

# absolute india

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## Body with severed hand, tied to police barricade found at Singhu border

# BARBARIC AND GRUESOME

Ujwal Jalali | New Delhi

The horrendous killing of a man at the farmers' protest site on the Singhu border has sent chills down the spines of several people with many equating the gruesome incident to a Taliban-style killing.

The incident began in the wee hours of Friday on the Singhu border dividing Haryana and Delhi when Lakhbir Singh (30), a resident of Tarn Taran district in Punjab, was seen carrying the Sarbloh Granth -- a Sikh religious scripture -- by a Nihang Sikh man. As per sources Lakhbir was staying with a group of Nihang Sikhs on the Singhu border for the past 3 to 4 days.

When confronted, Lakhbir was unable to answer a barrage of questions. This led to an argument, drawing the attention of other Nihangs present there. The fracas occurred at around 3 am in the morning. Lakhbir was then accused of desecrating the holy Sarbloh Granth. The arguments soon turned violent and the man's hand was allegedly chopped off amid the chaos. Since then, several grie-



some videos surfaced on social media that depicted the brutal act of the crime. The cops received the first information about the incident at around 5 am, but they refrained from divulging any details about the suspects. The farmers' umbrella body -- Samyukt Kisan Morcha -- said in a statement that a Nihang

group at the scene has claimed responsibility for the act, and the SKM has disassociated themselves from the group. The body was found at the same place where the farmers have been protesting against the three contentious farm laws for the past one year. The atmosphere on the Singhu border, which has

**Nihangs told it is a farmers' protest, not religious movement: Yogendra Yadav**

Swaraj India Convener Yogendra Yadav on Friday said the Nihang group, accused of mercilessly killing a man at the Singhu border, was several times told by farmers' leaders that this is not a religious movement but a site for farmers' agitation. "Our several leaders have time and again told them (Nihang group) in the past one-and-a-half month that this is a farmers' protest and not a religious movement. But even then they remained there," he said in a video message.

Condemning the murder and demanding strict punishment for the perpetrators of the barbaric act, he said that the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), will fully cooperate and support a legal investigation into the matter.

remained an active podium for the farmers to register their protest against the three farm laws, was tense on Friday.

## More than 30 dead in Kandahar mosque blast



Team Absolute | New Delhi

More than 30 people have died while 90 others have been injured after an explosion tore through a Shia mosque during Friday prayers in the Afghan city of Kandahar, the BBC reported.

Pictures from inside the Bibi Fatima mosque show shattered windows and bodies lying on the ground with some other worshippers trying to help.

The explosion's cause is not yet clear, but it is suspected to be a case of suicide bombing. Witnesses said that there were three blasts in the mosque.

IS-K, a local branch of the Islamic State, is expected to claim responsibility for the attack, the BBC reported.

Kandahar is Afghanistan's second largest city and the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban, so an attack in the city by IS-K, which is extremely hostile towards the Taliban, would be significant.

Last Friday, a suicide attack on another Shia mosque during Friday prayers in the northern city of Kunduz had killed at least 50 people. IS-K had said that it carried out the attack, which was the deadliest since the US forces left Afghanistan at the end of August.

### Nihangs claimed responsibility

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella body of farmer unions that is spearheading the protests at Delhi's borders against three agriculture laws of the Centre, said a group of Nihangs has claimed responsibility for the brutal killing after the deceased allegedly attempted to desecrate the Sarbloh Granth, a holy book of the Sikhs.

### SKM CONDEMNS KILLING, DEMANDS PROBE

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Friday alleged that the deceased before dying, admitted that he was sent by someone and given Rs 30,000, demanding the government to thoroughly investigate the matter. Addressing a press conference at the Singhu border on Friday, SKM senior leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal said, "When we reached the spot some people were saying that the deceased man, before dying, admitted he was sent by someone and given Rs 30,000. I don't have the video proof of it. The government should probe this matter thoroughly." "Termining the incident a 'conspiracy', SKM alleged that an attempt is being made to give communal colour to the Morcha. The umbrella body of farmers' unions further condemned the killing, and stated that they are against 'sacrilege of any religious text and symbol'. He said, "Samyukt Kisan Morcha condemns the gruesome killing of Lakhbir Singh (at Kundli this morning). We want to make it clear that both the parties to this incident -- the Nihang group and the deceased -- have no relation with SKM. The Morcha is against sacrilege of any religious text, symbol."

## One killed as speeding car rams religious procession in Chhattisgarh

JASHPUR (CHHATTISGARH) | Agencies

At least one person was killed and several others seriously injured as a speeding car ploughed into people proceeding to immerse a Durga idol in Palthalgaon area of Chhattisgarh's Jashpur district on Friday, the police said.

While a police officer at the spot said that four people have died and more than 15 are seriously injured, Jashpur's Superintendent of Police Vijay Agarwal confirmed only one death so far and a number of injuries.

Witnesses claimed that the driver deliberately targeted the gathering on Raigarh road, and a viral video of the incident makes for disturbing viewing. The immersion procession had set out from Palthalgaon at around 1.30 p.m. when the maroon-coloured Sumo, being driven at a speed of 100-120 km per



hour, crashed into it, throwing people around "like footballs" and crushing others, including a youth who died on the spot. The deceased was identified as Gaurav Agarwal, 21.

The Superintendent of Police told the media that the reckless driver was caught by the people and thrashed badly. A huge quantity of ganja was also found in the vehicle, which was set on fire by the enraged people.

However, a police officer said that there were two people in the car - Radheshyam

Vishwakarma, 21, and Shishupal Shahu, both from Madhya Pradesh. Both have been arrested.

The incident created anger among the local people, who, along with the body of the killed youth, blocked the Gumla-Katni highway.

A police official said the situation was critical as more and more people from nearby areas gathered there.

"Somehow, we managed to control the situation. But people are still there on the spot. Senior officials have also reached there," he added.

## 2 soldiers killed in operation in J&K's Poonch

Jammu: Two soldiers were killed on Friday in an ongoing counter terrorism operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Lt Colonel Devender Anand, defence ministry spokesman said, "A counter terrorist operation by the army is in progress in the area of Nar Khas Forest in Mendhar, District Poonch since the evening of October 14, 2021." "During the operation, there was heavy exchange of fire and in the ensuing gunfight Rifleman Vikram Singh Negi and Rifleman Yogambar Singh were critically injured and later succumbed to their injuries.

"Rifleman Vikram Singh Negi and Rifleman Yogambar Singh displayed exemplary courage, devotion and made the supreme sacrifice in line of duty. "The nation will always remain indebted to these bravehearts for their supreme sacrifice for the nation.

"Rifleman Vikram Singh Negi, aged A26, is a resident of Village Viman Gaon of Uttarakhand. "Rifleman Yogambar Singh, aged 27, is a resident of village Sankari in Uttarakhand

"The operation is still in progress till the last report came in," said the spokesman.

## RSS chief calls for population policy, demands return of temple property to devotees

"Many temples in India are also run by trusts. In both cases, we find instances of good and bad management. It is necessary and only reasonable that the operating rights of Hindu temples be handed over to the Hindu devotees and the wealth of the Hindu temples is utilised for the worship of the deities and the welfare of the Hindu community only."

NAGPUR | Agencies

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat Friday called upon governments to return all temple property under their control to "Hindu society" and repeated the organisation's demand for a population policy to tackle what it claims is a "demographic imbalance".

Addressing RSS volunteers at the annual Vijaya Dashami programme in Nagpur, Bhagwat said most Hindu temples in south India are controlled by the government.

The RSS chief reiterated the demand for a population policy to correct the "growing demographic



imbalance caused by differential population growth rates".

He called for a population policy that could be used for the next 50 years. "We will have to be sure of the needs of the population then and the requirements of the young population necessary to take care of the older ones. But along with the balance of population, we will also have to take care of the growing demographic imbalance being observed over the last few years," Bhagwat said. Mohan Bhagwat launched into a tirade against OTT platforms, the narcotics trade, and

Bitcoin, blaming them all for funding "anti-national activities" and demanding that all such activities be "controlled".

Bhagwat also took aim at popular cryptocurrency Bitcoin, declaring "clandestine currency like Bitcoin can destabilise the economy" and claiming "vested global interests" were intent on blocking the country's progress.

"There is no control over what is shown on OTT platforms... all kinds of pictures are shown but how to control it? After coronavirus now even children have mobile phones (required when schools were shut during lockdown) ... now they are addicted and who knows what they see on it," he said.

"All kinds of narcotics are coming into the country... people are getting addicted. How to stop this? I don't know... people are scared.

Bhagwat's remarks - particularly those on drugs - comes amid widespread criticism of the centre and the Narcotics Control Bureau, and their handling of the Mumbai drugs-on-cruise case, in which actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan.

## Petrol, diesel prices rise again, burn bigger holes in consumers' pockets

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Petrol and diesel price rose again on Friday taking its retail rates to record high levels across the country affecting consumers this festive season.

Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol and diesel prices increased by 35 paise per litre to Rs 105.14 per litre and Rs 93.87 per litre, respectively.

In India's financial capital of Mumbai, petrol became costlier by 34 paise per litre to Rs 111.09 a litre on Friday, the highest across all the four metro cities. Diesel also costs Rs 101.77 for one litre in Mumbai. The price hike on Friday is for a second consecutive day after the rates remained static on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Diesel prices now have increased on 17 out of the last 21 days taking up its retail price by Rs 5.25 per litre in Delhi.



With diesel price rising sharply, the fuel is now available at over Rs 100 a litre in several parts of the country. This dubious distinction to petrol that had crossed Rs 100 a litre mark across the country a few months earlier.

Petrol prices had maintained stability since September 5 but oil companies finally raised its pump prices last week and this week given a spurt in the product prices lately. Petrol prices have also risen on 14 of the previous 17 days taking up its pump price by Rs 3.95 per litre.

## India's defence exports increased by 325% in last 5 years: Modi

Modi recalled the various initiatives and reforms undertaken in the recent past that have created trust, transparency and technology-driven approach in the defence sector like never before. Today, private and public sectors are working hand in hand in the mission of national security, he said.

The Prime Minister cited the defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu as examples of the new approach. He noted that as new opportunities are emerging for the youth and MSME, the country is seeing the result of the policy changes made in the recent years.

The seven new defence companies are: Munitions India Limited (MIL); Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); Troop Comforts Limited (TCL) (Troop Comfort Items); Yantra India Limited (YIL); India Optel Limited (IOL); and Gliders India Limited (GIL).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's defence exports increased by 325 per cent in the last five years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, as he pointed out that both private and public sectors are working hand in hand for national security.

Speaking at an event organised by the Defence Ministry to dedicate the seven new defence companies to the nation, Modi said the decision to create these companies was stuck for a long time, adding that these seven new companies would form a strong base for the military in the country in the times to come. Noting the glorious past of Indian ordnance factories,



the Prime Minister said that upgradation of these companies was ignored in the post-Independence period, leading to the country's dependence on foreign suppliers for its needs. The government converted the Ordnance Factory Board from a government department into seven 100 per cent government owned

corporate entities, as a measure to improve self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country. Modi also mentioned that these new companies would play an important role in import substitution, in line with the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

## Chennai Super Kings cruise to fourth IPL title

Dubai: Chennai Super Kings beat Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final of IPL 2021 at the Dubai International Stadium here on Friday. With this win, Chennai have now clinched their fourth IPL title. It completes a remarkable comeback for Chennai, have now won their fourth IPL trophy. Chasing 193, the way KKR openers Shubman Gill and Venkatesh Iyer started the chase, it looked like the target would not be that difficult. But once they were out, KKR's chase fell through as they lost wickets at regular intervals to end up with 165/9 in their 20 overs. From 120/6 in 15 overs, KKR batters were dismissed in minimum score. Shivam Mavi and Lockie Ferguson struck well-timed boundaries but at the end, it was too little too late for Kolkata.



# AT DUSSEHRA RALLY, UDDHAV THACKERAY TAKES AIM AT SEVERAL POLITICAL 'RAVANAS'

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

**M**aharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party and its brand of Hindutva, called for a national debate on federalism, sympathised with the farmers, and lavished praise on his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee.

Addressing the annual Shiv Sena Dussehra Rally, held virtually without break since 1966, Thackeray called for an honest discussion on Centre-State relations as the country marks the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

He said that the Indian Constitution framed by Dr B.R. Ambedkar has laid down clear guidelines on the rights of the Centre and states, with autonomy to the latter, along with sovereign rights like the Centre.

"In the current scenario, the question arises whether the Centre will allow the states to survive... In their thirst for power, they keep harassing the non-BJP-ruled states, try to topple their governments. The Constitution says if the Centre interferes in the state's affairs, it would be unconstitutional," Thackeray declared.



"There was a recent RTI reply in which the Centre said there is no threat to Hindutva. But Hindutva faces a threat from the 'neo-Hindus' propped up by the BJP. They will drive a wedge in society and adopt the British strategy of 'divide and rule' to grab power. We must be on our guard always," he stressed.

participated in the freedom struggle are talking about Mahatma Gandhi and Savarkar. "The people who are spreading lies about these personalities, are not even worthy of uttering the names of Gandhiji and Savarkar," he said. Referring to 'Lal, Bal, and Pal' (Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal), he said even now these three states are at the forefront of the fight

against the BJP. "I compliment Mamata Didi for not bowing before the Delhi rulers and West Bengal fulfilled its duty... Maharashtra is the same, we will not bend before Delhi. They shout 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' at the slightest opportunity. Now, we will show them what 'Har Har Mahadev' really means," Thackeray roared. Hammering the BJP for constantly targeting the Maharashtra government after the Sena joined

hands with Nationalist Congress Party-Congress in November 2019, he said the Shiv Sainiks and the people of the state will not tolerate it. "They are hounding us and even our families through the probe agencies like IT, ED, CBI. We are not scared. They are trying to break and topple our government - I challenge them to bring us down they will not succeed," the CM asserted.

He said that he had become the Chief Minister to fulfil a promise made to his father, and the Shiv Sena founder, the late Balasaheb Thackeray, and he was not some 'fakir' to run away with his 'jhola' from responsibilities to the people. Taking strong umbrage at the BJP for comparing the Maharashtra Police with the mafia, he demanded then what is the Uttar Pradesh Police, or the police force of other BJP-ruled states.

Patting the Maharashtra Police, Thackeray said the state cops are like the soldiers on the borders - "they fight fiercely without bothering for their lives they proved it during the 1992-1993 riots and bomb blasts, the 26/11 terror strikes and all other times".

At several points in his 40-minute speech, there was applause, cheers and whistles of approval from the audience inside the Shanmukhananda Hall in Matunga.

## Global Hunger Report 'devoid of ground reality'



Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he Ministry of Women and Child Development on Friday slammed the Global Hunger Report 2021 published by Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, terming it as "devoid of ground reality" and having "serious methodological issues". "It is shocking to find that the Global Hunger Report 2021 has lowered the rank of India on the basis of FAO estimates on proportion of undernourished population, which is found to be devoid of ground reality and facts, and suffers from serious methodological issues. The publishing agencies of the Global Hunger Report, Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, have not done their due diligence before releasing the report," the ministry said in a statement. The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2021 published by the Irish aid agency has ranked India at 101 out of 116 countries, terming the level of hunger in India as "alarming". Neighbouring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal have fared better

than India. In 2020, India was ranked 94th out of 107 countries.

"The methodology used by FAO is unscientific. They have based their assessment on the results of a 'four-question' opinion poll, which was conducted telephonically by Gallup. There is no scientific methodology to measure undernourishment like the availability of food grains per capita during the period. The scientific measurement of undernourishment would require measurement of weight and height, whereas the methodology involved here is based on Gallup poll based on pure telephonic estimate of the population," the ministry said in a statement.

"The report completely disregards Government's massive effort to ensure food security of the entire population during the covid period, verifiable data on which are available. The opinion poll does not have a single question on whether the respondent received any food support from the Government or other sources. The representativeness of even this opinion poll is doubtful for India and other countries," the ministry added.

## MANMOHAN SINGH'S HEALTH IMPROVING: AIIMS



Team Absolute | New Delhi

**F**ormer Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's health condition is improving, said AIIMS here on Friday.

An AIIMS official told REPORTER that Singh's health condition was 'improving now from the infection caused by fever'. The official said: "Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is improving now. He is on IVs to address the weakness". He added that "Singh was not on ventilator support and his health condition was recovering gradually". Singh was admitted to the AIIMS on Wednesday evening after he complained of fever and weakness. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited him on Thursday morning and enquired about his health in detail. The former PM is being treated by a team of doctors under the guidance of Dr Nitish Nayak. He had developed fever three days ago and was rushed to AIIMS.

Singh had tested positive for Covid infection in April this year during the second Covid surge and had been admitted to the AIIMS.

## Centre claims less farm fire incidents since Sep 15

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he Central government on Friday claimed that paddy residue burning events have been reduced by 69.49 per cent in Punjab, by 18.28 per cent in Haryana and by 47.61 per cent in the eight NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh during the one-month period since September 15 compared to the same period last year.

As the air pollution situation in the national capital region (NCR) started worsening slowly over the last few days, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has been actively monitoring paddy residue burning events from September 15.

According to a release from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the total reported residue burning events in Punjab are 1,286 since September 15 as against 4,216 for the same period of last year.

Similarly, in Haryana, the reported fire incidents were 487 as against 596, and in the eight districts, the total stubble fire incidents reported during this period are 22 as against 42 for the corresponding period of last year.



No fire counts have been reported from Delhi and two NCR districts of Rajasthan.

The first paddy residue burning was reported on September 16 in Punjab, September 18 in the NCR and September 28 in Haryana.

The major hotspots of paddy residue burning in the state of Punjab are Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Patiala, and Ludhiana. These four districts account

for 72 per cent of stubble burning events. The major hotspots in Haryana are Karnal, Kaithal and Kurukshetra, which account for 80 per cent of the stubble burning incidences.

The Commission is taking up with the state governments of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh on a daily basis to ensure strict implementation of the action plan and the framework to curb paddy residue burning events.

## Man dies after friend pumps air into his rectum

**Moradabad:** A man died after his friend pumped air into his rectum with an air compressor. The incident took place in the Pakbada area of Moradabad district on Wednesday and the man succumbed during treatment on Thursday evening.

It is not yet known whether the friend, who has been arrested, had played a prank or he intended to murder the man. According to police, Mohammed Aslam, 23, and his friend Farhan, would clean each other's clothes by using an air compressor after finishing their shift at an export firm in Dhanupura village. On Wednesday evening, the two were cleaning up before going home, when Farhan allegedly pumped air into Aslam's rectum. After Aslam started feeling unwell, Farhan took him home but a short while later, Aslam's condition deteriorated and his family rushed him to hospital. He died due to internal injuries on Thursday.

## Over 41K crack 2021 JEE-Advanced exam

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**T**he results of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2021 conducted for seeking admission to various Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) across the country were declared on Friday with 41,862 clearing the exam.

Jaipur's Mridul Agarwal created a history of sorts by not only topping but also scoring the highest ever percentage in the exam. He topped the chart by scoring 348 out of 360 marks. Among the girl students, Kavya Chopra of IIT-Delhi topped the list with 98 common rank list (CRL). She has secured 286 out of 360 marks. A total of 1,41,699 candidates appeared in both paper 1 and 2 of the JEE (Advanced) Exam 2021. As many as 41,862 candidates have qualified the



JEE-(Advanced) 2021, of which 6,452 are girls. JEE Advanced exam was conducted on October 3 for seeking admission to 23 IITs across the country. Following the requisite Covid-19 protocols, the examination was conducted in two shifts. Many students after taking the exam said questions

in the maths section in JEE-Advanced were quite tough. This year the JEE-Mains exam was conducted in four different phases. The National Testing Agency had declared the result of all the four phases of examination and the students who passed these examinations were given an opportunity to

appear in JEE-Advanced exam. In the fourth phase of JEE-Main examination, 44 students had secured cent per cent marks. As many as 18 students managed to bag the number one rank in the JEE-Main examination, of which two students were from the Delhi region. This year the students were free to write in 13 different languages for the JEE. Students aspiring to pursue engineering can appear for the JEE examination in their mother tongue under this facility. On the basis of the results of JEE-Advanced examination, there will be admission on more than 40,000 seats of Government Funded Technical Institutes (GFTIs), including 23 IITs, 31 National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and 23 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) across the country.

## Gehlot to meet Sonia after 8 months, a day ahead of CWC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

**R**ajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is slated to meet Sonia Gandhi on Friday, eight months after he last met the interim Congress President. The meeting comes a day ahead of the Congress working Committee (CWC) meeting to be held on Saturday.

Gehlot, as per programme, will depart to Delhi on Friday afternoon to attend the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting scheduled on October 16. This will be his second visit to Delhi this year after his trip to the national capital on February 27.

During his visit, the long-pending issues of cabinet reshuffle, political appointments and organisational expansion may be discussed with the party high command. Sources said that these pending issues are likely to receive



green signal when Gehlot meets Sonia Gandhi on Friday.

Former Rajasthan Deputy CM Sachin Pilot's camp has been demanding a cabinet reshuffle for a long time now. Apart from this camp, even MLAs from the BSP have been raising the demand for cabinet berths and political appointments.

## Congress targets BJP over Global Hunger Report

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**T**he Congress' Maharashtra unit on Friday hit out at the Centre's ruling BJP after the Global Hunger Report-2021, yanked India down from the 63rd rank to the 101st with a reduced score.

State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said after the fall of the economy, the GDP, and the rupee, the country has now tumbled in the Global Hunger Index too, from 63rd in 2013 to 101st this year out of 116 nations while the score has dropped from 28.8 in 2012 to 27.5 this

year. "This is a failure of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Neighbours like Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh are consistently ahead of India. In Child Wasting (extremely malnourished kids below age 5) category, India has been the worst performed for the past five years," he said.

He added that merely changing the names of the schemes from Midday Meal Scheme to 'PM Poshan' and chest-thumping is not enough, and there is a need for right strategy, planning, proper implementation, and willpower.

## 'Jumbo Savari' takes place within Mysuru Palace premises on Dasara

Team Absolute | Mysuru

**K**arnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday inaugurated the Dasara procession of 'Jumbo Savari' by performing a puja at the Balarama Gate of the Mysuru Palace.

Bommai also paid floral tribute to the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari along with other dignitaries. The annual Vijayadashami procession was flagged off in the presence of royal scion Yaduveer Krishnadutta Charamaraja Wadiyar, District Minister S.T. Somashekar, Mayor

Sunanada Palanetra and other dignitaries. People from across the state watched the celebrations of the final leg of 'Jumbo Savari', the Dasara grand event, which was celebrated as a low-key affair in the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The entry for common people was banned. As per the government decision, only 500 people were allowed to participate in the event. Eight cultural troupes and six tableaux were part of the procession, along with police personnel.

Chief Minister Bommai said that



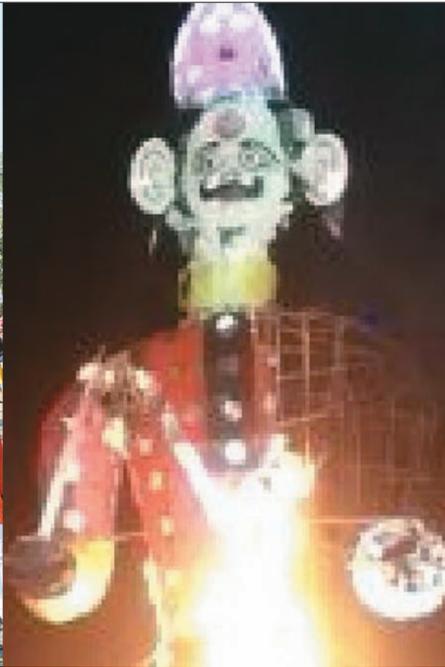
since a large number of tourists are visiting Mysuru, the illumination of the Mysuru Palace and other major junctions will be extended for another nine days.

"I have prayed to god for the prosperity of the state and well-being of the people," he said. Dasara elephant Abhimanyu carried the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari placed inside a golden 'howdah', with other elephants walking along with it.

The festivities were inaugurated by former Karnataka Chief Minister S.M. Krishna on October 7 atop the Chamundeshwari hill.



Idols of Goddess Durga were taken for immersions.



Idols of demon Ravana were burned at several places as a posture of victory of truth over false.



Ladies of Bengali society celebrated the end of 'Navratri' with Sindoor called 'Sindoor Khela'.

## 2.51 LAKH HOMELESS FAMILIES WILL GET GIFT OF THEIR HOUSE BEFORE DEEPAWALI

Will celebrate Deepotsav after Grih Pravesh in own home, Baiga, Bharia, Saharia will also make entry in new residential houses, Every poor family will be given land lease and housing construction amount: Chief Minister Chouhan, Concrete efforts to make every persons dream of own home come true in Madhya Pradesh.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Concrete efforts are being made for effective implementation of housing schemes in Madhya Pradesh. By effectively implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), 21 lakh 5 thousand houses have been built in the state. In the financial year 2021-22, despite excessive rainfall in some districts of the state, maximum one lakh 60 thousand houses were built in the three months of rainy season. Against the target of construction of 26.28 lakh residential houses given to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme, the feat achieved is not only satisfactory but also commendable from the point of view of providing housing to the poor. It is noteworthy that residential houses have also been made available for the people of three special backward tribes of Madhya Pradesh namely Baiga, Saharia and Bharia under the

special project. It was unimaginable for these sections of people living in dilapidated houses that they would get a house so soon and they would be able to celebrate Deepotsav in the new house.

Madhya Pradesh is doing good work in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target of providing housing to all the homeless people of the country by 2022. In this sequence, on the coming week Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold a virtual Grih Pravesh of 2 lakh 51 thousand beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) for their entry in the residential houses simultaneously. Necessary preparations are being made in this regard.



Madhya Pradesh has set an imitable example in fulfilling the target of housing for all 2022. The families who have got the gift of their house are especially grateful to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Chouhan. This year

before Diwali, they have agreed to reach their newly constructed residences. Now they will celebrate Deepotsav in the new residence itself. Chief Minister Chouhan says that every poor family in the state will be given land lease and the amount of housing construction according to their eligibility.

Work of building houses did not stop even during Corona period Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while reviewing continu-

ously, gave clear instructions to increase the speed of implementation of housing schemes. As a result, the work of housing construction did not stop in the state even during the Corona period. More than 3 lakh residential houses were constructed during this period. Usually, the average time taken for the construction of a residential house is 4 months, but the Panchayat and Rural Development Department has completed the work of construction of pucca houses for the poor at a fast pace and completed the construction of 1 lakh houses in a short span of one month. The duration of housing construction is 114 days at the national level. In view of this, the work of construction of houses has been completed in Madhya Pradesh at good speed. This was not possible in the rainy season but the construction agencies have achieved this feat by working diligently.

## Chief Minister Chouhan pays tribute to Dr. Abdul Kalam

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today paid obeisance to former President and eminent scientist Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on his death anniversary. Chouhan garlanded the portrait of Dr. Kalam in the Chief Minister's residence hall.

Dr. Kalam is also known as Missile Man. He was born on October 15, 1931 in Dhanushkodi, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He was the 11th President of the Republic of India.

Dr. Kalam served as a scientist and science administrator for the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for four decades. He was instrumental in the development of India's space programme and military missiles. He played a



decisive, organizational and technical role in nuclear testing. Dr. Kalam passed away on July 27, 2015.

## CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTS AMLA SAPLING AT HIS RESIDENCE



Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told that gooseberry (amla) plant has been planted in the premises of his residence today. Amla is called Amrutphal or Dhatriphal in Ayurveda. According to Ayurveda, Amla is such a fruit, which has innumerable benefits. Amla regularly increases the immunity of the body. Amla is not only beneficial for skin and hair, but also works as a medicine for many diseases. Amla is used for digestive diseases and jaundice. Amla is rich in vitamins, minerals and nutrients, which make it valuable.

## LAUNCH OF "ZAYKA" AT INDIRA GANDHI RASHTRIYA MANAV SANGRAHALAYA

Bhopal : On the demand of visitors visiting the museum, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya has started "Jayka". A traditional food program of the Bhil tribe. This food is very much liked by the food lovers of Bhopal city. In this regard, Director Dr. Praveen Kumar Mishra said that in the last two decades, many great scientists of the world have also proved through their research that if people adopt the natural diet of the tribals, then many diseases caused by the deficiency of nutrients can be prevented. By consuming maize roti, our body gets fibres, which helps to get relief from digestive problems. It also helps in controlling the cholesterol level in the body. Also, a diet rich in fibres helps to keep stomach full for a long time.

In this regards, every Saturday and Sunday between 1pm to 4pm, the museum canteen offering an opportunity to taste the traditional food of Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh, like Makke ki Roti, Brinjal Bhurta, Coriander, Lehsun ki Chutney, Jaggery etc. For more information can contact the mobile number 9479438303.

## Entry of 'Baba' in MP by-election

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Gradually, the color of by-elections in Madhya Pradesh has started darkening. On one hand, where the visits of leaders are increasing, meetings are being held and attacks on each other are going on, now Baba's entry in the election campaign has also started. Namdev Das Tyagi alias Computer Baba had held the Congress flag during the 2018 assembly elections in the state's politics and had also campaigned a lot in support of Kamal Nath and Congress. Computer Baba got the status of a cabinet minister after the Congress came to power, but after the change in power, his bad days started. Where his luxurious ashram in Indore was demolished, Baba had to



show the air of jail as well. It is a different matter that Baba is being burnt earlier also under BJP rule. Computer Baba had also campaigned in support of Congress candidates in the by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies

in the state. Now once again in the three assembly constituencies Prithvipur, Jobat and Raigaon, besides by-elections are being held in Khandwa parliamentary constituency, Computer Baba has entered the campaign.

Computer Baba, who arrived to campaign in Khandwa parliamentary constituency, says that despite being a festival like Navratri, he has left his rituals to campaign in the by-election. This is so that these liars and sinful people should not mislead the common people, it is important that a leader like Kamal Nath should come forward, that is why we went out for publicity. On the other hand, BJP spokesperson Umesh Sharma takes a jibe at Baba for campaigning. According to the BJP, this is the same Baba who had performed the Mirchi Yagya to win the Congress, but only the Congress had got its chilli. A leader like Digvijay Singh was in trouble and he was defeated by Pragya Thakur in the Lok Sabha elections.

## Special offer at MP petrol pump to celebrate birth of owner's grand-niece

Team Absolute | Betul

A petrol pump owner in Madhya Pradesh's Betul announced a special offer for customers after his niece, who is speech and hearing impaired, gave birth to a daughter.

Shikha, daughter of Gopaldas Sainani, the late elder brother of pump owner Rajendra Sainanit, has been deaf since birth.

Her father had died due to an illness several years back and since then, her uncle took care of Shikha as his own daughter, and got her married with much pomp and splendour. Shikha's husband, who lives with her in Jhabua district, is also deaf by birth. Sainani had taken a vow that since his niece was deaf and dumb, he would throw a lavish wedding



reception for her. When Shikha gave birth to a daughter, the entire family distributed sweets and the very next day, they named her daughter as 'Dhvani'.

As a gesture of happiness on the birth of the girl, Sainani announced he would provide additional petrol to consumers from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at a special price. Under this offer, consumers can avail 5 per cent extra petrol at a cost of Rs 100 and 10 per cent at Rs 200 to 500. This offer was in force till Dussehra on Friday.

## Congress leaders in MP targeting the BJP state president

Team Absolute | Bhopal

During the by-elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha in Madhya Pradesh, Congress leaders are trying their best to surround BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma. This is the reason that the chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is more targeted by the Congress leaders than the BJP state president. After the return of BJP to power in the state, the organizations are busy in preparing at the ground level. Changes have not only been made in the organization on a large scale, but the office bearers of the organization are engaged in fulfilling the intention of the national leadership. After becoming the state president of BJP, Sharma has changed the nature of the organization and special preference is being given to the youth.

After the change in the BJP organization and the ground gathering, the attack attitude of many Congress leaders has changed. This is the reason that whether it is former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh or Kamal Nath, the head of the organization is Vishnu Dutt Sharma on his target. If you notice, Digvijay Singh accused a BJP leader in Panna of capturing tribal land, as well as surrounded the BJP state president.

In Panna, the administration launched a campaign against



encroachment and took possession of the land taken on lease by the family of former Congress District President Divya Rani Singh, after that the Congress described this action as action taken at the behest of the BJP State President. This is because Sharma is an MP from Khajuraho. When Digvijay Singh's son-in-law was attacked by BJP for allegedly buying land in Panna district, no one responded to it, but former Congress district president Divyarani Singh

called the administration's action to remove encroachment illegal. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath also took a jibe at the experience of the BJP state president and said that when Sharma had not even learned to wear shorts, then I was an MP. Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh also raised the issue of sand mining in Panna district and took a dig at Mineral Minister Brijendra Pratap Singh being from Panna and BJP MP also being from the same area.

At the same time, BJP State President Sharma has also taken an attacking stand against former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh. They have been constantly accusing both of being immersed in corruption, as well as saying that media reports have come to the fore about the land scam in Panna by Digvijay Singh's son-in-law and other close people. After his certified documents will come, the whole matter will be disclosed in front of the media.

The discussion in the corridors of politics is about that what is the reason why the cannon of the attack of Congress leaders is on the head of the organization instead of the government. It is also being seen as a challenge to the next generation of Congress leaders from the youth organization of the BJP. At the same time, it is said in politics that those who see the strongest and see the possibilities of political future, attack them.



EDITOR'S SPECS

# TikTok Leads

**S**hort video platform TikTok emerged as the most downloaded non-gaming app worldwide for September 2021 with more than 59 million installs. According to Sensor Tower, the countries with the largest number installs were from Douyin in China at 16 per cent, followed by the US at 12 per cent. Facebook was the second most installed non-gaming app worldwide last month with more than 51 million installs. The countries with the largest number of Facebook installs were from India at 29 per cent, followed by Indonesia at 7 per cent. Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger rounded out the top five most installed non-gaming apps worldwide for the month. Meanwhile, PUBG Mobile from Tencent was the top grossing mobile game worldwide for August 2021 with approximately \$270 million in player spending, which represented 4.7 per cent growth from August 2020. About 61.4 per cent of PUBG Mobile's revenue was from China, where it has been localized as Game For Peace, followed by 9 per cent from the US and 6.5 per cent from Turkey. Honor of Kings from Tencent was the second highest earning mobile game worldwide for August 2021 with \$256.2 million in gross revenue, which represented approximately 3 per cent year-over-year growth from August 2020. Last year, the Indian government said it was banning 59 apps developed by Chinese firms, including ByteDance's TikTok and PUBG Mobile over concerns that these apps were engaging in activities that threatened national security.

# AIRCRAFT CARRIER - A REALITY CHECK FOR INDIAN NAVY

Sumit Kumar Singh

**M**uch newsprint was devoted to a naval exercise undertaken between the USA and India. The exercise was designated a two day "passage exercise", and, inarguably, contributed to strengthening bilateral cooperation and military coordination. Apart from the myriad advantages accrued, the exercise also threw up a somewhat worrying aspect, viz the stark disparity in the two naval forces participating. While the US Navy fielded a full 'Aircraft Carrier Strike Group' with USS Ronald Reagan, India was represented by two ships and shore based aircraft, and aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

Apart from these bilateral exercises, the Indian Navy also took part in a French Navy led multilateral exercise named La Perouse in April, where two ships and shore-based aircraft were deployed, though in this instance other participating nations did not field an aircraft carrier. Evidently, with its sole aircraft carrier being under maintenance, the Indian Navy is constrained in operating across all dimensions at sea, including during such exercises that bear the potential for valuable lessons and experience to be gleaned. Exacerbating the situation further is the fact that, given the size and complexities of a large ship like an Aircraft Carrier, its maintenance durations are likely to be of an extended nature. Consequently, the naval fleet remains hamstrung in undertaking operations related to maritime air power in such periods. Orchestrated deployment of shore-based aircraft over the seas is unlikely to fructify or indeed be

available during a live conflict, where there will be concurrent requirement of air operations on land as well. Clearly, here and now air capability at sea will have to manifest from the sea itself. This operational reality has motivated all significant navies of the world to include aircraft carriers in their forces levels. Military experts across the world are unanimous in the view that aircraft carrier operations are a skill learnt and perfected through sustained practice and long experience. This is borne out by the fact that China, despite having inducted its first aircraft carrier nearly a decade back, is still figuring out carrier operations. The UK, with its return to being an aircraft carrier navy, has also been dependent on USA to assist in re-learning the ropes of such operations. Does a long lay-off period for the Indian carrier then not have an effect on India's ability to protect its interests at sea?

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently during his visit to Kochi in end June to review the progress of construction of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier or IAC, had highlighted the historical fact that all major powers in the world have boasted powerful navies. In the present day, as evident from China's focus on building aircraft carriers and UK's U-turn on doing away with its carriers, it is clear that any navy will need to have such capability if it hopes to be a serious contender on the global or even regional stage. While the minister's pronouncement indicates a clear understanding about this aspect within the government, ancillary agencies and organisations appear to be stuck in a state of flux. The abysmally slow progress on the IAC project is a case in point. In case the ship had been built and delivered in a timely manner, the Navy would have been able to keep one of the two ships operationally available.

Whatever be the past, unless the relevant agencies wake up and smell the coffee at least at this point, India and its Navy are staring at a bleak operational capability for the near future. A reality check is long overdue and the problem is fast approaching critical mass. An attitude of business-as-usual is unlikely to get the second ship inducted any time soon. Every possible effort needs to be channelized into the project, including working round the clock, imposition of stringent penalties on every source of delay, daily monitoring at the PMO itself, etc. India needs to act now lest we are left behind ½ because China would act and is acting with a clear aim. We also need to think about what lies in the future 15 to 20 years down the road. When the existing carrier gets de-inducted. What then? Given the long lead time to build carriers, how will India retain her edge as a major naval power? Well, the answer is obvious.

# INTERNATIONAL E-WASTE DAY: DISCARDED CELL PHONES RICHER IN GOLD THAN ORE

**H**ow much gold can we get from mobile phones? Leading experts say a tonne of discarded mobile phones is richer in gold than a tonne of gold ore. On International E-Waste Day 2021 on Thursday, the experts are calling on households, businesses and governments to get behind efforts to get more dead or unused plug-in or battery-operated products to facilities where they can be either repaired or recycled to recover a king's fortune in valuable materials and reduce the need for new resources. This year's mountain of waste electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) will total about 57.4 million tonnes -- greater than the weight of the Great Wall of China, earth's heaviest artificial object. Last year's Global E-waste Monitor reported that 53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) of WEEE were generated in 2019. That represented a 21 per cent jump in the five years since 2014 (with e-waste predicted to reach 74 Mt by 2030). Global e-waste generation is growing annually by 2 Mt, or about three to four per cent, a problem attributed to higher consumption rates of electronics (increasing three per cent annually), shorter product lifecycles and limited repair options.

According to estimates in Europe, where the problem is best studied, 11 of 72 electronic items in an average household are no longer in use or are broken. Annually per citizen, another 4 to 5 kg of unused electrical and electronic products are hoarded in Europe prior to being discarded. Another study estimates that 54 to 113 million mobile phones alone, weighing 10 to 20 tonnes, are sleeping in drawers and other storage spaces in French homes. Meanwhile in the US, while many mobile phones are recycled, the EPA estimates that more than 151 million phones a year -- approximately 416,000 a day -- are trashed and end up incinerated or landfilled. And an estimated 40 per cent of heavy metals in US landfills come from discarded electronics. By weight, however, discarded big appliances such as stoves and refrigerators constitute the largest component of the e-waste problem, which continues despite decades of efforts by governments at many levels. The EU, for example, has comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation in place, consisting of targets and legal responsibilities, but member states struggle to

achieve them for several reasons, as documented by UNITAR and the Brussels-based WEEE Forum in a report, WEEE Flows study and vision. Pascal Leroy, Director General of the WEEE Forum, the organisation behind International E-Waste Day, said: "Many factors play a role in making the electrical and electronics sector resource efficient and circular. But one thing stands out: as long as citizens don't return their used, broken gear, sell it, or donate it, we will need to continue mining all-new materials causing great environmental damage. "This year's focus for International E-Waste Day is the crucial role each of us has in making circularity a reality for e-products." Surveys reveal a widely-held public misconception that about 40-50 per cent of e-waste is recycled. However, less than half that -- 17.4 per cent -- was known to be properly treated and recycled in 2019. In the case of cell phones, tablets, computers and other small information technology products, factors thought to discourage recycling include data security, product value, difficult-to-reach return points, and uncertainty about appropriate recycling, among others. Says Ruediger Kuehr,

Director of the SCYCLE Programme and Head of UNITAR's Office in Bonn, the value of EEE components in the world's 'urban mines' is enormous. "A tonne of discarded mobile phones is richer in gold than a tonne of gold ore," Kuehr points out. "Embedded in one million cell phones, for example, are 24 kg of gold, 16,000 kg of copper, 350 kg of silver, and 14 kg of palladium -- resources that could be recovered and returned to the production cycle. And if we fail to recycle these materials, new supplies need to be mined, harming the environment." "Moreover, the recovery of gold and other material from waste saves a lot of carbon dioxide emissions when compared with virgin metal mining," says Kees Balde, Senior Programme Officer of the UN University's SCYCLE Programme. He adds that high-value, recoverable materials conservatively valued at \$57 billion -- a sum greater than the Gross Domestic Product of most countries -- were mostly dumped or burned in 2019 rather than being collected for treatment and reuse.

## international

# TURKISH FM MEETS TALIBAN DELEGATION IN ANKARA

Istanbul | Agencies

**T**urkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu met a Taliban delegation in Ankara in a first-of-its-kind meeting since the group took over Afghanistan in August. "We gave advice to the Taliban administration. We once again said they should be inclusive for the unity of the country. We talked about the importance of including people in the administration from ethnic groups other than the Taliban," Xinhua news agency quoted Cavusoglu as saying to semi-official Anadolu Agency after he met the delegation led by the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, on Thursday. Turkey also advised education for girls and employment of women, he added.



"We said this is not just a demand from Western countries, but also the advice of the Islamic world," Xinhua news agency quoted the Minister as saying. Turkey also conveyed expectations of the country and the International Civil Aviation Organization concern-

ing security for the resumption of regular flights from Kabul, Cavusoglu noted. Meanwhile, the Taliban delegation asked Turkey to continue its support in humanitarian aid and development projects, Cavusoglu, adding the delegation will also meet Turkey's Red Crescent, Disaster and Emergency Management Authority and the Presidency of Religious Affairs. The Taliban officials pledged to support the Afghan refugees who want to return to the country from Turkey, he said. The visit comes after the Taliban held a series of talks with the US, 10 European nations and the European Union in Qatar earlier this week. In a separate statement on Wednesday, Cavusoglu said he was planning to visit Kabul with some of his counterparts.

# Moon meets CIA chief, touts S.Korea-US alliance

Seoul | Agencies

**S**outh Korean President Moon Jae-in held a meeting with William Burns, the chief of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), here on Friday, touting the Seoul-Washington alliance as a foundation of the nation's security. Burns, who is on his first visit to South Korea after taking the job, expressed his deep respect to Moon's efforts to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said in a statement. Moon and Burns also exchanged views about intelligence cooperation between the two allies and the current situation on the Korean Peninsula, Yonhap News



Agency quoted the statement as saying. In August, about 400 Afghans, who had helped the Seoul government in their war-torn country, were evacuated to South Korea. Moon thanked Burns for actively helping evacuate the Afghans, according to the statement. Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have remained stalled since the Hanoi summit in 2019 between then US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ended without a deal.

# Japanese govt retains overall view of economy

Tokyo | Agencies

**T**he Japanese government on Friday retained its overall assessment for the economy in October as "picking up, although the pace has weakened" due to the severe situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Cabinet Office said that exports were "increasing at a slower pace" instead of "increase moderately" in September, downgrading exports' assessment for the first time in seven months, reports Xinhua news agency. A government official told reporters that the impact of supply chain disruptions due to surging Covid-19 cases in Southeast Asia had dragged down the industrial output of Japan, resulting in relatively sluggish exports of many

items, including auto-related products and electrical devices since July. The assessment for the industrial production component stayed as "picking up, although some weakness is seen recently", according to the office, after a downgrade last month as the supply chain issue and a global semiconductor shortage had forced some Japanese automakers to reduce output. The government revised down its assessment for public investment component for the first time in six months, saying it has been "in a weak tone recently, although it is at a high level", as the number of public work orders received was sluggish due to budget cuts for reconstruction projects related to the massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Assessments of

other major components were unchanged in October. The office used the same wording "shows weakness further" as the September report for private consumption, saying that although car sales kept sluggish, "signs of improvement have appeared" in the food services sector since more people have begun to eat out after the lifting of Covid-19 emergency measures across the country on October 1. Under emergency measures, people were requested to stay home, and food establishments were asked to stop serving alcohol and close early. Looking ahead, the government expected the economy to continue picking up but warned "full attention should be given" to a further increase in downside risks due to "negative effects through the supply chains.

# Biden signs short-term bill to raise debt limit

Washington | Agencies

**U**S President Joe Biden has signed a short-term bill to temporarily increase the nation's borrowing limit, averting a looming debt default that would cause an economic catastrophe, the media reported on Friday. Biden's signature late Thursday night came two days after the House of Representatives voted along party lines to approve the bill, reports Xinhua news agency. The Senate cleared the short-term debt limit extension last week. The temporary measure would raise the federal government's debt limit by \$480 billion, allowing the Treasury Department to meet obligations through December 3 and giving lawmakers a few more weeks to find a way to address the issue. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen recently warned that lawmakers have until October 18 to raise or suspend the debt limit before the federal government will likely run out of cash and extraordinary measures, possibly leading the US to default on the national debt. Another stopgap measure to fund

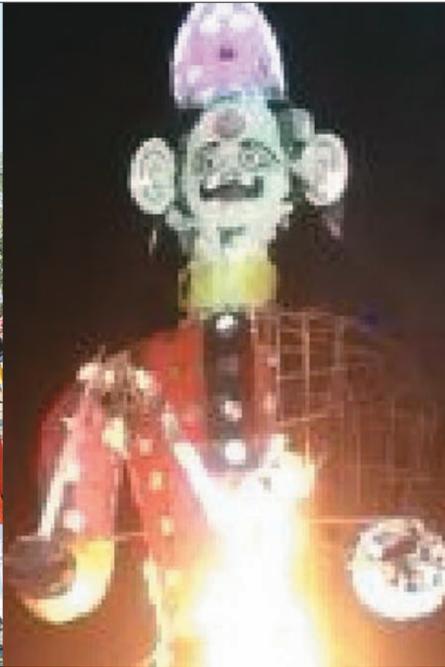


the federal government also expires on December 3, meaning Democrats and Republicans will have to reach a deal by early December to avoid the twin threats of a shutdown and a default. Democrats, meanwhile, are reluctant to raise the national debt limit on their own, fearing that doing so while also trying to pass a large social spending package along party lines could open them up to criticism of being fiscally irresponsible, experts have said.

Disagreements within the party might also dash Democrats' hopes of going it alone. Democrats have repeatedly argued that raising the debt limit does not authorize new federal spending, but only allows the Treasury Department to borrow additional funds to cover expenditures that have already been approved by Congress, including Covid-19 relief bills and the tax cuts rolled out during the previous administration of President Donald Trump. As part of a bipartisan budget deal enacted in August 2019, Congress suspended the debt limit through July 31. After the debt limit was reinstated on August 1, the Treasury Department began using "extraordinary measures" to continue to finance the government on a temporary basis. The debt limit, commonly called the debt ceiling, is the total amount of money that the US government is authorised to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including social security and medicare benefits, interest on the national debt, and other payments.



Idols of Goddess Durga were taken for immersions.



Idols of demon Ravana were burned at several places as a posture of victory of truth over false.



Ladies of Bengali society celebrated the end of 'Navratri' with Sindoor called 'Sindoor Khela'.

## 2.51 LAKH HOMELESS FAMILIES WILL GET GIFT OF THEIR HOUSE BEFORE DEEPAWALI

Will celebrate Deepotsav after Grih Pravesh in own home, Baiga, Bharia, Saharia will also make entry in new residential houses, Every poor family will be given land lease and housing construction amount: Chief Minister Chouhan, Concrete efforts to make every persons dream of own home come true in Madhya Pradesh.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Concrete efforts are being made for effective implementation of housing schemes in Madhya Pradesh. By effectively implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), 21 lakh 5 thousand houses have been built in the state. In the financial year 2021-22, despite excessive rainfall in some districts of the state, maximum one lakh 60 thousand houses were built in the three months of rainy season. Against the target of construction of 26.28 lakh residential houses given to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme, the feat achieved is not only satisfactory but also commendable from the point of view of providing housing to the poor. It is noteworthy that residential houses have also been made available for the people of three special backward tribes of Madhya Pradesh namely Baiga, Saharia and Bharia under the

special project. It was unimaginable for these sections of people living in dilapidated houses that they would get a house so soon and they would be able to celebrate Deepotsav in the new house.

Madhya Pradesh is doing good work in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target of providing housing to all the homeless people of the country by 2022. In this sequence, on the coming week Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold a virtual Grih Pravesh of 2 lakh 51 thousand beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) for their entry in the residential houses simultaneously. Necessary preparations are being made in this regard.



Madhya Pradesh has set an imitable example in fulfilling the target of housing for all 2022. The families who have got the gift of their house are especially grateful to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Chouhan. This year

before Diwali, they have agreed to reach their newly constructed residences. Now they will celebrate Deepotsav in the new residence itself. Chief Minister Chouhan says that every poor family in the state will be given land lease and the amount of housing construction according to their eligibility.

Work of building houses did not stop even during Corona period Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while reviewing continu-

ously, gave clear instructions to increase the speed of implementation of housing schemes. As a result, the work of housing construction did not stop in the state even during the Corona period. More than 3 lakh residential houses were constructed during this period. Usually, the average time taken for the construction of a residential house is 4 months, but the Panchayat and Rural Development Department has completed the work of construction of pucca houses for the poor at a fast pace and completed the construction of 1 lakh houses in a short span of one month. The duration of housing construction is 114 days at the national level. In view of this, the work of construction of houses has been completed in Madhya Pradesh at good speed. This was not possible in the rainy season but the construction agencies have achieved this feat by working diligently.

## Chief Minister Chouhan pays tribute to Dr. Abdul Kalam

Team Absolute | Bhopal

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Dr. Kalam is also known as Missile Man. He was born on October 15, 1931 in Dhanushkodi, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. He was the 11th President of the Republic of India.

Dr. Kalam served as a scientist and science administrator for the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for four decades. He was instrumental in the development of India's space programme and military missiles. He played a



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In this regards, every Saturday and Sunday between 1pm to 4pm, the museum canteen offering an opportunity to taste the traditional food of Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh, like Makke ki Roti, Brinjal Bhurta, Coriander, Lehsun ki Chutney, Jaggery etc. For more information can contact the mobile number 9479438303.

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show the air of jail as well. It is a different matter that Baba is being burnt earlier also under BJP rule. Computer Baba had also campaigned in support of Congress candidates in the by-elections to 28 assembly constituencies

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Computer Baba, who arrived to campaign in Khandwa parliamentary constituency, says that despite being a festival like Navratri, he has left his rituals to campaign in the by-election. This is so that these liars and sinful people should not mislead the common people, it is important that a leader like Kamal Nath should come forward, that is why we went out for publicity. On the other hand, BJP spokesperson Umesh Sharma takes a jibe at Baba for campaigning. According to the BJP, this is the same Baba who had performed the Mirchi Yagya to win the Congress, but only the Congress had got its chilli. A leader like Digvijay Singh was in trouble and he was defeated by Pragya Thakur in the Lok Sabha elections.

## Special offer at MP petrol pump to celebrate birth of owner's grand-niece

Team Absolute | Betul

A petrol pump owner in Madhya Pradesh's Betul announced a special offer for customers after his niece, who is speech and hearing impaired, gave birth to a daughter.

Shikha, daughter of Gopaldas Sainani, the late elder brother of pump owner Rajendra Sainanit, has been deaf since birth.

Her father had died due to an illness several years back and since then, her uncle took care of Shikha as his own daughter, and got her married with much pomp and splendour. Shikha's husband, who lives with her in Jhabua district, is also deaf by birth. Sainani had taken a vow that since his niece was deaf and dumb, he would throw a lavish wedding



reception for her. When Shikha gave birth to a daughter, the entire family distributed sweets and the very next day, they named her daughter as 'Dhvani'.

As a gesture of happiness on the birth of the girl, Sainani announced he would provide additional petrol to consumers from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at a special price. Under this offer, consumers can avail 5 per cent extra petrol at a cost of Rs 100 and 10 per cent at Rs 200 to 500. This offer was in force till Dussehra on Friday.

## Congress leaders in MP targeting the BJP state president

Team Absolute | Bhopal

During the by-elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha in Madhya Pradesh, Congress leaders are trying their best to surround BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma. This is the reason that the chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is more targeted by the Congress leaders than the BJP state president. After the return of BJP to power in the state, the organizations are busy in preparing at the ground level. Changes have not only been made in the organization on a large scale, but the office bearers of the organization are engaged in fulfilling the intention of the national leadership. After becoming the state president of BJP, Sharma has changed the nature of the organization and special preference is being given to the youth.

After the change in the BJP organization and the ground gathering, the attack attitude of many Congress leaders has changed. This is the reason that whether it is former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh or Kamal Nath, the head of the organization is Vishnu Dutt Sharma on his target. If you notice, Digvijay Singh accused a BJP leader in Panna of capturing tribal land, as well as surrounded the BJP state president.

In Panna, the administration launched a campaign against



encroachment and took possession of the land taken on lease by the family of former Congress District President Divya Rani Singh, after that the Congress described this action as action taken at the behest of the BJP State President. This is because Sharma is an MP from Khajuraho. When Digvijay Singh's son-in-law was attacked by BJP for allegedly buying land in Panna district, no one responded to it, but former Congress district president Divyarani Singh

called the administration's action to remove encroachment illegal. Meanwhile, former Chief Minister Kamal Nath also took a jibe at the experience of the BJP state president and said that when Sharma had not even learned to wear shorts, then I was an MP. Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh also raised the issue of sand mining in Panna district and took a dig at Mineral Minister Brijendra Pratap Singh being from Panna and BJP MP also being from the same area.

At the same time, BJP State President Sharma has also taken an attacking stand against former Chief Minister Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh. They have been constantly accusing both of being immersed in corruption, as well as saying that media reports have come to the fore about the land scam in Panna by Digvijay Singh's son-in-law and other close people. After his certified documents will come, the whole matter will be disclosed in front of the media.

The discussion in the corridors of politics is about that what is the reason why the cannon of the attack of Congress leaders is on the head of the organization instead of the government. It is also being seen as a challenge to the next generation of Congress leaders from the youth organization of the BJP. At the same time, it is said in politics that those who see the strongest and see the possibilities of political future, attack them.



# 'I needed to be independent from her'

Lourdes Leon reveals her mother Madonna 'has controlled her her whole life' in candid interview about her upbringing

Los Angeles | Agencies

Lourdes Leon has candidly revealed that her mother Madonna is 'such a control freak' who has been that way for her 'whole life.' The oldest daughter of the pop icon, 25, chatted with Interview Magazine on Thursday with Madonna's longtime confidante, actress Debi Mazar, about her upbringing.

'My mom is such a control freak, and she has controlled me my whole life,' Leon told Mazar in the interview. 'I needed to be completely independent from her as soon as I graduated high school.' The model said that she gained a sense of independence by paying for her college and apartment, going into detail on her upbringing.

'We don't get any handouts in my family,' Leon said, adding that she 'obviously ... grew up with extreme privilege.' She explained of Madonna's parenting philosophy, 'I think my mom saw all these other kids of famous people, and she was like, 'My kids are not going to be like this.' Also, I feel like if your parents pay for things, then it gives them leverage over you.' Leon said that her mother has encouraged her to branch out in her career from modeling.



'A SECOND TO MIDNIGHT'

Pop star Kylie Minogue has dropped her new single titled 'A Second to Midnight', co-written and recorded with band Years & Years.

Los Angeles | Agencies

This is the first single to be released from the forthcoming album 'DISCO: Guest List Edition', which also features new tracks recorded with disco legend Gloria Gaynor and British pop sensation Jessie Ware, along with last year's collaboration with Dua Lipa, as well as an incredible array of remixes of tracks from the original album release.

The official video for 'A Second to Midnight' is also now out and stars Minogue and Years & Years. It was directed by Minogue's collaborator Sophie Muller and filmed at London's historic Collins' Music Hall. "Thank you Years & Years for joining me on this song! I had so much fun channelling my inner Olly in this video - felt like a KING," said Minogue. She added: "I'm heading back to the dance floor with the forthcoming 'Disco: Guest List Edition'." Working with Kylie was a literal dream come true. Her music has consistently inspired me since I was a kid, she is a true icon I am pinching myself this actually happened!!" said Olly Alexander of Years & Years. With this brand-new edition Kylie releases new tracks 'A Second to Midnight' (with Years & Years) 'Can't Stop Writing Songs About You' (with Gloria Gaynor) and 'Kiss of Life' (with Jessie Ware). These new songs will be featured alongside previously unreleased remixes plus established favourites including 'Real Groove (Studio 2054 Remix)' with Dua Lipa. Minogue's new single also tops off a fantastic summer for Years & Years following an earlier collaboration with Minogue on the remix of hit single 'Starstruck' as well as a show-stopping performance of the Pet Shop Boys' classic 'It's a Sin' alongside Elton John at the BRIT Awards.



## 'JACK RYAN' SEASON 4 GREEN-FLAGGED BY AMAZON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Michael Pena of 'Narcos: Mexico' fame will join the cast of Tom Clancy's 'Jack Ryan' in its fourth season, which will be streamed on Amazon.

The thriller series led by John Krasinski recently wrapped production for its third season, which does not yet have a premiere date, reports Variety.com. The show's Season 2 aired on Amazon in October 2019.

Details on the character Pena is slated to play are being kept under

wraps at this point of time. His roles in the past have included 'Narcos: Mexico' at Netflix and the films 'Tom and Jerry', 'Fantasy Island', 'Dora and the Lost City of Gold' and 'Ant-Man and the Wasp'. He has also appeared in films such as 'Crash', 'End of Watch' and 'Fury'.

In Season 3, Jack is on the run and in a race against time. He is wrongly implicated in a larger conspiracy and suddenly finds himself a fugitive out in the cold. Wanted by both the CIA and an international rogue faction that he has uncovered, Jack is forced underground, criss-crossing Europe, trying to stay alive and prevent a massive global conflict.

## 'I Know What You Did Last Summer': An irritating, convolutedly mounted thriller



TROY RIBEIRO

**Creator:** Sara Goodman  
**Cast:** Madison Iseman, Bill Heck, Brienne Tju, Ezekiel Goodman, Ashley Moore, Sebastian Amoruso, Fiona Rene, Cassie Beck and Brooke Bloom.  
**Duration:** 40 minutes per episode (eight episodes in all).  
**Ratings:** \*\* (two stars)



Sara Goodman's 'I Know What You Did Last Summer' for Amazon Prime is a modern adaptation of Lois Duncan's 1973 novel of the same name.

Earlier in 1997, Director Jim Gillespie and Writer Keven Williamson adapted the novel for Columbia Pictures, and closer home in 2003, Director Anurag Basu was inspired by it to make 'Kuch To Hai', featuring Tusshar Kapoor and Esha Deol. Both films didn't fare well at the box office.

The premise of this tale is simple. A group of teenagers on a midnight joyride hit a pedestrian. They decide to keep the accident a secret after contemplating all the odds. But, a year later, after one of them receives an ominous note stating, "I Know What You Did Last Summer", they realise they are being stalked by a mysterious killer who knows their secret and wants them dead.

In this edition, while the premise, gores and scares of the book and the film adaptation are intact, the

story is complicated by a set of twins, sex, drugs and diversity. The result of this fresh re-imagining is irritatingly convoluted, or so it seems after watching the first four episodes of this eight-episode series.

In the initial episode we are introduced to the characters: identical twins Alison and Lennon, played by Madison Iseman, the duo have contrasting personalities and sibling issues; their classmates Margot (Brienne Tju), a self-obsessed social media influencer; Dylan (Ezekiel Goodman), the guilt-ridden soft guy; Riley (Ashley Moore), a girl from a poor family who is into drug dealing, and the gay Johnny (Sebastian Amoruso), who are close to each other, yet they have secrets hidden in their closets. They all are celebrating their night after graduation. Their party is fuelled by music, sex and drugs.

On noticing the presence of Police Inspector Lyla (Fiona Rene) at the venue, the friends decide to go out for a drive. En route, they meet with the accident. In the middle of a highway, and far away from the party venue, the accident appears to be preposterous, considering who was hit.

Furthermore, the graffiti on the mirror stating, 'I Know What You Did Last Summer', along with the goat head in the closet, appears ghastly. At the same time, it throws a hundred questions because of being implausible. The location of Wai Huna, Hawaii, and its people, add to the intrigue value of the narrative, but the tense moments are frivolously handled. The fear factors pop up often, but the scares neither haunt you, nor tickle your funny bone. Overall, the plot laden with far-fetched situations quickly dissolves into a farce.

## Deaf actress-activist Millicent Simmonds to essay Helen Keller in forthcoming film

Los Angeles | Agencies

American actress and deaf activist Millicent Simmonds, known for her breakout roles in 'Wonderstruck' and the horror film 'A Quiet Place', will play Helen Keller and 'Marvelous Mrs Maisel' star Rachel Brosnahan will essay the part of her teacher Anne Sullivan in the forthcoming feature film 'Helen & Teacher'.

The casting of Simmonds marks a significant turning point for deaf representation on screen, according to Variety.com. Most adaptations of Keller's story over the years have generally featured actors who are not deaf. Brosnahan, meanwhile, will portray Keller's committed yet controlling translator and companion.

Set in the early 1900s, the story follows Keller's tumultuous time at Radcliffe College, Harvard University, when her rapidly expanding worldview and sexual awakening brings her into direct conflict with the conservative Sullivan.

When Sullivan is courted by the young and brilliant publisher, John Macy, tensions escalate between the two women that threaten the bonds of their friendship.

Keller's story, narrated in her autobiography 'The Story of My Life', has been adapted in numerous stage productions (most famously William Gibson's 'The Miracle Worker' in 1959) and films, including Disney's 2000 TV movie 'The Miracle Worker', starring Hallie Kate Eisenberg, who is not deaf, and 'The Miracle Worker' (1962), which starred another non-deaf actor, Patty Duke, as Keller, according to Variety.com.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rosario Dawson



## IPL 2021 FINAL:

# FAF DU PLESSIS AND BOWLERS LEAD CHENNAI TO FOURTH IPL TITLE

Dubai | Agencies

Chennai Super Kings defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs to clinch their fourth IPL title at the Dubai International Stadium here on Friday. Winning IPL 2021 completes a remarkable comeback for Chennai, who were placed seventh last season and have now won their fourth IPL trophy in a campaign that started with a loss but ended with a win.

The seeds of Chennai's commanding win were sown by Faf du Plessis, who led the way with a magnificent 86 off 59 balls apart from other batters contributing as well in scoring 192/3. The bowlers, especially two double-wicket strikes from Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja, reduced Kolkata to 165/9. It was a memorable 300th T20 match for MS Dhoni as he added another silverware to his cupboard of trophies.

Chasing 193, Shubman Gill pulled the first ball of the innings over mid-on off Deepak Chahar. Venkatesh Iyer dropped on zero, swatted Josh Hazlewood over backward square leg for a powerful six. The run-fest continued as Gill and Iyer crunched seven fours between themselves to give Kolkata an emphatic start with 55/0 in power-play.

Iyer tore into Ravindra Jadeja with two sixes before reaching his half-century in 31 balls. Gill, who survived



a caught dismissal as the ball touched the Spidercam wire, hammered Jadeja for back-to-back boundaries. The 91-run opening partnership was ended by Shardul Thakur in the 11th over as Iyer holed out to long-on. After Iyer fell, Kolkata's batting nose-dived as they lost the next five wickets in the next 26 balls and scored only 29 runs.

Thakur forced Nitish Rana to chip a cross-seam delivery to mid-off. Sunil Narine's promotion to four ended in pulling straight to deep mid-wicket off Hazlewood. Gill reached his half-century by smacking Jadeja over cover. But in the next over, Chahar

took him out with a dipping slower full toss which hit him in front of the stumps while going for the ramp shot.

Dinesh Karthik opened his account by pulling Chahar over a long leg. In the next over, Karthik tried to repeat the shot against Jadeja but found a deep backward square leg. One brought two for Jadeja as Shakib Al Hasan was trapped plumb in front of the wicket.

From 120/6 in 15 overs, the result was a foregone conclusion. Rahul Tripathi (2) and Eoin Morgan (4) were dismissed cheaply in successive overs. Shivam Mavi and Lockie Ferguson struck well-timed boundaries but in the end, it was too little too late for Kolkata.

Earlier, Chennai had a flying start with 50/0 in the power-play. Rituraj Gaikwad got off the mark by taking three boundaries off Shakib Al Hasan's first two overs. Lockie Ferguson came under the attack as Gaikwad and du Plessis took 12 runs off him. Du Plessis then took a boundary against Shivam Mavi and Varun Chakravarty to match with Gaikwad's pace.

Post timeout, the opening stand of 61 runs was broken by Narine as Gaikwad (32), who also became the Orange cap holder, holed out to long-off. Du Plessis broke the spell of 17 singles by carting Al Hasan over long-off before Robin Uthappa slammed him over deep mid-wicket for the second six of the over.

Du Plessis, who survived a stumping chance at two, slammed Ferguson for back-to-back fours before ending the over with a six over long-off to reach his half-century in 35 balls. Uthappa (31) made full use of a reprieve from Sunil Narine to slam Chakravarty followed by Narine for sixes. But Narine had the last laugh as Uthappa's attempt to reverse sweep ended in a plumb lbw decision.

Moeen Ali took Mavi for two sixes over cow corner and down the ground to bring the 150 up for Chennai. Ferguson's horror match continued as Ali went inside-out for a four before du Plessis smacked him for a six and four to complete 19 runs off his final over. Ali creamed Chakravarty for a four and a six.

But Shivam Mavi conceded seven in the final over, including du Plessis holing out to long-off on the final ball, to keep Chennai under 200. But Chennai's bowling ensured that the total was enough to clinch the trophy.

### Brief scores

Brief scores: Chennai Super Kings 192/3 in 20 overs (Faf du Plessis 86, Moeen Ali 37 not out, Sunil Narine 2/26, Shivam Mavi 1/32) against Kolkata Knight Riders 165/9 in 20 overs (Shubman Gill 51, Venkatesh Iyer 50, Shardul Thakur 3/38, Josh Hazlewood 2/29) by 27 runs

# MS Dhoni becomes first captain to lead in 300 T20 matches



Dubai | Agencies

Adding another feather to his cap, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni on Friday became the first captain to lead a side in 300 T20 matches when he made his way for the toss in the high-octane IPL 2021 final against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

Apart from Dhoni, Daren Sammy (208) is the only other player to have captained teams in more than 200 T20s. This is also the ninth IPL final for Dhoni as a CSK leader.

"We started T20 in around 2005-06 and most of the games have been franchise cricket and in the last five years, there have been a lot of T20 games in international cricket as well," said the former India skipper at the toss about his historic feat.

The 40-year-old has led CSK to three IPL

titles in 2010, 2011 and 2018.

Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2020 but had stepped down as T20 captain in January 2017. He captained the Indian team in a total of 72 T20Is, winning 41 of these and losing 28.

As the skipper of CSK, Dhoni has led the Yellow Brigade in 213 matches, winning 130 and losing 81. For a brief period of time, he also captained Rising Pune Supergiant (RPS) before being replaced by Steve Smith at the helm.

In total, Dhoni had led RPS in 14 matches, winning 5 and losing 9.

If CSK win tonight against KKR, then they will become the first T20 franchise in the world to win a title in three different decades.

The Dhoni-led team had first won the IPL title in 2010 before winning it twice in the next decade -- 2011 and 2018.

# No team is a clear favourite in T20 World Cup: Muralitharan

Dubai | Agencies

Former Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has said that with no team being a clear favourite to win the trophy, it has made the ICC T20 World Cup extremely exciting. The tournament starts on October 17 in Muscat and ends on November 14 in Dubai.

"The most exciting thing about the T20 World Cup 2021 is that there are no clear favourites. Coming into the competition in the United Arab Emirates and Oman, it feels like there is no standout side and as a result, any one of a large number of teams could end up lifting the trophy," wrote Muralitharan in his column for the ICC on Friday.

Muralitharan believes that the power-play overs will be crucial for the teams, irrespective of batting or bowling first.

"The crucial factor will be the first six overs.



That is what teams need to focus on, whether they are batting or bowling. I think that 70 to 80 per cent of the game depends on those first six overs and the result comes down to how well you do in that period.

# Paula Badosa, Ons Jabeur to clash in semis

Indian Wells (USA) | Agencies

Paula Badosa became the first Spanish woman since 2003 to advance to the semi-finals of the WTA event at the BNP Paribas Open, defeating 2019 finalist Angelique Kerber 6-4, 6-3 in the quarter-finals here. Badosa, seeded 21 here, will face Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in the semi-finals, with the winner advancing to the biggest final of their careers.

Indian Wells is Paula's second WTA 1000 semi-final of the season, having advanced to the same stage at the Madrid Open in May.

In the fourth round clash on Wednesday evening, Paula tallied her fourth win against a Top 10 player of what has been a breakout 2021 season, beating French Open champion Barbora Krejickova in straight sets.



Playing in her first main draw in the California desert, the 23-year-old has also tallied wins over Coco Gauff and Dayana Yastremska, losing just one set en route to her Friday showdown with Jabeur. Paula steadied on to seal the set on a break of serve. After they held their pair of holds, she finally earned her third match point and

## INDIAN WELLS TENIS

### DIMITROV OVERCOMES HURKACZ

Indian Wells: Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov's grand comeback continued at the BNP Paribas Open as he rallied from a set down to defeat Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in three sets to back up his stunning victory over top seed Daniil Medvedev in the previous round. The Bulgarian fought back in a tight match to edge past the 24-year-old 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(2) and reach his first ATP Masters 1000 semi-final of the season. With his victory, Dimitrov has now earned 100 Masters 1000 wins. The 30-year-old will next face Cameron Norrie after the Brit boosted his hopes to qualify for the ATP Finals by sweeping aside Diego Schwartzman 6-0, 6-2 to reach his maiden Masters 1000 semi-final.

crouched to the ground in celebration after Kerber sent a forehand long to end the match. In the other quarter-final, No.12 seed Ons Jabeur beat 18th-seeded Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, 7-5, 6-3, to reach the semi-

finals in Indian Wells, guaranteeing herself a spot in the world's Top 10 in Monday's upcoming singles rankings. She will be the first Arab to ever reach the Top 10 of either the WTA or ATP singles rankings.

# Indian hockey team was hugely motivated before bronze-medal match: Simranjeet

Bengaluru | Agencies

Indian hockey midfielder Simranjeet Singh, one of the star performers in the medal-winning campaign at the Tokyo Olympics, said on Friday that the team's morale got a "huge boost" before the bronze-medal match against Germany after the seniors gave stirring speeches.

The midfielder's two sensational goals in crucial moments made him an instant hit among the fans back home.

Though Simranjeet missed out on playing the semifinal, he was geared up for the bronze medal match, eager to make a mark. Recounting the mentality of the team as they headed into arguably the most important match of their careers, the midfielder said, "Before that match, we were aware that this was our last chance to win a medal for the country. The senior players sat us down and told us that this was our only shot to turn our struggles



over the last two years into something worthwhile. Their motivational speeches gave us a huge boost. So, our morale before the match was high and we

were quite confident."

Talking about his big break into the senior side, Simranjeet credited the seniors for guiding him and sharing useful tips, which he still follows to this day. He recalls the influence hockey stalwart Sardar Singh had on his early days in the team.

"Sardar Singh played in the same position as me. He was someone I always looked up to and I listened to his advice," says Simranjeet. "He always told me to make the most of every chance I got and to never let them go waste. He reinforced in me the desire to give 100 per cent at every camp and show the selectors my hunger to be in the team, every single day."

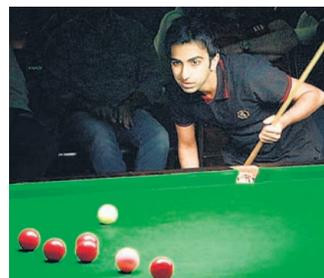
Simranjeet's Olympic journey is one for the books, going from the side-lines as a reserve player to taking centre stage with two goals against Germany in the bronze-medal match. He was not a part of the original squad of 16 announced earlier in June.

# Advani leads elite field in World snooker qualifiers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's best cueist Pankaj Advani, the recent winner of the Asian Snooker Championship and World 6-Red Snooker crowns, will be the star attraction in the World Snooker Qualifiers, a National Selection Tournament, to be held here from October 17 to 27, 2021.

India No. 2 Advani clinched his 24th World title by winning the 6-Red Snooker World Cup in Doha, Qatar, last month and had earlier retained his Asian Snooker title, also played in the Gulf city. He is the firm favourite to finish at the top in the selection event and confirm his place in the Indian team. Meanwhile, India No. 1 and reigning National champion Vidya Pillai (Karnataka) and India No. 2 Ameer Kamani (Madhya Pradesh) will spearhead the field in the women's competition. Varsha Sanjeev (Tamil



Nadu), Anupama Ramchandran (Tamil Nadu), Arantxa Sanchis (Maharashtra), Chitra M. (Karnataka), Keerath Bhandaal (Delhi), and Suniti Damani (West Bengal) are the other cueists in the women's competition.

# KOHLI-PANT BANTER AHEAD OF T20 WORLD CUP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the T20 World Cup which starts on Sunday, India skipper Virat Kohli has provoked wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant in a fun way to get the Delhi batsman's mood up for the upcoming mega event.

With Pant's mood a bit down following his team Delhi Capitals' defeat to Kolkata Knight Riders in Qualifier 2, Kohli, in a TVC video released by T20 World Cup's official broadcaster Star Sports, tries to motivate his wicketkeeper by telling him that India is yet to find a wicket-keeper like MS Dhoni. Dhoni was also the captain when India won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, beating Pakistan in the final.

With Pant talking of his batting skills, Kohli reminds him that he has a number of wicketkeepers, letting him know that he has to brush up his wicketkeeping skills further.



"Rishabh, sixes win you matches in T20 cricket," Kohli tells Pant in a virtual call in the video shared by Star Sports India.

"Don't worry bhैया, I am practicing every day. It was a wicketkeeper that won India a World Cup by hitting a six," said Pant, referring to Dhoni finishing the 2011 World Cup final with a six at the Wankhede Stadium, thus bagging India their second World Cup title.

# NEPAL'S TEAMWORK A WORRY FOR INDIA'S CHHETRI AHEAD OF SAFF FINAL

Male (Maldives) | Agencies

Indian football team captain and prolific goal-scorer Sunil Chhetri said ahead of the SAFF Championship final here on Saturday that Nepal may not have an extraordinary player like Maldives' Ali Ashfaq in their ranks, but the side more than makes up for it with great teamwork.

Chhetri scored two goals in a 3-1 win against Maldives on October 13 to set up a final clash against Nepal here on Saturday (October 16). Ashfaq scored a consolation goal for the hosts.

"They (Nepal) may not have an extraordinary player in their ranks like an Ali Ashfaq in their ranks. But as far as attacking and defending are concerned, they do it as a team. They have been the best team that plays as a team in this Championship -- they fight as a team," said Chhetri.

"We have played them thrice since September and they are extremely compact as a team and it's not going to be easy. But we have become better and better as games have gone by, and in the final we have to be at our best. We pulled our socks up after the first two games and now it is time to finish

### SAFF Football: India's rocky journey to the final

Two second-half goals by Sunil Chhetri and one by Manvir Singh helped India beat hosts Maldives 3-1 in the SAFF Championship in Male and secure a place in the final.

A look at India's journey to the 2021 edition final

- Held 1-1 by Bangladesh
- Goalless vs Sri Lanka
- Beat Nepal 1-0
- Beat Maldives 3-1

The result hurt Indian players' pride. They tried but could not find the net.

Chhetri scores in the 28th minute but Bangladesh levels in the 74th minute.

Chhetri scores 82nd-min goal earns India 3 points and keeps their hopes alive of reaching final.

Angry coach Igor Stimac tells players to not depend entirely on Chhetri for goals. Chhetri scores a brace, and Manvir Singh too chips in.

How India and Nepal match up in SAFF 2021

INDIA	NEPAL
Played 4	Played 4
Won 2	Won 2
Draw 2	Draw 1
Lost 0	Lost 1, GF-5
GF-5, GA-2	GA-4 GD-1
GD-3, Pts 8	Pts 7

Top scorers in SAFF

- Ali Ashfaq (Maldives) 23
- Sunil Chhetri (India) 17
- Bhaichung Bhutia (India) 12

the job. But the job is not yet done," added Chhetri.

India started on a sedate note, drawing against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka before beating Nepal by a solitary goal and then scoring an emphatic win against hosts Maldives.

Chhetri said that following the two goalless draws the morale of the side was low and the seniors had to do a lot of motivational talking. "Generally, the senior ones make sure that they calm the whole situation. When you have a team with a lot of youngsters, and if the mood and tempo go down, they may not be able to perform to the best of their abilities. The manner in which we lost two points in the first two matches wasn't an ideal start.

"What was good was that the (seniors) likes of Gurpreet, Kotal, Bheke, Subhashish started talking and mixing with the juniors to make sure the mood didn't deteriorate. After all, it was easy to get into that vicious circle where you could have started to doubt each other. They made sure that there was a bit of banter, plenty of good vibes, some leg-pulling and the mood changed," added Chhetri.

Chhetri conceded that the results in the last few international assignments hadn't been consistent with the efforts put in by the side.



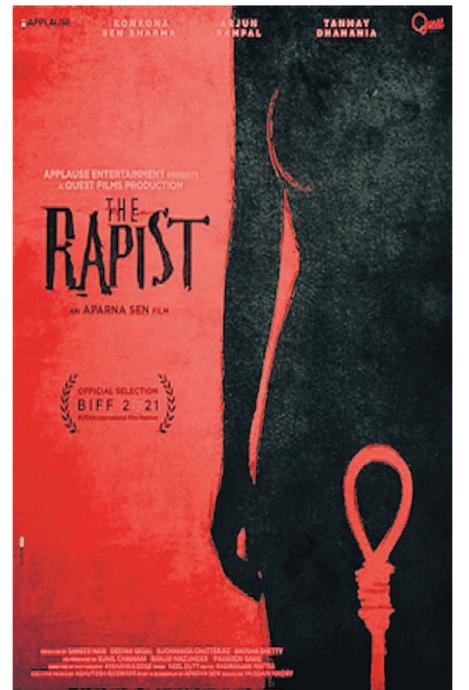
## Aparna Sen's 'The Rapist' wins top award at Busan film fest

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aparna Sen's hard-hitting social drama, 'The Rapist', was declared the joint winner of the Kim Jiseok Award at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), which concluded here on Friday. The film, starring Konkona Sen Sharma, had been premiered at the festival's 'A Window on Asian Cinema' section on October 7. Describing it as one of the best works directed by the veteran filmmaker and actress, Variety.com says it is "a gripping Indian social drama" about a middle-class academic who wants her rapist, to whom she has fallen pregnant, and who has been sentenced to death, to tell her why he committed such a crime.

'The Rapist', whose highlight is a standout performance by Konkona, is "a deeply affecting portrait of personal trauma and an intelligent examination of social and cultural factors fueling the horrifying prevalence of sexual violence in India," according to Variety.com. The film, incidentally, has been produced by Sameer Nair for Applause Entertainment, which had earlier been behind the critically acclaimed web series, 'Scam 1992'. The rapist in the film is played by Tanmay Dhanania.

'The Rapist' shared the award with Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza's boxing drama, 'Gensan Punch'. The winners in the 'New Currents Section' were the Chinese film 'Farewell, My Home Town' (director Wang Er Zhuo) and the South Korean feature 'The Apartment With Two Women' (director Kim Se-in).



## SAIF ALI KHAN MISSES BHOPAL PATAUDI POLO CUP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The prestigious Bhopal Pataudi Polo Cup has been a long-standing Pataudi family legacy that Saif Ali Khan has successfully carried forward over the years. Due to his jam-packed shooting calendar this year, the versatile actor will be giving the family event a miss.

A source reveals, "The Bhopal Pataudi Cup means a lot to Saif, given that his father instated the Cup in the 60s to commemorate Saif's grandfather who was a brilliant polo player. Even though he will be unable to attend the event this year owing to a tight shooting schedule, the Cup will be hosted through the family brand - House of Pataudi. It's perfect synergy for him and it adds even more value to the family tradition. This makes it that much more special for Saif!"

The event will be held on 17th October in New Delhi.

On the work front, Saif Ali Khan has been on a roll with back-to-back blockbusters with Sacred Games, Tanhaji and recently Bhoot Police. His upcoming project crime comedy Bunty Aur Babli 2 is soon to be released next month.



## 'BIGG BOSS 15': AFSANA AND SHAMITA GET INTO UGLY FIGHT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The 'Bigg Boss 15' house is day by day turning into a battleground with contestants coming up with cunning strategies, and rivalries that continue to grow. In the earlier episodes we saw Vishal Kotian teaming up with Shamita Shetty for a new plan to enter the house.

On the other hand there was also a conflict between Jay Bhanushali and Karan Kundrra, who have remained good friends so far this season.

So, it seems friends are turning into enemies and now the recent promo of 'Bigg Boss 15' has come up with another interesting twist. Afsana and Shamita lock horns and get into a heated argument hurling insults at each other. Both of them can be seen using abusive terms for each other. Afsana calls Shamita 'dirty woman' on the other side Shamita also responds harshly. All the contestants try to calm down both of them. Vishal also supports Shamita. Karan tells Afsana: "Enough Afsana". So, it will be interesting to see how this fight turns out and also how the 'junglewaasis' succeed in getting back into the house to live comfortably.



## 'GADAR' SEQUEL WITH SUNNY, AMEESHA ALL SET TO GO ON THE FLOORS

Mumbai: Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel will return together to the big screen after 20 years in the sequel to 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha', the top-grossing blockbuster that was released in 2001, competing head-to-head with another modern classic, Ashutosh Gowariker's Aamir Khan-starrer 'Lagaan'.

'Gadar 2' also brings together director Anil Sharma and the original distributor Zee Studios. The film features Sharma's son, the actor Utkarsh Sharma, who had appeared in 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha' as the child of the characters played by Deol and Patel.

Scheduled to go on the floors soon, the plot of 'Gadar 2' has been kept under wraps. The original film was loosely based on the tragic love story between British Indian Army World War II veteran Boota Singh and a young Muslim woman named Zainab against the backdrop of the Partition.



## 'Rashmi Rocket' is more than an inspirational film



TROY RIBEIRO

(Streaming on Zee5)

**Creator:** Akarsh Khurana

**Cast:** Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee, Supriya Pathak, Manoj Joshi, Chirag Vora, Shweta Tripathi Sharma, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Varun Badola, Mantra and Zafar Karachiwala.

**Duration:** 135 minutes.

**Ratings:** \*\*\*1/2



Rashmi Rocket is a scathing sports drama. It is not a story of an underdog but that of a gifted athlete who was subjected to the trauma of gender testing, which has often resulted in social stigma and careers being ruined. The film questions traditional ideas about identity, ability and competitive fairness in sports.

Taking the lead from the lives of athletes such as Dutee Chand and Santhi Soundarajan, who were banned from participating in official competitions because they have above-average natural testosterone levels, which is considered by some as a sign of intolerance, prejudice and lack of empathy.

This standard has prematurely ended the career of dozens of athletes and threatens the journey of several world-class runners across the globe. Ironically, male athletes are not limited by their natural testosterone levels to compete.

The film eventually blossoms into something much bigger than just an inspirational film. It works as both a

meticulous presentation of the issue and emotional support to the victims of this ancient practice. By its end, its revelations demand nothing short of full-scale dismissal of this antiquated clause in the rulebook.

The screenplay is formulaic. The film begins with Rashmi getting arrested from a women's hostel, accused of being a man. This sets the premise of the narrative. Getting into a flashback, we are shown the free-spirited Rashmi being brought up in rustic Bhuj, Gujarat.

How the earthquake of 2001 altered her life and how over a period of time she took part in athletic events reluctantly, after being coaxed by her mother Bhanuben (Supriya Pathak) and Gagan Thakur (Priyanshu Painyuli), the military officer who loves her, which leads to the controversy that plagues her.

The film's second half focuses on the drama in the court of Judge Savita Deshpande (Supriya Pilgaonkar). The proceedings are manoeuvred by rookie

advocate Eeshit Mehta (Abhishek Banerjee) and the veteran prosecutor Mangesh Desai (Zafar Karachiwala). The film ends on a note that makes you want more. It's therefore a bit disappointing.

Tapsee Pannu, who was earlier seen in a sports drama, effortlessly slips into the shoes of the ace sprinter Rashmi, and because of her speed is named 'Rashmi Rocket'.

Gagan Thakur is the type of best support that anyone needs on and off the screen. The subtle character was brilliantly played by Priyanshu Painyuli.

Supriya Pilgaonkar, Abhishek Banerjee and Zafar Karachiwala are a refreshing change in the courtroom drama. The film is well-shot and boasts of good production values. Music, bursting with the flavours of Bhuj, is used fittingly. The songs 'Ghani Cool Chori', 'Zidd', 'Rann Ma Kutchi' and 'Zindagi Tere Naam', clearly, stand out in the narrative.

Overall, 'Rashmi Rocket' is a film worth taking note of.

## 'Dil Hai Gray'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Urvashi Rautela has recently announced the name of her next film which is titled 'Dil Hai Gray'. It's a Hindi remake of Tamil film 'Thiruttu Payale 2'.

Urvashi Rautela will be seen alongside Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi.

Urvashi shares: "I am excited to announce the title of my next film 'Dil Hai Gray' on the auspicious day of Vijaya Dashami. The film is very close to my heart and it was lovely working with director Susi Ganeshan sir, producer M Ramesh Reddy sir, and my co-stars Vineet Kumar Singh and Akshay Oberoi." "The film has created a massive response in the south industry and I am very positive about the story that it will be also loved by the audience here. I hope my fans would bless us with their love and support. Super excited to watch my film on the big screen after a long time," she concludes.



Urfi Javed