

absolute india

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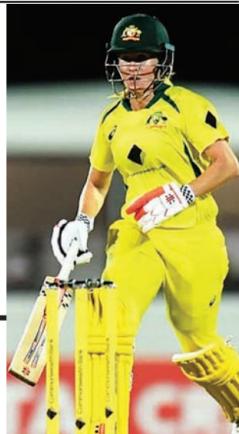
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10-DAY CORONA CURFEW ANNOUNCED IN PARTS OF SRINAGAR



An order issued by District Magistrate Mohammad Aijaz said that strict curfew shall come into force from Friday itself in areas falling under Zadibal and Lal Bazar municipal wards.

SRINAGAR | Agencies
Following the rising number of daily new coronavirus cases, authorities on Friday imposed 10-day long curfew in parts of J&K's Srinagar district to check the surge. An order issued by District Magistrate Mohammad Aijaz said that strict curfew shall come into force from Friday itself in areas falling under Zadibal and Lal Bazar municipal wards. All educational institutions, shopping malls, and other businesses shall remain closed during the 10-day long curfew and only essential services would be allowed. Stand-alone milk, vegetable, and grocery shops have been exempted from curfew restrictions in these areas.

Top gangster shot dead in Delhi courtroom by assailants disguised as lawyers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In an incident that seemed ripped from a Bollywood potboiler, top Delhi gangster Jitender Singh Mann, alias Gogi, was shot dead in a courtroom on Friday by two assailants from the rival 'Tilu' gang, dressed in lawyers' garb. The two assailants were subsequently shot dead by the police as the incident led to chaos and panic in the courtroom where the judge had commenced proceedings. A woman lawyer was reportedly injured in the firing. The incident occurred at the Rohini court complex when Gogi was being presented for hearing in a case against him. The assailants suddenly took out their weapons from under their lawyer's robes and opened fire at Gogi, who collapsed. A lawyer, who was inside the courtroom at the time of the incident, told IANS that everything happened so fast that they were not even able to take a breath. "The firing began just seconds before the hearing in the case of gangster Gogi. Even Judge Gagandeep Singh was sitting inside the



courtroom," he said, adding that there was utter chaos in the courtroom. The police personnel guarding Gogi immediately retaliated and gunned down the attackers. "There was an exchange

of at least 30-35 rounds of fire between the cops and the attackers," an eyewitness said. Sources said that the attackers were from the Tilu Tajpuria gang and the Delhi Police's Special Cell had an input about the possibility of such kind of an incident. Gogi, who was arrested by the Special Cell in April, was involved in the killing of a Haryana-based singer, who was gunned down by assailants in Panipat in 2017. Gogi carried a cash reward of Rs 4 lakh in Delhi and Rs 2.5 lakh in Haryana. A Delhi Police spokesperson said that the police team took swift action and launched counter-firing. "Both assailants died along with Gogi," the spokesperson said. A woman lawyer was injured in the ricochet. "The bullet first touched the floor and then hit the woman lawyer on her feet," said a source, adding that she was shifted to a nearby hospital. The bodies of Gogi and his assailants were taken out of the court in two ambulances. The court has now become like a fortress with heavy deployment of CISF personnel.

SC ORDERS DELETION OF BANNER WITH PM'S PICTURE FROM OFFICIAL EMAILS



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has ordered removal of a banner of the Union government with a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from its official e-mails. According to a senior officer familiar with the development, a photograph of the Prime Minister, along with slogan "sabka sath sabka vikas sabka vishwas", was attached at the foot of the official emails by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The NIC has been directed to use the picture of the top court instead. Some of the lawyers practicing in the top court had lodged a complaint regarding this issue.

A top court official said: "Late last evening it was brought to the notice of the Registry of the Supreme Court of India that the official emails of the Supreme Court of India were carrying an image as footer which has no connection whatsoever with the functioning of the judiciary." He further added that NIC, which provides the email services to the apex court, was directed to drop that image from the footer of the emails originating from the Supreme Court. "It was further directed to use the picture of the Supreme Court of India, instead. NIC has since complied with the directions of the SCI," he said.

India snaps back at China for accusation over Galwan Valley clashes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Friday lashed out at China for blaming Delhi for the clashes in Galwan Valley last year in which 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed, stating that unilateral attempts were made by the Chinese side to alter the status quo in Eastern Ladakh. In response to a statement made by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Zhao Lijian in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said that the Indian position with regard to the developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh last year has been clear and consistent. "It was the provocative behaviour and unilateral attempts of the Chinese side to alter the status quo in contravention of all our bilateral agreements that resulted in serious disturbance of peace and tranquility," he asserted. He further said that the unilateral attempts of the



Chinese side to alter the status quo has also impacted the bilateral relations. "As emphasised by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in his meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi earlier this month, it is our expectation that the Chinese side will work towards an early resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh, while fully abiding by the bilateral agreements and protocols," he pointed out. Zhao Lijian had said earlier that the "Galwan Valley incident took place because India violated all the treaties and agreements and encroached upon China's

territory illegally and crossed the line". Lijian was replying to a query in Beijing on the reorganisation of the Indian military into theatre commands. Strongly reacting to the statement, Bagchi said: "We reject such statements." On June 15, 2020, India had lost 20 soldiers in clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Galwan Valley. India and China are engaged in border dispute for the last 16 months. After the clashes in Galwan Valley, both the countries resorted to de-escalate the border tension through military and diplomatic talks.

SC stays proceedings in Kerala HC on plea challenging EWS quota

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the proceedings before the Kerala High Court on a plea against Centre's decision granting 10 percent reservation in jobs and admissions to candidates belonging to economically weaker sections (EWS). Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, asked a bench headed by Chief Justice NV. Ramana to stay on proceedings before the high court and also sought direction to issue notice to Nujaim P.K., who had filed the plea there. After hearing brief arguments in the matter, the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, issued notice on the Centre's plea seeking transfer of the case from the high court to the top court. Earlier, the top court had referred similar case to a five-judge Constitution bench. The Centre's plea said the writ petition involves an identical question of law to one pending before the top court, whether the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 violates the basic structure of the Constitution and it is also against its basic principle. The 10 percent quota will be over and above the existing 50 per cent reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The Centre contended that the transfer of the petition is necessary, as a similar plea and other connected petitions in connection with the validity of the Act, is pending before the top court. The transfer of the petition would enable all these cases to be clubbed and heard together, it said. The top court had refused to stay the Centre's decision. Both the Houses of the Parliament cleared the bill in January 2019, and it also received President Ram Nath Kovind's assent.

MP Ahead Of Other States In Agriculture Infrastructure: Tomar

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that Madhya Pradesh is ahead of many other states in the country in developing infrastructure in the farm sector. He also said that out of the Rs 10,000 crore-worth proposals that the Centre has received under its ambitious Agriculture Infrastructure Fund scheme so far, Madhya Pradesh's proposals are worth Rs 1,000 crore. Tomar said this while chairing a meeting at the state secretariat here with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state Agriculture Minister Kamal Patel on Thursday on agriculture-infrastructure and other issues. "The works (carried out) in the agriculture sector in Madhya Pradesh are capable of changing the lives of farmers. These works are very commendable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund for the development of agriculture infrastructure with a fund of Rs one lakh crore," a public relation department official quoted Tomar as saying. "Under this, the Centre has received proposals worth Rs 10,000 crore from various states and banks have already approved pro-



posals worth Rs 5,000 crore so far. Among them, the maximum number of proposals amounting to Rs 1,000 crore are from Madhya Pradesh, which is praiseworthy," he said. He also said that Madhya Pradesh has got the maximum loan facility under various schemes and the state is ahead of others in implementing agriculture infrastructure. The state was doing a good job in PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, National Agriculture Development Scheme and in uplifting the lives of its farmers, he said, adding that the Centre was also starting Digital Agriculture Mission for the welfare of farmers. Tomar also said that Madhya Pradesh will emerge as a "model state" in the country in the agriculture sector by working on a mission mode. On the occasion, Chouhan talked about the steps being taken by the state government for the development of agriculture and also said that the prime minister and the agriculture minister have assured that farmers would get Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) at Rs 1,200 per bag only even as its price has increased to Rs 2,400 per bag. "Farmers will not have to pay higher cost for it as the government will raise the subsidy component to bridge the gap," he added.

CONGRESS G-23 LEADERS DECRY 'STATUS QUO' ON ISSUES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After Amarinder Singh's stepping down as Punjab Chief Minister, the 'G-23' leaders say that many in Congress are worried about the future and are looking for adjustments outside the party, as a patch-up with Rahul Gandhi seems unlikely with the former party chief not having taken any step to deal with issues they raised. Leaders say that since the letter, calling for sweeping reforms in the party, was written in August 2020, there has been no engagement except a meeting in December last year with party interim chief Sonia Gandhi and the "status quo" persists. A leader, who did not want to be identified, said that it is why people like Sushmita Dev are joining the Trinamool Congress and



some others are in queue because the Trinamool and the Nationalist Congress Party are "just breakaway groups of the Congress" and thus, options for those who can't join the BJP due to ideological reasons, despite their lack of pan-India presence. Those who don't have problems with the BJP like Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasad and few leaders in Maharashtra and elsewhere, join it, the leader added. The leader also alleged that Rahul Gandhi is not will-

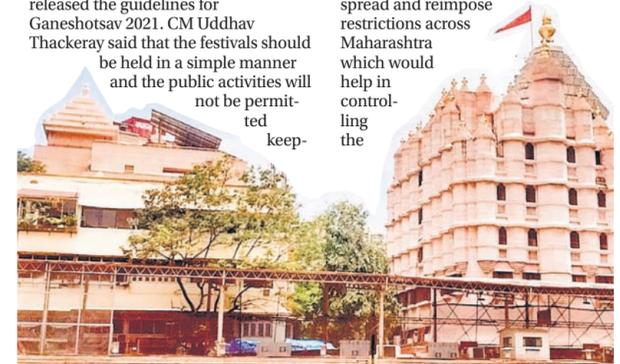
ing to take along party leaders who are not favourites of his team which is running the show from behind the scene. Gandhi has not been meeting those who are not in his good books, so a patch-up is not possible in these circumstances, the leader added. Attacking the Gandhis' teams, Amarinder Singh has also pointed that the Gandhi siblings were "quite inexperienced" and "their advisers were clearly misguiding them." Some other Congress leaders say that Rahul Gandhi is running the show but without any responsibility and either he should become the party President, or let some other arrangement come into place. Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has also stressed that the party needs change. "No one has spoken a word against Sonia Gandhi, but she herself is saying she wishes to step down and hence, a new leadership should take over quickly," he said recently, adding that if Rahul Gandhi wishes to take over, it should happen quickly. However, there are some leaders like Veerappa Moily, who was one of the signatories to the August letter, but now says that there is no need of G-23 and it doesn't exist anymore. He said many decisions have been taken and the party is moving forward.

Maharashtra Govt Announces To Reopen All Religious Places From October 7

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major development, the Maharashtra government on Friday evening, announced to reopen religious places from October 7, which happens to be the first day of Navratri. This decision comes as the state has been witnessing a downward trend in the coronavirus cases and the positivity rate. Maharashtra today reported 3,286 new coronavirus cases and 51 deaths which took the state's infection tally to 65,37,843 and death toll to 1,38,776, a health department official said. Moreover, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged all the devotees to follow the COVID-related norms such as using face masks, hand sanitizers and proper social distancing must be followed at the places of religious worship, he added. The management committee of the religious places have a big responsibility, he further said. Meanwhile, earlier in August this year, the state government had

released the guidelines for Ganeshotsav 2021. CM Uddhav Thackeray said that the festivals should be held in a simple manner and the public activities will not be permitted. keep-



ing the pandemic in mind. As the cases are expected to rise amid the festive season. On the other hand, experts have warned about the possibility of the third wave in October. Keeping these aspects in mind, officials have been discussing ways to control the

spread and reimpose restrictions across Maharashtra which would help in controlling the crowd and further spread of the infections. Maharashtra today reported 3,286 new coronavirus cases and 51 deaths which took the state's infection tally to 65,37,843 and death toll to 1,38,776, a health department official said.



MANIPUR CM APOLOGISES PUBLICLY, 16 COPS SUSPENDED OVER TRIBAL LEADER'S KILLING

IMPHAL | Agencies

After the widespread condemnation of the assassination of an influential tribal leader by unidentified militants, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Friday publicly apologised for the police inaction leading to the abduction and gunning down of Athuan Abonmai.

The Chief Minister said that 16 policemen including some troopers of Manipur Rifles have been suspended as Abonmai was shot dead soon after he was whisked away by gunmen from Tamenglong district headquarters on Wednesday. His bullet-riddled body was found on Thursday evening.

Talking to the media at his office, Singh said that after getting reports that the policemen were mere onlookers while Abonmai was being dragged out and bundled into a waiting jeep, I wondered how the morale of the police had lowered to such an extent.

"Police should have taken swift action and saved the life of Abonmai. We have suspended 16 police personnel including a few officers for dereliction of duty," said the Chief Minister, who holds the Home Department.

He said that Manipur Director General of Police L.M Khaute has constituted a high level committee headed by Radhashyam Singh, Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) while



two other IG rank officials K. Kabib and Kamei Angam Romanus would be the members.

The Chief Minister said that his government would seek National Investigation Agency investigation if there are reasonable grounds of doubt of a nexus between some policemen and the terrorists.

Singh said: "As the Home Minister and head of the government, I expressed my sincere apology

to the bereaved family and the people for the cowardly action of murder of a popular public leader."

Abonmai, the former president of Zeliangrong Baudi, a tribal-based local council in Tamenglong district and a leader of the Naga People's Front (NPF), had been abducted on Wednesday when the Chief Minister, accompanied by his ministerial colleagues, visited the hill district bordering Assam and Nagaland to inaugurate some projects as a part of the state's 'Go to Hills' campaign. According to the police officials, the tribal leader was reportedly abducted while he was on his way to attend the Chief Minister's programme. Local media reports said that 20 armed cadres of a hill-based extremist outfit kidnapped Abonmai near Pallong village.

Police are yet to ascertain the motive behind the incident with no militant group claiming responsibility for the abduction and killing of the tribal leader. Many organisations condemned the incident and demanded an explanation from the perpetrators on the motive behind the assassination. Manipur Congress working president Keisham Meghachandra Singh describing Abonmai as the voice of unity and integrity of Manipur, said his assassination must be taken with the utmost seriousness and the perpetrators should be punished.

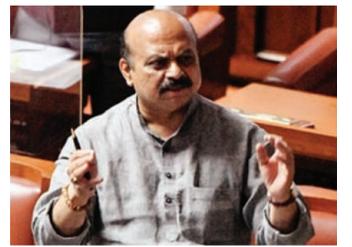
Don't mind if NEP is called 'RSS or Nagpur Education Policy': Bommai

Bengaluru | Agencies

Speaking in the Assembly on Friday, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said he does not mind the National Education Policy (NEP) of the Bharatiya Janata Party government being called 'RSS or Nagpur Education Policy'. However, he opposed what he referred to as the 'Italian Education Policy'.

Reacting to the opposition Congress' attack on the NEP, Bommai said, "RSS, nationality, nation are all same. 'RSS' stands for nationalism. There is nothing wrong if it is RSS Education Policy. We need to prepare our children for the 21st century. NEP provides an opportunity for students to compete at the international level," he added.

Bommai alleged that the Congress had adopted a policy of slavery in education. "We don't want the education policy of Macaulay, we don't want the 'Italian Education Policy' either," he said. "Let the opposition describe NEP as 'RSS Education Policy'. We agree to it," he added. As soon as the Assembly session commenced, the members of the Congress party gathered near the well of the House and demanded that they should be given the opportunity to discuss the NEP and other issues. Siddaramaiah, the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, said, "The state government is implementing NEP ahead of all states. The colleges are reopening from



October. This is the question of the future of the next generation. We need to discuss the issue in the Assembly session."

He emphasised that the Congress wants to discuss 'Nagpur Education Policy,' following which the ruling BJP members opposed the move. Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar countered Bommai by asking why former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not oppose the so-called 'Italian Education Policy' when he was ruling the country.

Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri adjourned the House for an indefinite period when commotion prevailed inside the House.

"We have decided not to stage a protest. But the state government has not given answers. Initially, we wanted to stage a walkout from the state Assembly. I have requested the Speaker to extend the Assembly session by a week. The Speaker never responded," Siddaramaiah said after the session was adjourned.

Successive Cong govts underplayed Netaji's contribution: Union Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions and PMO Jitendra Singh on Friday accused the successive Congress governments in the past of underplaying Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's contribution and legacy.

Speaking after inaugurating the Digital Exhibition on Life and Contribution of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in North Block here, he said 'it was indeed an occasion of redemption when we seek to restore the deserved glory of our unsung heroes and undo the injustice done to them by history, for whatever reason'.

Noting that the nation owes it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for reviving and reminding us of the contribution of unsung heroes and unsung freedom fighters



including Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Sardar Patel, Singh said that their sacrifices and achievements were always downplayed by successive Congress governments for political and dynastic considerations.

The Minister also said that during this year, the Central Government will showcase unsung heroes and little-known groups and events of the Freedom Struggle during the year-long celebrations to mark 75 years of India's Independence and added

that several events, exhibitions and lecture series will be organised to underline their contribution.

Mentioning that the next 25 years of journey of "Sankalp se Siddhi" will definitely establish India as a Vishwaguru, he said that there was a need for the young generation to take a pledge to rededicate themselves in the service of the nation and also to become aware of the contributions and sacrifices of unsung heroes and freedom fighters.

Referring to Prime Minister's flagging off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad on March 12 this year and inauguration of the curtain raiser activities of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Singh said the Mahotsav will be celebrated as a 'Jan-Utsav' in the spirit of 'Jan-Bhagidari'.

After Channi in Punjab, Congress shifts focus to Dalits

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After the appointment of Charanjit Singh Channi as the Chief Minister of Punjab, the Congress has shifted its focus to the Dalits and the party has already started wooing them through Punjab.

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi met a delegation of Dalit leaders on Friday and invited the community to the Congress. He said on Facebook, "Had an interesting discussion with leaders from the Dalit community this morning. Come rain or shine, we will stay true to our resolve for equal opportunities for all sections of the society. Jai Hind!"

The delegation was led by former MP Udit Raj who said that "the community is thankful for the appointment of Channi and Rahul Gandhiji discussed the issues pertaining to Dalits in the country."

The Congress aim is to make inroads in the northern Indian states in this community which has gone



away from the Congress and are with the BJP and regional parties. Ahead of the elections, Congress leader Harish Rawat had set the ball rolling

that he wants to see a Dalit community leader as Punjab Chief Minister. The Congress even challenged Bahujan Samaj Party supremo

Mayawati who criticised the party for the tokenism, and asked if Mayawati can declare a CM candidate in Punjab as the BSP is in alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal there.

The Congress is on an overdrive after the swearing in of Channi. Party spokesperson Surjewala said that the Congress has created history by appointing Punjab's first Dalit CM in Charanjit Channi and the Congress leaders term it a masterstroke.

Randeep Surjewala had said, "Let time record that this decision will singularly fortify social justice and open new doors of empowerment for our Dalit, Backward and disadvantaged brothers & sisters across India." The Congress focus is now on Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand as in both the states Dalits comprise around 25 percent votes. In UP the BSP has a stronghold in the community while the BJP has made inroads in non Jatav Dalits through its social engineering formula and admitting leaders from the BSP, while in Uttarakhand Rawat's statement is to woo the community in the state.

BJP MP ASKS L-G TO HOLD MEET ON WATER-LOGGING IN DELHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Perturbed by the problem of water-logging in north-west Delhi, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Hans Raj Hans has written to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, requesting him to convene a meeting of the civic authorities, including the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

"North-west Delhi is my constituency. Your kind attention is invited to severe civic problem of water-logging in my Assembly constituency, especially in Kirari, Mundka and Bawana Vidhan Sabhas," said the BJP MP in the letter to Bajjal on September 22.

Hans wrote that the people are suffering a lot due to the non-cooperative behaviour of officials of the flood and irrigation department, DJB, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the MCD etc. Recently, three deaths have been



reported from north-east Delhi due to heavy rain and many houses have been damaged and people's lives endangered. Big potholes have emerged on the roads causing traffic disruptions and accidents. The BJP MP wrote that despite several attempts by him to reach out to the depart-

ments concerned, no Delhi government bodies have shown any interest in resolving the matter.

During September, Delhi has recorded the most rainfall with monsoon breaking the record of more than 121 years on September 11. The national capital witnessed severe

water-logging and long traffic jams. Delhi's Indira Gandhi airport was also inundated, delaying many flights.

The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted more rain in Delhi-NCR for a week as the south-west monsoon bids farewell to India for a year.

Himachal to reopen schools from Sep 27

Shimla | Agencies

The Himachal Pradesh government on Friday decided to reopen government schools from September 27 for Classes 9 to 12. However, online classes for Classes up to 8 would continue.

The students of Class 10 and 12 would attend schools on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, while students of class 9 and 11 would attend schools on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in a week.

A decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet at its meeting here chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.

Residential schools, however, reopened two months ago.

It was decided to fill 8,000 posts of multi-task workers in the educational institutions under Higher and Elementary Departments as per the provisions of the Part Time Multi-

Task Workers Policy of 2020.

As per the policy, the multi-task workers would be provided a consolidated honorarium of Rs 5,625 per month for 10 months in one academic year.

The Cabinet decided to amend the transfer policy for inter-district transfer of Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers by reducing the existing tenure from 13 years to five years, including contract period, for transfer to another district.

It was decided to enhance the honorarium of information technology teachers outsourced in various educational institutions by Rs 500 per month from April 1.

In order to encourage mega investments, the Cabinet gave its consent to draft a proposal for Customised Package of Incentives for Mega Industrial Projects under Himachal Pradesh Industrial Investment Policy and Rules of 2019.

Police on high alert in south Tamil Nadu after 4 beheadings in 10 days

Chennai | Agencies

The south Tamil Nadu police has received brickbats after having failed to prevent murders and beheadings here, including in the districts of Dindigul and Tirunelveli.

People living in these areas are worried whether these killings are similar to the ones that took place in the mid 90s as well as reprisal killings in the name of caste. It was only after strong police intervention that these areas had returned to normalcy. A farmhand, Sankara Subramanian from the Thevar caste, was murdered on September 13 and his decapitated head was found at the Gopalamudram cremation ground. This gave the police a vital clue behind the murder of Subramanian as in 2013, Manthiram, a Dalit man was also murdered in the same way. In a case of retaliation, on September 15, a gang murdered a Dalit, Mariappan (35), cut off his head and placed it at the spot where Sankara Subramanian was murdered. Mariappan was accused in a murder case of 2014.

While both these murders took place in Tirunelveli district within a span of two days, in another gruesome incident, a woman Nirmala Devi (70) the fifth accused in the murder of a Dalit leader, C Pasupathi Pandian, was murdered and her head severed and kept in front of the residence of Pandian. Nirmala Devi was charged in the murder



of Pandian after she had given asylum to the suspected assailants of the Dalit leader. The incident occurred in broad daylight in Dindigul district on September 23.

In another incident, 38-year-old Stephen Raj was murdered and beheaded on September 23 evening by bike-borne assailants. His decapitated head was left at the spot where he was murdered at Anumantharayan Kottai. The police could not ascertain the reason behind the murder of Stephen Raj and is probing whether it had any connection with the murder of Nirmala Devi on the same day.

The killings and counter killings in South Tamil Nadu districts in the name of caste have kept the police on its toes.

South Zone Inspector General of Police TS Anbu, who is camping in Tirunelveli, told media persons that the police will crush the gangs who are taking the law into their hands and that no criminal raj would be allowed in South Tamil Nadu. With Tirunelveli having rural local body elections on October 6 and October 9, political parties have called upon the police to ensure that the law and order situation improves. AIADMK leader O Panneerselvam has called upon Chief Minister MK Stalin to ensure peace and harmony in South Tamil Nadu and not to allow killings and counter killings to happen in the area.

Sources in the police said that they had information of a particular community having raised money to the tune of Rs 3 crore to fight the criminal cases and to engage good lawyers. MK Krishnan, social scientist and former Professor of Social Sciences at a foreign university who is from South Tamil Nadu, told IANS, "Until and unless the hero tag is removed from the criminals who kill and sever the head of a person, these criminal acts would continue. There needs to be proper awareness and education among local youths that killing a person and severing his head is not heroism. Sadly this is not happening in several parts of South Tamil Nadu and caste is still a major factor that decides human behaviour. Authorities have to take strong measures but proper awareness is a must to prevent such incidents in the future."

K'taka Cong leaders take tonga ride to Assembly to protest price hike

Bengaluru | Agencies

Continuing with the protest against the fuel and daily commodities' price hike, the Karnataka Congress on Friday staged a 'tonga' protest in Bengaluru.

The Congress leaders of both the Houses of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, reached the Vidhana Soudha on tongas. (A tonga or tanga is a light carriage or curicle drawn by one horse used for transportation in the Indian subcontinent).

Karnataka Congress President D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, leader of the Opposition in Legislative Council S.R. Patil led the protest on tongas with their supporters. Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, though belonging to rival camps, sat on the same tonga and led the protest together.

The tonga protest rally started from the Congress

party office on the Queen's Road. The protest was organised to draw the attention of the state as well as the Central government on the fuel price hike.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sunita Devi W/O service no. 15661097W HAV Ompal, resident of Village - Talwana, Post - Kheri, Tehsil - Kanina, Dist. - Mahendragarh, Haryana hereby declare that my name registered in my husband's service records is SUNITA OMPAL which is incorrect and done by mistake. My actual name is SUNITA DEVI. I have changed my name from SUNITA OMPAL to SUNITA DEVI via affidavit (No. 16AA 399311) before Bhopal court dated 23/09/2021.



CORONA VACCINATION MAHA ABHIYAN HAS TO BE MADE A PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN - CM

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan, which will be held on September 27, has to be made a people's campaign. We have to save the lives of all the people of the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Therefore, all social organizations, political parties, voluntary organizations and we ourselves should fulfil the goal of getting the first dose of vaccination to 100 percent eligible persons on the occasion of this great campaign with our personal initiative. Chouhan was virtually addressing the Crisis Management Committees at district, block, panchayat and ward level from his residence in connection with the vaccination campaign.

Chouhan said that September 27 is a day of resolution for all of us. We have to make Madhya Pradesh safe by administering the first dose of Corona vaccine to all the eligible people of the state. Chief Minister made people resolve to contribute in the great campaign amidst slogans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Chouhan has said that all possible efforts have been made by the health department staff, government employees, members of Crisis Management Committee, public representatives for vaccination. The target of vaccination was achieved by crossing rivers and streams even during the rainy season. Chouhan expressed his gratitude to all such people. He said that Madhya Pradesh tops in the country in administering the first dose of the vaccine. This miracle has happened due to the efforts made by people's participation. Chief Minister also thanked the media for



their cooperation in creating an environment for vaccination.

Chouhan said that Corona had created the worst conditions in the state. We have been able to come out of the crisis situation with the help of mutual cooperation and spirit of struggle. At present, Corona is under control in the state. Chouhan said that doctors and scientists at the global level are of the opinion that maximum protection

from Corona is possible only through vaccination. Special activities are being conducted for vaccination in the country. About 84 percent of the population has already received the first dose of vaccination in the state. This in itself is a great achievement. As a result of this, we have been able to stop the spread of infection in the people of the state. Chouhan said that 100 percent vaccination of the remaining population has to be

ensured in the vaccination campaign to be held on September 27. All sections of the society, religious leaders, social workers, lawyers, professors, businessmen, social organizations, employees, officers, all should try that the first dose of vaccine should be administered to all those who are available in the state for vaccination. Chouhan said that an intensive campaign should be launched on social media to motivate people for vaccination. Efforts should be made for vaccination intensively on 25, 26, 27 September. In order to create an environment, activities should be conducted through tomtom, hoardings as well as press. Chouhan said that there is a need to develop a feeling among the people that if they are not getting the vaccine, they are committing some crime. In fact, by not getting the vaccine, they are putting their own lives in danger, as well as they are becoming a threat to their acquaintances and family members. It is necessary to make people feel guilty.

Chouhan said that a campaign focused on Jan Kalyan and Suraj is being launched in the state from September 17 to October 7, 2021. Several programmes are being conducted in the campaign. In the field of health, 263 new health institutions are being started in the state. Expansion of health facilities is also necessary to face the third wave of Corona. We will not allow the third wave to come under any circumstances.

Irked over BMC 'failure', Bhopal Congress MLA to launch cleanliness drive

Irked over failure of Bhopal Municipal Corporation in controlling dengue, Congress MLA from Bhopal (Madhya) Arif Masood has decided to start a cleanliness drive with his team. Masood and his supporters to clean drains, nullahs and aware people about cleanliness during the drive which starts this Saturday.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Irked over failure of Bhopal Municipal Corporation in controlling dengue, Congress MLA from Bhopal (Madhya) Arif Masood has decided to start a cleanliness drive with his team. The legislator and his supporters to clean drains, nullahs and aware people about cleanliness during the drive which starts Saturday.

"Cases of dengue are increasing at alarming speed. Despite all the tall claims by the government and officials of Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) one can see garbage dumps at places. There are abundant mosquitoes and no fogging or other measures are being taken," said Arif Masood.

As government machinery is not doing anything therefore I have decided to start

awareness and cleanliness drive along with volunteers in my constituency. "We will start cleaning of drains, nullahs and aware people about cleanliness. We will inform the people to ensure their surrounding clean and not let water stagnation as it may turn into breeding ground for mosquitoes," Masood added.

The Congress MLA said that it is the government's failure that people have to come on the ground and themselves take steps to control the situation. Masood said that the cleanliness campaign will start from September 25 and continue till September 30 in all wards.

"Volunteers who perform best in the cleanliness drive will be felicitated and rewarded on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 in front Gandhi's statue," added Masood.

Mhow Army War College in total lockdown

The officers were part of a study group that had recently returned from a higher command course after touring Western and South Western Commands, say sources.

Team Absolute | Mhow

The prestigious Army War College (AWC) in Mhow went into complete lockdown on Thursday after at least 11 officers - both training and directing staff - tested positive for Covid-19. The officers were part of a study group that had recently returned from a higher command course after touring

Western and South Western Commands, say sources.

Mhow commandant-administration Col AK Mohanty said, "Seven officers posted at AWC were sent for Covid test, out of which five were found to be positive on Wednesday. Samples of 20 more officers were sent after that, and six more tested positive on Thursday."

The Army has ordered a complete lockdown of the college. No one is allowed in or out. The campus lockdown will be in force till further orders, Col Mohanty said.

Indore district chief medical and health officer, Dr BS Saitya, who visited Mhow Military Hospital and the AWC campus under isolation. Also, all of them are fully vaccinated."

CM PLANTS KADAMBA SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Chouhan planted a sapling of Kadamba in Smart Garden on Friday. Chouhan is planting a sapling every day as per his resolve. MP from Khajuraho VD Sharma was present. Kadamba or Kadam tree is considered to be the tree of Gods. Kadamba is very famous in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties. The healing properties of Kadamba are useful in the treatment of a number of diseases. A special thing about Kadamba is that its leaves are very big and gum comes out of them. Its fruits are like lemons. Kadamba flowers have their own importance. The mention of these fragrant flowers is found in ancient Vedas and compositions.

Father and son booked for 'forceful' conversion

The family refused the allegations and said the man escaped with some money from their clinic and when they put pressure on him to return the money, he registered a fake case against them.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh police booked a father-son duo in Agar Malwa district for allegedly forcing and getting a 31-year-old man converted to Islam. The man, identified as Dashrat Malvia, approached Kotwali police station Thursday and alleged one Nasir Lala and his son Zubair Khan forced him to convert to Islam and even got him circumcised in 2020. Malvia used to work at Nasir's house since 2007. The family refused the allegations and said

Malvia escaped with some money from Nasir's clinic and when they put pressure on him to return the money, he registered a fake case against them. An FIR under Section 3 and 5 of the Freedom of Religion Act, 2020 has been registered at Kotwali police station. Speaking to The Indian Express, town inspector Ranjeet Singh said Malvia, a resident of Rajasthan, had come to Agar Malwa in search of work in 2007. It is then that he came in contact with Nasir who runs a private clinic in the town. Malvia also alleged he was forced to refrain from visiting temples. He also alleged that he was beaten up when Nasir or his son learnt that he had visited a temple.

"Malvia alleged that in 2020, Nasir and his son Zubair got him circumcised. After this, he escaped to his hometown and only returned with his father and got the complaint registered," said Singh, adding, the case is being investigated after which, further action will be taken. Meanwhile, a member from Nasir's family requesting anonymity said, "He worked for us for many years."

VISIT MANAV SANGRAHALAYA IN 60 MINUTES

Bhopal: Parthasarathy Sen Sharma (IAS) Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India today the vision of observing the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya in 60 minutes has been realized. In the coming few days, the entire museum complex is being made available through QR code in the new color, on how the visitors coming to the museum can have an overview in the shortest possible time available with them. During this, Mr. Sharma, while visiting the museum's traditional technical park and the Kumhar Para Mukதாகash exhibition, obtained information about the exhibits from the QR code installed there himself.

While visiting, Sharma said that innovative efforts have been made to protect and preserve the cultural heritage. This museum, being a center of non-formal education, is involved in imparting education by awakening interest in art. On this occasion the Director, PK Mishra and many dignitaries were present.

Illegal structures on govt land worth Rs 1,000 crore razed in Indore

"Under the drive, we demolished illegal constructions on 38 acres of government land at different places in Kanadia area of the city," additional district magistrate (ADM) Pawan Jain told reporters here.

Team Absolute | Indore

In a crackdown on land mafia, the administration in Indore on Friday demolished illegal structures, which had come up on 38 acres of government land, worth Rs 1,000 crore, in the city, an official said. The demolition drive was launched

following a directive from chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the official said. "Under the drive, we demolished illegal constructions on 38 acres of government land at different places in Kanadia area of the city," additional district magistrate (ADM) Pawan Jain told reporters here. The market value of the land freed of

encroachments is Rs 1,000 crore, he said. Two wedding venues that had come up illegally on government land were also razed under the drive jointly run by the district administration, Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) and police, Jain said. As many as 90 big and small shops that had encroached on government land

were torn down in Kanadia area, IMC deputy commissioner Sandeep Soni said. The crackdown was initiated after the chief minister recently directed the local administration to launch a drive against land mafia to remove encroachments from government land.

Yoga subject becomes the first choice of students

Team Absolute | Bhopal

National New Education Policy has been implemented in all the universities and colleges in the state. Under this, students can study according to their convenience and interest. After the first and second rounds of the admission process, maximum students have chosen the subject of Yoga. The second favourite subject was organic farming and the third was personality development. All these subjects are governed under vocational curriculum.

After two rounds of admission process by the Higher Education Department, 86

thousand 495 students have chosen Yoga subject, 80 thousand 104 chose organic farming, personality development 77 thousand 833, information technology 28 thousand 201, digital marketing 22 thousand 511 and about 17 thousand 879 students have opted tourism subject under vocational course. Apart from this, about 17 thousand 514 students have selected the subject of e-accounting and taxation with GST and about 14 thousand 627 students chose medical diagnostics. As an innovation in the National Education Policy, students have been given the freedom to choose optional subjects. If

the student wants, he can choose a subject from any other faculty other than his own faculty. Students can initially choose 27 subjects from Arts Faculty, 20 from Science, Five from Commerce and subjects like NCC, NSS and Physical Education among others. The main objective of the new education policy is quality education. Internship / Apprenticeship / Field Project and Community Engagement and Service have been made mandatory for the first year students for the all-round development of the students. First year students will also get marks for the work done by them.

Chambal Sanctuary where you can see Gharials basking in the sun

Madhya Pradesh has got the status of Tiger State and due to the large number of Leopards it is now also known as a Leopard State. As a result of wildlife conservation and management, the presence of gharials has also been recorded. It is indeed mesmerizing to watch gharials basking in the sun in their natural habitat of sand along the slow flowing waters of Chambal River.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Along with the movement of tigers and leopards in the breathtaking and dense forest, tourists have the unique opportunity of watching gharials basking in the sun in the National Chambal Sanctuary of Madhya Pradesh. Chambal Sanctuary is the abode of gharials all over the country. Madhya Pradesh has got the status of Tiger



State and due to the large number of Leopards it is now also known as a Leopard State. As a result of wildlife conservation and management, the

presence of gharials has also been recorded. It is indeed mesmerizing to watch gharials basking in the sun in their natural habitat of sand along

the slow flowing waters of Chambal River.

The presence of gharials, turtles, dolphins and 181 species of migratory/non migratory birds in the National Chambal Sanctuary located in Morena district of Chambal division is enticing for the tourists. A large number of wildlife lovers keep visiting the place. In the last two years, despite a pandemic like Corona, 33 thousand tourists visited Eco Center Deori and Chambal Safari Rajghat. As a result, the management also earned an income of Rs. 2 lakh 20 thousand. This proves that Chambal Sanctuary has left its unforgettable image in the mind and heart of the tourists.

According to the report of Wildlife Trust of India, the highest number of gharials in the country is available in Chambal Sanctuary. This is their ideal natural habitat. Four decades ago, when the gharial was on the verge of extinction, there were only 200 alligators left in the world. Of these, the presence of 86 alligators in India and 46 in the Chambal river then attracted the attention of wildlife scientists.

The total area of the sanctuary is 435 km in length and one km wide from the middle of Chambal river. In the latest census of the year

2021, 2176 alligators, crocodiles, 82 dolphins and 181 species of birds have been found in the natural area of Chambal river. A Gharial breeding center is established at Deori. Here the eggs of gharials are kept in the sand of the hatchery at a temperature of 30 to 36 degrees. During this, calling comes from the eggs. Babies start hatching from the eggs. When they grow up, the proper habitat is released naturally in the water area. In February this year, 25 gharials growing in this breeding center were released into the Kuno river. In this way, 50 gharials have been released so far in which 10 are male and 40 are female. Their length varies between 120 to 150 cm.

Gharial Rehabilitation Center established in Deori Boat Safari at Rajghat, Gharial, Chrocodile, Dolphin, Turtle, Bird watching and Chambal Valley Darshan is a center of attraction for tourists. Tourists also enjoy movement of aquatic creatures in the sanctuary.

Easy transportation arrangement for tourists is available at Eco Park Deori main road. Rajghat Chambal Safari is located 2 kms from the main road on the north side. One can reach here by private means of transport. Both the areas are situated on the AB Road Morena main road.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Sabarmati River is suffering

The Gujarat High Court appointed Joint Task Force (JTF) has submitted that the waterbody in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project Sabarmati Riverfront is a stagnant water body, which has been polluted by illegal dumping of industrial effluents through Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) waters. The JTF constituted by the Gujarat HC informed the court on Thursday that the water body in the Sabarmati Riverfront was not having an environmental flow (e-flow) of water. "The waters at the Sabarmati Riverfront do not have an e-flow of water and scientifically no discharge could be allowed to be dumped into such a water body. The Sabarmati Riverfront waters are in a bad shape as the STP discharges are released into it. These STP have been legally allowed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to receive industrial effluents," said a member of the JTF. The Gujarat High Court bench ordered all such permissions granted up till now to be revoked. The court will be passing an order on this shortly. The stretch which has been referred was from the Vasna barrage to the mouth of the river at the Arabian Sea. It should be noted that the River ceases to flow from the Vasna area till where the riverfront is built. The court was also surprised to hear that the AMC had provided permissions to Cooperative Societies of three villages to draw water from the Sabarmati and these waters were used for yielding agricultural produce. Taking a suo motu cognisance of the Sabarmati river pollution issue based on the media reports in August, the Gujarat High court had then instituted the JTF to look into the issue and suggested appropriate recommendations to remedy the situation.

CHINESE CENSUS RESULTS POINT TO SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES THAT WILL IMPACT THE WORLD

Tomas Sobotka & Nadir Ali Wani

The Olympics has always been the world's major sporting event and history is witness that there have been many eye-openers incidents for nations to ponder on; Tokyo Olympics is not much different. For ages, China has been a closed society and nothing much was known about the internal issues and dynamics of the society. Things are changing with the advent of technology and issues related to Chinese society are coming to the front. Chinese decline in population and the insecurity associated with it is one of the issues that have raised the alarm bells in Beijing.

The backlash that has come after a Chinese adopted athlete (MacNeil) has won the gold medal for Canada has worsened the situation for CCP as it is seen as a direct impact of China's One-Child Policy. Society is experiencing an inverted population Pyramid which fewer young supporting a bulky older population. With the Gold going to Canada in butterfly swimming style experts are discussing whether the butterfly of progress has already flown away from China.

The ageing population of China is a concern on the economic front as well but its impact is not yet clear. From one lens, China could face Japanese Style decline as has been discussed in detail in an article published on merics.org with the title heading 'ageing-China-facing-Japanese-style-lost-decade' by LA Johnston. One the other hand, China's long-term preparations to shift from labor quantity to labor quality and technology as its working-age population falls, may see it cope better with population ageing than other economies home to ageing populations. There may, that is, be a long-run upside to getting old before rich, at least for economies that have had the right policies in place over time. Time will tell.

"An ageing population poses many economic challenges: rising labor scarcity in sectors and regions where labor once was bountiful; fiscal and corporate resources increasingly directed towards pensions; more human capital directed toward caring for the old. In other words, national resources are diverted away from more productive economic endeavors," Lauren Johnston is a China-focused economist attached to Adelaide university.

The latest census in China broadly confirms the trends that have been reported and broadly expected during the last decade: it gives a picture of slowing population growth, an ageing population, but also of a rapid higher education expansion and a high level of mobility and continuing urbanization. Almost

two-thirds of the population (64 per cent) now live in urban areas, up from half in 2010. Overall, the reported trends appear credible despite the delay in their reporting. However, more detailed results are still to be published and these will provide a more nuanced picture of the latest population trends, also by regions and for specific age and population groups.

China has enjoyed the unprecedented growth of the economy mainly due to the availability of cheap labour in the country owing to the large proportion of the population being work-capable, however, with the declining population the trend is changing. While the number of children is unlikely to increase much in the future, the share of the elderly is now growing rapidly and that means that population structure will no longer provide an extra advantage for economic growth. But also, structural factors, including a decline of heavy and dirty industries (especially in the North-East) and the fact that China has become a middle-income country mean that economic growth in China is likely to slow down substantially shortly. The problems related to non-contributing population or floating population is adding to the trouble of economic slow-down.

We are witnessing the rise in labour wages and production cost is already going up taking their sweatshop business to Africa etc. With a further declining young population and its impact on Low-cost production which has been the main strength of Chinese economic growth, China has to get ready for the tough decades ahead. The Cost associated with the relocation of industries to places wherein cheap labor is available and outsourcing the production is huge. Previously China was the base of all industrial growth and availed all the benefits that came along to its advantage, now the benefits are to be shared. China's BRI (Belt and Road initiative) is among one of the major outcomes of the declining population and the cost incurred for the increased connectivity to relocate the industry is substantially huge.

China is investing hugely in the automation sector which can also be viewed as a direct outcome of increased labour wages. The country is trying to strike a balance between the consistent economic growth and the labour force available by implementing automation where ever it can. However, some industries form a huge part of the Chinese economy such as the shoe industry which has

already seen increased production in other countries as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, etc., thus drawing from the share of China. The implications of the declining population are many in addition to the psychological impact it will have on China; being no longer number 1 at the number game and with India taking over as the world's largest market China has to look into the future with a more realistic scope.

"Well, China faces increasingly demographic headwinds. It's been a big shift from what we saw a generation ago. China's working-age population is shrinking; it's a population of elderly people is exploding. China is in very steep sub replacement fertility mode, and I think it's questionable whether population policy will be able to reverse this. There's a significant gap or marriage squeeze, more young men of marriageable ages than young women because of the weird and biologically unnatural imbalance between baby boys and baby girls over the past decades. And the extended family is imploding. When one looks at all of these factors, it is going to be much more difficult for the government to maintain rapid economic growth in the future. The Chinese government realizes that it has a few options for compensating. One of them is attempting to improve educational quality. Another is to improve urbanization. But those are limited tools. And I think we can be fairly confident that the era of heroic economic growth is over in China. China's economic performance is going to look more like that of a typical middle-income country", Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt Henry Wendt is Chair in Political Economy at American Enterprise Institute (AEI).

The increased crime rates in Asia particularly the cases of human trafficking are a grave concern for the world. The problem stems from the skewed sex ratio of the Chinese population; the Chinese population has to deal with the long-term consequences of distorted sex ratios, which are also unequally distributed by regions and will persist for many decades to come. These range from tens of millions of males who will not be able to find a female partner and marry and are more likely to suffer from loneliness, isolation, and lack of care at an older age, to a rise in trafficking, up to a lower number of births in the future (as males are overrepresented in the population of reproductive age). The impact of the skewed sex ratio and

reduced fertility rates has been comprehensively studied by There have been some reports of human trafficking from BRI beneficiary countries like Pakistan, which is indicative of the prevalent situation in China.

"China still has to deal with the long-term consequences of distorted sex-ratios, which are unequally distributed by regions and will persist for many decades to come". Tomas Sobotka Research group leader (Fertility and Family and Editor, Vienna Yearbook of Population Research, Vienna Institute of Demography (Austrian Academy of Sciences).

China also faces a problem concerning educated urban women not being able to find upper educated urban men to satiate them. This is leading to an increased population of unmarried men and women in China thus adding to the population-related problems. The families which would otherwise have educated heads as parents are seeing no realization on the ground. The increased matchless singles and the desperation of the state are leading to an increased trafficking rate as has been discussed in 'The invisible hand in Asia's heirs' race 30 November 2012. Author: Lauren Johnston, Peking University. The study tries to build a realistic picture about college admissions and the stability of marriage. Comparing college admissions to the marriage market.

"Men are marrying at older ages increasing the age gap to their partner and polyandrous marriages are rising. Given the scale of China's economy, such responses to the absolute gender gap may have global ramifications". Lauren Johnston is a China-focused economist attached to Adelaide university.

Apart from the economic impacts declining population has a substantial impact on the security and politics of China. PLA is already shrinking, even though they are trying to high tech it has been observed that they don't have enough educated men who can operate the high-tech military instruments. Also, with the wages going up a lot many numbers of men aren't opting for high-risk military jobs. This is going to impact the PLA in the long run despite the technological advancements it has made. China is trying to reverse the damage it caused itself by policies like the One-child Policy by implementing a three-child policy and investing largely in the educational sector, but the results will take time and the economic slow-down is expected in near future with increased internal instability.

international

HARRIS ASKING PAKISTAN TO ACT AGAINST TERRORISM

US Vice President Kamala Harris has told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that she was asking Pakistan to act on terrorism and ensure that terror groups do not target New Delhi or Washington, according to India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

New York | Agencies



The discussions were "substantive" and also covered the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, cooperation in the technology sector, cybersecurity and space, he said.

A White House readout of the meeting said that Modi and Harris "supported expanding bilateral security cooperation in the face of modern threats, including terrorism and cybercrime". Harris, who is the chair of the National Space Council, "encouraged expanded US-India space cooperation, and she and Prime Minister Modi explored ways to build on existing, robust bilateral collaboration on

space", the readout added. Some of the supporters of Harris and her Democratic Party have accused Modi of eroding democracy.

The readout pointedly said: "They each emphasised a commitment to democratic values and discussed the need to strengthen democracy at home and abroad."

The Indian External Affairs Ministry's readout did not mention any discussion of democracy.

When the topic of the pandemic came up, they discussed collaborating on vaccine production under the Quad Vaccine Partnership, the White House readout said, adding: "The Vice President welcomed India's commitment to resume vaccine exports and the progress of its domestic vaccination campaign."

The White House's account of the meeting made no mention of Pakistan's role in terrorism or asking it to take action against terrorists.

The Indian readout said that Modi told her "about India's push for increasing renewable energy and the recently launched National Hydrogen Mission".

"He also emphasised the importance of lifestyle changes to promote environmental sustainability."

"Both leaders acknowledged the vibrant people-to-people linkages as the bedrock of the mutually beneficial education linkages and the flow of knowledge, innovation and talent between our two countries," it added.

Germany's strategic ties with India get positive spin as ties with China worsen

London | Agencies

The German administration spearheaded by the left-of-centre Social Democrats (SPD), an anticipated scenario after Sunday's general election, is unlikely to indicate a major shift in Berlin's policy towards India.

The present centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU)-led coalition government already contains SPD's Heiko Maas as Foreign Minister. He is expected to remain in this position, thereby ensuring continuity.

However, the concerns of the current dispensation of Chancellor Angela Merkel on purported human rights issues pertaining to the Narendra Modi government could come under the scanner even more than at present.

Germany is Europe's economic powerhouse. It is India's leading trading partner in the continent and one of the largest investors in India. Some 1,700 German companies operate in India, providing directly or indirectly an estimated 400,000 jobs, assessed the German radio and TV network Deutsche Welle (DW).

"The long (14 year) pursuit of a free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU (European Union) and India has come to be seen as a major dampener," DW commented. It quoted "experts" as saying ties with India have "overpromised and undelivered" for years.

In DW's opinion: "India's own democratic record has become a matter of concern, with organisations such as Freedom House stressing this year that political rights and civil liberties have deteriorated since Narendra Modi



became Prime Minister in 2014." However, worsening relations with China require a different German approach to the Indo-Pacific. Along with France, Germany now sees India "as a possible bridge" to the region.

Manisha Reuter of the European Council on Foreign Relations, told DW: "It's only in the last couple of months, maybe in the last year, that the relationship has become a more strategic one." At this important juncture of a general election, though, the Indian Ambassador's post in Berlin has been vacant since June. The SPD could come to power for the first time in 16 years, without entering into a coalition with its competitor the CDU. Merkel, leader of the CDU, has been Chancellor since 2005, but is retiring at the end of this term. A poll of polls on September 22 gave the SPD 25 per cent of votes and the CDU with its partner in Bavaria, the rightist Christian Social Union 21 per cent. The Greens are projected to get 15 per cent, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) 11 per cent and the Left 7 per cent -- all potential constituents in a SPD-led coalition.

PYONGYANG DEEMS SEOUL'S WAR-END DECLARATION OFFER 'ADMIRABLE'

Seoul: Kim Yo-jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, on Friday deemed South Korean President Moon Jae-In's proposal to declare a formal end to the Korean War an "admirable idea". In a statement, Kim Yo-jong however said that Pyongyang is willing to discuss improving inter-Korean relations if Seoul ceases to be hostile towards it, reports Yonhap News Agency. "The declaration of the termination of the war is an interesting and an admirable idea. ... But it is necessary to look into whether it is the right time now and whether there are conditions ripe for discussing this issue," she said in the statement carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. "We have willingness to keep our close contacts with the South again and have constructive discussion with it about the restoration and development of the bilateral relations if it is careful about its future language and not hostile toward us." Kim Yo-jong's statement came after Vice Foreign Minister Ri Thae-song rejected Moon's proposal as "something premature." Earlier this week while addressing the UN General Assembly, Moon proposed the two Koreas and the US declare a formal end to the 1950-53 war.



1st EU-US Trade & Tech Council meeting in limbo

Brussels | Agencies

The first meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), set up by the US and the European Union (EU) during their summit in June to coordinate approaches to key global trade, economic and technology issues, remains suspended despite signs of reconciliation in transatlantic relations, according to a spokesperson of the bloc.

The partially repaired bilateral ties following the leadership change in the US have been thrown into question again after Washington announced a security partnership with Australia and the UK, dubbed AUKUS, which led to the termination of an Australian contract to buy French submarines worth \$90 billion, reports Xinhua news agency.

While France has strongly reacted, recalling its ambassadors from the US and Australia, top EU officials have demanded explanations on the matter.



Signs of reconciliation started to emerge on Wednesday, as French President Emmanuel Macron and his US counterpart Joe Biden spoke on the phone.

"It shows that the communication channels are restored," said Eric Mamer, chief spokesperson of the European

Commission, on Thursday.

However, the date of the TTC's inaugural meeting is yet to be confirmed. "The Commission will now discuss the way forward with member states and the US," Mamer said.

The TTC was scheduled to be formally launched on September 29 in Pittsburgh. However, in the words of European Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton, the AUKUS and submarine contract announcements have "eroded" the EU's trust in the members.

Meanwhile, the EU and the US launched a joint campaign on Wednesday to further the global Covid-19 vaccination effort.

"We've just launched an EU-US Global Vaccination Partnership that will step up vaccine sharing, boost vaccine production, raise resources," Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Thursday.

UN STARTS EMERGENCY PLAN TO PROVIDE FUEL TO LEBANON HOSPITALS

Beirut: The UN has kicked off a three-month emergency plan to provide fuel to all of Lebanon's public hospitals, primary health care centres and dispensaries servicing the most vulnerable communities.

"The plan aims to maintain critical health, water and sanitation services for the most vulnerable populations and prevent the discontinuation of lifesaving activities implemented by humanitarian actors," Najat Rochdi, the UN deputy special coordinator for Lebanon, was quoted as saying in a statement released on Thursday. This plan, developed in collaboration with the Unicef, World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on health and WASH issues, is part of the broader UN coordinated Emergency Response Plan launched in early August with a financial ask of \$383 million, to provide critical life-saving humanitarian assistance to most vulnerable Lebanese and migrants affected by the ongoing crises, reports Xinhua news agency. Rochdi explained that the UN intervention is temporary as the responsibility to ensure uninterrupted provision of basic services remains with the government of Lebanon.





MOST MAHA SCHOOLS SET TO REOPEN ON OCT 4 - WITH RESTRICTIONS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major confidence-building step, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday gave the green signal to reopen a majority of the day-schools in the state, with restrictions, from October 4 onwards.

Accordingly, the school bells will ring for physical classes from October 4 for students of Classes 5 to 12 in rural areas, but only for Classes 8 to 12 in urban areas and cities - after an unprecedented break of 18 months when they were shut during the coronavirus pandemic and series of lockdowns.

School Education Minister, Prof Varsha Gaikwad said that the schools will be permitted to reopen only with strict adherence to all Covid-19 protocols, SOPs prepared by the Education Department in consultation with the Covid Paediatric Task Force, and other norms to ensure safety of the children. While attendance will not be compulsory, parental assent will be mandatory for allowing their children to attend school, and depending on the numbers, schools may opt for either limited classes or alternate day classes.

Until now, physical classes were permitted in a



limited way in only some districts which had low incidence of Covid-19, and online classes were conducted for all the rest.

However, residential or boarding schools across the state will remain shut till further orders, Gaikwad added.

Besides, activities like sports and games - where physical distancing is not possible - shall be banned for now and only classroom-related teaching activities shall be permitted.

The local administration in the districts and civic bodies have been advised and vested with powers to allow the schools to reopen in their jurisdictions after taking all due care, Gaikwad said. All schools will prepare an isolation centre

to handle any student who is detected Covid-19 positive, full vaccination is compulsory for all teaching as well as the non-teaching staff, and all protocols shall be stringently followed during the school hours.

The government has also suggested guidelines to be taken for the mental health of the students and even parents would be required to take certain precautions like immediately changing their uniforms, taking bath, etc. Simultaneously, the government will launch a special awareness campaign urging students to return to schools, particularly those who did not attend due to the pandemic restrictions, said Gaikwad. For Mumbai schools, the government is expected to take a decision on permitting teachers and non-teaching staff to travel by the suburban trains in view of the long commuting distances, often taking several hours.

Additionally, the authorities concerned will ensure local doctors are kept on standby to attend to students in case of any health issues.

The Minister added that as per a survey conducted by the government, nearly 70 per cent parents were in favour of reopening schools.

Make SEEPZ a world-class facility, says Piyush Goyal

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With an export potential of \$30 billion, the Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) needs a complete overhaul to make it a world-class facility, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal said here on Thursday.

SEEPZ was started in 1973 near the Mumbai international airport here to promote electronics manufacturing in the country.

Goyal urged the need for a 'transformational change' rather than mere incremental change, to bring back vibrancy into SEEPZ like before.



"With everyone's cooperation, SEEPZ can be made modern and world class. We can think of a public private partnership scheme whereby industry units which revamp their properties can be given exemption from rent revision for 10 years," Goyal said after visiting the setup on Thursday. He called upon the exporters to collectively decide about making the Common Services Centre operational and revamp SEEPZ with over 400 units into a swank and new state-of-the-art hub for serving international customers.

Additionally, the India Trade Promotion Organisation could have an exhibition complex here to facilitate buyer-seller events.

The Centre has announced Rs 200 crore aid for expansion and refurbishing of one of the country's oldest export processing zones, he said.

He cited the example of the Surat Diamond Bourse, and said the SEEPZ could seek its help for the refurbishment work, as he pointed out the Rs 4,000 crore makeover of Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. SEEPZ, a high security and restricted zone, has mostly electronic hardware manufacturing companies, software, besides gold and diamond jewellery units which account for over one-third of India's total jewellery exports.

Maharashtra reduces working hours of women cops

Several women constables had approached the state police chief pointing out that their duty time often extended well beyond the stipulated 12 hours, affecting their family life.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra DGP Sanjay Pandey announced Friday that the police force will implement eight-hour shifts for women personnel. While this has already been implemented in some places, the DGP said such shifts will soon be made the norm across the state in a phased manner.

An official said several women constables had approached the state police chief pointing out that their duty hours often extended well beyond the stipulated twelve hours, which affected their family life.

Pandey is learnt to have consulted other senior officials before deciding to act. An official said eight-hour shifts have already been successfully implemented for

women police personnel in Nagpur, Pune, Amravati and most recently in Navi Mumbai.

An officer said it was encouraging that the move has worked well in the state's four metropolitan cities where a higher number of police personnel is often required, adding that it will most likely be implemented across the state within the next month.

Fearing Lok Adalat, motorists in Maharashtra clear e-challan dues of Rs 5.5 crore within a week

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has planned to reclaim 111-hectare area in the Arabian Sea which is 12 times the size of Oval Maidan at Mumbai's Churchgate.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Highway Safety Patrol (HSP), better known as the highway traffic police, has

collected e-challan dues worth Rs 5.52 crore from 1.20 lakh motorists in a week's time with the help of the Lok Adalat. The motorists paid up fearing that they would have to be present before the court.

In future too, the highway traffic police intend to take this route for collecting pending dues totalling up to Rs 1,125 crore - Rs 413 crore from Mumbai alone - from 2.94 crore motorists. The amount was collected from September 13 to September 20.

Motorists who do not pay the fines by Friday (September 24) would be required to present themselves before the Lok Adalat on Saturday in their respective districts. The notices have been sent via SMS to vehicle owners' registered mobile numbers through a link. If the challan amount is not paid before the Lok Adalat proceedings, the Maharashtra police plan to move court.

Section of media had reported last month that the HSP plans to

approach the Lok Adalat to recover the pending fines. Bhushan Kumar Upadhyay, Additional Director General (Traffic), Maharashtra, said, "We approached the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority and the Bombay High Court to place these unpaid traffic challan cases before the Lok Adalat." Pre-Litigation notices were issued to over 10 lakh vehicle owners across the state for non-payment of e-challan dues.

43 cities from Maharashtra join 'Race to Zero'



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Furthering its efforts of progressive climate action, Maharashtra has announced that 43 of its cities and urban clusters would join the global 'Race to Zero' campaign, its Minister for Environment and Climate Aadiya Thackeray announced.

"Joining the 'Race to Zero' campaign is our contribution to the global fight against climate change. We cannot keep emitting carbon. We don't have the luxury of time. Maharashtra will set an example of how subnational governments can act on climate change despite being a massively industrialised state," Thackeray said as he made the announcement at the 'India's Road to COP26' event, part of The Hub Live at 'Climate Week NYC 2021' as part of the Global Citizen Live Campaign on Thursday at New York.

All these 43 cities are already part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), a Central government scheme. By joining the 'Race to Zero,' these cities will seek to prevent future climate threats, create jobs, and unlock equitable, sustainable growth. "These cities must publicly acknowledge and recognise the global climate emergency, keeping climate resilience in line with

urban decision making, pledging to reach net zero in the 2040s or sooner. They will also be identifying priority actions over the next decade," a release said here. With a population of 112 million, Maharashtra is India's second most populated and second most industrialised state. In 2020, 45.23 per cent of the state's population was in urban areas, compared to 28.22 per cent in 1960. With the announcement, the state aims to reduce its rapidly increasing carbon footprint, a majority of which comes from its urban centres, the release said. Of these, six cities -- Mumbai, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kalyan-Dombivali, Pune, and Nagpur -- had already joined the campaign earlier this year. Maharashtra's Department of Environment will be undertaking a greenhouse gas emission inventory exercise for all the cities and clusters, which account for a floating population of 50 million in the state. "Within 12 months of joining, the cities will have to explain what actions will be taken toward achieving both interim and longer-term pledges and commit to report publicly both progress against interim and long-term targets, as well as the actions being taken, at least annually," the release said. Global Citizen's co-Founder & Chief Policy, Impact and

Government Affairs Officer, Michael Sheldrick, said, "We know that halting climate change will take immediate action from everyone. That means state and regional governments have a leading role to play in halving global emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. Global Citizen congratulates the State of Maharashtra and its 43 cities that are announcing their participation in the 'Race to Zero' as part of Global Citizen Live." India Executive Director at the Climate Group, Divya Sharma, said at the event: "Far more needs to be done, and that too fast, in light of the starkest warning on climate change. Businesses, investors, governments and people will have to come together to check global temperature rise, keep it within 1.5 degrees, and move to a low carbon economy." Research Director and Adjunct Associate Professor, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business and lead author of the Cities chapter in working group 2 of IPCC's 6th Assessment Report, Dr Anjal Prakash, said: "Maharashtra is an urbanising economy and emissions from the cities has been much higher as compared to other parts of India; so if the state is signing up its urban clusters for the Race to Zero campaign, it's a welcome move and others must follow too. "One of the major impacts of climate change is on businesses because of extreme and freak weather events that disrupt economic activities. This is also important because the cost of inaction for the states is also very high, and Maharashtra has witnessed this in 2021 itself," he said.

Happy Birthday
Dr. Yogesh Lakhani
25 September





Blackpink, Billie Eilish to feature in 'Dear Earth' on Oct 23

New York | Agencies

Blackpink, Billie Eilish, Anitta, Jaden Smith, and more will be featured in an upcoming YouTube Originals special titled 'Dear Earth' which will premiere on October 23, reports Billboard.com. YouTube announced 'Dear Earth' as part of its Originals' October sustainability-centered programming during the 2021 Summer TCA press tour on Thursday. Former President Barack Obama, Pope Francis, Desmond Tutu and Google/Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai are among the global leaders presenting during the multi-hour celebration of the planet. It will follow a similar format to YouTube Originals' Dear Class of 2020 all-star commencement special during the pandemic last year, with keynote addresses, musical performances, special appearances, and comedic shorts. 'Dear Earth' will "inspire and motivate audiences to create a better, healthier, existence for the planet through contributions from a

wide range of global leaders, creators, celebrities and musicians," Susanne Daniels, YouTube's global head of original content, told reporters during the Summer TCA press tour. Lil Dicky and GaTa as well as Tinashe will also be featured, as well as Marsai Martin, The Muppets, SpongeBob SquarePants, and YouTube creators AsapSCIENCE, Brave Wilderness, Bretman Rock, Dream, Jack Harries, TheOdd1sOut, PhysicsGirl, and ZHC. 'Dear Earth' special is produced by Done + Dusted, Strong Brew, and Silverback Films.



Vanessa Hudgens had online pole dance classes

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Vanessa Hudgens says she had Zoom pole dancing lessons during the lockdown, which were "tough" and left her bruised. Hudgens said: "I've had multiple hobbies, I've definitely leaned into multiple things. At one point I got a pole and I was taking Zoom lessons, pole dancing, which was tough. I had a lot of bruises, but it was no joke. "Eating, I did a lot of eating, I made a lot of anklets and necklaces and bracelets. Definitely leaned into some art, did a bit of painting and colouring, a lot of music and a lot of movies and TV." The 'High School Musical' actress met her boyfriend, Cole Tucker, during a Zoom meditation class during the pandemic and she credits the fact they're both "weirdos" as to why they get on so well, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "We're just like the same, we're very similar, we're very similar. We're such weirdos, it's wonderful." Hudgens has also kept busy working on her first animated movie role, as Sunny in 'My Little Pony: A New Generation' and she had a great experience recording her lines.

Kristen Stewart aces Princess Diana's accent in 'Spencer' trailer

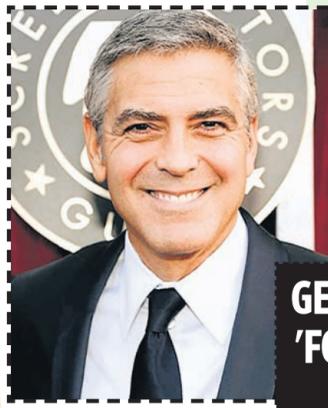
Los Angeles | Agencies

The trailer of Kristen Stewart-starrer 'Spencer' has been unveiled and the actress looks every bit as Princess Diana from her grand outfits to the hair-style and even the late British royal's accent. In the two minute and 17 second trailer of 'Spencer', the upcoming biographical drama about the beloved figure, the American actor channels the tortured British royal with ease, reports variety.com. Directed by Pablo Larraín, 'Spencer' grapples with Diana's decision to end her marriage to Prince Charles essayed by Jack Farthing. The movie isn't completely true to fact, but instead is a re-imagining of what might have happened during that fateful holiday period in 1991. The 'Spencer' trailer captures a



sad reality for Diana, the Princess of Wales: the glitz and glam that accompanies life at the Queen's Sandringham Estate isn't without intense scrutiny. Bracing herself for Christmas festivities, filled with eating and drinking, shooting and hunting,

Diana assures herself: "Three days, that's it." Stewart, fashionably dressed in dazzling gowns and sharp suits, becomes increasingly broken down by emotionally taxing obligations and ruthless paparazzi.



GEORGE CLOONEY 'FORCED TO HIDE' IN CLOSET

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor George Clooney made an appearance on Jada Pinkett Smith's 'Red Table Talk' to wish the actress a happy 50th birthday, but was forced to do so from an unusual setting. Clooney said: "I'm talking to you from inside my closet because outside my closet there are twins bashing each other with swords. 'And it didn't seem like an appropriate way to celebrate your birthday!'" The 60-year-old actor quipped he wouldn't be celebrating the 'Girls' Trip' star's 50th birthday because he didn't like what it meant for him, reports femalefirst.co.uk. He added: "Now they tell me that you're turning 50, which that's not possible because that would mean that I'm 60 and that's not possible. So you're 39 - happy 39th - and I'm 49. I like that a lot better." He then jokingly asked Pinkett Smith how she manages to put up with her husband Will Smith to which the 'Nutty Professor' star gave a candid and considered answer. She said: "Really how do you put up with anybody? And once you learn how to put up with yourself you really learn how to put up with all others. (By taking) the time to learn how to love myself. Clooney was just one of a fleet of superstars dropping in on the show to help Pinkett Smith mark the milestone. Singer Mariah Carey sent in a video message to express her well wishes. Comedian and late-night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel also sent a humorous message for the star.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Daniel Craig has been appointed as an honorary Commander by the British Royal Navy, the same rank held by his famous character 'James Bond'. The 53-year-old actor feels "truly privileged and honoured" to have been given the title. "I am truly privileged and honoured to be appointed the rank of Honorary Commander in the senior service," he said. First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the head of the British Royal Navy, who worked closely with Craig and the crew on latest Bond movie 'No Time To Die' said the organisation's work was very similar to that done by the spy, reports femalefirst.co.uk. Radakin said: "I am delighted to welcome honorary Commander Daniel Craig to the Royal Navy. Our honorary officers act as ambassadors and advocates for the service, sharing their time and expertise to spread the message about what our global, modern, and ready Royal Navy is doing around the world." Daniel Craig is well known for being Commander Bond for the last 15 years - a naval officer who keeps Britain safe through missions across the globe. That's what the real Royal Navy does every day, using technology and skill the same way as Bond himself." Craig plans to support existing service personnel in his new role.

Daniel Craig named honorary Royal Navy commander

New York | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Mickey Guyton will receive a special 'Breakout Artist of the Year' award as part of the CMT Artists of the Year to be telecast live on October 13, reports Variety.com. The only times the network has given out the plaudit previously is when the title was bestowed on Chris Stapleton in 2015, Kelsea Ballerini in 2016 and Ashley McBryde two years ago, all seals of early-in-the-game approval that have aged well. Guyton's her full-length debut album 'Remember Her Name' isn't coming out till this Friday, Guyton has been issuing singles and EPs to considerable acclaim and media attention for more than six years - as the network well knows, having premiered her first music video 'Better Than You Left Me' in January 2015. One of Guyton's champions at the network is Leslie Fram, senior VP of music and talent, who was instrumental in naming the singer to CMT's Next Women of Country class of 2014, before her first major-label single came out. When Fram was honoured by the Innovation in Music Awards in 2017, she turned over her acceptance speech time to bringing Guyton on stage to expose her to the assembled - at which time Guyton sang Coldplay's 'Yellow', in honour of Fram's alternative-rock radio roots. Guyton recently became the first black female solo artist in history to pick up a country Grammy nomination, for her single 'Black Like Me', which she sang on the Grammy telecast earlier this year. She's currently up for new artiste of the year at the CMA Awards, coming in November.

MICKEY GUYTON TO RECEIVE 'BREAKOUT ARTIST' AWARD AT CMT ARTISTS OF THE YEAR



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Olivia Culpo



IPL 2021: CHENNAI REGISTER AN ASSERTIVE SIX-WICKET WIN OVER BANGALORE

Sharjah | Agencies

On the back of brilliant bowling performance by Dwayne Bravo and Shardul Thakur, Chennai Super Kings registered an assertive six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in Sharjah on Friday. With this win, Chennai have now moved back to the top of the points table with 14 points from seven wins out of nine matches. Though they are tied with Delhi Capitals for points, Chennai is on top due to superior net run rate.



trouble. Earlier, Kohli slammed Deepak Chahar for back-to-back boundaries on the first two balls of the innings before Padikkal ended the opening over with a gorgeous cover drive. With the ball not doing much, Kohli and Padikkal were able to give Bangalore a blistering start, racing to 55 for no loss at the end of power-play with Chahar conceding 23 runs in two overs. Padikkal was the first to reach his half-century, reaching in 35 balls with a boundary off Chahar in the 12th over. The boundary also brought a century for the opening partnership. It was also the second century stand between Kohli and Padikkal in the tournament after an unbeaten 181 against Rajasthan Royals in Mumbai. In the next over, Kohli reached his half-century, flicking Ravindra Jadeja through fine leg for a boundary. Kohli, who was at 33 off 21 balls at the end of the

power-play, managed to get 20 runs off 20 balls before hitting straight to deep mid-wicket off Bravo in the 14th over, ending the opening stand at 111.

After Kohli's dismissal, Chennai slowed down the runs. Shardul Thakur made a big strike in the 17th over with de Villiers miscuing a slice and top-edge flying to Raina at extra cover. One brought two for Thakur as Padikkal's pre-mediated ramp went to hands of Bravo at short third man. Debutant Tim David miscued a loft off Chahar to Raina at extra cover. Glenn Maxwell tried to give his team a big flourish, but miscued slog to long-on in the final over off Bravo. Bravo dismissed Harshal Patel on the final ball of the innings to complete a last ten overs (66 runs for six wickets) fightback from Chennai, which was eventually enough to win the match.

Brief scores

Royal Challengers Bangalore 156/6 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 70, Virat Kohli 53, Dwayne Bravo 3/24, Shardul Thakur 2/29) lost to Chennai Super Kings 157/4 in 18.1 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 38, Ambati Rayudu 32, Harshal Patel 2/25, Glenn Maxwell 1/17) by six wickets.

Australia beat India by 5 wickets in last-ball thriller

Mackay | Agencies

Australia mounted a brilliant chase of India's 274/7 and rode on an unbeaten century by opener Beth Mooney (125*) to win the second ODI by five wickets in a dramatic last-ball thriller.

Chasing 275 to beat India in the second ODI at the Harrup Park and extend their 25-match win streak, Australia rode a superb century by Mooney, promoted to open the innings in place of an injured Rachael Haynes, and an equally vital contribution from allrounder Tahlia McGrath (74) to recover from a precarious 52/4 to reach 275/5 in 50 overs and take an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Australia thus extended their winning streak in women's ODI cricket to 26.

Australia got off to a poor start in their chase of India's highest ODI total as Jhulan Goswami castled Alyssa Healy for a duck in the third ball of the innings with an inswinger. A splendid running catch from Rajeshwari Gayakwad brought an end to captain Meg Lanning's innings (6) -- Meghna Singh, who bagged her first international wicket, getting rewarded for some brilliant bowling in her first two overs.

India found further success when a magnificent direct throw from the young Pooja Vastrakar caught Ellyse Perry (2) short of her crease in the



Brief scores

India Women 274/7 in 50 overs (Smriti Mandhana 86, Richa Ghosh 44, Pooja Vastrakar 29; Tahlia McGrath 3/45) lost to Australia Women 275/5 in 50 overs (Beth Mooney 125 not out, Tahlia McGrath 74, Nicola Carey 39 not out; Jhulan Goswami 1/40, Meghna Singh 1/38) lost by five wickets.

10th over, reducing Australia to 34/3 in the first Powerplay. In contrast, India were 68 for no loss in their first 10 overs. Australia found themselves at 52/4 when Ashleigh Gardner (12) edged the ball straight to Yastika Bhatia at slips off Pooja Vastrakar. With the hosts still needing 223 runs at that point, India looked on its way to levelling the series 1-1 but Beth Mooney and Tahlia got together to pull off the rescue act. Mixing caution with aggression, the two brought up their respective fifties and brought their team back into the game.

The 126-run stand came to an end after Tahlia (74) failed to put away a poor short ball on the legs and found Yastika at short fine. Beth continued to keep the scoreboard ticking and brought up her second ODI century. The equation came down to 13 runs

of the last over and Jhulan, the most experienced bowler in the Indian camp, was trusted to defend it. Though she did not concede a boundary, good running between the wickets coupled with a few extras brought it down to three off the last ball.

Jhulan bowled a full toss that went straight to the hands of the square leg and sparked celebrations from the Indian team. Upon review, the third umpire decided that the ball was above waist height and called it a no-ball. Needing two runs off the last ball, Nicola Carey (39*) hit it to long-on and completed a double to keep Australia's win streak alive. Earlier, openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma got India off to a quick start, putting up 68 without losing a wicket as the visitors went on to score

their highest ODI score. Left-arm orthodox bowler, Sophie Molineux broke India's first-wicket partnership at 74 runs in the first ball of the 11th over, when Shafali (22) played on to her stumps. India lost their second wicket when skipper Mithali Raj (8) was run-out after confusion between the batters who were caught ball-watching.

At the other end, Smriti, who seemed in great touch from ball one, scored her 19th ODI fifty and was also the top scorer for India. Smriti took the attack to Darcie Brown, who got her in the first ODI and scored five out of the 11 boundaries against her. Smriti (86), who looked set for her fifth ODI hundred, was caught out by Beth Mooney off Tahlia at point, like the way she got out in the first match and through solid contributions by Richa Ghosh (44) and Deepthi Sharma (23) made sure that India didn't lose momentum. A 53-run partnership between Jhulan (28*) and Pooja (29) towards the end of the innings saw the visitors post a healthy total of 274/7, which was the highest against Australia in their last 25 ODI matches. However, in the end, it did not prove sufficient as Australia won off the last ball.

Tahlia McGrath (3/45) was the pick of the bowlers for Australia, snaring the wickets of Mandhana, Sharma, and Ghosh. Sophie.

St John's :

West Indies assures Pakistan it plans to honour commitment

Cricket West Indies | Agencies

Assured the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that it plans to honour its tour obligations, including the one in December this year.

CWI chief executive officer Johnny Grave said that the sport's governing body in the Caribbean had no intention not to fulfil the tour obligations.

"At this stage, our intention is to fulfil our touring obligations. We've got a pretty clear process that we go through with independent security experts, like we did in 2018," Grave was quoted as saying by Trinidad Newsday on Thursday.

Three years back, the West Indies side under Jason Mohammed had toured Pakistan for three Twenty20s in Karachi.

"We will follow that process, the board of directors, WIPA (West Indies Players' Association), as well as the players themselves will review the plans and our reports, including the



independent security advice. Most of our women's and men's players have played in Pakistan in the last few years," said Grave.

The West Indies team's tour of Pakistan has come under the spotlight after the New Zealand side cancelled the tour hours before the start of the opening ODI due to security and returned to Auckland, while the England and Wales Cricket Board

(ECB) too cancelled its men's and women's team tours due to "increasing concerns about travelling to the region." "We don't have to make an imminent decision," Grave said. "We will just go through the process first, with the PCB and the security experts. We'll have a meeting with the players to answer any questions and give them all the information. We're just at the start of that process now,

with the women's team just finishing against South Africa.

"We're firming up our plans, with the World Cup qualifiers and, from a men's perspective, we're focused very much on the (T20) World Cup. That's the major operations focus. We're looking at getting our T20 players to the World Cup and our Test players into Antigua for a camp, and then over to Sri Lanka. We're not due (in Pakistan) with the men's team until December 9, so we've got a bit of time." West Indies are scheduled to play three ODIs and three T20s in Pakistan. "I had a call with Wasim Khan, the Pakistan CEO, (on September 22) morning to find out everything that had happened during the past week, on the back of New Zealand abandoning their tour and England's decision not to go there, and to suggest that we have another call later this week with our operational teams to discuss our women's and men's tours that are scheduled for later this year," Grave said.

Pressure will be on West Indies in T20 WC: Evin Lewis

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

West Indies explosive opener Evin Lewis says the Caribbean side will be under pressure at next month's T20 World Cup as they will seek to defend the title they claimed in India in 2016.

West Indies are in Group 1 of Super 12 along with Australia, England, South Africa and two qualifiers in the event to be held from October 17 to November 14.

"There will be pressure on us because we have two T20 titles. We need to first get out of the group stage. It's a tough group. That's the first step we have to take," said Lewis.

The explosive batsman from the Caribbean, Lewis has had to step into the big shoes of Ben Stokes in the UAE leg of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 29-year-old left-hander has come into the Rajasthan Royals squad as a replacement for Jos Buttler and Stokes, both proven batsmen.

And then being from the West Indies, there is always that comparison with the demi-God of T20 cricket -- Chris Gayle.

But Lewis says he wants to play the game in his own style -- with the T20 specialities like ramp shot or scoops. "You need power but you need to use your mind too. You have to know the right time to take on a bowler and set up the game. You have to keep thinking all the time. Be positive even while defending,"



he said in an interview with TOI.

"As a batter, I try to and keep a still base and watch the ball onto the bat. Many of these guys have these ramps and scoops, but I am not a fan of that," he added.

"Everyone has the expectations and keeps saying if I am going to be next Chris Gaule. We have to wait and see. Only time will tell. To be honest those are big shoes to fill. Chris is a supportive guy. When we bat together and I am having a good game, he will just rotate strike. Many bowlers fear him but he will not get into the action if his partner is doing well. We share a good relationship and I keep learning from him," said the batsman from Trinidad and Tobago.

After Tokyo success, want to be ready for tests that lie ahead: Simranjeet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian men's hockey team midfielder Simranjeet Singh said on Friday that following the Tokyo Olympic Games success, he is looking forward to returning to the national camp to "improve further" and be ready for the tests that lie ahead.

Simranjeet was part of the successful Olympic campaign where he played a key role in the bronze-medal match against Germany. He scored twice in the encounter and introspecting on his performance, Simranjeet said he is fortunate to have earned the opportunity to represent India at the greatest sporting event in the world.

"I feel very fortunate, honestly. It was a great experience I had in Tokyo and my aim was to execute the role I was given to perfection. Now, I am waiting to return to the camp and analyse our performance in detail and understand the areas I can further work on and improve," he said.

Simranjeet was part of the India Colts team that successfully lifted the FIH Junior Men's World Cup in Lucknow in 2016. Ever since, his career has been on an upward climb.

"That victory in Lucknow changed our lives for good. It was the stepping stone for many of us and the journey so far has been fantastic. From here on, my aim is only to get better and be part of India's campaigns at the FIH Hockey Pro League, Asian Games and so on. There is still a lot that I feel I can improve upon," he added.

With the forthcoming FIH Men's Junior World Cup Bhubaneswar 2021 scheduled to start on November 24, Simranjeet said, "It is great that the best junior players from across the globe will get to experience the world-



class facilities in Bhubaneswar. We have played in many venues across the world but playing in Odisha is always special because of the facilities there, the Odisha State Government's hospitality and the fans.

"I am really happy that hockey festivities are returning to India after nearly two years of no action in the country due to covid. I hope all the players enjoy the tournament and wish them good luck," he added.

Durand Cup: FC Goa beat Delhi FC 5-1, storm into semis

Kalyani | Agencies

FC Goa continued their brilliant run to outplay Delhi FC 5-1 in a quarter-final match of the 130th Durand Cup football tournament at the Kalyani stadium on Friday.

Goals from Devendra Murgaokar, Muhammed Nemil and Brandon Fernandez in the first half and Leander D'Cunha and Romario Jesuraj in the second, meant the Gaur's will, despite Delhi getting one back from Nikhil Mali, take their place in the second semi-final on Wednesday at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata.

They await the winners of Saturday's fourth and final quarter-final match between fellow ISL side Bengaluru FC and Army Green, also scheduled at the VYBK.

Delhi FC started well in the first quarter creating quite a few opportunities for themselves. Anwar Ali and Willis Deon Plaza had their chances at scoring but failed to convert each time.

It was all FC Goa after that. In the 15th minute, Devendra Murgaokar scored the first goal and his fourth



of the tournament to put the Gaur's ahead. Muhammed Nemil scored another, three minutes later.

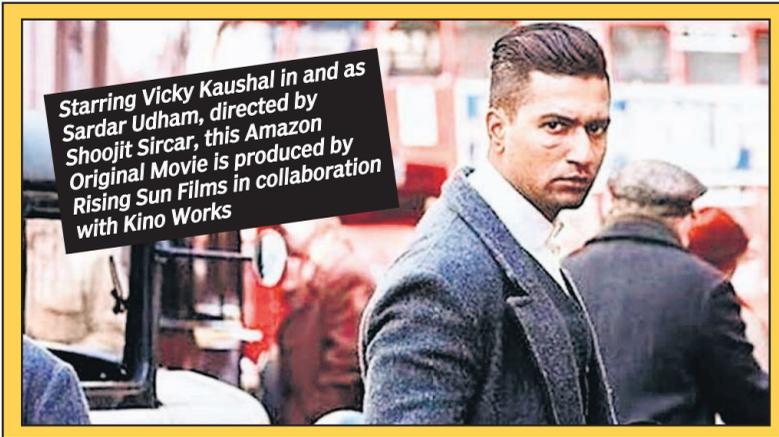
Delhi FC had chances in the remaining part of the first half but it was good work from Goa's defence that kept them at bay.

randon Fernandes then lobbed a curler from the left flank over Delhi keeper Lovepreet in added time, to give Goa a big cushion of 3 goals at

half time.

Delhi FC looked like they came with a plan in the second half and showed some resilience initially but luck was not on their side. They did pull one back in the 82nd minutes with Nikhil Mali scored a smart goal after an even smarter Willis Plaza dummy inside the Goa box, spoiling the clean-sheet of Dheeraj under the Gaur's bar. It took Goa

just a couple of minutes to regain the three goal cushion as Leander D'Cunha scored from an overhead kick which did not quite catch his foot where he would have liked it to. Alexander Romario Jesuraj scored the fifth and final goal in injury time to seal the deal for FC Goa. Leander D'Cunha was adjudged the Man of the Match for his match winning performance.



Starring Vicky Kaushal in and as Sardar Udham, directed by Shoojit Sircar, this Amazon Original Movie is produced by Rising Sun Films in collaboration with Kino Works

LOVE POURING FOR KUNAL KAPOOR

The actor feels overwhelmed with the love pouring in on him for *Ankahi Kahaniyaan* and *The Empire*

"As an actor you are part of someone else's vision, as a producer and writer you get a chance to put your own vision out there."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kunal Kapoor has had two releases back to back on the OTT. The actor has not only received praise for both shows but audiences now are looking forward to more of him on screens.

After *The Empire*, *Ankahi Kahaniyaan* released, reflecting on that, Kunal Kapoor shared, "As an actor, it's very satisfying to have your work reach out to so many people globally with OTT platforms. I've had two releases on different platforms in the last couple of weeks. I am just so overwhelmed with the kind of love I have been getting for 'The Empire' till now. And happy that people are enjoying my work in *Ankahi Kahaniyaan* as well. Shooting during the pandemic has been very challenging, but the reactions we have got have made it all worth it!" "I've spent the last couple of years developing some scripts for my production house and I'm excited to bring my vision to the screen. As an actor you are part of someone else's vision, as a producer and writer you get a chance to put your own vision out there." The Empire saw Kunal essay the role of an emperor, as his OTT debut. Recently released, *Ankahi Kahaniyaan* was his second show on OTT. The actor has some unannounced projects that he is currently working on. In pipeline for Kunal Kapoor is the announcement of his debut production venture.



Amazon Announces Worldwide Premiere of Sardar Udham

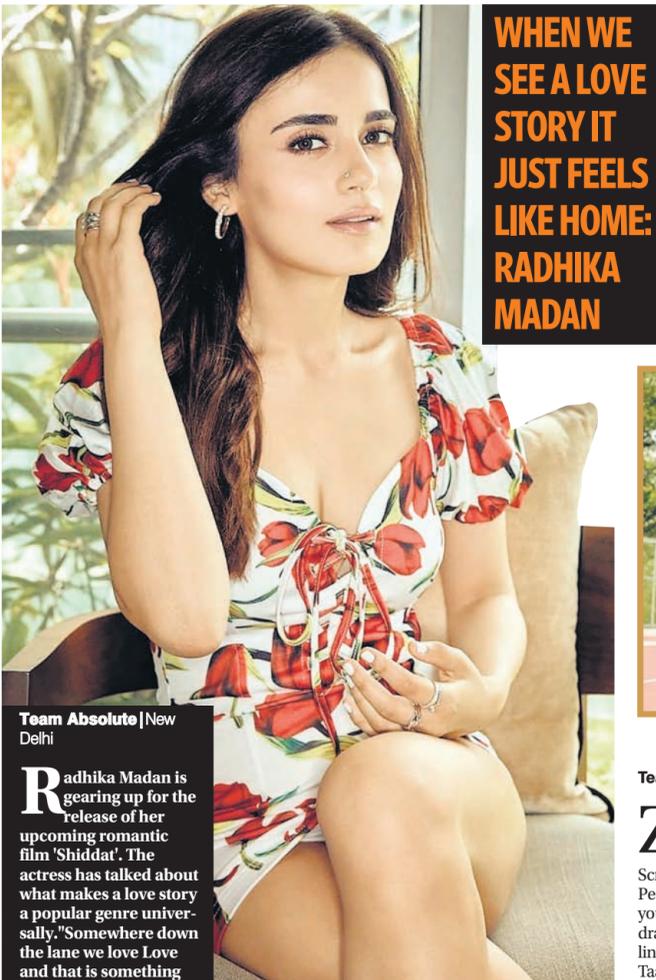
Team Absolute | Mumbai

This October, Amazon Prime Video brings to its viewers *Sardar Udham*, the untold story of an extraordinary young man whose love for his motherland and his people drove him to dedicate his life to India's freedom struggle. Starring Vicky Kaushal as Sardar Udham Singh, the Amazon Original Movie is directed by Shoojit Sircar and produced by Ronnie Lahiri and Sheel Kumar. Prime members in India and across 240 countries and territories worldwide can watch *Sardar Udham* this October only on Amazon Prime Video. A heart wrenching story of retribution, *Sardar Udham* showcases the journey of a gallant man who made sure the world never forgets the lives of his beloved brethren who were brutally killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919. "With every story that we present on Amazon Prime Video, we ensure that the narrative is replete with emotions and depth that finds a place in the heart of every viewer," said Vijay Subramaniam, Director and Head, Content, Amazon Prime Video, India. Producer Ronnie Lahiri said, "Vicky has worked tirelessly to bring out the real essence of Udham Singh's myriad emotions throughout his life's journey."

I am a fan of Chunky Pandey: Nikki Tamboli

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Even as the pandemic continues to cast its shadow of stress, Zee TV is attempting to lighten up the country's collective mood by offering its viewers an escape from all the stress via the route of rib-tickling comedy through its reality show, *Zee Comedy Show*. While the show has helped every Indian family unwind on their couch with some of India's top comedians making them LOL their stress away, this weekend, we will see the popular Bollywood actor Chunky Pandey entertain us with his interesting anecdotes and witty responses as he appears as a special guest during this Sunday's episode. While his comic personality and applause-worthy jokes are all set to entertain the audience, it will be the ten comedians of *Zee Comedy Show* who will come together as Team Hasaayenge to make each one of us laugh out loud! Moreover, bringing her own special sense of humor within the team will be the popular actress Nikki Tamboli who will be seen as a guest comedian only for the weekend episode. While the hilarious acts put up by all the comedians coupled with the witty reactions and comments of our Laughing Buddha Farah Khan left everyone in splits during the shoot, it was Chunky Pandey and Nikki Tamboli's dance moves that entertained everyone. Not only did she impress everyone with her performance as a model roaming in Goa during a special act, but she also went on to request the special guest Chunky Pandey to join her on the stage so that she could shake a leg with the actor. In fact, Nikki sizzled as she danced along with Chunky Pandey on Saath Samundar Paar. Their impromptu act was entertaining as well as hilarious. Nikki Tamboli also mentioned, "I am a fan of Chunky Pandey, so it was great dancing with him. I had come on *Zee Comedy Show* as a guest comedian when Chunky ji was a special guest. While Nikki Tamboli's act and dance moves will surely grab your attention, you cannot miss the comic acts by all the artistes of *Zee Comedy Show* during this weekend's episode."



WHEN WE SEE A LOVE STORY IT JUST FEELS LIKE HOME: RADHIKA MADAN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Radhika Madan is gearing up for the release of her upcoming romantic film 'Shiddat'. The actress has talked about what makes a love story a popular genre universally. "Somewhere down the lane we love Love and that is something we all connect to and we all want in our life. The reason we do our job is because we are finding love in that," Radhika in a candid chat told reporter. The 26-year-old actress added: "Every aspect has love and I think that's what hits the chord in our hearts. So when we see a love story it just feels home and that's the reason maybe people are attracted to it." 'Shiddat' also stars Sunny Kaushal, Radhika Madan, Mohit Raina and Diana Penty. It will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from October 1.



RACING TO THE FINISH LINE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

ZEE5, India's largest home-grown video streaming platform, Ronnie Screwvala's RSVP & Mango People Media are all set to bring you an edge-of-the-seat, sports drama, *RASHMI ROCKET*, headlined by the incredibly talented Taapsee Pannu. Directed by Akarsh Khurana, the highly

anticipated film will premiere on ZEE5 and promises a unique storytelling experience with their unparalleled content.

Set in the salt marshes of Kutch, *RASHMI ROCKET* is about a young girl from a small village, blessed with a gift. She's an incredibly fast runner who dreams of crossing the finish line. In the journey to fulfilling her dreams, she soon realizes that the race to the finish line is peppered with many hurdles,

and what seems like an athletic contest turns into her personal battle for respect, honour, and even her very identity.

Living up to the movie title, the trailer of *RASHMI ROCKET* showcases an inspiring narrative of its lead protagonist and her journey to become *RASHMI ROCKET*. It's full of impactful dialogues, emotions, and a lot of drama with Taapsee Pannu's acting prowess taking centre stage.

TRAILER of RASHMI ROCKET out. Taapsee Pannu starrer will premiere on ZEE5 this Dussehra, 15th October



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Reem Sameer

'Aarya' nominated at International Emmy Awards

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Sushmita Sen-starrer 'Aarya' has been nominated at the 49th International Emmy Awards in the 'Drama Series' category. Sushmita said: "It is surreal to know that 'Aarya' has been recognised globally amongst the Best Drama series in the world and to be nominated at a platform as prestigious as the International Emmy Awards is phenomenal." Director Ram Madhvani said: "It's a feeling of pride and humility and true happiness to have been nominated for the International Emmy

Awards. Congratulations to the entire team and cast of *Aarya* for their immense support, belief, and love. This nomination truly validates the full team's hard and dedicated work." The series on Disney+ Hotstar also stars Namit Das, Sikander Kher, Jayant Kriplani, Sohaila Kapoor, Sugandha Garg, Maya Sareen, Vishwajeet Pradhan and Manish Chaudhary. The International Emmy Awards are a separate event from the main awards -- known as the Primetime Emmy Awards. The International Emmy Awards honour excellence in television programming produced outside the US.

