

Give satisfactory explanation or quit: Cong to Akbar

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 /- /- The Congress said Wednesday Union Minister M J Akbar must either offer a satisfactory explanation on the allegations of sexual harassment against him or resign immediately. The party also demanded an inquiry into his conduct. As the #MeToo campaign gathered momentum in India, some women journalists have come out and accused Akbar, a former editor and now the minister of state for external affairs, of sexually harassing

them during his stint as a journalist. Congress spokesperson S Jaipal Reddy, in a press conference, said, "I think Mr M J Akbar must either offer a satisfactory explanation or resign immediately. How can he be in the ministry with serious allegations being levelled against him by responsible journalists who worked with him. Let there be an inquiry into it. We demand an inquiry into M J Akbar's conduct." Reddy also questioned External Affairs Minister Sushma Swara's

silence on the issue, saying she is evading responsibility and is not prepared to comment on her subordinate. Meanwhile, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday demanded removal of M J Akbar from the Union Council of Ministers following allegations of sexual harassment against him. As the #MeToo campaign gathered momentum in India, some women journalists have come out and accused Akbar, a former editor and

now the minister of state for external affairs, of sexually harassing them during his stint as a journalist. @mjakbar shame on you and stood in parliament during T P Das Bill & spoke about Muslim women empowerment & to stop their exploitation... the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief tweeted. @PMOIndia sack this Minister of yours if you truly believe in Beti Bachao, the Hyderabad Lok Sabha MP said in another tweet. (PTI)



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan welcomes former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan at a function organised to hand over a compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the scientist as directed by the Supreme Court in the ISRO espionage case, in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday



Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal interacting with Telangana farmers at Gandhi Bhavan, in Hyderabad

Time to rewrite ANI geography

ISRO survey revealed A&N archipelago has 648 islands, not 572 as claimed for the years. If tiny inlets & rock formations counted, it goes up to 836. Command to go by new findings: ANC

RP SHARMA / ROOPA LALL

PORT BLAIR, OCT 10 /- /- Right from childhood, the current generation is told that there are about 572 islands in the A&N archipelago, of which only 36 are inhabited and the remaining uninhabited. But in a stunning disclosure, the Andaman Nicobar Command has come out with a new figure of 648 islands, count goes up to 836, if tiny inlets and rock formations are also taken into account. It's now time to rewrite geography and history books in the context of these islands! The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a cluster of islands and inlets, geographically scattered and located around 1200 kms from mainland India, has been rediscovered. It's something one doesn't come across every day - more than two hundred new islands, inlets and rock formations have been discovered in the Bay of Bengal recently.

And Nicobar Command, Vice Admiral Bimal Verma, said that latest imagery from the Indian Space Research Organization has found the Andaman and Nicobar Group of Islands (ANI) to be a cluster of around 648 islands. The count goes up to 836 if tiny inlets and rock formations are taken into account. From now on, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be recognized as a cluster of 836 islands, including 648 big islands, inlets and rock formations, said Vice Admiral Bimal Verma.

Giving details, the Command Plans Officer informed that as per the directives of the Union Government, survey of around 461 islands out of 648 has been completed. "Joint teams formed comprising personnel from the Command and the civil administration (Police and other agencies) undertook the survey of all the old and newly discovered uninhabited islands of this archipelago. The remaining islands will be surveyed soon. The exercise is part of the government's decision

to bolster security of this remote and strategically located island territory as also plans to inhabit all islands," said the officer. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, one of the seven union territories of India, was till now considered to be a group of 572 islands of which about 38 are permanently inhabited, located at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. The islands extend from 6° to 14° North latitudes and from 92° to 94° East longitudes. The Andamans are separated from the Nicobar group by a channel (the Ten Degree Channel) some 150 km wide. The highest point is located in North Andaman Island (Saddle Peak at 732 (2,402 ft)). The Andaman group has 325 islands which cover an area of 6,170 km² (2,382 sq mi) while the Nicobar group has only 247 islands (681 sq mi). The territory is 150 km (93 mi) north of Aceh in Indonesia and separated from Thailand and Myanmar by the Andaman Sea.

UNODC. He said the drugmenace was a "strategic conspiracy unleashed from across the international border". Rivulets in Punjab were being used to smuggle drugs as part of a strategic agenda that went beyond commercial reasons, he said. Expressing the confidence that his government would succeed in destroying the drugs business, he called for team work to battle the problem, and said the UNODC could play a pivotal role in this.

Many victims do not want to go beyond naming, shaming offenders: NCW

NEW DELHI, OCT 10 /- /- The National Commission for Women said Wednesday many victims of sexual abuse do not want to "go beyond naming and shaming" the alleged offenders and lodge a formal complaint. The NCW said it has urged victims of sexual abuse to register their written complaints with authorities concerned, including with the National Commission for Women. "The commission has accordingly notified that in many such cases, the victims do not want to go beyond naming and shaming the alleged offenders and lodge a formal complaint," the NCW said in a statement. Noting that the commission condemns any act of invasion of private space of women, it said it has taken a serious note of the instances of sexual harassment of women that have figured in the media recently. "The commission is committed to ensure safety and dignity of women including at workplaces. The commission is of the considered view that such violation infringes the constitutional rights of women and the perpetrators of such violence need to be penalised as per law," the NCW said.

The movement, on the lines of Hollywood's #MeToo, started after actor Tanushree Dutta alleged that Nana Patekar sexually harassed her on the sets of a movie in 2008. Patekar has rejected Dutta's allegations. The movement has gained momentum as more women share on social media their experiences of sexual harassment in the entertainment and media industry. (PTI)

Dull start to second phase of J-K civic polls; 1.8 % turnout till 11 am

SRINAGAR, OCT 10 /- /- About two per cent of the electorate voted in the first five hours of polling in 49 wards of urban local bodies in militancy-wracked Kashmir Valley, where elections are being held amid tight security, officials said Wednesday. Voting for the second of the four-phased elections in the Valley began at 6 am and will end at 4 pm. "Only 1.8 per cent of the 2.20 lakh electorate have cast their votes in the first five hours," an official said. Of the 1.78 lakh voters in 19 wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, only 1.3 per cent turned up to exercise their franchise at the heavily fortified polling stations. Polling was brisker in Bandipora district with 17.4 per cent of 8,300 voters casting their votes by 11.00 am, he said. The poll percentage in north Kashmir's Sopore and south Kashmir's Anantnag municipal areas was 2.3 per cent and 0.7 per cent, respectively. Over 1,000 candidates - 881 in Jammu division and 148 in Kashmir division - are in the fray for 263 municipal wards in both the divisions. Sixty-nine wards in the Valley have been won uncontested. The elections, covering 79 municipal bodies with an electorate of about 17 lakh, are being held in four phases. A total of 3,372 nominations have been filed for 1,145 wards. The next phases will take place on October 13 and October 16. The urban local body polls were announced last month. Two major political parties - the National Conference and the PDP - have boycotted the elections accusing the Centre of not taking a firm stand on protection of Article 35-A of the Constitution, which is facing a legal challenge in the Supreme Court. Militants have issued threats to anyone participating in these polls, resulting in absence of any campaigning by the candidates. Two National Conference workers were killed last week. In dozens of wards, especially in south Kashmir, no candidate filed nomination papers. Candidates who are contesting have been made to safe locations and their details have not been made public. (PTI)

Punjab CM to campaign in Telangana

HYDERABAD, OCT 10 /- /- Senior Congress leader and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh will join the electoral campaign in Telangana, ahead of the December 7 Assembly polls. Amarinder Singh's campaign would surely add to the Congress party's support base, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal told PTI here Wednesday. "Of course, Punjab CM will campaign in Telangana. I think he is one of the most senior and respected figures of the Congress party," he said. Asked if the dates have been finalised, Badal said it depended on the Telangana Congress Committee and also how the campaign builds up. Badal, who is among the members of the

manifesto committee formed by the All India Congress Committee for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, is also looking into drafting the manifesto on agriculture. Earlier, Badal told reporters here that the committee members were touring various parts of the country for feedback before finalising the document. "The committee is holding open consultations by talking to stakeholders including farmers and farm labourers. It will visit 900 different places understand the problems, regional problems and come out with some kind of policy solution," he said. "Hopefully in the next 30 to 40 days after touring, we will start drafting this manifesto and it has to be ap-

proved by the CWC and the president.

In the first week of January, the manifesto should be ready. I don't know when it will be released. It requires lot of reading and vetting," he said. Reacting to a query on waiving crop loans, Badal said the Punjab government has already launched a farm loan waiver scheme which will benefit 10.25 lakh farmers in that state. Punjab has also devised an agriculture policy and laid it in the Vidhan Sabha, he said. Reacting to another query, Badal said "I feel the idea of food policy has to be converted into nutrition policy and that should be the aim." Agriculture department should focus on welfare of farmers, he added. (PTI)

Sabarimala row: Hindu outfits hit the streets against Kerala govt

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, OCT 10 /- /- Rallies, marches and roadblocks marked protests by Hindu outfits Wednesday against the LDF-led Kerala government's decision to implement the Supreme Court verdict on Sabarimala, even as the state government maintained that it would not go for a review. Devotees, including a large number of women, squatted on the road at different places, chanting "Protect the rituals of Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala". A minor scuffle was also reported between the protestors and the general public at Aluva and Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district. A group of BJP activists showed black flags to Kerala Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran at Kazhakoottam near here, leading to tension for some time. A protest rally by BJP-led NDA began from Pandalam in Pathanamthitta district and would end in front of the Secretariat here with a demonstration on October 15. BJP state president P Sreedharan Pillai and Bharat Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) president Thushar Vellappally led the march. Pillai said the party was with the believers and alleged the government was trying to destroy the hill shrine. In the state capital, a huge rally was taken out under the auspices of the Nair Service Society (NSS). Meanwhile, a two-day meeting of Travancore Devaswom Board that manages the Lord Ayyappa temple would take stock of preparations for the upcoming Mandala Makkavilakku festival beginning November 17. Surendran said the government would ensure necessary facilities for devotees visiting Sabarimala.

Aspiring politicians, newbies to have novel training instnat Ghaziabad
LUCKNOW, OCT 10 /- /- Good news for aspiring politicians: The state government has announced an institute in Ghaziabad to learn the nuances of the profession, the Uttar Pradesh government said Wednesday. The decision to establish a sprawling political training institute at a cost of Rs 198 crore was taken Wednesday at the state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "The Cabinet has approved establishment of a political training institute at Ghaziabad at a cost of Rs 198 crore. It also made a provision of Rs 50 crore for the first phase of the institute to be set up on 60 bighas of land, Urban Development Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna told reporters. This will be a first of its kind institute in the country," he added.

The courses are being designed by the institute and it will impart A to Z training to those planning entry in politics and also to the elected representatives, the minister said. The minister said the courses would cover practical training, laws, behaviour and other aspects of politics. The institute will also offer lectures by prominent political personalities, in-house training, heads of states and other experts, the minister said. The location of the institute has been selected in the national capital region NCR so that those coming to Delhi can easily plan a visit there, Khanna said.

He said there was no point in launching agitations against the government as it was only implementing the apex court order on the matter. The Congress, BJP and various Hindu organisations have launched protests demanding the state government file a review petition against the verdict. But, the Left government has maintained that it would not go in for a review of the ruling. The apex court in its verdict on September 28 had allowed entry of women of all ages into the Sabarimala shrine. (PTI)

Punjab CM calls for collective efforts to fight drugs

CHANDIGARH, OCT 10 /- /- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh Wednesday sought support and assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to fight the drugmenace in the state. While delivering the keynote address at the inauguration of a three-day regional workshop on 'Combating Illicit Trafficking of Afghan Opiates: Developing a Comprehensive Approach' organised here by the

UNODC. He said the drugmenace was a "strategic conspiracy unleashed from across the international border". Rivulets in Punjab were being used to smuggle drugs as part of a strategic agenda that went beyond commercial reasons, he said. Expressing the confidence that his government would succeed in destroying the drugs business, he called for team work to battle the problem, and said the UNODC could play a pivotal role in this.

KIDS CORNER



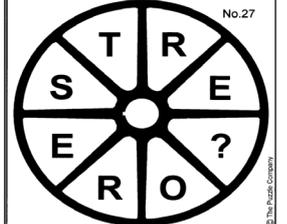
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"You're not dead - it's probably just a computer glitch."

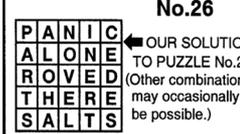
WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No. 26: ADJUSTED

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.



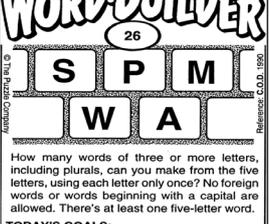
OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 25 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

WORD BUILDER



How many words of three or more letters, using any of the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

WORD BUILDER



TODAY'S GOALS: Good - 9 Excellent - 14 Amazing - 18 SOLUTION 25: adit, admit, aid, aim, ait, amir, dam, dim, dit, mad, maid, mat, mid, tad, tam