

absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 313, BHOPAL | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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UNEMPLOYMENT, COVID

TOP MOST WORRIES FOR URBAN INDIANS

According to the survey, urban Indians are most worried about unemployment (42 per cent), coronavirus (42 per cent), financial/ political corruption (28 per cent), crime and violence (25 per cent), poverty and social inequality (24 per cent) and education (21 per cent).

▶ THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT GLOBAL CITIZENS WORRY ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (36 PER CENT), UNEMPLOYMENT (31 PER CENT), POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY (31 PER CENT), FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION (27 PER CENT) AND CRIME AND VIOLENCE (26 PER CENT).



OVER 1K INDIANS WITH RS 1K CR NET WORTH

New Delhi: India has achieved the milestone of having over 1,000 individuals with net worth of Rs 1,000 crore, said Hurun India. Accordingly, the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021 revealed that 1,007 individuals across 119 cities have a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore. The report cited that cumulative wealth was up 51 per cent, while average wealth increased by 25 per cent. Besides, it showed that 894 individuals saw their wealth increase or stay the same, of which 229 are new faces, while 113 saw their wealth drop and there were 51 dropouts. Currently, India has 237 billionaires, up 58 compared to last year. Furthermore, the list report pointed out that

Reliance Industries' Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani continued to be the richest man in India for the 10th consecutive year with a wealth of Rs 7,18,000 crore. "With INR 5,05,900 crore, Gautam Adani & family moved up two places to the second spot in the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021."

BYJU'S, BHARATPE'S OWNERS IN RICH LIST

New Delhi: The Covid-19 pandemic seems to have accelerated the wealth accretion of IT-enabled start-up founders including Byju Raveendran's firm "Think & Learn" which runs the BYJU's Classes. According to the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2021, the study-from-home trend which has been promoted on the back of the pandemic led Raveendran and Family's fortune to grow 19 per cent year-on-year to Rs 24,300 crore. Meanwhile, Nakrani, 23, is the youngest to feature in the list. His wealth grew to Rs 1,700 crore after his start-up BharatPe became a unicorn.

Columbia (89 per cent), South Africa (85 per cent) and Peru (81 per cent). Ipsos' What Worries the World survey is conducted in 28 countries around the world. It is based on 20,012 interviews conducted between August 20 and September 3, 2021 among adults aged 18-74 in the US, South Africa, Turkey, Israel and Canada and age 16-74 in all other countries. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Global citizens on the contrary continue to remain pessimistic with at least 65 per cent believing their country is on the wrong track. The gloomiest markets that felt their country was on the wrong track were

Will leave the Congress, not joining BJP: Amarinder

"I will resign, will not stay in the party. I will not be treated in this humiliating manner. I will not take such insults."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Scotching speculation to the contrary, former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday made it clear he was not joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) but had no intention of continuing in the Congress either, which he said was going downhill with senior leaders completely ignored and not given a voice. Denying any move to join the BJP, Captain Amarinder Singh said he would leave the Congress where he had been utterly humiliated and was not trusted. Terming the senior Congressmen as the thinkers, who were critical to the future of the party, the former Chief Minister said the younger leadership should be promoted to implement the plans, which the senior leaders are best equipped to formulate. Unfortunately, the seniors were being completely sidelined, he said, adding this was not good for the party. He also condemned the attack on Kapil Sibal's

'DEADLOCK' PERSISTS BETWEEN PUNJAB CM, SIDHU

Chandigarh: The crisis in the Punjab Congress between Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and state chief Navjot Singh Sidhu seems to be continuing despite their first face-to-face meeting on Thursday since the latter resigned from the post. The meeting lasted for over two hours and the issues raised by Sidhu will be put before the Cabinet on October 4, sources in the party said. After the meeting at Punjab Bhavan, where AICC observer Harish Chaudhary was also present, both Channi and Sidhu left the meeting venue without talking to the media.

house by Congress workers only because he had chosen to express views that were not palatable to the party leadership. Reiterating his opinion

on Navjot Singh Sidhu, Captain Amarinder described him as a mere crowd puller who does not know how to carry his team along.

TALIBAN ROLLING BACK RIGHTS FOR WOMEN IN AT LEAST 32 DIFFERENT AREAS

New Delhi: The Taliban are "rolling back" rights for women and girls in at least 32 different areas, according to a new list compiled by the Human Rights Watch (HRW). While restricting access to education has been the most high profile abuse, discrimination is taking place systematically across women's lives, HRW said, The Telegraph, UK, reported. The acting director of HRW's women's rights division, Heather Barr, a leading expert on Afghanistan, said the Taliban were violating the rights of women and girls across a number of categories, including education, employment, freedom of movement, dress, gender-based violence, access to healthcare, and sport. The list in more detail runs from the closure of almost all of the country's women's shelters, for those fleeing domestic violence, to banning women from seeing male healthcare professionals, dramatically restricting their access to healthcare, the report said.

PM's energy is our inspiration; Shivraj Singh Chouhan

CM told that his government will work on ethanol policy expeditiously. Apart from these, discussions were also held on Digital Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Thursday. After this meeting, CM Chouhan held a press conference, in that he told which issues were discussed with the PM. Chouhan said that the energy of PM Modi is our inspiration, his ideas inspire us for new schemes.

The Chief Minister said that he informed the Prime Minister about the situation of Corona during the meeting, he also said that 88 per cent vaccination has been done in Madhya Pradesh. There has been less rain in the areas of Narmada, due to that the Indra Sagar Dam is empty. CM also told about the decision to open Prime Minister CM Rise School that his government will open 300 schools. So that the quality of education can be improved. PM Modi also appreciated this deci-



sion of the government. The CM said that the Prime Minister has advised sandalwood cultivation in Madhya Pradesh. The

PM said that if the crop pattern is changed, it will benefit the farmers. Chouhan said that in the meeting, he also informed about the ethanol

policy, in which 28 companies have applied. CM told that his government will work on ethanol policy expeditiously. Apart from these, discussions were also held on Digital Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat Yojana. The CM has also invited the Prime Minister to visit Madhya Pradesh for the Tribal Pride Day to be held on November 15.

Regarding the by-election, the CM was questioned that the Congress is demanding to stop the entire campaign of the government's Jandharan Yatra and service. On this, the CM said that the Congress is unable to do anything, so there is pain in his stomach. Why stop the development of the entire state for a few seats in the by-elections? CM said that Congress should also go to the area. CM Shivraj claimed that along with the Lok Sabha seat in the by-election, he would win all the three assembly seats.

LPG, CNG may get more costly

New Delhi: The government on Thursday raised price of natural gas by 62 per cent. This gas is used to produce electricity. Also, it is used as fuel for producing fertilisers and as CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) to use as fuel in automobiles and cooking gas for household kitchens.



This is the first hike after April 2019. One reason is rise in international prices. This increase could lead to rise in CNG prices for automobile. Though fuel cost for gas-based power plants will also likely to go up, but since their share in overall power generation is low, so consumer will not be affected much. Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), unit of Oil Ministry, said the rates paid for gas produced from fields given to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will be \$2.90 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu). New price will be applicable the six-month period beginning April 1. Simultaneously, the price for gas produced from difficult fields such as deep sea, which is based on a different formula, was hiked to \$6.13 per mmBtu from the \$3.62 per mmBtu. This is the maximum price that Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner BP plc are entitled to for the gas they produce from deep sea blocks such as KG-D6.

Teachers, school staff should get vaccinated by Oct 15: DoE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 inside the school premises, school authorities have been asked to ensure that their teachers and other staff are vaccinated by October 15. Those who fail to comply with the order would not be allowed to attend the school, the Directorate of Education said in a statement. "Ensure that all teachers and school staff who have not been vaccinated should be vaccinated by October 15, 2021. All such teachers and school staff who have not got themselves vaccinated by the said date should not be allowed to attend the school and their absence would be treated as on leave," the statement



dated September 29, 2021, read. This order came in the wake of the reopening of schools under the Directorate of Education in a phased manner, to ensure that the environment of the school remains safe with the implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs).

GIRLS' COLLEGE IN KARNATAKA SEALED AS 28 STUDENTS TEST POSITIVE

Mandya: A girls college in Karnataka's Mandya was sealed by the Health Department on Friday as 28 of its students tested positive for Covid. The Government Pre-University College for Girls, located in Nagamangala town, has a large number of students from rural areas. College authorities had conducted checks on 412 girl students and 19 have tested positive. Another nine girl students who have been their primary contacts also tested positive. After the first case in the college surfaced on Wednesday, the college authorities, as a precautionary measure, and got all the students tested.

GOVT EXTENDS VALIDITY OF MVA DOCUMENTS TILL OCTOBER 31

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday extended the validity of documents related to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 till October 31 in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. Taking into consideration the need to prevent the spread of Covid-19, it was advised that the validity of fitness, permit (all types), license, registration or any other concerned document may be treated to be valid till October 31. "This covers all documents whose validity has expired since February 1 2020 or would expire by October 31, 2021. Enforcement authorities are advised to treat such documents valid till October 31, 2021," a Road Transport & Highways Ministry statement said. The government had earlier too issued similar advisories on March 30 last year, June 9, 2020, August 24, 2020, December 27, 2020, and March 26, and June 17, this year. The Centre's move is expected to help citizens in availing transport-related services while maintaining social distancing.

Withdrawal of southwest monsoon from NW India from around Oct 6

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Conditions would be favourable for commencement of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from October 6, after a delay of almost three weeks, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday. A depression over north-east Arabian Sea has been moving westward, away from the Indian coast, and the Numerical Weather Prediction models consensus indicate establishment of westerly and northwesterly winds at lower and middle tropospheric levels over north-west India and development of anti-cyclonic circulation at lower level over the region from October 5. "Under its influence, drastic reduction in moisture and absence of rainfall over



The IMD had revised the date of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon last year to September 17. Unlike the process of onset of the monsoon, which is very slow, the withdrawal need not be that slow, generally, the complete withdrawal of the southwest monsoon happens by October 12 and the stage is set for commencement of the northeast monsoon - that brings in rains mostly to Tamil Nadu, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.

extreme northwestern parts of India is very likely. Thus, conditions are very likely to be favourable for commencement of withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from some parts of north-west India from around October 6," IMD Director

General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said at a virtual media conference. In 2019, the monsoon withdrawal had taken place on October 9 and prior to that, it was in 1961 that the monsoon withdrawal date was October 1.

"Even when the withdrawal has commenced late, it is not necessary that the withdrawal process will complete late too." Mohapatra, however, neither put a date nor speculated about the completion of the withdrawal process.



UK, INDIA TO COLLABORATE IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is looking at over 1 mn pounds funding towards eight new UK-India projects for collaborative research, addressing key environmental challenges relevant to COP26's Adaptation and Resilience theme, a statement said on Thursday.

"Findings from these projects are expected to form the basis of future bilateral opportunities between the UK and India," Director UKRI India, Rebecca Fairbairn said.

The other two areas where the UKRI is looking for future collaborations are 'Enhancing Food Quality' and 'Creative Industries and Cultural Heritage', it was stated at the launch of the UKRI India impact report 'UK-India: Partnerships for Growth with Research and Innovation'.

The report illustrates the strong UK-India research and innovation relationship, its impact and the opportunities for further bilateral collaboration, a British High Commission statement said.

"UKRI India is delighted with the findings of this report and the impact of our research and innovation collaboration with India. Our partnership with Indian funders has led to the



development of new knowledge and products. As we launch this impact report, I am delighted to announce that we are working with our partner funders in India to explore new priority areas that connect to our shared 2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations," Fairbairn said.

Real-world impacts such as life-saving medical devices to apps allowing a digital experience of Delhi, over 200 technical outputs, including 84 new databases to 20 new pieces of software are among the outcomes and impacts of the UKRI-India collaboration, the report said.

"As many as 1,665 scholarly publications, with an average field-weighted citation impact of 2.2, which is more than twice the global average, a total of 5 per cent of these publications were amongst the top 1 per cent of most highly cited publications globally and 9 per cent of all publications were written via academic-corporate collaboration, which is three times more than the global average," it said.

Launched in April 2018, the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the UK government's Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

UKRI and Indian partners have co-invested over 330 million pounds in joint programmes, which, the report shows, has generated more than 450 million pounds in further funding, from public bodies, non-profit organisations, and commercial entities, attesting to the relevance of these projects.

"This report shows how research and innovation contributes to the UK and India's deep-rooted partnership and collaborative efforts to transform the lives of people in both our countries, and beyond," British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis said.

Six held in gang-rape of Telangana student in hospital

HYDERABAD | Agencies

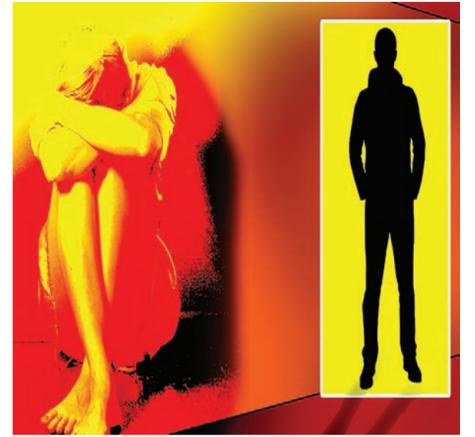
Six accused in the gang-rape of an 18-year-old student in Telangana's Nizamabad town have been arrested, police said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, Nizamabad Police Commissioner Kartikeya Sharma said that three of the accused were involved in the sexual assault while three others helped them in the offence on the intervening night of September 28-29.

While five accused were arrested late on Wednesday, the sixth accused was taken into custody on Thursday. All were sent to judicial remand.

The victim was sexually assaulted by a youth, who was known to her and his two friends. Three others helped them. The gang-rape was committed in a room in a hospital which was under renovation near bus station.

According to the police commissioner, One Town police station received a call around 1.50 a.m. about some suspicious movements in the



hospital. When the police patrolling team reached there, they found a girl. She was mentally and physically disturbed and police shifted her to the government hospital. After she was stable, police shifted to Sakhi Centre as per the procedure. A woman police officer recorded her statement and based

on this, the police registered a case under the Indian Penal Code's Section 376 D (gang-rape), Section 342 (wrongful confinement) read with Section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and under two sections of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Rajasthan bans sale of firecrackers till next year

JAIPUR | Agencies

The Rajasthan government on Thursday announced a ban on the sale of all kinds of fireworks across the state till next year, citing the possibility of a third wave of corona.

As per the advisory issued by the Home Department, this ban starts from October 1 and shall be in place till January 31, 2022, thus ruling out fireworks on both Dussehra and Diwali.

The issuance of temporary licenses for fireworks has also been banned till January 31, as per the order issued to all the District Collectors. A large number of temporary licenses are issued on Diwali at the



district level.

Noting fireworks were banned last year in view of the difficulty in breathing for the Covid-infected people, the advisory says that experts have expressed possibility of a third wave of corona, and as fireworks smoke causes great suffering to old, sick, those suffering from COPD, or asthma, and Covid patients, it is necessary to ban fireworks this year also.

SC RULES NO INSURANCE CLAIM FOR STOLEN VEHICLE WITHOUT VALID REGISTRATION

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that an insurance company can reject the claim, if a vehicle does not have valid registration, as it denied a claim for the theft of a car having temporary registration.

A bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Bela M. Trivedi said: "What is important is this court's opinion of the law, that when an insurable incident that potentially results in liability occurs, there should be no fundamental breach of the conditions contained in the contract of insurance." The bench added that on the date of theft, the vehicle was driven without a valid registration, amounting to a clear violation of Sections 39 and 192 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. "This results in a fundamental breach of the terms and conditions of the policy, as held by this court in Narinder Singh (supra), entitling the insurer to repudiate the policy," it noted.



PM Modi on Gehlot: Ashokji trusts me, so he opened his heart

Jaipur | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took a moment to thank Congress Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for trusting him with a number of tasks, saying that is exactly the kind of relationship or friendship which is the real strength of democracy, and this comment by the PM has gone viral on social media.

"I was listening to the CM of Rajasthan. He presented a long list of tasks. I thank CM that he has so much trust in me. That's the biggest power in a democracy," Modi said while speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the medical colleges in Rajasthan.

"Ashokji's political ideology and party is different; my political ideology and party is different; but because he



trusts me, he opened his heart. This friendship, this trust, this trust is the great strength of democracy," he said. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said, "The slow pace of medical infrastructure has been posing a problem. It is necessary to spread the network of

AIIMS, health centres and hospitals rapidly. Rajasthan has doubled the medical seats. Also PG seats have increased from 1,000 to 2,100." Decades-old medical education system needs to be reformed, Modi said.

Yogi meets businessman's family, assures justice

KANPUR | Agencies

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday met family members of the Kanpur businessman who had died mysteriously during a police raid in Gorakhpur on Monday night.

The Chief Minister assured Meenakshi Gupta, widow of the businessman, that she would be given a government job and asked the district administration to pay the family a compensation of over Rs 10 lakh.

He said that illegal activities by police personnel are not acceptable and warned that those found involved in "very serious offences" will be dismissed.

He said that if the family gave a letter, he would recommend a CBI probe into the incident.

Meenakshi told reporters that the Chief Minister had also agreed to her



demand to transfer the case from Gorakhpur to Kanpur.

Manish Gupta, 36, died on Monday night after he was allegedly beaten up by some policemen, prompting the authorities to register a murder case against

them. ADG (Law and order) Prashant Kumar, meanwhile, said in Lucknow that Manish tried to flee during a routine checking of the hotel and fell down and got injured. He was taken to the hospital where he died, he said.

NCW takes cognisance of woman IAF officer subjected to 2-Finger test

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday took cognisance of the matter where a female Indian Air Force (IAF) officer was subjected to a Two-Finger test by doctors at IAF academy at Coimbatore after she alleged sexual assault against a colleague and said it violated the Supreme Court's decision and also the right to privacy and dignity of the victim.

The Commission said its chairperson Rekha Sharma has written to Air Chief Marshal, Indian Air Force to look into the matter and take necessary steps and to impart necessary knowledge to the IAF doctors about the prevailing guidelines laid down by the government and the Indian Council of Medical Research in the year 2014 terming the two-finger test as unscientific.

The IAF woman officer in her complaint before the All Woman police had



said that the attitude of some of the officers of the IAF who were made aware of

the incident, was to force her to withdraw the complaint.

Depression over northeast Arabian Sea moving away from India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The depression over Arabian Sea is moving westwards, away from the Indian coast but continued to batter coastal Gujarat and Maharashtra with heavy rainfall.

On the other hand, a well-marked low-pressure area (WMLPA) over north Jharkhand and Bihar brought in very heavy rainfall over large parts of Gangetic belt on Thursday.

"The depression over northeast Arabian Sea & adjoining Kutch moved westwards and lay centred over northeast Arabian Sea off Gujarat coast, about 60 km west-northwest of Devbhoomi Dwarka (Gujarat), 280 km east-southeast of Karachi (Pakistan) and 860 km east-southeast of Chabahar Port (Iran) on Thursday morning. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a deep depression over northeast Arabian Sea off north Gujarat coast during night," the IMD said in a release. "Then it is very likely to move further west-northwestwards and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm during the subsequent 24 hours. Thereafter, it is likely to continue to move west-northwestwards close to Pakistan's Makran coasts, moving away from the Indian coast," it said.

Saurashtra and Kutch are likely to see reduction in rainfall from Friday onwards.



This is a remnant of cyclonic storm Gulab that had originated in the Bay of Bengal and traveled westwards across central Indian states dropping more than abundant rainfall on route.

Under the influence of the WMLPA over north Jharkhand & adjoining Bihar and its remnant, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over Bihar and sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim till October 3. Very heavy rainfall is also likely over Bihar on October 2, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on both October 2 and 3 and extremely heavy falls (over 20 cm) are very likely at isolated places over Bihar on Friday, the IMD said. Due to easterly trough, rainfall activity is very likely to increase over south peninsular India from Friday with fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with heavy falls over Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and coastal and south interior Karnataka between October 1 to 4.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into north and adjoining central Arabian Sea and along and off Gujarat and north Maharashtra coasts from till October 2, the IMD release said.



MPHC REFUSED TO LIFT BAN ON 27% OBC QUOTA; FINAL VERDICT ON OCTOBER 7

Hearing of 39 petitions filed regarding OBC reservation, Chief Justice Mohd Rafiq and Vijay Kumar were fixed for final hearing before the division bench of Shukla but due to paucity of time, the next hearing will be held on October 7.

Team Absolute | Jabalpur
Refusing to lift the ban on 27 percent OBC quota in the state (MP), the principal bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in Jabalpur on Thursday said that no interim order has been passed. The court will directly pronounce the final verdict on October 07.

Hearing of 39 petitions filed regarding OBC reservation, Chief Justice Mohd Rafiq and Vijay Kumar were fixed for final hearing before the division bench of Shukla but due to paucity of time, the next hearing will be held on October 7.

The hearing was adjourned till October 7. 40 petitions will now be

heard simultaneously. The hearing could not take place due to paucity of time. The Chief Justice was to be heard in the court. Advocate general Purushendra Kaurav appeared for the state government.

Notably, the general administration department (GAD) had specified six exams/recruitment tests, where the high court stay is in force. It was also pointed out that the decision has been taken on the basis of opinion received from the advocate general on the issue. The High Court ruling came while hearing a petition challenging state government's order, allowing 27% reservation to OBCs in exams/recruitments except those where

the court has stay. The legality of order has been challenged in the petition. The petitioner organisation Youth For Equality contended that the court had turned down the application moved by the state government to vacate the stay on hike in OBC reservation and final arguments on the petitions for and against the hike in OBC quota was to take place.

Meanwhile, the state government issued the order asking all the departments to go ahead with exams/recruitments providing 27% reservation to OBCs except for some, where the high court stay is in force, which is in violation of the constitution.

Sudden surge in fever besiege paediatric wards across the state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Paediatric wards across the state are flooded by a sudden surge in fever hospitalisations, at least 20-25% of them suspected to be post-Covid syndrome. Many ICUs have two children per bed.

Authorities of major district hospitals said that children's wards are beyond full that's how alarming it is. At many places, kids lie on the floor because each bed has multiple patients. At least three children have died in the past couple of days in Gwalior.

What's most worrying is the possibility of the deadly post-Covid syndrome among children. Several doctors said that a significant percentage of the kids they are treating were infected with Covid-19, which went undetected because they were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms, but its long-term effects are erupting now. It's extremely difficult to diagnose this syndrome because it mimics many other more common ailments. Media reports on Tuesday published that how Gwalior's Kamla Raja Hospital (KRH) was struggling with 95 children admitted to its 50-bed paediatric facility.

On Wednesday, 20 beds were added from other departments but the number of patients surged past 100.

A five-year-old girl died on Monday, and an infant and a 10-year-old died on Tuesday night.

Doctors said all three were critically ill when brought in. The child who died on Monday was being taken to Delhi from Chhattarpur and was brain dead when admitted here.

The infant had congenital heart issues, and the 10-year-old, who had been brought here from Bhind (90km away), was suffering from some severe complications of the brain. She was being taken to Delhi but at the last minute, her parents brought her to us," superintendent of Jai Arogya Hospital, Dr RKS Dhakad, said. KRH is a part of this hospital.

"More than 100 kids are admitted to our hospital, and we are doing our best. It is our duty to admit and treat every patient who comes here. We have added 20 paediatric beds on Wednesday," Dhakad said.

At Sanjay Gandhi Medical College in Rewa, more than 250 children are admitted against a capacity of 140. "There is a severe increase in cases. Bed occupancy is higher in wards for the seriously ill," HoD, paediatrics, Dr Naresh Bajaj told said. The ICU has 15 beds, but there are never less than 40 patients these days, he said.

"At least 20% cases are due to post-covid-19 complications. The children were infected with Covid-19 but now there are other complications, like fever and pneumonia. There has been an increase in scrub typhus cases. We have three here. Some kids have both post-Covid syndrome as well as scrub

typhus. Then, there is jaundice and brain fever," said Dr Bazaz. In Sagar, 120 children are admitted to an 82-bed facility, Dr RS Jayant, who is in charge of the paediatric ward of Sagar district hospital said.

"Viral fever, pneumonia and dengue are major contributors. We don't have the facility to diagnose scrub typhus, so we cannot say definitively about it," Dr Jayant said.

In Shahdol district hospital there are 30 beds, with 40 oxygen points, but more than 80 kids are admitted there.

"We have 20 beds in special newborn care unit (SNCU) and 10 in paediatric ICU. Both have nearly double occupancy," Shahdol civil surgeon Dr GPS Parihar said, adding 450 children have been treated in September.

It's the same story at Jabalpur's Netaji Subhash Bose Medical College and Hospital. "We have 40 beds in the medicine department, and 77 kids are admitted there. In the paediatric ICU, there are 125 kids in 90 beds," said hospital superintendent Dr R Tiwari.

In state capital Bhopal, the paediatric ward at Gandhi Medical College is at optimum capacity. "We have 200 beds for kids. Till Wednesday morning, there were 198 children admitted. We are conducting Covid-19 tests on children. So far, the reports are negative. The majority have viral fever and pneumonia," GMC superintendent Dr Lokendra Dave said.

Deaf n dump teenage girl gang-raped; 4 minors among 6 held

Team Absolute | Shahdol

A 13-year-old hearing and speech-impaired girl was allegedly raped by six persons, including four minors, at a village in Shahdol district, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on September 25 and the accused were caught after the victim's mother lodged a complaint on Thursday, Shahdol zone's additional director general (ADG) of police Dinesh Chandra Sagar told media persons.

As per the complaint, a man who knew the minor lured her to a room in the village and sexually assaulted her. Other accused, who were present there, took turns to

rape her, he said, adding that the victim and the accused lived in the same village.

The girl went into shock after the incident, but narrated her ordeal to her mother after some days through sign language, the official said.

"Police have nabbed all the accused, four of whom are minors," he said.

The six accused have been booked under IPC sections 376 (DA) (gang rape of a woman below 16), 363 (kidnapping), 366 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc), 34 (common intention) and the relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the ADG said.

CM CONDOLES DEATH OF PHOTO JOURNALIST MADAN SONI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has condoled the death of senior photo journalist of Jabalpur Madan Soni. Chouhan has prayed to Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the family members to bear this loss.

Madan Soni made a special place by doing photo coverage for newspapers in all fields like incidents, accidents, art and culture etc. He was always alert, dedicated and sensitive towards his work.

CM Chouhan to gift credit linkage of 250 crores to women SHGs

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will benefit 20 thousand women self-help groups of the state in the women empowerment programme under Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan at Shivpuri on October 1. Under credit linkage, bank loans of Rs. two hundred and fifty crores will be distributed to these groups. Along with this, food allowance of Rs 22 crore 77 lakh will be distributed to 2 lakh 27 thousand 687 women of Saharia, Baiga and Bhabria tribes and Rs 163 crore 28 lakh will be distributed as relief amount to the flood victims. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan will distribute the amount with a single click.

About 10 thousand women self-help group members will participate in the programme and a large number of women members in all the districts will also watch the broadcast through virtual mediums. It is noteworthy that a food subsidy scheme has been started for the special backward tribes. The families of these tribes reside in 14 districts Sheopur, Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Ashoknagar, Datia, Shahdol, Umaria, Anuppur, Chhindwara, Mandla, Balaghat and Dindori. One thousand rupees are being provided every month in the account of these families. It is noteworthy that from the start of Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission till the position of 31st

August 2021, about 2 lakh 65 thousand self-help groups have been benefited by disbursing bank loans of about Rs. 2 thousand 54 crores. In the programme, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development and in-charge of Shivpuri district Mahendra Singh Sisodia, Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare, Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment Smt. Yashodhara Rajee Scindia, Minister of State for Public Works Suresh Dhakad and other local public representatives will also be present. Various programmes are being organised in the state from September 17 to October 7 by the state government under Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan.

CM PLANTS MUNGA SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Munga sapling at the Chief Minister's residence today as part of his resolve to plant saplings every day. Sahjan, known by the names of Senjan, Munga or Sahjan, is full of medicinal properties. Its different parts have properties to prevent various diseases. It is rich in a variety of multivitamins, antioxidants, pain relievers and amino acids. Drumstick is very rich in vitamin "C." Its raw-green beans are used the most.

State receives normal rainfall during

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has received a little more than its average quota of rainfall as the monsoon season of 2021 officially ends, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

The four-month-long rainfall season lasts from June to September.

The state has received 945.2 mm, as against the normal rainfall of 940.6 mm rainfall, so far (till Thursday morning) from June 1, GD Mishra, a senior meteorologist with the IMD's Bhopal office, told PTI.

He said Sheopur district received 100 per cent more rainfall than its average, while Guna and Shivpuri districts recorded 84 per cent and 62 per cent more than their average rainfall, respectively.

These three districts in North Madhya Pradesh received bountiful showers during the monsoon. North MP, particularly Gwalior and Chambal divisions, were ravaged by floods last month.



In all, 11 districts in MP received excess showers, while nine districts remained rain deficient, the senior meteorologist said.

He said Damoh district in the Bundelkhand region of MP recorded 38 per cent drop in average rainfall - the lowest for any district. Against an average of 1046.3 mm, it has received only 644.8 mm showers.

Mishra said 31 districts, including Bhopal, Indore and Gwalior, have received normal rainfall.

He said 15 per cent less rainfall in East MP has been made up by 15 per

cent excess showers in the western region of the state.

The IMD has divided MP into two parts - East with 20 districts and West with 31 districts. Madhya Pradesh has 52 districts, but Tikamgarh district has not been added in any of the two parts.

The monsoon hit Madhya Pradesh on June 10, seven days before its scheduled date of arrival.

In June, the state received copious showers, but July, a month which usually witnesses hectic rain activity, saw a dry spell, Mishra said.

CM CONDOLES THE DEATH OF LIMBODIA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has condoled the death of Manorama Limbodia, wife of senior journalist of Indore Manohar Limbodia. Chouhan has prayed to Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to his family members to bear this profound sorrow.

CM CONDOLES THE DEATH OF SENIOR JOURNALIST RAJENDRA GUPTA

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has condoled the death of senior Indore journalist Rajendra Gupta. While paying homage to him, Chouhan has prayed to God to give place to the departed soul at his lotus feet and strength to the family members to bear this great loss.

Rajendra Gupta gave his services in Indore newspapers for a long time. He made a different identity with his hard work and spontaneity.

Efforts to continue for the development of sports: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Showing the love for sports, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has resolved to make continuous efforts for the development of sports in the state. Chouhan informed about his resolve in an interaction with the office bearers of various sports organisations on Tuesday. Chief Minister informed that the sports budget has been increased manifold in Madhya Pradesh after the year 2005. Formation of sports academies for the development of various sports, facilities of nutritional diet to the players, good sports infrastructure were made available and prepared for national and international sports events. It is the result of this that today in Tokyo Olympics, players trained

from Madhya Pradesh Women's Hockey Academy represented in the Indian team. This team may not have been able to earn any medal, but by coming fourth in the world, it has presented a proof of its superiority. Chouhan, while talking with the functionaries of Indian Olympic Association, Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association and Hockey India, said that a world-class sports stadium would also be constructed in Madhya Pradesh soon, which will enhance sports and sports persons. Chouhan said that daughters participate in various sports. They will be specially encouraged. Just as the Madhya Pradesh government had set an example by providing financial assistance to the Indian women's hockey team in the year 2010, in the same sequence,

this year's Olympic performance attracted the attention of the entire world. The players of the Indian women's hockey team of Tokyo Olympics were felicitated and honoured with a cheque of Rs 31 lakh each. This sequence of encouragement is not going to stop. Chouhan has also urged all the sports organisations to join the efforts of the State Government for the improvement of sports infrastructure training and sports facilities. The Department of Sports and Youth Welfare has started a campaign to find talent in various sports under the Talent Search, which will yield very good results soon. The State Government has also taken necessary steps for the development of other sports including State Sports Malkhamb.

Hindi is the language of planning: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the last day of Hindi fortnight, the award distribution and closing ceremony was organized. Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal at Rock Art Centre. Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director of the museum was present as the chief guest of prize distribution and closing ceremony. On this occasion the winners of various competitions organized during Hindi fortnight were given first, second and third and consolation cash prizes and certificates.

Official Language Officer Sudhir Srivastava, while conducting the program announced the award and said that this year due to Covid-19, four programs, essay writing, slogan writing, quiz, photography competition were organized in short form of Hindi fortnight. In which the first prize in essay writing was Rajendra



Kumar Jharia, second Mohd Rehan, third Hemant Bahadur Singh Parihar, consolation prize Kul Bahadur Thapa. In slogan writing competition, first Sandeep Sharma, second Rajendra Kumar Jharia, third Rachna Srivastava, consolation Mohan Lal Goyal. In the quiz competition, Nitin Raj Deshpande, second Hamendra Malviya, third Rashmi Shukla, consolation Ashok Kumar Sharma. In photography competition, first Rajiv Jain, second Sudeepa Roy, third Rajendra Kumar Jharia consolation N

Sakmacha Singh received the awards. Addressing on this occasion, Chief Guest Praveen Kumar Mishra congratulated all the winners and said that Hindi is the language of planning. Celebrate Hindi Day by imbuing Hindi as a festival every day, for your own growth, keep your attitude positive and cheerful, keep your creativity and continued to work with dedication for the betterment of the museum and the institute. At the end of the program vote of thanks was given by Hemant Bahadur Singh Parihar.

"Gugga Dev" is online Exhibition at IGRMS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) on Thursday under the sixty eight series of its online exhibition presented the Gugga Dev situated in the Open Air Exhibition Mythological Trail has been presented online with its basic information and photographs and videos.

About this exhibition, Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director, IGRMS said that - Located in the midst of the snow laden Himalaya the state of Himachal Pradesh is named thus because of its location. According to ancient Indian mythology, the Himalayas were born from the tresses of Lord Siva. They were created to protect the earth from Ganga when the great river flowed down to earth. Himachal Pradesh is a treasure trove of rich local heritage, as manifested in its traditions, art and culture. Focus on native gods and goddesses is an important aspect of this heritage, which is still an integral part of the belief system



of the inhabitants of this mountain land. About the Gugga Dev Garima Anand Dubey, Museum Associate

told that - Gugga or Guga Dev is one amongst the various folk deities having shrine in Sirmour and

Kangra districts in Himachal Pradesh, Churu of Rajasthan and some places in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The temple of Gugga Dev consists of a single small room and deity housed there. Guggaji or Gugga Dev was brought there from Rajasthan some 150 years ago. Every year, on the night of the fullmoon of Shravan (Rakshabandan) or Shravan Poornima, Guggaji is taken out of the temple for a week long yatra (procession). On the seventh day he returns and the eighth night is celebrated as Jagarata begins with holy fire. Gugga Nawami is said to be the birthday of Gugga Dev as he returns on this day after the curse of his mother. Visitors can see this exhibition from home through the Official site (https://igrms.com/word-press/?page_id=5984) and Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumMankind/>) of the IGRMS in addition to YouTube link (<https://youtu.be/v3NACG3y5s4>).



EDITOR'S SPECS

Future of BSP is uncertain

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is facing an unprecedented exodus from the party on the eve of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. After a revolt by seven legislators last year, the BSP is losing more leaders to the Samajwadi Party. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national general secretary R.S. Kushwaha, on Monday, called on Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav at the party headquarters in Lucknow. Though the meeting was termed as a courtesy call, it is said that Kushwaha is all set to join SP any day now. Earlier, two expelled BSP MLAs Lalji Varma and Ram Achal Rajbhar had also met Akhilesh Yadav for a 'courtesy call'. Another senior BSP MLA and former Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Sukhdev Rajbhar had announced his retirement from active politics while his son, Kamalkant Rajbhar, has joined the SP. SP spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said the Samajwadi Party has emerged as the only alternative to the ruling BJP. Dissent within the BSP is growing by leaps and bounds as more and more leaders are leaving the party. Interestingly, most of the leaders who are quitting the party belong to Dalit and OBC communities. Meanwhile, in Rajasthan four Bahujan Samaj Party MLAs, who had joined the Congress in 2019, rushed to Delhi on Wednesday night, after getting a notice from the Supreme Court to reply on an anti-defection law plea. They claimed that they will join hands with any party to save their legislature status. These MLAs include Rajendra Singh Guda, Wajib Ali, Sandeep Kumar and Lakhan Singh. Besides these four MLAs, two other BSP MLAs -- Joginder Singh Awana and Deepchand Khairia -- who had joined Congress, have not gone to Delhi, both these MLAs met Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday night and ensured their support to the Congress.

AUKUS vs. Quad: A reality check

The past week saw the US's hard push to contain China in its own backyard, by the formation of a new defence agreement known as AUKUS, with no precedent in diplomatic world, as the regional might of the new alliance is already covered by an old alliance named Quad.

Asad Mirza

AUKUS-named after Australia, the UK and the US proclaims to bring hard military power to support the order built by Washington in Asia, and "sustain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region", as per a statement by the White House.

Observers are quite perplexed by this new American action, as it has no parallel in the modern day diplomatic history. Some describe it as Anglophonic camaraderie. Through AUKUS, for the first time in history the US will share its nuclear technology with any country. The new agreement will deliver 60 attack submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines to be built by the UK and technology provided by the US.

In fact, AUKUS demonstrates the seriousness with which the US views the Chinese activities in the South China Sea and adjoining islands, China has claimed most of the territories in the South China Sea, defying a 2016 decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague declaring it as without legal basis.

It has also built artificial islands in the South China Sea and constructed massive runways and shipping docks, while also reportedly installing missile systems on the Spratly Islands. It has rejected competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam in the South China Sea.

Chinese reaction
Chinese President Xi Jinping has warned against "interference from external forces" in the region, as Australia shrugged off Beijing's growing anger about AUKUS. In an address before the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Xi urged heads of state to "absolutely resist external forces to interfere (in) countries in our region at any excuse, and we hold the future of our countries' development and progress firmly in our own hands".

China's state-owned publication Global Times also described Australia as "a pawn of the US" and called it "naive" for financing "America's cold war gambit". "Australia could face the most dangerous consequence of being



cannon fodder in the event of a military showdown in the region."

French reaction

AUKUS has caused much consternation and anger in France because Australia terminated an earlier deal with Naval Group, a state-controlled French company, to build a dozen diesel-powered submarines.

French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, who laid out his own vision for the Indo-Pacific in a July visit to Washington, called the announcement a "stab in the back" and ordered a recall of the French Ambassadors from Washington and Canberra.

In their responses, French officials and some commentators have cast the announcement as an indication of a major strategic shift, particularly on the part of Washington. The move, they assert, represents a kind of geopolitical infidelity by the United States that demonstrates it does not take France (and by extension, they hasten to add, Europe as a whole) seriously as a partner.

The announcement has also fuelled fears that Europe is being cut out by Washington, with EU nations still smarting over the way the US handled the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The EU has complained that it was kept out of the loop on a new military partnership between the US, UK and Australia, as Brussels was planning to lay down its own strategy for the Indo-Pacific on September 17. "We regret not having been informed, not having been part of these talks," EU foreign policy chief

Josep Borrell said.

The 27-nation bloc is looking to strengthen ties in the vast region where it says it is "already the top investor, the leading development cooperation partner and one of the biggest trading partners". But Borrell insisted the strategy was "one of cooperation, not confrontation" with China.

Australian defence

In a series of media interviews, Morrison said his government was reacting to changing dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region, where territory is increasingly contested and competition is rising. Morrison said Australia is "very aware" of China's nuclear submarine capabilities and growing military investment, he told Channel Seven television. "We are interested in ensuring that international waters are always international waters and international skies are international skies, and that the rule of law applies equally in all of these places," he said.

Morrison told Australian media that the defence alliance had been "well-received" in his discussions so far with leaders in Japan, India, Singapore, New Zealand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

India's predicament

For New Delhi, AUKUS isn't good news, either. The new accord raises questions about the importance of the Quad -- the four-nation alliance of the US, Australia, Japan and India. In particular, New Delhi will worry that the US is concerned only with

pushing back against China, leaving its concerns about Pakistan and the western Indian Ocean unaddressed. India also felt left out of the regional political dynamics when it was not invited to join the Doha talks with Taliban alongside the US, Pakistan and Qatar.

Indian PM in the US

Meanwhile the Indian Prime Minister Modi met the US President Joe Biden and his Japanese and Australian counterparts at the White House in Washington for the first Quad summit on 23rd face to face and discussed the priority areas for Quad. Biden said this is a grouping of "democratic partners who share a world view and have a common vision for the future" and are "coming together to take on key challenges". Evolving a common approach to emerging technologies, cyber security and addressing the challenge of climate change and space cooperation, and Covid vaccination. This means that Quad will act as a socio-economic organisation and the region's defence will be led by AUKUS, which leaves India in the cold regarding its concerns of Chinese aggression in the North China Sea and Indian Ocean. Before the Quad meeting Biden and Modi met separately to discuss bilateral issues, the latter laid stress on issues such as trade, technology, climate challenge and Covid management. However, Modi's bilateral meetings with the POTUS and the Vice President regarding AUKUS and Quad didn't result in any benefit for India. Instead he got lessons on maintaining democracy, democratic traditions and democratic institutions by both the American leaders, whatever little the US media reported revealed and that might have forced him to change his address at the UNGA on the theme of democracy in the region.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Views expressed are personal)

international

CHINA LOANS TO PAKISTAN AT COMMERCIAL RATES, NOT GRANTS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A substantial chunk of Chinese development financing under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of loans that are at or near commercial rates, as opposed to grants, according to AidData, a US-based international development research lab, Dawn reported.

China committed \$34.4 billion in development finance to Pakistan between 2000 and 2017. Islamabad is the seventh largest recipient of Chinese overseas development financing with 71 projects worth \$27.3bn currently under way. The interest rate is 3.76 per cent for an average loan with 13.2 years' maturity (when full repayment with interest is due) and 4.3 years grace period, it said.

In addition, the report claimed Pakistan received about half of all Chinese development finance in the form of "export buyer's credit" i.e. money lent by Chinese institutions to Pakistan in



order to facilitate the purchase of equipment and goods to be bought by Chinese implementation partners, the report said.

As much as 40 per cent of China's lending to Pakistan is now directed to state-owned companies, state-owned banks, special purpose vehicles, joint ventures and private sector institutions.

These Chinese loans do not appear on the government's books "for the most part", the report claimed.

"However, they often benefit from an explicit or implicit form of government liability protection, which blurs the distinction between private and public debt," it said, noting that the government has issued sovereign guarantees in some cases. This means the national exchequer will repay the loans if non-government borrowers fail to generate sufficient revenue to meet their financial obligations. "In other cases... the government has provided a so-called guaranteed return on equity to borrowers. This type of guarantee is effectively a form of hidden debt to China... These financial arrangements are attractive to the government because they need not be disclosed as public debts," the report said, adding that the economy is already in the "danger zone" based on the public debt-to-GDP ratio of 92.8 per cent.

NICOLAS SARKOZY GUILTY OF ILLEGAL FINANCING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN



Paris: Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was sentenced to one year in prison for illegally financing his election campaign in 2012, a court in Paris announced on Thursday.

Sarkozy was found guilty of having spent almost twice the legal limit on his re-election bid. He has denied any involvement in the logistics of his campaign, but the court said he "continued the organization of meetings after having been warned in writing of the risk of exceeding the legal ceiling." This new conviction came seven months after Sarkozy got a three-year prison sentence on charges of corruption and influence peddling in a separate trial.

Ex-Finance Minister Amari named as Japan LDP's No 2 chief

Tokyo | Agencies

Fumio Kishida, the new leader of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and de facto next prime minister, decided on Thursday to appoint former Finance Minister Akira Amari as the LDP's No 2 post of secretary general, senior LDP officials said.

Amari, 72, currently head of the ruling LDP's Research Commission on the Tax System, will succeed Toshihiro Nikai, the party's long-serving secretary who has been in power behind the scenes since he took office in 2016, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Backing Kishida's campaign for the LDP presidential election, Amari belongs to the party's second-largest faction under Finance Minister Taro Aso. He had promoted the



Policy Research Council.

Kishida has suggested naming his rivals in the election to pivotal posts in the government. Takaichi, a hawkish nationalist, does not belong to any faction but received support from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the leadership race. Amari is also close to Abe, under whom Kishida had worked as Foreign Minister and LDP policy chief. At the first press conference after being elected head of the LDP and the presumed successor to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Kishida said that it is important to maintain the balance between young and old when deciding the party's executive positions.

"I am studying various options. I am now thinking hard about it," Kishida told reporters about his party executive lineup.

US nuclear envoy reiterates 'no hostile intent' toward N Korea

Jakarta/Seoul | Agencies

The US special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, reiterated Thursday that Washington has no hostile intent toward Pyongyang and supports humanitarian aid to the country.

Kim made the remarks after he held talks with his South Korean counterpart, Noh Kyu-duk, in Jakarta, to discuss humanitarian support, confidence-building measures and other steps to encourage Pyongyang's return to dialogue, reports Yonhap News Agency.

The talks came after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un told a parliamentary session Wednesday that the US remains "utterly unchanged" in pursuing hostile policy toward his country, while stressing its offer for dialogue is no more than a "petty trick" for hiding hostility. "We remain open to engagement with the DPRK to discuss the full range of bilateral and regional issues. I want to make clear again that the US harbours no hostile intent toward the DPRK," the US envoy said. DPRK stands for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim also restated Washington's readiness to cooperate with the North on the humanitarian front.

"We are also prepared to work cooperatively with the DPRK to address areas of shared humanitarian concern," he said. "To this end, the US supports the provision of humanitarian assistance, consistent with international standards for access and monitoring, to the most vulnerable North Koreans."

Touching on the recent spate of the North's missile launches, Kim criticised them for violating multiple UN



Security Council resolutions and posing a threat to the North's neighbours and the international community. "I reiterated that the US' commitment to our allies is stronger than ever as we work closely with the Republic of Korea to chart a path forward towards complete denuclearisation and a lasting peace regime on the Korean Peninsula," he said.

Before the talks, Noh and Kim held trilateral online talks with their Japanese counterpart, Takehiro Funakoshi, to discuss cooperation in efforts to reengage with the North.

Thursday's talks came amid growing concerns over the North's recent saber-rattling, including Tuesday's test-firing of a newly developed hypersonic missile.

Striking a conciliatory note, the North Korean leader told Wednesday's parliamentary session that he is willing to reactivate the cross-border communication lines in early October.

During their talks, Noh and Kim also discussed President Moon Jae-in's recent proposal for the declaration of a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which Noh has said was the "most effective" among confidence-building measures with the North.

"Ambassador Noh briefed me in detail on the ROK government's initiative to declare an end to the Korean War, and we agreed to continue our close communication on the initiative," Kim said. ROK stands for the Republic of Korea, South Korea's official name.

This week's talks followed their last in-person talks in Tokyo a little over a fortnight ago. Noh and Kim also met in Seoul and Washington last month in an indication of stepped-up diplomacy to re-engage with the North.

2 Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in West Bank

Ramallah | Agencies

Two Palestinians, including a woman from the West Bank, were killed on Thursday by Israeli soldiers in two separate conflicts, Palestinian sources said.

Alaa Zayoud, 22, was killed by Israeli soldiers during clashes in the village of Burqin near the city of Jenin in northern West Bank, according to Palestinian medics and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Xinhua news agency reported.

Clashes broke out in the village between Palestinian young men and Israeli soldiers after an Israeli army force stormed into the village on Thursday morning to arrest two Palestinians for carrying out attacks against Israel.

The raid was part of Israel's plans to dismantle a military network that belongs to the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement



(Hamas).

alestinian medical sources also said a 30-year-old Palestinian woman from Qabaty village west of Jenin was killed by Israeli soldiers in the old city in East Jerusalem.

In a press statement, the Israeli police said that the woman was shot dead when she tried to stab an Israeli police officer in the old city.

Tension in the West Bank has been mounting after five Palestinian militants were killed last week in crossfires with Israeli soldiers.



PARAM BIR SINGH MAY HAVE FLED INDIA, SUSPECTS HM PATIL; 'IN TOUCH WITH CENTRE'

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil has said that Param Bir Singh has fled abroad and the officials are in touch with the Central Govt to track him down

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Mumbai Commissioner of Police Param Bir Singh, who faces charges in various corruption cases besides multiple FIRs and summons issued by the Chandival commission may have fled the country.



Home Minister said action will be taken against the former Mumbai top cop for absconding from duty amid judicial proceedings.

Param Bir Singh and former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh have witnessed an extraordinary falling out since the arrest of sacked Mumbai police API Sachin Vaze in the Antilia bomb scare and Mansukh Hirens death cases.

"I have heard that Parambir has fled the country. The permission of the Chief Minister of the state is necessary for any government official of the state to go abroad.

The Maharashtra Police has launched a manhunt for Param Bir, who now holds the position of Director General of Maharashtra Home Guard, said Patil.

Param Bir Singh has been evading the summons issued by the Chandival inquiry commission in the extortion case that involved former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

being transferred for serious lapses in the Antilia bomb scare case. In response, the alleged that ex-Home Minister had asked Sachin Vaze, then-Assistant Police Inspector, to extort Rs 100 crores from bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

On March 30, a one-man high-level inquiry was constituted by the Maharashtra government to investigate 'extortion' charges leveled against Deshmukh.

Terror module case: Maharashtra ATS arrests one more suspect, recovers incriminating documents

This is third arrest by the Maha ATS in the case registered by it earlier this month under Section 18 (criminal conspiracy to commit a terror act) of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested one more suspect in a case of criminal conspiracy to commit a terror act registered by it, after the Delhi Police recently busted a Pakistan-supported terror module by nabbing six people, a police official said on Thursday.

This is third arrest by the state ATS in the case registered by it earlier this month under Section 18 (criminal conspiracy to commit a terror act) of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he said.

The suspect, identified as Irfan Rahmat Ali Shaikh, a resident of Kherwadi in Mumbai's Bandra area who worked as a tailor, was placed under arrest on Wednesday night, the official said.

Some incriminating documents were also recovered from him, he said.

His name had cropped up during the interrogation of Zakir Hussain Shaikh and Rizwan Momin, who were taken into custody by the state ATS earlier this month.

A case was registered against them by the Maharashtra ATS under the UAPA after the Delhi Police's special cell busted a terror module with the arrest six suspects, who were planning to carry out attacks in various parts of the country.

One of the six arrested suspects, Jan Mohammed Shaikh, was a resident of Dharavi in Mumbai. During the investigation, the ATS had registered a separate FIR against one Anthony alias Anwar alias Anas, who is based outside India, and Zakir Hussain Shaikh, a resident of Jogeshwari area in Mumbai, he said.

A lookout notice was issued against Shaikh and he was arrested earlier this month, the official said.

During his interrogation, the name of Rizwan Momin had surfaced and the latter was subsequently arrested by the ATS from Mumbra town in neighbouring Thane district.

SC reserves verdict on appeals against Bombay HC's skin-to-skin contact ruling

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved judgment on appeals challenging the Bombay High Court judgment, acquitting a person under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, after he pressed a girl's breast over her dress, on the grounds that there was no skin-to-skin contact.



after Attorney General K.K. Venugopal and the National Commission for Women (NCW) filed appeals against it. Maharashtra government adopted the arguments of the Attorney General, who termed the judgment as outrageous and urged the top court to set it aside.

The bench, also comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Bela M. Trivedi said: "Parties at liberty to file their written submissions within three days. Order reserved".

Slamming this judgment, he had argued that a person wearing surgical gloves can feel the entire body of a woman and then he can get away without punishment.

involved, he, describing the incident, said the man touched her breast and pulled her salwar down. The daughter yelled and the mother rushed to her rescue and then filed a complaint.

Criticising the high court order, the AG stressed it will become a precedent binding on magistrates in Maharashtra and added that there were 43,000 POCSO offences in last one year.

The high court said since the man groped the child without removing her clothes, the offence cannot be termed as sexual assault, and rather constitutes the offence of outraging a woman's modesty. It modified the order of a sessions court, which had sentenced the 39-year-old man to three years of imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl.

MAHARASHTRA RAJ BHAVAN, A 'VENUE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES,' NCP

Mumbai: There is nothing new in the BJP leaders and workers going to the Raj Bhavan to meet him, NCP leader Nawab Malik said Amid the ongoing tussle between Maharashtra Governor B. S. Koshiyari and the Uddhav Thackeray-led State government over various issues, State Minister and NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik on Thursday claimed that the governor's official residence Raj Bhavan has become a "venue for political activities."

Maha sees 436 people killed this monsoon, 15 in past 72 hrs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

At least 436 people were killed in various rain-related incidents in the state in the monsoon season since June 1, Maharashtra Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadettiwar said on Wednesday.

This includes at least 15 deaths in the past 3 days alone, owing to heavy downpour and massive floods in large parts of the state triggered by the after-effects of Cyclone Gulab. Of the 436, the bodies of at least six have yet to be recovered, the minister said, after a flood review meeting convened by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.



while the largest single tragic incident of the season was on July 23, where more than 60 people were buried alive. The monsoon downpour was compounded by events like the mega-floods in July, heavy rainfall at various times in the coastal Konkan, Marathwada, Vidarbha, and currently the fresh spell precipitated by Cyclone Gulab.

Prior to the monsoon, in mid-May, the state was battered by Cyclone Tauktae, which killed at least 86 people, mostly in the Arabian Sea inci-

dents around the Mumbai High Fields.

The IMD has forecast rainy weather in Marathwada and central Maharashtra, though the rains may subside in the Konkan and other parts of the state for the next few days till October 4. With heavy wind-speeds of between 60 kmph-100 kmph in the Arabian Sea around 75 kms from the Maharashtra and Gujarat coasts, fisherfolk have been advised against venturing out into the sea till Sunday.

Mumbai woman escapes mauling, scares off leopard with her walking stick!

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A senior citizen who was pounded upon by a leopard outside her home, managed to ward off the big cat with her walking stick, officials said here on Thursday.

The 65-year-old woman, identified as Nirmala R. Singh, supported by her walking stick, stepped out of her home in Aarey Colony, around 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday, and sat on the porch of her open verandah, at Visava settlement.

Barely had she settled and caught her breath, the leopard - crouching a couple of metres behind her - lunged at her with full force, and as she tried to stand up, he knocked her down.

the floor, the leopard continued to claw at her and attempted another attack, but luckily Singh managed to grab her walking stick, waved, jabbed and swiped it at the hungry and angry cat.

Hearing her screams for help and seeing her relatives running out, the confused leopard turned and beat a hasty retreat into the Aarey forests, and Singh was safe.

Though the encounter was over in barely a few seconds, Singh suffered a few claw injuries on her face, shoulder, back, neck, elbow and legs and was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The CCTV footage showed that the leopard had arrived a few minutes earlier, apparently hunting for food and then stealthily lay in wait for

a potential prey, its glowing pair of eyes captured in the camera. This is the fifth such incident in the past few weeks reported from the Visava vicinity and on Tuesday, a leopard cub was rescued from a spot near the Mumbai Metro - 3 carshed, but its mother is still elusive.

Police and forest department officials are concerned over the abrupt spurt in the leopard-man conflicts in Aarey Colony and are taking measures to ensure the big cats - estimated to be around five dozen - remain within the forest areas.

The video went viral on social media, the plucky lady was lauded for her quick thinking and hitting back at the spotted cat with her saviour walking stick.

MAHARASHTRA HOME DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY SECRETARY APPEARS BEFORE ED

Mumbai: A Deputy Secretary of the Maharashtra Home Department appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai on Thursday in connection with a money-laundering case registered against former State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and others, sources said.

The ED had earlier summoned Kailash Gaikwad, the Home Department's Deputy Secretary, in connection with the case, they said.

Gaikwad reached the ED's office in south Mumbai around 11 a.m., the sources said, adding that his statement was being recorded by officials of the probe agency.

Dadasaheb Phalke statue coming up in Mumbai, township in Raigad

A grand statue honouring Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, famous as Dadasaheb Phalke, the revered father of Indian film industry, will come up in Bandra West by the year-end, said a top film organisation head.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Simultaneously, a swank new township of over 10,000 homes -- being built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) -- is also taking shape near Shelu, Raigad, as the 'Dadasaheb Phalke Housing Complex'.

"We are all here because of the flame lit by Dadasaheb Phalke. We feel it's our duty to do something, especially since the younger generations know little about his massive contribution to Indian cinema," BN Tiwari, President, Federation of Western Indian Cine Employees, told IANS. The proposed statue is likely to be inaugurated on February 16 to coincide with the 78th death anniversary of Dadasaheb Phalke, or April 30 marking his 152nd birth anniversary, said Tiwari.

personalities, including actors, producers, directors and others, living there since over a century," Tiwari said. Incidentally, Mehboob Studios was founded in 1954 by the acclaimed filmmaker Mehboob R. Khan, who wrote, produced and directed the cult movie 'Mother India' (1957), which became the first Indian film to be nominated for an Oscar in the Best International Feature Film category.

Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (Procurement Cell) Tel No. 022-24100478 E-mail- procurementcell@vaccinehaffkine.com

TENDER NOTICE Date: 27/09/2021. Managing Director, (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Tender No., Name of Description, Date of Pre Bid Meeting, Period of Sale and Preparation of bid & bid submission, Bid Opening. Contains 4 tender items.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website https://mahatenders.gov.in For e-tendering help/ information, please contact. Website: - https://mahatenders.gov.in

(Dr. Sunil Pundge) Manager Equipment, Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation (Procurement Cell), Mumbai Ltd.,



Motherhood was my first experience of 'unconditional love': Katy Perry

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Katy Perry, who welcomed her daughter Daisy with fiancée Orlando Bloom last year, says parenthood has given her a new perspective on life.

Perry told Variety: "I never really truly knew about unconditional love. Obviously my mother has that for me, but I didn't really experience it in the first-person until I had my child. And that was just a whole 'nother level. I think I see through the eyes of a child - like my life and my art always feels playful - so it's amazing to be able to relate to kids even in your deep 30s."

She added: "And they still want to hang and find you the most fun adult in the room. That is just the biggest gift in the world."

The 'Roar' hitmaker also said that she has been playing lots of classic tunes to her daughter, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Asked if Daisy liked music, Perry said: "Yeah, she loves music, but I'm pretty specific with it. We are on a Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers kick right now. I play lots of old soul, lots of Supremes, lots of 'shake shake shake Senora.' We go into different moods." She continued: "We went to my gym the other day, and they were playing current pop music, and I was like, 'Oh my God, this is the first time you've heard current music!'"



BRITT EKLAND DISMISSES 'FEMALE BOND' SUGGESTIONS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Britt Ekland, who played Bond girl Mary Goodnight in the 1974 film "The Man with the Golden Gun" starring late Sir Roger Moore as 007, hinted that the legendary suave spy could "absolutely not" be a woman "because he is single".

In an interview on 'Loose Women',

Ekland said: "Bond is a bachelor and will always be a bachelor. Do you know what the female word for bachelor is? Old maid."

However, the Swedish actress, who attended the world premiere of Daniel Craig's final outing as 007, "No Time To Die", in London, said she has now ditched the term Bond girls and uses Bond women to refer to the female characters in the long-running film

series, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The star did maintain that the legendary spy has to be played by a man as it wouldn't be true to Sir Ian Fleming's creation otherwise.

Ekland said: "It's written as a man. It's a British male institution. We can't change that."

"We don't need to change that. There are plenty of roles for women have to be physical but Bond has to be Bond."



Enrique reclaims record for most Latin Airplay number ones with 'Me Pase'

New York | Agencies

Enrique Iglesias recaptured his record for the most number ones on Billboard's Latin Airplay chart as 'Me Pase', featuring him and Farruko scores his

highest debut on

Latin Pop Albums since 2014. With 32 No. 1s on the almost 27-year list, Iglesias pushes ahead of J Balvin for the most leaders. The latter notched his 31st leader as he locked up the No. 1 spot with 'In Da Getto', with Skrillex, on the September 11 dated tally.

'Me Pase' takes over atop Latin Airplay thanks to a 26 per cent boost in audience impressions, to 11.3 million, in the U.S. in the week ending September 26, according to MRC Data.

With 'Me Pase' at the summit, Farruko reaches his highest Latin Airplay ranking in 2021 as he's scored two No. 3 high tracks 'Perfecta', with Luis Fonsi and Pepas.

'No Time To Die': Visually brilliant but convoluted narrative

FILM REVIEW
TROY RIBEIRO
(Running in Theatres)
Direction: Cary Joji Fukunaga
Cast: Daniel Craig, Lea Seydoux, Rami Malek, Lashana Lynch, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Winshaw, Jeffery Wright, Ana de Armas, Billy Magnussen, Christoph Waltz, Naomie Harris and Rory Kinnear.
Duration: 163 minutes
Ratings: *** (three stars)

When he tracks down Madeleine, he realises that she is being hounded by Lyutsifer Safin (Rami Malek), an adversary of Bond and Madeleine, and a terrorist leader on a revenge mission. How he lands up in Lyutsifer's remote island to battle him and devolves into a sideshow of resigned fate, forms the crux of the narrative.

Daniel Craig as James Bond is suave, stylised and brilliant in a way that outshines everything else around him. Unlike his previous avatar of a flippant killing machine and womaniser, here he displays an ocean of battered emotions trying to reach the surface. And your heart reaches out to him when he sees Mathilde and comments that her eyes are like his.

Lea Seydoux as James Bond's love interest, Madeleine Swan, has more to offer than many leading ladies in the franchise have ever been able to.

Safin with his facial disfigurement is played to the brutal hilt by Rami Malek. He makes his creepy presence felt in the drama with his mottled skin and the caressing voice of a depraved monk.

There are many returning characters in this edition too, but Ben Whishaw as the gadget guy 'Q', with his hairless cat on his home turf, is prominent and noticeable.

The new cast members include Dali Benssalah, playing Safin's henchman; Ana De Armas as Paloma, a feisty CIA agent in Cuba; David Dencik as the Russian scientist Valdo Obruchev; and Lashana Lynch as Nomi, the secret agent who has taken on the 007 moniker, ever since Bond retired. They all have their moments of on-screen glory.

The film boasts of some fine chases, explosions, stunts, and a big, hour-long finale on Safin's fortress, but there is as much emphasis on relationships here, their conflicts, complications and complexities, as there is on the fast-moving thrills. The film also shares themes like trust, betrayal, secrets, lies, and a distinct connection or through-line of all the past Bond films. And, most of all, the stars of any Bond film are the exquisite locations. This time they stretch from Jamaica to Norway, Italy and London.

With a run time of two hours and 43 minutes, it is the longest Bond film.



Ben Whishaw wants to watch a gay Bond



London | Agencies

Actor Ben Whishaw, who reprises his role as Q in the latest 007 blockbuster 'No Time To Die', has weighed in on the future of the fictional British spy on the big screen. He said he would like to see "real progress" when it comes to Hollywood star Daniel Craig's successor, with either Jonathan Bailey or Luke Evans playing a gay Bond.

Speaking to Attitude magazine, he said: "God, can you imagine? I mean, it would be quite an extraordinary thing. Of course I would like to see that."

"I really believe that we should be working towards a world where anyone can play anything and it would be really thrilling if it didn't matter about someone's sexuality to take on a role like this. I think that would be real progress. But we'll see, we'll see where we're at. I'm amazed by how much has changed just in the last five or six years, so we'll see."

Whishaw said there "aren't many out gay British actors", he did suggest either Jonathan Bailey or Luke Evans would be "ideal casting", reports femalefirst.co.uk.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Ciara



IPL 2021

CHENNAI QUALIFY FOR PLAYOFFS WITH SIX-WICKET WIN OVER HYDERABAD

Sharjah | Agencies

Three-time champions Chennai Super Kings became the first team to qualify for the playoffs of the IPL 2021 with a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in Match 44 of the tournament at Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Thursday. Chasing 135, Chennai reached the target with two balls to spare. With 18 points from eleven matches, Chennai retained their top position in points table while Hyderabad are now eliminated from the tournament.

Openers Ruturaj Gaikwad and Faf du Plessis got Chennai off to a flying start, adding 75 runs in the first ten overs. Hyderabad broke the partnership with Gaikwad lofting to mid-off off Jason Holder, falling five runs short of his half-century. Moeen Ali continued the flow of runs with boundary through pulls off Holder and Khan. In a bid to go big, Ali tried to heave through the leg-side off Khan in the 15th over. But Ali inner-edged to the pads and ball rolled to the stumps.

Holder stalled Chennai's chase with two wickets in the next over. He first trapped Suresh Raina lbw followed by du Plessis top-edging a pull to short mid-wicket. A tight four-run over from Kumar made things little tricky for Chennai. With 22 runs needed off 18 balls, Rayudu lofted Kaul over extra cover. In the next over, Rayudu launched Kumar for a six over long-on. It was followed by Dhoni crunching a four through cow corner to calm the nerves in the Chennai camp. Dhoni finished off the chase with a huge six over deep mid-wicket off Kaul in the final over to seal a playoff spot for his team. Earlier, inserted into batting first, Hyderabad lost their first wicket as Jason Roy bottom edged a cross-seamer from Josh Hazlewood to Dhoni in the fourth over. After finishing power-play stage at 41/1 in six overs, Dwayne Bravo's full ball went past Kane Williamson's flick and trapped him lbw. Saha had luck on his side when he cut straight to backward point off Shardul Thakur in the ninth over, but replays showed the bowler had overstepped. Bravo came back in the eleventh over to



take his second wicket of the match as Priyank Garg top-edged a short ball to Dhoni moving to his left. In the next over, Saha decided to break the shackles with a pull, which he top-edged to Dhoni off Ravindra Jadeja. Abdul Samad and Abhishek Sharma took 21 runs from 14th and 15th overs to infuse life into Hyderabad's innings. While Sharma hit Thakur for a brace of boundaries, Samad hit Hazlewood for a down the ground six. Sharma lofted Hazlewood over extra cover in the 17th over. On the next ball, Hazlewood had his man as Sharma mistimed the loft to long-on. Hazlewood had his second wicket in three balls as Samad slashed to point.

Jason Holder tried to go big but holed out to deep extra cover off Thakur. A few lusty blows from Rashid Khan ensured that Hyderabad crossed the 130-mark which was insufficient to prevent a loss.

Brief scores :

Sunrisers Hyderabad 134/7 in 20 overs (Wriddhiman Saha 44, Abhishek Sharma 18, Josh Hazlewood 3/24, Dwayne Bravo 2/17) lost to Chennai Super Kings 139/4 in 19.4 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 45, Faf du Plessis 41, Jason Holder 3/27, Rashid Khan 1/27).

Champions League

Ronaldo strikes late to win it for Man United

Manchester | Agencies

Cristiano Ronaldo came to Manchester United's rescue by scoring a dramatic late winner in their Champions League group stage match against Spanish club Villarreal at the Old Trafford.

On a day he celebrated a Champions League appearance record, Ronaldo sensationally won Manchester United's first points in Group F in the dying seconds to beat the Spaniards 2-1 in a thrilling finale on



Wednesday, Villarreal had rocked United when they took the lead with an opportunistic strike by Paco Alcacer after 53 minutes. Alex Telles, with a brilliant hit, scored the first goal of his

United career to equalise after 60 minutes. But just when it was looking that United will have to be satisfied with one point, Ronaldo struck the winner and the Old Trafford erupted in joy as United exacted revenge for their Europa League defeat against the Spaniards in May 2021.

It was goalkeeper David De Gea who saved United the blushes in the first half as they came under pressure from a visiting side more famed for its stubborn defensive resilience.

Bayern crush Dynamo Kyiv; Sevilla hold Wolfsburg 1-1

Munich: Bayern Munich eased past Dynamo Kyiv 5-0 after Robert Lewandowski's first-half brace paved the way for their second straight win, while Sevilla clinched a late draw at Wolfsburg in the Champions League's group stage on Wednesday. The Bavarians started well and needed only 10 minutes to create the first clear-cut opportunity, as Kyiv goalkeeper Heorhiy Bushchan had to tip Lewandowski's header over the bar. Bushchan was helpless moments later though, as Lewandowski scored the opener after converting a penalty into the bottom corner. Relentless Bayern eventually made it 3-0 as Niklas Sule cleared a ball from the host's penalty area before Sane picked it up and fed Serge Gnabry, who raced down on the inside right and drilled the ball into the roof of the net in the 68th minute. To make things worse for Kyiv, Sane's misplaced cross into the box caught Bushchan flat-footed and extended Bayern's lead to 4-0 on 74 minutes. Dynamo weren't able to put up any resistance and the German record champions still weren't done with the scoring, as substitute Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting headed home Benjamin Pavard's cross to get his name on the scoreboard in the closing stages. Elsewhere, Wolfsburg had to swallow a last-gasp equaliser as Sevilla's Ivan Rakitic converted a controversial penalty in the closing stages to cancel out Renato Steffen's opener. In other matches on Wednesday night, Zenit St Petersburg defeated Malmö FF 4-0; FC Salzburg overcame Lille 2-1; Manchester United prevailed over Villarreal 2-1; Benfica thrashed Barcelona 3-0 and Juventus handed defending champions Chelsea a 1-0 defeat.



India vs Australia Pink-ball Test

Smriti Mandhana shines on rain-affected first day

Gold Coast | Agencies

Indian opener Smriti Mandhana shined bright with her highest score in Test cricket before rain forced the closure of first day of the one-off pink-ball Test against Australia at Metricon Stadium here on Thursday.

At stumps on day one, India finished with 132/1 in 44.1 overs, with Smriti remaining unbeaten on 80. Punam Raut was the other unbeaten batter for India on 16, with the partnership for second wicket at 39.

Smriti went past her previous-best score in Tests, 78 against England in Bristol in June this year. She was fluent through off-side while hitting 15 boundaries and one six in her unconquered 144-ball knock to put India in a position of ascendancy in their first-ever pink-ball Test. She also put an opening stand of 94 runs with Shafali Verma, who was the only wicket to fall in the day to left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux. Almost two hours were lost of the second session before play began. After 28 balls, rain made a comeback to ensure only 44.1 overs were possible on the first day. Put in to bat after Australia captain



Meg Lanning won the toss, Smriti raced to her half-century off 51 deliveries with a cover drive off Tahlia McGrath in the opening hour and despite slowing down, remained rock solid for India. Australia are currently leading the multi-format series 4-2 heading into the only Test, which carries four points for a

win and two points in case of draw.

Brief scores

India 132/1 in 44.1 overs (Smriti Mandhana 80 not out, Shafali Verma 31, Sophie Molineux 1/18) against Australia

SA captain Dane van Niekerk joins Adelaide Strikers for WBBL

Adelaide | Agencies

South African captain Dane van Niekerk has joined Adelaide Strikers for the upcoming seventh season of the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL). She will join her countrymate Laura Wolvaardt as the second overseas signing of the team.

"I'm so excited to be joining the Strikers this year and very excited to join the team. I hope to make the fans proud!" said the 28-year-old Dane in a release by the club on Thursday.

Dane had recently won the Player of the Tournament award after her team Oval Invincibles won the inaugural edition of The Hundred in England. Her association with Adelaide will be her third outing in the WBBL after representing Melbourne Renegades (2015-16) and Sydney Sixers (2016-20).

Dane was a part of the Sixers team winning back-to-back WBBL titles in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Luke Williams, the head coach of Adelaide Strikers, is



upbeat about Dane's inclusion into the team. "We are excited to welcome Dane into the group, she is someone that brings a huge amount of experience and talent that will be a massive benefit to our WBBL/07 campaign. It is no coincidence that Dane has played in and captained winning teams, she leads by example and always performs on the biggest stages. Dané comes to Australia in incredible

form off the back of The Hundred and South Africa's tour of the West Indies and we can't wait to see her take the field as a Striker."

Dane's entry into the Strikers happens after New Zealand opener Suzie Bates said that she will not be a part of the tournament due to border restrictions. Suzie is currently in hotel quarantine in New Zealand after returning from the white-ball tour of England.

OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLISTS RUPINDER, BIRENDRA LAKRA RETIRE FROM HOCKEY



Mumbai: Rupinderpal Singh and Birendra Lakra, two members of the Indian mens hockey team that won a bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics, have decided to hang up their sticks, calling time on an illustrious career as the Indian team remains on a break after the Olympics due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Drag flicker and defender Rupinderpal made the announcement first and Lakra followed suit. Both Rupinder and Birendra were brought back into the team in the last two years after a couple of years' gap. They played a stellar role in Tokyo, helping the team win an Olympic medal in hockey after a gap of four decades.

Rupinder, who made his international debut in 2010, scored four goals in the Olympics and was the second-highest goal-scorer in the team.

Rahul as a coach, MS as mentor is going to be a boon for Indian cricket: MSK Prasad



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former BCCI chief selector MSK Prasad has suggested that ex-Team India captain Rahul Dravid is an ideal candidate to take over as coach of the national side after the conclusion of Ravi Shastri's tenure.

Shastri, who has been serving as coach of the team since 2017, will most likely pave the way for the next coach after the ICC T20 World Cup next month because his contract will get over.

"In my heart, I had this feeling. I was challenged recently by my colleagues that definitely post Ravi bhai's era, MS has to come into the role of a mentor and Rahul Dravid as a coach.

"These were the discussions I had with my fellow commentators while I was doing commentary during the IPL. I had a feeling that Rahul, being the studious person that he is, will add value to Team India post-Ravi bhai's era," Prasad told Sports Tak.

Winter Olympics will be held in closed-loop system; domestic spectators will be allowed

Mumbai | Agencies

All athletes and Games participants at next years Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing will not have to undergo mandatory quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and instead will enter the 'closed-loop management system upon arrival and will be able to travel and train at the venues, according to the Covid-19 related Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) prepared by the organising committee for the Games.

Participants who are not fully vaccinated will have to undergo a 21-day quarantine upon arrival in Beijing for the Games that will be held from February 4-20, 2022. The Winter Paralympic Games will be held from March 4-13, 2022.

As of now, the Organising Committee has decided to only allow domestic spectators, and tickets will be sold only to those from mainland China that are fully vaccinated.

The participants, despite being fully vaccinated will also have to adhere to Covid-10 protocols like wearing a

mark, sanitization, and social distancing. They will also be tested for Covid-19 daily. The principles were presented by the Organising Committee for the 2022 Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympic Games (Beijing 2022) to the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in the presence of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), on Wednesday. Both the IOC and IPC have accepted these recommendations and they will be included in the playbooks that IOC will soon release. These principles are based on wide-



ranging consultations with international experts and the Chinese authorities, as well as the experience of Olympic and Paralympic stakeholders, the IOC said in a release. On Wednesday, the Beijing 2022 organising committee informed the IOC Executive Board (EB) of the principles that will help deliver safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games as scheduled. According to the proposal, all vaccines recognised by WHO or related international organisations, or approved officially by the countries or regions concerned, will be accepted.

NEESHAM TAKES MORGAN'S SIDE IN OVERTHROW ALTERCATION WITH ASHWIN

Abu Dhabi: Mumbai Indians all-rounder James Neesham has taken Kolkata Knight Riders captain Eoin Morgan's side in the overthrow altercation with Delhi Capitals off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. He also had his say on runs coming off deflection.

The incident happened after Ashwin was dismissed by Kolkata pacer Tim Southee in the final over of Delhi's innings. Morgan had said something to Ashwin, who responded quickly. It took keeper Dinesh Karthik and other players to step in and separate the duo.

The root cause of the verbal volley has been Ashwin grabbing an extra run following a throw that ricocheted off his partner and Delhi captain Rishabh Pant's arm on the final ball of 19th over in Delhi's innings at Sharjah on Tuesday. Quoting a tweet of Ashwin's thread of his side of story, Neesham earlier wrote, "Getting a bit boring now."

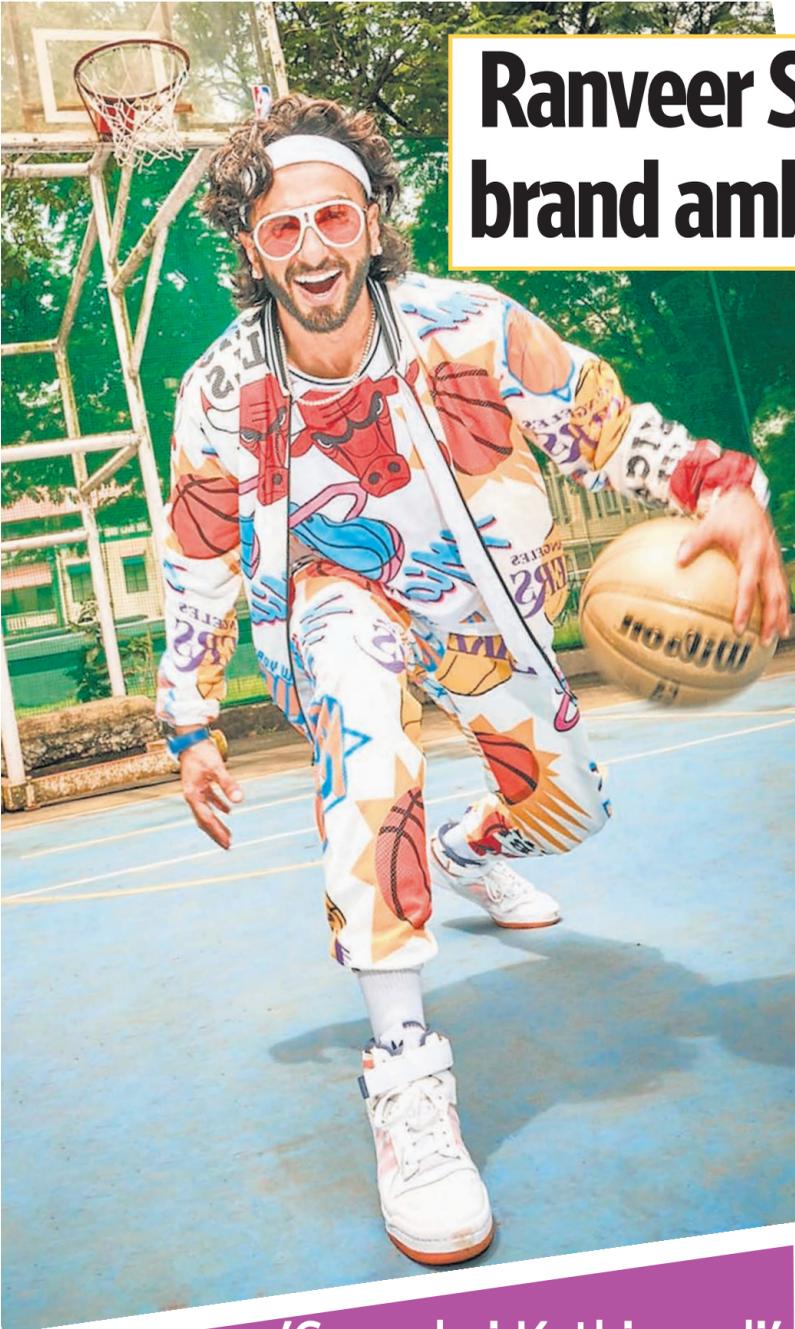
Responding to whose side he took, Ashwin's or Morgan's, Neesham wrote, "Morgan obviously."

Asked about why no one from New Zealand expressed outrage at ball deflecting from Ben Stokes bat in the 2019 Cricket World Cup final, Neesham commented, "Because they're runs if the ball crosses the boundary. But the etiquette of the game is that you don't run if you've caused the deflection. It's just one of that unspoken spirit of the game things."





Ranveer Singh named NBA brand ambassador for India



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranveer Singh on Thursday was named as the National Basketball Association (NBA) brand ambassador for India. The Bollywood star says he has loved basketball and the NBA since childhood.

"I have loved basketball and the NBA since my childhood and have always been fascinated with its influence on popular culture including music, fashion and entertainment," said Ranveer.

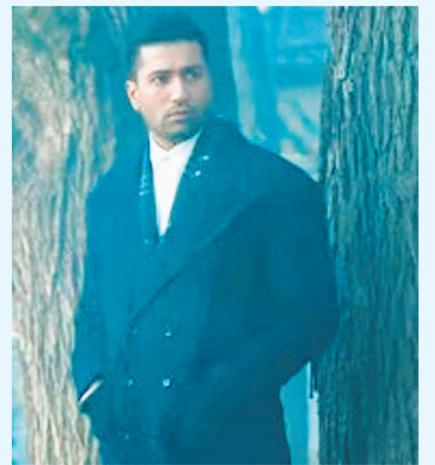
In this capacity, Ranveer will work with the NBA to help grow the league's profile in India throughout its landmark 75th Anniversary Season in 2021-22.

"With the NBA tipping off its 75th season celebrations, there couldn't have been a better time to join forces with the league and support their efforts to grow basketball in the country."

The 'Gully Boy' star will attend NBA All-Star 2022 in Cleveland, where he will post behind-the-scenes social media content and meet NBA players and legends. Ranveer previously attended NBA All-Star 2016 in Toronto, where he sat courtside at the NBA All-Star Game.

NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer Mark Tatum said: "A Bollywood icon and one of the most celebrated actors of his generation, Ranveer is also a dedicated NBA fan who is passionate about the league and its players. We're excited to work with Ranveer to engage with fans in India and around the world on a variety of platforms."

"Ranveer is an ideal ambassador to headline the launch of NBA Style, our new Instagram handle that explores the intersection of basketball and culture," said NBA Asia Executive Vice President and Managing Director Scott Levy.

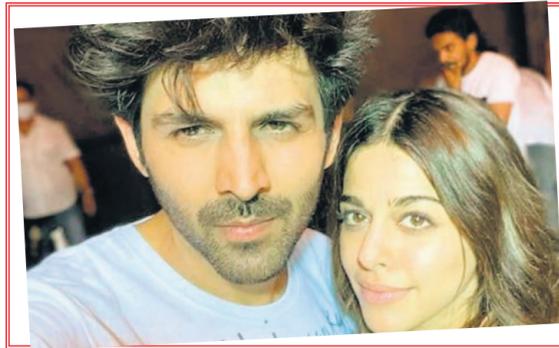


Vicky Kaushal brings alive story of 'Sardar Udham' in trailer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The makers of the upcoming movie 'Sardar Udham' unveiled the trailer of the film on Friday. Bollywood heartthrob Vicky Kaushal looked every inch convincing as he plays the title role in the film.

"The story of Sardar Udham Singh is one that enthralled and inspired me. It represents strength, pain, passion, extraordinary courage and sacrifice, and many such values that I have tried to do justice through my character in the film," Vicky said. The actor said that the role called for a lot of physical, and even more mental preparation to get into Udham Singh's shoes and "bring to life the story of a man whose heroism and grit stand unmatched." He added: "I look forward to sharing an intriguing page from the history of India's freedom struggle through this film." Produced by Ronnie Lahiri and Sheel Kumar, and directed by Shoojit Sircar, the movie also stars Shaun Scott, Stephen Hogan, Banita Sandhu and Kirsty Averton in pivotal roles and Amol Parashar in a special appearance. The two-minute thirty second long trailer, gives a glimpse into the life of Sardar Udham Singh. This story showcases bravery, fortitude and fearlessness of an unsung hero, from the deeply buried annals of our history. Vicky also shared the trailer on Instagram and wrote: "The story of a man unforgotten. The story of a journey unmatched. This is the story of a revolutionary." The film focuses on the undeterred mission of Sardar Udham Singh to avenge the lives of his beloved brethren, who were ruthlessly murdered in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. Director Shoojit Sircar said that 'Sardar Udham' to him is not just a film, it is a dream come true. "It took years of in-depth research to unearth and share with the world the valiant story of a martyr who sacrificed his life to avenge India's most dreadful tragedy. The true essence of Udham Singh's patriotism and bravery lives in the hearts of each and every person in Punjab even today," he said. Sircar's aim was to make a film that familiarises the viewers with Udham Singh's valour and inspires them.



KARTIK AARYAN WRAPS UP SHOOTING OF 'FREDDY'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Kartik Aaryan gave an update to his followers through social media about his upcoming film 'Freddy'. The actor wrapped up the shoot of the film on Thursday. The movie will also have actress Alaya F in an interesting character. Taking to his social media, Kartik wrote: "Its a Wrap! A character that will always stay like a shadow with me #Freddy will see you at the theatres".

The shoot for 'Freddy' started in the early days of August. Kartik shot for the first schedule in Mahabaleshwar and continued for the second schedule soon after they returned to Mumbai. The romantic thriller is directed by Shashanka Ghosh.

'Gangubai Kathiawadi' to release on January

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alia Bhatt's much-awaited film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' is all set to release on the big screen on January 6 next year. Alia took to Instagram, where she shared the poster of the film, which is directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film also stars Ajay Devgn. "Bringing to you a part of my heart & soul, #GangubaiKathiawadi releasing in cinemas near you on 6th January, 2022," she wrote as the caption. 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' is inspired by the life of Gangubai Kothewali, 'madam' of a brothel in Mumbai's Kamathipura, and is based on a chapter of Hussain Zaidi's book 'Mafia Queens Of Mumbai'.



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Popular television actress Kajal Pisal, who battled Covid-19 in April this year, says she almost saw her death during her ailment and calls it her rebirth.

Talking about the same, Kajal said: "I was almost on my death bed during my battle with Covid-19. My recovery was just some unbelievable miracle that happened because of the prayers my family and well-wishers did for me."

Post her recovery, Kajal decided to give herself a makeover. The actress plans to resume work very soon.

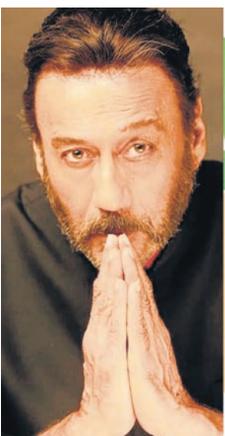
"I'm healthy now and see it as a rebirth. I have given myself a new glam look. I hope to return back to screen very soon," she said.

On the work front, Kajal has featured in TV shows like 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain', 'Saath Nibhaana Saathiya' and 'Naagin 5', among others.

She was last seen in the television show 'Durga - Mata Ki Chhaya'.

Kajal Pisal: Almost died during battle with Covid-19

JACKIE SHROFF SUPPORTS FILM FEST ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



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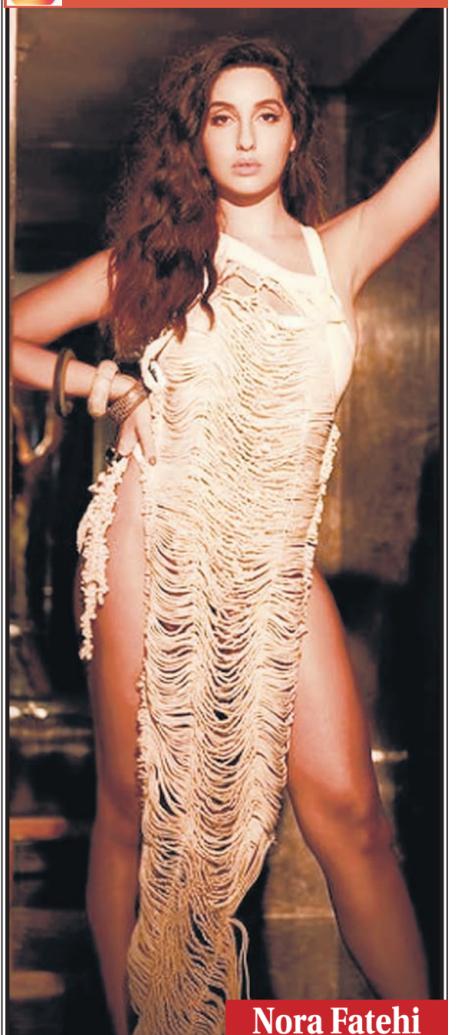
Bollywood veteran Jackie Shroff is all set to lend his support to the upcoming 'The All Living Things Environmental Film Festival' that brings compelling environmental narratives to its audience.

This is the second edition of the festival that is taking place in Panchgani.

Talking about the festival, Jackie said, "Let there be more such films from the whole globe, everyone is concerned about the environment, let us educate through films. And hence it's important to wish luck and congratulate the team of ALT EFF for such a great initiative. It is a great

medium of education of survival and sustainability. Let's educate ourselves and our kids through such fine films at such a festival that talks about the basics of the forest, the water, the air, the food and the soil". Set to take place between October 9 and October 17, ALT EFF is back in 2021 with a compelling and entertaining lineup of environmental films overseen by a distinguished jury and advisory team of the festival. The event holds 44 films, carefully divided into 10 film bundles: Drive-Thru Shorts, Activision, Midnight Tails, What's On Your Plate?, Sapling Stories (Kids Friendly), Flux & Form, A Chasm of Hope, New Voices, Deep Dive Features, and Programmer's Choice - representing a total of 31 countries and showcasing 33 India premieres.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nora Fatehi