

absolute india

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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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Delhi receives highest rainfall since 2009 ...

**HOLLYWOOD**

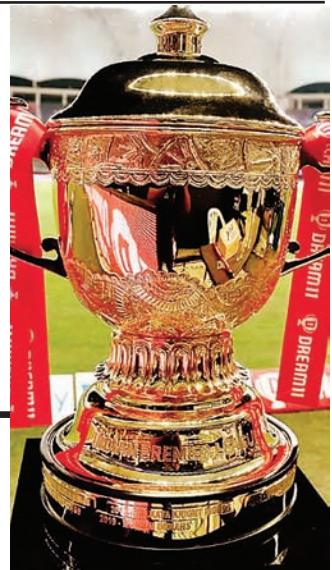
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Kylie Jenner expecting second baby ...

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IPL 2021: First batch of Delhi Capitals players arrive in UAE...

**Zydus Cadila vaccines to begin commercial rollout from mid-Sep**

AROUND 20 DAYS

- Zydus Cadila's three-dose indigenous Covid-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D is the world's first DNA-based jab that can be administered to people aged 12 and above. Zydus Cadila received the EUA in India on Friday.**
- "Our vaccine can be stored at 25 AoC for 3 months. Our effort is to make 30 to 50 lakh vaccine doses in the coming few days, we are trying to produce 10 million doses per month from October," said company official.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

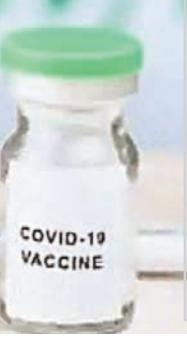
A day after getting the emergency use authorisation (EUA) in India, Zydus Cadila has said that the commercial rollout for the vaccine will start from mid-September. The pharma major informed about the future rollout in a virtual press conference held on Saturday. Zydus' Managing Director Sharvil Patel, said: "Our vac-

cine is 66 per cent effective against the delta variant, with higher antibody levels in the age group of 12 years and 18 years. So far, 28,000 volunteers have participated in the trial of the vaccine at more than 50 locations. The results of the first and second trials have been published in the Lancet for scientific research and scrutiny, the results of the third phase trial will take 2 to 3 months to come.

"So far, all the volunteers above

the age of 12 years have participated in the trial, while 1,400 children whose age is less than 12 years have applied for the trial. No adverse impacts were observed during the vaccine trials, we have also conducted trials on Delta and Delta Plus variants." Talking about the vaccine price, he said that there will be more clarity about the price of the vaccine by next week.

On the question of mass supply of the vaccine, Patel said that the sup-

**PM praises Indian Scientists**

"India is fighting COVID-19 with full vigour. The approval for world's first DNA based 'ZyCoV-D' vaccine of Zydus Universe is a testimony to the innovative zeal of India's scientists. A momentous feat indeed."



ply of vaccines will begin by mid-September. He further said that the company is aiming at increasing the production of the vaccine up to 1 crore doses per month from the month of October with the help of the new production plant. Patel added that Zydus vaccine is the world's first vaccine to be delivered with a microneedle injector manufactured with DNA technology that can reduce injection costs and adverse effects by 25 per cent.

- Khatri won the silver with a timing of 42:17.94. He was in the lead for a good part of the race walk before being overtaken by Kenya's Heristone Wanyonyi in the last two laps.**

- This is also India's second medal in the ongoing competition. Earlier on Wednesday, the Indian quartet of Bharat Sridhar, Priya H Mohan, Summy and Kapil had won the bronze medal in the 4x400m mixed relay final with a season-best timing of 3:20.60.**



Nairobi | Agencies

silver at least I could fulfil the hopes of India," Amit was quoted as saying by Athletics Federation of India (AFI) after the medal. In January this year, Khatri set a new national record while claiming the men's 10000m race walk title at the Junior Federation Cup in Bhopal. The young walker from Rohtak, Haryana finished race in 40 minutes 40.97 seconds, improving on the existing national record of 40:37.78 by Akshdeep Singh and nearly half a minute ahead of statemate Paramdeep Mor.

Madikeri witness Neelakurinji bloom after Twelve years



The flower has 250 varieties and they bloom at different times. Some bloom in a gap of 5 years, 12 years and some varieties take 14 years to bloom, say experts. A total of 46 varieties of Neelakurinji flowers are found in India. The plant has also got medicinal value.

Madikeri (Karnataka) | Agencies

For those who love to witness the hills of Coorg (Madikeri) bathed in a dreamy shade of blue, the Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana), a flower which blooms once in 12 years are already giving sight to behold.

The two hillocks of Mandapatti and Kote Bettu and Kumara Parvata have witnessed the flowering of Neelakurinji for the last few days, and the region is painted a vibrant bluish-purple hue. Nature's fest in Madikeri, known as Kashmir of Karnataka is witnessed and celebrated by nature-lovers across the

country. Thousands of tourists from across the state and native district are making a beeline to witness the beauty of nature amid Covid fears on weekdays as restrictions are imposed during weekends. The blooming of flowers started in the last one week and the entire hillock region will be covered with rare flowers in a few more days.

The flower symbolises love and is also called the 'flower of love'. Locally, they are called 'Kurinji' flowers.

Visitors often take journeys to have a surreal experience of nature's fest. The Neelakurinji's name originated from the River Kunthi.

Students from across India share creative projects on urban rivers

Team Absolute | New Delhi



Students from the leading institutes across India on Thursday presented their thesis at the grand finale of a competition organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the National Institute for Urban Affairs (NIUA) on the theme 'Re-imagining Urban Rivers'. The purpose of this sponsored thesis competition was to tap into the intellect and creativity of the students to arrive at innovative solutions for re-imagining the outlook and management of rivers that flow through cities and their associated features, and the release claimed.

"Namami Gange is an integrated programme with many innovative features, and it has been engaging with academic institutes to get new ideas and perspectives in river rejuvenation," said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General,

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). He shared that the idea behind this thesis competition was to continuously engage with young researchers and scholars who can think in integrated ways and have new planning perspectives. Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Durga Shanker Mishra, emphasised on the importance of river tourism in the urban areas. Citing the success stories of the Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad and the Indore Water Plus city, he said, "The development which we had been planning for so many years is happening currently."

Bangladeshi youth waves flag to stop train, saves 300 lives

Sumi Khan | Dhaka

A youth in Bangladesh's Joypurhat on Friday showed great presence of mind to flag down an approaching train and prevent a major accident after finding the rail line broken, officials said. The incident was reported from Panchbibi upazila of the district as the Panchagarh Express, an intercity train, was supposed to pass on Friday morning. Shafiqul Islam, 28,

of Koktara village in Panchbibi upazila, said that he was walking along the rail line near his house when he suddenly saw the broken railway line. Seeing the train coming, he immediately rushed home, found a red towel, waved it, and the train driver stopped the train a little before the broken part. Engine driver Shah Alam said: "The train was traveling at a speed of 80 kmph. I decided to stop the train as soon as I saw the young man waving the red towel. I went

down there and saw a break in the line of about eight inches. Running a train over a broken line could lead to a fatal accident." Railway authorities repaired the broken part of the line and the train left the station for Panchagarh two hours later. Panchbibi station master Abdul Awal said that the incident took place near the station on Friday morning, and the train service was stopped for two hours, till around 10 a.m., until the repair work was done.

Bengaluru: Linganabundi is a small village in Koppala district, Karnataka where Morari Desai Residential School is a sight to behold. The vibrant school campus spread across 8 acres is a result of the hard work of 250 students. It all began around three and a half years ago when 250 students from classes 6 to 10 decided to take up gardening seriously. The teachers led the way for these kids who would eagerly

wait to get their hands dirty. From digging the soil to selecting a variety of plants, they have been actively involved. The campus garden has around 2000 different varieties of plants and trees. The staff approached the village panchayat and got a rainwater harvest unit inside the campus. Looking at the effort and interest these kids were putting in, some youth from the village joined hands. The result is an 8-acre lush green cover. Mango, Cherry, Tamarind, Jackfruit, Banana, Papaya, Cotton, Jamun, Ficus, Palm and several other varieties of plants are planted at the school garden.

Twitter working on rules, replay option for Spaces



San Francisco | Agencies

Micro-blogging site Twitter's Spaces is about to get more options, including replay, and even rules for participants in a live chat. According to 9To5Mac,

- For now the rules are unclear but this will probably include a section for hosts to define what can and cannot be said on Spaces.**
- There will also be a new option to**

these new features are still under development and were discovered in Twitter's code by developer and app researcher Nima Owji. More specifically, the code indicates that Twitter is adding four new options to Spaces that should give hosts more control over the room. According to Owji's findings, the company wants to provide "rules" for Spaces

- "block" Spaces, which may indicate that Twitter will let users restrict a live conversation to a specific group of people.**
- What's even more interesting are the codes about a "replay" option for Spaces, the report added.**

users, the report said. At present, the only way to join Spaces is when the conversation is live. After Spaces is over, users cannot listen to it again, it said. Now it seems that Twitter wants to change that, but most likely the "replay" will become an optional feature. When enabled, users will also be able to see the duration and which people participated

in that chat. As per the report, since these are only findings from Twitter's code, it's unknown when these features will be rolled out to the public. Earlier in August, Twitter introduced the option to add a co-host to Spaces, as well as including its live audio platform in Twitter's official API for third-party clients.



DELHI RECEIVES HIGHEST RAINFALL SINCE 2009

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi received the highest rainfall in a month since 2009, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday, leading to waterlogging and traffic snarls across the national capital. The last highest rainfall of 110 mm was recorded on August 10, 2010.

For the 24 hours till 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, the Lodhi Road Observatory recorded 149.0 mm of rainfall, while the Delhi Ridge almost matched with 149.2 mm. Meanwhile, Palam saw 84.0 mm rain, while Aya Nagar recorded 68.2 mm, the IMD added.

The Safdarjung Airport recorded this monsoon season's highest single-day downpour on Saturday with 138.8 mm.

According to the IMD, thunder-



storm with light to moderate intensity rain would occur over and the adjoining areas of most places of Delhi-NCR (Bahadurgarh, Faridabad, Ballabhgarh, Loni Dehat, Hindon AF Station, Ghaziabad, Indirapuram, Noida, Greater Noida) Kaithal, Karnal on Saturday. Scores of residential areas and several roads and junctions were waterlogged which caused traffic jams. Taking to Twitter to inform people of the situation, the Delhi Traffic Police said: "Traffic is affected due to water logging in MB Road, Khanpur T-point to Hamdard Nagar Red Light traffic, Mehram Nagar Under Pass. Rajokri underpass, both the routes from Rajghat to Shantiv.

"Water logging on Dwarka underpass and Bijwasan flyover. Rajdhani Park Metro Station to Mundka And Nangloi to Najafgarh road near water tank."

AICC observer Chidambaram to visit poll-bound Goa

Panaji | Agencies

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, the newly appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) election observer in-charge of Goa, will arrive in the poll-bound state on a two-day visit from August 25-26 to oversee the preparations for the 2022 Assembly polls, said the Goa Congress on Saturday.

"P. Chidambaram will meet and discuss with various leaders and party functionaries during his two-day visit. He will interact with Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) office bearers, frontals, district and block presidents and take inputs to work out strategies for upcoming 2022 Goa Assembly elections," the Goa



Congress added. This two-day official trip is the former Union Home Minister's first visit to Goa, since his appointment by the interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi to "oversee election strategies and co-ordination for Goa Assembly elections".

Chidambaram will be accompanied by AICC Goa in-charge, Dinesh Gundu Rao. The polls to the state Assembly are scheduled to be held in early 2022.

LONDON | Agencies

Stepping up the attack on his younger brother Tejashwi Yadav, Tej Pratap Yadav has alleged that the former has left the people of Bihar at a time when floods have ravaged several parts of the state and gone to Delhi.

Such allegations were earlier levelled by the ruling party, but now the sibling rivalry between the two warring brothers has given a new agenda to the leaders of Bihar's NDA.

Tejashwi Yadav went to Delhi to discuss party matters with national president Lalu Prasad and the ongoing turmoil in the RJD, which started after a series of statements by Tej Pratap Yadav against the party's state president Jagadanand Singh.

"Tejashwi Yadav left the people of Bihar to struggle in the flood and



went to Delhi. He was brainwashed by his advisor Sanjay Yadav on whose advice Tejashwi is working. Sanjay Yadav who hails from Haryana is constructing a mall in Delhi. Every member and leader of RJD knows about him," Tej Pratap said. Tej Pratap also likened several RJD leaders to the characters of the Mahabharata. He claimed that he himself is Krishna of the party. He has also given the name Arjun to Tejashwi Yadav. Interestingly,

Tej Pratap is calling Jagadanand Singh Shishupal, and Sanjay Yadav as Duryodhan.

"Just like Krishna was abused by Shishupal in the Mahabharata, similarly I am a victim of Jagadanand's abusive words. People also know how Duryodhan was killed. It was Krishna who gave tips to attack on the thighs of Duryodhan," Tej Pratap said.

Earlier, Tejashwi Yadav on Friday had said that Tej Pratap Yadav is his elder brother but he has to follow the discipline of the party. "Our parents taught us to respect elders," Tejashwi said. Reacting to this, Tej Pratap said that the parents of Jagadanand Singh did not give such advice to him. Hence, he is humiliating poor leaders of RJD. He added that many leaders say that party chief Lalu Prasad is watching every development in the party.

Husbands of three village heads killed in Bihar

Patna | Agencies

Political killings continue in Bihar ahead of the panchayat elections as three persons, who were husbands of village panchayat heads, were killed in separate incidents on Saturday.

In the first incident, Raj Kumar Shah, husband of Asha Devi who is the village head of Bankh panchayat, was gunned down on Patna's outskirts in Maner sub-town.

Shah had visited a Lord Shiva temple for performing puja in Narhanwa village on the last day of Shravan. While returning to his native village in Kanhauli, some miscreants surrounded him.

"They asked Shah to stop his bike near Kanhauli. As soon as he stopped the bike, one of the miscreants shot at him, killing him on the spot," said Santosh Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Danapur sub-division, who reached the spot for investigation.

Following the incident, the accused fled from the spot.

As news of the killing spread, a large number of villagers assembled at the crime site. They blocked the Patna-Arrah main road for an hour but left after assurances by the police that the accused would be arrested soon. In another incident in Bihta in Patna



district, unidentified assailants shot dead Pintu Saw, the husband of the village head of Painal panchayat. "As per the statement of eyewitnesses, the attackers came on two bikes and fired indiscriminately at Saw who was on his way to Bihta. The deceased received multiple gunshot injuries and died on the spot," said an investigating officer of Bihta police station. In the third incident in Rohtas' Lewda village under Nokha police station, a body

with stab wounds was found near a canal. The deceased was identified as Ajay Kumar Singh, husband of the Sarpanch of Lewda village panchayat. As per the statement of the deceased's family members, Ajay went to his friend's house for a birthday party on Friday evening but did not return in the night. His body with stab wounds was found near a canal, said Rajesh Kumar, SHO of Nokha police station.

Ganga Expressway to become backbone of UP's economy: Sitharaman

Lucknow: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday hailed UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath for taking the state to the path of development, saying that Uttar Pradesh will soon emerge as a shining example for others in time to come.

Sitharaman was on a trip to Uttar Pradesh during which she asserted that in the last four to five years a series of world-class infrastructure projects such as Purvanchal Expressway, Bundelkhand Expressway, Gorakhpur and Ballia Link Expressway and now Ganga Expressway have been initiated in the state which will take the state on the road to a 'new' Uttar Pradesh. "The thought behind the Prime Minister's Vocal for Local is clearly reflected in the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme here," she added. Further referring to the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor, she said that the state, which was known for agriculture and MSME sectors, not only showed interest in undertaking such big and important projects but has also been executing them successfully.

Terming it as a grand success, Sitharaman credited it to the 'visionary' duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Finance Minister was giving her views in a meeting organised for Ganga Expressway at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan on Saturday.



Congress slams govt over misappropriation of MGNREGA funds

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday slammed the Narendra Modi government over the reports of misappropriation of Rs 935 crore of funds of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) saying it reflects on the real intentions of the BJP and the government as it allowed and tacitly participated in the misappropriation of crores of tax-payers money which was meant for the poor. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "MGNREGA was introduced by the UPA Government to eradicate poverty from India, and the current regime through the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) referred to MGNREGA as a living monument to the failures of the Congress." He said that MGNREGA became a life saver for the poor and

marginalised during the first and the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Khera said that MGNREGA has come back to haunt the BJP government led by Narendra Modi today. "An exposé in the media which accessed publicly available information through the Management Information



System (MIS) of the Rural Development Ministry, reveals that Rs 935 crore were misappropriated in MGNREGA schemes over the last four years under the very nose of the Modi government," the Congress leader said. His remarks came a day after media reported that in the last four years Social Audit Units (SAU) under Rural Development Departments (RDD) across India have found financial misappropriation of Rs 935 crore under various schemes of the MGNREGA.

It also claimed that only about Rs 12.5 crore of this amount which is 1.34 per cent, has been recovered so

14 held in Assam for pro-Taliban social media posts

Guwahati | Agencies

Amid talks of the presence of Taliban sympathisers in India after the insurgent group recently took control of Afghanistan, Assam Police have arrested at least 14 persons for putting up Taliban related social media posts, officials said on Saturday.

Assam's Special Director General of Police, G.P. Singh, tweeted: "Police have arrested 14 persons for social media posts regarding Taliban activities that have attracted provisions of law of the land. People are advised to be careful in posts/likes etc. on social media platforms to avoid penal action."

A senior police officer in Guwahati said that 14 people belonging to 10 districts were arrested after they were tracked by the cyber cell of Assam Police, which keeps constant vigil on social media networks. "At least 17 social media profiles were noticed making various posts



related to the Taliban. These posts made comments supporting the coup in Afghanistan or the activities of the Islamist militant group. The posts were put up during the past two weeks," the official told the media, requesting not to be named.

The police said the posts were put up by 14 people from 10 districts of Assam, while three other profiles belonged to residents of Assam who are presently settled in Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Mumbai. The 14 people, aged between 23 and 65 years, were arrested

ed from Darrang, Kamrup (Rural), Cachar, Hailakandi, Karimganj, Barpeta, Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara and Hojai districts.

According to the officer, the arrested persons include one MBBS student from Hailakandi studying in the Tezpur Medical College, and two Muslim religious leaders.

The police also said that they are trying to gather more inputs about the three persons who are settled outside Assam, and would forward their details to the Intelligence Bureau once they have them.

Tejashwi left people of Bihar to struggle with floods, says Tej Pratap

KALABURAGI | Agencies

Tejashwi Yadav has alleged that the former has left the people of Bihar at a time when floods have ravaged several parts of the state and gone to Delhi. Such allegations were earlier levelled by the ruling party, but now the sibling rivalry between the two warring brothers has given a new agenda to the leaders of Bihar's NDA. Tejashwi Yadav went to Delhi to discuss party matters with national president Lalu Prasad and the ongoing turmoil in the RJD, which started after a series of statements by Tej Pratap Yadav against the party's state president Jagadanand Singh.



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EARTHQUAKE-LIKE TREMORS FELT IN 50 VILLAGES OF K'TAKA'S KALABURAGI

KALABURAGI | Agencies

People of about 50 villages in three taluks of Kalaburagi district experienced earth-quake like tremors on Friday night. The incident forced people to run away from their houses and spend the whole night outside for safety. Kalaburagi MP Dr Umesh Jadhav and Sedam MLA Rajkumar Patil Tekur rushed to the villages late in the night and assured the villagers of all help in any situation. The district authorities made all possible efforts to calm down villagers and convinced them that the earthquake has not struck.

The villages of Sedam, Chincholi and Kalagi taluks in the Kalaburagi district experienced tremors between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on



Friday. The villagers also heard a loud noise. They ran out of their houses into open fields thinking that an earthquake has struck.

Announcements were made in the villages by beating of drums asking people not to sleep inside homes. Local villagers explained that

they have been experiencing loud noise, light tremors for a long time. The Gadikeshwara villagers have been experiencing earth-quake-like tremors for a long time. On Friday night more than 50 villages in three taluks experienced this at the time of going to bed.

K'taka to provide free post-treatment to black fungus patients

Vijayapura | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said that the government will provide free treatment to patients affected with black fungus disease even after getting discharged from the hospitals.

"The post-treatment for black fungus is expensive. It costs between Rs 10,000 and Rs 12,000 per injection. The patients have to take injections for four weeks at their homes after being discharged," he said.

Considering this economic burden on families, the government has decided to take up all expenditures of black fungus patients. The government will provide all expenditures until they are fully recovered, he said. Though the number of black fungus cases has been reduced, the government will take this ini-



tiative, he added. Speaking on the possible Covid third wave affecting children, he said according to the recommendations by the experts on the third wave, it has been directed to start camps for children to monitor their health. The Women and Child Welfare Department will provide malnourished children with food kits and sick children will be shifted to district hospitals, he said.



Audrey Hepburn

absolute india

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150 Indians allegedly abducted from Kabul airport but later released: Reports

TALIBAN; ON THEIR OLD WAY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid reports of the alleged abduction of around 150 Indians from outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul on Saturday, local Afghan journalist Zaki Daryabi said that the kidnapped persons were released and they were on the way to the airport.

"Two sources confirmed that the Indians released by the Taliban," Daryabi tweeted.

The report also said that these Indians were taken to the nearby area of Alokozai compound, a garage designated for US forces, as there was a huge rush at the airport and the Taliban allegedly inspected their documents and released them.

The abductors later ushered them to the right place at the airport from where their evacuation flight would take off for India after getting the slot, the report added.

Earlier the day, the Afghan media reported that men affiliated with the



Taliban have abducted over 150 people, mostly Indian citizens, from an area close to the airport.

A local publication 'Kabul Now' had also confirmed the development.

"Over 150, mostly Indian citizens,

abducted near Kabul airport Men affiliated with the Taliban have abducted over 150 people, mostly Indian citizens, from an area close to Hamid Karzai International Airport earlier this morning, Saturday, August 21, a reliable

source confirmed to Kabul Now," Daryabi said in a different tweet.

However, the Taliban denied the report of abducting Indian nationals. "The report about kidnapping is a rumor. The Taliban members are helping all foreign nationals to get access to the airport. We are determined to provide safe passage to all foreigners to get to the airport," Ahmadullah Waseq, a Taliban spokesperson, told local media Ettalatroz.

TALIBAN LOSES 3 DISTRICTS AGAINST UPRIISING GROUPS

Kabul: Tens of members of armed uprising groups attacked the Pol-e-Hesar district of northern Baghlan province in Afghanistan and cleared them of the Taliban.

Ever since the Taliban toppled all but Panjsher province on August 15, the fighters were engaged in their first armed conflict which erupted between them and the people's uprising. Local residents claim two other districts -- Deh Salah and Qasaan -- have also been taken back from the Taliban, Afghan media. Local residents have also claimed to have killed 40 Taliban fighters and wounded 15 more, however, the Taliban have not commented on the conflict yet.

'Taliban wants ties with all countries, including US'

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan wants diplomatic and trade ties with all countries, particularly with the United States of America. We never talk about cut of trade ties with any countries. Rumor about this news has been a propaganda. It is not true."

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, Taliban's political chief



No Recognition Of Taliban, No Political Talks: EU



"There may be a proposal of an increase in the 57 million euros (\$67 million) in humanitarian aid which the Commission had allocated this year for Afghanistan. The aid tied to respect of human rights, good treatment of minorities and respect for the rights of women and girls. We may well hear the Taliban's words but we will measure them above all by their deeds and actions."

von der Leyen, President, EU

Need To Step Up Kashmir Outreach

"We have to step up our outreach to Kashmiris, we also have to re-assure them that India will continue to be a secular democracy. We need to understand that the victory in Afghanistan is being seen (by terror groups) as a Pakistani victory and an Indian defeat.... We have to organise ourselves for a renewed offensive by elements like the JeM. We have to be prepared for Pakistani intentions (covert operations) supported by radical elements here."

General Shankar Roychowdhury, Ex-Army Chief

will talk to Taliban if necessary



"What I want to assure people is that our political and diplomatic efforts to find a solution for Afghanistan, working with the Taliban, of course if necessary, will go on and our commitment to Afghanistan is lasting."

Boris Johnson, PM, Britain

No entry in medical colleges: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has said that it could not show sympathy to students who entered a medical college through backdoor.

A bench comprising justices L. Nageswara Rao, B.R. Gavai, and Krishna Murari juked the review petition by a group of students, against its July 20, 2020, judgment, which dismissed a plea by Glocal Medical College.

Last year, the top court had upheld the Medical Council of India's decision to discharge 67 MBBS students, after it was found that they secured admission through private counselling, in the backdrop of Uttar Pradesh government's notification for common counselling. "Glocal Medical College in contravention of



the said notification conducted private counselling, which was not at all permissible in law. The students cannot be said to be ignorant about the notification

issued by the state of Uttar Pradesh. In such a situation, no sympathies can be shown to such students who have entered through backdoor", said the bench.

40 KG HEROIN ALONG INTERNATIONAL BORDER SEIZED IN PUNJAB

Chandigarh: In a major breakthrough, the Punjab Police in a joint operation with the Border Security Force on Saturday seized 40 kg heroin along the international border with Pakistan in Amritsar district, officials said.

The seizure was made in the Ramdas sector, around 300 km from Chandigarh. "Proud of SSP Amritsar (Rural), Gulneet Khurana and his team for recovery of over 40 kg heroin from Ramdas sector of Indo-Pak border around 3 am today morning," Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said in a tweet. He said the operation was conducted on specific inputs generated by Awtipora Police regarding presence of a group of JeM terrorists in the upper reach-

3 terrorists killed in Kashmir encounter

Srinagar: A top Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist commander Wakeel Ahmad Shah was among three terrorists killed in an encounter between terrorists and the security forces in a forest area at Nagbaeran Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said on Saturday.

Police said on a specific input generated by Awtipora Police regarding presence of a group of JeM terrorists in the upper reach-

es of forest area of Nagaberan Dhoka area of Tral, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police and Army in the said area. During the search operation, the hiding terrorists fired on the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter three terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter.

Former UP CM Kalyan Singh passes away



Lucknow: Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and Bharatiya Janata Party veteran Kalyan Singh, who was ailing for some time, breathed his last on Saturday night, the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences said in a statement. Singh was the UP chief minister when the Babri mosque was demolished by a mob in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. He later also served as the governor of Rajasthan.

Indian children at extremely high risk of climate crisis impacts: UNICEF

- CCRI has placed India as one of the 33 extremely high-risk countries with flooding and air pollution being the repeated environmental shocks leading to socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children.
- Approximately 1 billion children live in one of the 33 countries classified as "extremely high-risk", including the four South Asian countries.
- It is estimated that more than 600 million Indians will face "acute water shortages" in the coming years, while at the same time flash flooding is to increase significantly in the majority of India's urban areas once the global temperature increase rises above 2 degree Celsius. Twenty-one of the world's 30 cities with the most polluted air in 2020 were in India.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is among four South Asian countries where children are at the risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their health, education, and protection, according to a new UNICEF report.

"The Climate Crisis Is A Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index" (CCRI) is UNICEF's first focussed on children. It ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks such as cyclones and heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks based on their access to essential services. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India are among four

South Asian countries where children are at the risk of the impacts of the climate crisis, with a ranking of 14th, 15th, 25th and 26th respectively.

Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF India Representative, said, "Climate change is a child rights crisis. The Children's Climate Change Index data has pointed to the serious deprivations faced by children due to the intensifying effect that climate and environmental shocks have on existing inadequate access to essential services such as water and sanitation, healthcare and education."

India's neighbours Nepal is ranked 51st and Sri Lanka 61st. Bhutan is ranked 111th, with children at relatively lower risk.

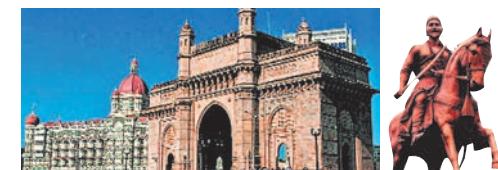
प्रदेश व सीहोर जिले वासियों को
रक्षा बंधन
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

भाई-बहन के प्रेम के उत्सव का पातवा
पर्व हमारी परंपरा और संस्कृति का प्रतीक है

पं. महेश दुबे
जिलाध्यक्ष
भाजपा पचाबी राज्य प्रकोष्ठ
जिला सीहोर (म.प्र.)

राजा अग्रवाल
नरेन्द्र राजपूत

पं. महेश दुबे मित्र मण्डली, गिला सीहोर (म.प्र.)



'Don't endanger lives of citizens': CM appeals to political, religious, social organisations

"I urge all political parties, religious and social organisations not to do anything that endangers lives of citizens. The COVID crisis is not over yet," Uddhav Thackeray said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Saturday said that the Covid-19 crisis was not over yet and also asked political, religious and social organisations to not do anything that would endanger the lives of citizens.

The CM made the remarks after inaugurating a Covid-19 hospital for children at IT Park in Mumbai's Kalina campus. "CM Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray inaugurated a well-equipped Children's COVID Center in Mumbai today," the chief minister's office (CMO) tweeted earlier in the day. Following the inauguration, Thackeray while addressing the reporters said, "I urge all political parties, religious and social organisations not to do anything that endangers lives of citizens. The COVID crisis is not over yet."

The comments were in line with the previous remarks Thackeray had made. Earlier on August



18, Thackeray had asked the people to not violate the Covid-19 protocols in place in Maharashtra, in view of the upcoming festivals and celebrations in the state, several news reports showed. He also said that the second wave of infections had come under control in the state and appealed to all political parties to avoid public gatherings and crowds. Meanwhile,

ruling Shiv Sena in Maharashtra has also criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for their Jan Ashirwad Yatra, saying that it would further enable the spread of Covid-19 disease in the state. Maharashtra cabinet minister Aslam Shaikh on Wednesday said that the BJP is inviting Covid-19 infections by organizing such rallies. "By holding this kind of rallies they are doing nothing but inviting people to gather. They need to understand that people currently are badly affected, shopkeepers, small businessman is already struggling, some of the people have lost their jobs too because of the pandemic, and by holding such rallies BJP is inviting the COVID-19 infection. They should refrain from this," Shaikh said, on Wednesday. Another Sena MP, Sanjay Raut, has also said that the rallies by BJP will lead to the third wave of the pandemic. "Jan Ashirwad Yatra will invite the third wave. Jan Ashirwad Yatra is performed when there is no need. It will increase the corona crisis in the state," Raut said.

The BJP, on Monday, flagged off the rallies across 22 states in the country to introduce its newly inducted cabinet ministers to the people. The decision was made after the opposition protests in the Parliament disrupted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's introduction of his new cabinet in both houses.

CM Thackeray urges oppn parties to win people's trust

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged the opposition parties to win people's trust and also called upon them to stay united and strong.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

He made this appeal during a virtual meeting of opposition leaders convened by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

Talking to reporters, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said, "During the meeting, Thackeray stressed that the parties must win people's trust."

"As of today, there is no lust for power among the opposition parties, but even when the chair of power is in sight, people should be able to trust the opposition parties with the belief that they will remain strong and united," Raut quoted Thackeray as saying during the meeting.

The Sena's Rajya Sabha member said that Sonia Gandhi had personally called up the leaders of all parties and requested them to join the meeting.

The meeting was attended by leaders of 19 opposition parties, including NCP supremo Sharad Pawar and four non-Congress chief ministers - TMC's Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), DMK's MK Stalin (Tamil Nadu) and JMM's Hemant Soren (Jharkhand) and Uddhav Thackeray. During the meeting, Gandhi urged the leaders to rise above political compulsions to take on the BJP in the interest of nation and start planning "systematically" to realise the "ultimate goal" of winning the 2024 Lok Sabha

DGGI busts Rs 118 cr GST refund fraud, nabs kingpin

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One person operating through seven companies has been arrested in connection with an alleged Rs 118 crore GST fraud involving fake bills without supplying goods or services, officials said here on Saturday.

The operation was carried out by the Directorate-General of GST Intelligence (DGII), Mumbai Zonal Unit, which led to the arrest of the mastermind, Santosh Doshi, who is the Managing Director of Masum Overseas Pvt Ltd. Doshi also runs/controls seven other companies: Arnal Overseas, C-Kluster Exportrade, Meticulous Overseas, Ekon Crystalmerchants, Ninad Overseas, White Opal Exportrade and Parees Overseas. Of these, White Opal Exportrade fraudulently availed input tax credit (ITC) on bogus invoices without actually supplying goods/services to claim refunds of Rs 118 crore against non-existent exports.

Explaining the modus operandi of the financial fraud, DGII officials said that several dummy companies were formed in Jharkhand and West Bengal using forged documents, which in turn passed the bogus ITCs to shell trading firms acting as intermediary entities in Chhattisgarh. Several similar fake units were set up as export fronts in Mumbai and Pune, which purportedly acquired the fictitious export goods from Chhattisgarh.



As it turned out, the exporting units were created solely for the purpose of availing ITC refunds fraudulently, without any actual transactions taking place.

During investigations, the DGII sleuths raided several key persons and officials engaged in exports or freight forwarding and recorded their statements.

The DGII found that Doshi, a resident of Pune, was the promoter and operator of the above seven export firms, and used a web of complex, multi-layered transactions starting with manufacturers to traders to middlemen to exporters to facilitate encashing the claims under ITC. Doshi, who was earlier arrested by the Mumbai Customs in another case, was produced before a designated court which shunted him to judicial custody. Further probe is on.

ICCR, Pune varsity to help stranded Afghan students

Team Absolute | Pune

The Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) have assured to extend all help to Afghan students stranded in India or Afghanistan which is currently facing a political crisis, officials said here on Saturday.

SPPU Vice-Chancellor NR Karmalkar announced a special helpline (020-25621938), in addition to NGO Sarhad's WhatsApp helpline (0-8007066900) for Afghan students across Maharashtra.

NGO Sarhad's President Sanjay Nahar along with a group of Afghan students met N.R. Karmalkar, who discussed their issues with ICCR President Vinay Sahasrabuddhe.

The ICCR Head spoke on concall with the V-C and a few of the Afghan students' representatives, and spelt out the various measures the Central government is taking to ensure no student misses an academic year.

"All efforts are underway to help those students who have taken admission in Indian universities or have submitted passports for India



visas in Afghanistan. The officials concerned in the Ministry of External Affairs are in touch with the authorities concerned at all levels," Nahar told IANS after the meeting.

The Indian government has said it will help not only those students coming here through ICCR scholarships but also others wanting to pursue academics in the country through self-finance modes.

Sarhad has announced its ready-

ness to 'adopt' 1,000 stranded students by bearing all their lodging, boarding, fees and other expenses till the situation in Afghanistan normalises. Even the SPPU authorities have decided to chip in by offering all help, including accommodation facilities to the students, according to Nahar.

At a meeting on Friday, the V-C and Pro-V-C, NS Umrahi had readily agreed to help all past and present

students while Management Council member Sanjay Pandey would take up the issue with the Union Minister for External Affairs, S Jaishankar.

On its part, Sarhad has started coordination efforts with various Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim organisations and educational institutions to help them out in the humanitarian efforts.

An estimated 11,000 Afghan students, including nearly 35 per cent women, study in colleges and universities across India with the largest chunk of nearly 5,000 in Maharashtra, according to Umrahi.

They include nearly 3,000 in Pune, 700 in Mumbai and the rest scattered in other cities, though the ICCR data shows less than 2,500 students here on government scholarships.

A majority of the students in the state, including nearly 600 girls, with self-finance face common problems of expired or soon-to-lapse Indian visas, no contacts with families back in Afghanistan as banking and diplomatic channels are shut, due rentals and money for food, college fees or other routine expenses.

Nagpur metro, passing through a 20-storeyed skyscraper, is operational

The Nagpur Metro's unique section with a metro train zipping through the fourth floor of a 20-storeyed commercial building, a first in India became operational on Friday, running 1.6 kms between Sitabuldi-Zero Mile-Kasturchand Park.



with another 19 kms coming up in the east-west directions, with barely a handful of such metro train passing through commercial or residential structures in the world, said a Mahametro official.

Flagging off the inaugural train along with Gadkari and Puri, Thackeray affirmed that development work would not be hindered anywhere in the state. "While development should take place, we must ensure that there are no shortcomings in it. We shall do a good job in the 75th year of Indian Independence and it will last for another 75 years," said Thackeray. Gadkari urged the government to construct a tunnel to give access to the Zero Mile Freedom Park station from the Cotton Market to

avoid road traffic hassles and promised all financial assistance for it. Puri said that the project foundation stone was laid exactly 7 years ago on August 21, 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and it is one of the fastest moving metros in the country.

He said that Nagpur Metro is a green metro with two-thirds of its energy needs met from solar power, it will recycle 100 percent water used by it, plus harvest rainwater, bio-digesters are provided at all stations, making it a clean and sustainable project. Puri added that a traditional Rajput-style architecture has been used in designing the Kasturchand Park station including its facade, umbrellas, arcs, nets etc, making it a unique structure in the city. Nagpur Guardian Minister and Congress leader Nitin Raut expressed confidence that the Nagpur Metro would prove a big boon in the infrastructure development of the state's second capital. Bharatiya Janata Party's Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said that the 'Zero Mile' has an immense historic significance with the Great Trigonometric Survey launched by the British here in 1907 from Zero Mile, Nagpur, the country's geographical centre-point.

Covid task force averse to reopening of schools before Diwali

The situation is different in case of colleges which might be allowed to conduct offline classes provided the students and college staff are fully vaccinated.

Team Absolute | Pune

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said that the Maharashtra government's Covid task force believes that schools should not be opened before Diwali.

"The decision regarding

reopening of schools will be taken in consultation with the task force. We will go ahead when it tells us to do so. However, considering the situation at present, the task force is of the opinion that schools shouldn't be reopened before Diwali," said Pawar in Pune after chairing a Covid-19 review meeting.

He added that there is a stream of opinion that the government should allow schools to be reopened in the districts where infection rate is low.

"A section of parents and management of educational institutions feel that the government shouldn't wait for so long. It's an opinion that

schools should be opened in districts with zero per cent Covid-19 positivity rate. The final decision will be taken by the chief minister in this regard," Pawar said.

For colleges, the situation is different and they could be allowed to conduct offline classes if students and college staff are fully vaccinated.

"Colleges can be allowed to reopen for students who are aged above 18 and have taken both the vaccine doses. Teachers and non-teaching staff should also be fully vaccinated. They can be allowed to hold offline classes by following social distancing norms," the minister added.

One more extortion case filed against Param Bir Singh, fourth within month

This is the fourth such case against Singh, including second in Mumbai. Two other cases were filed in Thane city. All these FIRs were registered within a span of one month.

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Mumbai police have registered one more case of extortion against former city police commissioner Param Bir Singh on the basis of a complaint lodged by a builder-cum-hotelier, an official said on Saturday.

This is the fourth such case against Singh, including second in Mumbai. Two other cases were filed in Thane city. All these FIRs were registered within a span of one month.

The latest FIR was filed on Friday night at Goregaon police station based on the complaint lodged by 48-year-old Bimal Agrawal, the official said.

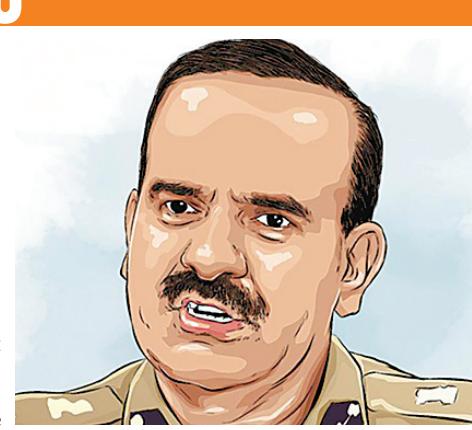
In this case, dismissed police officer Sachin Waze and four others - Sumit Singh alias Chintu, Alpesh Patel, Vinay Singh alias Babloo and Riyaz Bhati - have also been named as accused, he said.

As per the complaint by Agrawal, the accused extorted collectively Rs 9 lakh from him in several tranches for not con-

ducting raids on two bars and restaurants, which he ran in partnership, and also forced him to buy two smartphones worth around Rs 2.92 lakh for them. The incident occurred between January 2020 and March 2021, it said.

Based on the complaint, the case was filed under IPC sections 384 and 385 (both pertaining to extortion) 34 (common intention) against the six accused and probe in the case is on, he said. Singh is currently posted as DG Home Guards and he has not been attending office since May as he is on sick leave.

Singh was shunted out as Mumbai police commissioner in March this year after the arrest of dismissed police officer Sachin Waze in the case of an explosives-laden vehicle found near the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani in Mumbai. Singh later accused the then state home minister Anil Deshmukh of corruption, leading to the latter's resignation in April. The complainant in the latest extortion case, Agrawal, had bagged a contract to provide bomb disposal suit, a total containment vehicle (TCV) and a robot for



said that in February 2020, Sachin Waze had met him and told him that Param Bir Singh would soon become Mumbai CP.

Agawal said Waze asked him to restart his hotel business, and assured to set up things as the job of 'collection' from hotels would be given to him. Agrawal then started a hotel in partnership, but it was shut due to COVID-19 since March 2020. As Param Bir Singh became Mumbai CP soon later and

Waze was made in-charge of Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU),

Agrawal decided to help him in collections from hotels fearing his business will be in trouble.

Waze called Agrawal at Kandivali office of crime branch on August 31, 2020, where the officer said that he had been told by 'Number-1' that he had suffered losses of Rs 6 crore per month due to COVID-19 and in order to recover the losses, he has been given the target of collecting Rs 2 crore daily.

In his statement, Agrawal claimed that Waze said Param Bir Singh had told him to have a "setting" with all the bookies, who would be allowed to start their business from Mumbai. Waze told Agrawal that he was facing tremendous pressure from 'Number-1' and he should help him by providing all the information related to collection from hotel, bars and bookies, otherwise he will not allow him to operate his business as well. Waze was more desperate for collections, although the hotel industry was not open yet due to COVID-19, the statement added. During the meeting, Agrawal told Waze to seek help of two persons for collection from hotels and bars, and from bookies. Accordingly, Waze called the concerned person and told him that henceforth he had to give all the collections from bookies to Param Bir Singh only, Agrawal claimed in the statement.

ALL SHOULD COME TOGETHER TO MAKE THE TWO-DAY MEGA VACCINATION CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS: CM CHOUHAN

Madhya Pradesh is second state to do maximum vaccination in the country, as 60 percent of its population has received the first dose

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday discussed through video conference with the collectors of the state, members of Crisis Management Groups in the presence of ministers to make the vaccination mega campaign a success on 25 and 26 August. Chouhan, while interacting with public representatives, administrative officers, gave detailed instructions. Chief Minister said that everyone together should make this great campaign a success. According to the strategy prepared for vaccination in the state, it has been decided to give first and second dose to 20 lakh people on August 25 and second dose to 10 lakh people on August 26. In the month of August, out of about 74.7 lakh doses received from the Government of India, 73.9 lakh have been consumed. Necessary dosage arrangements have been made for the mega campaign in the state. Out of 5 crore 48 lakh 9 thousand population of the state eligible for vaccination, 3 crore 32 lakh have received the first dose and 64 lakh 9 thousand population has received the second dose. Madhya Pradesh is the most vaccinated state in the country after Gujarat. Chouhan said that motivate everyone for vaccination, this is an act of philanthropy. Not only Asha and Usha, Anganwadi workers, officers of health department, but also other departments should play an active



role in the vaccination campaign in the state. He said that the minister-in-charge should keep an eye on the preparations for this mega campaign. Create a festive atmosphere. Citizens are becoming negligent after administration of the first dose. By not applying the second dose, the effect of the first dose is reduced, it is necessary to raise people's awareness while telling this to the general public. The target is to get the first dose administered to 100% of the eligible population by the month of September. Panchayat wise, work is being done by

preparing the list of beneficiaries for the second dose. Impetus should be given to the mega campaign of vaccination through establishment of control rooms, door-to-door visits by workers to invite people for vaccination by giving yellow rice and other innovations. People should be motivated by appealing on social media also. The cooperation of eminent persons from different fields should also be taken for this.

Chouhan said that if all the public representatives cooperate, then the campaign will definitely be successful. The general public

should also join this mega campaign and make it successful. Chouhan said that brothers and sisters should remember about getting vaccine on Rakshabandhan. On Rakshabandhan, brothers and sisters should mutually ensure whether they have tried to save life by getting vaccinated or not. Chouhan said that mega campaign has to be made successful because it is the dose of life. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji. Vaccination and covid friendly behaviour is the only effective means of corona control. For the vaccine, every person, every organisation should motivate people that they must get the vaccine. Those whose second dose is due have to be specially motivated.

Chouhan said that if various religious leaders and social workers also join this campaign, then there will be good success. In the state, 100% target of first dose is to be achieved through public awareness till September. In the two-day campaign, the work of mobilizing the backlog beneficiaries of the second dose will be done through the members of Crisis Management Group, about one lakh Covid volunteers, 32 thousand mobilizers and 3.75 lakh brigade members. Registration of volunteers has also been done on Sarthak Lite App under the mega campaign. Each volunteer will receive a list of about 20 beneficiaries due for the second dose for mobilization.

MP to groom budding sportspersons for 2024, 2028 Olympics

- After the success of Indian players at the Tokyo Olympics, CM Chouhan has taken this decision
- According to CM Chouhan, around 50,000 youths have registered their names under the talent search programme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday said that the state will train budding sportspersons for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

Under Madhya Pradesh's talent search programme, the state government has started looking for sportsperson who can be groomed for the Olympics.

After the success of Indian players at the Tokyo Olympics, CM Chouhan has taken this decision.

The Madhya Pradesh chief minister said, "We

have decided to look for new talented players under a campaign and train them in 18 sports academies of Madhya Pradesh. We will churn out not one but many such players, who will bring laurels to the country and the state in the Olympics besides in national and international competitions".

Chouhan said the state government has set its eyes on the 2024 Paris Olympics and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

He said Madhya Pradesh's sportspersons will win medals for the country there.

According to Chouhan, around 50,000 youths have registered their names under the talent search programme, so far.

He urged the youths interested in sports to register themselves for the talent search campaign of the Madhya Pradesh government.

Recently, Chouhan had offered Vivek Sagar, mid-fielder in the Olympic bronze medal-winning Indian hockey team, service in MP Police as a DSP. Sagar hails from Itarsi in the state.

CM PLANTS GULMOHAR SAPLING IN SMART GARDEN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Chouhan planted a sapling of Gulmohar in Smart Garden on Saturday. On this occasion, Chouhan congratulated Rahul Kothari on his birthday and got him to plant sapling as well. Former MLA Sudarshan Gupta, MLA Niwari Anil Jain were present on this occasion. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in large clusters amidst the shimmering fern-like leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct charm to this tree. In summer, the Gulmohar tree is full of flowers instead of leaves. It is also rich in medicinal properties.

CM GREETS ON ONAM FESTIVAL

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended warm greetings to the citizens on the occasion of Onam. This is the main festival of Kerala. The festival is also being celebrated in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan has tweeted on this occasion and said that it is a prayer to Lord Vishnu and King Mahabali that the crops in the fields should always be flourishing. Chief Minister has expressed his best wishes that there should be immense joy, enthusiasm, gaiety and prosperity in everyone's life.

CM TAKES PART IN SUNDERKAND ON GAUR'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached MLA Krishna Gaur's residence and paid tributes to former Chief Minister Late Babulal Gaur on his second death anniversary. Chief Minister Chouhan offered flowers at Gaur's portrait and also took part in Sunderkand. Pandit Virendra Sharma recited the Gita. Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav, senior leader Raghu Thakur and representatives of social organizations were present.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AT EOW OFFICE, NONE INJURED

Bhopal: A fire broke out at the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) office late Friday night, said an official. The EOW office is situated at Arera Hills in Bhopal. According to information, the fire broke out in the room of the EOW police station in-charge Dinesh Joshi. AC, computers and important documents have been gutted in the fire. The security personnel who spotted the smoke coming out from the building informed the police control room. The fire tenders were pressed into action and it was distinguished. Though the exact reason for the fire incident is yet to be established, it is believed the fire broke out because of a short circuit. Police said that a case has been registered and investigation was on.

MP WILL BECOME SELF-DEPENDENT IN OXYGEN AVAILABILITY: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday virtually dedicated the newly set up oxygen plants in 10 hospitals of the state. These oxygen plants set up at a cost of about Rs 6.5 crore have the capacity to produce 5500 LPM (litres per minute) of oxygen. These plants have been set up at Ashta and Rehti in Sehore district, Vidisha and Sironj in Vidisha district, Khargone and Barwah in Khargone district, Khurai in Sagar district, besides Katni, Tikamgarh and Narsinghpur. As on March 2020, there was no oxygen generation plant in any government hospital in the state. As many as 190 oxygen plants are being set up in the state. Of these, 68 plants have already been set up and 65 plants have been made functional so far. All the remaining plants will become functional by the month of September.

Chouhan has said that efforts to achieve self-reliance in the field of oxygen in the state are like a boon. We have understood the importance of oxygen in the time of Covid. In the second wave, oxygen meant life and delay in getting oxygen meant the end of life. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi assesses the present as well as the future. Due to his efforts, other states including Madhya Pradesh got oxygen on time, as a result of which many lives could be saved. Efforts are being made to make Madhya Pradesh self-sufficient in oxygen. Arranging the tankers



was a big problem. This was possible with the blessings of the Prime Minister.

Chouhan said that we are all committed to ensure that there is no third wave of Covid. And if it comes, we are fully aware and ready for it. Chief Minister said that we will never be able to forget that time when neither we nor you slept. Oxygen was arranged immediately from Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttar

Pradesh for the state. All including ministers, MPs, MLAs and public representatives extended their full cooperation. Chouhan said that 88 plants are being set up in the state through PM Care Fund, 13 from Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Corporate Social Responsibility and local efforts. A total of 221 metric tonnes of medical oxygen will be produced from all these plants. The oxygen pro-

duced can be made available directly to the patients from the oxygen generation plants installed in the hospitals.

Chouhan said that it has also been decided that CT scan facility will be made available in all the districts by the month of October. Work is in full swing to install 32 slice CT scan machines in 30 districts of the state. Along with this, 784 ICU beds have been made functional in government health institutions under the health department. By September, 650 additional ICU beds will be functional. Also, 11 thousand 156 oxygen beds have been made functional in these institutions. By the month of September, their total number will be 14 thousand 255. In the Covid-19 scenario, there were 2993 ICU beds in government medical colleges. By September, their number will increase to 3438 with an additional 45 beds. Keeping in view the possibility of babies getting infected in the third wave of Covid-19, 350 new paediatric ICU beds in addition to the available 200 paediatric ICU beds are being arranged. Similarly, 320 new paediatric ICU beds and 992 new paediatric oxygen beds are being arranged for the treatment of children in the institutions of the Health Department. Chouhan said that the process of filling up the posts of doctors, nursing and paramedical staff is also almost complete. The recruitment process has been completed for 429 posts of Radiographer, Lab Technician and Ophthalmic Technician.

100-YEAR-OLD HOUSE COLLAPSES IN RAIN

Bhopal: A 100-year-old residential building recently collapsed in Sagar district following heavy rain. No casualties were reported. The incident was captured by neighbours in undated video clips, one of which shows the chilling moments of the structure turning into rubble. The incident took place in the Gandhi Circle area of Sagar and the house belonged to one Raju Saraf. The residents were not inside the structure when it fell, but a lot of household items got crushed. Due to incessant rains, several bridges and houses have been destroyed in parts of Madhya Pradesh in recent days, with several videos and photographs of such destruction being shared widely on social media and messaging apps.

Governor, CM extends Raksha Bandhan greetings to the people of the state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have extended greetings and good wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

Governor Patel has appealed to all the people to take pledge to respect women on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

In his congratulatory message, Patel said that the festival of Raksha Bandhan, a symbol of the sacred and deep love of brother and sister, inspires family harmony. All brothers and sisters celebrate the festival with mutual respect, trust and good wishes. Patel has expressed the confidence that this festival of Indian culture will strengthen the spirit of social harmony, women's honour and national unity. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh



Chouhan, while congratulating the people of the state on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan,

has appealed that eligible people must get the vaccine to protect against Covid on August 25 and 26 in the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan. Chief Minister said that on this Raksha Bandhan, all brothers and sisters should keep in mind the bond of protection from vaccines while understanding the importance of protecting health. Raksha Bandhan is a special festival associated with our culture. In the present era, the most important thing is to save lives by getting vaccinated to protect against Covid. Chouhan said that vaccination is the dose of life. By providing free doses to all the states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done the work of giving Sanjeevani. Chouhan said that this is not just a vaccine to protect against Covid, but through this attempt has been made to save people's lives. Let us all make this great campaign a success.

Orange Alert Predicting Very Heavy Rains For Four Districts

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday issued an orange alert predicting heavy to very heavy rains, ranging from 64.5 mm to 204.4 mm, in four districts in western Madhya Pradesh even as showers continued to lash large parts of the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday issued an orange alert predicting heavy to very heavy rains, ranging from 64.5 mm to 204.4 mm, in

four districts in western Madhya Pradesh even as showers continued to lash large parts of the state.

The IMD also issued two separate yellow alerts warning of heavy rains, a thunderstorm and lightning strikes in the 28 districts of the state.

All three alerts are valid till Sunday morning, an IMD official said.

According to the orange alert, heavy to heavy rainfall accompanied by thunder and lightning might occur in isolated places in Dhar, Ratlam, Ujjain and Dewas districts, PK Saha, a senior meteorologist with the IMD's Bhopal office, said.

A yellow alert forecasting heavy rainfall ranging between 64.5 and 115.5 mm, and thunder with lightning strikes at isolated

places is issued for 13 districts- Mandsaur, Neemuch, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Shivpuri, Agar Malwa, Shahapur, Jhabua, Betul, Rajgarh, Narsinghpur and Chhindwara, he added.

Another yellow alert predicting lightning strikes accompanied by thunder at isolated places is sounded for 15 districts, namely Dewas, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam, Shahapur, Agar, Ujjain, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Datia, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Bhind and Morena, he added.

Met Department issues a yellow alert when weather conditions are less severe but people should be aware of the danger. An orange alert is a forecast of rain and thunderstorms, along with heavy rainfall in isolated pockets accompanied with gusty

winds. Large parts of Madhya Pradesh have been witnessing intermittent rainfall for the last three days. Gwalior, Betul, Ratlam, and Bhopal city received 25.6 mm, 12 mm, 9 mm and 8.4 mm rainfall, respectively, between 8.30 am to 5.30 pm on Saturday.

Saha said a monsoon trough was passing through the Tikamgarh and Sindhi districts of MP. Besides, the cyclonic circulation is lying over northeast Rajasthan and adjoining northwest Madhya Pradesh, he said, adding these two systems were bringing forth moisture, causing rain in MP.

Heavy rains had wreaked havoc in Gwalior and Chambal divisions of Madhya Pradesh earlier this month, triggering floods and killing at least two dozen people between August 1 and 7, officials had said.

The Bond is Back

WORLD PREMIERE OF JAMES BOND FILM NO TIME TO DIE WILL FINALLY BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28 AT LONDON'S ROYAL ALBERT HALL AFTER LENGTHY COVID DELAYS

Los Angeles | Agencies

The world premiere of the James Bond film No Time To Die will take place on September 28 at the Royal Albert Hall in London, it has been confirmed. Daniel Craig's final outing as 007 has been repeatedly delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. A message on the film's official Twitter account said the actor, will be joined by producers Michael G Wilson and Barbara Broccoli and director Cary Joji Fukunaga on the red carpet.



The premiere - which will be held on a Tuesday - will come two days before the film is released in cinemas on Thursday September 30. A number of Bond premieres have taken place at the famous London venue, including 2015's Spectre where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Duke of Sussex were in attendance. No Time To Die was the first major film to fall victim to the pandemic when its April 2020 release was pushed to November as the virus swept the globe. It was subsequently delayed a number of times while cinemas around the world remained shuttered.

Lady Gaga is the best performer of our generation: Olivia Rodrigo



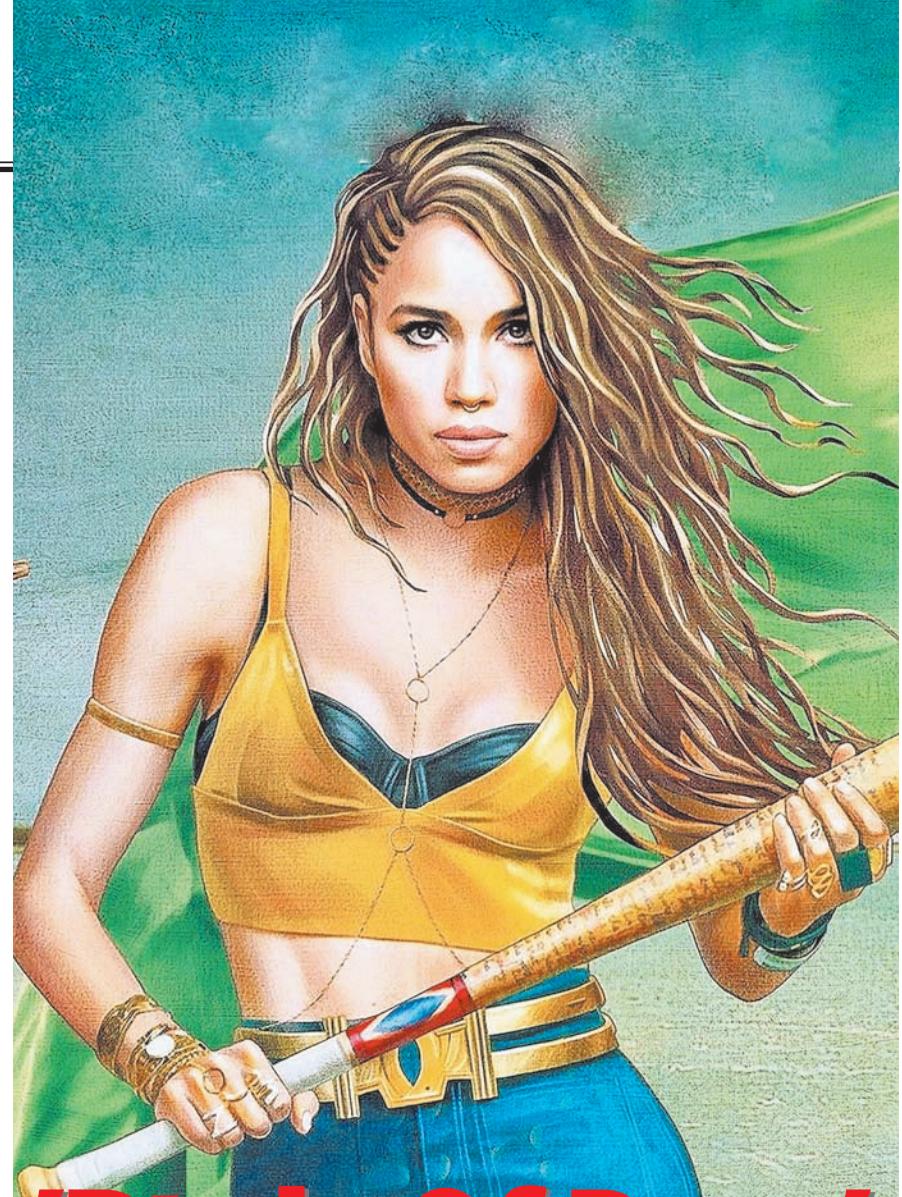
Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop star Olivia Rodrigo says she will never forget how "incredible" the Grammy Award-winner Lady Gaga's dramatic stage presence was when she took to the stage at the MTV Video Music Awards. Rodrigo recalled the award event from 2009, where Gaga performed her early hit "Paparazzi", reports femalefirst.co.uk. "She acts this whole thing out - it's incredible. I love Lady Gaga. I think she's like the best performer of our generation. Just watching her on the piano is just incredible, and so magical," Rodrigo said during an interview with French outlet Kombini. Gaga's iconic performance saw her lifted in the air by her troupe of dancers as fake blood gushed down her. Meanwhile, the "Deja Vu" hitmaker recently praised pop star Taylor Swift for being "so supportive of other women". Rodrigo received a letter from singer Swift after she achieved global stardom with her hit single "Driver's License". She said it felt "so nice" to be "welcomed" into the music industry by a fellow female musician that she looks up to.

BTS officially call off postponed 'Map of the Soul' world tour

Seoul | Agencies

K-Pop super band BTS have officially cancelled their 'Map of the Soul' world tour, which has been postponed since April 2020. The announcement was made by their label Big Hit Music through a post on Korean web platform, Weverse, reports nme.com. The statement read: "Our company has worked hard to resume preparations for the BTS MAP OF THE SOUL TOUR, knowing that all fans have been waiting eagerly and long for the tour." "However, due to changing circumstances beyond our control, it has become difficult to resume performances at the same scale and timeline as previously planned. Therefore we must announce the cancellation of the BTS MAP OF THE SOUL TOUR." "Our sincere apology to all fans who have waited for the BTS MAP OF THE SOUL TOUR to resume. We are working on preparing a viable schedule and performance format that can meet your expectations, and we will provide updated notices as soon as possible." BTS or Bangtan Sonyeondan, are a septet comprising Jin, Suga, J-Hope, RM, Jimin, V, and Jungkook. The band is also known as the Bangtan Boys. The band were meant to commence their tour in April last year, but were forced to cancel their four Seoul appearances because of the pandemic. It was later announced they would be postponing the tour altogether, due to the ongoing global Covid situation.



'Birds Of Prey'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jurnee Smollett's character Black Canary is getting her own movie as a "Birds Of Prey" spin-off is in the works. "Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn" spin-off is in early development at HBO Max and will be focusing on the vigilante that was portrayed by Smollett in the 2020 Warner Bros./DC movie, reports aceshowbiz.com. According to The Hollywood Reporter, "Lovecraft Country" showrunner Misha Green is tapped to write the script, with Smollett being set to reprise her role as Dinah Lance/Black Canary. The "Black Canary" movie will reunite Smollett and

Green, who have worked together on the period drama "Underground" and the supernatural series "Lovecraft Country". The actress starred on both series.

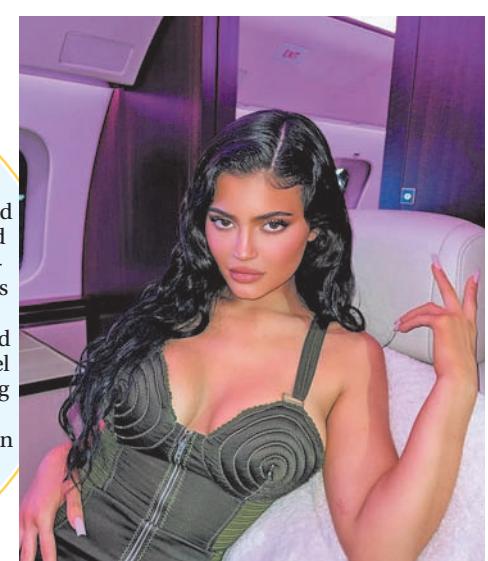
Details of the plot are currently under wraps. As of now, there is no word on who will direct the "Birds of Prey" spin-off. Black Canary is a vigilante with the metahuman ability of hypersonic screams, which she inherited genetically from her mother. In the movie, she is depicted as a singer in a club that Roman Sionis played by Ewan McGregor owns. "Birds of Prey" itself was developed as a spin-off to 2016's "The Suicide Squad".

Bringing back Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn, it also stars Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Rosie Perez, Chris Messina, Ella Jay Basco and Ali Wong among others.

KYLIE JENNER EXPECTING SECOND BABY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV personality and make-up mogul Kylie Jenner is expecting her second child with Travis Scott. Multiple sources exclusively confirmed the news to pagesix.com. The two already have three-year-old daughter Stormi. Kylie has been open about wanting a sibling for her. A source said the entire family is "thrilled." The news came after Caitlyn Jenner sparked speculation Thursday by announcing that she is expecting another grandchild, but it turned out to be about her son Burt Jenner, who is expecting his third baby with girlfriend Valerie Pitalo. Talking about having a sibling for Stormi during an interview for Harper's Bazaar's March 2020 issue, Kylie had said: "My friends all pressure me about it... They love Stormi. I definitely feel pressure to give her a sibling, but there's no plan." Kylie, who started dating Scott in April 2017, spent her first pregnancy in hiding, announcing Stormi's arrival only after she had given birth. She later shared the reason why to Andy Cohen: "I shared so much of my life. I was also really young when I got pregnant, and it was just a lot for me personally. I didn't know how I would bring that to the public too and have everyone's opinion. I think it was just something that I needed to go through by myself."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

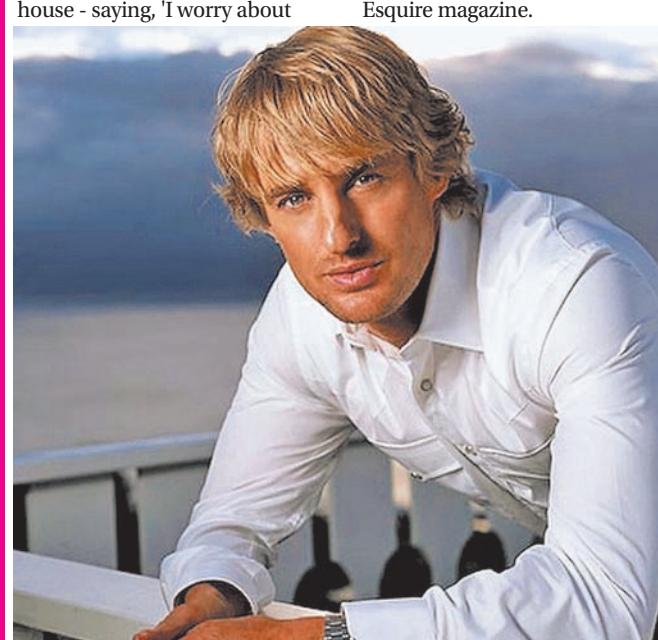


Owen Wilson used to think about death a lot

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Owen Wilson, who attempted suicide in August 2007, started to think about death after turning 11, but he never spoke to his parents about it. "As a kid, there's a lot of things that you think about. Death - that kind of landed with me when I was about 11. And I don't remember ever talking with my parents about it," said the actor. Owen added: "Although I do remember one time saying to my dad - and I remember exactly where in the house - saying, 'I worry about

dying,' and seeing my dad turn away and catch himself. And I was surprised to see that reaction." Owen's older brother Andrew temporarily moved in with him after his suicide attempt 14 years ago. And at times, Owen says he's felt the need to "hang on" in life, reports femalefirst.co.uk. "Sometimes it seems like life is being played by Gene Hackman in 'Hoosiers'. Tough but fair. He's going to demand a lot, but if you play as a team and do your job, things work out. That's a good feeling. Things make sense," he told Esquire magazine.



Rihanna



'WE HAVE WINGS'

Unveiled as concept of Paralympics opening ceremony

Tokyo | Agencies

"We Have Wings" has been announced as the concept of the Tokyo Paralympic Games opening ceremony to be held on August 24.

The Tokyo 2020 organising committee also said in a statement on Saturday that the concept of the closing ceremony of the Paralympic Games is "Harmonious Cacophony". As announced in July, the overall concept behind all four ceremonies of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games is "Moving Forward" and the concept of the Olympic Games opening ceremony is "United by Emotion," which is also the slogan of the Olympics, and the concept of the Olympic Games closing ceremony is "Worlds We



Share." The Tokyo Paralympic Games will run from August 24 to September 5, reports Xinhua.

Meanwhile, the organisers have said that Afghanistan will not send athletes to the Paralympic Games. Toshiro Muto, CEO of the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee, said that he has been aware of the information that Afghanistan is "unable to take part in the Paralympic Games."

Muto.

Mohammad Ashraf Ghani left the country, while the Taliban ordered its members to enter the capital of Kabul. "Currently, a situation exists in Afghanistan. That situation is the reason for their inability to come to Japan," he said. "We regret that they are not able to come, for the Afghanistan athletes, officials and stakeholders. I hope they are spending their time safely in their own country," said Muto.

Lahiri makes the cut at Northern Trust golf

Jersey City (New Jersey): India's Anirban Lahiri carded a second successive 2-under 69 to safely make the weekend rounds of the Northern Trust here but the golfer would know that he needs a better showing to progress into next week's BMW Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs. After starting strongly on Friday with three successive birdies on his front nine at the Liberty National Golf Club, the 34-year-old Indian suffered bogeys on 14 and 15 before bouncing back with a birdie at the next hole to conclude his day in tied 36th place. Lahiri requires at least a top-10 finish this week to have a chance of improving on his 121st ranking and move inside the top-70, which is the cut-off for the second Playoffs event. He is four strokes outside the top-10 presently, and eight behind leader Jon Rahm of Spain.

Six Indians win on opening day of Asian Youth & Junior Boxing



Dubai | Agencies

Rohit Chamoli, Ankush and Gaurav Saini were among the six Indian boxers who registered victories on the opening day of the ASBC Youth & Junior Boxing Championships here on Saturday. In the junior boys' category, Rohit (48kg), Ankush (66kg) and Gaurav (70kg) claimed confident victories against their respective opponents and confirmed medals for the country by securing semifinal berths.

Chandigarh's Rohit outclassed Alhassan Qadous Sryia 5-0, while Ankush blanked Bader Shehab from Kuwait 5-0. Haryana's Gaurav too put up a dominating show against another Kuwaiti boxer Yaqoub Saadallah before he was declared winner with 'referee stopping the contest' (RSC) in the second round of the bout.

Ashish (54kg), Anshul (57kg) and Preet Malik (63kg) were the other three junior pugilists to emerge victorious in their respective opening-round matches. Yashwrdhan Singh (60kg), Usman Mohd Sultan (50kg), Naksh Beniwal (75kg) and Rishabh Singh (81kg) suffered defeats in their

respective preliminary bouts. The 2021 World Youth Championships bronze medallist Bishwanita Chongtham will begin his campaign in the continental event as six youth Indian boxers will be seen in action on the second day on Sunday. Apart from Bishwanita, Daksh Singh (67kg), Deepak (75kg), Aditya Janghu (86kg) and Abhimanyu Loura (92) will play their opening round matches, while among women, Preeti (57kg) will kick off her challenge. The ongoing Asian Championships will provide the much-needed competitive tournament to the promising talent at the Asian level after a gap of almost two years. The event has been witnessing thrilling action in the presence of pugilists from strong boxing nations like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, to name a few.

The gold medallists in the youth age group will receive prize money of USD 6,000 while silver and bronze medallists will get USD 3,000 and USD 1,500 respectively. The junior champions will be awarded USD 4,000, while USD 2,000 and 1,000 will be given to the silver and bronze medallists.

With Bengaluru FC needing a win to maintain their hopes of qualifying for the next stage, chief coach Marco Pezzaioli made three changes to the team that lost to ATK Mohun Bagan, with Parag Shrivats, Danish Farooq and Bidyashagar Singh replacing Sarthak Golui, Ajay Chhetri and

Bengaluru FC bowed out of the reckoning in the group stages of the 2021 AFC Cup with a goalless draw against Bangladeshs Bashundhara Kings, at the National Stadium here, on Saturday.

The result meant Bengaluru stayed third in Group D with one point, while Bashundhara climbed to the top with four points, ahead of ATK Mohun Bagan's late clash against Maziya S&RC.

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IPL 2021: First batch of Delhi Capitals players arrive in UAE

Dubai | Agencies

Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra was among the Delhi Capitals' (DC) players to arrive here ahead of the Indian Premier League 2021 which is set to resume next month after being suspended in May due to emergence of Covid-19 cases. A few members of the Delhi Capitals' squad, which included leg-spinner Amit Mishra, all-rounder Lalit Yadav, domestic players Lukman Meriwala, Manimaran Siddharth, Ripal Patel and Vishnu Vinod arrived in Dubai on Saturday, 21 August 2021 for the remainder of the IPL 2021 season. The players will stay in quarantine following BCCI and IPL protocols, said Delhi Capitals in a statement. The players will be in a hard quarantine for six days, according to the rules. The Delhi Capitals will take on the Sunrisers Hyderabad on 22 September 2021 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in their first match on the resumption of the season. The franchise is leading the points table, having won six of the eight matches it has played. DC 12 points, two more than Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore.



Buttler, Archer to miss 2nd leg

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals' England batsman Jos Buttler will not be available for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 that will resume next month in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). While Buttler will miss the tournament due to the birth of his second child, Rajasthan Royals' (RR) English pace bowler Jofra Archer, who is nursing an elbow injury which forced him to sit out of the ongoing series against India, will also miss the lucrative league.

Punjab Kings rope in Australian pacer Nathan Ellis

Dubai: Indian Premier League (IPL) side Punjab Kings on Saturday roped in Australian pace bowling sensation Nathan Ellis for the remainder of the 2021 IPL season beginning in the UAE on September 19. It caps off a whirlwind 48 hours for the 26-year-old, who was named as a travelling reserve in Australia's squad for the Men's T20 World Cup on Thursday (August 19). It had been widely reported that Ellis was being pursued by three IPL franchises for the Dubai leg of the cash-rich tournament.



Tsitsipas sets up Cincinnati semifinal clash against Zverev

Cincinnati | Agencies

World No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 after two hours and 12 minutes to reach the semifinals of the Western & Southern Open here on Saturday (IST). For most of the first two sets, Tsitsipas played patiently to take a 6-2, 5-4 15/40 lead as Auger-Aliassime struggled to find rhythm. But the Canadian made a remarkable turnaround with a backhand that barely clipped the back of the baseline to upset the Greek player's rhythm.

Next up for Tsitsipas will be Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev of Germany, who defeated Casper Ruud of Norway 6-1, 6-3. Tsitsipas leads the German 6-2 in their ATP head-to-



TEICHMANN, TOP SEED BARTY IN CINCINNATI SEMIFINALS

Cincinnati: Wildcard Jil Teichmann of Switzerland upset her higher-ranked countrywoman, Tokyo Olympic Games champion Belinda Bencic, to earn a semifinal spot at the Western & Southern Open and set up a clash with No. 5 seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, who advanced after Paula Badosa of Spain retired due to a right shoulder injury. Top seed Ashleigh Barty of Australia reached her sixth semifinal of the year, and second at the Western & Southern Open, with a straight-sets defeat of ninth seed Barbora Krejcirova of the Czech Republic. She will face Angelique Kerber of Germany, who progressed after Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic was forced to retire.

PRIYA MOHAN FINISHES FOURTH IN 400M FINAL



Nairobi | Agencies

India's Priya Mohan came up with her personal best but had to be satisfied with the fourth place in the women's 400m at the World Athletics U-20 Championships here on Saturday. On a day Amit Kumar won a silver medal for India in the 10000m race walk, Priya, the 18-year-old from Bangalore, made a brave effort in the final 100 metres as she came close to the leading group but could not overtake as she finished fourth in 52.77 seconds. Nigeria's Imabong Nse Uko (51.55) took gold ahead of Poland's Kornella Lesiewicz (51.97) and Kenya's Sylvia Chelangat (52.23), all coming up with their personal best efforts to take the top three positions. Kornella and Sylvia were fighting for the first spot with around 25 metres to go before Nigeria's Uko came up with a strong finish to overtake them. Priya, who was in lane 2, had pulled near to them in the home straight but the three found some reserves of energy and managed to stay ahead.

AFC Cup Qualifiers: Bengaluru out of contention after goalless draw

Male | Agencies

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NATIONAL MOTORCYCLE RACING: JAGAN SCORES IMPERIOUS WIN

Chennai | Agencies

Defending champion Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) came up with a dominant display on his super quick Apache RTR 160 bike to win the premium Pro-Stock 165cc Open race in the first round of the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the MMRT, here on Saturday. Earlier, Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports), the English Literature student from Chennai's Guru Nanak College, and who turns 19 in a week's time, gave himself an advance birthday gift by winning the Novice (Stock 165cc) race that he started from P5. Chennai's Jagan Kumar, 31, winner of nine National titles, set such a hot



pace after starting from pole position that it virtually destroyed a classy field to finish well ahead of arch-rival and fellow-international Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) who, in turn, held off TVS Racing's Deepak Ravikumar after a cat-and-mouse battle through the six-lapper, the organisers said in a release on Saturday.

Tiger Shroff blocks Christmas 2022 for 'Ganapath' release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Tiger Shroff and Kriti Sanon's upcoming action thriller "Ganapath" has been blocked as a Christmas release and will hit the screens on December 23, 2022. Tiger, son of actor Jackie Shroff, also treated his fans with a teaser of the film on Instagram. He is heard saying in Hindi: "Apun ko janta ne aur God ne bola aane ko, to apun aa re la hai." The actor labels "Ganapath" as one of his most ambitious projects. Tiger said: "Ganapath" has been one of my most ambitious and challenging projects. This one truly is going to challenge me to an extreme level in terms of action as well. The idea is to take the bar a lot higher for myself and Ganapath is just the right vehicle to express a new action for our audiences here."



Vashu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment present Ganapath in association with Good Co. Directed by Vikas Bahl and produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Vikas Bahl, Deepshikha Deshmukh, Jackky Bhagnani. Bahl said: "If nervousness and excitement leads to a great final output then I want a bit more of both". He added that there are a few hurdles given the pandemic situation worldwide but they have a great team and there is immense excitement. Bahl said: "Tiger keeps setting the benchmarks for us and Jackky is the adrenaline running in our system." Actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani said: "The film has great action, it has a strong emotional core that takes it to another level. Tiger's phenomenal energy, discipline, and commitment to the film have simply wowed us all."

Guru Randhawa to turn actor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer-composer Guru Randhawa, who is all set to try his luck as an actor in Bollywood, is eager to explore different genres and not just limit himself to any one particular genre. Talking about it, Guru Randhawa told reporter: "I'm personally a big fan of Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio movies. This is my first film and I want to give my 100% to it, I would try and like to explore different genre like romantic, thriller etc in movies and not to get stuck with one." Opening up on why he decided to try his luck in acting, the singer expressed: "Well, it was all very instinctive. I mean, there wasn't a fixed process and I think it is a series of events that leads to one particular big event. It all fell in place one thing after the other. We signed this film last month and since then I've been excited to see my journey and the road ahead." His debut film is a Hindi musical drama which showcases the tumultuous journey of a young musician. If Guru Randhawa tastes success as an actor, would he like to continue both acting and singing? "I would like to do both and I think for me they will go hand in hand," he replied. However, the musician is not ready to give up if his initial projects as an actor do not make it big. "That's destiny but my hard work will be constant always," he shared.



I have always idolised Ajay Devgn: 'Bhuj' actor Mahesh Shetty



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Wanted to be part of meaningful cinema: Bhumi Pednekar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and environmentalist Bhumi Pednekar has always signed up films that have sent out a clear message to the audience and have meaningful content. She says always wanted to be part of cinema that goes down in the history of Hindi films as path breaking. Bhumi said: "I have been fortunate that film-makers who have tried to change the face of content in India, have felt that I could be a part of their vision." She added: "This gives me immense joy and confidence because I have always wanted to be part of cinema that goes down in the history of Hindi films as path-breaking." The 32-year-old's journey in cinema has just started and she says her filmography comprises outstanding gems that are among the generation defining films of my time. She says: "My journey in cinema has just begun and I feel blessed that my body of work has some outstanding gems that are among the generation defining films of my time!" "I have only strived to better myself with each film and show everyone that I relish a good challenge. I think that's what has worked for me because filmmakers have chosen me to portray really challenging roles." Bhumi credits all the directors she has collaborated with so far to be behind her success. The actress said: "I can't thank them enough for doing so because they have made me a better artiste and fuelled my hunger to constantly push my boundaries. I live to play a great character that people take back home and discuss about. "I want to be called that actor who never shied away from pushing herself and experimented every single time she came on screen," she added.



Sukhmani Sadana replaces Gauahar Khan in 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sukhmani Sadana has replaced Gauahar Khan in the upcoming web series 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls'. 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls' is an adaptation of the novel by Anuja Chauhan by the same name. Directed by Habib Faisal, and produced by Sobe Films, the series stars Raj Babbar, Padma Dhillon, Padmini Kolhapure, Pankaj Kalra, Akshay Oberoi, Anjali Anand, Chandrachur Singh, Aditya Kapadia, Medha Shankar, Sahiba Bambra and others. Joining the ensemble cast of 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls', Sukhmani says, "Yes, I am excited to be a part of this web series. It's a story of five sisters and I'm playing one of the sisters."

Sukhmani has written scripts for films like '1920 London', and other films for Kunal Kohli, Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, Endemol, Balaji, Netflix. In 2017, she won the 'Best Actress' in Digital Awards 2017 for her web series 'Love Bytes'. She also hosted the 2019 IIFA Awards. 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls' will be streaming on Disney+ Hotstar.



I am yet to feel famous and successful: Rinku Rajguru

At the age of 14 when Rinku Rajguru made her debut in a Marathi film, she did not know its end result. She did not know that her debut film "Sairat" would become a successful film of her time with a huge box-office collection and multiple awards. She did not know that within six years, she will be working with iconic stars such as Amitabh Bachchan, Amol Palekar or Lara Dutta and that two of her anthologies will be releasing on two prominent OTT platforms. Rinku says she is yet to feel famous and successful because she never counts on end result but looks for a new project, new story and new learning every day. The actress shared that she is not "treated like a star" at home.



Huma Qureshi