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L-R, Rahul Gandhi, Omar Abdullah, Narendra Modi and Nayab Singh Saini

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FIFTY-FIFTY

BJP'S HARYANA HURRICANE BOOSTS ITS PROSPECTS IN UPCOMING POLLS BUT I.N.D.I.A THWARTS ITS KASHMIR GAME PLAN

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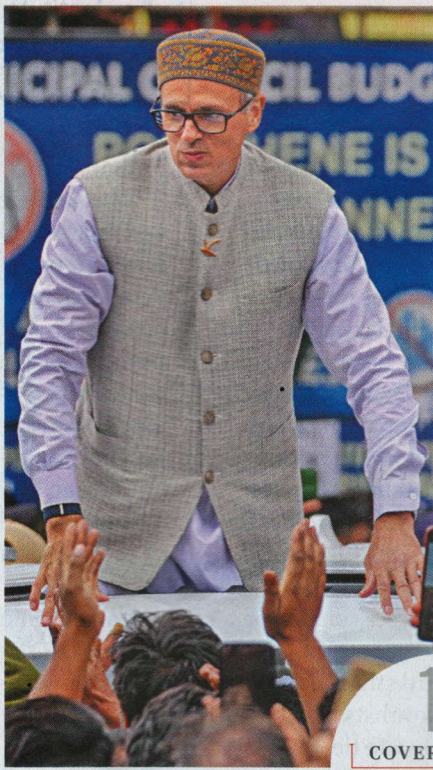
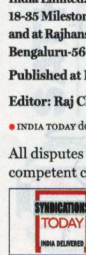
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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
Security personnel return from the clash site at Thulthuli in Bastar, Oct. 5

CHHATTISGARH

STRIKING AT MAOIST ROOTS

By **Rahul Noronha**

Intelligence gathering, planning and execution by security forces came together in a perfect operation against the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), the armed wing of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) in Chhattisgarh. The joint strike on October 4 by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Special Task Force (STF) in the forests along the bor-

der of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts, in the Bastar division in the south of the state, dealt a massive blow to the Maoists. At the end of the gunfight, 31 PLGA cadres of company number 6 lay dead—the highest ever death toll among Maoists in a single encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh. Most importantly, not a single security personnel was killed. Among the dead

were 29 dangerous Maoist operatives who had a collective reward money of Rs 2.15 crore on their heads. The exact location of the encounter is the jungles around Nendur-Thulthuli villages, a place considered the southern gateway to the thickly forested Abujhmad ('the unknown hills' in Gondi) area—the long-impregnable Maoist bastion. Of the 31 Maoists killed, 13 were women.