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CONGRATULATIONS



GOLD

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MADONNA POKES FUN AT THE POPE

Pop singer Madonna has poked fun at the Pope by wearing a hoodie embroidered with an image of the Catholic leader wearing a Madonna-branded robe -- with the red in the picture inspired by the Jewish mysticism movement Kabbalah, reports *femalefirst.co.uk*.

CARDI B USES TIKTOK HACK TO AVOID WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

Rapper Cardi B has proven that a social media hack is worth trying. She uses a TikTok hack to avoid a wardrobe malfunction when they were on a private plane without her fashion stylist, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

The stars today may play some tricks, which may land you in some sort of problem. But by mid-day, things will calm down and you will forget it. Ganesh says that in the evening, you will be calm and pensive which is an excellent thing.

TAURUS

Your thinking is likely to be very clear and purposeful, this day says Ganesh. You will be eager to do something new, meaningful and exciting today. And you will be smart enough to think things out carefully and make elaborate plans before you make a move. This day is expected to become less stressful, more relaxed and trouble free compared to your average days.

GEMINI

Today is an auspicious and fruitful day for you. You will become excited by every very small accomplishments. You will need to fulfill the demands made upon you by your family and friends. You will probably find yourself balancing the cheque book at home, or buying appliances for the house, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will savour a tasty meal. You will go out for dinner with your friends or family. It may so happen that you will take out time from your hectic schedule to prepare tasty food and invite friends and relatives. Your nature of helping others will make you popular and you will benefit from it, says Ganesh.

LEO

You will be in the mood to express your thoughts and opinions unabashedly today. You will try your utmost to make gains in your profession. You will be able to clear off your debts. You should make the most of this beneficial time to end your financial troubles, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Your creative talents will flourish today. Ganesh says you will be pleased with your possessions which you have carefully safeguarded for a long time. In the evening you may want to refurbish your house by making the necessary additions and subtractions.

LIBRA

An extended family is a boon, especially when it comes to charting out some success. Okay, maybe it's not Don Corleone calling the shots in your favour, but expect to get a favourable base from your relatives for the same. Bring your luck with you to work, and keep smiling. Yes, it is your dazzling smile that will help you win people's hearts, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

The Dons in the office may bypass your superiors and probably make you run around as an errand boy. You are likely to impress your superiors with your brilliance. Evening, though, will ring out the exhaustion of the morning.

SAGITTARIUS

All said and done, today Ganesh foresees you striking a fine balance between your profession and passion. Profession will win the hand during the course of the day. Your fitting in social circles is slated to take a back-seat as you tend to focus more on your work.

CAPRICORN

The usually high spirit that you display at work is likely to be dampened today by a trivial issue. So, try not to let too many thoughts trouble your mind today, advises Ganesh. Money matters may be pressing, forcing you to take risks. In the circumstances, keeping your cool will be the best thing to do, for a minor slip can cost you all that you may not be prepared to lose.

AQUARIUS

It's time for some family bonding! You realise that you've neglected your near and dear. Now, you need to do something substantial to win back your family's approval. However, your sincerity alone will melt their hearts.

PISCES

Friends are the subject of all your activities today. You will make new acquaintances that will prove to be helpful in times of need. A loved one will make you happy like you've never been before. A candlelight dinner with your sweetheart is probably in the offing, says Ganesh.

Fame brings hidden challenges: Rhea

New Delhi: Actress Rhea Chakraborty in a recent interview shared that people are not ready to accept that one could be depressed despite being rich and famous.

The *Jalebi* actress said, "The truth is that mental health is not understood in this country at all. We are taking strides and the youth is now talking about it and India is moving forward in understanding mental health. But when someone who is famous has a mental health condition, people don't understand it. They are like he has fame, he has success, why is he depressed?"

She added that people have a hard time accepting this because we are taught to work towards fame and money and when people see someone who has both and is depressed.

Rhea then addressed Sushant's mental health issues and acknowledged that she was well aware of his condition, she said, "I could never know the truth of what took him to do what he did because I don't live in his mind, contrary to popular belief. But I do know the truth about him being mentally ill, I do know the truth about what he was going through."

AGENCIES



Not being a superstar isn't a sin: Annu

Mumbai: Actor Annu Kapoor, who will be seen in *The Last Envelope*, has spoken about the term superstar and said that it is not a priority for him.

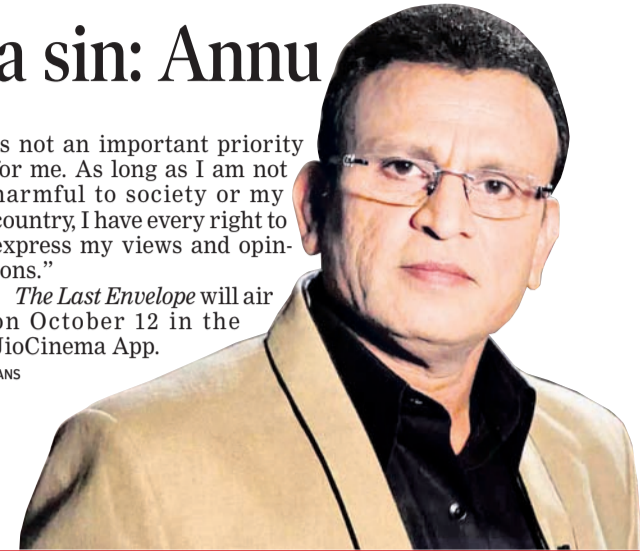
He said, "Indeed, I am not a superstar and my thoughts on it haven't changed. I had to slog a lot in this industry and put in a lot of effort to prove myself. Unfortunately,

it's a typical sign of a success-oriented society where individuals are evaluated and assessed based on social success rather than talent. Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Shahrukh Khan, they are all superstars! God bless them, but I'm not a superstar. There's nothing wrong with that, and you cannot label me a sinner. Being a superstar

is not an important priority for me. As long as I am not harmful to society or my country, I have every right to express my views and opinions."

The Last Envelope will air on October 12 in the JioCinema App.

IANS



Bhumi: Pandemic hit female-led movies

Mumbai: Actress Bhumi Pednekar says the coronavirus pandemic-induced lockdown which led to cost cutting and thus affected the budget of women-centric films.

"*Veere Di Wedding* is the last female story that worked and the same producers are making this film. After *Veere Di Wedding* we had more such stories. Then lockdown happened and then obviously there was cost cutting on female-centric films. Then again, we saw Rhea Kapoor, who made this kind of film again," the Mumbai-born actor told PTI.

"It is all about whether the film is good or bad. I remember when I had done *Saand Ki Aankh*, which is a female-led film, compared to another film, which released on the same day, and it did overall business of Rs 350 crore. While my film did Rs 45 crore but our film was running in theatres for 100 days," she added.

"Films earn money but we hope people will come and watch our films. We don't take the pressure because certain things are not in our hands. The beauty of cinema is that good work will always be remembered and watched for generations", concluded the *Badhaai Do* actress said.

PTI



Konkona shares her homecoming sentiment

Mumbai: Actress Konkona Sen Sharma revealed that she is excited for the release of *Mumbai Diaries* season two as it is the first sequel she has worked on.

Konkana said, "This is the first time I'm working on a sequel of a show which has actually been really lovely. It's a feeling of homecoming especially as you're just building on the character and not starting fresh. As we had something to fall back on, it was great fun shooting it too. Not just getting back into that zone of the show or the character, but you're going deeper into it which was quite a wonderful experience."

Mumbai Diaries 2 also features Shreya Dhanwantry, Natasha Bharadwaj, Satyajet Dubey and Mrunmayee Deshpande in pivotal roles and will premiere on October 6 on Prime Video.

On the work front, Konkona was last seen in *Kutty*.

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

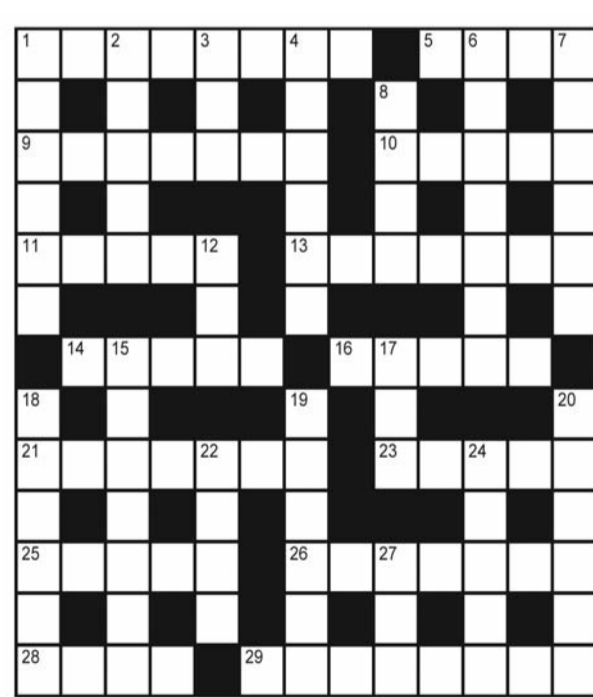


BREVITY



FUN post

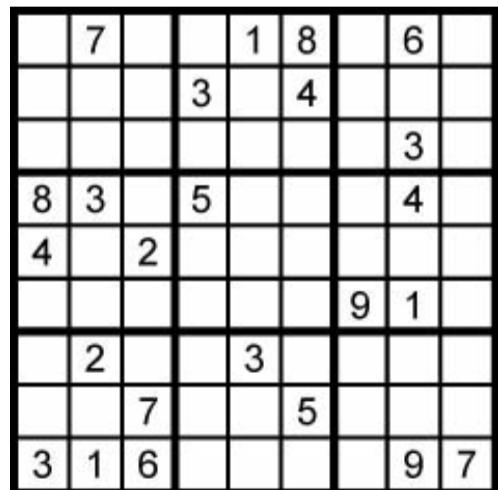
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 New moon
 - 5 At a distance
 - 9 "Arabian Nights" hero (3,4)
 - 10 Cousin of a bittern
 - 11 Choir voices
 - 13 Fragrance
 - 14 Show flexibility
 - 16 Dog's bane
 - 21 Bon vivant
 - 23 Sir or madam
 - 25 Soprano type
 - 26 Genial
 - 28 Taxing trip
 - 29 Railway stops
 - 7 Take turns
 - 8 Diner's card
 - 12 Small intake
 - 15 Light rain
 - 17 Fortune
 - 18 Head protector
 - 19 Take off
 - 20 Carpenters' tools
 - 22 Rides for ETs
 - 24 Forbidden
 - 27 Like Falstaff

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

HALIFA EROSION
PENSA TID
ATENEA ZALOT
ESPITZ GU
ERRS LNR
YFMEA
EXTRAORDINARY
ELATE
PUOZNT
IDGAZER
TAHITILREEF
NANESATA
BONNETS KYOTO

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

CANCER CARE HUB

Odisha will soon become a hub of cancer care in eastern India, says Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

DOWNTOWN P2

7 KILLED IN MUMBAI FIRE

Seven people died and over 60 suffered injuries after a fire swept through a residential building in Mumbai's Goregaon area

NATIONAL P7

BAJRANG DISAPPOINTS

Experienced wrestler Bajrang Punia suffers embarrassing defeats to make Asian Games exit without a medal

SPORTS BACK PAGE

Odisha readies for possible cyclones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 6: As the months of October and November are considered the 'cyclone period' in Odisha, the state government has started preparation for the possible calamity.

Chief Secretary P K Jena, who presided over a high-level meeting here, has directed district collectors and department secretaries to remain alert for 45 days from October 10, an official said Friday.

While attending the meeting, director of the Bhubaneswar Regional Meteorological Centre, HR Biswas, informed the state government that the southwest monsoon is likely to be withdrawn by October 10.

Favourable weather conditions are created for cyclones in the Bay of Bengal within 45 days from the departure of monsoon in the state. Therefore, the state needs to remain vigilant for 45 days from October 10 as most of the cyclones were formed within that period in the past, Biswas told the state government.

Keeping in view the history of cyclones in Odisha, Jena issued directions to the collectors of vulnerable districts, emphasising the need for cooperation and coordination among departments.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Sorry, milord, but we don't follow the evidence. We follow orders

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	65995.63	↑ 364.06
NIFTY	19745.00	↓ 234.15
DOLLAR	83.27	↑ ₹0.06
EURO	88.05	↑ ₹0.22
GOLD	₹56,909	↑ ₹301
SILVER	₹68,181	↑ ₹1413

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.1°C	35.0°C
TEMP MIN	24.8°C	26.0°C
Humidity	83%	71%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Cloudy sky with light rain	

INDIAN MEN MAUL JAPAN 5-1 TO WIN ASIAN GAMES GOLD AND SEAL PARIS OLYMPICS SPOT **Kings of Asia**



ON TOP OF THE WORLD: Indian players celebrate after winning the gold medal in the men's hockey event at the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China, Friday. The Indian team won the final against Japan 5-1 and qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics

INDIA HAD EARLIER WON GOLD AT THE ASIAN GAMES IN 1966, 1998, 2014 **HARMANPREET SINGH TOP-SCORER IN TOURNAMENT WITH 13 GOALS, MANDEEP 2ND BEST WITH 12** **INDIA UNBEATEN IN TOURNAMENT, REGISTERING ALSO A HISTORICAL 10-2 VICTORY OVER PAKISTAN**

AGENCIES
Hangzhou, Oct 6: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh led admirably from the front with two stunning goals as the Indian men's hockey team outclassed defending champions Japan 5-1 to reclaim the Asian Games gold. The win also helped India seal their spot in the Paris Olympics next year. Incidentally this was India's fourth gold medal at the Asian Games.
 Harmanpreet (32nd, 59th), Manpreet Singh (25th), Amit Rohidas (36th) and Abhishek (48th) were the goalscorers for India. Serena Tanaka (51st) got a goal back for Japan, but by that time had established their supremacy in the game.
 The Indians, who did not lose a single game en route to the gold were by far the much superior side in the final. They had also met Japan in the pool stages winning the game 4-2.
 Using both the flanks, the Indians kept Japan under pressure from the start. They also used the long ball to trouble the Japanese defence.
 After missing a couple of chances in the first quarter, India took the lead in the second. Manpreet scored off the rebound after Abhishek's fierce reverse hit was blocked by the veteran Japanese goalkeeper Takumi Kitagawa.
 Japan's only chance in the first half came two minutes before the interval, but PR Sreejesh pulled off a fine save.
 Two minutes into the second half, India secured three consecutive penalty corners and this time Harmanpreet was bang on target with the final attempt. Minutes later, Rohidas tripled India's lead, finding the net with a powerful high flick that beat Japan goalkeeper Kitagawa all ends up.
 It was complete domination by the Indians as three minutes into the fourth and final quarter Abhishek made the scoreline 4-0 from a tight angle after receiving a pass from vice-captain Hardik Singh. The game was as good as over by then.

SC questions Bihar over caste survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Supreme Court Friday questioned the Bihar government as to why it published its caste survey data but refused to restrain it from making public further data, and said it may examine if the state has power to conduct such an exercise.
 A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti issued a formal notice on a batch of pleas

challenging the August 1 order of the Patna High Court that gave the go-ahead for the caste survey in Bihar.
 The SC bench listed the matter in January, 2024. It rejected the petitioners' contention that the state government has already published some data preempting a stay. They sought a complete stay on further publication of data.
 "We are not staying anything at this moment. We cannot stop the state government or any government from taking a policy decision. That would be wrong...We are going to examine the other issue regarding the power of the state government to conduct this exercise," the bench said.
 The top court, however, questioned the counsel for the Bihar government, "Why did you publish the data?" It said it may examine whether the state has the power to conduct such a survey.

Dharmendra wishes to contest LS polls
New Delhi: Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan Friday said he wants to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Odisha and has requested the party to give him a chance. He said BJP's agenda is to ensure that PM Narendra Modi gets to serve the nation for a third term. "I want to contest the 2024 LS polls. I've informed the party about my wish," he told PTI.

RBI keeps key rates intact for 4th time
Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India expectedly left its key interest rate unchanged Friday as inflation remains a major risk, and signalled it would keep liquidity tight using bond sales to bring prices closer to target. The monetary policy committee held the benchmark repo rate at 6.50 per cent in a unanimous decision for the fourth consecutive meeting in a row. **P9**

Man shoots sister dead in Keonjhar
Bhubaneswar: A man allegedly shot his sister dead at Somagiri village under Pandapada police limits in Keonjhar Friday after she refused to lend him money for medical treatment. The deceased was identified as Malati Barik. Prasanna Barik, who works as a security guard, asked Malati for some money for treatment. On refusal, he lost his cool and shot Malati dead with his licensed gun, police said. **P3**

Nobel Peace for jailed Iranian activist

AGENCIES

Oslo, Oct 6: Imprisoned Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize Friday in recognition of her tireless campaigning for women's rights and democracy, and against the death penalty.
 Mohammadi, 51, has kept up her activism despite numerous arrests by Iranian authorities and spending years behind bars. "This prize is the first and foremost recognition of the very important work of a whole movement in Iran with its undisputed leader, Narges Mohammadi," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee who announced the prize in Oslo.
 She said the committee hopes the prize is an encouragement to continue the work in whichever form this movement finds to be fitting. She also urged Iran to release Mohammadi in time for



Narges Mohammadi

least wear a headscarf, or hijab, to cover their hair as a sign of piety. Iran and neighbouring Afghanistan remain the only countries that mandate it.
 In a statement to The New York Times, Mohammadi said, "The global support and recognition of my human rights advocacy makes me more resolved, more responsible, more passionate and more hopeful."
 "I also hope this recognition makes Iranians protesting for change stronger and more organised," she added. "Victory is near."
 Mohammadi has been imprisoned 13 times and convicted five times, according to Reiss-Andersen. In total, she has been sentenced to 31 years in prison. Mohammadi's most recent incarceration began when she was detained in 2021 after she attended a memorial for a person killed in nationwide protests sparked by an increase in gasoline prices.

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The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.



Air warriors take part in a parade during full dress rehearsal ahead of the 91st Air Force Day celebrations, at Bamrauli headquarters of Central Air Command, in Prayagraj



Commuters on a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall in Guwahati



Lamborghini cars during a rally at the Umaid Bhawan Palace to celebrate 60 years of the luxury car in Jodhpur



India and USA Armies personnel during the joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2023, in Alaska, USA



A balloon shaped as a whale shark during an awareness campaign to save whale sharks, at the Vizhinjam fishing harbour in Thiruvananthapuram



Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi tries her hands at 'charkha' in Kanker, Chhattisgarh



A farmer burns paddy stubble in a village near Patiala

national

of the day quote

The Assam government has sent senior officers to flash flood-affected Sikkim to ensure the safe return of students from the state stranded there

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

The government will not be opening more liquor shops in the state

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

The BJP is the only party that is fighting as a national party amid family parties all over the country and it is working in every state for a strong nation

J P NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Students shoot teacher in leg

Agra: Two teenage students allegedly shot their former teacher in the leg outside their coaching institute here and then boasted on social media that they would pump more bullets into him six months later. Police said they have nabbed both the students, aged 16 and 18, after the incident on Thursday noon. The duo, both former students of Sumit Singh, had quarrelled with his brother Tarun over phone when he stopped one of them from talking to a girl, police said. On Thursday, they called Singh on the phone and asked him to step out, and then one of them shot at him.

Youth urinates on couple in train

Jhansi (UP): A 19-year-old youth, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, "accidentally" discharged urine on an elderly couple, an official said Friday. Ritesh was detained by the Railway Police Force (RPF). They were travelling in the AC compartment of Sampark Kranti Express, which runs between Manikpur junction in Uttar Pradesh and Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi. Chief Public Relation Officer (CPRO) of the North Central Railways, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, said senior citizen GN Khare and his wife were on adjacent lower berths in the train's B3 coach.

Major faces Court of Inquiry

Rajouri (J&K): The army has initiated a Court of Inquiry against a major-rank officer who allegedly opened fire on his colleagues and exploded grenades inside a camp in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Friday. At least five personnel, including three officers, were injured in the Thursday incident at the Neeli post near Thanamandi. Officials said Friday that army officers have rushed to the scene to take stock of the situation in view of the "unfortunate happening". The erring officer has been detained and is being questioned, the officials said, adding a Court of Inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

Five boys drown

Prayagraj (UP): Five boys drowned here Friday while bathing in the Ganga river, police said. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolence over their deaths and asked officials to provide assistance to the family members of the boys. Five teenagers had gone to bathe in the river in the Shivkuti area, SHO Sanjay Gupta said. According to locals, when Himanshu started drowning, the other boys jumped into the river to save him. However, all of them eventually drowned, the police said.



Mr. Modi has met Xi 20 times, including sitting on a jhoola with him. Mr. Modi gave the Chinese a clean chit publicly on the issue of border transgressions on June 19, 2020. Mr. Modi allowed PM Cares Fund to take crores of donations from Chinese companies

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

BILKIS BANO CASE: SC TO HEAR ARGUMENTS OCT 9

The Supreme Court said Friday it will hear October 9 the arguments on petitions challenging the premature release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case and murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots



HC asks police to respond on NewsClick arrests



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The Delhi High Court Friday sought the response of the city police on the pleas filed by NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty challenging their arrest in a case lodged under anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Justice Tushar Rao Gedela also asked the police to file replies to their applications seeking interim release till the pendency of the petitions. The high court listed the matter for further hearing on October 9 as the first case.

Purkayastha and Chakravarty were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police October 3 and were ordered to be in their custody till October 11. Police have sealed the NewsClick's office in Delhi. The portal has been accused of receiving money to spread pro-China propaganda.

According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the country. It also alleged Purkayastha conspired with a group - People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) - to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. These for-

- Purkayastha and Chakravarty were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police October 3 and were ordered to be in their custody till October 11

- According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the country

eign funds were fraudulently infused by an active member of the propaganda department of the Communist Party of China, Neville Roy Singham, it claimed. Besides their arrest, the duo has also challenged the trial court's order remanding them in police custody and sought quashing of the FIR in the case.

The high court asked the investigating officer to produce the case diary before it on Monday and ensure the medical condition of Chakravarty, who is differently-abled, is not compromised. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Delhi Police, said replies to the interim prayers will be filed within a day. He urged the court to grant him some time to get instructions and list the matter for Monday.

SC tells HCs not to deny hybrid hearings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: Irked over the minimal use of technology, the Supreme Court Friday said no high court in the country shall deny access to video conference or hearing through hybrid mode to lawyers and litigants after two weeks and made clear that technology now is not a matter of choice for judges.

"The question is not whether a particular judge is tech friendly. If you want to be a judge then you have to be tech-friendly. It is like how a judge can say that I do not know what 'res judicata' (a common legal principle which says one cannot claim judicial relief twice in one case). Every judge in the system has to be trained," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said while issuing a slew of directions to ensure that hybrid mode of hearings in all high courts are not disbanded.

"Technology is no longer a matter of choice for judges," the CJI said. The top court drew parallel between driving and technology and said if one doesn't know how to handle technology then he or she can't be a judge and questioned the approach of some of the high courts.

"After the lapse of two weeks from this order, no high court shall deny access to video conference facility or hearing through hybrid facility to any member of the bar and litigants," the bench said in one of the directions. It issued several directions for extending the facilities for hybrid mode of hearing across 25 high courts and tribunals. The bench directed all the state governments to provide necessary infrastructure for ensuring smooth functioning of hybrid mode of hearings in all high courts.

SC notices to Centre, EC on freebies in MP, Raj

The plea sought a direction to state governments and others to not misuse consolidated funds or grant under the ruse of the public purposes ahead of Assembly elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: Freebies being doled out by the Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments ahead of the assembly polls Friday came under scrutiny by the Supreme Court which sought responses from the two states, the Centre and the Election Commission on a PIL alleging misuse of public money.

The top court, which was initially reluctant to consider the plea and asked as to how it can control all kinds of promises made by the respective governments before elections, later agreed to take it up.

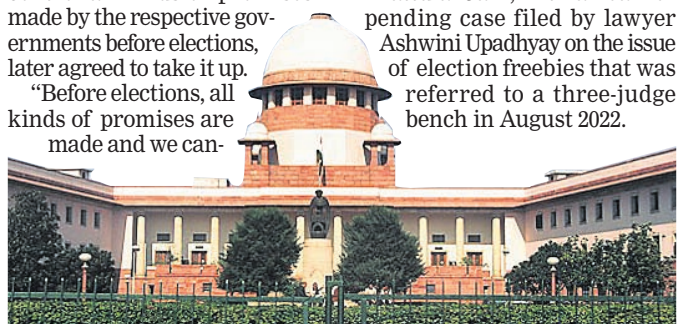
"Before elections, all kinds of promises are made and we can-

not control this," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, and asked as to why the plea was not filed in the high court.

"There can be nothing more atrocious than the government distributing cash before the polls. This is happening every time and the burden is on the taxpayers ultimately," lawyer Varinder Kumar Sharma, appearing for the petitioner, said.

He also said the plea pertained to grant of freebies in two states. "Issue notice. Returnable in four weeks," the bench said and asked the lawyer to delete the Madhya Pradesh chief minister's office from the memo of parties and replace it with the state government, to be represented through the chief secretary.

The bench then ordered clubbing the petition, filed by Bhattal Jain, with an earlier pending case filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay on the issue of election freebies that was referred to a three-judge bench in August 2022.



Tourists participate in river crossing in Kullu
PTI PHOTO

7 killed, over 60 hurt in Mumbai fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 6: Seven people, including two minors, were killed and more than 60 injured after a fire swept through a residential building in Mumbai's Goregaon area in the early hours of Friday, a civic official said.

Five of the injured are in critical condition.

Hours later, the city's fire brigade chief said the building had no firefighting system. As many as 30 residents were

rescued from the terrace and various floors of the seven-storey structure, he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde condoled the loss of life in the fire and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased.

The CM said that those injured in the fire would be treated at government expense.

The blaze started around 3 am at 'Jay Bhavani SRA building' near Azad Maidan at Unnat Nagar in Goregaon West, said an



official from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). It had a lot of old clothes on the ground floor, they said. A total of 68 residents were

rushed to various hospitals. While 42 were admitted to the civic-run HBT Trauma Care hospital at Jogeshwari and 15 to BMC-run Cooper Hospital at Juhu, 11 were taken to three private hospitals, civic officials said.

Of these, seven including two minors and as many women died - six at Trauma Care and one at Cooper.

The condition of five others is critical. Nine took discharge against medical advice, they said.

90% blame fast-paced lifestyle for mental health issues: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: An overwhelming 90 per cent of Indians blame fast-paced lifestyle for growing mental health issues in the country, a new survey ahead of the World Mental Health Day on October 10.

The pan-India survey, conducted by news aggregator Inshorts, also recorded a growing willingness of people to engage in conversation on mental health, where 55 per cent of respondents admitted that they feel comfortable discussing

mental health issues openly with their friends and family.

"The number of people blaming fast-paced lifestyle for growing mental health issues highlights the importance of work-life balance and stress management. Whereas, we also found 55 per cent of the respondents are open to conversations, suggesting that individuals are increasingly open to discussing mental health challenges, further reducing the stigma associated with them," read the survey with a sample size of over 4.5 lakh



people. However, the count of people taking some form of counselling or therapy for their mental health issues continues to remain low - 14.66 per cent. "Only 11 per cent of respondents were aware of 'Kiran', the government's 24x7 toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline, suggesting the need for increased promotion of this valuable resource," it added.

As per the survey, the interest of people on mental health topics or their

awareness on mental health policies is on the rise as close to 53 per cent of respondents admitted seeking out and reading mental health-related topics, underlining a genuine interest in understanding and addressing mental health concerns.

In terms of policy awareness, around 41 per cent of people said they knew that all "health insurance policies in India are now mandated to cover mental health".

In 2022, the Insurance Regulatory and Development

Authority of India (IRDAI) made it mandatory for all insurance companies to cover the costs related to mental health treatment within the healthcare insurance plan.

Also, recording coping mechanism of the respondents, the various activities incorporated by them to reduce mental stress include listening to music (43 per cent) followed by practising meditation (19 per cent), playing sports (17 per cent), reading (15 per cent) and Yoga (six per cent).

