

Solution to century-old chemical mystery fetches Chemistry Nobel for duo



Henri B Kagan



Kenso Soai

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7 (AP)

HENRI B Kagan and Kenso Soai won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for their efforts to resolve mysterious mirror images in chemical molecules.

"Henri Kagan and Kenso Soai have provided a solution to a chemical mystery that is over a century old: how homochirality can emerge spontaneously," Heiner Linke, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in a news release. "The chemical reactions they have developed are spectacular."

Kagan, 95 years old and born in France, is affiliated with Universite Paris-Sud in Orsay, France, and Soai, born in Japan, with the Tokyo University of Science.

Soai said he was shopping near his home when he was reached by the Nobel committee.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the winner in Stockholm.

Last year, three scientists won the Chemistry Nobel for their development of new molecular structures that can trap vast quantities of gas inside, laying the groundwork to potentially suck greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere or harvest moisture from desert environments.

This year's prizes began with the Nobel for medicine, awarded Monday to three scientists whose work led to a tool that uses light to help unravel how the brain works. The physics award Tuesday recognised a scientist's efforts to demystify a rare group of neutrinos.

The literature prize is set to be awarded Thursday. After Friday's peace prize is awarded, the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences will be announced on Monday.

The prize money this year is 12 million Swedish kronor (about USD 1.2 million), whether for an individual, a small group of laureates or an organisation.

India calls for early adoption of pact against terrorism

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 7 (IANS)

WHILE calling for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), India has stressed the importance of legal measures to act against all those behind the Pahalgam massacre.

BJP MP Biplab Kumar Deb said on Tuesday that it was essential to hold to account the perpetrators, organisers, financiers, and sponsors of cross-border terrorism like last year's Pahalgam attack that killed 26 innocent civilians. The Resistance Front,

a proxy of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, took responsibility for the attack.

Speaking at the General Assembly's Sixth Committee that deals with international legal matters, Deb strongly reiterated India's right to defend its people against cross-border terrorism.

India has said that Pakistan is a state sponsor of cross-border terrorism, and after the Pahalgam attack, retaliated against terrorist bases operating there under its protection. An early adoption of the CCIT that has been languishing for 30 years is required

to strengthen the international legal framework against terrorism, Deb said.

The CCIT proposed by India in 1996 has been blocked by some countries that make an invidious distinction between "good terrorists" and "bad", claiming it should not cover "freedom fighters" who they claim are under the first category. Deb said that a distinction cannot be made between "good" and "bad" terrorism, and there can be no justification for targeting civilians. **J&K SHALL ALWAYS REMAIN INTEGRAL PART OF INDIA:**

Exercising India's right to reply at the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Tanzania, RS Deputy Chairman Harivansh exposed Islamabad's persistent habit of peddling baseless propaganda and delivered a severe diplomatic rebuke to Pakistan over its unwarranted references to J&K.

Putting Islamabad firmly in its place over its malicious narratives, he stated, "Quite habitually, this delegation attempts to indulge in propaganda and makes baseless allegations against India."

PM calls for rule-based, open and secure maritime order

'Oceans Don't Separate, But Connect Nations'

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New Delhi: Doubling down on India's stand that sea lanes must not be turned into war zones PM Modi said Wednesday that oceans don't separate countries, but they connect them while calling for a free, open, secure and rules-based maritime order.

"The oceans do not separate us, they connect us, because what happens in one part of the world can have an impact far beyond its shores... Our vision is a free, open, secure and rule-based maritime that brings greater peace, prosperity and progress for all," Modi said. India's maritime vision extends across regions and oceans, and is built on "cooperation, trust, mutual respect and mutual benefit", he said in a message read out at the "Sagarmanthan" dialogue.

His remarks come amid India's push to promote ma-



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ritime understanding between Russia and Ukraine to keep Black Sea open for commercial shipping and prevent attacks on vessels. India's three-part ceasefire plan seeks to halt attacks on energy facilities and other critical infrastructure; continuous and unhindered movement of grain, crude oil, LNG and LPG through Black Sea ports; and a complete stop to attacks on commercial vessels, merchant ships, and maritime operations to safeguard seafarers and global supply chains.

The emphasis on maritime freedom assumes signi-

India, EU launch industry coalition

India and EU on Wednesday launched an industry coalition for green shipping corridor. Speaking at third edition of Sagar Manthan, shipping secretary Vijay Kumar said this initiative will bring companies together to develop cleaner maritime trade routes and accelerate the sector's transition to low-emission fuels. TNN

ficance as attacks and disruptions in Black Sea have affected commercial shipping, ports and movement of agricultural commodities during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, hindered the flow of oil and gas through Strait of Hormuz and gnawing fear that the traffic through Bab al Mandab, another important seaway, may also get disrupted.

Participating in a panel discussion, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan said they don't make any distinction between national security and national economic security.

Targeting of sailors must end, says govt

New Delhi: With two more Indian seafarers injured in continuing attacks on com-



mercial vessels in Black Sea, India reiterated its condemnation of such strikes while

calling for an immediate cessation of violence in the interest of peace and stability.

Targeting of commercial shipping, seafarers and civilian infrastructure must end, the MEA said. The ministry also recalled foreign minister S Jaishankar's remarks on Sunday that India remains in touch with Russia and Ukraine regarding its proposal for safe shipping in the Black Sea and "non-attack possibilities", while addressing concerns both sides have about grain and energy exports. India condemned three more attacks reported on Wednesday. TNN

Russian missile, drone strikes kill 20 in Ukraine

Reuters



Emergency services work to rescue residents from under the debris at an attack site in the town of Pryluky, Ukraine, Wednesday

Russian strikes killed at least 20 people, including children, across Ukraine Wednesday, damaging homes, industrial sites, transport and energy infrastructure and prompting emergency power cuts in five regions.

A missile destroyed a five-storey residential building in Pryluky, Chernihiv region, killing at least 14 people, including four kids. About 50 people, including seven children, were wounded, officials said. Six others died in Kyiv, Oleksandria and Kremenchuk.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia launched 70 missiles, many of them ballistic, alongside drones. Russia's defence ministry said it carried out a massive strike on military-industrial

facilities with high-precision weapons and drones. Ukraine's air force said it downed more than 80% of 46 jet-powered drones.

Zelensky said ballistic missiles remained Ukraine's main challenge and Kyiv was seeking more US-made Patriot systems. Strikes also damaged an industrial facility in Dnipro, transport infra in Zaporizhzhia and buildings in Kremenchuk. Russia's defence ministry said its forces had carried out a "massive strike" on military-industrial facilities in Ukraine, using high-precision land-, sea- and air-launched weapons, as well as drones. Meanwhile, Ukraine received a new €1.2 billion EU tranche Wednesday for its defence needs. REUTERS

Israel strikes Gaza on Oct 7 anniv, 3 dead

Israel carried out new strikes in Gaza Wednesday as it marked the third anniversary of the Oct 7 attacks by Hamas, with Palestinian officials reporting three people dead.

Loud bangs across the border in Gaza were audible from the site of the Nova music festival just as family members gathered at dawn to mourn the more than 300 revellers killed three years earlier.

In Gaza City, Al-Shifa hospital reported two people killed in an Israeli strike overnight.

Gaza's civil defence identified one of the dead as Mohamed Tamous and said he was a volunteer for the agency, which serves as an emergency rescue service under Hamas. The Israeli military said it struck and killed "two Hamas terrorists who had exited Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip," adding that one had "planted explosives... in the area of the Yellow Line with the intention of harming IDF troops."

The so-called Yellow Line demarcates the areas under



Parents of one of the Oct 7 attack victims attend a memorial at Kibbutz Reim

Hamas and Israeli military control in the Gaza Strip.

The military identified one of those killed in the strike as Tamous, whom it said was a sniper in Hamas's military wing while simultaneously working for the civil defence.

In the southern city of Khan Yunis, Nasser Hospital said that a 60-year-old man, His-ham Ibrahim Abu Mustafa, was killed in an Israeli strike

and that others were injured.

On the third anniversary of the first day of the war in Gaza, living conditions remain dire in the coastal Palestinian territory, despite a US-brokered ceasefire that came into effect in Oct 2025. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people still live in tent cities and makeshift shelters that sprawl on beaches or next to piles of rubble from bombed-out buildings. AFP

Houthi attack Saudi airports

Cairo: Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen claimed new attacks on airports and military facilities in Saudi Arabia Wednesday as the kingdom is pulled deeper into the latest front in the Iran war.

The Houthis' military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, said on social media that the rebels launched ballistic missiles and drones against King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. The spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, said they intercepted a ballistic missile north of Riyadh. Flights were briefly disrupted, according to Fligh-tradar24. The Houthi spokesperson said they also targeted Abha airport in Saudi Arabia. The rebels also claimed to hit an air base in the city of Khamis Mushait and two military bases in Najran and Asir. AP