

"RAMCHARAN HITS 9 MILLION FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM"

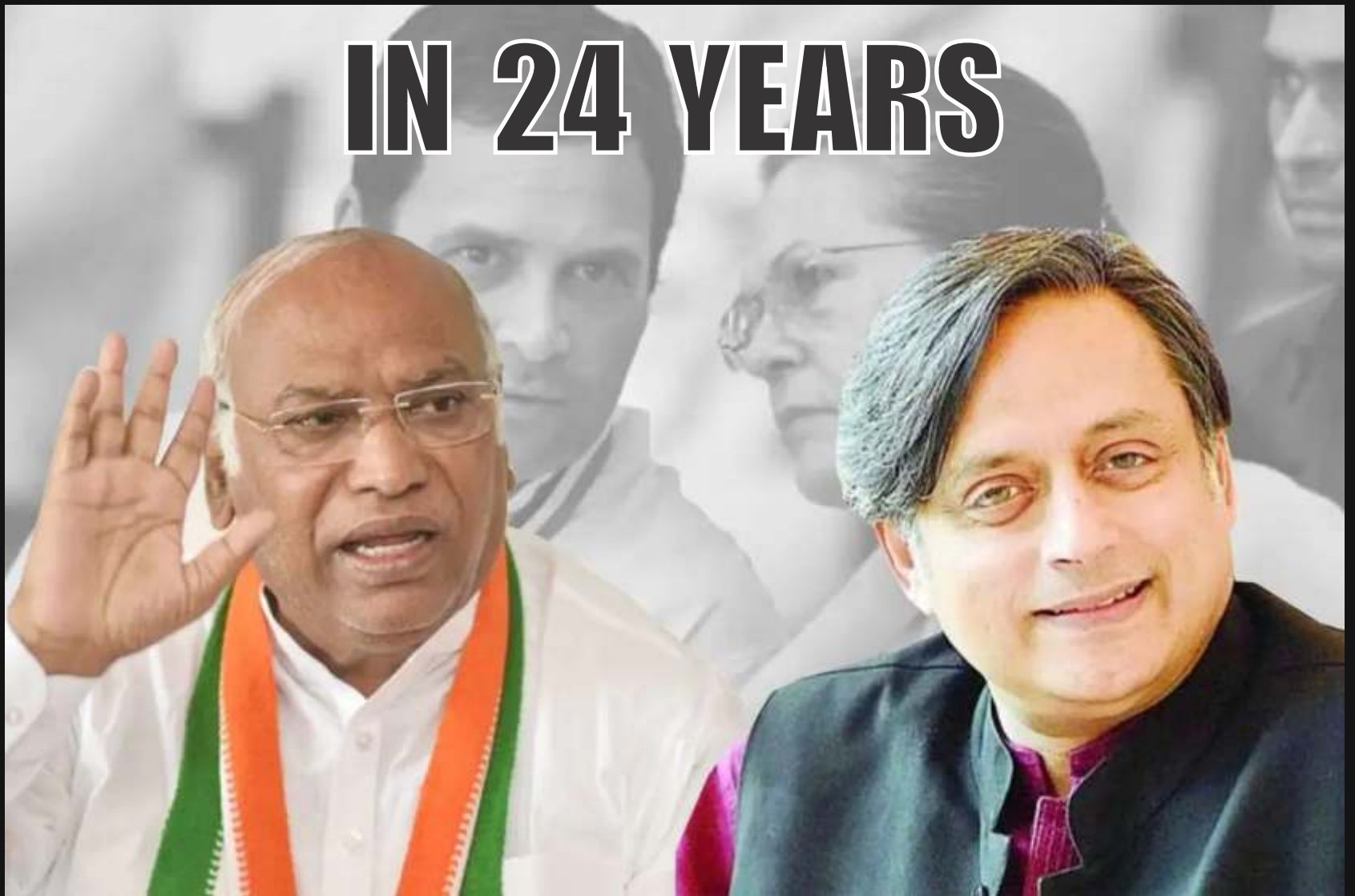
Vol-X Issue 442, News Mania, RNI No. - WBENG/2013/50163, Weekly, Dt. 21-10-2022 to 27-10-2022/16Pages / Rs.4.00/- Kolkata

NEWS MANIA

WEEKLY

Different Voice of Analysis

FIRST NON-GANDHI CONGRESS PRESIDENT IN 24 YEARS



Index

Pg 7- Dr Dilip Mahalonabis and ORS

Pg 11 - Liz Truss resigns amid political turmoil

Pg 15 - Roger Binny , Sourav Ganguly and club members



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

BECOMES FIRST NON-GANDHI CONGRESS PRESIDENT IN 24 YEARS

Press Trust of India | New Delhi

The Congress got its first non-Gandhi president in 24 years after more than 9,500 votes cast to choose between senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor as counted

The Congress has got its first non-Gandhi president in 24 years on 19th October after more than 9,500 votes casted to choose between senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor were counted to cap the election contest, the sixth in its 137-year-old history.

The counting of the votes casted on Monday began at 10am on Wednesday at the AICC headquarters here.

While Kharge is considered the firm favourite with his perceived proximity to the Gandhis and a large number of senior leaders backing him, Tharoor has pitched himself as the candidate of change.

The process of bringing all the ballot boxes from the 68 polling booths set up across the country by the party which completed by Tuesday. The sealed boxes were kept in a "strongroom" at the party headquarter.

The sealed ballot boxes were opened before the candidates' agents and the votes were mixed repeatedly as they were added from various boxes.

Congress central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mishra has expressed satisfaction with the party's presidential polls process, saying it was "free, fair and transparent".

He has also assured that it was a secret ballot and no one would get to know who voted for whom.

Of the total 9,915 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates that formed the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot, over 9,500 cast their ballot at PCC offices and the AICC headquarters, Mishra said at a press conference after the polling ended on Monday.

The Congress has claimed that its internal democracy has no parallel in any other party and it is the only one to have a central election authority for organisational polls.

It is the sixth time in its nearly 137-year-old history that an electoral contest is deciding who would take up the mantle of the party's president as successor to Sonia Gandhi.

It was way back in 1939, when an electoral contest decided who would be the Congress president and in fact, Mahatma Gandhi's candidate PS Saramayya had lost to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Then in 1980 came the Congress' first post-Independence election for the post of party president when Purshottam Das Tandon and Acharya Kripalani faced off. Surprisingly, Tandon, seen as a Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel loyalist, won the contest, trumping the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's choice.

In 1977, following the resignation of Dev Kant Barooah as party president in the wake of the defeat in the Lok Sabha polls, K Brahmananda Reddy defeated Siddhartha Shankar Ray and Karan Singh in the party polls for AICC chief.

The next election that needed a contest came 20 years later in 1997 when Saramayya squared off in a triangular contest with Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot.

Except for Maharashtra and parts of Uttar Pradesh, all state Congress units had backed Kesri. He posted a landslide victory, getting 6,224 delegates' votes against Pawar's 882 and Pilot's 354.



The fifth contest came in 2000 and this was the only time a Gandhi family member was challenged in the elections with Jitendra Prasad taking on Sonia Gandhi. Prasad suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Gandhi, who garnered over 7,400 votes. Prasad had reportedly polled a paltry 94 votes.

The current polls are historic as the new president would replace Sonia Gandhi, the longest-serving party president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi had taken over.

The Nehru-Gandhi family has been at the helm of the party for about 40 years since Independence. The five family members to take on the mantle of the Congress president are Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Electionsin the Congress presidential polls had been asked to put a tick mark against their candidate in the ballot paper after Tharoor's team took up with the party's top poll body the issue of its earlier directive that voters write "1" to reflect their preference. This, the team said, might lead to confusion.

The political journeys of the two dramatic personae in the Congress presidential elections have been disparate.

Kharge is a grassroots politician and a hardcore loyalist of the Gandhi family, while Tharoor, a social media pioneer and often outspoken, joined the Congress only in 2009 after a long stint at the United Nations.

Ahead of the polling, Kharge had said he would have no shame in taking the advice and support of the Gandhi family in running the party affairs, if he becomes its president.

Tharoor, on his part, took a veiled dig at some senior leaders supporting Kharge, saying that some colleagues were "indulging in 'netajiri'" and telling party workers that they know who Sonia Gandhi wants elected.

(Only the headline and picture of this report may have been reworked by the News Mania Desk staff; the rest of the content is auto-generated from a syndicated feed)

Mapanna Mallikarjun Kharge, a staunch Gandhi family loyalist from Karnataka, has become the Congress' first non-Gandhi president in 24 years.

The 80-year-old leader succeeds Sonia Gandhi at the grand old party's highest office.

A leader with more than 50 years of experience in politics, he is also the second AICC President from Karnataka after S Nijalingappa and also second Dalit leader after Jagjivan Ram to hold the post.

Kharge was elected MIA for nine times in a row, seeing a steady rise in his career graph from humble beginnings as a union leader in his home district of Gulbarga (renamed as Kalaburagi).

He joined the party in 1969 and went on to become President of the Gulbarga City Congress Committee.

That Kharge was unconquerable at the hustings was mirrored until 2014 Lok Sabha polls in which he bucked the Narendra Modi wave that swept Karnataka, particularly Hyderabad-Karnataka region and had won from Gulbarga with a margin of over 74,000 votes.

He has won from Gurnitkal assembly constituency nine times before he plunged into the Lok Sabha poll arena in 2009 and has been a two-time MP from Gulbarga parliamentary segment.

However, in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls the veteran leader was defeated by BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes.

For Kharge, popularly known as "sollilla Saradara", (a leader without defeat), this was the first electoral loss in his political life spanning more than five decades.

A hard-boiled Congressman and loyal to the core to the

Gandhi family, Kharge has played multiple roles in different ministries that has enriched his experience as an administrator.

He has also served as the leader of the opposition in Karnataka Assembly and President of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

Kharge was leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha from 2014 to 2019 but could not become the leader of opposition, as the grand old party could not get the post as its numbers were less than the mandated 10 percent of the total number of seats in the Lower House.

He has served as Union Cabinet Minister for Labour and Employment, also Railways and Social Justice and Empowerment in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government.

He had also held various portfolios in successive Congress governments that governed the state.

He was Home Minister of Karnataka in one of the most trying times under SM Krishna as the Chief Minister, as the tenure saw kidnapping of Kannada thespian Rajkumar by the notorious poacher Veerappan and the Cauvery river water conflict, both of which had created a law and order situation in the state.

Kharge was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in June 2020 and was the 17th Leader of the Opposition in Upper House until recently, ahead of his resignation from the post to contest the Congress' Presidential election. He had succeeded Ghulam Nabi Azad as LoP in February last year.

He has several times been seen as a top contender to become the Chief Minister in Karnataka, but could never occupy the post.

"Why do you keep saying Dalit again and again? Don't say that I'm a Congressman," Kharge has said several times in the past, whenever the Dalit O/M topic cropped up with him as the contender.

Sober by temperament and nature, Kharge has never landed in any major political troubles or controversy.

Born in a poor family at Varavathi in Bidar district on July 21, 1942, he did his schooling and BA as well as Law in Kalaburagi. He was into legal practice for some time before plunging into politics.

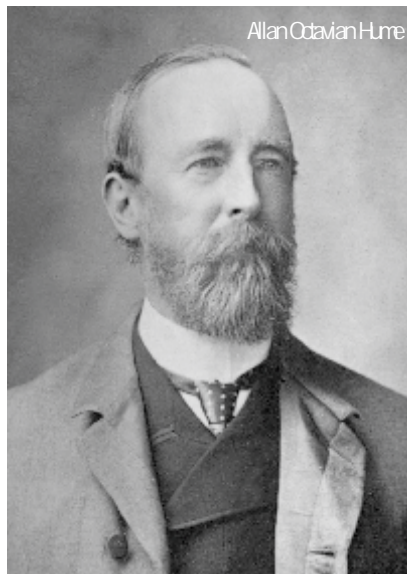
He is a follower of Buddhism and is the founder-chairman of Siddhartha Mihar Trust that has built the Buddha Mihar complex in Kalaburagi.

Married to Radhikai on May 13, 1968, they have two daughters and three sons. One son, Priyank, Kharge is a MIA and a former Minister in Karnataka.

A vocal critic of the Narendra Modi-led government, Kharge's elevation to head the Congress is expected to give a boost to the cadre and hopes that it would unify the party leadership in the state that goes to Assembly polls by April next year, which was getting deteriorated by the present Gandhian.

HISTORY OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY

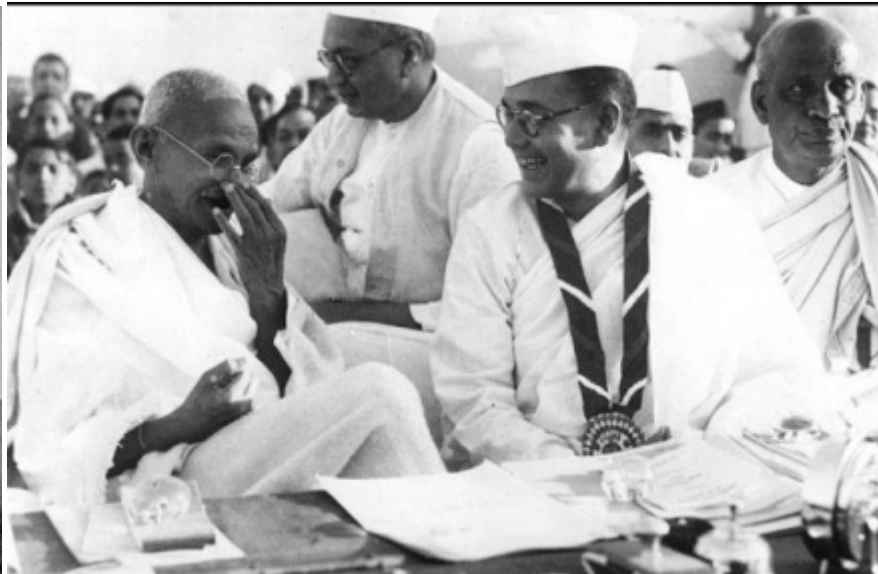
The Indian National Congress was established when 72 delegates from all over the country met at Bombay in 1885. Prominent delegates included Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, W. C. Bonerjee, S. Ramaswami Mudaliar, [1] S. Subramania Iyer, and Ramesh Chunder Dutt. The Englishman Allan Octavian Hume, a former British civil servant, was one of the founding members of the Indian National Congress.



Allan Octavian Hume

Retired British Indian Civil Service (ICS) officer Allan Octavian Hume founded the Indian National Congress in order to form a platform for civil and political dialogue among educated Indians. After the Indian Rebellion of 1857, control of India was transferred from the East India Company to the British Empire. British-controlled India, known as the British Raj, or just the Raj, worked to try to support and justify its governance of India with the aid of English-educated Indians, who tended to be more familiar with and friendly to British culture and political thinking. Ironically, a few of the reasons that the Congress grew and survived, particularly in the 19th century era of undisputed British dominance or hegemony, was through the patronage of British authorities and the rising class of Indians and Anglo-Indians educated in the English language-based British tradition.

"Every nation secures precisely as good a Government as it merits. If you, the picked men, the most highly educated of the nation, cannot, scorning personal ease and selfish objects, make a resolute struggle to secure greater freedom for



yourself and your country, a more impartial administration, a larger share in the management of your own affairs than we, your friends, are wrong and our adversaries right, then are Lord Ripon's noble aspirations for your good fruitless and visionary, then, at present at any rate all hopes of progress are at an end, and India truly neither desires nor deserves any better Government than she enjoys."

RISE OF INDIAN NATIONALISM



THE FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1885.

First session of Indian National Congress, Bombay, 28-31, December, 1885

The first spurts of nationalistic sentiment that rose amongst Congress members were when the desire to be represented in the bodies of government, to have a say, a vote in the lawmaking and issues of administration of India. Congressmen saw themselves as loyalists, but wanted an active role in governing their own country, albeit as part of the Empire.

This was personified by Dadabhai Naoroji, considered by many as the eldest Indian statesman. Naoroji went as far as contesting, successfully, an election to the British House of Commons, becoming its first Indian member. That he was aided in his campaign by young, aspiring Indian student activists like Muhammad Ali Jinnah, describes where the imagination of the new Indian generation lay.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was among the first Indian nationalists to embrace *swaraj* as the destiny of the nation. Tilak deeply opposed the British colonial education system in India which he thought ignored and defamed India's culture, history, and values, defying and disgracing the Indian culture. He resented the denial of freedom of expression for nationalists and the lack of any voice or order for ordinary Indians in

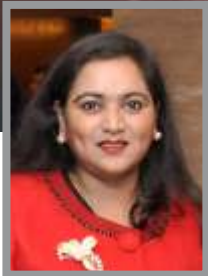
the affairs of their nation. For these reasons, he considered *swaraj* as the natural and only solution: the abandonment of all things British, which would protect the Indian economy from economic exploitation and gradually lead to eventual Indian independence. He was backed by rising public leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghose, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, who held the same point of view. Under them, India's four great states - Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and Punjab region shaped the demand of the people and India's nationalism.

The moderates led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta, and Dadabhai Naoroji, held firm to calls for negotiations and political dialogue. Gokhale criticized Tilak for encouraging acts of violence and disorder. The Congress of 1906 did not have public membership, and thus Tilak and his supporters were forced to leave the party.

With Tilak's arrest, all hopes for an Indian offensive were stalled. The Congress lost credit with the people. Muslims formed the All India Muslim League in 1906, considering the Congress as completely unsuitable for Indian Muslims.

UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

By **Borali Bhas**
Editor in Chief



It's impossible to have a conversation about health and wellness without talking about mental health. In the United States, nearly one in five adults has a mental illness or mental health condition. That's nearly 52 million people. India has a large and yet often understated burden of mental illnesses. A Lancet study estimated that a massive 197.3 million people had mental disorders in India in 2017, including 45.7 million people with depressive disorders and 44.9 million with anxiety disorders. An average 381 deaths by suicide were reported daily in 2019. Significantly, even before Covid-19 struck, a survey had revealed that non-metro towns had reported a colossal 367% jump in mental health queries last 2 years. October 10 is observed as World Mental Health Day. Do we know the state of our mental health? All of us pay attention to physical health only. Most of us are unaware that we should take care of our mental health too and since we pay little or no attention to our mental health, we are observing an epic rise in mental illness which impacts our social and family life as well, putting stress on the existing medical infrastructure. Most under-developed and developing countries like India do not have the bare minimal infrastructure to deal with the challenges of mental health. We do not have enough qualified and experienced psychiatrists, psychologists, counsellors, mental health trained nurses or medical personnel and staff to tackle the challenges of both patients and would-be patients.

In the past two years we have been through the global pandemic and many got impacted due to acute isolation for months together. Not only did we experience social, cultural, economic and physical challenges but we have been also severely impacted emotionally too. This has been a challenging time for all of us, more so for our numerous helpless senior citizens and countless babies and young children who lost their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic around the globe. Although now the COVID-19 infection graph is going downhill, but cases of mental health have taken an accelerated growth across the planet as a long-term impact of this devastating pandemic. Getting to job loss, business crash, financial crisis and overburden of loan etc. This has affected people across age and gender. I am sure many of us would have understood and learnt lessons on mental health.

Psychologists have cautioned on the long-term impacts of human mental health across developed and developing nations. But we have failed to take appropriate measures as we were too focused on the physical side of the illness and treating them. But effective treatment of mental health is still a distant goal.

Contrary to the undoubted pandemic ill effects, there has been

many positive changes and people have started cultivating good habits. To be mentally healthy, we should engage in positive activities and have a friend's circle or be part of a peer-support group. To do so, we need good social and communication skills to interact with other people outside our comfort zone. It is very important to meet and greet other people physically, and not just virtually. It is also important to know our close and distant family members and neighbours. Helping others in need is good for mental health, as studies have shown.

There are people around us that are looking for company and a listening ear. We can be their comfort by lending a listening ear. An active life that includes some free-hand exercises, yoga, pranayam and brisk walking can bring positive changes for our mental health if we are suffering from anxiety, depression, frustrations, anger, emotional outbursts, irritability and melancholy. A daily cycle of meditation for at least 5 minutes in the morning when we wake up or before we go to sleep can start showing positive impacts on our mental health. A regular life style with food low in carbohydrates but rich in seasonal fruits and green leafy vegetables are very helpful. Let's also avoid addiction to tobacco products, hard and soft drinks, tea and coffee or addiction to TV, smart phones and laptops.

Instead, let's take up reading books as a habit. It will help us sleep better.

Right now, we only fill our tanks when they're on "empty." Developing our awareness helps us start to recognize the signs and symptoms when we're feeling "off" — just as we do with physical illness.

Let us follow our roots and come out of this technical and materialistic world.

It is so important to have a hobby that engages us mentally, physically and intellectually, such as watching good movies, reading quality books, travelling, or any kind of sports or writing diary, poems, stories or novels or anything else that we love doing. Those will vary from one individual to another. When we feel low or depressed, it is good to seek help from a qualified mental health practitioner. Let's not neglect mental health issues.

It's crucial for caregivers, employers, parents, family members, and loved ones to understand the impact that mental health has on daily life. However, while mental health conditions can make daily life more difficult, they also don't have to prevent you from having a fulfilling and engaging life.

When the people in your life understand and prioritize mental health care, it makes it easier to take the actions you need to do to take care of yourself and thrive.

We owe it to ourselves.

'DOESN'T REALLY MEASURE HUNGER, PARAMETRES CONTEXTUAL': GOVT SOURCES AS INDIA SLIPS TO 107 IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX



Three out of the four indicators used are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population, sources said.

The Global Hunger Index exaggerates the measure of hunger, lacks statistical vigour and has problems on multiple counts, Union Health Ministry sources said Tuesday after India stood 107th out of 121 in this year's rankings.

It does not really measure hunger, they said while asserting that the report "deliberately ignores the tremendous efforts made by the government to ensure food security for the population, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic".

Three out of the four indicators used are related to the health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population, PII quoted sources as saying.

They said that according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the indicators of undernourishment, stunting, wasting and child mortality do not measure hunger per se as these are not the manifestations of hunger alone.

Many of the measures that are used to evolve an index that measures hunger are probably contextual, the ministry sources said.

Gaining that the Global Hunger Index was erroneous and suffers from serious methodological issues, an official said. "It exaggerates the measure of hunger, lacks statistical vigour, has a problem of multiple counts and gives higher representation to under-five children".

The fourth indicator, the 'Estimate of Proportion of Undernourished Population' for India is 16.3 per cent. For a country of the size of India, the data has been collected from a minuscule sample of 3,000 and is statistically wrong, lacks validity, biased and unethical, sources in the ministry said.

"Also, the framing of questions was inappropriate and negative. For example, respondents were asked, 'During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources you were worried you would not have enough food to eat?' You ate less than you thought you should?"

"Inclusion of such questions signifies that the

agencies had pre-formed biases and did not search for facts based on relevant information about the delivery of nutritional support and assurance of food security by the Government," an official source said.

The other three indicators relate primarily to children such as stunting, wasting and under-five mortality. These indicators are the outcomes of complex interactions of factors such as drinking water, sanitation, genetics, environment and utilisation of food intake apart from hunger. Interpreting 'hunger' based on health indicators of children is neither scientific nor rational, the source said.

Even then their estimates are wrong as National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has shown improvement in stunting and wasting and a significant reduction in U5MR, they said.

According to NFHS India has shown improvement in child nutrition indicators as stunting (height-for-age) among children under 5 years has declined from 38.4 per cent (NFHS-4-2015-16) to 35.5 per cent (NFHS-5-2019-21).

Wasting (weight-for-height) among children under 5 years has declined from 21.0 (NFHS-4) to 19.3 per cent (NFHS-5). Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age) declined from 35.8 (NFHS-4) to 32.1 per cent (NFHS-5) and U5MR to 109 (1990) to 42 in 2021.

In the Global Hunger Index, 2022, India ranked 107 out of 121 countries, much behind its South Asia neighbours with the child wasting rate at 19.3 per cent, the highest in the world. With a score of 29.1, the level of hunger in India has been labelled 'serious'.

by Taboda
You May Like
Get Certified from IIT Madras CCE & IntelliPaat
Incredible Rs 2499 Smartwatch is Taking India By Storm (It's Genius) Wisamate
The Ministry of Women and Child Development on October 15 rejected the findings alleging it is an effort to taint the country's image and the index suffers from serious methodological issues and is an "erroneous measure" of hunger. The opposition leaders said the government must take responsibility for its "failure".

(With PII inputs)



CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY INITIATIVE FOR AGRICULTURAL STARTUPS, UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER MAKES MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE CONFERENCE

Taking major policy initiatives for Agriculture Startups, the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar made several key announcements. In the Agri Startup Conference organized on the second day of PM Kisan Samman Sammelan at Pusa Mitra Ground, Delhi, Shri Tomar informed that a high-level steering committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Agriculture Minister for overall guidance of the Agriculture Startup ecosystem. A Rs. 500 crore accelerator programme for taking forward and popularizing the successful initiatives of Agri Startups will be started.

Amidst a large gathering of Agri Startup delegates, Shri Tomar announced that an Executive Committee would be constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary Agriculture, comprising of concerned agencies like DARE, DPIIT, agricultural incubators and knowledge partners, agricultural universities, research institutes, top investors and other stakeholders. Also, a separate Division will be created under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary for Agriculture Startups in the Ministry of Agriculture. A cell will also be created to work as a single window agency for Agri Startups to facilitate all linkages required with certification agencies, financial institutions, agricultural universities etc. Shri Tomar informed that a marketing linkage will be created with organizations like e-NAM and NAFED to meet the market needs of the products developed by the



Agri Startups. A portal will also be developed to create a database for all Agriculture Startups and monitor their development. Shri Tomar said that efforts will be made to organize Agri Startup Conclave at national and regional level to promote Startups in Agriculture sector.

The Union Minister said that the government is committed to develop technology. The government wants our startups to be useful to the country and the world by solving the existing challenges. In this direction, the Ministry of Agriculture,

along with the Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) and other institutions including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are working with utmost commitment. Shri Tomar said that it is necessary to popularize technology, only then people will get its real benefit, as well as technology should be affordable to the common man. Startups should work by deciding their focus and sector, so that farmers can draw full benefits of their output. In view of the rising population of the country and the world, one should also work for food security, especially in view of the challenges of climate change. Startups should imbibe with vision and determination. Following the call of the Prime Minister, we have to be successful in making India a developed nation by the centenary year of our Independence. Shri Tomar said that the Government of India has stood shoulder to shoulder and walked step by step with the Startups towards this goal.

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje were also present on the occasion. Agriculture Secretary Shri Manoj Ahuja and Director General of ICAR, Dr. Himanshu Pathak also addressed the conclave. Initially, representatives of hundreds of Startups from across the country put forward their key suggestions to the ministers. Earlier, Union Minister Shri Tomar along with both the Ministers of State visited various stalls and inquired about the Startups.

THE FIFTH VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS WILL BEGIN SERVICE



On October 13, the fourth Vande Bharat Express train's operations were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Himachal Pradesh region of Udhampur. Later, the chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, Jai Ram Thakur and Manohar Lal Khattar, were spotted traveling on the fast train. Beginning the next week, the train is expected to reduce the distance between Delhi and Chandigarh to three hours. According to a government statement, it will take two hours less to go from Udhampur to New Delhi.

Vande Bharat 2.0 has more improvements and innovations than its predecessor, including the ability to accelerate from 0 to 100 km/h in under 52 seconds and reach a top speed of 180 km/h. In comparison to the previous version's 430 tonnes, the enhanced Vande Bharat Express will weigh 392 tonnes. Additionally, it will feature an on-demand Wi-Fi content facility. Additionally, it offers aircraft-like traveling experiences and cutting-edge security measures, such as the locally built KAVACH Train Collision Avoidance System.

PM Modi debuted the third Vande Bharat train in Gujarat earlier this month.

However, there have also been some documented incidents that are related to the fast train. It was the third technical issue in as many days when a semi-high-speed train traveling between New Delhi and Varanasi experienced a delay last week. A Vande Bharat Express train struck three buffaloes the day before and a cow the following day, both in Gujarat.

HIMACHAL PRADESH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: FIRST LIST OF BJP AND CONGRESS CANDIDATES RELEASED

The Bharatiya Janata Party has released a list of 62 candidates for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. This comes a day after Congress released its first list of 46 candidates. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, senior leader Anil Sharma and Satpal Singh Satti are the most prominent names featured on the list.

While Thakur will contest from Saraj, Sharma and Satti will contest from Mand and Una. The newly constituted Central Election Committee of the BJP met for the first time to finalise its list of candidates. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah and party chief J.P. Nadda attended the meeting. Polling for the Himachal polls will take place on November 12.



Meanwhile, Congress fielded Mukesh Agrihotri from Hardi and former minister Asha Kumari from Dalhousie. Former state Congress chiefs Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Kuldeep Singh Rathore from Nadda and Theog.

The party has fielded all its sitting MLAs, including former chief minister Virbhadra Singh's son Vikramaditya Singh from the Shimla Rural constituency.

Former BJP leader Dyal Pyari, who switched over to the Congress a few days ago, has been fielded from the Paddad (SC) seat. G.D. Dhari Ram Shandil will contest from his Sotan seat and Harshvardhan Singh Chauhan from his Shillai assembly seat. Former state minister and former state party chief Kaul Singh Thakur will contest from the Darang assembly seat.

It is a triangular contest this time with the Aam Aadmi Party posing a stiff challenge to the BJP and the Congress. The party, which now has national ambitions after its Punjab job win, is expected to release a list of 64 candidates this year.

DEFENCE EXPO 2022 IN GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19th October inaugurated the 'Defence Expo 2022' in Gujarat's Gandhinagar. At the 12th edition of the annual event, PM Modi unveiled HIT-40—the indigenous trainer aircraft designed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This is the first-ever defence event where India-made weapon systems, aircraft and security systems will be put on display.

DefExpo 2022 also marks the celebration of one year of the formation of the seven new defence companies carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board.

According to reports, nearly 100 countries will

visit the defence expo to watch India's technological prowess. 25 defence ministers and 75 representatives of various countries are participating in the event. Here are some of the equipment put on display at the event: Border Surveillance system and Laser Fence System. BOS can keep an eye on the border for up to 20 kilometres. It can detect the movements of people on the border and inform the control room. It rotates on its own and can work in all weather. IFS creates a laser perimeter around any installation. It can detect movement if anybody trips on the laser rays.

Prahar and Rudram-3 missiles. Prahar missiles can hit targets up to a distance of 150 kilometres. Rudram-3 has a range of 500 kilometres. The aim of this weapon system is to destroy radars. It is an air-to-surface missile. The mounted Gun System is an indigenously made heavy artillery system. It has a range of 48 kilometres. Other weapons put on display include Vaidhavi anti-tank munition, Vishal anti-tank mines, MM machine pistol, light tanks and light machine guns. The event will go on till October 28. 1,320 defence companies are taking part in the event. As per reports, contracts worth Rs 1.25 lakh crore are likely to be signed.

UMA AND SURESH PRABHU ARE PROUD GRANDPARENTS. MAHARASHTRA CM EKNATH SHINDE BLESSED NEW BORN AND THE PARENTS



---Uma and Suresh Prabhu proud grandparents Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde blessed newborn and parents Ameya Prabhu and Vaishali.

Honourable Sri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has been former Union Minister of Multiple Ministries and India's Sherpa for G-20 countries. He is also Chairperson National Cooperative Policy Drafting Committee. Now Sri Prabhu and Ms Uma Prabhu (Senior Journalist and Chairperson NBS) are the

proud recipients of a new designation. They are now grandparents.

Honourable Chief Minister of Maharashtra Shri Eknath Shinde went to bless the new child and their parents Ms Vaishnavi and Sri Ameya Prabhu (MD NAFA Capital, Social Entrepreneur and Writer). ---Shri Suresh Prabhu thanking the Honourable Chief Minister, said, "I thank the CM of Maharashtra Honourable Shri Eknath Shinde for visiting the Hospital where our grandchild is born. To bless the newly born and also wish Ameya Prabhu and Vaishnavi, the proud parents. Thanks to Dr. Nandita Patilkar for doing a great Medical Job."

Source: PTI/IB/INS/NewsMania Desk

KARNATAKA HIJAB BAN CASE: SUPREME COURT DELIVERS SPLIT VERDICT

The Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the ban of wearing of hijab in educational institutions in Karnataka – with one judge affirming that the state government is authorised to enforce uniform in schools and the other calling hijab a matter of choice that cannot be stifled by the state. Justice Hemant Gupta, in his judgment, dismissed all the appeals filed against the Karnataka high court judgment, which held in March that wearing of hijab by Muslim women is not mandatory in Islam and that the Karnataka government was empowered to enforce the uniform mandate.

However, Justice Suchanshu Dhulia differed from the senior judge on the bench and allowed all the appeals. Reading out the operative part of his judgment, Justice Dhulia said that wearing of hijab is a matter of choice for a Muslim girl and there cannot be any restriction against it.

Quashing the state government's prohibitory notification, Justice Dhulia added that concerns regarding the education of a girl child weighed the most on his mind and the ban on hijab would certainly come in the way of making her life better.

In view of the dissenting views, the matter has been referred to the Chief Justice of India for constituting an appropriate bench.

The extensive hearing in the case last month witnessed almost two dozen lawyers arguing over a spectrum of issues on behalf of girl students, Islamic bodies, rights groups, lawyers and activists.

While the petitioners challenging the high court order covered in their arguments the right to practice religion, freedom to dress as a matter of expression and identity, right to access education and alleged unreasonableness of the state's mandate, the Karnataka government maintained throughout the proceedings that their circular to enforce uniform was religion-neutral and aimed only at promoting uniformity and discipline.



Senior advocates Rajeev Dhavan, Kapil Sibal, Dushyant Dave, Salman Khurshid, Huzefa Ahmed, Gopin Gonsalves, Mianakshi Arora, Sanjay Hegde, AV Dar, Davadatt Kamat and Jayra Kolhari argued for the batch of girl students, women's rights groups, lawyers, activists and Islamic bodies. During the proceedings, the petitioners implored the bench to test the February 2022 order of the Karnataka government on the anvil of violation of a spectrum of fundamental rights, especially those relating to religion, culture, privacy and education.

At the same time, most of the petitioners urged the top court to steer clear of the controversy as to whether wearing of hijab formed an essential religious practice or not. Attacking the March 15 high court judgment for ruling that hijab is not an essential religious practice in Islam, the petitioners contended that a court cannot be an arbiter of religion and that interpreting Quran or its verses is outside the expertise of a court of law.

A lot of emphasis was also laid on the 2017 right to privacy judgment to highlight that identity, dignity and self-determination are inalienable rights of an individual and thus, a girl student cannot be compelled to surrender her rights at the school gate. Advocate Shoeb Alam, for one of the petitioners, asked if the state government sought to barter dignity with access to education.

The source of power to enforce a dress code was also questioned by the petitioners, arguing the state had no legit authority to mandate uniform, adding the February circular did not clarify whether the restriction against hijab was in the interest of decency, health or public order. Several lawyers also demanded the case be referred to a nine-judge bench where issues relating to the scope of judicial review in matters of faith are currently pending.

The state government was led by solicitor general (SG) Tushar Mehta. Additional solicitor general KV Nataraj and Karnataka's advocate general Prabhuling K Navadgi also argued in support of the high court judgment.

The SG began by claiming that the controversy over hijab was manufactured by Popular Front of India (PFI) to trigger a social unrest, and added that enforcement of uniform cannot violate a legal right, much less a fundamental right. According to Mehta, the state government did not touch any religious aspect but made uniform mandatory through a February circular in the interest of unity, equality and discipline. He added that for a practice to be proved as an essential religious practice, a party must establish it is so fundamental and compelling that following a religion is not possible without it.

ASG Nataraj, on his part, underlined that discipline in school is the only issue involved and a discussion on any other aspect is an unnecessary diversion. He contended that enforcement of a dress code is imperative for promoting unity in educational institutions and that the state seeks to restrict all symbols of religious observances in the schools.

Arguing on the dominant effect of the February circular, state's advocate general Navadgi argued that the foundation of the government order was to mandate uniform, which was completely permissible under the statutory authority, and therefore, any claim of incidental violation of a right must be established fully. He also said that everything mentioned in the Quran cannot become an essential facet of religion.

Reading on the split verdict, BC Nagesh, Karnataka education minister welcomed the judgement.

"As a democratic government, we welcome whatever judgement we have received from the Supreme Court. But we expected a better judgement, as you know the world over women are demanding not to wear hijab or burka. There is a split judgement, so the verdict given by the Karnataka high court is valid. In that context, we will continue to follow what is currently existing rules (for educational institutions in the state)," said Nagesh.

HC IMPOSES A PENALTY OF Rs. 10.93 LAKH IN ORDER TO PREVENT DOCTOR FROM LOSING MBBS DEGREE



The medical professional has been identified as a 30-year-old Kurla resident who earned his MBBS from a state-run medical college in 2015 and a postgraduate diploma in ophthalmology in June 2019. In April 2016, he finished his 12-month internship as well. However, it was discovered that he obtained a bogus caste certificate in order to qualify for a medical seat at Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital under the Scheduled Tribe quota.

Ultimately, the DMR was notified by the Nandurbar Caste Scrutiny Committee on February 12, 2019, that the validity certificate provided by the Kurla resident

when applying for admission to the MBBS program in the academic year 2010-11 was not given by it.

As a result, DMR instructed the medical school to send a letter to the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) asking them to immediately revoke the doctor's degree and impose

a hefty punishment on him for using fraud to gain admission. According to reports, the medical institution instructed him to deposit a total of 10.93 lakhs on August 21, 2019, comprising 10 lakh towards a fine, 72,000 towards an internship allowance, and 21,000 towards first-year tuition.

The doctor sought relief by approaching the High Court through attorney Madhav Thorat. He claimed that his father had met someone who had looked over his papers and told him they could apply for admission under the reserved category because they were members of the Tadmi community, a Scheduled Tribe. He continued by saying that

he obtained the 4th rank in the ST category and the 854th position in the open category, which qualified him for admission to a government medical college for a seat in the MBBS program. According to Clause 2.4 of the Brochure for Admission Under MH-CET 2010, he would therefore be considered to have been admitted under the open category, the attorney said.

A government counsel contested the case, arguing that the petitioner intentionally submitted a false Caste Validity Certificate in order to be admitted to the MBBS course, which led to the revocation of his degree. On October 18, the division bench of justices SV Gangapurvala and RN Ladhwa took into account the arguments made by both parties and partially overturned the communication released by DMR on July 17th, 2019 on the grounds that, in accordance with clause 2.4 of the brochure, it would be unethical to refuse the petitioner's request for a degree. The panel did not, however, interfere with the petitioner's deposit of the 10.93 lakh order made by Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital.

EX-COO BALAJI DISAPPEARS IN KENYA; MEA KEEPING TIGHT EYE



Former vice-president of Star TV and former chief operating officer of Balaji Telefilms Zulfikar Ahmad Khan, another person named Zaid Sami Kidwai, and their native driver Nicodemus Mwanika has been missing in Kenya for 85 days. A local police complaint was made. On July 28, Zaid's wife filed a lawsuit.

Arindam Bagchi, a spokesman for the MEA, stated in Delhi on October 14, "In a Kenyan court, a habeas corpus plea was submitted. The Kenyan high court is currently hearing arguments on the matter. Hearings have been held in numerous instances. The Kenyan government and our high commission have been in constant communication. We also communicate with some

of our relatives. We are closely monitoring. They are still missing. I'm afraid." Khan's Kenyan attorney has charged state police with kidnapping Khan.

His family in Mumbai has asked Prime Minister Modi to help locate and bring him home. Khan's sisters in the city, according to an unnamed friend, were in no condition to converse. We don't know Zaid, but we've been informed that he's Zulfikar's acquaintance, the man stated.

Khan quit his work in Mumbai in May, and in July, he traveled to Kenya. On his social media accounts, he shared vacation updates, including the most recent from the Masai Mara safari. His family lost communication with him on July 21; nonetheless, he was scheduled to return on July 24. On the evening of July 23, the three were allegedly last seen at a dub in Westlands, Nairobi. "An unmarked automobile was taken away with them." Allegedly, the car's engine was still running and all the doors were open when it was discovered. According to The Star, the kidnapping may be a result of their support for Ruto's reelection campaign in the areas of information and technology. The poll was subsequently won by Ruto.

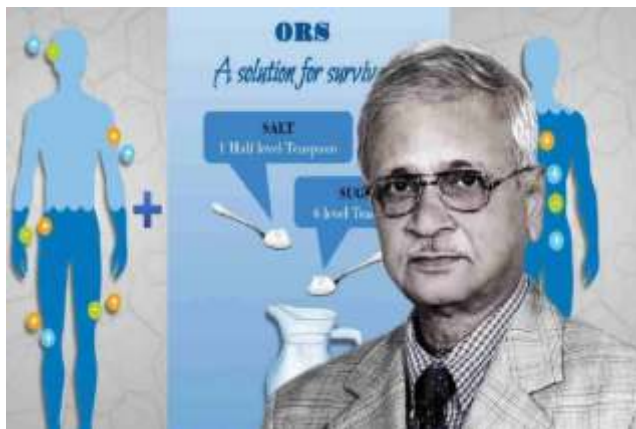
Source: IIS Inputs/NewsMania Desk



Pen of the Reverend

DR DILIP MAHALONABIS AND ORS – “THE MOST IMPORTANT MEDICAL DISCOVERY OF THE 20TH CENTURY”

THE WRITER OF THIS ARTICLE IS
DR DEEPANKSHU SHEKHAR MANDAL,
PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY,
CNMCH KOLKATA



During the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War lakhs of destitute were displaced to refugee camps and Cholera was killing them off in huge numbers. The only treatment, Saline solution infusion was difficult to get and also very difficult to be injected into the bloodstream by an untrained person. The then young Dr Dilip Mahalonabis and his selfless team urgently prepared a solution of readily available sugar, salt & baking soda*. On drinking this elixir, the moribund patients were magically immediately relieved and the subsequent use of this therapy has saved scores of lives worldwide till date. This experimental discovery was hailed by the prestigious medical journal Lancet as “the most important medical discovery of the 20th century”

Dr Dilip Mahalonabis was born on 12th of November 1934 (Kishoreguri, now Bangladesh), he completed his MBBS from Calcutta Medical College and qualified as a Paediatrician from England. He joined the International Center of Johns Hopkins University at the Beleghrata Infectious Disease Hospital, Kolkata in 1964 and initiated research on Oral Rehydration Therapy with the participants being the cholera patients treated there. Later, after his monumental victory over the cholera epidemic of 1971, Dr. Mahalonabis was

associated with the World Health Organization's Diarrhoeal Disease Control programme. He also had a stint as the Director of Clinical Science at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh. He was hugely clinically invested in the Institute of Child Health, Park Circus Kolkata and contributed his life's savings there. Dr Dilip Mahalonabis in 1991 founded the 'Society for Applied Studies' to inculcate field working and hands on research.

Recipient of numerous notable accolades, he was also awarded in 2002 the Pollin prize, considered the apex award in Paediatrics by Columbia University.

Dr Mahalonabis aged 87, passed away on the 16th of October 2022 in Kolkata.

His timely and brave scientific contribution during a dark humanitarian crisis must be honoured in our deeds and memories for eternity.

* This composition was an improvisation borne out of a logistically nightmarish emergency but after tireless research and much refinement by Dr Mahalonabis and others, we have today's life saving ORS and the glucose (sugar), sodium chloride (salt), Potassium chloride and Trisodium citrate.

References

“There were two rooms in the hospital in Bangon that were filled with severely ill cholera patients lying on the floor. In order to treat these people with IV saline, you literally had to kneel down in their faces and their vomit. Within 48 hours of arriving there, I realised we were losing the battle because there was not enough IV and only two members of my team were trained to give IV fluids.” This was published as part of his interview titled ‘Made for an Old Scourge’ published in the World Health Organization (WHO) Bulletin in 2009.

After its success in Bangon and other refugee camps, the WHO adopted ORS in 1978 - advocating its use to fight cholera and childhood diarrhoea, and took up the project across 105 countries.

“India should be proud that the prestigious medical journal Lancet as well as the WHO calls it “potentially the most important medical advance” of the 20th century. And guess what, this great medical advance came out of the kitchen, not the laboratory! WHO observes World ORS Day on 29th July every year.”



ORS Day is celebrated every year on 29th July to highlight the importance of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) as a cost-effective method of health intervention. Acute diarrhoeal diseases are one of the leading causes of mortality in infants and young children in many developing countries. According to WHO, diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old. Diarrhoea, which is frequently caused by poor sanitation and hygiene, can have serious, even deadly results, typically as a result of diarrhoea-related dehydration. It particularly affects infants, children and old people. Diarrhoea generally lasts for several days and leaves the body without water and salts that are necessary for survival. Most people who die from diarrhoea actually die from severe dehydration and fluid loss from the body.

Dehydration from diarrhoea can be prevented by giving extra fluids at home, or it can be treated simply and effectively by giving adequate glucose-electrolyte solution called Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) solution. ORS-Jod (ORS and Zinc) has proven to be successful in the prevention and management of acute diarrhoea and dehydration.

What is ORS?

Oral rehydration salts contain a variety of salts (electrolytes) and sugar. The combination of electrolytes and sugar stimulates water and electrolyte absorption from the gut. It therefore prevents or reverses dehydration and replaces lost salts in conditions such as diarrhoea and vomiting. ORS is available in the market in a powder form in sachets/ready-made solutions or one can also easily make it at home as well.

All we need to know:

How to make the ORS drink which is available in powder form?

1. Put the contents of the ORS packet in a clean container. Check the packet for directions and add the amount of clean water as indicated. Too little water could make the diarrhoea worse.

2. Add water only. Do not add ORS to milk, soup, fruit juice or any soft drinks. Do not add sugar.

3. Stir well, and feed it to the child from a clean cup. Do not use a bottle.

How much ORS drink can be given?

- Encourage the child to drink as much as possible. A child under the age of 2 years needs at least 1/4 to 1/2 of a large (250 millilitre) cup of the ORS drink after each watery stool. Give 1-2 teaspoon every 2-3 minutes.

- A child aged 2 years or older needs at least 1/2 to 1 whole large (250 millilitre) cup of the ORS drink after each watery stool.

- If the child vomits, wait for 10 minutes. Give a teaspoonful every 2-3 minutes.

- If the child is on breastfeeding, continue it along with ORS.

How do I prepare an ORS solution at home?

If ORS packets are not available, you can prepare it at home as well.

- Clean Water - 1 litre - 5cupful (each cup about 200ml.)

- Sugar - Six level teaspoons (1 teaspoon = 5grams)

- Salt - Half level teaspoon

- Stir the mixture till the sugar dissolves.

The home-made solution is adequate in most cases and is very effective for rehydration. Be very careful to mix the correct amounts. Too much sugar can make the diarrhoea worse and too much salt can be extremely harmful to the child.

Types of ORS: Rice-based, Trisodium citrate, Low osmolarity and Super ORS.

Rehydration with intravenous fluids is needed in cases of severe dehydration.

Can the ORS solution be stored?

The ORS solution should be covered and not kept for more than 24 hours due to the risk of bacterial contamination.

Can ORS be used for everyone?

ORS is safe and can be used to treat anyone suffering from diarrhoea, before a detailed diagnosis is done by the doctor. Adults need rehydration treatment as much as children, although children must always be treated immediately because they become dehydrated more quickly.

What happens if the ORS is prepared with dirty water?

The benefits of fluid replacement would be lost if you use contaminated water. Boil and cool the water before use. In situations where it is difficult to boil water, use the filtered water possible.

GLITZ MANIA

Vol-X Issue 442, News Mania
RNI No. - WBENG/2013/50163
Weekly, Dt. 21-10-2022 to 27-10-2022
16Pages / Rs.4.00/- Kolkata

RRR STAR RAM CHARAN BECOMES FASTEST CELEBRITY TO HIT 9 MILLION FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM; BEATS PRABHAS AND SURIYA



The RRR star, Koridela Ram Charan Teja, popularly known as Ram Charan, is one of the renowned and highest-paid actors in India. The son of famous Telugu actor Chiranjeevi, Ram has carved his own niche in the industry with stunning acting skills. The actor made his screen debut with Chirutha in 2007, and captured everyone's attention with his second film, Magacheera, which held the record for being the highest-grossing Telugu film of all time until 2013.

Apart from this, the Naayak actor is currently making headlines on the internet as he became the fastest personality to mark 9 million followers on Instagram. With this achievement, Ram Charan surpasses the record of the superstar Prabhas who has 8.9 million followers. Ram has surpassed several personalities on Instagram with his following. Take a look at a few actors who have less than 9 million followers on Instagram:

Prabhas- 8 million / Suriya- 5.6 million / Svarajitha- 5.4 million / Nani- 5.3 million / Jr NIR- 4.7 million

If you weren't aware, Ram Charan graced his presence and made his debut on Instagram in July 2019, after several years of being in the entertainment industry. With being the top actor and a reputation for breaking records, the Telugu star was expected to break a lot of records on this platform as well.

AMITABH BACHCHAN REVEALED THE REASON FOR DOING THE FILM 'UUNCHAI'

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan at the trailer launch of his upcoming movie 'Uunchai' revealed that it was his son Abhishek who had asked him to do this movie. "Ek baar bete ne bol diya toh uski baat man li humne". The movie 'Uunchai' also stars Anupam Kher and Boman Irani in the lead roles. The film has been directed by ace filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya, who also at the event spilled some beans regarding the film and said the Bollywood superstar Salman Khan wanted to be a part of the project, but he refused him as he wanted to take a different route this time. The trailer of the film, which ever since its release has been receiving much love from the audience.



BLACK ADAM REVIEWS: DWAYNE JOHNSON STARRER RECEIVES A LOW APPROVAL RATING FROM THE TOP CRITICS



The hierarchy of power in the DC Universe may be about to change with Black Adam, but the Dwayne Johnson starrer is landing low on the hierarchy of critical reputation among the decade's superhero releases of Warner Bros, reports 'Variety'. Black Adam, as of Tuesday afternoon (US Pacific Time), stands at a 32 per cent approval rating from the top critics on the review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes. Among the website's broader group of approved critics, it is higher at 54 per cent. Should the top critics number stand, according to 'Variety', it would mark the lowest such figure for a DC film since 2017's 'Justice League', which netted a 23 per cent approval rating from top critics and was so reviled among fans that Warner Bros had to order a reworked version, which arrived in the form of 'Zack Snyder's Justice League' in 2021.

In a somewhat favourable review for 'Variety', the publication's chief film critic Peter Debruge conceded that "the film's whole purpose is to give Black Adam a suitably grand introduction on the assumption that he'll be pitted against a more deserving adversary soon enough."

MOTHERHOOD IS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND REWARDING JOB I'LL EVER HAVE' SAYS KAJAL AGGARWAL



Tamil actress Kajal Aggarwal, who is also mother to a six-month-old baby, said that motherhood was the most challenging and rewarding job she'll ever have. Talking to Instagram, the actress, in a touching post to her son, she wrote, "I can't believe how fast the past six months have gone by or the profound change that has taken place in my life. I've gone from a scared young woman holding a wiggling mass on her chest and wondering how she was going to care for it to now fulfilling mommy duties and learning as I go along." "Of course, balancing full-time work and ensuring I never compromise on my time, attention, love, nurturing care for you, is extremely challenging. I wouldn't want it any other way and I never imagined enjoying so much these fleeting moments of babydorn!"

DANIEL CRAIG RECEIVES SAME HONOUR AS JAMES BOND, DEETS INSIDE



Hollywood star Daniel Craig has received the same honour as his iconic character of James Bond. He was awarded a CMBG at Windsor Castle for services to film and theatre, reports 'Evening Standard'. Craig was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George - the same honour held by Ian Fleming's iconic character - by the Princess Royal on 17th October. The actor starred in the last five Bond films, first appearing in 'Casino Royale' in 2006 and ending his run with 'No Time to Die' in 2021. 'Evening Standard' stated that while in character as 007, he made a famous appearance alongside the Queen in a sketch to mark the opening of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



THANK GOD ROW: SC TO HEAR PLEA AGAINST AJAY DEVGN-SIDHARTH MALHOTRA'S FILM ON NOVEMBER 1



Thank God row: The Supreme Court on October 19 refused to list for urgent hearing a plea seeking a stay on the October 25 release of Ajay Devgn and Sidharth Malhotra starrer 'Thank God' over alleged derogatory references to Lord Chitragupta. A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Uresh Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi listed the plea of Sri Chitragupta Welfare Trust for hearing on November 1. Besides seeking a stay on the release of the movie, the plea has also sought a direction that its trailers and posters be removed from electronic and social media platforms like 'Youtube' as it allegedly contained "derogatory expressions, acts, statements, dialogues and insulting images, videos in and around the character of God Chitragupta"

BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT CANCELS NORA FATEHI'S SHOW IN DHAKA



Bangladesh Government has denied permission for Nora Fatehi to perform in Dhaka. According to a notice issued by Bangladesh's Ministry of Cultural Affairs, this decision was taken to save some dollars for the country. The ministry referred to the central bank's restrictions on dollar payments amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves in the country. The country's forex reserves have slipped to \$36.33 billion since October 12 from \$46.13 billion a year earlier. As per reports, the current funds are only enough to cover roughly four months of imports. As a result, the administration is disallowing many activities that involve payment in foreign currency. Nora's performance fell in that category.

HERE'S WHEN AND WHERE YOU CAN WATCH RANBIR KAPOOR-ALIA BHATT'S FANTASY ADVENTURE ON OTT



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt starrer Brahmastra Part One: Shiva was a blockbuster at the box office, and now Ayan Mukerji's action adventure is ready to set new records on Disney Plus Hotstar. Yes it's confirmed, Karan Johar's production will premiere on the platform from November 4 onwards. As soon as the news got broke, several fans of the actors shared the news on their social media and added the title to their watchlist.

Here's Brahmastra OTT announcement poster. Brahmastra Part One: Shiva, starring Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt in the lead roles, has been a mammoth success at the box office with collections of worldwide box office gross of over Rs 425 crore. It has been reported that the fantasy adventure epic has made on a whopping budget of Rs 410 crore, though there hasn't been any official confirmation over the same.

IS MADONNA GAY?

POP STAR'S VIRAL VIDEO HAS GOT FANS TALKING



Queen of pop Madonna seemingly came out as gay in a playful video posted to TikTok. The 64-year-old put her spin on a new viral trend by attempting to throw a pair of bright pink underwear into the trash can and purposely missing reports pagesix.com "I'll miss, I'm Gay," text over the video read. The "Material Girl" singer, who was rocking a cream-colored corset over a white tee with matching pants and pink hair, seemed to accept the outcome, staring into the camera while proudly throwing one arm into the air. However, the video has left many fans confused, with some questioning whether

Madonna was just jumping on the trend for fun or was serious about coming out. "What in the 80s is happening?" one fan asked, with another adding, "Did Madonna just come out? And I'm witnessing it in real time?" A third supportive fan wrote: "Madonna this is very slay energy being delivered." While the 'Vogue' songstress - who has alluded to her sexuality in the past - has mostly dated men in the public eye, she famously kissed Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards. "I think everybody has a bisexual nature. That's my theory. I could be wrong," she said in a 1991 profile for Advocate.



BTS: JIN'S FIRST SOLO SINGLE THE ASTRONAUT TO RELEASE BEFORE HE JOINS MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE

On 19 October, BTS Jin, who is the eldest band member, announced the release date of his first solo song 'The Astronaut'. This will be released before him joining mandatory military service. Jin shared the first glimpse of his solo single on Twitter. Now Big Hit issued an official statement related to the release of the song on Weverse. It read: "Hello. This is BIG HIT MUSIC. BTS member Jin's first official solo single, 'The Astronaut,' will be released on October 28, 2022. Since it's a song made with so much love toward the fans, we hope 'The Astronaut' can be a gift to all of you. We also prepared various promotions for the fans throughout the preparation process of this single." He will then follow the enlistment procedure of the Korean government. Other members of the group plan to carry out their military service based on their own individual plans," Big Hit said in a statement.

CHINESE CONSULATE GENERAL IN KOLKATA HOLDS 73RD NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



Kolkata held a reception in West Bengal to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Chinese Consul General in Kolkata Mr. Zha Liyou, West Bengal Government representative Mr. Anurag Sivastava (IAS), Former Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi Mr. Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty, Biju Janata Dal General Secretary Mr. Priyadarshi Mishra, Former Sports Authority of India East & Northeast Director Mr. Manmeet Singh Goidi, Kolkata MMC Mr. Sandipan Saha, President of All India Overseas Chinese Association Chen Yachua, together with representatives from business, universities and schools, think tanks, consular corps, media, Chinese community, Chinese companies etc., amounting to nearly 600 people, were present. Mr. Zha pointed out in his speech that since the founding of the People's Republic of China 73 years ago under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have made tortuous efforts, struggled to find a development path that suits China's national conditions, and achieved the first centenary goal on the occasion of the centenary of the founding of the CPC. In today's China, the people have faith, the nation has hope, and the country has strength. The nation's construction has made remarkable achievements, and the Chinese people have lived a good and happy life. Mr. Zha said that the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China will be held soon. This is a very

important meeting held at a critical moment when the whole party and the people of all ethnic groups are embarking on a new journey to build a modern socialist country in an all-round way and marching towards the second centenary goal. China and India are both ancient oriental civilizations with a long history and splendid culture, two of the largest developing countries and emerging economies in the world today and the important members of multilateral organizations including G20, BRICS, SCO etc. The two countries should work together and seek common development, which is of great significance to Asia and the world. Mr. Zha reviewed the touching examples of people in China and Eastern India helping each other to fight the pandemic, as well as a series of important activities held by the Consulate General since the beginning of this year, said that the Covid-19 pandemic has not blocked the friendship between the people of Eastern India and China, thanked people from all walks of life in Eastern India for their strong support for the work of the Consulate General. The Chinese Consulate General is willing to become a bridge for exchanges and cooperation between Eastern India and China, work together with friends from all walks of life to further strengthen local exchanges and cooperation between China and India, and inject new vitality into the development of bilateral relations. The foreign guests warmly congratulated the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, highly appreciated China's great development achievements and the great work done by the Chinese Consulate General for strengthening friendly cooperation and local exchanges between India and China, agreed that India and China share extensive common interests and look forward to working together to enhance India-China friendship and deepen practical cooperation in various fields.

SOUTH CITY INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ADDS ANOTHER FEATHER TO THEIR HAT

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do". -Pele

South City International School was established in 2009 with a vision of developing young minds and turning them into truly global citizens in a warm and caring environment. The vibrant and dynamic energy is palpable in students and teachers alike. Today, the institution has visibly made a mark, not only in the city but in the country as one of the leading new age schools and is a force to be reckoned with. SCS has always strived to scale greater heights since its inception fourteen years ago. It has braced through challenges under the helm of Mr. John Andrew Bagui, the Founding Principal of South City International School.

This year, South City International School is the proud recipient of the All India Co-Ed Day School rankings (2022-23). They have been placed in the 5th position both in the city and state level. The jury comprised eminent academicians and educationists who specialise in analysing the performances of schools across India. Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. South City International aims at delivering an energetic collaborative environment where the students become lifelong learners as they participate in the Global Society.

"We are thankful to Education World for the recognition and acknowledgement of our untiring effort and hard work. We believe in empowering children to be independent. Teachers are passionate about seeing their students succeed" said the Founding Principal of the school, Mr. John Andrew Bagui.



AQUAVENTURE AFTER DARK IS BACK WITH A SPOOKTACULAR HAUNTED EDITION THIS HALLOWEEN

Taking place on Friday 28th October from 8pm till midnight, partygoers can enjoy some fang-tastic fun at the world's biggest waterpark!



The UAE's biggest moonlit waterpark party, Aquaventure After Dark, is back for one night only at the Guinness World Records™-holding Aquaventure Waterpark, for a spooktacular haunted edition. Taking place on Friday 28th October from 8pm until midnight, partygoers aged 16 and over will have the chance to experience real scare-devil thrills during the Halloween-themed event at the world's largest waterpark, all for just AED 279.

The Haunted Edition returns with three towers worth of ghoulish fun with 105 rides, slides, and attractions to choose from, as well as three live DJ zones playing monster jams. Daring ticket holders can test their nerve on the world's tallest waterslide of its kind, the tallest vertical drop body slide in the Middle East and the region's first cliff jumping experience - all set against a backdrop of colorful lasers and fireblasters.

As well as the vast array of spooky slides, Dubai's original Haunted House, Hysteria, will be on hand

curating terrifying experiences for guests throughout the night. From roaming ghouls to zombies, no partygoer is safe from a scare this Halloween. Atlantis Aquaventure's official radio partner, Virgin Radio Dubai 104.4, will also join the party, hosting a chilling zone to bring guests' heart rates down after all the fang-tastic fun.

Three top DJs from around the globe will spin the decks for the evening including Egypt's DJ Kaboo whose Arab 'trap' tracks feature in Marvel's Moon Knight series. Parisian DJ Keza, who is regularly in residence at Dubai's most prestigious clubs and Dubai's famed turntable revolver DJ 'Mi Shef Codes'. Spinning chart-topping tunes and Halloween vibes, partygoers are encouraged to bring their best dance moves to accompany spooky songs such as Thriller and the Rocky Horror Picture Show's Time Warp.

To tickle their taste buds, guests can trick or treat themselves to a range of tasty food options from all over the world throughout the evening. Guests can opt for Snappers' tasty selection of American-style diner fare including loaded fries, buffalo popcorn chicken, beef hotdogs, flaming shrimp, waffle cones plus vegan burgers, while Barracudas will also offer indoor seating and something for everyone's taste buds including Arabic mezze, freshly baked pizzas, shawarma, falafel, dosas and Chinese noodles, so partygoers can rest assured they will have plenty of sustenance to fuel their evening's fun.

Day visitors to the waterpark or guests staying in resort at Atlantis The Palm can also upgrade their ticket on the day for just AED 100 at any Guest Services Kiosk in Aquaventure Waterpark.

HON'BLE MINISTER SMT. CHANDRIMA BHATTACHARYA GRACED THE FLAG-OFF CEREMONY OF MSME YATRA IN KOLKATA AN INITIATIVE OF ICAI



The flag-off ceremony of the MSME Yatra in Kolkata was being graced by the glorious presence of Chief Guest Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance (IC, Health & Family Welfare, Land & Reforms, Refugee & Rehabilitation, Govt. WB), Guest of Honour Sri Vinit Kumar, Immediate Past Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust, CA Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Central Council Member, ICAI, CA Sushil Kumar Goyal, Central Council Member, ICAI, CA Ravi Kumar Patra, Chairman, BRC. While praising this MSME yatra of ICAI for 75 days in 75 cities of the country, the Hon'ble Minister said that the West Bengal Govt. will be cooperative towards this MSME initiative of ICAI in all respects.

CA (Dr.) Debashis Mitra, President, ICAI said that MSME is near to our heart. The MSME yatra bus will move from state to state and from city to city for 75 days. He said that the presence of the Hon'ble Minister in this auspicious occasion will boost us to move forward with MSME. The Chief Guest Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance (IC, Health & Family Welfare, Land & Reforms, Refugee & Rehabilitation, Govt. WB) said during her address that it is the duty of Chartered accountants to support the MSME sector. 71.45% registration from West Bengal have been made already. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal is always supporting the MSME sector and 93% of the industry in WB is from MSME sector. She said that this MSME yatra of ICAI would bring the awareness to the entire country. During her concluding remark she congratulated ICAI for its forthcoming ceremony of World Congress of Accountants to be held in Mumbai in November, 2022.

WILL CHINA OUTLAW ALCOHOL ? XI JINPING MIGHT FAVOR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES



As the Communist party dictatorship in Beijing considers enforcing a prohibition order that will apply to both members and government employees, China is preparing to outlaw alcohol usage. According to the report, the restriction that Chinese President Xi Jinping would enact might also apply to people who are not working. There would be a chance that a prohibition would be expanded beyond merely civil officials if it were to be put into effect.

Due to the rumors surrounding the decision, the stock prices of significant alcohol producers, including Kweichow Moutai, Wuliangye Yibin Co., and Budweiser Brewing Co., fluctuated to extremes. The move might occur before the once every five years Chinese Communist Party (CCP) meeting, at which President Xi Jinping is anticipated to secure reelection to a third term.

Chinese government employees were forbidden from consuming alcohol in 2017 prior to the CCP meeting as part of Xi's anti-corruption initiatives. The CCP's anti-corruption watchdog had stated that drinking could result in crimes while outlawing the use of music in karaoke establishments in August of last year. Local governments in Henan's Puyang and Gansu's Qingcheng have made it illegal for governmental officials to drink alcohol throughout the workweek, even in their free time.

INTERPOL RESPONDED TO INDIA'S REQUEST FOR NOTICE AGAINST A SEPARATIST IN KHALISTAN

According to sources, Interpol, also known as the International Criminal Police Organization, has given back India's request for a Red Corner Notice over terrorism accusations against Khalistan rebel Gurbaj Singh Panun with questions.



All of the information provided by Indian agencies had been submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation, but Interpol had questions and had taken it back. As stated in certain news reports, Interpol did not highlight any misuse of the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, according to government officials. Interpol does not make such remarks.

According to certain news reports, the UAPA has come under fire for being misused to target minority groups and rights campaigners without respecting those individuals' rights to a fair trial and due process. In connection with the installation of Khalistan banners and graffiti on the walls of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly in Dharamshala, the founder and legal advisor of the pro-Khalistan organization Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), who is based in Canada, was named as the primary culprit in May. The center banned his group, Sikhs for Justice, in 2019 due to its anti-Indian actions.

Jaswinder Singh Miltani, an agent of the SFJ, is wanted for conspiring with ISI agents to carry out terrorist acts in Mumbai and other parts of India. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) offered a reward of 10 lakh in cash for anyone who could provide information about him. Miltani, a close friend and colleague of Gurbaj Singh Panun, attracted attention for organizing and shipping explosive-filled weapons shipments from outside the border to Punjab. His Pakistan-based operatives and arms traffickers helped send these weapons. He allegedly intended to use the contraband by passing it through gangsters and radicals in Punjab to carry out terrorist actions there.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF TEMPORARY FOREIGN EMPLOYEES IN CANADA



Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) have jointly announced the 13 changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations regarding Temporary Foreign Workers, according to a report by CIBC News (TFWs). The 13 amendments are all intended to improve the TFWP and increase TFW protections. Employers can fill labor shortages by hiring globally under the TFWP program. TFWs are granted the same rights as citizens or lawful permanent residents of Canada. Benefits of the new law or amendment:

These laws will defend TFWs in the nation against mistreatment and abuse. Additionally, according to ESDC, the rules would require businesses to remind TFWs of their legal rights in the nation. According to ESDC, it will also forbid employers from retaliating against employees, such as those who file complaints. Additionally, it will make it

illegal for businesses to charge workers recruitment fees and hold them responsible for the acts of recruiters in this area.

In accordance with the law, companies must also provide their staff with private health insurance so that they have access to health care services.

According to ESDC, these modifications also aim to discourage dishonest individuals from taking part in the TFWP. The regulations will enhance the TFWP's capacity to inspect workplaces, enforce the rules

and impose suitable sanctions on those who choose not to abide by the rules, in addition to the employees.

In addition to the restrictions outlined above, ESDC has established other measures like mandatory training, a system that allows employees to report any instances of program abuse or misuse, raising employer knowledge, and extending coordination with consulates. LMAs would be suspended if a company did not abide by the new rules.

An employer must submit a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMA) paperwork to the ESDC before hiring any overseas workers. The employer can only hire Canadian or permanent residents without this. Canada is dealing with historically high unemployment and labor shortages. According to the most recent data, Canada's jobless rate decreased from 5.4 percent in August to 5.2 percent in September. One of the most popular places for overseas students to study in Canada.

US CITIZEN IMPRISONED IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR 16 YEARS FOR TWEETING AGAINST KINGDOM



As per The Washington Post, Saad Ibrahim Almad, a Florida resident who had

travelled to see family, was detained at the airport for tweets he made. Saad Ibrahim Almad, a US citizen of Saudi origin, is now being held, according to the State Department, which also stated that the US has been raising his case since December. According to his son Ibrahim Almad, he received a 16-year prison term for the tweets.

Vedant Patel, a spokesperson for the State Department, told reporters, "We have consistently and intensively raised our concerns regarding the case at senior levels of the Saudi government, both through channels in Riyadh and Washington."

"Exercising freedom of expression should never be criminalized," he stated. Almad, a Florida resident who had flown to see family, was detained in November at the airport as a result of 14 tweets he had posted during the previous seven years, according to The Washington Post.

Ibrahim was quoted in the newspaper as saying that Almad, 72, was given a 16-year prison sentence on October 3 along with a 16-year travel ban.

The son told the newspaper that his father had only made "mild" remarks in tweets regarding Saudi Arabia's corruption and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a US-based journalist who died in 2018 after being deceived into entering the nation's Istanbul consulate. Jamal Khashoggi's murder was brought up in relation to Saudi

Arabia's corruption.

Almad was accused of attempting to destabilize the monarchy as well as aiding and abetting terrorists, according to his son, who corroborated the Post's allegation to AFP.

The State Department reports that no US representatives were present at the hearing at a later time before rushing it forward.

Patel continued, "We did not hear back from the Saudi authorities until after the October 3 date," without confirming the facts of the ruling. Washington was incensed by the murder of Khashoggi, a writer for The Washington Post, even though the powerful crown prince, Mohammed Bin Salman, had been protected from severe consequences by the previous president, Donald Trump.

After declassifying evidence that showed the crown prince had ordered the execution, President Joe Biden pledged to be harsher, including with Saudi Arabia's disastrous war in Yemen.

However, in July, Biden travelled to Saudi Arabia and was photographed shaking hands with the crown prince. The trip's stated goal was to request Saudi Arabia's help in raising oil output to lower gas prices. However, OPEC+, led by Saudi Arabia, announced a large drop in production on October 5, just ahead of the US midterm elections. This enraged Biden, who promised to take action.

Saudi Arabia has consistently faced criticism for its human rights record. Blogger and human rights advocate Raif Badawi was given a ten-year prison sentence through March and subjected to 50 public beatings after being accused of publishing inappropriate information on his website.

LIZ TRUSS RESIGNS AMID POLITICAL TURMOIL: THESE 5 CANDIDATES ARE THE FRONTRUNNERS TO SUCCEED HER AS UK PM

UK Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned after facing criticism from inside her own party over her management of the economy and the departure of key cabinet members. To succeed Truss, who held office for the shortest period of time in British history, an election will be concluded within the next week.

As the party is so deeply divided, there is no clear frontrunner, and the nation is certain to enter a recession regardless of who is elected. The following are some of the most prominent candidates for UK Prime Minister position:

Rishi Sunak

Despite losing to Liz Truss previously, the Indian-origin MP is still widely seen as a strong contender by many members of his own party. Rishi Sunak has previously argued that Truss's £30bn proposal for unfunded tax cuts would cause "misery for millions" back in August.

During a leadership campaign earlier this year, Britain's former finance minister received the most votes from Conservative MPs in Westminster. However, despite making it to a run-off versus Truss, he ultimately lost the election to the latter.

Boris Johnson

Boris Johnson, who was succeeded by Lizz Truss as prime minister, is also a candidate for the position.

Penny Mordaunt

During the current leadership race, former defence secretary and staunch leave-the-EU advocate Mordaunt came up just short of making it to the final runoff between the top two candidates.

Jeremy Hunt

Some members of the Conservative Party have already begun referring to Hunt as the "true prime minister" after he delivered a string of assured performances on television and in the House of Commons, tearing through Truss's economic agenda.

Ben Wallace

Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson is one of the few cabinet members whose reputation has strengthened in the wake of recent political turbulence in Britain. Wallace, a veteran who served under both Johnson and Truss as defence minister, oversaw the British reaction to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PROBLEMS CONCEIVING ARE NOT JUST ABOUT WOMEN, MALE INFERTILITY IS BEHIND 1 IN 3 IVF CYCLES

Most male infertility is due to the testes failing to make any or enough normal sperm to allow conception. A low sperm count, sperm not moving normally, or a high proportion of abnormally shaped sperm reduce capacity to fertilise eggs.

For the first time, IVF clinics in Australia and New Zealand have reported data about the scale and range of male fertility problems in couples who have IVF. New data released by the Australia and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) today reveal about one-third of all IVF cycles performed in 2020 included a diagnosis of male infertility.

Although most male fertility problems can't be prevented, there are things men can do to improve sperm quality and the chance of natural conception.

Most male infertility is due to the testes failing to make any or enough normal sperm to allow conception. A low sperm count, sperm not moving normally, or a high proportion of abnormally shaped sperm reduce capacity to fertilise eggs.

In most cases, the cause of male infertility is unexplained. A specific cause can only be pinpointed in about 40 per cent of infertile men. They include genetic abnormalities, past infection, trauma to the testicles, and damage to sperm production – for example from cancer treatment. Some men have no sperm in their ejaculate (a condition called azoospermia). This can be due to blocked sperm tubes, which may be a birth defect, or follow vasectomy or other damage.

In a minority of cases, infrequent or poorly timed intercourse, or sexual problems such as erectile dysfunction or ejaculation failure cause the infertility.

The least common problem is deficiency of hormonal signals from the pituitary gland (a gland on the brain which makes, stores and releases hormones). This can be genetic or follow issues such as a pituitary tumour. Treatment with hormone injections aims to restore natural fertility.

Chronic diseases such as obesity or diabetes, environmental exposures (such as chemicals in the workplace) and lifestyle factors (such as smoking and recreational drug use) can contribute to or exacerbate poor sperm quality.



For couples with male factor infertility, intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) is needed to fertilise the eggs and give them a chance of having a baby.

ICSI follows the same process as IVF, except ICSI involves the direct injection of a single sperm into each egg using technically advanced equipment, as opposed to IVF, where thousands of sperm are added to each egg in the hope one will fertilise it.

The just released ANZARD report shows the chance of a baby for men with male infertility is comparable with other infertility diagnoses. However, studies show that for couples who don't have male factor infertility, ICSI offers no advantage over IVF in terms of the chance of having a baby.

Although most male infertility is not preventable, there are some things men can do to keep their sperm healthy. It takes about three months for sperm to mature, so making healthy changes at least three months before trying for a baby gives the best chance of conception and having a healthy baby. Here are five things you can do to look after your sperm.

Cigarette smoke contains thousands of harmful chemicals that cause damage to all parts of the body, including sperm. Heavy smokers make fewer sperm than non-smokers. Smoking can increase the number of abnormally shaped sperm and affect the sperm's swimming ability, making it harder for sperm to reach and fertilise the egg.

Smoking also damages the DNA in sperm, which is transferred to the baby. This can increase the risk of miscarriage and birth defects in a child. One study found heavy smoking (more than 20 cigarettes a day) by fathers at the time of conception increases the child's risk of childhood leukemia.

There is no safe limit for smoking – the only way

to protect yourself and your unborn baby from harm is to quit. The good news is the effects of smoking on sperm and fertility are reversible, and quitting will increase the chance of conceiving and having a healthy baby.

On average, men who are overweight or obese have lower sperm quality than men who are a healthy weight. Carrying too much weight can also reduce your interest in sex and lead to erection problems.

The good news is, even losing a few kilos can improve sperm quality. Getting support, setting realistic goals and giving yourself enough time to achieve them, learning about nutrition and healthy eating, and exercising regularly, increase your chance of losing weight and keeping it off.

Taking anabolic steroids for bodybuilding or competitive sports causes testes to shrink and affects sperm production. And it can have a lasting impact. It takes about two years for sperm to return to normal after stopping steroids.

We've all heard about men in their 80s and 90s fathering children, but this is rare and risky.

Although men continue to produce sperm throughout life, which means they can potentially reproduce into old age, men under 40 have a better chance of conceiving than older men.

It takes longer for partners of older men to conceive, and sperm quality declines with age and this increases the risk of miscarriage and health problems for the baby.

So, if you have a choice about when to try for a baby, sooner is better than later.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially untreated gonorrhoea and chlamydia, can reduce sperm quality and cause blockages in the sperm tubes. This means sperm can't move on from the testicles (where they are produced) into the semen to then be ejaculated.

Practising safe sex by using condoms is the only thing that can stop STIs from being passed on or from a partner. Using condoms hugely reduces your risk of tube blockages and damage to your fertility.

If you think you have an STI, see a doctor and get treatment straight away. The quicker you get treatment, the lower the risk of fertility problems in the future.

AN UNDESIRABLE BACTERIUM DISCOVERED IN POTATOES GENERATES A NEW ANTIBIOTIC



Since antimicrobial resistance is a growing problem, scientists are always searching for novel compounds.

The discovery of the brand-new antifungal drug salinomydin was announced this week in mBio by an international research team based in Europe. The molecule, which was initially identified from a pathogenic bacterium that infects potatoes, appears to be produced by a wide variety of closely related plant pathogenic bacteria.

The scientists discovered that a number of fungi known to harm and infect agricultural crops are inhibited by salinomydin. A fungus that typically exists in the body but can cause potentially deadly infections, *Candida albicans*, was likewise blocked in laboratory experiments by the chemical. The results suggest that salinomydin and related medications might be useful in clinical and agricultural settings.

Soil microorganisms, notably those from the phylum Actinobacteria, create the majority of prescription antibiotics used today.

The pathogenic potato bacterium *Dickeya solani*, which was identified more than 15 years ago, produces salinomydin. The University of Cambridge's group of molecular

microbiologist George Salmond's researchers began investigating the substance's antibacterial potential about ten years ago.

Salinomydin is not the first antibiotic made from bacteria. Researchers have previously found that *D. solani* produces cooyteA, an antibiotic that is highly effective against a number of fungal plant diseases.

According to Matilla, who also examined the organism's genome, these prior discoveries revealed that the bacterium might create other antibiotics with the potential to be antifungal. That information was useful since Matilla, Monson, Salmond, and their associates found that the bacteria maintained their antifungal action even after the genes required for the production of cooyteA were silenced.

As a result of that observation, the chemical salinomydin and the gene clusters in charge of the proteins that generate it were found.

The researchers found that the chemical is produced by the bacterium in response to cell density and is only sometimes used. An environment with a high pH of acidity, such as that present in potatoes, also activates the salinomydin gene cluster. According to Monson, it resembles a deft protective mechanism nearly.

JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE FOR PROCURING EYE TESTING AND SURGERY INSTRUMENTS IN BIHAR.

Inaugurated in Gaya by Honourable Mr. YAMASAKI Matsutaro San, Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.

The Project for Eye Testing and Surgery Instruments for Restoring Vision of Needless Blind Poor Patients in Gaya and Adjoining Districts in Bihar. The Japanese Consulate General in Kolkata takes pleasure in informing that the Inauguration Ceremony was conducted by Honourable Mr. YAMASAKI Matsutaro San, Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.

Along with the representatives of the recipient organization Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra (NBK) – Mr. Satish Grijja, Secretary of NBK, Dr. Sagwan Kumar, Additional Chief Medical Officer, Mr. Gancharv Gaurav, Program Director, Mr. Sukanto Maiti, Hospital Administrator, Mr. Sanjosh Kumar, Office Manager and other guests on 17th October 2022 with

the support of the People and the Government of Japan, NBK utilized the grant amount of US\$ 85,214 to procure 8 advanced eye equipment.

The advanced Eye Equipments were: 1. Operating Microscope, 1. Phaco Machine, 2. Slit Lamps, 1A-Scan, 1 Non-Cataract Tonometer, 1 Yag Laser, 1 Auto Refractometer through <The Project for Eye Testing and Surgery Instruments for Restoring Vision of Needless Blind Poor Patients in Gaya and Adjoining Districts in Bihar.



This project is under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project (GGP) Scheme of the Government of Japan on Monday, 17 October 2022.

According to NBK, with the above-mentioned advanced equipment, it will be possible to provide smooth access of Ophthalmic medical services to approximately 7 million patients in Gaya and two adjoining districts, Nawada and Jehanabad in Bihar, which currently do not have any Ophthalmic hospital at no charge or low cost for the poor except for hospitals run by NBK. Mr. YAMASAKI San

Deputy Consul General of the Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata expressed his deep appreciation and encouragement to NBK, stating about the works of the Organization in improving the eyesight of poor patients of Bihar. He strongly believes that in this special year of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India will be further promoted through this project. Mr. Satish Grijja, Secretary of NBK, expressed gratitude to the People and the Government of Japan and mentioned that how the modern and highly advanced medical equipment supported by GGP will support them to increase their service to provide a smooth treatment for all types of ophthalmological disorders to the poor people of Gaya, Bihar at free of cost.

Mercantile Post

ONE LAKH RUPEES WILL BE PROVIDED TO EPFO STAFF



For the fiscal year 2022, the government is getting ready to send money to holders of interest-bearing PF accounts. The research indicates that this time, there is a chance of receiving interest at a rate of 81 percent.

Regarding the same Employees Provident Fund Organization, it has been determined how much interest will be credited to the PF account in the fiscal year 2022. This needs to be transmitted as soon as possible to the account holders' accounts. This time, the government is anticipated to deposit a total of Rs 72,000 crore into the employees' account.

Notably, consumers had to wait for 6 to 8 months last year for interest. Hisson had caused a little bit of a change in the environment, but this year the government won't put off moving him. The information indicates that the account's interest funds will be transferred soon. In terms of interest, this year has seen its lowest level in 24 years.

Interest can be calculated in the following way:

- If you have one million rupees in your account, interest will be paid out in the amount of \$81,000.
- You will receive interest of \$6700 if your PF account has 700,000.
- Your PF account will receive interest up to \$40500 if it has \$500,000.
- \$100 will be available if your PF account has 100,000 in it.

This makes calling a missed call to check the PF balance very simple. If you make a missed call from your registered mobile phone to 01122901406 you will receive the information. Following that, you will receive a communication from EPFO with PF information. You will benefit from it after your UAN, PAN, and Aadhar are linked.

UPI GAVE INDIA NEW OPPORTUNITIES



savings accounts, check account balances, print passbooks, transfer money, invest in fixed deposits, apply for loans, stop payments on issued checks, apply for credit or debit cards, view account statements, pay taxes, pay bills, make nominations, etc.

These devices will give customers year-round, cost-effective, quick access to improved digital banking goods and services. They will promote digital financial literacy, with a focus on teaching customers about cybersecurity knowledge and precautions.

- Advantages of DBUs
- Customers will learn about cybersecurity awareness.
 - All year-round offer improved digital experiences for banking goods and services.

Along with increasing credit flow, the action will expand service providers' access to the rural market.

PM Narendra Modi dedicated 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs) to the nation on October 16 with the goal of promoting financial inclusion. To mark the nation's 75th anniversary of independence, 75 DBUs have been established in 75 districts around India.

In her Budget Speech for FY23, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that 75 DBUs would be established to guarantee that the advantages of digital banking are available throughout the nation.

What are DBUs? DBUs will be physical locations that offer a range of digital banking services to customers, including the ability to open

WHY DID STORE OWNERS STOP OFFERING CANDIES IN PLACE OF LOOSE CHANGE?

Do you have any memories of asking for change at a store and receiving candy instead? We were all frequently irritated by the retailers' snobbish behavior. Giving away toffees instead of the remaining change account became a common practice at all establishments over time.

But after the pandemic's first two years, everything changed. If you pay close attention, you will see a sharp fall in the toffees-for-change trend. It has saved us from having to endure the annoying sensation of having our wallets overflow with toffees when shopping, but it has signaled the end of the toffee industry in India. In a widely shared LinkedIn post, Gred and Durzo's growth leader Abhishek Patil explains how the introduction of UPI platforms in India has caused significant losses for the candy companies.

Before UPI, according to the founder of GrowthX, shops would shamelessly exchange loose change for toffees, a transaction that wasn't taking place the other way



around. According to several customers in research, these tiny sums over time did wind up becoming substantial sums of money. According to Patil, UPI put an end to this practice since customers began paying exactly what they were supposed to, eliminating the need for change. The daily toffee sales suffered as a result.

At the time this article was filed, the post had more than 100 LinkedIn shares. The Covid-19 epidemic was

another reason given by Patil why consumers choose to use digital and contactless payments. As a result, the move toward digital payments caused toffees to become obsolete as change amounts. The businessman notes that the majority of toffee brands, including Mars, Mondelez, Parle, and others, have experienced a sharp fall in toffee sales. India is one of the markets that have been most negatively impacted in the post-Covid period, according to Hershey's LinkedIn post. According to Patil's conclusion, businesses need to keep an eye on what drives customers to purchase a product and what can cause them to modify their habits.

In September, the payment through UPI's reached a milestone of INR 11 lakh crore, according to data made public by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) (NPCI). On the platform introduced in 2016, a total of 678 crore transactions were made in the previous month. On the platform introduced in 2016, 678 crore transactions were made in volume during the month.

THE OPENING OF MEGHALAYA'S FIRST FIVE-STAR HOTEL



Vivanta Meghalaya, Shillong, the state's first five-star hotel, opened its doors in the state's capital city on October 14.

The Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation (MTC) owns the site, which has been leased to the Indian Hotel Company Limited for a 33-year tenure under a PPP arrangement (IHCL).

Conrad K. Sangma, the chief minister who officially opened the hotel, stated that construction on it had been ongoing since 1986 and could only have been finished with the current administrator's strong encouragement. He praised and thanked all the project's participants for finishing it despite the setbacks brought on by COVID.

The hotel contains 101 rooms and other amenities, such as a specialty restaurant, coffee shops, bar, retail shops, and a convention hall with a built-up area of roughly 8,800 sq. m. The Vivanta Meghalaya, Shillong, and the planned hotel Courtyard by Marriott, according to the Chief Minister, will significantly increase high-end tourism in the State.

In the future, this approach will be repeated in order to make Meghalaya the top ecotourism destination. The hotel will soon be accepting guests after they

turned it over to IHCL.

According to Sangma, the government is constructing the tourism industry using a hub-and-spoke model, with Shra, Jowai, Shillong, Umiam, and Tura serving as the hubs and neighboring rural tourist attractions serving as the spokes. The Government has undertaken a variety of efforts to improve the State's housing infrastructure in accordance with this policy.

These projects include the development of sizable resorts and tourism-related infrastructure in Sakaladuma, West Garo Hills, Shmorgong, East Khasi Hills, Shra, Ribhoi, Nongkhnum, West Khasi Hills, Thadaskien, West Jaintia Hills, and Pelgavari, South West Garo Hills. Additionally, numerous communities will have infrastructure and services for tourists that will cost between Rs 5 and Rs 10 crore each.

The Homestay Scheme has been introduced to further improve the housing infrastructure, and it calls for the construction of 2,500 housing units over the next five years in coordination with the PMEGPA five-star hotel in Shillong would help the government attract high-end travelers and hold national and international sporting events, and other seminars and conferences due to the state's lack of high-quality lodging. He claimed that the Vivanta Meghalaya, Shillong would usher in a period of opulent travel to the State and significantly contribute to citizens' aspirations.

VOLVO XC40 RECHARGE INDIA'S FIRST LOCALLY ASSEMBLED LUXURY ELECTRIC SUV CAR ROLLS OUT

First step towards becoming an all-electric company by 2030



Volvo Car India on 19th October rolled out its first assembled in India luxury all-electric SUV XC40 Recharge from its Hoskote plant near Bengaluru. This is a major milestone in Volvo Car India's commitment to become an all-electric company by 2030. Volvo Car India Managing Director, Mt. Jyoti Malhotra, flagged off the first XC40 Recharge in the presence of its car Plant Head, Mt. Pascal Kusters, and other members of the plant team who were associated with giving India its first assembled in India luxury EV.

"We had in May this year announced that we would commence local assembly of our all-electric offering, the XC40 Recharge, and today we witnessed the first car rolling off the assembly line at our Hoskote plant near Bengaluru, Karnataka. Historic as this is, today's event further strengthens our commitment of offering the Indian market a new electric model every year. The rollout is also a step in the right direction towards our goal of

becoming an all-electric company by 2030," said Mt. Jyoti Malhotra - Managing Director, Volvo Car India.

"It is a new milestone reached at the Indian plant. Our journey to all-electric luxury car maker in India begins with this roll out. This is

new and enriching experience for all of us. With this roll out, we have shown that Volvo Car is always committed to offering the best in technology and sustainable mobility solutions," said Mt. Pascal Kusters, Volvo Car Plant Head. The company's current range of internal combustion engine cars are already being rolled off from Hoskote plant to the exacting safety and quality global benchmarks that Volvo is known for.

Launched at Rs 55.90 lakh ex-showroom with a hassle-free ownership package on July 26th this year, the XC40 Recharge received an overwhelming response from luxury car buyers in India, and the company recorded online bookings of 150 cars within hours of opening bookings on July 27th. The XC40 Recharge gives a phenomenal four hundred kilometres plus on a single charge. This feature has boosted consumer confidence and firmly dispelled misconceptions about EV range.

ARMY DOG ZOOM DIES FIGHTING MILITANTS; HOW ARE CANINES RECRUITED, TRAINED IN MILITARY?

Indian Army assault dog 'Zoom' succumbed to his injuries during treatment on 20th October, days after he was critically injured in an anti-terror operation in Kokernag area of Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district. Zoom, a Malinois or Belgian shepherd, was a little over 2 years old and was active in service for the last eight months.

Zoom was part of the Army's 28 Army Dog Unit (ADU), and was tasked with clearing the house where terrorists were hiding when during the operation he received two gunshot injuries on the face and rear right leg on October 10. The dog, however, continued his task, which resulted in the killing of two terrorists, the Indian Army said in a statement.

THE PAW PATROL OF THE INDIAN ARMY

Zoom was not the only dog that died in the line of duty. In July, another assault canine, Axel, was killed in a counter-terrorist operation in the Kashmir valley. He was posthumously awarded 'Mention in Despatches' - the highest gallantry award that an army dog is given for services rendered in counter-insurgency operations.

Dogs are man's best friend and have been an integral part of the Indian Army since 1960. Army has various breeds of dogs in its dog units. There are reportedly 32 dog units in the Indian Army. Of these, 19 units serve in Northern Command which is responsible for the operation in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Each canine unit has 24 dogs of different breeds, trained to perform different tasks.

These include German Shepherds, Labradors, Great Mountain Swiss Dogs, Belgian Malinois and even indigenous species such as the Mudi hound and the Bakharwal.



HOW DOES ARMY TRAIN ITS PAW PETROL?

Army trains these combat dogs at the Remount Veterinary Corps Centre and College (RVCC) in Meerut. These canines are trained to perform a variety of duties including patrolling, sniffing explosives including Improvised Explosive Devices

(IEDs), guard duty, assaulting potential targets, mine detection, avalanche debris detection, sniffing contraband items, along with participating in search operations to locate hiding fugitives and terrorists.

The rigorous training of these dogs starts at the facility in Meerut when they are six-month-old pups. After the training, they are assigned a unit, where they follow a daily rigorous routine in the human company before they retire at the age of eight. Each dog has a human handler, who is responsible for the well-being of the canine and also to guide it through various tasks that he is to perform.

"Our dogs are doing wonderful service for the Army as well as the civil population in city areas. They are being used extensively for explosive detection in Road Opening Party (ROP) duties, and for sanitising any MP or vulnerable area. They are actively used as the first responders in the operations also," as quoted by Lt Col Abhay Khokhar, Dog Squad, Indian Army.

DOGS NEED NEW HOMES AFTER RETIREMENT

Earlier, these combat dogs were euthanized after the completion of their service in the Indian Army, unless they were gallantry award winners. However, after the intervention from the Delhi High Court in 2015, now these four-legged soldiers are either returned to the Army's RVCC in Meerut or taken in by NGOs for adoption so that they can spend the rest of their lives in comfort.

HOW TO ADOPT THESE FOUR-LEGGED HEROES?

- To adopt an Army dog, one has to write an application with an affidavit and send it by post to Command RVCC and college, Meerut Cantt Meerut 250001.
- After that, the interested person will be notified or contacted by Army after reviewing their application.
- An interview will be arranged before completing the formalities of the adoption process. After the formalities, you can take the soldier dog with you.

AFSPA EXTENDED IN 8 DISTRICTS, 1 SUB-DIVISION OF ASSAM



The Assam government said it has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in eight districts and one sub-division for six months after a review of the law and order situation. The government, however, withdrew the controversial law from West Karbi Anglong district as the situation there has "considerably improved". The six-month extension of AFSPA is effective from October 1, Home and Political Department Principal Secretary Niraj Verma said in an order.

The order dated October 15 and released on 20th October stated that nine districts and one sub-division were kept under the AFSPA since April 1 as "disturbed area" after withdrawing the legislation from the rest of the state. "A review of the law and order and security scenario in Assam in the recent past indicates that the situation has considerably improved in West Karbi Anglong district of the state... The Governor of Assam is pleased to withdraw the declaration of 'Disturbed Area' with effect from 01.10.2022 from West Karbi Anglong," the order said. Districts which

continue to be disturbed areas are Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao besides Lakhimpur sub-division of Cachar in the Barak Valley.

The act was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review of the situation by the state government. AFSPA allows security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. It also gives a certain level of immunity to the security forces in case of an operation going wrong.

Civil society groups and rights activists have been demanding withdrawal of the "draconian law" from the entire North East claiming violation of human rights by the armed forces. They cry to repeal the act gained momentum after the death of 14 civilians in firing by security forces in a botched anti-insurgency operation and retaliatory violence in Mtn district of Nagaland on December 4, 2021.

TOP US GENERAL HAILS INDIA AS AN INDISPENSABLE PARTNER AND LEADER IN ADVANCING STABILITY AND SECURITY



Top US general said India was an "indispensable partner" for stability in South Asia and the greater Indian Ocean Region as a joint exercise between the two countries came to an end on 20th October. The exercise was a simulation of providing joint relief services to a country hit by a super cyclone.

"India is an indispensable partner and leader in advancing stability and security throughout South Asia and the greater Indian Ocean Region," said Major General Christopher M Phillips, director of strategic planning and policy at US Indo-Pacific Command.

'Tiger Triumph', a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise at the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, was concluded in line with the growing strategic cooperation between India and United States. It marked the

third time in 2022 that the militaries of the two countries have worked together. "I am encouraged by the team's work on increasing interoperability and exercising bilateral agreements to develop and validate a multinational command and control model for humanitarian assistance in this region," Major General M Phillips said, while addressing military and diplomatic representatives from India and US.

HOW THIS MOUNTAIN BRIGADE IS FIGHTING INSURGENCY IN NORTHEAST AS ARMY PUTS GREATER FOCUS ON LAC

While the Army has been reorienting itself in the Northeast to sharpen its focus on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), a sole mountain brigade in Assam has been tasked with Counter-Insurgency (CI) duties in the region. The brigade takes care of the Tinsukia, Charaideo, Dibrugarh and Sivasagar districts of Upper Assam and surrounding areas where the insurgent group ULFA continues to have some hold. Besides Nagaland, Naga insurgent group NSCN (IM) has presence in the Tirap, Changlang and Longleng districts of Arunachal Pradesh which borders Upper Assam, but it is the Assam Rifles which is responsible for fighting insurgency in these districts. Assam Rifles — a paramilitary force under the Ministry of Home Affairs — undertakes CI



operations in the rest of Northeast where insurgency still remains.

Earlier, the Army's Dirjan headquartered 2 Division had recently veered away from CI duties to focus fully on the LAC as part of the reorientation process. Earlier this year, AFSPA was removed from several parts of the northeastern states. We are always training for the conventional role of war fighting, even as we are tasked with CI duties for this region," said Brigadier KS Gill, who commands this mountain brigade. Last week, Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen RP Kalita had said the Army's units are prepared for the conventional role at all times, even while they are employed in CI duties.



NORTH EAST UNITED FC VS EAST BENGAL FOOTBALL



After back-to-back losses, both East Bengal and North East United FC will look to get their first points when they face each other in Guwahati in the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL) 2022-23 on 19 October. East Bengal and North East United occupy the last two spots in points table.

NEUFC sit in last place because of an inferior goal difference to East Bengal, but will take inspiration from the fact that the visitors have never beaten them in the ISL. Their first loss of the season was a tight affair against Bengaluru FC, who scored the only goal of the game in the 87th minute.

Their loss to Hyderabad FC, however, was a fairly one-sided tie, with the defending ISL champions displaying their authority in a 3-0 win. North East United FC are still searching for their first goal of the campaign.

Their Head Coach Mirco Balliu, who served a one-match suspension after picking up a red card in the opener, will be back in the dugout for this match. East Bengal were beaten 3-1 by Kerala Blasters in their first game of the season.

Their second game against FC Goa was a bit closer, where they lost 2-1 after Edu Bedia scored a stoppage-time free-kick. East Bengal are yet to score a goal from open play.

SAJAN BHANWALA BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN TO WIN A MEDAL AT U23 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sajan Bhanwala had the tournament with a 3-0 win over Lithuania's Aistis Liaugminas but lost his pre-quarterfinal bout to Moldova's Alexandrin Gutu. Sajan Bhanwala became the first Indian Greco-Roman wrestler to win a medal at the Under-23 World Championships when he edged past Ukraine's Dmytro Vasetskyi on 'criteria' to emerge winner in the bronze play-off in Spain.

It was the Ukrainian who pulled off a four-pointer on the edge of the circle for a solid start but Bhanwala bounced back immediately with a strong move that got him into a position from where he could pin his rival.

Though he could not pin his rival, it was good enough to earn four points. Bhanwala lost two more points and got into defensive mode. For staying passive, Bhanwala put on 'Par Terre' position, something Indian wrestlers are very poor at defending and the Ukrainian pulled off another four-pointer from the ground position for a handsome 10-4 lead.

Bhanwala scored two points with a take-down move and with 35 seconds left in the bout, managed to push his rival on the back to level the scores.

The bout ended at 10-10 but since the Indian had scored the last point he was declared winner on criteria.

Bhanwala had begun with a 3-0 win over Lithuania's Aistis Liaugminas but lost his pre-quarterfinal bout to Moldova's Alexandrin Gutu.

ROGER BINNY, SOURAV GANGULY AND CLUB MEMBERS

Former India cricketer and a 1983 World Cup winner, Roger Binny, was named the head of world's richest cricketing body on 18th October. Binny replaces Sourav Ganguly as the president of the BCCI. It would seem that former players heading associations would be a common occurrence. But cricket administration, particularly in the Indian sub-continent, is a game of power and contacts. And thus, the man in charge often ends up being a politician or a businessman. Binny's elevation, whatever the compulsions and politics behind it, deserves to be celebrated by sports lovers. Here are some of those few former cricketers who have served as heads of cricket boards or occupied an executive role in some capacity.

Sourav Ganguly
In 2019, Ganguly became the first cricketer in 65 years to become the president of BCCI. The Maharaja of Vizianagaram was the first cricketer to serve as the head of the cricketing body. The Maharaj of Kolkata was no stranger to administration, serving as the head of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) from 2015 until 2019.

Though Ganguly's exit from BCCI was dramatic, he did his bit for the Board in his three-year tenure. Under his leadership, BCCI hosted India's first pink-ball day and night Test at Eden Gardens in 2019. It was seen as an attempt to revitalize the oldest format of the game and make it exciting for millennials and Gen Z. It was also during Ganguly's tenure that the BCCI sold the IPL media rights for a record price—Rs 48,930 crore—for the period 2023-27.

Ramiz Raja
The former cricketer and commentator serves as the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The 60-



year-old won an unopposed election in 2021 and was elected for a term of three years. Raja is the fourth Pakistani cricketer to head the PCB, after Ijaz Butt, Javed Burki and Abdul Hafeez Kardar. Raja served as the board's chief executive in 2003 and 2004. One of his big successes has been bringing cricket back to Pakistani soil, with the country hosting Australia and England in a span of nine months. Pakistan also intends to host the 2023 Asia Cup, but BCCI secretary Jay Shah says India will not travel to Pakistan for any match.

Arjuna Ranatunga
Arjuna Ranatunga was the captain of the Sri Lanka cricket team that won the 1996 World Cup and put the Lions on the world map. In 2008, following the resignation of Jayantha Dhamaradasa, Ranatunga was appointed as the chairman of Sri Lanka Cricket administration. Prior to this appointment, Ranatunga also ran for the vice-president's post in 2015. He was part of Dhamaradasa's administration before resigning on the grounds of not being happy with the progress that the administration was making.

He only served as the chairman of Sri Lanka cricket board for six months during which he lashed out at BCCI for starting IPL, terming the tournament as "instant noodles". He also blamed BCCI for causing financial losses to the Sri Lanka board, as England's tour to Sri

Lanka was postponed due to the IPL. Ranatunga contested for the post of vice-president in 2019, but faced a heavy defeat, finishing third in the election.

Sir Donald Bradman
Sir Donald Bradman is regarded by many as the greatest batsman of all time. His Test average of 99.94 is recognized as the last word in batting dominance. Post his glorious career, Bradman entered cricket

administration after a brief stint in the stockbroking business. In 1960, he was appointed as the chairman of the Australian board. During this stint, Bradman drew attention to the growing problem of illegal bowling actions. He also highlighted that it was a complex problem as the correctness of bowling actions were not facts but opinions that differed from person to person. Bradman was elected as the head again in 1969 and was responsible for cancelling Australia's tour to South Africa in 1971-72 as a revolt against South Africa's racist selection policy (only white players were eligible to play in the cricket team). Nelson Mandela later went on to describe Bradman as a 'hero' for taking this stand.

Deborah Ann Hockley
Deborah Ann Hockley, popularly known as Debbie Hockley, is a pioneer. In 2016, the former New Zealand cricketer became the first woman to become president of New Zealand Cricket. In fact, she is the first female president of any full ICC member cricket association. Hockley has an illustrious O/asa player. She played 19 Tests and 118 ODIs between 1997 and 2000. Owing to exceptional administrative work and support, Hockley was re-elected as the president in 2019 for a term of three years.

INDIAN CHALLENGE ENDS IN QUARTERFINALS



India's challenge ended at the Aimtress Rapid online chess tournament with the trio of D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi bowing out in the quarterfinals.

India's challenge ended at the Aimtress Rapid online chess tournament with the trio of D Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi bowing out in the quarterfinals.

Gukesh, who had beaten world champion Magnus Carlsen during the preliminary phase, went down 1.5-2.5 to Richard Rapport after having taken the lead with a win in the second game of the four-game contest.

The 16-year-old Indian appeared to have gained the advantage when he took a 1.5-0.5 lead with a win in 32 moves in the second game after the first had ended in a stalemate.

Rapport, who is highly rated, showed his skills by winning the third game in 55 moves and then defeated his opponent in a marathon fourth game to end Gukesh's hopes. Erigaisi, who too had upset Carlsen in the preliminary round, was outclassed by the world No.1 Norwegian 0-2.5.

After managing a draw from a near hopeless position in game one, Carlsen underlined his superiority to win the next two to advance to the last four round. Gujrathi was outplayed by Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland, losing 0-2.5 without much of a fight. Gukesh and Erigaisi had finished second and fourth respectively in the preliminary phase.

Source: PII, edited by News Mania Desk

Abstract Thoughts

The Mob

By Diksha Varna



In the midst of the mob, how much she yearned for someone to share her soul with. How easy it was to fake around with a smile but the inner roots needed some drops of water, some drops of that H₂O that could soothe her heart, some drops that could revive her again. Yes, she was that jolly girl in your classroom whose heart was lost searching for that perfect person.

How funny it is! The soul of course! Yearning for connection yet being so choosy, yearning for love yet not finding it, yearning to be completed yet prefers to remain incomplete. All that the soul desires is a spark of attention, compassion and love. However, it would not wish to be bonded by the emotions, it would rather be flying in its expanse of independence. It is easy to socialize but at the same time your socialism is incomplete because of the quest for the perfect one. Finally we realize that the existence of the "perfect one" is absent. The inner roots survive not just by water, it also requires minerals, oxygen, quality soil, plant's cooperation, atmosphere's cooperation etc to nurture it. So then why do we search all these qualities in One! Wouldn't it be unnatural?

Art of the week



Name- Debasrita Bhovrick

Title- 70s art style

Interpretation- Life becomes beautiful when you Sprinkle some magic in the course of its journey.

Face of the week



Name- Aiman

Shot of the week



Name- Pranab Bharali

Title- Balance

Interpretation- Life is a balance between holding on and letting go. ~Rumi

Thought of the week



“F-E-A-R has two meanings 'Forget Everything And Run' or 'Face Everything And Rise.' The choice is yours” Zig Ziglar.