

FACTORING IN SAFETY**Major industrial accidents point to the need for a stronger worker safety law**

India's record in promoting occupational and industrial safety remains weak even with years of robust economic growth. Making work environments safer is a low priority, although the productivity benefits of such investments have always been clear. The consequences are frequently seen in the form of a large number of fatalities and injuries, but in a market that has a steady supply of labour, policymakers tend to ignore the wider impact of such losses. It will be no surprise, therefore, if the deaths of four people, including a senior officer, in a fire at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation gas facility in Navi Mumbai, or the tragedy that killed nearly two dozen people at a firecracker factory in Batala, Punjab are quickly forgotten. Such incidents make it imperative that the Central government abandon its reductionist approach to the challenge, and engage in serious reform. There is not much evidence, however, of progressive moves. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019, introduced in the Lok Sabha in July to combine 13 existing laws relating to mines, factories, dock workers, building and construction, transport workers, inter-State migrant labour and so on, pays little attention to the sector-specific requirements of workers. One of its major shortcomings is that formation of safety committees and appointment of safety officers, the latter in the case of establishments with 500 workers, is left to the discretion of State governments. Evidently, the narrow stipulation on safety officers confines it to a small fraction of industries. On the other hand, the Factories Act currently mandates appointment of a bipartite committee in units that employ hazardous processes or substances, with exemptions being the exception. This provision clearly requires retention in the new Code.

A safe work environment is a basic right, and India's recent decades of high growth should have ushered in a framework of guarantees. Unfortunately, successive governments have not felt it necessary to ratify many fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) covering organised and unorganised sector workers' safety, including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981. Those ILO instruments cover several areas of activity that the NDA government's occupational safety Code now seeks to amalgamate, but without the systemic reform that is necessary to empower workers. It is essential, therefore, that the new Code go back to the drawing board for careful scrutiny by experienced parliamentarians, aided by fresh inputs from employees, employers and experts. Industries that use hazardous processes and chemicals deserve particular attention, and the Code must have clear definitions, specifying limits of exposure for workers. Compromising on safety can lead to extreme consequences that go beyond factories, and leave something that is etched in the nation's memory as in the case of the Bhopal gas disaster.

| <u>Words</u> | <u>Kind</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| Robust | Adj. | Healthy, strong, vigorous, sturdy, muscular |
| Priority | Noun | Prime concern, first concern, pressing matter |
| Benefit | Noun | Interest, welfare, well being, satisfaction |
| Consequences | Noun | Result, upshot, outcome, repercussion, after math |
| Frequently | Adj. | Regularly, often, habitually, routinely |
| Clear | Adj. | Explicit, lucid, pellucid, perspicuous, coherent |
| Fatalities | Noun | Death, casualty, mortality, victim, loss |
| Tend | Verb | Incline, lean, swing, veer, gravitate |
| Ignore | Verb | Disregard, shrug off, take no notice of, push aside |
| Tragedy | Noun | Disaster, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm, devastation misfortune |
| Imperative | Noun | All important, vital, crucial, indispensable |
| Abandon | Verb | Renounce, relinquish, forswear, disclaim |
| Reductionist | Adj. | A person who analysis and describes a complex phenomenon |
| Challenge | Noun | Dare, provocation, summons, gauntlets |
| Reform | Noun | Improvement, betterment, amelioration, refinement rectification |
| Parlous | Adj. | Severe, critical, dire, dreadful, awful |
| Evidence | Noun | Proof, confirmation, verification, corroboration |
| Progressive | Adj. | Continuing, increasing, growing, on going |
| Discretion | Noun | Circumspection, care, caution, wariness |
| Stipulation | Noun | Condition, proviso, prerequisite, specification |
| Mandate | Noun | Order, command, decree, diktat, injunction |
| Hazardous | Adj. | Dangerous, pernicious, cataclysmic, perilous |
| Substance | Noun | Matter, material, stuff, fabric, medium |
| Exemption | Noun | Immunity, exception, dispensation, indemnity |
| Retention | Noun | Possession, use, control |
| Usher in | Verb | Begin, start, incept, kick off |
| Ratify | Verb | Confirm, approve, endorse, corroborate, authorize |
| Convention | Noun | Agreement, accord, protocol, compact |
| Several | Adj. | Some, assorted, sundry, diverse, variety of |
| Amalgamate | Verb | Combine, merge, unite, integrate, blend |
| Scrutiny | Noun | Examination, inspection, survey, perusal |
| Aid | Verb | Help, assist, abet, avail, succour, second |
| Exposure | Noun | Subjection, submission, vulnerability |
| Compromising | Adj. | Revealing, settling |
| Extreme | Adj. | Utmost, Ultimate, paramount, acute |
| Etch | Verb | Engrave, carve, inscribe, incise, chisel |
| Disaster | Adj. | Catastrophe, calamity, tragedy |
| Detrimental | Adj. | Dangerous, perilous, noxious, pernicious |
| Parish | Noun | Area, community, district, congregation |
| Adept | Noun | Expert, dexterous, skilled, adroit, past maser |

HARD FOUGHT GLOORY

With his 19th Grand Slam win, Nadal closes in on Federer's record in the race for tennis' apex

Rafael Nadal's relationship with hard courts can be described as tenuous at best. While he is the king of clay and quite adept on grass, the acrylic has often been his bane. Over the years, the Spaniard has found the surface unforgiving; from his back to both his hips right down to his knees, all have suffered significant wear and tear. Yet, none of this stopped the 33-year-old from securing his

fourth U.S. Open title on Sunday, making him the most successful champion at Flushing Meadows this decade above Novak Djokovic (3). The thrilling five-set win over Russian Daniil Medvedev gave Nadal his 19th Major and puts him just one short of record-holder Roger Federer. To be sure, the surface is still his least favourite. Last month, when he won the Rogers Cup in Montreal, it was the first time in his illustrious career that he had defended a hard court title. As recently as in 2017-18, there was a stretch during which he retired or withdrew from 11 of the 12 hard court events he had entered. However, the latest triumph showed what a healthy, well-rested and mentally sharp Nadal could achieve. While in 2018 he had left New York limping, after three long, bruising encounters, Nadal this time, at least until the final, was supremely efficient. The court did its bit too; slightly below medium-pace, it gave Nadal a fraction extra to set up his shots and at the same time rewarded his recently acquired aggressive streak.

The success is also another indicator that the Big 3 of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, all in their thirties, are still the hegemonic class in men's tennis. Medvedev appeared to usher in the next generation for a fleeting set or two but couldn't deny a 12th straight Major for the celebrated trio. In fact, an astonishing 51 of the last 59 Slams dating back to the 2005 French Open have been cornered by the three. What it now does is set up a tantalising endgame in the race to most Grand Slam titles. It is a competition that the protagonists Federer (20), Nadal (19) and Djokovic (16) attest to being least interested in. But coming as it does when the threat from the younger crop appears genuine, it is a compelling scenario for the fans at least. On the women's side, however, the thrill of novelty continued unabated with Canadian teen sensation Bianca Andreescu becoming the latest first-time Slam winner. In her remarkable straight sets victory over Serena Williams, the 19-year-old played with the kind of intelligence, imagination and audacity that is usually the preserve of the sport's very best, as she left the American legend's dream of a record-equalling 24th Major in tatters, yet again.

| <u>Words</u> | <u>Kind</u> | <u>Meaning</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| Tenuous | Adj. | Slight, insubstantial, filmy, dubious |
| Clay | Noun | Earth, soil, loam |
| Adept | Noun | Expert, adroit, dexterous, skilled, past master |
| Acrylic | Noun | Paint |
| Bane | Noun | Scourge, ruin, plague, ruination, destruction |
| Unforgiving | Adj. | Stern, unrelenting, grain, inexorable |
| Wear and tear | Noun | Depletion, depreciation, erosion, ablation |
| Flushing | Adj. | Blush, redden, turn scarlet, crimson |
| Meadow | Noun | Field, pasture, paddock, grassland |
| Thrilling | Adj. | Exciting, arousing, exhilarating, stimulating |
| Defend | Verb | Protect, guard, safeguard, preserve, shield |
| Illustrious | Adj. | Eminent, distinguished, acclaimed, prominent |
| Triumph | Noun | Victory, win, conquest, success |
| Limp | Verb | Hobble, falter, walk with, difficulty |
| Bruise | Verb | Contuse, lesion, mark, injure, hurt |
| Encounter | Noun | Experience, face, confront, run into |
| Aggressive | Adj. | Bellicose, Belligerent, truculent, antagonistic hostile |
| Streak | Noun | Bond, line, strip, vein, slash |
| Hegemonic | Adj. | Primacy, superior, sceptre, clout |
| Fleeting | Adj. | Temporary, transient, transitory, ephemeral |
| Trio | Noun | Threesome, triumvirate, triad, troika |
| Tantalise | Verb | Tease, torment, torture, bait, agonise |
| Protagonist | Noun | Supporter, upholder, adherent, proponent |
| Compel | Verb | Force, coerce, into, pressurize into, prevail on |
| Thrill | Noun | Excitement, thrilling, stimulation, titillation |

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|--------------|------|--|
| Unabated | Adj. | Determined, dogged, pertinacious, unflagging |
| Sensation | Noun | Commotion, stir, uproar, furore, outrage |
| Remarkable | Adj. | Extraordinary, astounding, exceptional |
| Intelligence | Noun | Intellect, judgement, acumen, perspicacity |
| Chimera | Noun | Illusion, fantasy, delusion, phantom |
| Audacity | Noun | Boldness, impudence, impertinence, insolence |
| Preserve | Verb | Conserve, protect, maintain, care for, safeguard |
| In tatters | | Ragged, tattered, torn, ripped, frayed |

TODAY'S SPECIAL

Over :-

1. Over and above – In addition to.
2. Over and over – Repeatedly.
3. Over act (verb) – Exaggerate.
4. Over awe (adj.) – Intimidate, frighten.
5. Over bearing (adj.) - Domineering, autocratic.
6. Over blown (adj.) – Over written, pompous, grandiose.
7. Overcast (adj.) – Cloudy.
8. Over change (verb) – Exaggerate.
9. Over critical (adj.) – Overwhelmed, emotional
10. Over critical (adj.) – Faultfinding, captious, hyper critical, carping.
11. Over do (verb) – Exaggerate, overcook.
12. Over due (adj.) – Late, unpaid.
13. Over haul (noun.) – Repair, maintain, renovate.
14. Over heads (noun) – Coast.
15. Over indulge (verb) – Eat or drink too much, spoil, baby, pamper.
16. Over indulgence (adj.) – Excess / over eating.
17. Overlay (verb) – Cover.
18. Overlay (adv.) – Excessively.
19. Over reach oneself – Try to do too much.
20. Over ride (verb) – Overrule, cancel, disregard, outweigh, supersede
21. Over riding (adj.) – Most important.
22. Over rule (verb) – Cancel.
23. Over run (verb) – Invade, exceed.
24. Oversee (verb) – Supervise.
25. Overweening (adj.) – Over confident, conceited.
26. Over tone (verb) – Hidden, meaning.
27. Over ture (verb) – Introduction, opening.
28. Over wrought (Adj.) – Tense, over ornate.
29. Overt (Adj.) – Apparent, clear, open.