

Can everything that grows under the Sun be pickled? In India, possibly yes. A look at the staple household condiment — and its long history in the subcontinent

EXPRESS NETWORK

POLITICAL DETAINEES PROTEST IN SRINAGAR MLA HOSTEL, 11 CELLPHONES SEIZED IN RAID
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GOVT & POLITICS

200 FLEEING 'HARASSMENT' IN INDIA HELD IN BANGLADESH: REPORTS
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ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT IN URBAN AREAS HITS FOUR-QUARTER LOW AT 9.3% IN JAN-MARCH
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DRAMATIC TWIST TO GOVT FORMATION | BY EVENING, 42 OF 54 NCP MLAS FALL IN LINE | ALL EYES ON APEX COURT TODAY

While you were sleeping

Maharashtra wakes up to Fadnavis as CM, with a Pawar as his deputy



Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar with Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari at Raj Bhavan Saturday; Sharad Pawar and Sena leaders Uddhav, Aaditya Thackeray at a press conference in Mumbai



Black chapter for democracy, Gov a hitman for Amit Shah, says Congress

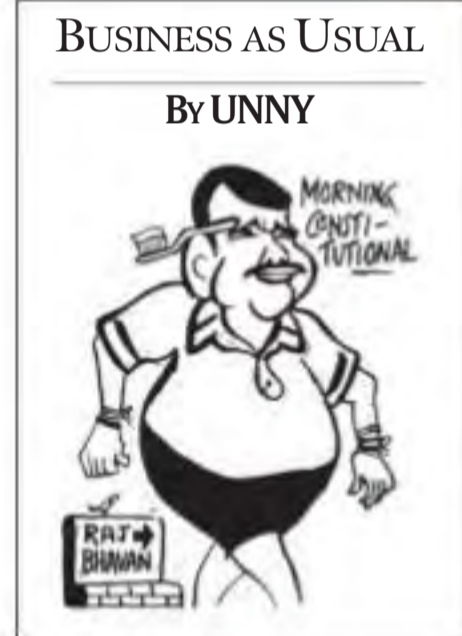
MANOJ CG & VISHWAS WAGHMODE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

SANDEEP ASHAR
 MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 23

IN A dramatic turn of events, the BJP turned the tables on former ally Shiv Sena to bring back Devendra Fadnavis as Maharashtra Chief Minister on Saturday, taking the help of a faction of NCP MLAs led by Ajit Pawar. In an early morning ceremony, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari swore in Fadnavis as CM and Ajit as Deputy CM.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar held a joint press conference with Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray to denounce Ajit, and to claim that of the 10-11 NCP MLAs who had accompanied him to the swearing-in, three had "returned". Ajit was later removed as NCP legislature party chief at a meeting of the NCP, where party leaders claimed 42 of its 54 MLAs were present.

NCP state president Jayant Patil said seven of the 12 missing MLAs had called to say they were with the party, while five were not reachable. All constitutional rights of a legislature party chief have been bestowed on Patil. The legislature party leader has the power to issue whip to MLAs. The BJP has 105 MLAs, and claims the support of 14 Independents. BJP sources said 28 to 30 NCP MLAs were with Ajit, which would take their tally



BUSINESS AS USUAL
 By UNNY

to 147-149 MLAs in the 288-member House. The BJP is also said to be wooing the six Independents with the Sena. The hunt for missing NCP MLAs saw it working in tandem with the Sena to ensure that the legislators seen as supporting Ajit did not slip out of Mumbai. After reports emerged that they might be flown out, scouts from the NCP and Sena were deployed at Mumbai airport and its vicinity. The NCP took the help of the Sena as the latter has a strong

Ajit sacked as legislature party leader, most MLAs back, but floor test is key

SANDEEP ASHAR
 MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 23

ON SATURDAY, the power tussle within Maharashtra's most powerful political family, the Pawar clan, came out in the open, with Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit, leading a faction of MLAs, split ranks to join hands with the BJP and form the government in the state.



Sanjay Bhansod was brought back from the airport.
 Nirmal Harindran PAGE 13

EXPLAINED **Ajit Pawar loses NCP Whip hand**

NO LONGER Legislature Party leader, Ajit's Whip will have no power in a floor test. MLAs who act against the new Whip may run risk of being disqualified by Speaker.

MAHA DRAMA
 PAGE 13



Ajit comes out of Pawar shadow

MORE REPORTS
 PAGE 8

Sena-NCP-Cong in SC today, seek trust vote in 24 hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 23

LATE SATURDAY evening, the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the Maharashtra Governor's decision to swear in Devendra Fadnavis as chief minister, and demanded that a floor test be held within 24 hours to

avoid "further horse trading". A Bench of Justices N V Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna will hear the plea on Sunday at 11.30 am.

The three parties also asked the court to direct Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to invite them to form a government under the leadership of Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, saying they had finalised a common

OUTSMARTED AND outmanoeuvred in the Maharashtra game of thrones, the Congress on Saturday hit out at the central government, accusing it of "subverting the Constitution" and "throttling democracy".

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari had acted as a "hitman" of Home Minister Amit Shah, the Congress said. Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray described the BJP's action as "shameless". The Left parties and the Aam Aadmi Party too, strongly attacked the government.

However, there was a telling silence from the rest of the Opposition.

Dy CM Ajit Pawar was BJP target in irrigation, other 'scams'

VIVEK DESHPANDE
 NAGPUR, NOVEMBER 23

AJIT PAWAR, who took oath as deputy chief minister in a BJP-led government on Saturday morning, has been linked to cases in the alleged multi-thousand crore irrigation scam currently before the Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court.

Although Ajit Pawar has not been named as accused yet in any of the cases, then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) DGP Sanjay Barve had said in an affidavit in November 2018 that Pawar had intervened in the process of award of contracts for irrigation projects, by ensuring that mobilisation advance (MA) was given to contractors by tweaking rules, and also by approving irregular escalations of project costs.

The HC is scheduled to hear the matters on November 28. Late Saturday evening, it appeared that most NCP MLAs

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