

absolute india

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TRADITIONAL INDIA OVERPOWERS NEW INDIA WITH COMMUNAL HARMONY IN

THE GOODGAON

Gurdwaras in Gurgaon have opened their doors and are allowing Muslims to hold their namaz indoors. Posting on Twitter, Hemkunt Foundation's Harteerath Singh wrote that the Sadar Bazaar Gurudwara is now open for Muslims wishing to offer their Namaz there. A Hindu businessman, Akshay Yadav also offered his premises to Muslim community for prayers.

- ▶ On November 5, BJP leader Kapil Mishra attended Govardhan puja held at a site in Gurgaon's Sector 12A, where Muslims used to offer 'namaz' every week. The puja was organised by Samyukt Hindu Sangharsh Samiti. A Gurgaon police official had earlier said that no namaz was scheduled to be offered at the site that day.
- ▶ The row dates back to 2018. The Haryana government had zeroed in on 23 open spaces for the Friday prayer congregation with a duty magistrate each to oversee security. Also, six places in neighbouring Manesar were identified where police were deployed. Initially, it was agreed that police will be deployed at 13 open spaces. However, it was later increased to 23.
- ▶ Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar had then created a stir after he had said that prayers should be offered at dedicated places of worship only, and not in open spaces.



“A gurdwara is the house of the Guru. People from all communities are welcome to come here and pray.”
Sherdil Singh Sidhu, President, Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Sabzi Mandi

“I offered the place in a heartbeat and I will continue to do so today and tomorrow, again and again.”
Akshay Yadav, Hindu Businessman

“This is a very welcome step and will go a long way in promoting harmony among communities.”
Mufti Mohammad Saleem, Jamiat head

dents too are stepping forward to offer safe spaces. 40-year-old Akshay Yadav, who runs a wildlife tourism business and rents out commercial space in Sector 12, told

a small group of Muslims in his neighbourhood that they could use his property - his home, the roof of children's hospital and a shop that is currently lying vacant - for after-

noon namaz. Since they did not want to invade his personal space, and access to the roof of the hospital was not direct, the group gathered for prayers in his shop.

Paytm shares fell over 27% on market debut

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Digital payments start-up Paytm made one of the worst major stock market debuts on Thursday as its shares fell more than 27% after the largest-ever IPO of the company. Paytm's debut rout raised questions around impending initial public offerings (IPOs) on the until-now red hot Indian market, including those of its smaller rival Mobikwik and hotel aggregator OYO, as valuations come under investor scrutiny. While some investors had questioned Paytm's lack of profits and its lofty enterprise value of around 27 times gross profit, the extent of its price fall shocked many and wiped more than \$5 billion off Paytm's IPO valuation. As the price plummeted, it only stalled when Paytm shares came close to circuit breaking levels on Indian exchanges. Paytm, backed by China's Ant Group and Japan's SoftBank, grew rapidly after Uber listed it as a quick payment option in India and its popularity surged amid the government's demonetization exercise in 2016. Its founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma, who cried with joy at the opening ceremony, later told news agency Reuters he was unperturbed by the slide and did not regret listing. Paytm has expanded into services including insurance, gold sales, film and flight ticketing, bank deposits and remittances. Sharma did cash-in on the IPO however, selling some 1.87 million shares at the issue price of 2,150 rupees per share, netting 4.02 billion rupees (\$54 million). Investors and analysts on Thursday expressed concerns over valuing the loss-making firm at some \$18.7 billion in the IPO.

“One day does not decide what our future is. It is new business model. It takes a lot for someone to understand it.”
Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Founder and CEO, Paytm

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amidst rightwing Hindutva groups' efforts to disrupt namaz at designated sites in Gurugram, a gurdwara committee and a Hindu businessman has offered their premises for Muslims to offer prayers indoors. Due to the objection by local people and various Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) the district administration of Gurugram on November 3 cancelled permission to offer Namaz at 8 designated places. Amid protests by right-wing groups in Gurgaon against the offering 'namaz' in the

open, Haryana's Home Minister Anil Vij said on November 7 that everyone should hold religious events inside places of worship. The Sona Chowk Gurudwara has also opened its doors. Built in 1934, the Sona Chowk Gurudwara is believed to be the oldest Sikh place of worship in the Haryana district adjoining Delhi. The Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Sabzi Mandi, Gurgaon, has five places of worship under its aegis which will now be open to all communities to pray in Sadar Bazaar, Sector 39, Sector 46, Model Town and Jacobpura. It wasn't just Gurdwaras, Gurugram resi-

PAK PASSES BILL FOR CHEMICAL CASTRATION OF RAPIST

Team Absolute | New Delhi

One of the bills passed by the joint session of the Pakistan Parliament provides for the punishment of "chemical castration" of a habitual rapist. Dawn news reported. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. According to the bill passed on Wednesday, "chemical castration is a process duly notified by rules framed by the Prime Minister, whereby a person is rendered incapable of performing sexual intercourse for any period of his life, as may be determined by the court through administration of drugs which shall be conducted through a notified medical board".

Recent reforms have made banks' financial health strong: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that Centre's banking reforms during the past six-to-seven years have supported the sector in "every way". Addressing a conference themed 'Creating Synergies for Seamless Credit Flow and Economic Growth', he said these reforms have improved banking sector's overall health, because of which it is in a "very strong" position today. "We addressed the problem of 'NPAs', recapitalised banks and increased their strength. We brought reforms like IBC, reformed many laws and empowered debt recovery tribunal. A dedicated 'Stressed Asset Management



Vertical' was also formed in the country during the Covid-19 period," he said. "Indian banks are strong enough to play a major role in imparting fresh energy to the country's economy, for giving a big push and making India self-reliant." Addressing the gathering via video link, he said this is the time for the sector to sup-

port wealth creators and job creators. "It is the need of the hour that now the banks of India work proactively to bolster the wealth sheet of the country along with their balance sheets," he said. Additionally, he mentioned that the steps taken in the recent past have created a strong capital base for the banks.

WE ARE OPEN TO CORRECTION IF ANYTHING HAS GONE WRONG: J&K DGP

Team Absolute | Srinagar

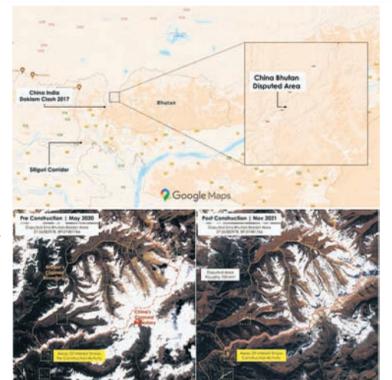
Srinagar: On a day the J&K Lt. Governor ordered a magisterial probe into the Hyderabad encounter in which four persons were killed, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said the "police is open to correction if anything has gone wrong". Earlier in the day, Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha ordered a time bound magisterial probe into Monday's Hyderabad encounter in which, according to the police, 'a foreign terrorist, his local associate, Altaf Ahmad (owner of the building where the encounter took place) and Dr Mudasir (was running a call centre in a rented floor of the building, but was a terror associate), were killed. Families of the building owner, Altaf Ahmad and Dr Mudasir have demanded their bodies to be returned so that the last rites could be performed. The families also challenged the authorities to prove that the two civilians had anything to do with militancy. All the four persons slain in the Hyderabad encounter were buried by the authorities in north Kashmir Handwara tehsil after the demand of the families to return the bodies was turned down. Dilbag Singh (DGP) told some reporters, "We will look into the demands of the families.

CHINA CONSTRUCTS NEW VILLAGES IN BHUTAN TERRITORY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

China has constructed new villages in Bhutan territory near Doklam in the last one year, new satellite images have revealed. The images show that four villages were built by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) in about 100 sq.km. area between May 2020 and November 2021. It seems that construction started at the same time when the PLA had ingressed into Indian territory at multiple locations in eastern Ladakh and the Sikkim sector. The Doklam plateau was in the limelight in 2017 when the Indian Army and the China's PLA were locked in the stand-off for over 70 days. The Chinese had to retreat from the area after the Indian troops contested the plateau. Doklam is an area of 100 sq.km comprising a plateau and a valley at the tri-junction between India, China and Bhutan. It is circled by the Chumbi Valley of Tibet.

Bhutan's Ha Valley and India's Sikkim. In 2017, China was making infra-structural development work at Doklam to which India objected. China then claimed that there was boundary dispute between Bhutan and China and to which India had no claims.



However, India refuted and stood there matching the deployment of the Chinese troops for 73 days. Last month, China and Bhutan signed a pact on a three-step roadmap to resolve their boundary disputes. In response, India said that "it has noted the development".

Boundary negotiations between Bhutan and China began in 1984 and the two sides have held 24 rounds of boundary talks and 10 rounds of meeting at the expert group level. Earlier, Bhutan had objected several times to Chinese intrusion into their land.

Five terrorists killed in two Kashmir encounters identified

Srinagar | Agencies

The five terrorists killed in two separate encounters with the security forces at Pombay and Gopalpora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district have been identified, and one of them was a commander of a proscribed terror outfit, police said on Thursday. The five were killed in the security operations on

Wednesday. The police said acting on specific inputs generated by the Kulgam police about the presence of terrorists in the twin villages of the district, two anti-terrorist operations were carried out in which five were eliminated. The killed terrorists included the commander of proscribed terror outfit, The Resistance Front (TRF), Aafaq Sikander, police said.

INDIA SHOCKER: 1 KID KILLED EVERY 45 MINUTES IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

▶ THE STUNNING REVELATION WAS MADE AT A WORKSHOP ON 'MAKING ROADS SAFER FOR CHILDREN' HELD ON THURSDAY, IN WHICH SYNERGIE AND GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (GRSP), TOP OFFICIALS AND LEADING EXPERTS TOOK PART.

▶ ADDITIONAL FINDINGS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY SYNERGIE'S CO-FOUNDER SAURABH VERMA SHOWED THAT ONLY 22 PER CENT KIDS STRAP ON SEAT BELTS, WHILE 53 PER CENT SAID THEIR PARENTS DON'T CARE IF THEY VIOLATE TRAFFIC RULES.

▶ WORKSHOP STRESSED ON THE NEED TO FOCUS ON THE 4E APPROACH -- EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY CARE -- TO TACKLE CHILD ROAD SAFETY ASPECTS.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A whopping 11,168 kids below 18 years of age get killed annually in road accidents in the country, which translates to one in every 45 minutes, or 31 daily, accounting for 7.40 per cent of all fatalities, as per official data, raising a big concern over the safety of minors in the country. Maharashtra Transport Commissioner Avinash Dhakne said that road discipline is missing in the country and it is the parents who have a key role in educating their children on road safety aspects. "Schools do train students in the basics of road safety, but peo-



ple still violate the rules. We need to do our best to reduce deaths on roads and create a conducive commuting environment for

adults and children alike," urged Dhakne. Dattatraya Saste, member of a high-level expert committee on

road safety at the Centre, said that the safety of children is the collective responsibility of all the stakeholders. "In the coming days, various tools will be developed in the fields of road safety, motor vehicles and road networks to tackle the safety issues, especially those pertaining to children," Saste said. Advisor to Mumbai Traffic Police, Shankar Vishwanath, said that with increasing number of children walking or travelling longer distances to schools, colleges or playgrounds in Indian cities and villages, now is the time to start focussing on 'Child Safety While Commuting' to protect them and ensure the country's future.



180-day maternity leave for women who adopt child in K'taka

Bengaluru: The decision of the Karnataka State Road Transport Company (KSRTC) to grant maternity leave for women employees who adopt children has been well appreciated. KSRTC Managing Director Shivayogi Kalasad issued a notification in this regard granting 180 days of maternity leave to women staff who adopt children. However, this facility is not available for those who have two surviving children. Till now, parents who adopted children had to take separate leaves and this recent order enables parents who adopt children also to avail maternity leaves granted to biological mothers. The adopted mother can avail the leave within one year of adoption or before the adopted child turns one year. The decision had been taken as per the state government's directive to treat adopting parents on par with biological parents. The Karnataka government had earlier issued an order granting 180 days of maternity leave for women and 15 days of paternity leave for father.

I DROWNED AFTER HEAVY RAINS LASHED PUDUCHERRY, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES SHUT

Team Absolute | Puducherry

One person was drowned to death after heavy rains lashed Puducherry and the surrounding areas. The person not identified till now was drowned in the Malattar river which is in a spate following heavy rainfall due to the low-pressure area over the southeast and southwest Bay of Bengal.

Puducherry district collector, Purva Garg said that the body of the deceased person was recovered with the help of Fire department and Scuba drivers.

District collector also said that heavy rains in the Puducherry region damaged 62 huts and 27 houses. Three trees were uprooted obstructing the roads, later removed by the Fire and Rescue department and the Forest department.

The Collector said that all necessary steps have been taken to remove the stagnated water in many parts of Puducherry central which are inundated.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places in Puducherry and Karaikal till



November 20. One team of the NDRF from Arkonam in Tamil Nadu is requested to be deployed at Puducherry, the district collector said.

The Puducherry government declared a holiday for schools and colleges on Friday.

HEAVY RAINS BATTER TIRUPATI, HIT AIR TRAFFIC

Tirupati: Heavy rains wreaked havoc in Tirupati on Thursday, inundating low-lying areas, disrupting vehicular and air traffic and plunging the temple town into darkness.

The downpour caused severe hardships to pilgrims as the landslides forced the authorities to close roads leading to Sri Venkateswara temple

atop Tirumala. There was no electricity supply in the town since 3 p.m. after rain water entered a sub-station.

Roads in several key areas of the town turned into cesspools due to incessant rains under the impact of northeast monsoon, which is active in Chittoor and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh

and adjoining coastal districts of Tamil Nadu.

Vehicular traffic came to a halt in usually busy areas like Gandhi Road, Tilak Road, AIR Bypass Road, Lakshimpuram, Leela Mahal and West Church Railway Under Bridge. Some residential colonies were also flooded, causing severe hardships to the residents.

Alipiri footpath to Tirumala temple was flooded with water gushing down from the hills. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which manages the affairs of the famous temple, had already announced closure of Alipiri and Srivarammetlu for two days in view of heavy rains forecast.

25-yr-old child dies due to Covid in Jaipur

Team Absolute | Jaipur

A 2.5-year-old child died here due to Covid-19 - the first fatality reported in Jaipur after three months. "The child passed away on late Wednesday night. However, the test reports came on Thursday," Jaipur CMHO Narottam Sharma told reporter.

He further said that the 2.5-year-old kid is from Jaipur's Chomu area and his parents are working as labourers.

"He was admitted to RUHS four days back. Earlier, he was in JK Lon. His reports on Thursday confirmed that he was a Covid positive patient."

Officials said a team of doctors shall be sent for testing those who came in contact with the child and his parents.

"In fact, his parents shall also be tested," said Sharma, adding, "the addresses submitted in the hospital are wrong. We have got in touch with the police team in Chomu which shall get thorough testing done". Meanwhile, on Thursday,



Jaipur registered 12 new cases while the state had 18 new cases.

Out of 12 new cases in Jaipur, a 12-year-old child has also tested positive. Her mother tested positive on November 14.

Besides Jaipur, active caseload has started increasing in Ajmer too where four new cases have been traced and the number of active cases has increased to 19. Besides Jaipur and Ajmer, one new case was found in Bara and Pali too.

It needs to be mentioned here that many restrictions have been eased out in Rajasthan. Schools and colleges have been opened with full capacity. In fact, cinema halls and other malls are also operating at full capacity.

Cops misbehave with judge in Bihar court premises

Patna | Agencies

Three persons including the SHO and sub-inspector of Ghoghardiha police station in Bihar's Madhubani district on Thursday allegedly manhandled Additional Session Judge Avinash Kumar inside the sub-divisional court premises of Jhanyarpur.

DK Sharma, president of lawyers' association of Jhanyarpur sub-divisional court, said the police officials also used abusive language and pointed service revolver at Avinash Kumar.

"They have threatened Kumar of dire consequences. The reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained but the police officials were heard using abusive language," Sharma said.

"Following the incident, we rushed to the court room of Kumar. It is highly objectionable that the policemen abused a top level judicial officer," he said.

"We have demanded immediate action against the police officials, and also demanded registration of



an FIR against the district SP who failed to control his junior officers in discipline. We are already living under the fear of criminals and now, we are also under the threat of police officers," he added.

Sharma further said the work at Jhanyarpur sub-divisional court has been suspended for now.

"If no appropriate action is taken by the police, we will appeal to the state's lawyer association to suspend their work for an indefinite period," he added.

Several telephonic calls by reporter to Satya Prakash, Superintendent of Police, Madhubani, went unanswered.

IAF CHOPPER CRASH-LANDS IN ARUNACHAL; PILOT, CREW SAFE

Itanagar: An Mi-17 helicopter of the Indian Air Force (IAF), with two pilots and three crew members on board, crash-landed at Rochham helipad in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday due to a technical snag, officials said.

An official of Anjaw district said that the pilots and the crew members are safe while an engineer sustained some minor injuries. The helicopter was doing ration sorties for the Army from Hayuliang to Rochham of Anjaw district bordering China and Myanmar. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel, posted in the nearby areas, have subsequently helped the IAF pilots and the crew members to move to the nearest destination.

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje will embark on a 'Mewar yatra' from November 23, which is being viewed as her start to the 2023 Assembly polls preparations.

A few days ago, leader of opposition Gulabchand Kataria from Mewar region had questioned her absence as the party's star campaigner in the recent bypolls. Kataria raised the question when Vasundhara's supporters recommended her name as the party's CM face for next Assembly elections in the wake of defeat in Dhariyawad and Vallabhagar bypolls.

Raje's Mewar yatra is being considered as a political reply to Kataria.

Notably, there has been a kind of poster war in Rajasthan as



Raje's posters were removed from state party headquarter as well as from posters of bypolls.

Raje's loyalists, including former ministers Yunus Khan, Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, Kalulal

Gurjar, Srichand Kriplani, etc are making all-out efforts to make this tour a success as a part of her strategy to give out a political message to her opponents. As per the programme, Raje

shall offer prayers at Sanwariyaji temple on November 23, Udaipur and Rajsamand on November 24 and Bhilwara on November 25 where she shall visit different temples.

Meanwhile, the party officials have distanced themselves from Raje's tour.

According to them, the party office-bearers are busy in preparing for 'chintan baithaks' as part of which different issues are being deliberated upon to prepare for 2023 elections.

Also hectic preparations are on for the state executive committee meeting to be held soon. "Further, we are preparing for party's president J.P. Nadda's visit besides December 15 mega protest in which around 5 lakh people are expected to assemble to raise voice against deteriorating law and order, farm loan issues among others."

What have you done on hate content: Delhi Assembly panel asks Facebook

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As Facebook India's senior representatives appeared before Delhi Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony on Thursday, the committee alleged that during the northeast Delhi riots in February 2020, the social media giant did very little to stop the spread of fake news and hate posts on its platform.

The Assembly panel has asked the Facebook India's representatives to provide a detailed report on the measures taken by the organisation to control the hate content before and after the violence.

"It has been observed and emphasised by the Supreme Court also that hate content online impacts the actual life of the masses. The same was witnessed during February riots when unverified, hate contents were shared widely on Facebook. What did Facebook do to control such content?"



"Provide a detailed report of the content complaint, starting from one month before the Delhi riots to two months after February 2020 and what actions did Facebook take to curb them," Committee's Chairman Raghav Chadha told Facebook. In response, Facebook India's Public Policy Director told the Delhi Assembly's panel that human reviewers and artificial intelligence proactively remove offensive material from Facebook, but these tools are not always perfect.

"Offensive material is proactively removed from the platform by employing Human Reviewers and Artificial Intelligence (AI), together," Shivnath Thukral said answering Committee Chairman Raghav Chadha's question over how Facebook India keep a check on hate content on its platform.

However, he acknowledged that these tools are not always perfect and there is still scope of improvement.

Nusrat Jahan-Nikhil Jain marriage not legally valid, rules court

Kolkata | Agencies

The high-profile marriage between actor-turned-Trinamool MP Nusrat Jahan and businessman Nikhil Jain came to end on Thursday after a Kolkata court declared that the marriage was legally invalid because the duo got married in Turkey and the interfaith marriage was not registered in India.

Taking cognizance of a law suit filed by Nikhil Jain with regard to his relation with Nusrat, the court said that the duo got married in Turkey and the interfaith marriage was not registered in India. "It is declared that the alleged marriage held on 19/06/2019 at Bodrum, Turkey, between the plaintiff and the defendant is not legally valid," said S. Roy, civil judge, Alipore court. Jain and Nusrat got



married in June 2019 in the picturesque town of Bodrum in Turkey, which was followed by a wedding party involving relatives and close friends. But earlier this year, Nusrat had claimed that she was not married to Jain and it was only a live-in relationship. The marriage was not legal and they have been separated for a long

time, she had maintained. In a detailed statement, the Trinamool Congress MP from Basirhat had said, "Being on foreign land, as per the Turkish marriage regulation, the ceremony is invalid. Moreover, since it was an interfaith marriage, it requires validation under the Special Marriage Act in India, which did not happen. As per the court of law, it is not a marriage, but a relationship or a live-in relationship."

PRIYANKA MEETS FAMILY OF VICTIM WHO DIED IN POLICE CUSTODY



Lucknow: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday met the family of the Dalit sanitation worker, Arun Valmiki, who died in police custody last month in Agra.

Gandhi said that despite promises, the state government had not done anything for Valmiki's family. She said that as promised, UPCC president Ajay Kumar Lallu would soon give a cheque of Rs 30 lakh to the family of the deceased. "I will not let the voice of justice be muffled and will stand by the family in their battle," she said.

India, China agree on need to find early resolution to remaining border disputes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India and China have agreed on the need to find early resolution to the remaining disputes along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday. The ministry said that both the countries agreed on the need to find an early resolution while fully abiding by the bilateral agreements and protocols so as to restore peace and tranquility in the region. "The two sides also agreed that both sides should in the interim continue to ensure a stable ground situation and avoid any untoward incident," the ministry said after the 23rd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), which was held on Thursday.

The Indian delegation was led by the Additional Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department of the



Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Chinese delegation. The two sides recalled the agreement reached between the Indian External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of China during their meeting in September in Dushanbe that military and diplomatic officials of the two sides should continue their discussions to resolve the remaining issues along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Accordingly, the two sides had candid and in-depth discussions on the situation along the LAC in the Western Sector of India-China border areas and also reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the senior commanders of both sides which held on October 10. It was agreed that both sides should hold the next 14th round of senior commanders' meeting at an early date to achieve the objective of complete disengagement from all the friction points along the LAC in the Western Sector in accordance with the existing bilateral agreements and protocols. India and China are engaged in a border dispute for 19 months now.



THREE-PHASE TIGER CENSUS BEGINS IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The forest department of Madhya Pradesh has begun a three-phase estimation exercise of tigers, which will continue till December 21.

In the first phase, wildlife experts (employees) will conduct field exercise to collect evidence of the presence of tigers using different sets of parameters in each forest reserves of the state.

The second phase will involve the use of the Geographic Information System (GIS), and the third phase is to be conducted in the laboratory.

"There are basically four phases of exercise of tigers census, of which, two phases are held in field and the third one is conducted at laboratory, which is based on evidence collected through the field exercise and the last one will be final submission to the Centre," said Rajnish Singh, a senior wildlife official in Bhopal division.

Singh told IANS that generally people call this process 'census or counting of tigers', but technically, it is an 'estimation exercise' which is conducted after every four years across the country.

The first phase of the exercise is to be conducted between November 17 to November 25, the second - from December 1 to December 13 the third phase - from

December 14 to December 21. The final reports of estimation exercise to be submitted to the Centre.

Singh further said that the estimation exercise is conducted on the basis of over 50 sets of parameters, including human interference, geographical condition, number of footfalls, water resources and many more.

Replying to the questions about the accuracy of the exercise, which suggests the number of tigers at a particular tiger reserve, Singh said, "It does not go 100 per cent, but it remains between 90-95 per cent."

Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the hub of tigers, has lost 36 tigers in 2021, more than twice against Karnataka, which lost 15 tigers.

The increasing number of the tiger deaths in almost all the tiger reserves is not only putting a question mark on the MP status of a 'tiger state', which it won against Karnataka in 2018, but has also raised an alarm to take more protective measures.

Madhya Pradesh had won the 'tiger state' status in the All India Tiger Estimated Report 2018 by a difference of just two tigers -- 526 to Karnataka's 524.

MP has lost over 200 tigers between 2012 and 2019 (36 till November 13, 2021), followed by 141 in Maharashtra and 123 in Karnataka during the same period.

BRING REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has told to work diligently to bring revolutionary changes in the field of agriculture in the state. Efforts should be made in a systematic manner to increase the income of the farmers and to make agriculture a profitable business. Organic farming and production of pulse crops should be promoted. Chouhan was taking an inter-departmental meeting of the Group of Ministers constituted under the roadmap of Atma-nirbhar Madhya Pradesh at Mantralaya on Thursday.

Chouhan said that production should be increased to export more and more agricultural products. Encourage farmers by creating an environment for organic farming. Make serious efforts for the production and sale of crops.

Production should be increased through means like crop diversification and social forestry.

Chouhan said that to make agriculture a profitable business, prepare a presentation of the Group of Ministers after taking the opinion of experts. After this, the farmers should be advised about the methods of cultivation in the prescribed action plan. He said that an action plan should also be made to provide options to the farmers to increase the agricultural production. Necessary reforms should be made in the system by making an action plan to bring the cooperative societies in the profit in the state. Adequate arrangements should be made for society managers etc. in co-operative banks. Like the state's ethanol policy, innovation should be promoted by formulating various policies in the field of agriculture.



Fourth generation Scindia rises on the horizon

Team Absolute | Gwalior

The politics of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are incomplete without the mention of the Scindia family. People are now speculating that the fourth generation of Scindias is going to enter the political arena after the 26th birthday of Mahanaaryaman Scindia, son of civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, was celebrated with much fanfare in Gwalior. The young Scindia has been educated in Doon School and has a MBA degree from Yale University in the US.

Mahanaaryaman has been active on Twitter and has been putting out his political views since his father left the Congress and supporting him in his new innings in the BJP. Mahanaaryaman will be the fourth generation Scindia to take the plunge into politics starting from his grandmother Vijaya Raju Scindia, who was fondly called Rajmata and was one of the founding figures of the BJP. Rajmata started her political career in the Congress, later switched to the Swatantra Party and then the Jan Sangh and its later avatar, the BJP.

Mahanaaryaman when asked about his plans to enter politics said, "First I will meet people, talk to them and then decide about politics."

But close family well wisher Keshav Pande said that it is for the Scindia family to decide about his entry into politics but without them the politics of the two states are incomplete. Rajmata's three children also

entered politics with Vasundhara Raje being Chief Minister of Rajasthan twice and also a Union Minister while her sister Yasodhara Raje is active in Madhya Pradesh politics and is one of the senior leaders of the BJP. Mahanaaryaman's grandfather late Madhavrao Scindia was a Union Minister and also founded his own party, the Madhya Pradesh Congress, when differences arose with former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. He merged the party with the Congress when Sonia Gandhi took over. He was a close confidante of Sonia Gandhi but his untimely demise in an air crash brought Jyotiraditya Scindia into politics. Both Jyotiraditya Scindia and Dushyant Singh, son of Vasundhara Raje, are the third generation politicians in the Scindia family. Jyotiraditya started his career in the Congress and was Union Minister of power in the Manmohan Singh government. He switched to the BJP when differences arose with former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath and is now Union Minister of Civil Aviation in the Modi government. His cousin Dushyant Singh is the MP from Jhalawar in Rajasthan.

When Jyotiraditya Scindia left the Congress his son's tweet said it all: "I am proud that my father took a stand for himself and its difficult to resign from legacy, history speaks itself and our family is not hungry for power, we will bring change in MP and India which will be our future."

Review meeting of MP Gaupalan and Livestock Promotion Board held

Salaria cow sanctuary will be made ideal sanctuary of the country: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Salaria Gau Sanctuary of Agar-Malwa district should be developed as a model of the country and made the best national level cow sanctuary. Responsibility should be given to a competent social organization of the state for developing the sanctuary. Chouhan was taking a review meeting of the

Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan and Livestock Promotion Board.

Chouhan said that the work of the development of Gaushalas in the state should be given to voluntary organizations. The work of Gaushalas is synonymous to service. Voluntary organizations can develop Gaushalas well only through a sense of service. He directed to give grants to Gaushalas run by non-government voluntary organizations. He directed the officers to develop 6 Gaushalas as training centers in the state.

Chouhan directed to establish Gauvansh Van Vihar at Gangaivir in Jabalpur district.

He said that 530 acres of land of Animal Husbandry Department is available here, in which two thousand cows can be given shelter in a systematic manner.

Chouhan said that special efforts should be made to improve the breed of cows and Nandi in the state. He instructed to conduct research on cows that give more milk. He directed to make special arrangements for the sale of cow products and to engage in maximum publicity. He said that cophenyl should be used in government offices. A tax plan should be prepared for cowgrass. Also, public participation should be encouraged.

Following the instructions of Chief Minister, 2200 gaushalas will be built in the state. The work of running Gaushalas will be entrusted to social service organizations. The cow sanctuary will be made the center of cow tourism related to which the Tourism department has started work. Eight Gau Sadans that were shut down will be started again in the state. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan approved the amount received and spent from State Agricultural Marketing Board, Mandi Board etc. According to the 20th animal census, there are 01 crore 87 lakh 50 thousand cows in the state.

CM TO PERFORM BHOOMI-PUJAN OF METRO RAILWAY STATIONS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will perform bhoomi-pujan of 8 metro railway stations near AIIMS Bhopal on November 19 at 4 pm. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh will also participate in the programme.

The Urban Development and Housing Minister has informed that international tenders were called for the construction of 8 metro stations in the Priority Corridor of Bhopal Metro Rail Project. Eight metro stations will be built at a total cost of Rs 426 crore 67 lakh. About 70 per cent work of Viaduct of the

Priority Corridor has been completed. The design of Subhash Nagar Metro Depot has been prepared in Bhopal Metro Rail Project. Its work will start from January-2022. In Bhopal, two metro corridors of about 30 km each are being constructed from AIIMS to Karond intersection and from Bhadbhada intersection to Ratnagiri intersection.

All the 8 elevated metro stations will be equipped with world-class facilities. For energy conservation, there will be provision of LED lights and solar panels at all the stations. Rani Kamlapati Railway Station will be connected with Metro Station through Sky Walk. The name of this

metro station will also be Rani Kamlapati Metro Station. All stations will have a central air concourse like a mall with services like ATMs, food outlets, cafes, mobile recharge etc. Co-ordination has been planned at all the stations with other modes of transport of the city. All stations will have ultramodern automatic fare collection system. For security, full time CCTV, metal detector and other modern security equipment will be installed. For the green development to the station area, 4 times advance planting of saplings has been done to compensate the affected trees. Water harvesting will be done for environmental protection.



Tantya Mama's martyrdom will inspire patriotism and service to the poor: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Balidan Divas of Tantya Mama will be observed with reverence on December 4. A programme will also be organized in his memory on this day. This will keep his memories alive and we will get inspiration for patriotism and service to the poor, many such measures will be taken. Chouhan will visit Patalpani in Indore district to pay tributes to him on December 4. Chouhan has said that we all are celebrating the 75th year of Independence. Many revolutionaries have laid down their precious lives for freedom. They have undergone much suffering and torture. They put the noose around their neck. Similarly, the immortal revolutionary, martyr Tantya Mama had blown the conch of revolution so that the poor tribals do not get exploited and Mother India becomes free from the chains of slavery. The British trembled at the mention of his name. He was given the title of Robin Hood. Such an immortal revolutionary Tantya Mama was born on the soil of Madhya Pradesh in Khandwa district. His last rites were performed at Patalpani near Mhow in Indore district. December 4 is the Balidan Divas of Amar Shaheed Tantya Mama.

CM plants Saptaparni and Pink Cassia saplings in Smart Garden

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Saptaparni and Pink Cassia saplings in Smart Garden. The members of the Osk organisation also planted saplings along with the Chief Minister. The members of the organisation, Shri Ravindra Dangi, Abhi Sharma and Animesh Jain were present.

The Osk organisation is running a special campaign to stop the use of plastic along with plantation and to protect the environment that is getting polluted. In the campaign, along with planting saplings in many cities of the state, their safety has also been ensured. So far, more than 17 thousand saplings are thriving, which have been planted in Guna, Bhopal, Sehore and Rajgarh.



The organisation has made the youth aware of the environment by holding activities like street plays, rallies, seminars, debates etc. at various places in the city and has increased awareness by giving the message of not using polythene in public places through street plays. With the desire to reduce the carbon footprint and work on clean and pure water and air, the members of the organisation are starting the Green Revolution. The youth also recited a song inspiring to protect the environment.

Saptaparni is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. It is used in the manufacture of various medicines. Cassia is also called wild cinnamon in India. The bark and leaves of Cassia javanica are used in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines.

MP GOVT BANS VIR DAS PERFORMANCE IN STATE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Comedian Vir Das is the new target of Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra for his controversial remarks 'I come from two Indias'.

Mishra said on Thursday that Vir Das needs to tender an apology, otherwise, he will not be allowed to perform in Madhya Pradesh. "We won't allow such jester to perform, until he apologizes for his remarks," Mishra added.

Das, who is in the US right now, had on Monday uploaded a video on YouTube titled - "I come from two Indias," which was a part of his recent performance in Washington DC. Earlier, Mishra had directed to put a ban on sale of Congress

leader Salman Khushid's book - Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times, which is based on judgement on Ram Janmabhoomi and Babri Mosque dispute.

However, it is not the first time when Mishra has asked for a ban on artists to perform in Madhya Pradesh. Recently, he threatened Bollywood director Prakash Jha to change the title of his Bobby Deol starrer - 'Asharam' of which, third part is being shot in Bhopal and surrounding areas.

He then proposed to bring some changes in policy to allow film shootings in the state, wherein directors have to submit a copy of the script to the government during accessing permission for it.

BOTH DOSES OF VACCINE ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL

Chief Minister Chouhan appealed to the citizens of the state

Restrictions have been lifted, but precautions should not be given up for prevention of corona: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that many restrictions related to corona have been lifted in the state, but we all

have to pay attention to corona appropriate behaviour by taking all precautions. Every person must get a second dose of the vaccine to protect against corona. We have to attain cent percent achievement of both the doses by the month of December. So far 92 percent people in the state have got the first dose of vaccine and 50 percent have got the second dose. Everyone has to mobilize to make the Vaccination Maha Abhiyan a success. By getting vaccinated in the Maha Abhiyan on 24th of this month and on 1st December, all the people left out of the vaccine should ensure their own safety.

In a message to the people of the state today, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that the restrictions imposed earlier for corona control have been removed from November 17, 2021. The livelihoods of many people were being affected by the restrictions. Giving the example of Burhanpur Yatra, Chief Minister said that he was made aware of the pain of the livelihood by a rural brother Thakur Das working for a band party. The same problem was faced by the small traders who set up their shops in the fairs and markets. Everyone insisted that now the ban should end. Covid infection is completely controlled in the state. Today there have been 7 positive cases of corona, the number of active cases is also 79. There is no case in 47 districts of the state. Chief

Minister Shri Chouhan said that after deliberating on all these facts, a decision has been taken to end the ban. Chouhan said that we all have to be careful despite the situation of control over corona. There are reports of infection in some countries of Europe. If we are careless we may have to impose restrictions again. No one wants the infection to spread and restrictions to be imposed. We have to follow our marriage and other traditions with utmost care. Chouhan said that every person has to keep using mask. Keep distance from each other. Hands have to be kept clean. Along with this, the Health Department and the concerned staff have to conduct 70-75 thousand tests daily so that necessary

arrangements can be made if the infection is detected. One should not feel any problem in getting the corona test done. Chief Minister Chouhan told that he himself conducts this test every week.

Chouhan said in the appeal that all citizens have to get a second dose of vaccine to protect them from corona. It is mandatory for the government people, it is also very essential for all others. Teachers, students and all young men and women above 18 years should not lag behind in taking the vaccine dose. This makes life safe. We will be able to lead a normal life only if we follow all the precautions. Will be able to make the control on Corona permanent.



EDITOR'S SPECS

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY:
NEW POLITICAL BATTLEFIELD

The Purvanchal Expressway is now becoming the arena for the battle between the BJP and the Samajwadi Party in the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. While the BJP is determined to showcase the 341-kilometre-long expressway as its biggest achievement, the Samajwadi Party is gearing up to drive holes into the same. On Thursday, Samajwadi party conducted Vijay Yatra at expressway, lead by Party President Akhilesh Yadav. The fourth leg of Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav's Vijay Yatra from Ghazipur to Lucknow on the newly inaugurated Purvanchal Expressway, took more than 16 hours to reach the state capital at 4 a.m. on Thursday. The yatra had begun at 1 p.m. on Wednesday. Huge crowds turned up along the route to cheer their leader. The expressway passes through nine districts -- Lucknow, Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Faizabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur -- all considered to be strongholds of the Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Congress. The BJP hopes to make major gains in this region by promoting the expressway as the harbinger of economic prosperity in the otherwise backward region. According to political analysts, the BJP has set its eyes on the eastern Uttar Pradesh to retain power -- more so because the party is facing stiff resistance from farmers who have been agitating against the farm laws in western part of the state. The battle for the eastern Uttar Pradesh will be decisive in deciding the fate of the political parties in the upcoming Assembly elections. This can be gauged from the fact that out of the 403 Assembly seats in the state, 160 are in this region. The Samajwadi Party, on the other hand, is working overtime to take the credit for the project which was conceptualised in its regime. BSP president Mayawati has also taken a plunge into the expressway battle.

UTTARAKHAND: BJP WOOING BENGALIS IN
COMMUNITY-DOMINATED ASSEMBLY SEATS

Knowing the importance of the Bengali community in next year's Uttarakhand assembly elections, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to woo them. Recently BJP chief J P Nadda held an interaction with the Bengali community during his two-day visit to the poll bound state. The community, which migrated to the state from former East Pakistan in 1971 after the formation of Bangladesh, has influence in over half a dozen constituencies in the 70-member Uttarakhand assembly. They had migrated to Udhampur Singh Nagar and nearby areas of the state and play an influential role in Sitarganj, Gadarpur, Rudrapur, Kichha, Khatima and a couple of other assembly constituencies. A senior BJP leader from Uttarakhand said that the Bengali community has influence in seven to nine assembly constituencies and plays a decisive role in these seats. "The electoral fate of any candidate or political party in these assembly constituencies is decided by the Bengalis. No party can afford to

ignore them. We are also trying to win their support to form the government for a second consecutive term after next year's assembly polls," he said.

Another party leader pointed out that to achieve 'Mission 60+' in the forthcoming polls in the state, the BJP needs to win all these seats along with sweeping across Uttarakhand.

"Currently most of the seats are with the BJP and to achieve 'Mission 60+', we need to retain these assembly segments and it will only be possible by winning the support of the Bengali community," he said.

In its efforts to woo the Bengali community in the state, the BJP government has exempted writing 'East Pakistan' in their caste certificates. Nadda during his interaction with the community announced the BJP government's decision. "To ensure dignity and treat them at par with other citizens of the country, the Pushkar Singh Dhama government removed the practice of mentioning 'East Pakistan' in their caste certificate. Now they are like any other citizens of



the country," Uttarakhand BJP vice president Devendra Bhasin told correspondent. Bhasin said that the BJP government is concerned about all the communities including Bengalis when they are being mistreated and facing atrocities in West

Bengal at the hands of the ruling Trinamool Congress. "When West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is doing nothing about the atrocities faced by the Bengali community in her state, the BJP government has given them dignity by removing 'East Pakistan'

from their caste certificate," Bhasin said. While addressing the community members on November 16, Nadda assured them that the BJP government is fully committed to fulfil all demands and wishes of the people of the Bengali community. He also used the opportunity to hit out at the Mamata Banerjee government and said, "West Bengal gave direction to the country, showed the path to the country, but today West Bengal is going through a very bad phase. Corruption, crime, lawlessness, political killings and lack of rule has badly hurt the soul of West Bengal. Today West Bengal is bleeding and innocent people are being killed."

"In West Bengal the BJP is fighting a political battle in a democratic manner and we are also fighting for rights and freedom of the people of West Bengal. 'Lotus' will blossom in West Bengal, the BJP will surely form the government in the state. The condition of West Bengal and the progress and development of the state can only be ensured by the BJP," Nadda had said.

Time to take our story to the world: India's defence manufacturers at Dubai Airshow

India's top defence manufacturers exhibiting at the ongoing Dubai Airshow feel that time has now come for the world to sit up and take note of their in-house production capabilities. As many as 15 small to big-time players, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Brahmos Aerospace and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), are participating in the five-day biennial event being held at the Al Maktoum International Airport at the Dubai World Central here until November 18. Many representing them said it's the best platform and time has come to showcase to the wider region and the world what they are capable of. "The indigenisation part has increased to such an extent that we are not really worried (about sanctions). Earlier, we used to depend on others and whenever a sanction came in, you would be really stuck. But I think today we are not in that state," said retired group captain R.

Varadharajan from the DRDO, which is exhibiting as many as 16 new products and technologies at the region's top airshow, including the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) that dazzled visitors on the event's opening day as part of an air display by Indian Air Force (IAF) alongside Sarang and Suryakiran aerobatics teams. "What's changed over the years is that government support to make this happen has increased. Without government and political will, it cannot happen. So that has been the game-changer in the last few years. And I think we are on the path to further improve our indigenous content in the near future," a category F scientist at the Centre for Air-Borne Systems (CABS) at DRDO under the Ministry of Defence told IANS on the sidelines of the Airshow that's set to host 1,200 companies from 148 countries with over 85,000 visitors expected during the five days. This comes as India prepares for a visit from Russian President Vladimir Putin for an annual bilateral meet

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi early December alongside the arrival of the \$5.4-billion Russian long-range surface-to-air missile defence shield 'S-400', as part of a "significant transaction" likely to trigger sanctions under USA's Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) of 2017. "We have been flying sorties with Tejas (here in Dubai) and the proof of the pudding is in eating, they say. It is there for you to see it in operation. It is one of the several products we want the world to take note of," he said, referring to the Tejas model on display at the India pavilion. The Tejas that got final operational clearance in 2019 currently has three production models -- Tejas Mark 1, Mark 1A and trainer variant -- with the Mark 1 model on display for the first time at the Dubai Airshow alongside their Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C) and a host of missiles. Other top DRDO products and technologies on display at the five-day

event include bridging system Sarvatra, weapon locating radar Swathi, an anti-torpedo defence system (ATDS) and Pinaka, a multi-barrel rocket launching system that can fire 72 rockets in 40 seconds. "So the entire modification in most of these techs, as well as the systems that are on board, have been done by DRDO. This only shows how far we have when it comes to a country producing military tech indigenously," added the retired captain. "And what makes this collection so significant is the technology that we are offering. It is contemporary and yet forward-looking... And yes, all of it is 100 per cent indigenous," he added. A spokesperson from BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's DRDO, said that it is time to tell "the story of their brilliance" all over again at the Dubai Airshow. "It is notably the fastest supersonic

cruise missile in the world. It's time we reminded the world that and the fact that we have been making it all for a while now," said the representative of the body that makes medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missiles. Based on the Russian P-800 Oniks cruise missile and other similar sea-skimming Russian cruise missile technology, they can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land. Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in his September address at the annual session of the industry body Society of Indian Defence, had urged Indian defence manufacturers to boost their production "in a changing global security scenario". He was alluding to the fact that the share of procurement from domestic industry had increased to nearly 65 per cent for defence modernisation, and from private domestic industry to 15 per cent.

international

UK, EU likely to reach deal on
N Ireland protocol by X'mas

London | Agencies

The UK's Brexit Minister David Frost said that the country and the European Union (EU) are likely to reach a deal on changes to the disputed Northern Ireland Protocol by Christmas. "I think it can be done, whether it will be done is a different question," Xinhua news agency quoted Frost as saying to the BBC, after Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said the issues with the protocol could be resolved "before Christmas." "I would like to progress this as fast as we possibly can, I'm glad there's ambition on the EU side from what Simon says," Frost was quoted by the BBC as saying.

The question of how goods move from Britain into Northern Ireland is obviously at the heart of the talks and there is no reason why goods going to stay in Northern Ireland need to go through processes, Frost said. As part of the Brexit deal, the Protocol stipulates that Northern Ireland remains in the EU single market and customs union to avoid a hard border between the region and the Republic of Ireland. However, this leads to a new "regulatory" border between Britain and Northern Ireland. Britain and the EU view changing the protocol as a long-term solution to post-Brexit trade disruption in Northern Ireland. Britain outlined its proposals in a government paper in

July, which observers interpreted as an intention to renegotiate the protocol. In response, the EU published its own package to facilitate the movement of goods from Britain to Northern Ireland, including cutting customs formalities, simplified certification, and an 80 per cent reduction of checks on retail goods for Northern Ireland's consumers. It said it would guarantee an uninterrupted supply of medicine to the people of Northern Ireland, by changing EU rules. However, the two sides remain poles apart on the more challenging issue of the oversight role of the European Court of Justice in Northern Ireland.

Turkey, US agree to
continue F-16 talks

Ankara | Agencies

Turkey and the US have agreed to continue talks on Ankara's demand to acquire F-16 fighter jets after a meeting between the two sides was conducted in a "positive and constructive atmosphere", the Defence Ministry here said. During the meeting in Washington on Wednesday, delegations from the two sides exchanged views on bilateral and regional defence and security issues, and the agreed to hold their next talks in Ankara, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry as saying. The Turkish delegation was visiting Washington for discussions on the country's proposal to acquire more F-16 jets and for modernisation of its current fleet with the money paid to the US for the F-35

fighter jet program, Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said while addressing a parliament budget meeting on Tuesday. Turkey's procurement of the Russian S-400 missile defence systems prompted the US administration to suspend Ankara's participation in the F-35 joint program in 2019. Tensions between the US and Turkey have escalated ever since over the deal, as Washington claimed that the S-400 systems would be incompatible with the NATO system and risk to expose its confidential military information to Russia. The US imposed sanctions on Turkey over the S-400s, targeting the Turkish defence procurement agency and its officials. Ankara says it paid \$1.4 billion for F-35 jets, and asks for reimbursement with F-16 jets.

S Korea, US, Japan agree on continued cooperation

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea, the US and Japan agreed during their latest vice foreign ministerial talks to keep working together for regional peace and response to such global issues as climate change, supply chain resilience and Covid-19, the Foreign Ministry in Seoul said on Thursday. South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun held the meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and Japanese counterpart Takeo Mori in Washington D.C., reports Yonhap News Agency. "The vice ministers of the three nations shared the perception that the Korean Peninsula and regional peace, stability and prosperity are in their shared interests and also agreed to expand substantive cooperation in such regions as the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Central America," the Ministry said in a statement. "The three also agreed to pursue future-oriented, mutually beneficial cooperation on the pending global issues, including the climate change, (global) supply chain and the Covid-19 response," it added. The Washington session, meanwhile, laid bare a deep rift between the two of Washington's key Asian allies, which have long bickered over shared history and territory issues. A joint news conference of the trio was cancelled at the last minute, as the Japanese official boycotted it in protest of South Korean police chief's visit to the easternmost islets of Dokdo earlier this week, according to Choi. Dokdo is a set of South Korea-controlled islets in the East Sea. Tokyo lays

claim to the islets. In her solo news conference, Sherman said the US was very satisfied with its consultations with South Korea and Japan on the best way to denuclearize Korea. Choi said South Korea was also satisfied with the "speed" and "direction" of its discussions with the US on declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table. On Thursday, Seoul's Foreign Ministry reiterated its clear position on the sovereignty over Dokdo. "Dokdo is clearly our inherent territory historically, geographically and by international law," Ministry spokesman Choi Young-sam said in a briefing. "The government's position remains the same that it will sternly respond to Japan's unreasonable claims over Dokdo."

Abbas discusses Israeli-Palestinian conflict with
US envoy to UN

Ramallah | Agencies

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas discussed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield. During their meeting at his office here on Wednesday, Abbas warned that Israel's practices in the Palestinian territories "would undermine the vision of the two-state solution", Xinhua news agency quoted an official statement as saying. The President informed the envoy that the leadership in Ramallah rejects the Israeli government's decision to classify six Palestinian non-government organisations as terrorist groups. The statement also said that he told Thomas-Greenfield that the Palestinians reject the Israeli policies against the Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Abbas reaffirmed the Palestinian side's commitment to peace and to holding an international peace conference under the auspices of the international Quartet, which consists of the UN, the US, the European Union and Russia. Following the meeting, the Ambassador tweeted: "Today I met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. We discussed rebuilding the US-Palestinian relationship, ensuring UNRWA lives up to its commitments, the importance of respecting human rights, and our shared commitment to a two-state solution." The last direct peace talks between Israel and Palestine, which were sponsored by the US and lasted for nine months, stopped in 2014 following deep disagreements on issues related to Jewish settlements, borders and security.

UN to mark 16 days of activism
against gender violence

New Delhi | Agencies

Under the global theme "Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!", the United Nations is marking the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence from November 25 to December 10. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, emerging data has shown that all types of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, have intensified and that the world was unprepared to respond to its rapid escalation. A new UN Women report based on survey data from 13 countries to be published on November 24 shows that Covid-19 has eroded women's feelings of safety, both at home and in public space, with significant negative impact on their



mental and emotional well-being.

In addition, the current global context of violent conflicts, humanitarian crises and increasing climate-related disasters have further intensified violence against women, ringing alarms on the need to urgently act on this scourge. However, there is also evidence that ending violence against women and girls is possible, with a comprehensive approach that tackles the root causes, transforms harmful social norms, provide services for survivors and ends impunity. The Generation Equality Forum has created unprecedented momentum and commitments to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women commemoration reminds us that we all have a role to play to achieve a brighter future free from violence. The official UN commemoration event will take place on November 24 from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. ET. The participants include, among others, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Under Secretary General and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Cindy Bishop and UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, Reem Alsalem. Leaders and commitment makers of the Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence and representatives from the NGO Women for Afghan Women, Afghanistan and MOFEDGA, Haiti, will also participate. The event will be hosted by Generation Equality Youth Performance Member, Shantel Marekera and will count on the performances of MC Sofia from Brazil and the Roma girl band "Pretty Loud" from Serbia.

US designates N Korea as state
violin of religious freedom

Washington/Seoul | Agencies

The US has designated North Korea as a state violator of religious freedom, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. North Korea is one of 10 countries designated as "country of particular concern", Yonhap News Agency quoted Blinken as saying in a statement on Wednesday. "I am designating Burma, the People's Republic of China, Eritrea, Iran, the DPRK, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as Countries of Particular Concern for having engaged in or tolerated systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom," he added. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name. This is the 20th consecutive year that the North has been designated as a state violator of religious freedom. Blinken vowed efforts to

end what he called "structural, systematic and deeply entrenched" challenges to religious freedom, also calling on the international community to do the same. "The challenges to religious freedom in the world today are structural, systemic, and deeply entrenched," he said. "They demand sustained global commitment from all who are unwilling to accept hatred, intolerance, and persecution as the status quo. They require the international community's urgent attention." Along with the 10 state violators of religious freedom, Blinken also designated nine non-state actors, including the Houthi militia in Yemen and the Islamic State (IS) terror group, as entities of particular concern, while placing Algeria, Comoros, Cuba and Nicaragua on a special watch list for countries that have engaged in or tolerated "severe violations of religious freedom."



SCHOOL LEAVING CERTIFICATE SHOWS WANKHEDE IS MUSLIM, HE THREATENED EX-WIFE: MALIK



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the ongoing saga between political super-snoop versus narcotics super-sleuth, NCP Minister Nawab Malik on Thursday said that NCB officer Sameer Wankhede's School Leaving Certificates (SLC) show him to be a 'Muslim', and he had allegedly threatened his ex-wife's family of dire consequences if they spoke out. Continuing the crusade question-

ing how the NCB officer had allegedly produced a fake caste certificate to land a plum central job in reserved category, the Nationalist Congress Party National Spokesperson released the purported School Leaving Certificates of Wankhede when he left one school to join another due to 'change of residence' status, some 25 years ago. The first is from St. Paul High School Dadar, which he left on June 27, 1986 as a Class 2 student a year after admission (June 13, 1985), to join the St. Joseph School, Wadala, owing to shifting to a new address, both in south-central Mumbai. The two handwritten certificates - as was the norm in those days - show identical details, including the pupil's name as 'Sameer Dawood Wankhede', DoB '14-12-1979' in words too and religion as 'Muslim'. "I have already submitted these and other details to the Hon' Bombay High Court, which will pass its interim orders later today. Wankhede has been indulging in

frauds and is an expert in creating 'fake certificates,'" Malik said. The Wankhede family countered Malik by producing purported SLCs and a 2021 computer-generated birth certificate of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation which shows the name as Sameer, mother's name as Zahedbano and father as Dnyandeo Kachruji Wankhede. "Half info shared by people with evil thoughts to defame Sameer Wankhede. There was an error made. Later this was duly rectified by Mr. DNYANDEV with all legal formalities and procedures in 1989. All the documents were accepted and verified by the school principal then and now too," said the officer's wife Kranti Redkar-Wankhede, posting the purportedly corrected SLCs, challenging the ones given by Malik with a huge 3-year gap. Dismissing these contentions, Malik pointed out that the BMC has scanned all the original old handwritten documents and the SLCs of

the two schools are from those electronic records. Malik's court affidavit said that he had verified the birth records of Wankhede which is maintained by the BMC E Ward register at Sr. No. 3744 for the concerned year. "Besides the Bombay High Court, I have sent all the documents to the Mumbai and Maharashtra Police chiefs, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and demanded a detailed investigation," Malik said. The minister further claimed that Wankhede had threatened his first wife, Dr. Shabana Quraishi, trapped her cousin brother in a fake drugs case and warned that he would do the same for her entire family if they spoke out against him. The NCP Minister reiterated that Wankhede -- an officer of IRS-2008 batch, currently with NCB Mumbai - will definitely lose his job which he got on the basis of furnishing such 'fraudulent documents', and promised to make more revelations to unravel the truth.

WHICH PART OF WORLD OR COUNTRY: SC asks Param Bir Singh's lawyer to disclose his whereabouts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the counsel of former Mumbai Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh, declared a proclaimed offender by a magistrate court in an extortion case, to disclose which part of the world or the country he is in, and without these details, the court would not entertain his plea seeking protection. A bench headed by Justice S.K. Kaul told senior advocate Puneet Bali, representing Singh, "Where are you... within the country or outside. First, I want to know where are you." Bali replied that his client's whereabouts would be known to the counsel-on-record. Justice Kaul sought a response from the counsel-on record, who replied that he is not aware about Singh's current location. Bali submitted, "If I am allowed to breathe. I may come out of the hole..." Dissatisfied with the answer, the bench said such actions lead to lack of confidence in the system, "you have not joined the investigation, no one knows where are you." The bench gave an example that if it were to assume that Singh is outside the country and waiting for a favourable court order as a condition to return.

Justice Kaul said: "Only court orders in your favour, you will come...no protection and no hearing. First, answer where he is. Which part of the world or country?" The top court was hearing Singh's petition seeking protection orders in an alleged extortion case. The top court has scheduled the matter for further hearing on Monday and asked Singh's counsel to disclose his current location. Earlier this week, a magistrate's court in Mumbai declared Singh a "proclaimed offender" in an extortion case registered against him and other police officers in the city. The Crime Branch of Mumbai Police had sought the proclamation, saying he could not be traced even after the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against him. In the previous matter, while hearing former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh plea against the CBI, Justice Kaul noted that Singh's absence is not a good situation and such things cause lack of faith in the judicial system. The top court dismissed Deshmukh's plea seeking direction to the CBI to adduce the records of preliminary inquiry against him by the CBI, ED and for constitution of a SIT to probe alleged corruption and money laundering charges.

Maharashtra govt revokes suspension of doctor held over Ahmednagar hospital fire

The health department had announced Shinde's suspension thinking that she was a medical officer. However, it later came to light that she is a postgraduate medical student doing her internship at the hospital.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra health department has revoked the suspension of Dr Vishaka Shinde, who was arrested along with three other nurses following a fire at the Ahmednagar district hospital that had killed 11 Covid-19 patients. Two days after the incident, Ahmednagar district's civil

surgeon, Dr Sunil Pokharna, two medical officers, Dr Suresh Dakhe and Dr Shinde, and staff nurse Sapna Pathare were suspended, while the service of two other nurses were terminated. The health department had announced Shinde's suspension thinking that she was a medical officer. However, it later came to light that she is a postgraduate medical student doing her internship at the hospital, the letter revoking the suspension, has revealed. "Earlier, the administration had thought that she was a government employed medical officer. However, later, when they realised their mistake, they revoked her suspension," Advocate Makasare Yohan, who is representing Dr Shinde, said. "My daughter is just a medical student who was station-

COVID-19: Maharashtra records 963 new cases, 24 deaths, 972 recoveries in a day

The recovery rate in the state is 97.65%. The case fatality rate in the state is 2.12%. Currently, 1,16,282 people are in home quarantine and 1,024 people are in institutional quarantine.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra on Thursday, November 18, recorded 963 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the number of active cases to 1,17,32. Besides, 24 COVID-19 deaths were reported in the day, taking the number of total fatalities to 1,40,692. 972 patients were discharged in the day, taking the tally to 64,71,763. The recovery rate in the state is 97.65%. The case fatality rate in the state is 2.12%.



Currently, 1,16,282 people are in home quarantine and 1,024 people are in institutional quarantine. The Mumbai circle--which consists of MCGM, Thane, TMC, Navi Mumbai, KDMC, Ulhasnagar MC, Bhivandi Nijampur MC, Mira

MC, Nandurbar--reported 144 fresh COVID-19 cases. The Pune circle--which includes Pune, PMC, PCMC, Solapur, Solapur MC, Satara--recorded 304 new cases. The Kolhapur circle--which includes Kolhapur, Kolhapur MC, Sangli, Sangli MC, Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri-- reported 21 new cases. The Aurangabad circle--which consists of Aurangabad, Aurangabad MC, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Parbhani MC-- reported 48 fresh cases. The Latur circle--which consists of Latur, Latur MC, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Nanded MC--recorded 31 fresh cases. The Akola circle--which includes Akola, Akola MC, Amaravati, Amaravati MC, Yawatmal, Buldhana, Washim-- recorded 8 fresh cases. Nagpur circle--which includes Nagpur, Nagpur MC, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Chandrapur MC, Gadchiroli -- reported 7 fresh cases.

Thunder and rainfall over western Maharashtra till weekend: IMD

Nights to remain warm, minimum temperatures between 22 and 26 degrees Celsius

Team Absolute | Pune

Rainfall activity will continue over Maharashtra till the end of this week due to multiple active weather systems. Since the start of this week and particularly on Tuesday, a number of places in southern Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra subdivisions including Pune and Sindhudurg districts witnessed thunderstorms during night hours. India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said on Wednesday that a low pressure system presently lies off the Goa-south Maharashtra coast in the Arabian Sea and is expected to strengthen and move away from the Indian coast. There is another low pressure system prevailing over the southeast Bay of Bengal and it is expected to inch closer to the east coast near north Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh by



Wednesday. "Due to these two systems, southerly and southeasterly winds are bringing moisture to Maharashtra. As a result, there will be light to moderate rainfall and thunderstorms along southern Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra districts till November 22," said Anupam Kashyapi, head, Weather Forecasting Division, IMD, Pune. The maximum rainfall is forecast between Thursday and Saturday over Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Pune, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur. With rainfall forecast over the

coming days, IMD officials have stated that winter chill will be missing from most parts of the state for another five to seven days. However, nights during the rest of this week will remain significantly warmer as the minimum temperature over Madhya Maharashtra and Konkan is expected to remain 5 to 8 degrees above normal and range between 22 and 26 degrees Celsius. This will be in contrast to earlier this month, when temperatures had fallen below normal, causing early winter-like cold conditions.

Soon, travel in Mumbai's AC locals with regular tickets, pay during trip

Implementation of the project will start in a month, says Western Railway GM. The facility will be extended to passengers with non-AC first or second class tickets.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In order to draw more passengers towards its air-conditioned local trains, the Western Railways (WR), on an experimental basis, is planning to allow passengers with non-AC first- or second-class tickets or seasonal passes to travel in the AC trains and pay the difference in fare during the journey. The decision was taken as these trains, launched in 2017, have failed to attract as many passengers as was expected. Alok Kansal, General Manager of WR, said the decision was taken to ensure that more commuters can enjoy the experience of travelling in AC trains. Kansal said the implementation of this experiment will start in about a month and passengers will soon be provided



with detailed information on it. The Railway Board and the ministry are also contemplating rationalising the fare structure of AC local trains. At present, a ticket in an AC train that runs between Churchgate and Virar, costs between Rs 65 and Rs 220. The department will also increase the number of trips the AC trains take in a day, Kansal added. The WR has four air-conditioned rakes, of which only two trains are in operation at present. The trains make 12 rounds in a day; eight more rounds have been sanctioned. "This decision of allowing other passengers to travel in AC trains after paying the difference in fare will bring relief to passengers," said Rajesh Ghanghav of a passengers' association. In future, all new local trains in the Mumbai suburban network will be air-conditioned, officials said. WR is also in the process of starting a long-distance train services from Jogeshwari station for which it is planning to convert the station into a terminus, said Kansal.

'Thermal power plants in Nagpur dist cause water pollution'

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Much is talked about the air pollution caused due to thermal power plants. However, a study -- released on Thursday -- has found out that these units are also responsible for water pollution as recorded from the discharge from two thermal power plants in Nagpur district that has polluted both ground water and surface water. The new study has revealed extensive and rampant pollution in the areas around Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MahaGenco's) 2,400 MW Koradi and 1,340 MW Khaparkheda thermal power plants in Nagpur district with surface and ground water both contaminated with toxic metals such as mercury,

arsenic, aluminium, lithium etc. It has also recorded widespread contamination of air, water and soil due to fly ash. Titled 'Polluted Power: How Koradi And Khaparkheda Thermal Power Stations Are Impacting The Environment', the study has pointed out that the two plants as well as their ash ponds are discharging effluents directly into local streams and rivers, including the Kolar and Kanhan rivers. As many as 18 of the 21 villages where survey was carried out are affected due to fly ash deposits in various parts of the village, including water bodies, houses, agricultural fields, open spaces and vehicles. The study has been carried out by Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD), Nagpur, Manthan Adhyayan

Kendra, Pune, and ASAR Social Impact Advisors Pvt. Ltd. with the involvement of the local community member. Almost every water sample, in every season including monsoon, failed to pass the standards set for drinking water by the Bureau of Indian Standards, the IS 10500: 2012 (acceptable limits) and other relevant standards, it found out. Several water samples had toxic elements like mercury, arsenic, lithium, aluminium etc. exceeding the safe limits by 10-15 times; high levels of turbidity, hardness, alkalinity, and total dissolved solids (TDS) were discovered in both surface and groundwater sources and not just these, the samples even had Antimony, Aluminium, Arsenic, Boron, Fluoride, Iron, Manganese, Magnesium, Mercury,

Molybdenum, Lithium Lead, and Selenium among the elements found in high amounts. "There has been a long history of pollution due to these power plants and their related infrastructure like ash ponds. There has been a complete failure of official agencies in addressing the problem, prompting us to initiate this study," said Director, CFSD and co-author, Leena Budhe. The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change has given terms of references (ToRs) for the further expansion of Koradi TPS' two units (660 megawatt). "This is a major concern as it will lead to even more pollution," said Budhe. Co-author of the study and coordinator, Manthan Adhyayan Kendra, Shripad Dharmadhikary, said the study

has revealed how badly the water resources of the area have been polluted by the Koradi and Khaparkheda power plants. "Till now, air pollution due to the plants had received some attention, but detailed analysis of water pollution was not available. Our study is probably the first such attempt to comprehensively map out the water contamination due to these power plants," he said. The study was based on a detailed questionnaire based survey of the villages in the surrounding areas; collecting and testing water samples from surface and groundwater locations in the area and direct observations, a release from the study team said. Water samples were collected from 25 locations including surface and groundwater (across rivers like Kanhan and Kolar) and treatment facilities.

Fly ash samples were collected from five locations, including ash ponds of the two power plants. Detailed village-level surveys were done for 21 villages, as well with a similar number of individual households and farmers. Information through discussions was also collected from Nagpur city wards that are located nearer in the direction of the power plants. The contaminated ground and surface water is being used by local communities extensively, for all purposes including drinking (with and without treatment), other domestic use, bathing, washing clothes, fishing, irrigation and water for cattle. This has serious implications for their well-being as these pollutants are known to have many adverse impacts on human and cattle health.

'The man that I love'

After nearly two years of dating, Lady Gaga has made a rare public comment about her boyfriend Michael Polansky. The 35-year-old singer and her 44-year-old boyfriend were first spotted kissing at a New Year's Eve party ringing in the year 2020.

Los Angeles | Agencies

While they went Instagram official in February 2020, Gaga still doesn't talk much about the relationship, though she said in a new interview with The Hollywood Reporter that is, 'the man I love.'

Polansky is the CEO of The Parker Group, running the various charities and other endeavors for Facebook co-founder Sean Parker.

Sources claimed Gaga and Polansky first connected at Sean Parker's birthday party in December 2019, before the New Year's Eve bash.

Gaga and Polansky now live together in Los Angeles with the singer's three French Bulldogs, who

made headlines in February when two men tried to steal her dogs in West Hollywood, while shooting and nearly killing her dog-walker, Ryan Fischer, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Gaga was in Italy filming House of Gucci at the time, with the dogs ultimately returned to the singer and five people arrested in connection to the crime. The singer revealed in the interview that, 'Everybody's OK. Everybody's healing. I pray for Ryan all the time. I'm so grateful that we did not lose him.'

She added, 'And every day I thank God for the safe return of my dogs. My dogs and the man that I love are my whole life.'

As a bespoke piece Lady Gaga's dress isn't available to buy, but the new Autumn/Winter collection has touched down which you can shop via our link.

'It was random. It's what reminds me that I'm just like everybody else in some ways. We're all susceptible to these things,' she added.

As for her relationship with Polansky, they have largely kept themselves out of the public eye together.



Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's romantic relationship ended

Los Angeles | Agencies

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello have split after two years of dating. The 23-year-old Canadian hitmaker revealed the news on Instagram, writing that he and the 24-year-old songstress 'decided to end our romantic relationship.'

He continued: 'But our love for one another as humans is stronger than ever. We started our relationship as best friends and will continue to be best friends.'

'We appreciate your support from the beginning and moving forward,' penned Mendes, concluding the post with his and Camila's names.

Cabello also shared the statement to her respective Instagram account.

They last shared snaps of one another to social media on October 31 and November 1, which were taken during their Day of the Dead celebrations.

Cabello and Mendes were last spotted publicly on November 3 while enjoying a beach day in Miami, Florida, reports dailymail.co.uk.



'Rust' script supervisor sues Alec Baldwin, film producers

Los Angeles | Agencies

The script supervisor on 'Rust' has filed a lawsuit against Hollywood veteran Alec Baldwin and the film's producers on Wednesday, claiming she suffered both "physical and emotional" injuries when the actor shot the film's cinematographer while preparing for a scene.

Mamie Mitchell filed the suit in the Los Angeles Superior Court and is represented by attorney Gloria Allred. In the complaint, she says she was standing just four feet from Baldwin when the gun went off, reports variety.com.

"Plaintiff was terrified and feared for her life," the suit states.

"The gunshot caused Plaintiff to experience pain in her ears and head and, shortly thereafter, Plaintiff began to hear loud ringing in her ears. Soon after, Plaintiff witnessed the horror of what had occurred."

Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed by the gunshot, and the director, Joel Souza, was wounded in the shoulder. The suit claims that Baldwin should have checked the gun to make sure it was unloaded and also accused the producers of cost-cutting measures that led to the incident.

The lawsuit also cites a text message from the film's camera operator, in which he complained of two accidental discharges on set prior to the October 21 shooting. Mitchell was the first to call 911 after the incident.



'He told people I was an alcoholic, unhinged and a terrible mother!'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Alice Evans launched another scathing attack on her estranged husband Ioan Gruffudd on Thursday, claiming he branded her an 'alcoholic, completely unhinged and a terrible mother'.

The actress, 53, shared a bizarre picture of Ioan's new girlfriend Bianca Wallace in the latest post, criticising how they got together and slamming them both, reports dailymail.co.uk. Ioan recently went public with his new girlfriend Bianca, after Alice claimed

the pair had been embroiled in a three-year affair - which has been denied by a friend of the couple.

She wrote on Thursday: 'This is my husband's new girlfriend. Look, I wouldn't have minded if he'd come to me and said 'listen, I think I've fallen in love with somebody else'.

'But he didn't. For 2 years he told people on the set of the show he was doing that I was an alcoholic, completely unhinged and a terrible mother. This is so incorrect and so unkind.'

Alice Evans makes further explosive claims about ex Ioan Gruffudd and shares bizarre snap of his new girlfriend Bianca Wallace



'Tick, Tick... Boom!': An inspirational film that touches your heart

FILM REVIEW

BY TROY RIBEIRO

(Streaming on Netflix)

Direction: Lin-Manuel Miranda

Cast: Andrew Garfield, Alexandra Shipp, Robin de Jesus, Joshua Henry, Mj Rodriguez, Bradley Whitford, Tariq Trotter, Judith Light and Vanessa Hudgens.

Duration: 115 minutes

Ratings: **** (four stars)

This autobiographical musical directed by debutant Lin-Manuel Miranda is the story of the young theatre composer Jonathan Larson, who worked as a waiter in a restaurant in New York before getting his big break as creator of the musical 'Rent' that played for 12 years on Broadway.

You don't need to know who Jonathan Larson is to see 'Tick, Tick... Boom!'. His story resonates strongly with each one of us, especially with writers, performers and creative people who can identify with how he articulated the struggle to be recognised.

The film, set in 1990, begins with Jon (Andrew Garfield) on



stage introducing himself, "Hi, I'm Jon - a musical theatre writer, one of the last ones of my species."

He then takes us on his life's journey, fretting about not finding success before the age of 30. We see Larson in his daily life, which is devoted to finishing 'Superbia', a dystopian musical he has been working on for eight years.

Since both his benefactor and the musical genius Stephen Sondheim (Bradley Whitford) insisted that the show needed a song in the second act, Jon tells us how he struggled to cope with the pressure from all fronts, especially from his girlfriend Susan and his best friend Michael, before a hyped-up workshop, where he presents his work 'Superbia'.

Despite getting appreciated, when his legendary yet useless agent Rosa Stevens (Judith Light) advises him to keep on writing and to try writing about what he knows best, you realise he is a heartbroken man.

But then, fate has other plans for him. With his novel kind of musical, one characterised by a contemporary sound, characters, and recognisable struggles, and an uncommonly diverse cast, how Jon, with his single-minded focus and prodding from the genius Sondheim, held on to his

beliefs, despite being at the crossroads of his life, forms the crux of the story.

Ironically Larson died of an aortic aneurysm the day before the musical premiered on Broadway.

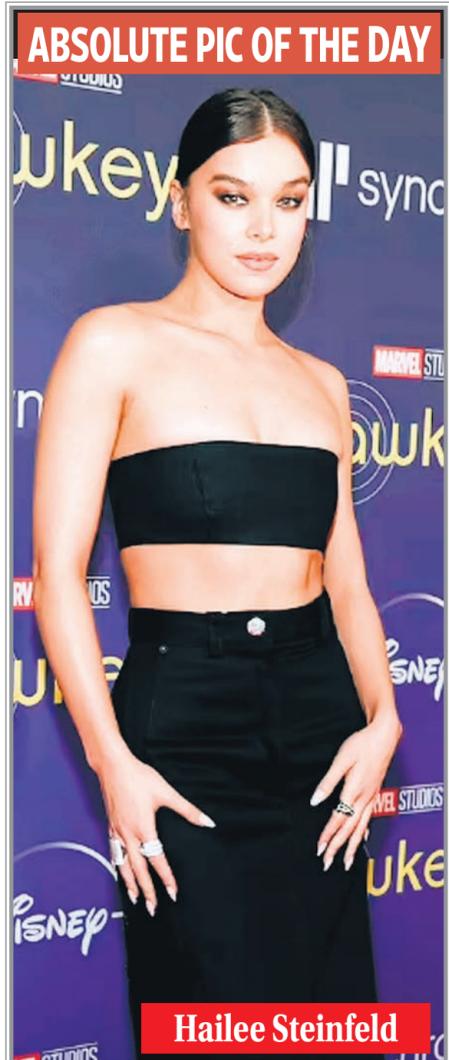
Miranda's script is intense yet breezy. The screenplay seamlessly meshes Jon's songs, which feel personal yet entertaining. He brings everything in close for an almost stifling aesthetic that sometimes cuts back and forth from stage retelling to filmed reenactment at befuddling speed.

This can be visually challenging yet also aurally expressive when voices from both suddenly merge into a duet of sorts. The musical numbers distill the tempest of emotions, while the drama mines deeper into the soul.

You can hear it, see it, and feel it in succession all at once. And it moves at a rapid pace.

Andrew Garfield as Jon gives his all to the role with his fizzy energy and exceptional emotions. He is funny and charismatic, and his spirit is palpable. He is aptly supported by Alexandra Shipp as his girlfriend Susan and Robin de Jesus as his friend Michael, who is literally his confidant and critic.

Overall, the film with moderate production values is a moving tribute to the genius.



Hailee Steinfeld



Indonesia Masters: Prannoy, Sindhu, Srikanth advance to quarterfinals

Team Absolute | Bali (Indonesia)

Ac Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu, Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2021 Indonesia Masters badminton tournament after registering hard-fought victories in their respective events, here on Thursday.

Pulling the biggest upset of the day, the 2014 Indonesia Masters winner Prannoy beat Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Viktor Axelsen of Denmark 14-21, 21-19, 21-16 in an intense one hour 11 minutes men's singles second round match.

Down and out in the first game, the Indian shuttler made a stunning comeback to defeat the World no. 2. It was Prannoy's first victory in six attempts against Axelsen. He will now face compatriot and former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth in the quarterfinals.

Former World no.1 Srikanth also came from a game down to beat 2018 Asian Games gold medalist Jonatan Christie of Indonesia 13-21, 21-18, 21-15 in the men's singles second round fixture, which lasted for one hour and two minutes.

Earlier in the day, reigning world champion Sindhu reached the women's singles quarter-finals after beating Spain's Clara Azurmendi in three sets.

The 26-year-old lost the first game but powered back to win the next two to beat Azurmendi 17-21, 21-7, 21-12 in



a 47-minute encounter. Sindhu, the two-time Olympic medallist, will now take on Turkey's Neslihan Yigit for a place in the semis.

Meanwhile, promising youngster Lakshya Sen was knocked out of the Indonesia Masters after losing 13-21 19-21 to the top seed and two-time world champion Kento Momota of Japan in a 46-minute clash.

In the mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and N Sikki Reddy also bowed out after losing 15-21, 23-21, 18-21 to Thai

team Supak Jomkoh and Supissara Paewsampran. The Indian pair had beaten second seeds and home favourites Praveen Jordan and Melati Oktavianti in the previous round but could not sustain that winning run despite a tough fight.

N Sikki Reddy also bowed out of the women's doubles alongside two-time Olympian Ashwini Ponnappa as the pair went down 18-21, 12-21 to Thai third seeds Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai.

JYOTHI SUREKHA CLINCHES COMPOUND GOLD MEDAL, ABHISHEK BAGS SILVER In Asian Archery Championship

Team Absolute | Dhaka

World Championship triple silver medallist Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched the gold medal in the women's individual compound while 2017 Asian champion Abhishek Verma won silver in the men's event at the 2021 Asian Archery Championships, here on Thursday. The 25-year-old Jyothi, who won three silver medals at the recent world championships, defeated South Korea's Oh Yoohyun 146-145 in an intense final that went down to the wire, taking the top spot on the podium. It was India's first gold medal at the ongoing

Championships. However, Abhishek had to settle for a silver this time after going down to South Korea's Kim Jongho by one point in the final, losing 149-148. This was his second medal of the event after he won a bronze with the men's compound team on Wednesday.

Earlier, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Rishabh Yadav also had to settle for a silver in the compound mixed team, losing 155-154 to South Korea's Choi Yonghee and Kim Yunhee. India have a chance to add three more medals to their tally when the recurve archers take the field on Friday. The men's and women's recurve teams have reached their respective finals while the mixed team will contest for the bronze medal.

Prakash Padukone to receive Lifetime Achievement Award from Badminton World Federation

New Delhi | Agencies

Indian badminton great Prakash Padukone will receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award this year from the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The BWF Council shortlisted the Indian legend's name based on the award commission's recommendation. Badminton Association of India (BAI) had submitted his name for this award.

The former World No.1 and the first-ever Indian World Championships medallist, Padukone has contributed immensely to the game. In 2018, he was also honoured with the BAI's Life Time Achievement Award.

For the Meritorious Service Award, BWF Council has nominated Devender Singh, president of Haryana Badminton Association, SA Shetty, secretary general of Maharashtra Badminton Association, Dr OD Sharma, vice-president of BAI

and Chairperson of Tournament Committee and former BAI vice-president Manik Saha. Alaknanda Ashok, who is the President of Uttarakhand Badminton Association, will receive the Women and Gender

Equity Award. She has been associated with badminton administration for many years now. The certificates and plaques will be given during the India Open 2021 to all the awardees.



MUGURUZA BESTS KONTAVEIT TO WIN THE TITLE

WTA FINALS CHAMPIONSHIP

Guadalajara (Mexico) | Agencies

Spain's Garbiñe Muguruza fought back from a break down in the second set, winning the last four games of the match to defeat No.8 seed Anett Kontaveit of Estonia, 6-3, 7-5 and win her first WTA Finals Championship, in the process bagging a milestone 10th career WTA singles title.

The biggest title of Garbiñe's career was her third title of the year and it came on Wednesday night in front of an excited crowd in Guadalajara. Garbiñe is the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals singles title in the event's history. Former World No.1 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was the only other player from Spain to reach the WTA Finals singles championship match, finishing as runner-up to Stefanie



Graf in 1993. The Spaniard started well and survived a wobble in the second set to earn a hard-fought win. Former World No.1 Garbiñe Muguruza thus became the only player to defeat Anett Kontaveit within the last month - and she did it twice this week. Garbiñe ended the Estonian's 12-match winning streak in the round-robin portion of the competition

and repeated the feat in the singles final. With this victory, two-time Grand Slam champion Garbiñe Muguruza is projected to rise to World No.3 in the upcoming season-ending rankings. That will be Garbiñe Muguruza's best year-end ranking since she finished 2017 ranked World No.2. Kontaveit, for her efforts, is projected to hit a new career-high ranking of World No.7.

Abu Dhabi T10

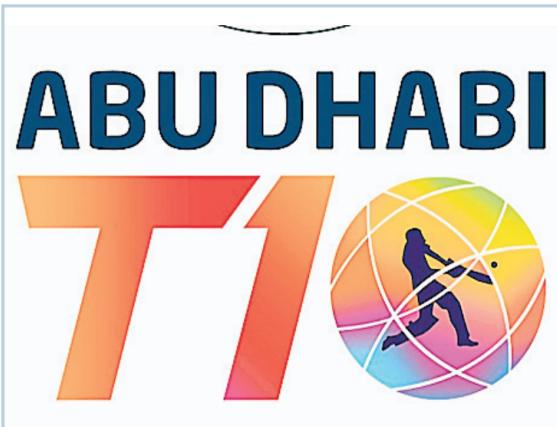
SEASON 5 KICKS OFF WITH NORTHERN WARRIORS V DELHI BULLS CLASH

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

The fifth season of the Abu Dhabi T10 league will kickstart with the exciting clash between defending champions Northern Warriors and Delhi Bulls at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, here on Friday.

The league in the shortest format of the game, which is hosted by the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) and is the only T10 tournament in the world sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC), will be played in Abu Dhabi from November 19 to December 4.

Six franchises -- Bangla Tigers, Deccan Gladiators, Delhi Bulls, Chennai Braves, Northern Warriors, and Team Abu Dhabi -- will battle it out for the Abu Dhabi T10 trophy. Each of the franchises packed their squads with



the most destructive cricketers in the Player Draft on October 7.

Over the years, some of the finest players from across the globe have participated in the Abu Dhabi T10 League. The explosive batsmen such as Chris Gayle, Liam Livingstone, Yusuf Pathan, and Andre Russell to impactful bowlers such as Adil Rashid, Isuru Udana, and Imran Tahir will light up the league in the 2021 season.

The opening match of this year's tournament will also see many international stars representing both sides. The England duo Moeen Ali and Chris Jordan will represent the Warriors while Delhi has the likes of Dwayne Bravo and Eoin Morgan.

The second match on Day One pits home side Team Abu Dhabi against the Bangla Tigers, with both teams looking to get off to the perfect start as they search for a first title.

I was approached for Team India coach's job: Ponting

New Delhi | Agencies

Former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting has revealed that he was approached for the Team India coach's job but he had to turn it down as he give the job that much time. Ponting said on the Grade Cricketers Podcast that he had a conversation with some people about it during the IPL.

"The People I spoke to were very keen to find a way to make it work, but the first thing I said, 'I can't give that much of time'. That means, I can't coach in the IPL," said Ponting who is currently the head coach of Delhi Capitals. Ponting is surprised that Rahul Dravid took the head coach job of Team India. "I'm very surprised that Dravid has taken this job. I'm not sure about his fam-

ily life but I'm sure he has very young kids. So I'm surprised that he took it but as I said, the people I spoke to were sure they got the right person so they were probably able to get Dravid to do it," Ponting said. The five-wicket win in the first T20I against New Zealand at Jaipur on Wednesday kick-started Dravid's coaching stint with the Indian senior team.

WTA doubts Chinese players' email denying sexual assault allegations

New Delhi | Agencies

Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Chairman and CEO, Steve Simon has raised doubts on an email released by Chinese state media attributed to tennis player Peng Shuai in which she purportedly denies allegations she made about being sexually assaulted by a former top politician of her country. Peng, a doubles champion at Wimbledon and the French Open, accused China's former Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli of sexual assault. Now in a fresh mail that appeared in the Chinese media, Peng purportedly says the allegations are "not true".

Steve Simon, chairman of the WTA, said the mes-

sage "only raises" his concerns about Peng's safety.

"I have a hard time believing that Peng Shuai actually wrote the email we received or believes what is being attributed to her," he said in a statement. "The WTA and the rest of the world need independent and verifiable proof that she is safe," he said.

Simon also reiterated that the sexual assault allegation by Peng must be investigated "with full transparency and without censorship".

"The voices of women need to be heard and respected, not censored nor dictated to," he added. Written in her voice and published by the broadcaster CGTN, the email claims she is not missing or unsafe, adding: "I've just been resting at home and everything is fine."



Matthew Wade to retire after next year's T20 World Cup

Melbourne | Agencies

Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade has revealed that he will retire after next year's Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. He added that he



had almost missed the Men's T20 World Cup final against New Zealand due to the pain caused by a grade two side strain caused by the injury to his side during the pre-final practice session on Saturday.

"That'll be my next motivation - hopefully get to that World Cup, defend the title and then I can sail off into the sunset. I certainly won't be playing (international cricket) beyond that point. That would be my goal from here," Wade was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au on Thursday.

It is expected that Wade will continue to play for Tasmania in domestic cricket and Hobart Hurricanes in the Big Bash League (BBL).

Wade was the hero in the second semi-final win against Pakistan, making 41 runs off 17 balls. His effort also included a hat-trick of sixes against Pakistan left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi to seal the match in his team's favour. In the final, Wade was not required to bat as Australia chased 173 with eight wickets in hand at Dubai for their first-ever Men's T20 World Cup title.

IND V NZ: HOSTS LOOK TO SEAL T20I SERIES IN RANCHI

Ranchi | Agencies

After managing to hold their nerve in winning the first T20I in Jaipur, India will be looking to seal the three-match T20I series against New Zealand at the JSCA International Stadium here on Friday. The five-wicket win in Jaipur on Wednesday kick-started the Rohit Sharma-Rahul Dravid combination though there were some nervous moments in closing the chase of 165.

The hosts can take many positives from the first match in Jaipur.

The one point where India would like some more improvement is in applying the finishing touches with the bat. With 23 runs needed off the last four overs, one would have expected India to reach home early. But the New Zealand pace trio of captain Tim Southee, Trent Boult, and Lockie Ferguson conceded just 13 runs in 17th, 18th, and 19th



Squads

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul, Rituraj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Ishan Kishan, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, R Ashwin, Axar Patel, Avesh Khan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Harshal Patel, and Mohammad Siraj.

New Zealand: Tim Southee (captain), Todd Astle, Trent Boult, Mark Chapman, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Guptill, Adam Milne, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, and Ish Sodhi.

overs to bring the equation to 10 runs needed off the final over. It took a four each from debutant Venkatesh Iyer and Rishabh Pant to seal the deal for India despite Daryl Mitchell taking out the former.

Though New Zealand will be happy with the performances of pacers at the back-end apart from knocks by Martin Guptill (70 off 42 balls) and Mark Chapman (63 off 50 balls), they realise that the middle-order needs to step up. After Guptill and Chapman's 109-run stand, the rest of the batters couldn't give the score the required impetus in the last five overs. New Zealand will also like for the bowlers to have more control in the Power-play.

There could be a forced change for India as pacer Mohammed Siraj got stitches on his left hand after being hit by Mitchell Santner in the final over of the innings. It is yet to know if Siraj is available for Friday's match or not.



Isha Koppikkar Narang dons the Khakee to play a cop in her next

Team Absolute | Mumbai

We love our cops and our cop's movies. Especially when it's a woman who is in charge. People have loved Sooryavanshi and they are flocking in huge numbers to theatres recently. Isha Koppikkar Narang or "Cop"ikkar as she is fondly known would be essaying the role of Anjali Sinha in Ram Gopal Verma's next series Kadappa which was a case down south. Any male officer who went there and took charge was either murdered or returned without success and then Mrs. Anjali Sinha takes over and the journey hence. People have been wanting to see a female cop in the Rohit Shetty cop universe and we reckon it's about time as well. Who better than Isha to play that? We caught up on Isha to talk about her next and her thoughts on the cop universe of Bollywood and here is what she says, "Normally women are not considered as strong as men. But we have the likes of Dr. Kiran Bedi and many more. I



am doing a massive web series with Ram Gopal Verma called KADAPPA produced by MX Player and Times Internet. I am playing a police officer from the north posted to an unbelievably ultra violent region in interior south India and that story is projected through my characters experiences and interactions with them very much like how the Colombian ganglords story is narrated by an American agent in Narcos.

Every policeman who went there failed and then a woman cop was sent there and how the story unfolds. We see power as physical but it's as much mental if not more. I love Rohit Shetty's portrayal of the cops. The cops are generally underrated. And they deserve a lot of applause which they are beginning to get now. It would be an exciting idea to be a lady cop in that universe. I am loving each day now and doing my best to bring quality entertainment to people. And that's what I am committed to."

That gets us very excited. We have been looking for that female cop project and here is what we have. We wish Isha all the very best and we could not have a better female cop than our very own Isha "Cop"ikkar Narang.



Actor Suniel Shetty post contestant Apeksha Sukheja's jaw-dropping performance on the iconic song 'Sheher ki Ladki'

your act, it was very impressive'. Suniel Shetty too compliments their performance and says that "It was unbelievable visual, you are not sheher Ki Ladki but 'Pure Hindustan Ki Ladki'. It was a beautiful act well-choreographed and well performed". Later on, Apeksha's father comes on stage and asks Suniel Shetty about the action scenes that take place in movies and if they happen in real life too. Further enquiring, he mentions that in films, they show that the action heroes can bend rods and all too and if that is really possible in real life? To which, Suniel Shetty takes up the challenge and goes upto the stage to prove his point where, he actually takes it upon himself to bend an iron rod. Watch India's Best Dancer - Season 2, this Saturday & Sunday at 8.00 pm only on Sony Entertainment Television.

'Pure Hindustan ki Ladki'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

This weekend episodes of Sony Entertainment Television's immensely loved dance show India's Best Dancer - Season 2 will welcome the iconic 90's stars Karisma Kapoor and Suniel Shetty for a special episode. All the contestants will be seen performing on Karisma and Suniel's chart-buster songs and will be paying a befitting tribute to the spectacular actors. Contestant Apeksha Sukheja and choreographer Sadhvi Majumder will be seen giving a phenomenal classical Bharatnatyam performance on the song "Sheher Ki Ladki" and will project a beautiful bond through their dance. Their act will be a mixture of Bharatnatyam and udupi. Not only this, Apeksha's father will be seen asking some interesting questions to Suniel Shetty about the films. Complimenting Apeksha and Sadhvi's performance, an awestruck Karisma Kapoor said, "It was a graceful performance and the way you both sunk into

Luv Ranjan's next starring Ranbir, Shraddha to release in Jan 2023



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Luv Ranjan's untitled next directorial featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Shraddha Kapoor has got a release date on 26th January, 2023 on the auspicious occasion of India's Republic Day. Beginning this year, the makers had announced that the Ranbir-Shraddha starter will release in Holi 2022. But now the new theatrical release date of the movie has built the anticipation even further, espe-

cially amongst the fans of Ranbir and Shraddha.

After delivering back to back super hits like 'Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAME' franchise and 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety', Luv Ranjan is currently busy finishing his next untitled romantic comedy starring Ranbir and Shraddha in lead roles.

While there has been a lot of speculations regarding the other cast of the film and its story, the details of the highly-anticipated project has been kept under wraps by the makers. But the news of

Ranbir and Shraddha sharing the screen space for the first time has got the audience quite excited and wanting for more! Interestingly, the movie also marks the first time collaboration between Ranbir and Luv.

It's learnt that the makers are in Delhi to start the last leg of shoot in India.

Produced by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg and presented by Bhushan Kumar, the untitled next starring Ranbir and Shraddha will also feature Dimple Kapadia and Boney Kapoor.

'The Big Picture'

Ranveer Singh does the 'Naagin' dance before Ekta Kapoor, Mouni Roy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor and host Ranveer Singh will be seen having some fun moments with television czarina Ekta Kapoor and 'Naagin' star Mouni Roy on 'The Big Picture'.

Ekta and Mouni are coming as special guests on the visual-based quiz show.

Speaking about Ekta Kapoor's show 'Naagin', Ranveer asks her why she hasn't made any show focusing on male snakes!

She responds: "I never see any handsome snakes around." To this Ranveer comes forward for the role of 'Naagraj' right there on the stage just to have some fun.

He says jokingly: "I will prove that there is potential inside me to become a snake (naag)." Ranveer then sports a serpent look and even performs the famous 'Naagin dance' while everyone cheers for him.

While all were enjoying the fun moments, Mouni Roy admits that despite playing a 'Naagin' on screen, she is petrified of snakes in real life. 'The Big Picture' airs on Colors.



SIDHARTH MALHOTRA TO STAR IN KJO'S FRANCHISE FILM 'YODHA'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sidharth Malhotra will be seen starring in filmmaker Karan Johar's upcoming production titled 'Yodha', which will hit the screens on November 11, 2022.

Karan on Wednesday shared a glimpse with his fans about the upcoming project revealing that it will be the production label's "first-ever action film franchise".

Karan wrote: "After conquering the peaks, I am proud to present Sidharth Malhotra back with power in the first of the action franchise by Dharma Productions



up for release.

- 'Yodha. Directed by the dynamic duo - Sagar Ambre & Pushkar Ojha. Landing in cinemas near you on 11th November, 2022."

The filmmaker then announced that the female leads will be announced soon.

"#Yodha is coming to hijack your screens on 11th November, 2022. Directed by Sagar Ambre & Pushkar Ojha. Stay tuned, because our female leads will be announced soon! Airplane," he added.

Sidharth was last seen onscreen in 'Shershaahi', where he played the role of Captain Vikram Batra. He also has 'Mission Majnu' and 'Thank God' lined-



Ali Fazal to star as the lead in Arati Kadav's futuristic space film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

World over, if there is one thing that binds and tweaks the interest of the audience, it is the announcement of another space film. Joining this exciting bandwagon is the supremely talented, Ali Fazal. Based on a look that has been released, it is confirmed that Ali will soon be seen in a space project helmed by Arati Kadav who made a splash with her unique sci-fi film Carog with Shweta Tripathi and Vikrant Massey.

Ali is looking forward to the audience's reaction to his new avatar as a space man, literally for which it is believed the actor shot with a highly skilled crew recently. Ali said, "It's something I haven't dabbled in before. It was more like an experiment to try and pull this off in some very unlikely conditions too but that's a surprise for all for later. We tried to fit a large concept into these frames, I do hope people like it because if they do, we will go 5 steps further into the unknown and start churning out the rest of this film - yes there might be versions left to showcase".

Simultaneously, Ali is also currently shooting for Vishal Bharadwaj's directorial Khufiya.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tara Sutaria