severe" category, while the remaining 28 are in the "very poor" category.

The AAP in a statement claimed that the situation at Anand Vihar is worsening because of the pollution of diesel buses at UP's Kaushambi Depot. Cases of stubble burning are rising each day in BJP-ruled UP and Haryana who are also discharging high volumes of industrial waste in Yamuna. If the BJP truly cares for Delhi, they should stop the theatrics and work with their state governments to address the pollution problem.

Delhi BJP president

Virendra Sachdeva, however, criticised the AAP for being unserious about controlling pollution, stating that for environment minister Gopal Rai, pollution is merely a way to stay in the news.

Mr Sachdeva said that Mr Rai failed to offer any concrete action on this issue and also highlighted that stubble burning in Punjab and dust from poorly maintained roads in Delhi are the major contributors to air pollution.

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav on his part claimed that due to the inaction people will have to face the prospect of a suffocating Diwali. The DPCC chief said it is a matter of grave concern to the public that hospitals are reporting a large number of cases of respiratory and eye illnesses, forcing people to remain indoors during the festive season.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

According to the India meteorological department (IMD), wind speed in the city was calm at 0 kmph. Delhi's air quality had improved from "very poor" to "poor" category the last two days due to favourable winds. A layer of smog blanketed the city in the early hours on Sunday, making visibility difficult.

Vehicular emission was the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution on Sunday. The minimum temperatures were recorded at 20.1°C, one notch above the season's average.

'18% Delhi-NCR families plan to burst crackers'

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

Ahead of Diwali, a survey conducted in Delhi-NCR has revealed that 18 per cent of the respondents plan to burst firecrackers during the festival of lights, while 55 per cent don't intend to do so.

The survey conducted by LocalCircles with a sample size 10,526 said, "Among those who responded to the query, 55 per cent said they will not burn firecrackers as they cause pollution, whereas 19 per cent said they would like to burn crackers, and 9 per cent said they will burn crackers...Nine per cent of the respondents said they will burn crackers and they know how and from where to get them, while 8 per cent did not give a clear answer. To sum up, 18 per cent of Delhi-NCR families surveyed are likely to burn crackers this Diwali."

Out of 10,526 people, 68 per cent of respondents were men while the remaining 32 per cent were women. As per the survey, some residents showed indifference towards the government advisories regarding firecrackers, as evidenced by the significant use of crackers during the Karva Chauth celebrations on October 20.

50 more flights receive bomb threats in a day

2 diverted; Centre plans steps to ban hoax threat perpetrators from flying

New Delhi, Oct. 27: At least 50 flights operated by Indian airlines received bomb threats and two of them were diverted on Sunday, according to sources.

In 14 days, more than 350 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media.

Akasa Air said 15 of its flights got security alerts and after thorough inspections, all aircraft were released for operations. The sources in the know said IndiGo received threats for 18 flights and Vistara for 17 flights.

At least two IndiGo flights were diverted following threats. Its flight 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur) was diverted to Ahmedabad and 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam) was diverted to Mumbai, an official said.

Meanwhile, Union civil aviation minister K. Ramnathan Naidu said the Centre is mulling steps to ban perpetrators, who resort to hoax bomb threats, from flying.

The minister also said besides taking support from international agencies, law enforcement wings and the Intelligence Bureau to prevent these fake threats, the

IN 14 days, more than 350 flights operated by the Indian carriers have received hoax bomb threats. Most of the threats were issued through social media

Union government is also mulling to amend two Civil Aviation Laws.

Against the backdrop of a spate of hoax bomb threats to airlines, the IT ministry has asked social media platforms to observe due diligence obligations and promptly remove or disable access to misinformation within the strict timelines prescribed under IT rules.

The flights that received security-related alerts include 6E 11 (Delhi-Istanbul), 6E 92 (Jeddah-Mumbai), 6E 112 (Goa-Ahmedabad), 6E 125 (Bengaluru-Jharsuguda), 6E 127 (Amritsar-Ahmedabad) and 6E 135 (Kolkata-Pune).

Among others are 6E 149 (Hyderabad to Bagdogra), 6E 173 (Delhi to Bengaluru), 6E 175 (Bengaluru to Delhi), 6E 197 (Raipur to Hyderabad), 6E 248 (Mumbai to Kolkata), 6E 277 (Ahmedabad-Lucknow), 6E 312 (Bengaluru to Kolkata), 6E 235 (Kolkata-Bengaluru) and 6E 74 (Riyadh-Mumbai). — PTI

BJP & AAP fight over eviction notice to Gandhi Nagar slums

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

AAP leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday claimed that the BJP has sent eviction notices to thousands of families living in slums of the Gandhi Nagar area. The BJP, however, refuting the claims, said, "Instead of making misleading statements the AAP should clarify why the DUSIB department allowed the concerned land-owning agency to demolish the slums".

Mr Sisodia, while meeting the residents of the area, accused the BJP of planning to kick out families who have been living there for over 90 years. He, however, assured them that as long as Arvind Kejriwal is there, not a single

jhuggi will be demolished. He claimed that the BJP got Mr Kejriwal imprisoned so he couldn't fight for the poor, but he's out now and he will continue fighting for them. The AAP strongly opposed the BJP's conspiracy to throw out slum dwellers ahead of Diwali after they were served the eviction notices by the BJP-controlled DDA, he added.

Union minister Harsh Malhotra, MLA Anil Bajpai and senior BJP leaders Arvinder Singh Lovely, held the Delhi government's negligence responsible for the eviction orders and strongly condemned Mr Sisodia's misleading political rhetoric.

According to the BJP leaders, there is an administrative provision in Delhi state that no notice to vacate slums

that are over 20 years old can be issued without prior approval from the DUSIB. The leaders mentioned that the Gandhi Nagar slum settlement, whose residents have received eviction notices, is over six decades old. Therefore, it is unlikely that the land-owning agency issued the notice without DUSIB's approval.

Meanwhile, the AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said, the AAP government "honestly" served the people of Delhi for 10 years, doing a lot of the work that no other dispensation in the country had done.

He claimed that the saffron party, if it assumes power in Delhi, would stop the city government's free schemes for electricity, health care, education and bus rides for women.

Riots case: HC allows CBI plea on acquittal of Sajjan Kumar

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Delhi high court has admitted an appeal by the CBI against the acquittal of Sajjan Kumar, a Congress MP, in a murder and rioting case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

In a recent order, a bench of Justices Prathiba M. Singh and Amit Sharma granted 'leave to appeal' to the probe agency against the trial court's decision of September 20, 2023, and listed the matter for further consideration in December.

Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court. "In the opinion of this court, the CBI's leave to appeal deserves to be granted...The leave petition is allowed...Admit," the court said in the order.

The court also admitted the appeal by the victim, Sheela Kaur, in case against the order of acquittal, and asked the registry to put up a report on the existence of any other appeals relating to the 1984 riots against the present accused persons.

5, including 4 juveniles, nabbed for killing teen in Kishangarh area

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Delhi police has nabbed five people, including four minors, for allegedly killing a 16-year-old boy and injuring another

in the Kishangarh area of southwest Delhi, officials said on Sunday.

The teen was found dead with multiple stab wounds, while the other was under treatment for a bullet injury.

According to the police, the accused, Sanjay Mehla (38), had planned to kill both of them over some dispute with the victims and had sent his teenage associates for the task.

Around 5.45 pm on Saturday, a PCR call

regarding a stabbing at Gausala village was received at the Kishangarh police station, a senior police officer said.

"A team was sent to the spot. One empty shell of a bullet was found. It was

also found that the two injured have been taken to Safdarjung Hospital," the officer said.

The Delhi police crime team and forensic team were called to inspect the spot, the officer said.

| EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|---|---|
| In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 28.10.2024 to 30.10.2024 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:- | | | | | | |
| EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 28.10.2024 (MONDAY) | | | | | | |
| Spl. Train No. | Station From | Dept. Time | Station to | Arr. Time | Accommodation | Stoppages |
| 04032 | Anand Vihar(T) | 05:15 | Saharsa Jn. | 10:30 | 3 Tier AC | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhansi, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari |
| 04096 | Anand Vihar(T) | 09:00 | Ayodhya Cantt. | 22:00 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly & Lucknow |
| 04078 | Anand Vihar(T) | 23:55 | Patna Jn. | 16:25 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 04058 | Anand Vihar(T) | 23:15 | Muzaffarpur | 21:15 | 3 Tier AC | Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Hardoi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra & Hajipur Jn. |
| 03256 | Anand Vihar(T) | 23:20 | Patna Jn. | 17:20 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 03258 | Anand Vihar(T) | 05:00 | Danapur | 20:45 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara |
| 05220 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:00 | Muzaffarpur | 00:45 | Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. |
| 05024 | Anand Vihar(T) | 15:15 | Gorakhpur | 04:45 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti & Khallabad |
| 02398 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:20 | Gaya | 00:30 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugraha Narayan Road |
| 05284 | Anand Vihar(T) | 07:00 | Muzaffarpur | 04:50 | 2 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkatiaganj Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudham Motihari, Pipra, Chakia, Mehsi & Motipur |
| 03414 | New Delhi | 10:30 | Malda Town | 07:55 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusropur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur & Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahaigaon, Sahibganj Jn., Barharwa Jn. & New Farakka Jn. |
| 02570 | New Delhi | 12:15 | Darbhanga | 10:00 | 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. |
| 02564 | New Delhi | 17:55 | Barauni Jn. | 15:10 | 3 Tier AC Economy, 3 Tier AC, & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra & Muzaffarpur Jn. |
| 02394 | New Delhi | 13:20 | Patna Jn. | 07:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen. | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 04080 | Delhi Jn. | 19:30 | Varanasi Jn. | 09:45 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Lucknow & Maabeha Devi Dham Pratappargh |
| 02422 | Delhi Jn. | 09:30 | Subedarganj | 19:40 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General | Aligarh Jn., Tunda Jn., Etawah Jn., Kanpur Central & Fatehpur |
| 05002 | Delhi Jn. | 15:15 | Gorakhpur Jn. | 09:55 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Balrampur, Tulsipur, Barhni, Siddharth Nagar & Anand Nagar |
| 02246 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 23:55 | Patna Jn. | 16:40 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 04124 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 15:50 | Prayagraj Jn. | 09:00 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper, General | Mathura Jn., Agra Cantt., Dhaulpur, Gwalior, Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi, Mau Ranipur, Harpalpur, Kulpahar, Mahoba, Banda Jn., Atarra, Chitrakot, Manikpur Jn., Dabhaura & Shankargarh |
| EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 29.10.2024 (TUESDAY) | | | | | | |
| 04032 | Anand Vihar(T) | 05:15 | Saharsa Jn. | 10:30 | 3 Tier AC | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Sitapur, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Kaptanganj Jn., Bagaha, Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Darbhanga Jn., Sakri Jn., Jhansi, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul & Garh Baruari |
| 04060 | Anand Vihar(T) | 10:30 | Jaynagar | 15:15 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappargh, Varanasi, Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani |
| 04044 | Anand Vihar(T) | 23:15 | Gorakhpur Jn. | 14:00 | 3 Tier AC | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi, Bareilly Cantt., Sitapur, Gonda & Basti |
| 04010 | Anand Vihar(T) | 23:45 | Jogbani | 05:20 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Chandausi Jn., Bareilly Cantt., Shahjehanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn., Nangunachia, Katihar Jn., Purnia Jn., Arariya Court, Arariya & Forbesganj Jn. |
| 04048 | Anand Vihar(T) | 15:20 | Katihar Jn. | 15:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn. |
| 03436 | Anand Vihar(T) | 15:45 | Malda Town | 23:30 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Mokama, Kiul Jn., Abhaipur, Jamalpur Jn., Sultanganj, Bhagalpur, Kahaigaon, Pirpanti, Sahibganj Jn., Barharwa Jn. & New Farakka Jn. |
| 05220 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:00 | Muzaffarpur | 00:45 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra Sonpur Jn. & Hajipur Jn. |
| 02398 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:20 | Gaya | 00:30 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugraha Narayan Road |
| 05284 | Anand Vihar(T) | 07:00 | Muzaffarpur | 04:50 | 2 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkatiaganj Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudham Motihari, Pipra, Chakia, Mehsi & Motipur |
| 04070 | New Delhi | 00:20 | Rajgir | 21:00 | 1st AC-Cum-2nd AC, 2nd AC-Cum-3rd AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Bakhtiyarpur & Bihar Sharif |
| 04052 | New Delhi | 14:20 | Jaynagar | 15:40 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 2nd AC-Cum-3rd AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & Gen. | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Patna, Mokama, Barauni, Samastipur & Darbhanga |
| 02248 | New Delhi | 08:25 | Patna Jn. | 20:30 | Chair Car, Executive Chair Car | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara |
| 02564 | New Delhi | 17:55 | Barauni Jn. | 15:10 | 3 Tier AC Economy, 3 Tier AC, & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra & Muzaffarpur Jn. |
| 02570 | New Delhi | 12:15 | Darbhanga | 10:00 | 3 Tier AC Economy, 3 Tier AC, & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. |
| 02394 | New Delhi | 13:20 | Patna Jn. | 07:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen. | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 05112 | New Delhi | 12:50 | Chhapra | 11:30 | 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Bareilly Jn., Sitapur Jn., Burhwal, Gonda, Basti, Khallabad, Gorakhpur, Pipraich, Kaptanganj, Padrauna, Tamkuhi Road, Thawe Jn., Dighwa Dubauli & Masrakh |
| 04068 | Delhi Jn. | 19:30 | Darbhanga | 16:30 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi & Janakpur Road |
| 04006 | Delhi Jn. | 23:05 | Jaynagar | 23:45 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Chhapra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani |
| EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 30.10.2024 (WEDNESDAY) | | | | | | |
| 04022 | Anand Vihar(T) | 11:40 | Sitamarhi | 15:45 | 3 Tier AC | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjehanpur, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn., Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappargh, Varanasi, Aunthar Jn., Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn. & Muzaffarpur Jn. |
| 04096 | Anand Vihar(T) | 09:00 | Ayodhya Cantt. | 22:00 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper | Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly & Lucknow |
| 05220 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:00 | Muzaffarpur | 00:45 | Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Sonpur & Hajipur |
| 04056 | Anand Vihar(T) | 18:05 | Ballia | 10:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Jaunpur City & Ghazipur City |
| 02398 | Anand Vihar(T) | 08:20 | Gaya | 00:30 | 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehri On Sone & Anugraha Narayan Road |
| 05284 | Anand Vihar(T) | 07:00 | Muzaffarpur | 04:50 | 2 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Moradabad, Shahjehanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur, Bagaha, Harinagar, Narkatiaganj, Bettiah, Sagauli, Bapudham Motihari, Pipra, Chakia, Mehsi & Motipur |
| 05038 | Anand Vihar(T) | 11:10 | Banaras | 01:10 | 3 Tier AC Economy | Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn., Amethi, Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratappargh & Bhadohi |
| 02262 | New Delhi | 00:20 | Darbhanga | 21:15 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra, Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. |
| 04054 | New Delhi | 14:20 | Barauni Jn. | 11:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn. & Mokama |
| 02252 | New Delhi | 08:25 | Patna Jn. | 20:00 | Chair Car, Executive Chaircar | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara |
| 03484 | New Delhi | 10:30 | Bhagalpur | 04:10 | Sleeper & General | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusropur, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokama, Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kajra, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur & Sultanganj |
| 02564 | New Delhi | 17:55 | Barauni Jn. | 15:10 | 3 Tier AC Economy, 3 Tier AC, & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra & Muzaffarpur Jn. |
| 02570 | New Delhi | 12:15 | Darbhanga | 10:00 | 3 Tier AC Economy, 3 Tier AC, & Sleeper | Kanpur Central, Aishbagh, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn. |
| 02394 | New Delhi | 13:20 | Patna Jn. | 07:00 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper, General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Buxar, Ara & Danapur |
| 04036 | New Delhi | 12:00 | Bhagalpur | 10:00 | General | Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn., Kiul Jn. & Jamalpur Jn. |
| 04034 | Delhi Jn. | 23:45 | Jaynagar | 23:00 | Sleeper & General | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Mokama Jn., Barauni Jn., Samastipur Jn., Darbhanga Jn. & Madhubani |
| 02246 | Hazrat Nizamuddin | 23:55 | Patna Jn. | 16:40 | 1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC | Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt.deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur |

SHORT TAKES

Thorat's daughter & many others booked

Mumbai: Police in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district has registered two FIRs against Congressman Balasaheb Thorat's daughter and several people for alleged vandalism and unlawful assembly during a protest against a BJP leader, an official said on Sunday. Mr Thorat's daughter Jayashree Thorat and her supporters on Saturday demonstrated in Sangamner in the district against BJP leader Vasantrao Deshmukh for his alleged cross comments directed at her. The official from Sangamner city police station said the cases have been registered against Ms Jayashree, 24 identified persons and 20-25 unidentified individuals. Citing one of the cases, he said the accused persons allegedly attacked and tried to set ablaze vehicles belonging to leaders from the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition. They also assembled unlawfully and violated the MCC, which is in force in the state, he added. — PTI

Govt nod to ₹177cr project in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: The Centre has given the much-awaited nod for the comprehensive development of a fishing harbour at Muthalappuzhi, a coastal hamlet that has been in the news recently for various fishing boat accidents. Muthalappuzhi at Perumathura is a place where the Vamanapuram river and Kadinankulam lake meet the Arabian Sea and has become a death trap for fishermen while going to sea and also when returning to shore. Announcing the Centre's decision here on Sunday, Union minister of state for fisheries and animal husbandry, George Kurian, said the development project worth of ₹177 crore was given approval based on a DPR submitted by the state government. — PTI

Assam nod to 3% DA increase for staff

Guwahati: The Assam Cabinet on Sunday approved 3 per cent dearness allowance (DA) hike for state government employees, chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. The increase will be effective from July this year, he said. Addressing a press conference after chairing a Cabinet meet here, Mr Sarma said, "With this, the total DA will be 53 per cent, which is at par with Central government employees." He said the increased DA will be payable with retrospective effect from July, and the employees will draw salary with revised DA from December. The Cabinet also decided to do away with the earlier provision in the Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund scheme, which barred a tea garden worker with monthly wage of more than ₹15,000 from getting PF benefits. — PTI

BJP HOPEFUL OF GOOD RESULTS IN J'KHAND: SARMA

Guwahati, Oct. 27: Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday that Jharkhand is a "tough state" in terms of BJP's prospect in the upcoming Assembly elections there but the saffron camp is "hopeful" of coming to power. Mr Sarma, who is the party's co-in charge for the poll-bound Jharkhand, also said he has been busy campaigning there and is not able to focus on the November 13 bypolls in Assam. "I have not been keeping tabs on the bypolls here. I have been very busy with Jharkhand," the CM said, addressing a press conference here. On the BJP's prospects in Jharkhand, Mr Sarma said, "It is a tough state. But we are hopeful of good results there." The Jharkhand Assembly polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, and the counting of votes will take place on November 23. The Assam ministers, MLAs and the BJP's state leadership are campaigning for bypolls to five Assembly constituencies in the northeastern state, he said. "I am not sure whether I will be campaigning here this time," Mr Sarma added. — PTI

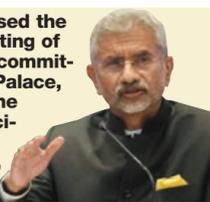
Country today has 'zero tolerance' for terrorism: Jaishankar 'India failed to respond to 26/11 hit, won't be the case anymore'

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, OCT. 27

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday said there was no response from India after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. "We cannot afford a repeat of the 26/11 terror attack. India has now a 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism," he said. "India failed to respond decisively following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. We should not have a repeat of what happened in Mumbai, where a terror attack went unanswered," he said in Mumbai. "When we talk of zero tolerance against terror; it is clear that when somebody does something, there will be a response. We also have to expose it.

In 2022, we organised the UNSC special meeting of counter-terrorism committee at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. It was the same hotel where a terror incident took place.

S. Jaishankar,
External affairs minister



It is not acceptable that you are doing business during the daytime and indulging in terror during the night, and I have to pretend that everything is okay. This India will not accept it. We are very clear, we need to expose terrorism," Mr Jaishankar added. On November 26, 2008, 10 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-sponsored Lashkar-e-Tayyaba carried out attacks in

Mumbai, killing 166 people and injuring more than 300.

The Union minister called Mumbai a "symbolic" city which reflects the country's counter-terrorism approach.

"In 2022, we organised the UNSC special meeting of counter-terrorism committee at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai. It was the same hotel where a terror incident took place," he said.

Mr Jaishankar also alleged that terrorism in Kashmir is being fuelled from across the border. However, the repeal of Article 370 has brought a change in the state, he added. "In J&K, people have voted for democracy. In the recent polls there was a 60 per cent voter turnout, which is important for democracy. It means those people put their faith in the decision to remove Article 370," he said.

Mr Jaishankar's comments about terrorism in J&K have come in the wake of terrorist attacks in the border state in the past few months. Four persons including two Army jawans and two locals were killed in a terror attack in the Gulmarg area of J&K last week.

Major revamp in MP Cong, Digvijay, Nath in key panel

177-member jumbo PCC formed, has 71 general secy's

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 27

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has revamped the Congress in Madhya Pradesh by constituting a 177-member jumbo Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) body comprising 17 vice-presidents and 71 general secretaries.

The reconstitution of the PCC in Madhya Pradesh comes around 10 months after the AICC replaced former chief minister Kamal Nath with ex-MLA Jitu Patwari to head the party in the state.

Party veterans Mr Nath and former chief minister Digvijay Singh have been included in the 16-member executive committee of the PCC.

CASTE AND regional balance factors have been taken care of in the reconstituted Pradesh Congress Committee body

The state PCC includes 33 permanent invitees and 40 special invitees.

The majority of the PCC members are loyalists of Mr Nath and Mr Singh.

Mr Patwari on Sunday said that the new PCC body has maintained a balance between experienced leaders and young blood.

This apart, the caste and regional balance factors have been taken care of in the reconstituted PCC body.

Mr Patwari, however, sought to downplay the reports of resentment in the party over the non-

accommodation of some senior leaders in the PCC body, saying that they would be accommodated in the other PCC posts to be declared soon.

He indicated that the party would appoint PCC secretaries and political advisers and also constitute a disciplinary committee shortly.

"It is usual that every party leader and worker want to work for the party," he said while dismissing the reports of dissections in the party over reconstitution of PCC.

Replying to a question as to why former MP Nakul Nath, son of former chief minister Mr Nath, could not find a place in the PCC executive body, he said that Junior Nath has been made the member of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC).



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Yuva Sena chief Aditya Thackeray with Shiv Sena (Shinde) leader Babanrao Gholap who joined the party, in Mumbai on Sunday. — PTI

Cong cadre upset as Uddhav Sena bags key Mumbai seats

SONU SHRIVASTAVA
MUMBAI, OCT. 27

Resentment in the Mumbai Congress is mounting amid allegations of favouritism in the party. The Congress cadre is also unhappy over the party losing key seats in Mumbai to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena in the seat sharing arrangement. Maharashtra Congress leader Sachin Sawant, who has been fielded from Andheri West, has expressed his displeasure, and demanded the Bandra East Assembly constituency, where he has "worked extensively." Within an hour of the announcement of his candidature from Andheri (West), Mr Sawant requested the high command in post on X to change its decision. "I had sought a ticket from Bandra East Assembly constituency. I wanted to

THE CONGRESS was insisting for Versova, Bandra East, and Byculla but the Mumbai Congress chief failed to get any of these seats from the Shiv Sena (UBT), sources said

number of seats, and couldn't ensure tickets for the leaders close to her. In the second list, the party has nominated candidates for three constituencies — Ganesh Kumar Yadav for Sion-Koliwada, Yashwant Singh for Charkop, and Kalu Badheliya for Kandivali East in Mumbai. In the third list, which was issued late night on Saturday, the party has nominated Asif Zakaria for Bandra West, Sachin Sawant for Andheri (West) in the city. An insider in the Congress said that despite the opposition to Varsha Gaikwad's sister Jyoti Gaikwad's candidature in the party, Ms Varsha managed to get Dharavi constituency for her sister. An office-bearer from the Congress said that the party was insisting for Versova, Bandra East, and Byculla but the Mumbai

CM conducts aerial survey of Dana-hit Odisha regions

14 dists badly affected ■ 8,10,896 evacuated to safe place

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 27

Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi, accompanied by revenue minister Suresh Pujari and chief secretary Manoj Ahuja, conducted an aerial survey on Sunday to assess the extent of damage caused by Cyclone Dana that struck the Odisha coast on Friday morning.

The CM surveyed severely affected areas in Kendrapara, Bhadrak, and Balasore districts, which bore the brunt of the storm. Following the survey, Mr Majhi expressed concern about the flood-like conditions in several regions, caused by intense rains triggered by the cyclone.

"I visited the cyclone-hit areas today. Many pockets are experiencing flood-like situations due to



Mohan Charan Majhi

heavy rainfall. District collectors have been directed to prepare detailed damage reports, and a compensation package will be issued, based on those reports, to the affected individuals," the CM said. Meanwhile, revenue and disaster mitigation minister Suresh Pujari reported that Cyclone Dana affected 1,671 gram panchayats across 108 blocks in 14 districts, and impacted 426 wards in 31 urban areas throughout Odisha. A

total of 3,595,000 people have been severely affected by the cyclone.

Mr Pujari also highlighted the successful evacuation of 810,896 people to safe locations prior to the cyclone's impact.

Preliminary assessments indicate that 125,091 houses have sustained varying degrees of damage - ranging from partial to severe destruction. "Instructions have been sent to district administrations to submit detailed infrastructure damage reports to the state relief commissioner (SRC) by November 2. If the weather allows, the CM and other officials will conduct another aerial survey on Monday to assess the damage. The final report will be forwarded to the Centre, and a team from the Centre is expected to visit the state for its own assessment of the damages," he said.

Life in Nuagaon in dark as Cyclone Dana uproots electric poles In Odisha village, hope costs ₹20/hour

AGE CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR, OCT. 27

As Cyclone Dana swept through the coastal villages of Odisha, people braced themselves for a crisis, drawing from hard lessons of past.

With the proactive government efforts, the cyclone claimed no human lives this time, but it has left behind a different kind of struggle. In Nuagaon, a village in Basudevpur block, residents are confronting a new challenge — of charging their phone batteries @ ₹20 per hour.

For many, that small device is a lifeline, connecting them to the outside world, especially for students it is crucial for their education. Since electric poles were uprooted and power lines torn down, the village has been left in darkness. While the government has rushed to restore power, the full recovery is taking time, and in the meantime, residents are finding themselves at the mercy of enterprising locals. With

no alternative, villagers are paying ₹20 per hour to recharge their phones, using privately run generators.

"We're not only facing power cut, but are also isolated from the outside world. It's hard to contact family or keep track of relief efforts. We've been reduced to paying just to stay connected," says Gitanjali Pradhan, a local.

For Jayanti, a young mother of two, the cost of staying connected goes beyond the ₹20. "My husband works in Surat city

in Gujarat, and now he has no way to know if we're safe," she said.

Students, too, are struggling. "I'm in the middle of an important school term. Without power, I can't even access study materials," shared Krishnapriya, a high school student, whose smart phone is her only link to online classes and assignments.

These "charging stations" have sparked frustration among villagers, who view them as businesses taking advantage of their vulnerability.

MP CM: Changes in BJP, but same leaders rule Cong

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY
BHOPAL, OCT. 27

The BJP in Madhya Pradesh has undergone generational changes over the years, bringing dynamism to the party, whereas the "same set of leaders" have been running the Congress in the state for decades, causing its base to shrink, chief minister Mohan Yadav has said.

"Many generations have come after late chief ministers Sunderlal Patwa ji and Kailash Joshi ji, but their contemporaries in politics, ex-CMs Digvijay Singh and Kamal Nath, are still running the Congress in Madhya Pradesh. That's why Congress is losing its base very fast," Mr Yadav said while addressing a workshop on the membership drive of the BJP here late on Saturday night. The BJP always tried to promote new blood, which helped the party establish its dominance from villages to districts to states and the Centre,

MOHAN YADAV accused the grand old party of dividing the people over caste, thus vitiating the social structure and atmosphere in the country

he said. The CM accused the Congress of dividing the people over caste, thus vitiating the social structure and atmosphere in the country.

However, the BJP believed in fostering unity in the country. Meanwhile, BJP state unit president Vishnu Dutt Sharma, who was present on the occasion, said that the party has so far admitted 1.60 crore members during the ongoing membership drive in the state.

The party has earlier set a target to draft 1.50 crore members in the ongoing membership drive. The sources said that the central party leadership has recently set a new target of admitting two crore members in the ongoing membership drive in the state.

First C-295 to roll out of Gujarat facility in Sept 2026, say sources

New Delhi, Oct. 27: Ahead of the inauguration of a manufacturing facility for C-295 planes in Vadodra, official sources on Sunday said that 40 military aircrafts to be made in India, the first C-295 is likely to roll out of the plant in September 2026.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will inaugurate the Vadodra plant on Monday for manufacturing C-295 aircraft by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL).

PM Modi had laid the foundation stone of the Final Assembly Line (FAL) plant of C-295 aircraft in Vadodra in October 2022.

The ministry of defence in September 2021 signed a ₹21,935-crore contract with Airbus Defense and Space SA, Spain for supply of 56 aircraft.

Of these 56 aircraft, a total of 16 will be brought in flyaway condition directly from Spain, and 40 will be built in India by Tata Advanced Systems.

First C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft was delivered in September 2023, and inducted into the Indian Air Force in presence of defence minister Rajnath Singh at an induction ceremony held at the Hindan airbase in Ghaziabad.

As on date, the IAF has "already inducted six C-295 aircraft" in its Vadodra-based 11 Squadron. The last of the 16 flyaway aircraft will be delivered by August 2025, an official source said. — PTI

Salman must apologise to Bishnoi community: Tikait

Prayagraj (UP), Oct. 27: Amidst reports of a threat to Bollywood star Salman Khan's life from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday said the actor should apologise to the Bishnoi community, because if a dispute is resolved by apologising, then there is nothing wrong in it.

Mr Tikait, who was here to take part in a farmers' "Mahapanchayat", said this while replying to a reporter's question on jailed gangster Lawrence

Bishnoi. "If any dispute ends by apologising to the Bishnoi community, then what is wrong in it? If a mistake has been made knowingly or unknowingly, then what does Salman Khan lose in apologising?" the farmer leader asked.

He also alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government, which had promised free electricity to farmers, has started installing meters in their fields. "We do not know how free electricity will come from the meters," he said. — PTI

BJP trying hard to corner Priyanka in Wayanad

YOJNA GUSAI
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

In Kerala's Wayanad, the BJP is trying to chase the impossible through the educational qualification and "accessibility" of its candidate, Navya Haridas, against Congress candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for the upcoming bypolls.

The saffron party is also using the latest report on the unemployment rate in the state, which has put

Kerala among the states with the highest unemployment rate, to make a mark in this Congress bastion. The BJP is running an aggressive social media campaign in Wayanad #KnowTheDifference to highlight why the BJP's candidate is better than the Congress'. Ms Haridas is a mechanical engineer, a two-time councillor, and the BJP is campaigning why the Wayanad should choose "merit over parivarvad."

WAYANAD PARLIAMENTARY constituency has more than 50 per cent minorities — Muslims and Christians

THE BJP is highlighting the work experience of its candidate

The Wayanad parliamentary constituency has more than 50 per cent minorities — Muslims and Christians — and is a Congress stronghold. The

BJP is highlighting the work experience of its candidate, who is a councillor and had assisted during the recent Wayanad landslide.

The Wayanad parliamentary seat was won by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi twice, and his sister was nominated after he chose to vacate the seat as he won from Rae Bareilly as well.

"Navya Haridas is more educated... She has come

up in life through her hard work... She represents the new Indian woman capable of succeeding on her merits.

She will bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's many programs for health, farmers, homes, education, skills and infrastructure to the people of Wayanad. She is a Malayalee, knows people's problems, will live here and will serve people 24x7 in good times and bad times.

SHORT TAKES

Odisha reserve gets Royal Bengal Tiger

Bhubaneswar: In a move that excites conservationists and animal lovers alike, a Royal Bengal Tiger from Maharashtra has been successfully relocated to Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. The big cat, Royal Bengal Tiger, arrived on Sunday, accompanied by a specialised team from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra, as part of a strategic effort to boost the tiger population in Similipal. The Odisha government, eager to enhance biodiversity and strengthen tiger numbers, had earlier appealed to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for tiger translocations to Odisha's key reserves. Last week, a dedicated team, including Similipal's Director and Assistant Director, along with veterinary specialists and a rapid response unit, travelled to Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to carefully bring the majestic animal to its new home.

2 die, 7 in hospital due to toxic fumes

Ahmedabad: Two workers died and seven were hospitalised after they inhaled toxic fumes at a textile factory in Gujarat on Sunday, police said. The incident occurred at Devi Synthetics in the Narol industrial area of the city. Nine workers inhaled toxic fumes that leaked when spent acid was being transferred into a tank at the factory, DCP Ravi Mohan Saini said. "The police received information around 10.30 am that nine persons were affected due to a toxic gas leak in a factory in Narol and were taken to L.G. Hos-pital, where two died," he said. Seven workers are hospitalised, of whom four are critical and are being treated in the ICU, he said. A preliminary investigation revealed that spent acid, used in the printing and dyeing industry, was being transferred into a tank when the workers nearby were affected, he said. — PTI

5 killed, 12 injured in accidents in MP

Betul, MP: Five persons were killed and 12 injured in separate accidents involving heavy vehicles in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, police said on Sunday. Two persons died, and 12 sustained injuries when a tractor-tractor transporting them overturned near Hanuman Dol on Betul-Parasia Road around 7 am on Sunday, an official said. Additional superintendent of police Kamla Joshi said the victims were labourers returning home to their village from Betul railway station in a tractor-trolley. The vehicle overturned, killing two of them, she said, adding that the injured were taken to a hospital. The official said the labourers had travelled to Betul from Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, where they had gone to work in a factory a month ago. — PTI

'Bordering states should jointly work to fight illegal infiltration'
Himanta seeks cooperation of states to curb Rohingya influx

MANOJ ANAND
GUWAHATI, OCT. 27

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Sunday said that all the bordering states — West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura should aggressively coordinate with the Border Security Forces to check the ongoing influx of Rohingya Muslims from Bangladesh in India.

Mr Sarma told reporters, "Security forces have arrested and pushed back at least 138 Rohingya Muslims while trying to enter Assam through the border in Assam in past one month."

Pointing out that majority of those apprehended by security forces have been identified as Rohingya Muslims, Mr Sarma said that it was con-



Vice-president Jagdeep Dhankhar, Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Guwahati on Sunday. — PTI

trary to the perception of Hindu Bengalis seeking refuge due to Bangladesh's internal instabilities, as data suggests primarily Muslim Rohingya are

crossing over. He said, "Contrary to common perception, we're not seeing Hindu Bengalis, rather, it is Rohingya Muslims trying to enter various states

in the country, including Assam."

Mr Sarma said that taking advantage of the porous border, in spite of aggressive surveillance of the BSF, there have been attempts of infiltration by Rohingya Muslims from Bangladesh.

Pointing out that state administration has intensified efforts to tackle illegal infiltration across Assam's borders, Mr Sarma said that their efforts would be fruitful only if all the bordering states including West Bengal work jointly in coordination with the BSF to check the influx. He was of view that efforts in isolation would not help in taking the situation as there have been reports of those infiltrators pushed back from Assam, taking the route of West Bengal to re-enter India.

WB's throne to be BJP's after 2026 polls: Mithun

Kolkata, Oct. 27:

Actor Mithun Chakraborty on Sunday asserted that the "masnad" (throne) of West Bengal will be of BJP after the 2026 assembly elections in the state, promising to do whatever it takes to achieve the goal.

Mr Chakraborty, who has received India's highest film honour Dadasaheb Phalke Award this year, was felicitated by Union home minister Amit Shah at the inauguration of a membership drive of the BJP in West Bengal. Speaking at the programme at the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre (EZCC) here, Mr Chakraborty said, "In 2026, the masnad will be ours and we will do everything to achieve the goal."

Stating that he had campaigned for the party for 37 days in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the former Rajya Sabha member said that he was pained at the results in which BJP had come down from 18 seats in 2019 to 12 out of 42 constituencies in West Bengal.

He called upon the BJP functionaries to ensure one crore membership in the campaign that will last till November 30. The actor said that he will join the membership campaign in the state in November. — PTI



Police personnel outside a hotel that received bomb threats via email in Lucknow on Sunday. The email threatened that explosions would take place if a ransom demand of ₹46 lakhs is not met. At least 10 major hotels in the city, mostly premium properties, received such emails. — PTI

'Must not transfer money under pressure'
'Digital arrest' fraudsters' way to con people, warns CERT-In

AGE CORRESPONDENT,
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

Indian cyber-security agency "CERT-In" under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, on Sunday issued an advisory flagging several modus operandi being used by cyber fraudsters including "digital arrest" to dupe people by stealing their money and private data.

The advisory was issued on a day Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned people against such frauds in his monthly "Mann ki Baat" radio broadcast and warned them about the 'digital arrest' scam, clarifying that no government agency threatens individuals over the phone or demands money.

THE SCAMMER threatens the victim with arrest or legal consequences unless he takes immediate action. They often create a sense of panic to prevent rational thinking

The Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) advisory said "digital arrest" is an online scam as "government agencies do not use platforms like WhatsApp or Skype for official communication". "Verify their identity by directly contacting the relevant agency," it recommended.

The advisory said in a case of "digital arrest", victims receive a phone call, email or message claiming that they are under investigation for

illegal activities, such as identity theft or money laundering.

The scammer threatens the victim with arrest or legal consequences unless he takes immediate action. They often create a sense of panic to prevent rational thinking, the advisory said. Under the guise of "clearing their name", "assisting with the investigation" or "refundable security deposit/escrow account", individuals are coerced into transferring large sums of money to specified bank accounts or UPI IDs, it noted.

The CERT-In suggested that one should not transfer money "under pressure" as legitimate law enforcement agencies "will never pressure you into sending money immediately."

Amit Shah calls for TMC's ouster from power in WB

Continued from Page 1 Mamata Banerjee and her party were his target on a host of issues, starting from law and order to women safety to infiltration.

Mr Shah said: "I want to tell the youth of Bengal that if you want to stop the illegal infiltration of foreigners, sponsored by the TMC in this country, then the only way is to form a BJP government in 2026 in West Bengal. We have to form the next government in Bengal in 2026 with a two-thirds majority."

He added: "Today, I went to the border and some people there told me that they don't get the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. I told them to not worry and wait till 2026. From 2026, each and every poor person of Bengal will get the benefits of Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The youth will not have to pay any bribe for jobs and education. Mamata Didi should not think that we are sitting idle as we had got a few seats in Bengal."

supremo over Central deprivation in the release of funds, the Union minister said: "Mamata Didi accuses Modi ji of not giving funds to Bengal. Today, I want to ask Mamata Didi that for 10 years, how much funds did the INDIA alliance give to Bengal? From 2004 to 2014, the UPA government gave ₹2.9 lakh crores to Bengal and from 2014 to 2024, the NDA government gave ₹7.74 lakh crores."

On the inauguration of the projects at the land port authority, he stated: "The concept of land port authority was changed by PM Modi. At first it was just a resource for commerce, but now it is seen as a symbol of prosperity and peace. It has worked to join us with the neighbouring countries, it has promoted legal businesses and thwarted and stopped smuggling. The Land Port Authority is fulfilling an important duty today."

Mr Shah added: "With around spending of ₹500 crores, with an area of around 60 thousand square meters and having the capacity to handle 20,000 people every day, and I fully believe that the terminal would also encourage medical and educational tourism."

Stop, think, take action: Modi

Continued from Page 1 the national cyber helpline 1930 and report such incidents on cyber-crime.gov.in. He said that the victims of this kind of cyber fraud should let as many people as possible know about it and urged people to use the hashtag "SafeDigitalIndia" for spreading awareness.

Mr Modi also urged schools and colleges to involve students in the campaign against cyber scams. During the broadcast, the Prime Minister said that the country has decided to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda, noting that while Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary celebrations will begin on October 31, Birsa Munda's will start on November 15. He urged people's participation to "infuse life into this campaign."

Mr Modi also informed that with Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31, coinciding with the festival of Deepawali, the "Run For Unity" event this year will be held on October 29. He said both these great souls faced different challenges, but their vision was the same --

unity of the country. "On the 15th of November last year, I had gone to Ulihatu village in Jharkhand, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, on his birth anniversary. This visit had a great impact on me," Mr Modi said, adding that he is the first Prime Minister of the country who has had the privilege of bowing his head in this holy land.

Talking about the popularity of Made in India, Made by Indians animations the world over, Mr Modi said, "You must remember the days when Chhota Bheem started airing on TV. Children can never forget that. There was so much excitement about Chhota Bheem! You will be surprised that today 'Dholakpur ka Dhol' attracts children not only in India but also in other countries."

"Similarly, our other animated serials, such as Krishna, Hanuman, Motu-Patlu etc., also have a fan following all over the world," he said, adding that India is on the way to ushering in a new revolution in the world of animation. The PM also pointed out that the gaming space of India is also

expanding rapidly and Indian games are also gaining popularity all over the world.

"When I met leading gamers of India a few months ago... I got an opportunity to know and understand the amazing creativity and quality of Indian games... In the world of animation, Made in India and Made by Indians can be noticed everywhere," Mr Modi said.

The Prime Minister stressed that the animation sector has donned the form of an industry that is powering other industries, just as VR tourism is getting famous these days. Today in this sector, along with animators, the demand for storytellers, writers, voice-over experts, musicians, game developers, VR and AR experts is also constantly rising. "Therefore, I would like to tell the youth of India - expand your creativity. Who knows, the world's next super hit animation might emerge out of your computer! The next viral game could be your creation! Your innovation in educational animations can achieve great success," he said.

Amid festive rush, 9 injured in Bandra rail stn stampede

Rly minister too busy with bullet train project, says Raut

BHAGWAN PARAB
MUMBAI, OCT. 27

A rush to reach the native places during the festive season of Diwali and Chhath proved disastrous as at least nine people were injured in a stampede at the Bandra Terminus in Mumbai in the wee hours of Sunday.

The incident happened on Platform No. 1 around 2.45 am when people rushed to board the Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express ahead of its scheduled departure at 5.10 am. Several passengers on the platform attempted to board the moving train, resulting in injuries to them.

The injured persons were identified as Noor Mohammad Shaikh (18), Indrajith Sahani (19), Shabhir Abdul Rehman (40), Parmeshwar Sukhdar

THE VISUALS from the Bandra station showed a huge rush of people with several lying on the floor and benches with injuries

Gupta (28), Ravindra Harihar Chuma (30), Ramsevak Ravindra Prasad Prajapati (29), Sanjay Tilakram Kangay (27), Divyanshu Yogendra Yadav (18) and Mohammad Shareef Shaikh (25). Of those, Noor Mohammad Shaikh and Indrajith Sahani, who suffered multiple injuries, are in critical condition.

The visuals from the Bandra station showed a huge rush of people with several lying on the floor and benches with injuries. The passengers were seen helping the injured people onto stretchers.

"The on-duty railway

protection force, government railway police, and home guard personnel quickly responded, taking the injured to Bhabha Government Hospital," a WR statement said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut targeted railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw over the stampede claiming the latter was too busy with the bullet train project while passengers in Mumbai were being ignored.

Mr Raut said, "Mumbai city gives maximum revenue to the Union government. Compared to it, we hardly get any facilities here for passengers. The railway minister is too involved with the bullet train project and people are left to die because of the poor infrastructure as the railway minister is disconnected with their problems."

SC notice to U'khand over convict's release

Next date of hearing November 14

AGE CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, OCT. 27

The Supreme Court has sought a response from the Uttarakhand government on a plea seeking the premature release of one of the convicts in the 2003 murder case of 26-year-old poet Madhumita Shukla.

A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Augustine George Masih issued the notice to the state government in response to a plea by Rohit Chaturvedi, who was seeking direction from a competent authority to order his premature release.

Additional advocate general Garima Prasad, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, pressed for earlier judgments of the apex court passed in the Bilkis Bano case on January 8

and May 13, 2022, and said that the competent authority in this case will be the Uttarakhand government.

She submitted that this court has held on January 8 that the state in which trial of a criminal case has taken place will be the competent authority to deal with premature release of convicts as per the state's policy.

"Since the case was transferred to Uttarakhand from Uttar Pradesh on the orders of this court, in this case the competent authority will be the Uttarakhand government," Ms Prasad submitted.

The bench agreed to issue a fresh notice to the Uttarakhand government and posted the matter for further hearing on November 14.

105 kg heroin seized, 2 held as cross-border racket busted

Chandigarh, Oct. 27:

The Punjab Police on Sunday said it has busted a cross-border smuggling racket with the arrest of two associates of a Turkey-based drugs smuggler and seizure of 105 kg of heroin, one of the biggest drug seizures in the state.

Six weapons were also seized during the operation, police said.

"#Biggest Heroin seizure in #Punjab: In an intelligence-led operation, @PunjabPoliceIndia busts a cross-border smuggling racket and

apprehends two associates of foreign-based drug smuggler Navpreet Singh @ Nav Bhullar and recovers 105 Kg Heroin, 31.93 Kg Caffeine Anhydrous, 17 Kg DMR, 5 foreign made Pistols and 1 Desi Katta," DGP Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X.

"Water-route was used to transport drugs from #Pakistan, big rubber tubes of tyres have also been recovered, indicating that narcotic contrabands have been smuggled through water way," he added. — PTI

Spanish PM in Guj today, to hold talks with Modi

Continued from Page 1 other engagements, visit prominent film studios and interact with leading celebrities of the film industry, with the aim of fostering greater collaboration between the Indian and Spanish entertainment industries.

In Mumbai, he will also interact with trade and industry leaders and think tanks, and address the fourth Spain India Forum organised by the Spain India Council Foundation and the Observer Research Foundation.

It may be noted that trade ties between the two countries are robust, with bilateral trade having stood at \$9.9 billion in 2023, with India exporting \$7.17 billion goods and importing \$2.74 billion.

Spain is also the 16th largest investor in India with cumulative foreign direct investment stock of \$4.2 billion (April 2000-June 2024). There are also more than 230 Spanish companies active in India and around 80 Indian companies in Spain.

People to people ties are also strong and growing.

The Indian diaspora in Spain is 75,000 strong, and is concentrated in Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid and the Canary Islands. India's consulate-general in Barcelona is operational, while Spain plans to open a consulate in Bengaluru in the near future. — PTI

Forces dividing India party's enemy: Vijay in first public speech

Slams DMK, speaks out against Neet

Villupuram (Tamil Nadu), Oct. 27:

Forces dividing the country on various lines and corrupt entities are his party's enemies, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader and top Tamil actor Vijay said here on Sunday, and announced his party has been based on secular social justice ideologies with leaders like E.V.R. Periyar and K. Kamaraj as its guiding lights.

The latest entrant to Tamil Nadu politics, TVK founder Mr Vijay took an apparent dig at the DMK and its first family, saying its leaders were calling the "anti-people government as Dravida model government." The Dravida model government is a reference to DMK president and CM M.K. Stalin's oft-repeated statement that such a model of governance was an inclusive one ensuring the well-being of all sections of Tamil society.

In his maiden public speech eight months after announcing the launch of TVK, Mr Vijay said the late veterans M.G.



Ramachandran and Nataraj where ridiculed as mere cinema actors when they made their political plunge "but they continue to remain in the hearts of the people" of the respective states, i.e TN and Andhra Pradesh.

"Some here have been painting anyone entering politics with a particular colour, fooling people but they will be doing underground dealings, make noises during election and always talk about fascism. And create majority-minority fears among people who are united," he said.

Recalling his deceased sister, he said that just like her death had impacted him, the alleged suicide of medical aspirant, S. Anitha from Ariyalur in the state who could not clear Neet, also had a profound impact on him. He argued against the need for the exam. — PTI

THE ASIAN AGE

28 OCTOBER 2024

Is Mideast once again on the cusp of all-out war?

The Middle East has been on the cusp of an all-out regional war ever since Hamas struck Israel on October 7, 2023, raping, pillaging, killing and taking hostages. The latest event over the weekend taking it even closer to the precipice was Israel raining missiles on Iran aimed at taking out the anti-missile defences around energy sites processing oil and petrochemical refineries while effectively taking out S-300 systems.

The world now awaits Iran's response that will define how this war goes and whether an even worse escalation will be ordered by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran had invited action on itself after responding to attacks on its proxies — Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthi rebels — even though it was not threatened territorially in the Gaza and Lebanon wars and still it rained 200 missiles on Israel, though somewhat ineffectively, killing one Palestinian in the West Bank.

If the Iran versus Israel exchanges sound like war games rather than the real thing, consider the fact that Iran wants to fire missiles lest it be seen as weak and intimidated by Israel and yet it wants to avoid escalation lest Israel cross a significant red line and take aim at its oil and nuclear facilities. This is more like a Mexican standoff except that all it needs is very little to light up a conflagration, going beyond the euphemism of measured and targeted responses that Iran and Israel are swearing by.

The avenues for any talks towards a Middle East peace, into which the West and some Arab nations had invested in the recent past, were shut more than a year ago when Hamas was emboldened to attack Israeli territory and kill people and take hostages of many nationalities. Israel, with its existential crisis a ready reason to retaliate cross-border, may have hit back disproportionately, bombing urban parts of the Gaza Strip to smithereens and killing more than 40,000 Palestinians.

Opening a second front in the war by invading southern Lebanon, it was Israel that took the issue beyond its boundaries in its battles, both subtly by way of blasting paggers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon and directly by way of a ground invasion, against Hezbollah. And it waged war extraterritorially by bombing places in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, all in the name of the security of its people.

How does anyone stop this madness that is probably not going to solve anything? Given the raging war, things are not going to progress towards the much touted two-state concept to satisfy Palestinian homeland ambitions and is only going to take more and more lives across the region, including those of Iranian soldiers on their home soil and Israeli soldiers in Lebanon to add to the toll that was mainly Palestinian.

The world is concerned now that Iran has been dragged into the exchanges but, this is perhaps of its own making in aiming missiles at Israel as a reprisal for its proxies being hit and inviting retribution that may not stop with targeted strikes.

Iran and its axis of proxies are squarely in the thick of it and leaders from around the world are concerned, regardless of where their affiliations may lie. Will the current principal adversaries Israel and Iran see this for what it is or just press on imagining they have the military might to escalate?

BJP's OBC tactic may be working

If someone were to write a book on how to win elections and influence electors, then the BJP can offer a lesson or two. The party's strategy to woo the OBC communities in Maharashtra and tide over the strong anti-incumbency mood there is the latest such example.

The saffron party can polarise if it works; it can reverse-polarise if it works, too. It may sound simple but the fact is that it needs a thorough understanding of the ground realities. The party had found itself in a hopeless position when it came to attracting Jat votes in Haryana, so it chose to go after the non-Jat OBC votes in the state which recently held Assembly elections. The high-risk experiment was aided by an arrogant and over-confident Congress and the results surprised even the BJP when it, for the first time, won a majority on its own against all odds and opinion polls.

The party is taking the same formula over to the western state: To bring in the OBCs, the mainstay of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP combine is running against popular disenchantment which was, like in Haryana, reflected in the Lok Sabha elections. Maharashtra is too crucial an election for the saffron combine to lose as the state hosts the financial capital of the country and sends the second largest contingent of members to the Rajya Sabha. The Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP) have proved themselves to be more than equal to the Election Commission-recognised parent parties; both of them are waiting to settle their scores in the Assembly elections. It must be smart election engineering like what was employed in Haryana that can help the NDA sail through in the state. The party is on the job now.

As it stands today, the MVA has managed to stay together, some glitches notwithstanding. It is up to the Congress and the allies to decide if wants a repeat of Haryana in Maharashtra.



Investments from China: Why not an open debate?



Differences of opinion within the government on policy matters are commonplace within democracies. Yet, for a variety of reasons, such internal differences within the Narendra Modi government have not always become public. New Delhi's cocktail circuit has often gossiped about such internal differences but a tame media has rarely explored and exposed them to public view. Hence, it is interesting to see that the question of permitting the Chinese investment into India has brought some of the differences within government into public view.

The pot was stirred by what has long been considered a dull and verbose document, the Government of India's annual Economic Survey. While the Union finance ministry produces and publishes the Eco Survey, the document belongs to the government as a whole. For decades, the Survey has been read only by economists and economic journalists as a source of data and sometimes as an early indicator of policy. Over the past decade, the Survey took a turn towards academic exploration with three successive chief economic advisers (principal author of the document) showing off their academic prowess.

The current CEA, Dr V. Ananta-Nageswaran, a highly qualified and talented economist with long years of international experience, has mixed academic analysis with policy suggestions and stirred a hornet's nest. One policy issue that the Survey sought to address is how can India take steps to reduce the huge and rising trade deficit it faces with China. The question the CEA asked was simple. Given the current international trend of countries

Choosing foreign direct investment as a strategy to benefit from the China plus one approach appears more advantageous than relying on trade. China is India's top import partner, and trade deficit with it has been growing.

adopting a "China-plus-one" trade and investment strategy, rebalancing supply chain links, is it possible to plug India into the global supply chain without plugging itself into the China supply chain? The Survey offered a suggestion: "Choosing foreign direct investment as a strategy to benefit from the China plus one approach appears more advantageous than relying on trade. This is because China is India's top import partner, and the trade deficit with China has been growing. As the United States and Europe shift their immediate sourcing away from China, it is more effective to have Chinese companies invest in India and then export the products to these markets rather than importing from China, adding minimal value, and then re-exporting them."

The CEA has set the cat among the pigeons, complained a former Indian ambassador to China, in a newspaper column, questioning the wisdom of exposing to public view the differences within government. The ministry of finance should have checked with national security experts in the government whether it was advisable to have this thought stated so explicitly in an official document, he argued. Subsequent comments in the media have further clarified that on the issue of amending what is called Press Note 3, relating to foreign investment emanating from neighbouring countries, the approach of the keepers of national security seem to differ from that of the minders of economic policy. It appears that the CEA has set a pigeon among the cats.

First of all, no harm is done if the world and China find out that this issue is being seriously debated within the government. In all democracies such internal policy differences, even those pertaining to national security, are quite openly discussed. The ministry of external affairs and the office of the national security adviser have no monopoly over national security. The Prime Minister is entitled to balance their views against those of the finance ministry and the ministry of industry and commerce. Economic policy has always been a subject of public debate and discussion in India. Successive governments have engaged experts from outside the government on such wide-ranging issues as tax, trade and investment policy. A wide-ranging debate on what ought to be India's trade and investment policy with respect to China should be a subject for discussion both within government and outside.

More importantly, this issue raises the question as to what really constitutes national security. Is securing territory along the border the sum and substance of national security? Should one not regard as equally important the pursuit of policies that sustain economic growth, enhance investment and exports, generate employment and promote development. Should the settlement of the border issue alone override all economic considerations that aim to strengthen the foundations of economic growth?

To quote the great Telugu writer Gurajada Appa Rao, "desam antey matti kadoi, desam antey manushulo" (A nation is not its territory but its people). The foundation of national security is laid in the economic realm. As Kautilya famously observed in the

Artha Shastra, "from the strength of the treasury, the army is born". I would interpret the word "treasury" to mean the "economy", since the health of a government's treasury depends on the health of its economy. China herself proved the validity of this Kautilyan proposition by focusing on its economic strength between 1980 and 2010, and only then building up its military muscle.

Even today China is more of an economic power than a military power. The United States, on the other hand, remains a dominant military power but with a weakening economy. The implosion of the Soviet Union showed that it is economic capability and competitiveness that ensure national security rather than the number of nuclear missiles and warheads.

China learnt many lessons from the Soviet experience and the most important one was, as Deng Xiaoping put it, "hide your strength, bide your time". Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, on the other hand, exaggerated India's strength and has been in a hurry to declare "Amrit Kaal" and "Viksit Bharat". Sure, India can defend its borders and match China man to man. The real contest, however, is on the economic front and there we need to "build our strength, and bide our time".

China used its economic links with the West to strengthen its own economic power. India too must think out of the box and seek strength from whatever relationships it can establish. The old frameworks for economic policy are breaking down with developed economies becoming protectionist and using every tool in their arsenal to secure their global dominance. We need fresh thinking on economic policy and, to quote an old Chinese saying, there is no harm in letting "a hundred flowers bloom, and a hundred schools of thought contend".

The writer is an author, a former newspaper editor and adviser to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

LETTERS SOFT LANDING

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed hope for a "soft landing" for the global economy, where growth slows just enough to avoid a recession while remaining positive. She noted that coordinated actions among nations and multilateral institutions have been crucial in stabilising the economy, although challenges like sluggish global trade growth and fiscal deficits remain. Her cautious optimism highlights that while a steady recovery seems possible, it will likely be gradual and will require balanced policy interventions in areas like monetary and fiscal policy, global cooperation, consumer confidence, and business investment to sustain growth and prevent downturns.

Amarjeet Kumar Hazaribagh VIJAY VS STALIN?

ACTOR VIJAY affectionately addressed as Thalopathy Vijay by his fans (incidentally M.K. Stalin was also addressed as Thalopathy by DMK cadre) is having the inaugural conference of his party near Villupuram, 100 km away from Chennai. Life-size cut-outs of Vijay kept alongside leaders Periyar, Ambedkar, Kamaraj and others are adorning the entrance to the venue. Vijay is targeting the Dravidian and dalit votes and presently these voters are mostly followers of the DMK/VCK combine in the state. In the last elections to the Assembly in 2021, the DMK alliance has won with a lead of only 4.41 per cent over its immediate rival AIADMK and is seemingly expecting Vijay's entry, hence Mr Stalin's efforts to keep the alliance intact!

Gopalaswamy J. Chennai

RISING CRIME

RECENTLY, Baba Siddique was shot dead, and just the day before, an alleged attack on Arvind Kejriwal during his padyatra campaign in Vikaspuri, West Delhi, underscores the growing fear and concern among ordinary citizens. When prominent figures themselves cannot be safe, what of the common man? Criminals and vandals appear to act with little regard for law. Strict initiatives must be implemented to contain them.

Jakir Hussain Kanpur

₹500 for the best letter of the week goes to Anshu Bharti (Oct. 21). Email: asianage.letters@gmail.com.

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Kishwar Desai London Diary



A 'dog heaven' at UK flower show... King Charles faces flak in Australia!

One thing we have to appreciate about the British is that they are very concerned about their pets. And they really do go out of their way to show their love and affection. Thus, one of the biggest flower-shows in London — the famous Chelsea Flower Show — will have its own "dog garden" next year. So — while most of us are worried that our dogs may misbehave in public flower beds as they scrummage around and poo and pee — here the country's most sophisticated flower show is actually creating what a dog heaven on earth may look like.

Monty Don who presents a show called "Gardener's World" is designing this special garden for dogs where they can just enjoy unrestricted access amongst special plants and long grass. Don who is extremely fond of his own dogs is using the Chelsea Flower Show to express his affection towards canines. Though as of now it appears that only guide dogs will be able to use the dog park next year, and normal pets may not be able to go there — at least it gives hope that special "dog parks" are being thought about. However, I am not sure if all dogs will get along with each other inside these enclosures... or will they go barking mad and tear it up in sheer excitement?

What has definitely got wrecked meanwhile is King Charles' visit to Australia. Linda Thorpe a Senator in the Australian Parliament, accused the King (and thereby the British Empire) of genocide towards the aborigines, while he was visiting their Parliament as their King. The British media showed her screaming "Give us our land back. Give us what you stole from us. Our bones, our skulls, our babies..." It was a surprising attack as the King had been doing his best to acknowledge the wisdom of the aborigines, and participating in their rituals. However, it is obvious that the King is going to face these outraged individuals and crowds ever more, as a generation that had never been part of the Empire grows up around the world.

However, Royalty is still one of the biggest brands of Great Britain — and they attract crowds in droves. I have to say I could see the stiff upper lip in full display as even after this terrible incident — the King and Queen were cheered by Australian fans.

I did mention that the British love their pets and animals — even those that live entirely in the imagination like Paddington Bear. This little favourite toy began life in Peru (or so the legend goes) and therefore he is one the UK's most beloved refugees. This is shocking of

course — but what is even more shocking is that the British Home Office has just issued him a passport!

It is a major departure from present policy to give a passport to a refugee (he should have been flown to Rwanda, maybe) — but then to be fair, Paddington Bear has been living on people's book shelves and sleeping in children's beds for almost 75 years. It's about time he had an identity and a country he could call his own!

But to be honest — it is horses which are really a very special part of British life — and so unsurprisingly a show everyone is breathless about is *Rivals*. It is based on a book by the popular author Jilly Cooper. Set in the 80s — when the UK was a very snooty, Tory country — the show is exciting many. Not only does it provide nostalgia — but it also gives us a world where men were men and women were women eager to jump into bed with these gorgeous men. And all of them rode horses. What could be better? The reviews of the show make one wonder if UK is happiest watching soft pornography — or is it a nation obsessed with sex? Or is it the horses...?

And, finally, the good news is that the Vincent Van Gogh exhibition, "Poets and Lovers", is still on at The National

Gallery. I was very worried that I would not be able to see the "Sunflowers" before more climate change protestors threw more soup on it. However, this enormously well curated exhibition — with masterpieces drawn from many different sources — was hugely interesting. Most of the works were painted by the artist when he was struggling with his mental illness in France. It is fascinating to note that he would often paint the same scene many times, especially what he saw from the asylum window — but would change the colours or the perspective and instantly the mood would change. The show clearly depicts his pain and suffering — but his transcending creativity, above all. The exhibition is so successful that the visitors wait patiently in the sun and rain and the queue winds round from Trafalgar Square right up to Leicester Square. But I have to add that the queues at the British Museum were equally long.

Thankfully, London remains a culturally rich city where the crowds at the museums and art exhibitions exceed those at the theatre and the pubs!

Kishwar Desai is an award winning author and columnist. She is also the Chair of the Partition Museums in Amritsar and Delhi.

SHORT TAKES

124 KILLED AFTER SUDAN'S RSF ATTACK VILLAGE

Cairo, Dubai, Oct. 27: Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) killed at least 124 people in a village in El Gezira State, activists said, in one of the deadliest incidents of an 18-month war and largest in a spate of attacks in the state.

ITALY NABS FOUR OVER ALLEGED ILLICIT DATABASE

Milan, Oct. 27: Italian police have placed four people under house arrest as part of a probe into alleged illegal access to state databases, and are investigating dozens.

SL ARRESTS 12 INDIANS FOR ALLEGED FISHING

Colombo, Oct. 27: The Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday arrested 12 Indian fishermen and seized their trawler for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters.

GOOGLE TO PREVIEW AI THAT TAKES OVER PCs

California, Oct. 27: Alphabet Inc.'s Google plans to preview artificial intelligence technology that takes over a web browser to complete tasks such as research and shopping, the Information reported.

OBLITERATION OF VILLAGE: U.S. NAVY APOLOGISES

Anchorage, Oct. 27: Shells fell on the Alaska Native village as winter approached, and then sailors landed and burned what was left of homes, food caches and canoes. Conditions grew so dire that elders sacrificed their own lives to spare food for children. It was October 26, 1882, in Angoon, a Tlingit village of about 420 people in Alaska.

MARCH MARKS JOHANNESBURG PRIDE'S 35 YEARS

Johannesburg, Oct. 27: Hundreds of people marched on Saturday in South Africa to mark 35 years of Pride Johannesburg, an annual event that has been critical in advocating equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community.

Israeli strike on Gaza kills 45 Palestinians

Military should decide on response to attack: Khamenei

Tehran, Jerusalem, Oct. 27: Israeli military strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, most of them in the north of the enclave, Palestinian health officials said, as efforts to secure a ceasefire in the more than year-long war resumed in Qatar.

One person was killed and dozens were injured on Sunday when a truck struck a bus stop at a major intersection near Tel Aviv in what police said they suspected was a terrorist attack.

Israeli police said about 40 people were injured to varying degrees and were taken to nearby hospitals. Iran's supreme leader says military should decide how to respond to Israeli attack.

"Iranian military officials should decide how to respond to Friday night's Israeli attack on Iran, but the event should neither be minimised nor exaggerated," Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Sunday in his first response to the attack.

At least five people were killed and 13 wounded on Sunday in an Israeli strike on Sidon (Saida) in southern Lebanon. Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant warned on Sunday that "painful concessions" would be needed to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza and that military action alone will not achieve the country's war aims.

"Not all objectives can be achieved through military operations alone... to realise our moral duty to bring our hostages home, we will have to make painful concessions," he said.

A debate has been set off inside Iran on whether the Israeli attack, more limited than some had predicted, warrants a military response and if the country will be seen as weak if it does nothing. "The evil committed by the Zionist regime [Israel] two nights ago should neither be downplayed nor exaggerated," Khamenei said. Khamenei said Iran's power should be demonstrated to Israel, adding: "It is up to the authorities to determine how to convey the power and will of the Iranian people to the Israeli regime and to take actions that serve the interests of this nation and country."



SUBMIT HASINA CASE REPORT BY NOV. 28: COURT

Dhaka, Oct. 27: A Bangladesh court on Saturday ordered the police to submit the investigation report of a murder case against ex-premier Sheikh Hasina and 23 others by November 28, according to media reports.

The murder case was filed over the death of an 18-year-old college student in Mirpur, Dhaka, during a crackdown by the Hasina-led Awami League government on student-led mass protests that led to her ouster.

On August 5, Hasina, 77, fled to India in the face of the violent protests against a controversial quota system in government jobs, which led to the death of hundreds of people since mid-July.

PAKISTAN SEEKS ADDITIONAL CHINESE LOAN

Islamabad, Oct. 27: Pakistan has requested an additional 10 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) loan from China as the cash-strapped country has already used the existing 30 billion yuan (\$4.3 billion) Chinese trade facility, a media report said on Sunday. Finance minister Muhammad Aurangzeb requested the Chinese side to raise the limits under the currency swap agreement to 40 billion yuan.



Israeli police and emergency responders secure the truck after a driver rammed his vehicle into people at a bus stop in Ramat Hasharon, on Sunday.

ISRAELIS MARK ATTACK ANNIVERSARY

HEZBOLLAH SAID it fired rockets at a military base in northern Israel on Sunday, a day after it declared several areas in the region a "legitimate target" due to the presence of Israeli troops.

"We promised we would respond to the Iranian attack and on Saturday we struck. The attack in Iran was precise and powerful, achieving all of its objectives."

— BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, Israeli PM

ISRAELIS ON Sunday mark the Hebrew calendar anniversary of the unprecedented Hamas attack on October 7 last year that sparked the ongoing war in Gaza. Flags were flown at half-mast on public buildings, including the Parliament.



ter, Benjamin Netanyahu, said in a speech on Sunday: "The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us. The attack in Iran was precise and powerful, and it achieved all its objectives."

According to anonymous officials quoted in the New York Times, Israel's attack destroyed air defence systems set up to protect oil and petrochemical refineries and a gasfield. The attacked included those around the Bandar Imam Khomeini petrochemical complex and the neighbouring port of Bandar Imam

ter, Benjamin Netanyahu, said in a speech on Sunday: "The air force attacked throughout Iran. We hit hard Iran's defence capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed at us. The attack in Iran was precise and powerful, and it achieved all its objectives."

BIBI'S SPEECH INTERRUPTED BY KIN OF VICTIMS

Jerusalem, Oct. 27: Screaming relatives of Hamas attack victims interrupted a speech by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday during October 7 commemorations.

Netanyahu stood motionless at a lectern during the ceremony in Jerusalem as audience members in the crowd shouted, interrupting him for more than a minute, according to a live broadcast of the speech. One of the protesters repeatedly shouted, "My father was killed".

Public and diplomatic pressure has been on Netanyahu's administration to do more to strike a deal for securing the release of captives still held in Gaza.

Israeli spy chief David Barnea is scheduled to head to Doha on Sunday for talks aimed at restarting negotiations towards reaching a Gaza hostage release deal.

Families of the remaining hostages and Western leaders have called on Israel to broker a deal after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar earlier this month.

Immigration contentious issue in US prez race poll

Atlanta, Oct. 27: With just nine days left for Election Day, immigration remained one of the contentious issues in the US presidential campaign with many immigrants, including from India and other South Asian nations, fearing a backlash if former president Donald Trump wins the poll.

In his campaign speeches, the Republican Party presidential candidate promised a radical shift to tighten Washington's immigration policy and vowed to carry out the "largest" domestic deportation in American history of undocumented immigrants and review the existing refugee programmes if he is re-elected.

The 78-year-old Republican leader has even resolved to end birthright citizenship for the children of immigrants living in the US illegally, triggering concerns among diaspora communities, including from India.



Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris (L) and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer talk at the Trak Houz Bar & Grill after a campaign rally in Kalamazoo.

Harris to campaign in battleground states

Washington, Oct. 27: Kamala Harris and Tim Walz will crisscross the country to visit all seven battleground states in the coming days, part of a final blitz before the end of the poll campaign.

The Democratic presidential nominee will spend Sunday in Philadelphia, attending church services in the morning and visiting a barbershop.

Harris also plans to stop at a Puerto Rican restaurant and a youth basketball facility. Election Day is November 5.

NATURE'S WRATH

Country plans major flood control project to meet climate change threats

130 dead in Philippines flooding, landslides

Talisay, Oct. 27: The number of dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides caused by Tropical Storm Trami in the Philippines has reached nearly 130 and the President said on Saturday that many areas remained isolated with people in need of rescue.

Trami blew away from the northwestern Philippines on Friday, leaving at least 85 people dead and 41 others missing in one of the Southeast Asian archipelago's deadliest and most destructive storms so far this year, the government's disaster-response agency said.

The death toll was expected to rise as reports come in from previously isolated areas. Dozens of police, firefighters and other emergency personnel, backed by three backhoes and sniffer dogs, dug up one of the last two missing villagers in the lakeside town of Talisay in Batangas province on Saturday.

A father, who was waiting for word on his missing 14-year-old daughter, wept as rescuers placed the remains in a black body bag. Distraught, he followed police officers, who carried the body bag down a mud-strewn village alley to a police van when one weeping resident approached him to express her sympathies.

His administration, President Ferdinand Marcos said, would plan to start work on a major flood control project that can meet the unprecedented threats posed by climate change.

Japan's ruling coalition set to lose parl majority

Tokyo, Oct. 27: Japan's ruling coalition is certain to lose its parliamentary majority as a result of Sunday's national election, public broadcaster NHK reported, raising uncertainty over the make-up of the next government and the prospects for the world's fourth-largest economy.

With 90% of the seats accounted for, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled Japan for almost all of its post-war history, and junior coalition partner Koike had 192 of the 465 seats in the lower house of parliament, NHK said.

It would be its worst election result since the coalition briefly lost power in 2009. "This election has been very tough for us," a somber-looking Ishiba told TV Tokyo in the evening.

The biggest winner of the night, the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), had 135 seats so far, a jump from the previously held 98, as voters punished Ishiba's party over a funding scandal and inflation.

The outcome may force parties into fractious power-sharing deals to rule, potentially ushering in political instability as the country faces economic headwinds and a security situation in East Asia.

The election also took place nine days before voters in the United States — Japan's closest ally — head to the polls in another unpredictable ballot.

Ishiba said he would wait until the final results, likely due in the early hours of Monday, before considering potential coalitions or other power-sharing deals.

The prime minister had called the snap poll immediately after being elected to head the party last month, hoping to win a public mandate for his premiership. His predecessor, Fumio Kishida, quit after his support fell due to anger over a cost of living crunch and the scandal involving unrecorded donations to lawmakers.

The LDP has held an outright majority since it returned to power in 2012 after a brief spell of opposition rule. It also lost power briefly in 1993, when a coalition of seven opposition parties formed a government that lasted less than a year.

Japanese stocks and the yen are expected to fall while longer-dated government bond yields are seen rising. "The voters' judgement on the ruling bloc was harsher than expected," said Saisuke Sakai, senior economist at Mizuho Research and Technologies.



Japan's PM Shigeru Ishiba (L) and Hiroshi Moriyama, secretary-general, place a pin on a board showing candidates names while speaking to the media at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo, on Sunday.

ELECTIONS ACROSS THE WORLD

THE RULING Georgian Dream party received more than 54% of the vote in Georgia's parliamentary election on Saturday, the electoral commission said on Sunday, though the outcome was disputed by opposition parties.

BULGARIANS WERE voting on Sunday in their seventh snap election in four years, but opinion surveys suggest it is unlikely to break a political deadlock that has slowed economic reforms in the European Union's poorest member state.

UZBEKISTAN VOTES in a parliamentary election. It is certain to produce a legislature loyal to President Shavkat Mirziyoyev despite constitutional reforms bringing some procedural changes.

LITHUANIANS WERE voting on Sunday in a parliamentary election dominated by concerns over the cost of living and potential threats from neighbouring Russia, with the opposition Social Democrats ahead after the first round.

Brazil city polls likely to confirm right-wing clout

Brasilia, Oct. 27: Brazilians on Sunday began voting in 51 cities for municipal officials in runoff polls expected to confirm a swing to the right of the electorate and redraw the political landscape for presidential and congressional elections in 2026.

Right and centre-right parties are favoured to win most of the 15 state capitals that will pick mayors for the next four years, with former hard-right President Jair Bolsonaro's Liberal Party (PL) enhancing its political clout.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's leftist Workers Party (PT) has done poorly, in part due to his falling popularity. In his main bastion of support, the poorer northeastern

Brazil, the PT is in a tight race against the PL for mayor of Fortaleza.

Lula has appeared reluctant to campaign for candidates at risk of being defeated, and a head injury a week ago kept him away from the campaign trail in its closing days. Heading a minority government, Lula has become increasingly hostage to a Conservative Congress in Brasilia to be able to govern.

The jewel in the crown of Sunday's election is Brazil's largest city, Sao Paulo, where mayor Ricardo Nunes, endorsed by Bolsonaro, is expected to win re-election and defeat his leftist challenger Guilherme Boulos, who is backed by Lula.

Putin says Moscow will respond if West helps Kyiv

Moscow, Oct. 27: President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that Russia's defence ministry was working on different ways to respond if the US and its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) allies help Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation.

Putin said on September 12 that Western approval for such a step would mean "the direct involve-

Cold War, and Russian officials say the war is now entering its most dangerous phase.

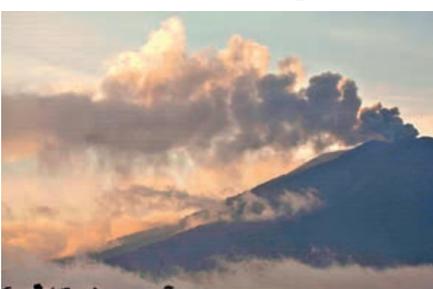
Russia has been signalling to the US and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation.

Putin said on September 12 that Western approval for such a step would mean "the direct involve-

ment of Nato countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine" because Nato military infrastructure and personnel would have to be involved in the targeting and firing of the missiles.

Putin said that it was too early to say exactly how Russia would react to such a move but that Moscow would have to respond accordingly and different options were being examined.

Volcano erupts in Indonesia



Mount Marapi, in Agam district of the province of West Sumatra, is known for sudden eruptions.

Pakistani seeks additional Chinese loan

Islamabad, Oct. 27: Pakistan has requested an additional 10 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) loan from China as the cash-strapped country has already used the existing 30 billion yuan (\$4.3 billion) Chinese trade facility, a media report said on Sunday. Finance minister Muhammad Aurangzeb requested the Chinese side to raise the limits under the currency swap agreement to 40 billion yuan.

Padang, Oct. 27: One of Indonesia's most active volcanoes erupted on Sunday, spewing thick columns of ash at least three times and blanketing villages with debris, but no casualties were reported. Mount Marapi is known for sudden eruptions that are difficult to predict because they are not caused by a deep movement of magma.

quick BITES

| INDICATORS | % |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Sensex | 79,402.29 -0.83 |
| Nifty 50 | 24,180.80 -0.90 |
| S&P 500* | 5,808.12 -0.03 |
| Dollar (₹) | 84.08 0.00 |
| Pound Sterling (₹) | 109.14 0.13 |
| Euro (₹) | 91.00 0.24 |
| Gold (10gm)* (₹) | 78,577.45 0.06 |
| Brent crude (\$/bbl)* | 75.90 -0.20 |
| IN 10-Yr bond yield | 6.845 0.023 |
| US 10-Yr T-bill yield* | 4.242 0.04 |

*As of 8:30 PM IST

I-T dept extends returns deadline for corporates

The income tax department on Saturday extended the deadline for filing income tax returns by corporates by 15 days till November 15 for assessment year 2024-25. In a circular, the central board of direct taxes (CBDT) said the deadline will be extended from the earlier target date of October 31. The new deadline for assessment year 2024-25 (for furnishing tax returns for fiscal 2023-24) is November 15.



ICICI Bank net profit up 18.8% to ₹12,948 crore

ICICI Bank reported an 18.8 per cent jump in its consolidated profit after tax to ₹12,948 crore compared to the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the second largest private sector lender's net profit rose by 14.5 per cent to ₹11,746 crore in the July-September period this year. The total standalone income increased to ₹47,714 crore during the quarter under review against ₹40,697 crore in the same quarter last year.

Hyatt Hotels to explore new brands in India

Hyatt Hotels Corporation is confident of nearly doubling its properties in India to 100 hotels over the next five to six years to tap opportunities in one of its top global growth markets, according to a company official. The company is also actively exploring opportunities to introduce additional global brands from Hyatt's portfolio to India, Hyatt Hotels Corporation managing director, India, Sunjae Sharma said.

Macrotech to launch 80L sqft residential space

Realty firm Macrotech Developers, sells under Lodha brand, will launch nearly 8 million sq ft (msf) of residential space in the second half of this fiscal with an estimated sales value of ₹10,000 crore, as part of its strategy to expand the business. Macrotech Developers said it has launched a 3.6 msf area during April-September period of this fiscal, with an estimated sales bookings potential of ₹6,130 crore.

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Don't sell gold, silver yet

Veteran investor Jim Rogers says bull run in precious metals to go on for 2 yrs

SANGEETHA G. CHENNAI, OCT. 27

Veteran investor Jim Rogers finds that the bull run in gold and silver will continue for next two-three years amidst rising global debt and geopolitical turmoil.

He wants investors to remain cautious of the US dollar and warns that the meltdown of overheated equity markets is a closer reality.

"Do not sell your gold and silver now. The bull run is not over yet. It will move up for next two-three years as the globe is facing many problems, including mounting debt and tensions," Rogers, who co-founded Quantum Fund along with George Soros, told Financial Chronicle over the phone from Singapore.

According to him, the tensions between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Iran and involvement of larger players in the

SAFE HAVEN

GOLD is at an all-time high level, but **SILVER** is yet to reach to that level.



TENSIONS between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Iran and involvement of larger players can drive commodity prices up.

Brent crude at **\$150** per barrel cannot be dismissed with war going on.

CENTRAL BANKS of emerging markets have been going light on their dollar reserves due to the heavy debt and instead buying gold.

INVESTORS HAVE BEEN flocking towards the US dollar considering it as a safe haven amidst the turmoil. With the rising debt, the dollar is not safe and I plan to sell off my dollar in a few weeks.

— JIM ROGERS, co-founded Quantum Fund.

turmoil can drive commodity prices up.

If the tensions continue and escalate, oil, gold and silver prices can rise further up to unimaginable levels. As for oil, a level of \$150 per barrel cannot be dismissed. Even other-

wise, the world is staring at a large crisis of mounting debt.

"The US is now a debt nation. Countries have been printing more money to boost the economy. That is what they do to keep the jobs growing," he said.

"Investors have been flocking towards the US dollar considering it as a safe haven amidst the turmoil. With the rising debt, the dollar is not safe and I plan to sell off my dollar in a few weeks. Even central banks of emerging

New OTP norms to cut pesky texts, make transactions safer

FC BANKING BUREAU MUMBAI, OCT. 27

From November 1, the telecom users could face disruptions in receiving bank and delivery of one-time passwords (OTPs) due to the new traceability rules of the Trai.

The new norms mandate the telecom companies to ensure traceability of all transactional and service messages sent by principal entities such as e-commerce platforms, banks and other financial institutions. They also require telecom companies to block messages with an irregular sending chain, which could disrupt the delivery of OTPs and other important alerts.

The cellular operators association of India (COAI) have approached the telecom regulatory authority of India (Trai) seeking relaxations in the traceability mandate.

The telecom operators have warned that messages containing OTPs and other critical details might not reach recipients, as telemarketers and principal entities have yet to implement the important technical solutions.

The principal entities have requested an additional two months, during which they could update their systems to avoid interruptions in message

NO HASSLES

NEW NORMS from Nov. 1 mandate the telecom companies to ensure traceability of all transactional and service messages.

TRAI initiatives to ensure a clean and secure messaging ecosystem, safeguarding customer interests and preventing fraudulent activities.

delivery.

However, given that the deadline has been extended several times, it is unlikely that Trai will grant further extension.

The norms instructing telecom companies to ban sharing messages containing URLs, APKs, OTT links or call back numbers which are not whitelisted by the sender.

According to Trai, these measures have taken forward its initiatives to ensure a clean and secure messaging ecosystem, safeguarding customer interests and preventing fraudulent activities.

Previously, companies have been required to register the header and tem-

NEW RULES to ensure that all the SMSes from the sender to receiver are thoroughly checked revealing the content to operators.

PREVIOUSLY, users inadvertently clicked on dubious links resulting in hackers gaining access to personal data resulting in theft of money or other sensitive information.

plate of the message with telecom companies so long as these two things in a message are in place, telecom companies send the SMSes to customers.

However, many times the content contains spam and dubious links. Many users inadvertently click on these dubious links resulting in hackers gaining access to personal data resulting in theft of money or information.

The new rules will ensure that all the SMSes from the sender to receiver are thoroughly checked revealing the content to the telecom operators who will have permission to block the messages that do not follow the guidelines.

OLA NEEDS TO IMPROVE SERVICE QUALITY: REPORT

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, OCT. 27

Ola Electric's two wheelers, which have been facing service and quality related issues, need to improve further to match peers, said a report by HSBC Global Research after revisiting by analysts a month after an earlier visit in September.

"Situation is improving, though it may still take time to fully normalise. The company is undergoing multiple initiatives to improve service quality, though long-term product quality has to be focused," HSBC report said.

Detailing what has changed, the report said, "The service centres were less chaotic, vehicle outflow is slightly better than in flow now. The backlog was down by 20-30 per cent month on month but still 5-7 times higher than it should be."

Ola has struggled with quality issues in the past, the company seems to be trying its best to improve, but there is a limit to which the auto development cycle can be squeezed, the report added.

Also competition has been a lot more aggressive in the past three months launching a series of low-cost variants. This has impacted OLA's market share as well, HSBC analysts said.

Satellite services need spectrum: Ind. body

New Delhi, Oct. 27: The satellite-communication industry has urged the government to protect the key frequency bands used by them, particularly the Ka and Ku bands, from being allocated to terrestrial services.

The satcom industry association of India (SIA-India) has also asked the government to reserve the 27.5-28.5 GHz band exclusively for satellite services, instead of transferring it to international mobile telecommunications (IMT) for flexible use, in line with global practices.

"Any reduction in satellite bandwidth will not only double the gateway requirements but also increase operational costs for satellite operators, ultimately affecting end-users. We must prioritise the preservation of these frequency bands for satellite-communication services to avoid unnecessary financial burdens," Subba Rao Pavuluri, president, SIA-India, said.

The industry body has also proposed specific frequency ranges in the Ku and Ka bands for the NGSO-based fixed satellite services.

The association has also called for clear guidelines on the authorisation process for instances, such as when a single satellite operator seeks to provide both a gateway earth station and user terminal services.

"Establishing these guidelines is essential to ensure a streamlined and efficient framework that



ANY REDUCTION in satellite bandwidth will not only double the gateway requirements but also increase operational costs for satellite operators, ultimately affecting end-users. We must prioritise the preservation of these frequency bands for satellite services to avoid financial burdens.

— SUBBA RAO PAVULURI, SIA-India, president

supports the growth and reliability of satellite communication services," Anil Prakash, director general, SIA-India, said.

The association has also advocated for long-term spectrum assignments and proposed a maximum assignment period of 20 years with renewal rights, as seen in several international regimes.

Such an approach will provide satellite operators with the necessary confidence to invest in their infrastructure and services over an extended time-frame, they have said.

Additionally, the association has also suggested that a single licence should suffice for multiple antennas located at one site to streamline the operations.

Biz cycle MFs gain traction

New Delhi, Oct. 27: Business cycle mutual funds have been gaining traction in the investment landscape, delivering robust returns of 32-56 per cent over the past year, with schemes from HSBC, Mahindra Manulife, and Quant generating returns exceeding 50 per cent.

These top three funds have substantially outperformed the Nifty 500 TRI index, which delivered 35.11 per cent returns over the same period, according to the industry data.

Currently, the market hosts only 16 business cycle funds, with just three completing a three-year tenure. The category's assets under management (AUM) have surged to ₹37,487 crore, more than doubling from



₹17,238 crore in September 2021. This stellar growth suggests the rising investor interest in these funds, Feroze Azeem, deputy chief executive officer, Anand Rathi Wealth, said.

Business cycle mutual funds try to identify the economic cycle and then pick stocks from sectors that could do well in the respective market conditions.

Diwali Picks

BROKERAGES EXPECT SELECT STOCKS TO DO WELL IN THE NEW BUSINESS YEAR IN SAMVAT 2081. THEY EXPECT THE SECTORS LINKED TO DOMESTIC STRUCTURAL AND CYCLICAL THEMES TO DO WELL.

MOTILAL OSWAL

- ICICI Bank
- HCL Tech
- L&T
- Titan
- Zomato
- IPCA
- Angel One
- Amber

AXIS SECURITIES

- Gravita India;
- Arvind Smart Spaces
- Inox Wind
- KPIT
- HG Infra
- AU Small Finance Bank
- Lupin
- Indian Hotels
- UNO Minda

ASIT C MEHTA

- Ador Welding
- CIE Automotive
- AliconCastalloy
- Astral
- ITD Cementation
- JKumarInfraProjects
- Vedanta
- ITC

PL CAPITAL

- Ambuja Cement
- Bharat Electronics
- Cipla
- ICICI Bank
- LTIMindtree
- Max Healthcare
- Reliance Industries
- Doms Industries

JM FINANCIAL

- Reliance Industries
- Power Grid
- Bajaj Finance
- ICICI Lombard General Insurance
- Jindal Steel & Power
- NALCO
- Gravita India
- Macrotech Developers
- Olectra Greentech

ANGEL ONE

- Cummins India
- NCC
- Bluestar
- Nippon Life Ind.
- Colgate-Palmolive
- Mahanagar Gas
- eClx Services
- Neuland Labs

CHOICE EQUITY BROKING

- Bajaj Auto
- Bharat Dynamics
- ACC
- Somany Ceramics
- TCS
- HCL Tech
- EFC
- Granules India

BIG BONANZA

Customers willing to pay extra for products with smart features, high-end technologies

Appliances, consumer electronics eye festive boost

New Delhi, Oct. 27: The appliance and consumer electronics industry expects around 30 per cent growth in the festive season sales this year after a double-digit boost from online sale events of leading retailers Flipkart and Amazon and an expected final thrust from offline channels during Dhanteras week.

This festive season, premiumisation is the flavour, where consumers are willing to pay extra for features such as energy efficiency, higher capacity

and larger size and even showing interest in the high-end AI and internet of things (IoT) technology-driven products, industry leaders said.

Companies such as LG Electronics, Panasonic, Sony, Godrej Appliances and Haier started festive sales with a good kick start from the Onam festival and expect to continue the momentum till the remaining week of the nearly 45-day festive period, which concludes after Diwali.

To make the premium



range as large screen TV panels above 51" screen size, higher load capacity washing machines and French door refrigerators (with two side-by-side doors), the manufacturers

are incentivising with attractive financing schemes, investing in branding and promotion on digital and traditional mediums.

"There is good growth across all categories, especially in premium products like large-capacity washing machines and refrigerators. We are witnessing good demand for products featuring AI and IOT technology," said LG Electronics India, senior VP-Home Appliances Sanjay Chitkara.

He added that this festive season, demand for premi-

um products has also increased even from the smaller tier II & III markets, which is encouraging.

"Upcoming week is significant for festive sales as generally during Dhanteras there will be a high sell-out across India," said Chitkara.

Godrej Appliances business head and EVP Kamal Nandi said helped by a good monsoon, markets have picked up this festive season. The premium leading the charge this season, though mass product segments also have

shown significant growth.

"We have seen a growth of close to 40 per cent since the start of Onam in Sept, compared to last year," Nandi said.

Haier India president Satish NS said its premium products are doing "extremely well" led by LED panels above 51-inch screen size and high-load washing machines.

"People are willing to pay for premiumisation through the consumer financing schemes, which is a good sign for the industry," he said.

SHORT TAKES

Modi hails Arjun for 2800 mark

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Arjun Erigaisi for crossing the 2800 mark in live chess ratings, saying that in addition to being a great personal milestone, it will also inspire many more youngsters to play chess and shine on the global stage. Erigaisi became only the second Indian player to cross the 2800 mark, after five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand.

The 2800 club is a rarefied one. Only 14 players in history have crossed 2800 Elo in published ratings.

"Congratulations to Arjun Erigaisi for crossing the 2800 mark in live chess ratings! This is a phenomenal feat. His exceptional talent and perseverance make our entire nation proud," Modi said in a post on X.

"In addition to being a great personal milestone, it will also inspire many more youngsters to play chess and shine on the global stage. Wishing him the very best for his future endeavours," he said. — PTI

Para shuttlers shine in Japan

Tokyo: Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sukant Kadam delivered stand-out performances, helping India win an impressive 24 medals at the Japan Para Badminton International on Sunday. India won six gold, nine silver and as many bronze medals in the tournament. Sivarajan enjoyed a double victory, clinching gold in the men's singles SH6 class and partnering with Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy to win the top prize in men's doubles.

Sukant also excelled, taking gold in men's singles (SL4) and silver in men's doubles (SL3-SL4) with partner Dinesh Rajaiiah. He triumphed over fellow Indian Tarun in a thrilling singles final, winning 21-12, 21-10, while Naveen Sivakumar and Surya Kant Yadav secured bronze medals. In the doubles final, Sukant and Dinesh fought valiantly but fell short against compatriots Umesh Vikram Kumar and Surya Kant Yadav, losing 5-21, 22-20, 16-21 to take home silver.

In other events, reigning Paralympic champion Kumar Nitesh claimed silver after a close match against Japan's Daisuke Fujihara, losing 16-21, 21-18, 19-21 in the SL3 finals. — PTI

Manika out of WTT Champions

New Delhi: Star paddler Manika Batra crashed out of the WTT Champions after a quarterfinal straight game defeat against China's Qian Tianyi in Montpellier, France. The Indian, a world No. 30, went down to Tianyi 8-11, 8-11, 10-12 in just 25 minutes on Saturday night. Batra, a multiple Commonwealth Games medalist, fought well in all three games, but her Chinese opponent played the crunch points better to emerge the winner.

The first Indian to enter the WTT quarterfinals, Batra had shocked world number 14 Bernadette Szocs of Romania 11-9, 6-11, 13-11, 11-9 on Friday to enter the last eight. Tianyi too had caused an upset in the pre-quarterfinals, stunning world No. 4 compatriot and the top seed here Yidi Wang 11-7, 11-9, 13-11. Tianyi will now face third seed Japanese Miwa Harimoto in the semifinals on Sunday. — PTI

Sainz takes pole for Mexico GP

Mexico City: Carlos Sainz seized pole position for Sunday's Mexico City Grand Prix with a consummate performance for Ferrari in Saturday's qualifying session, outpacing Red Bull's defending champion Max Verstappen. The Spaniard, who leaves the team at the end of the season, clocked one minute and 15.946 seconds to beat series leader and three-time champion Verstappen, whose first and fastest lap in the top 10 shootout was deleted, by 0.225 seconds.

This left McLaren's Lando Norris, who is 57 points behind Verstappen in the drivers' title race, to take third ahead of Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and the Williams of George Russell and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton. It was Sainz's sixth career pole and completed a run of qualifying fourth, third and second in the last three Mexican events. "I am very happy with that and to be on pole," said Sainz, who is set to leave Ferrari for Williams next year, having been replaced for 2025 by Hamilton. — AFP

TESTING TIME

India face tough transition period, limited bowling options also a worry

New Delhi, Oct. 27: India's qualification for the World Test Championship final in June next year is hanging in balance and even if they make the grade for the third consecutive time, it will be a massive surprise if skipper Rohit Sharma stays available for the next two-year WTC cycle. Ditto for Ravichandran Ashwin, who will be 41 by then.

Ravindra Jadeja and Virat Kohli, the two supremely fit men, will be 39.

The embarrassing Test series defeat at home against New Zealand has already triggered a debate around the effectiveness of a few seniors.

Ravi Shastri could only empathise with Gambhir.

"New Zealand have beaten them (India) handsomely in both the Test matches. It's food for thought (on series loss). He (Gambhir) has just taken over the job. It's never easy being coach of a team that has such a big following," Shastri said while commenting during the second Test in Pune.

"It's still early days in his career as a coach. But he'll soon learn."

There is no doubt India are looking at a tough transition. As many as four world-class match-winners are expected to bid adieu to the game one by one in the next couple of years and Gautam Gambhir is in an unenviable position as head coach.

There are multiple options available in batting but India may struggle to find good bowlers. Mohammed Shami, even if he comes back, is at the end of his glorious 10-year run for India and both Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj are more than decent bowlers even as they do not have the menacing effect of Shami when Bumrah is operating from other end.

The real problem is the next-in-line bowlers. There's Avesh Khan and Khaleel Ahmed, who are quick bowlers but consistency and fitness has been their problem. Navdeep Saini's pace has dropped and his best years are behind him. Umran Malik has already lost his way and Mukesh Kumar, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Vidwath Kaverappa don't have that kind of pace that can put doubts in batters' minds. Bumrah is a gift of God and Shami a freak talent and unless someone like Mayank Yadav becomes fit and consistently available for longer version, the cupboard is actually bare.

The other area that could be a big concern is seam bowling all-rounder unless Hardik Pandya, who is 30 now, has an apparent change of heart. — PTI



India head coach Gautam Gambhir (right) congratulates New Zealand captain Tom Latham on winning the second Test and series at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Saturday. — PTI

INDIAN BATTERS WERE EXPOSED, SAYS SIMON

Pune, Oct. 27: Former New Zealand pacer Simon Doull attributed India's shocking series defeat to their batsmen's inadequacies against spin bowling but he was not ready to write off underwhelming star batter Virat Kohli. Spinner Mitchell Santner grabbed 13 wickets as the Kiwis walloped India by 113 runs in the second Test.

"There's a misconception that Indian players are better players of spin. I think they've had better spinners and they've been able to expose the opposition batters. But in this Test (at Pune), their batters were exposed a little bit by a very, very good performance from Mitchell Santner," Doull said.

Even though Doull said negating spin is no longer a forte of many teams, he conceded that Indian batters' capitulation against 'not a world-class spin bowling attack' of New Zealand offered some worrying signals.

"I think you get used to playing on such good wickets. And when it does turn, techniques get exposed a little bit. They still had the best spinners in the world in Jadeja and Ashwin."

"In this Test match, they were undone by a New Zealand side that, with all due respect, is not a world-class spin bowling attack. So, that will be a concern of some sort," he detailed. — PTI

Devine guides NZ to win, equal series against India

Ahmedabad, Oct. 27: India's batting frailties were once again exposed as New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine's all-round heroics propelled her side to a series-levelling 76-run win in the second women's ODI here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, Devine struck 79 off 86 balls, hitting seven fours and a six while stitching a vital partnership of 82 runs for the fifth wicket with Maddy Green (42 off 41 balls) to lift New Zealand to a challenging 259 for nine.

Devine also excelled with the ball, finishing with figures of 3/27 as New Zealand's bowlers combined to dismiss India for 183 runs, built around No. 9 Radha Yadav's fighting 48.

For the White Ferns, Lea Tahuhu (3/42) also claimed three wickets, while Jess Kerr (2/49) and

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 259/9 in 50 overs (Sophie Devine 79, Suzie Bates 58; Radha Yadav 4/69) beat India 183 in 47 overs (Radha Yadav 48, Saima Thakor 29, Harmanpreet Kaur 24; Sophie Devine 3/27, Lea Tahuhu 3/42).

Eden Carson (2/32) chipped in with key dismissals.

Chasing the 260-run target, India found themselves at 26 for 3 within the first five overs. They further slipped to 102 for 7 in 26 over before Radha and Saima Thakor (29) forged a spirited 70-run stand for the ninth wicket to keep alive India's slim hopes.

However, Kerr broke the partnership, removing Thakor as the hosts were eventually dismissed in 47.1 overs, allowing New

Zealand to level the series 1-1.

Smriti Mandhana's struggles continued as she lasted just two balls, dismissed by Tahuhu, while fellow opener Shafali Verma (11) managed two boundaries before being adjudged LBW by Kerr.

Yastika Bhatia (12) also fell early, becoming Tahuhu's second victim as India's top order faltered.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, returning after missing the first ODI due to a minor injury, contributed 24 runs, as she partnered with Jemimah Rodrigues (17) to add 38 runs before both were dismissed.

Earlier, New Zealand were off to an excellent start with openers Suzie Bates (58 off 70 balls) and Georgia Plimmer (41 off 50) adding 87 runs in just under 16 overs. — PTI

EX-CRICKETERS BLAME SENIORS FOR SERIES LOSS

New Delhi, Oct. 27: Former wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik believes the onus for the Test series loss to New Zealand rests with the senior Indian players, while former batter Sanjay Manjrekar feels it would be unfair to place the blame on coach Gautam Gambhir.

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli struggled with the bat, while the formidable spin duo of R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja also failed to make a significant impact.

"Yeah. Why shouldn't it (the onus of the series loss) be the senior players? They will look at themselves and say, 'What could we have done better?' I don't think they have run away from it," Karthik said on Cricbuzz.

Karthik said the seniors themselves will take responsibility for the defeat. — PTI

RANJI TROPHY

Batters fail again as Delhi trail Assam

New Delhi, Oct. 27: Delhi's woes with the willow continued as the team struggled to 214 for six after the likes of Yash Dhull and Himmat Singh started to convert their starts into substantial knocks in their Ranji Trophy match against Assam here on Sunday. Resuming at their overnight score of 264 for six, Assam's first innings ended at 330 with wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar making 162 off 237 balls. Ghadigaonkar was overhauled by Harshit Rana's excellent bowling.

Delhi were 214 for six at stumps on day two, trailing Assam by 116 runs.

Having received his maiden Test call-up, Rana ended with fine figures of 5/80 in 19.3 overs, wrapping up Assam's innings with the wicket of Mrinmoy Dutta.

When their turn to bat came, Delhi lost Gagan

Vats for a duck but Sanat Sangwan (47 off 88 balls) and Dhull (47 off 44 balls) added 66 runs for the second wicket to steady the innings.

Dhull's wicket signalled the arrival of skipper Himmat, who added 81 runs for the third wicket with Sangwan before the latter was out leg before.

Even as Sangwan walked back to the pavilion, Himmat looked determined to play a long innings but nine runs later, Assam's veteran off-spinner Swarupam Purkayastha dashed his hopes by bowling out the batter for an 88-ball 55.

Purkayastha was Assam's best bowler on the day with figures of 3/46 in 17 overs, while left-arm spinner Rahul Singh picked up 2/32 in the Group D match.

When Rahul had wicket-keeper Pranav Rajuvanshi trapped in front of the wicket, Delhi were in all sorts of trouble at 182 for six. — PTI

RANJI TROPHY BRIEF SCORES

- In Delhi:** Assam 330 (Sibsankar Roy 59, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 162, Harshit Rana 5/80) vs Delhi 214/6 (Himmat Singh 55, Swarupam Purkayastha 3/46).
- In Coimbatore:** Chhattisgarh 500 (Aayush Pandey 124, Anuj Tiwary 84, Sanjeet Desai 82, Ek Nath Kerkar 52, Ajay Mandal 64, Ajith Ram 4/132) vs Tamil Nadu 231/1 (Ajith Ram 10 batting, Jivesh Butte 1/5).
- In Rajkot:** Railways 234 & 122/7 (Shivam Chaudhary 35, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 3/40, Yuvrajisinh Dodiya 3/50) vs Saurashtra 196 (Prerak Mankad 52, Karn Sharma 4/38).
- In Dehradun:** Vidarbha 326 in 88 overs (Dhruv Shorey 35, Danish Malewar 56, Yash Rathod 135, Mayank Mishra 3/72, Avneesh Sudha 2/35, Swapnil Singh 2/70) vs Uttarakhnad 242/7 in 87 overs (Ravikumar Samarth 119, Akshay Wakhare 3/47).
- In Visakhapatnam:** Andhra 344 in 92.4 overs (Shaik Rasheed 69, Hanuma Vihari 66, Srikanth Bharat 65, Rishi Dhawan 3/80, Divesh Sharma 5/60) vs Himachal Pradesh 198/4 in 65 overs (Ankit Kalsi 53, Akash Vasisht 52, KV Sasikanth 3/50).
- In Jaipur:** Gujarat 335 in 97.4 overs (Priyank Panchal 110, Aarya Desai 86, Jaymeet Patel 61, Umang Kumar 41, Arafat Khan 4/50, Kukna Ajay Singh 3/102) vs Rajasthan 180/5 in 69 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 77, Jaymeet Patel 3/77).
- In Hyderabad:** Hyderabad 536/8 declared in 163 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 175, Abhirath Reddy 68, Rohit Rayudu 84, Kodimela Himateja 60, Tanay Thyagarajan 53, Ankit Sharma 3/117, Satish Jangir 2/72) vs Puducherry 24/2 in 12 overs.



West Ham United's Jarrod Bowen (left) celebrates after scoring against Manchester United during their Premier League match in London on Sunday. — AP

Hammer blow for Man United

London, Oct. 27: West Ham piled more pressure on beleaguered Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag with a dramatic 2-1 win on Sunday as Cole Palmer inspired Chelsea to a victory by the same scoreline over Newcastle.

Tottenham were beaten 1-0 at Crystal Palace, who picked up their first win of the season.

Liverpool can go back to the top of the table with victory away at Arsenal in the biggest clash of the Premier League weekend later on Sunday.

Ten Hag was left to rue a familiar lack of ruthlessness as United's fourth league defeat in nine games will spark further speculation on how long he will be given to turn the Red Devils' fortunes around.

The visitors should have been out of sight by half-

BRIEF SCORES

- Chelsea** 2 (Jackson 18, Palmer 47)
- Newcastle** 1 (Isak 32)
- Crystal Palace** 1 (Mateta 37)
- Tottenham** 0
- West Ham** 2 (Summerville 74, Bowen 90+2-pen)
- Manchester United** 1 (Casemiro 81)

time at the London Stadium.

Alejandro Garnacho hit the woodwork inside two minutes and Edson Alvarez also headed off his own crossbar.

But it was Diogo Dalot who missed the biggest chance when the Portuguese international somehow fired over with the goal gaping after rounding Lukas Fabianski. — AFP



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski (left) scores against Real Madrid during their La Liga match at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, Spain, on Saturday. — AP

coach Carlo Ancelotti. His counterpart Hansi Flick has whipped Barcelona into shape in just a matter of months

and in ending a run of four Clasico defeats, his young side made a statement victory to show how far they have come. "The

big objectives are (fought) against the best in the world and we've shown that we've got the ability to beat anyone, that we've got the mentality and that we've changed," said Barcelona goalkeeper Inaki Pena.

Ancelotti's game-plan was clear — defend in numbers and try to spring Mbappe or Vinicius Junior with a long ball into the space behind Barcelona's defence.

It led to an intense but repetitive first half, with Barcelona's defence catching Madrid offside on eight occasions.

Mbappe hit the side-netting and lobbed over but was offside on both occasions, while Jude Bellingham forced a superb save from Pena, but it would also have been disallowed for offside. At the other end Yamal sent a soft effort at Andriy Lunin when put through on goal by a superb Lewandowski flick. — AFP