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NATION > 02	HOLLYWOOD > 06	SPORTS > 07
Priyanka rains more promises in UP: 20L jobs to youth...	Keith Urban fills in for Covid-struck Bryan Adams at Hall of Fame...	AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers: Dheeraj's shootout heroics...



POST-WHO APPROVAL OF COVAXIN, INDIA CAN SUPPLY 5BN DOSAGES TO WORLD: MODI

ROME | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that once the World Health Organization (WHO) approves Covaxin, India's indigenous vaccine against Covid-19, New Delhi can supply five billion dosages to the developing countries as its contribution to reducing job inequities.

He made the remarks on Saturday while he was speaking at the first session on 'Global Economy and Global Health' at the inaugural ceremony of the G20 Leaders' Summit with the other leaders of the world's biggest economies in Rome.

In his address, the Prime Minister highlighted India's contribution in the fight against the pandemic and also mentioned medical supplies to over 150 countries.

"The Prime Minister conveyed that India has not only vaccinated over a billion of our citizens but more importantly, we are ready to produce over five billion vaccine dosage by the end of next year and this would be available for not only our citizens but also for the rest of the world. And that, this is our own contribution to reducing vaccine inequities, especially in the developing world," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told media-persons. "We also believe that the WHO's approval for emergency use authorisation for Covaxin, our indigenous vaccine, pending with them, would facilitate this process of



assisting other countries." Modi spoke about India's vision of 'One Earth One Health', which is essentially the need for a collaborative approach in the international domain in the fight against corona pandemic, Shringla said, adding: "Collaboration in R&D to collaborations in combating pandemics, collaborations across the board in developing mechanisms that can cope with future pandemics and future global health issues.

"There was an emphasis on vaccine research, manufacturing, and innovation. We have invested a fair amount in that effort in order to make it available for our citizens and citizens all across the world."

The Prime Minister stressed on the need for resilient global supply

chains, and also mentioned India's bold economic reforms, and the lowering of the cost of doing business in India, according to the Foreign Secretary.

He spoke about innovations in India, efforts at developing a culture of innovations. He invited the G20 countries to make India their partner in economic recovery and supply chain diversification.

"The Prime Minister also brought out the fact that despite the challenges of the pandemic, India continued to be a trusted partner in the context of reliable supply chains, the IT sector, we did not allow the pandemic to come in the way of our contribution in the overall chain in the global processes.

"The Prime Minister expressed

satisfaction over G20's decision to come up with the 15 per cent minimum Corporate Tax. It was at the 2014 G20 Summit that the Prime Minister had first proposed this idea of a minimum corporate tax in order to prevent to some extent the evasion of taxes.

"Today there is satisfaction over the fact that the G20 has actually adopted this. This has become a global norm. And this is a very important step in ensuring more rationalised global tax structures and better cooperation in the international domain when it comes to issues like tax evasion, money laundering, corruption and so on and so forth, some of the issues that G20 is currently dealing with," Shringla added.

EC announces by polls for RS and Legislative Council

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Election commission of India has announced schedule for bypolls of two Rajya Sabha seats in Kerala and West Bengal. The ECI has also announced bypolls for one seat of Legislative Council in Maharashtra and three seats in Andhra Pradesh and six in Telangana.

An EC statement said, "The Commission having re-assessed the situation in the State of Kerala and after taking into consideration all relevant facts, has now decided to conduct above-mentioned two by-elections to the Council of States from Kerala and West Bengal."

The seats going for bypolls fell vacant after the resignation of Jose K. Mani from Kerala on January 11 and TMC MP Arpita Ghosh from West Bengal on September 15.

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) which has a strength of 99 legislators to the 41 of the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala is likely to win the Rajya Sabha seat easily. The LDF is likely to give the seat to Kerala Congress (M) itself but Jose K. Mani who resigned from the Rajya Sabha to contest assembly elections and lost it from his home turf Pala, is unlikely to be a candidate as he is concentrating on his assembly constituency, that was held by his father late K.M. Mani for a record fifty years at a stretch.

Kerala Congress (M) leader and former MLA, Stephen George is the front runner for the seat, sources in the party told IANS.

The EC had on May 28 decided that "due to the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-



19 in the country, it would not be appropriate to hold by-election to the Council of States from Kerala till the pandemic situation significantly improves and conditions become conducive".

But, after re-assessing the situation in Kerala, the commission said it decided to announce the schedule for by-election in Kerala and West Bengal.

The EC also announced six Telangana and three Andhra Pradesh seats of the Legislative Council that fell vacant after the retirement of members in May and June respectively.

The ECI has directed the Chief Secretaries of the states to depute a senior officer to make it clear that its instructions regarding Covid-19 containment measures are complied with during the elections.

The polling and counting for all seats would be held on November 29.

TAPI pipeline project to resume in Afghanistan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, at a press conference with Turkmenistan Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov, said the Turkmen delegation and the Islamic Emirate held good talks on economic and political issues including restarting the TAPI project, Tolo News reported. Muttaqi said during the two-day visit, both sides discussed issues around strengthening political relations and economic ties.

He said they talked about the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, adding the implementation of the project in Afghanistan will start soon. "Important issues such as TAPI, railroads and electricity were discussed. We discussed how to strengthen the projects that had already started.

"Also, the projects that were started by Turkmenistan, such as TAPI -- its practical implementation will start soon in Afghanistan." Muttaqi said Meredov has invited him to visit Turkmenistan.

Meredov and his accompanying delegation also met Deputy PM Abdul Salam Hanafi and discussed economic issues -- especially the TAPI project -- and railroads



and made important decisions, the Islamic Emirate Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said, the report added. The TAPI project was launched in 2016. TAPI pipeline is expected to carry 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas each year along a route stretching 1,800 km (1,125 miles) from Galkynsh, the world's second-biggest gas field, to the Indian city of Fazilka near the Pakistan border. Work on the project in Afghanistan began in February 2018 and will include a 1,814-kilometre gas pipeline intended to pass through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India, with at least 816 kilometre of the pipeline passing through Afghanistan. However, the construction has faced delays in Afghanistan due to insecurity, among other issues, in the past years, the report said.

Will turn govt offices into 'grain markets', warns Tikait

New Delhi: Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday warned the Centre of converting the government offices into "grain markets" if it forcibly evicts the farmers from the protest site where they have been agitating against the three contentious farm laws for the past 11 months.

The warning came two days after the Delhi Police removed all the barricades from Tikri and Ghazipur borders for the smooth movement of traffic.

However, the farmers see it as "move" to displace them. "If the farmers fail to sell their produce in mandis at a fair price, then, what better place to do so than the government offices?" Tikait said. He demanded that the Centre engage in dialogue with them and repeal the farm laws. Earlier, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha had released a statement asserting that before opening all the roads, the Centre will have to open the avenues to fulfill their demands. Whether the agitation continues or shift to the national capital is a collective decision to be taken at an appropriate time, he asserted. Though the Government and the agitating farmers have met 11 times on the negotiating table, the talks remained inconclusive. The Supreme Court, in its ruling last week, had held that though the farmers have all the freedom to protest, they cannot "block" the roads causing inconvenience to the public.

Third Pfizer vax dose more effective in reducing severe Covid illness: Lancet

Jerusalem | Agencies

A third vaccine dose of Pfizer-BioNTech is effective in reducing severe Covid-19-related outcomes compared to individuals who have received two vaccine doses at least five months ago, finds a new study.

The results show that, compared with individuals who received only two doses five months prior, individuals who received three doses of the vaccine (7 days or more after the third dose) had 92 per cent lower risk of severe Covid-19 disease and 81 per cent lower risk of Covid-19-related death.

"These results show convincingly that the third dose of the vaccine is highly effective against severe Covid-19-related outcomes in different age groups and population subgroups, one week after the third dose," said researcher Ran Balicer from the Clalit Research Institute in Israel.

"These data should facilitate informed policy decision-making," Balicer added.



For the study, published in The Lancet journal, the team reviewed data from 7,28,321 individuals aged 12 or above who had received the third dose of the BNT162b2 vaccine.

These individuals were carefully matched 1:1 with 7,28,321 individuals who had received only two shots of the BNT162b2 vaccine at least five months prior.

The matching was based on an extensive set of demographic, geographic and health-related

attributes associated with risk of infection, risk of severe disease, health status and health-seeking behaviour.

Individuals were assigned to each group dynamically based on their changing vaccination status (1,98,476 individuals moved from the unvaccinated cohort into the vaccinated cohort during the study). Multiple analyses were conducted to ensure that the estimated vaccine effectiveness was robust to potential biases.

Inspired by Sardar Patel, India is becoming fully capable of meeting challenges: PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India is becoming fully capable of meeting external and internal challenges.

On the occasion of 'National Unity Day', the Prime Minister paid rich tributes to Sardar Patel who dedicated his life for the ideals of "Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat."

Modi emphasised that Sardar Patel wanted a strong, inclusive, sensitive and alert India, an India that has humility as well as development.

"Inspired by Sardar Patel, India is becoming fully capable of meeting external and internal challenges", he said.

"Sardar Patel is not just a historical figure but lives in the heart of every countryman and people who are taking his message of unity forward are the true symbol of an unfractured feeling of unity. Rashtriya Ekta parades in every nook and corner of the country and events at the Statue of Unity are reflecting the same spirit."

He said that India is not just a geographical unity but a nation replete



with the generous standards of ideals, notions, civilisation and culture.

"This land mass where 130 crore Indians live is an integral part of our soul, dreams and aspirations."

Referring to strengthening of India's democratic traditions by the emotion of one India, the Prime Minister called for collective efforts from every citizen in the direction of achieving the goals of the country.

Highlighting the steps taken to strengthen the country in the last seven years, the Prime Minister informed that the country got rid of

unnecessary old laws, strengthened the ideals of unity, and emphasis on connectivity and infrastructure has reduced geographical and cultural distances.

"Today, strengthening the feeling of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat', a Mahayagya of social, economic and constitutional integration is going on and the country's resolve and capability in water, sky, land and space are unprecedented and the nation has started moving on the path of new mission of Aatmnirbharta," the Prime Minister said.

He emphasised that "Sabka Prayas" is even more relevant in the Amrit Kaal of Independence. This "Azadi Ka Amrit Saal" is of unprecedented growth, achieving difficult goals and building the India of Sardar Saheb's dreams, he said.

For Sardar Patel, "Ek Bharat" meant equal opportunities for all and "Ek Bharat is a Bharat that gives equal opportunities to women, Dalits, deprived, tribal and forest dwellers. Where housing, electricity and water is within the reach of everyone without discrimination. The country is doing the same with Sabka Prayas," he said.

Drass freezes at minus 13, minimum temperatures drop across J&K, Ladakh

Srinagar: Minimum temperatures dropped across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Sunday, and the Drass town in the Ladakh region froze at minus 13.4 degrees Celsius.

Weather office said minimum temperatures dropped across J&K and Ladakh UTs as a weak Western Disturbance (WD) was likely to affect the two UTs from Sunday afternoon till November 2.

"We are expecting a further drop in minimum temperatures in the coming days."

"A weak WD is going to affect J&K and Ladakh from today afternoon till November 2. Another WD is likely to affect the two regions on November 4.



"There is a likelihood of an overall drop in temperatures during the coming days", an official of the local MeT department said.

Srinagar had 2.6, Pahalgam minus 3.2 and Gulmarg zero as the minimum temperature.

Leh in Ladakh region had minus 5.2 and Kargil minus 4.4 as the minimum temperature.

Jammu had 13.1, Katra 12.6, Batote 8.1, Banihal 8.0 and Baderwah 4.3 as the night's lowest temperature.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT TO PLAY HUGE ROLE IN ECONOMY: AMIT SHAH

Gandhinagar: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah on Sunday said that the Cooperative movement will



play a huge role in achieving the five trillion dollar economy envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the gathering on the occasion of 75th year of celebration of Amul brand, the Union Minister said that the Cooperative movement will play a huge role in achieving the five trillion dollar economy, which has been envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Union Minister said, "Sardar Patel had a very strong relationship with Cooperative movement of Amul. The non-cooperation movement the farmers carried out provided the roots for this giant tree, that has grown today in the form of Amul. I fold my hands in respect to each and every contributor who has played a smaller or larger role in the success of this brand, including the smallest milk contributors from the remotest village," he said.



President, VP remember Sardar Patel on his birth anniversary



NEW DELHI | Agencies

President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. The President, along with other officials, paid floral tributes to the leader at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He also visited Sardar Patel Chowk in the national capital to pay homage at the statue of the freedom fighter. Venkaiah Naidu remembered called him as a "colossal figure" in the freedom struggle, a messiah for peasants, a sagacious statesman, organiser par excellence and epitome of wisdom. "I bow my head in respect to the leader I admire the most, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his birth anniversary today. He was a colossal figure

in our freedom struggle, a messiah for peasants, a sagacious statesman, organiser par excellence and epitome of wisdom," he said. The Vice President pointed out that Sardar Patel played a remarkable role in galvanising the nation against British rule, accomplished the humongous task of peaceful integration of over 560 princely states and laid the foundation of strong administration in the country by establishing the civil services. "Today as we celebrate National Unity Day to honour the legacy of Sardar Patel, let us take inspiration from this iconic personality and work towards strengthening the unity, integrity and security of the nation and eliminating hunger, inequality, poverty and corruption," Naidu added.

Priyanka rains more promises in UP: 20L jobs to youth, free bus travel for women

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Continuing her series of 'pratiya' (promises), Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Sunday, announced that if the Congress came to power in Uttar Pradesh, 20 lakh youths would be given jobs, women would get the facility of free bus travel and fishing would be given the status of farming.

"The Nishad community will have rights over rivers and sand mining. We will also set up a university in the name of Guru Matsyendranath (Guru of Gorakhnath)," she said while speaking at a Pratiya rally in Gorakhnath.

She further announced that if the Congress came to power, the ad hoc and contract workers would be regularised and the purchase price of wheat and paddy would be raised to Rs 2,500 while sugarcane MSP would be Rs 400.

"Women will be given three free gas cylinders in a year and treatment up to Rs 10 lakh would be free for all. Besides, we will ensure full loan waiver for farmers. ASHA workers would be given an honorarium of Rs 10,000 per month," she added.

Priyanka said that India was a nation that survived on faith. "We have



faith in the earth, faith in religion, faith in our labour and faith in our leaders. We have faith in what the leaders say and when huge advertisements tell us that development has arrived, we begin to wonder. Time has come to question our leaders and ask them where is the development," she said.

Mounting a scathing attack on the Yogi Adityanath government, she said that the chief minister was working against the principles of Guru

Gorakhnath.

"Amit Shah said that law and order in UP is perfect. In Lakhimpur, his party leaders mowed down farmers. In Gorakhpur, the police killed businessman Manish Gupta. In Lucknow, an executive Vivek Tiwari was shot dead by policemen and in Unnao one girl was raped and set on fire while another was raped and an attempt was made to kill her in an accident. You do not need a binocular to see the reality but a good pair of spectacles," she said.

Priyanka berated the Modi government and said that they had promised to enable a person with 'hawai chappal' to travel by air. "But travelling by road has become impossible due to rising fuel prices. The Prime Minister flies to Italy in his Rs 8,000 crore aircraft but in UP farmers die waiting in queues for fertilizer. A farmer's income is Rs 27 per day but his businessmen friends earn Rs 1,000 crore per day," she said.

Priyanka said that politics would change drastically if more women came in.

She ended her speech with 'Jai Guru Matsyendranath' and 'Jai Guru Gorakhnath' both spiritual gurus of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

PM to hold review meeting with low vax coverage dists

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a review meeting with District Collectors having low vaccination coverage on November 3. PM Modi will chair the meeting immediately after returning to the country from Europe visit.

The Prime Minister will hold the review meeting with districts having low vaccination coverage on November 3 at 12 noon via video conferencing.

The meeting will include districts with less than 50 per cent coverage of the first dose and low coverage of the second dose of Covid vaccine. Prime Minister will interact with District Magistrates of over 40 districts of Jharkhand, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, and other States with districts having low vaccination coverage. Chief Ministers of these States will also be present on the occasion. Meanwhile, India's Covid



inoculation coverage has reached 106.14 crore as of Sunday morning. A total of 68,04,806 vaccine doses have been administered in the last 24 hours. This has been achieved through 1,06,01,975 sessions.

Nearly 112 crore vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far through Govt of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category. More than 13 crore balance and unutilized Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be administered, as per the data shared by Union Health Ministry on Sunday morning.

Delta variant detected in 99% samples: Delhi govt data

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi government data revealed that 'delta variant' and its sub lineages of 'Sars-Cov-2' virus were detected in 99 per cent samples sent for genome sequencing in the month of October.

Total 7,361 samples were sent for sequencing from Delhi in several months since Indian Sars-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) was set up. As per data, of total 7,361 samples, delta variant was detected in 2,873 samples (39.03 per cent).

Genome sequencing data revealed that delta variant was detected in 99 per cent of the sample in October, 97 per cent in September, 86 per cent in August and 52 per cent in July. In the months of April and May, when the second wave of Covid was at its peak, 54 and 82 per cent of total samples sent for sequencing were respectively detected with the delta variant. In the months of June and July 90 per cent and 52 per cent samples were detected with delta variants.

Of 6,235 samples that were sent to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC),



the delta variant was detected in 2,268. Delta variants were detected in 531 from 1,027 sent to Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) for genome sequencing.

Of 99 samples sent to Lok Nayak Hospital, 74 were detected with the delta variant. Alpha variants were detected in only 966 samples.

Sources said that delta variant was found in almost half the samples, followed by AY.4 sub-lineage. Meanwhile, Delhi's sixth sero survey report has revealed 90 per cent people in the national capital have developed antibodies against the coronavirus.

CONG LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO INDIRA GANDHI ON HER DEATH ANNIVERSARY

New Delhi: Congress leaders

on Sunday paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi on her 37th death anniversary and remembered her lifelong dedication and service to the nation. Rahul Gandhi paid tributes at Shakti Sthal, and later went to Indira Gandhi Memorial, where he along with Congress president Sonia Gandhi paid homage to the late former PM on anniversary of her martyrdom day.

Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet, "my grand mother served the nation without fear and her life is inspiration and great example of women power". The Congress party also hailed Indira Gandhi for her lifelong dedication and service to the nation. It tweeted: "She represented strength.

She epitomised sacrifice. She personified service.

A billion salutes to the Iron Lady of India, our very first woman Prime Minister, a true Bharat Ratna, Smt Indira Gandhi, on her death anniversary. "Congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "World leaders will gather in Glasgow soon. But Indira Gandhi was ONLY PM, other than the host, to attend 1st UN Conference on Environment, Stockholm, in 1972. She made a historic speech & created huge impact. She walked the talk on environment. We mark her death anniversary today." Indira Gandhi was martyred in 1984 when her guards opened fire on her on this day, when she was the Prime Minister of the country.



Highway opened, farmers allowed activities 20 days after Poonch anti-terror operation

Jammu | Agencies

Twenty days after the anti-terror operation was started by the Army in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on October 11, authorities on Sunday opened the Bhimber-Jaranwali Gali road on the Poonch highway and also allowed farmers in the area to carry out routine agricultural activities. Police said farmers have been advised to report any suspicious movement they might see in the area.

One of J&K's longest anti-terror operations was started on October 11 in the Bhatta Durrian forest of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch. The area of this operation was extended on October 14 to Thanamandi area in

Rajouri district after nine soldiers, including two junior commissioned officers (JCOs) were killed and two policemen and another soldier injured in firing exchanges with the terrorists. One Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist belonging to Pakistan, Zia Mustafa was taken from Jammu jail to identify the hideout in the area. He was killed when hiding terrorists attacked the approaching party of the security forces. Around half a dozen civilians were detained for questioning after reports emanated that they had provided food and shelter to the hiding terrorists. Army and police had made announcements asking locals not to venture into the forest area or graze their cattle there for fear of being

caught in the crossfire between the security forces and the terrorists. A portion of Bhatta Durrian forest caught fire during this operation due to heavy firing and use of rocket launchers by the security forces. There is, however, still no official word on the number of terrorists killed in this operation. Defence sources had said there could be 4 to 7 terrorists, most of them Pakistan nationals, who were hiding in the area after infiltrating into the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) probably a month or two before they were traced. Chief of Indian army, General M.M. Naravane had also visited the area along with senior field commanders during his visit to J&K on October 19.

Madras HC orders detention of foreign ship that hit TN fishing boat

Chennai | Agencies

The Madras High Court has ordered detaining of the Panama flagged cargo ship 'MV Navios Venue' that is lying at Mumbai port for three weeks.

The High Court passed the order while hearing a petition filed by P. Rajamani whose fishing boat was hit by the Cargo ship 19 nautical miles away from the Colachel harbour in Kanyakumari district on October 22.

The fishing boat owned by Rajamani, 'Shij Mon - 1' had 17 crew members who were thrown off and badly injured when it was hit by the cargo ship. The fishing boat was totally damaged in the collision.

Two fishermen, who were seriously injured, were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard patrol vessel and admitted



to Thiruvananthapuram Medical college while the remaining 15 managed to reach the shore with the support of other fishing boats that were fishing in adjacent premises in the sea.

The petitioner, Rajamani prayed to the court that the ship plies with a Panama flag and 'if it is permitted to sail

beyond our territorial waters, the injured fishermen would not get any compensation'. He requested the court to take action to detain the ship in Indian territory, and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy directed the Indian Coast Guard, Director General of Shipping, and Mumbai port to detain the Panama vessel, 'MV Navios Venue' in Mumbai port itself for three weeks. The court ordered notice to the official respondents and the ship and adjourned the case till November 26.

Coastal Marine Police of Tamil Nadu had registered a case under Sections 280 (rash navigation of a vessel), and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code. The case was registered following a complaint filed by the driver of the boat.

CBI arrests 'wheeler dealer' in bribery case against Anil Deshmukh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested a "wheeler dealer" on Sunday in a bribery case against Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

The agency arrested Santosh Jagtap from Thane under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act on Sunday morning. He was produced before the court later in the day and it sent him to the agency's custody till November 4 for interrogation.

It is alleged that Jagtap was engaged in transfers and postings of government offi-



cial. The agency has issued summons to Jagtap to join the probe but he ignored them repeatedly. Thereafter, the CBI knocked the doors of the court, secured a non-bailable warrant against him, and arrested him.

It is also alleged that he was in direct touch with Deshmukh.

after the agency conducted a preliminary enquiry against him on the direction of Bombay High Court. After the High Court ordered the CBI to carry out the preliminary enquiry, Deshmukh had resigned from the post.

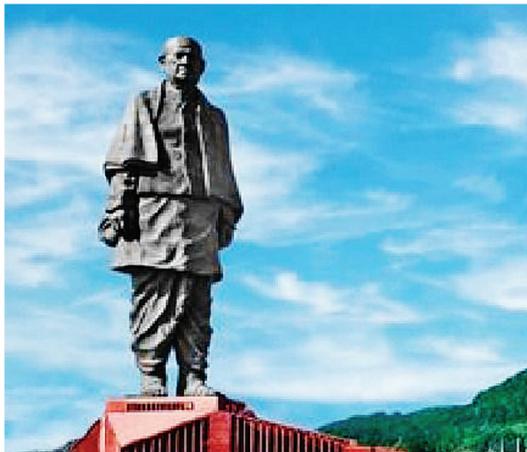
The FIR states, "The preliminary enquiry prima facie revealed that a cognisable offence is made out in the matter, wherein the then Home Minister of Maharashtra, Anil Deshmukh, and unknown others have attempted to obtain undue advantage for improper and dishonest performance of their public duty."

'Sardar Patel Leadership Centre' at Mussoorie dedicated to nation

NEW DELHI/MUSSOORIE | Agencies

On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, marking the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a 'Sardar Patel Leadership Centre' was dedicated to the nation at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie on Sunday.

Underlined 'New Generation Reforms for New Generation Civil Servants', Union Minister of State for Personnel, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh said, "Increasing Transparency, Accountability and People-Centric Delivery mechanisms must become cornerstones of 'New Generation Reforms for the New Generation Civil Servants'."



Addressing the latest batch of civil servants and referring to the Prime Minister's 75th Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Singh said, "Today the world is also a witness to how India is writing a new chapter of governance here and in this decade of 'Amrit Kaal', we will give priority to Next Generation reforms."

He also reiterated Modi's commitment to ensure that all the facilities like service delivery should reach citizens up to the last mile and it should reach the last person seamlessly, without hesitation or any kind of difficulty, a statement from the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said.

Dwelling on the relevance of 'Sardar Patel Leadership Centre',

Singh said, the Centre aims to lay the foundation capacity building for future generations of civil servants so that they learn from the best practices of leadership across the world while at the same time they remain connected with their cultural ethos, values and roots.

Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), K. Srinivas said the objective behind this Centre's establishment is to enable a civil servant to constantly remain in touch with Sardar Patel Leadership Centre, an entity that can provide them with upgraded skills and guidance for their own personal pathways. "Every officer must determine his or her own path of self-guided learning in the spirit of Mission Karmayogi," he said.

NIA arrests two more in J&K terrorism conspiracy case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two more accused persons in Jammu and Kashmir terrorism conspiracy case.

The NIA said that the two accused Ishfaq Ahmed Wani, a resident of Srinagar and Umar Bhat, resident of Sopore, were arrested on Saturday.

The case relates to conspiracy for undertaking violent terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir and other major cities by cadres of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Al Badr and their affiliates such as the Resistance Front (TRF), People Against Fascist Forces (PAFF) and others.

The NIA had registered the case on October 10 and initiated the investigation. Till now 25 accused persons have been arrested in this case by the NIA.



"Preliminary investigation has revealed that arrested accused persons are terror associates/ over ground workers (OGWs) of various proscribed terrorist organisations and have been providing logistical and material support to terrorists. Further Investigation in the case continues," NIA said.

Few days after registration of the case, the NIA carried out searches at different locations in Kashmir valley and arrested nine accused. Four more arrests were made on October 20 and 10 more accused were arrested later on.



MALIK CLAIMS WANKHEDE WARNED HIM OF 'DIRE CONSEQUENCES'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

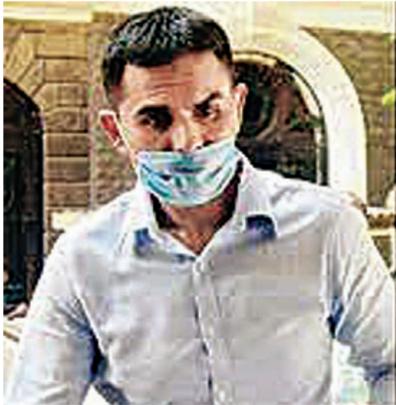
In a shocking revelation, Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik on Sunday alleged that Narcotics Control Bureau officer Sameer Wankhede had threatened him with "dire consequences" several months ago.

The incident happened, Malik said, when he learnt of the NCB Zonal Director's allegedly fake caste certificate and some Mumbai reporters conveyed the message that "Wankhede is very upset with you... there could be dire consequences of all this."

"It was after this incident that he arrested my son-in-law in a fake drugs case and kept him inside jail for over eight months. The intention was that even if I raised the matter of his forged caste papers, nobody would take it seriously and label it as vendetta," Malik told media persons.

However, the Nationalist Congress Party leader said he made it clear to Wankhede's messengers that he would make an all-out expose on all his wrongs and place it before the people.

"During the recent action and arrest of Aryan Khan, his father Shah Rukh Khan was told that because I (Malik) am pursuing the matter, his (Aryan's) release was getting delayed. Officials and acquaintances tried



to build indirect pressures vide the superstar," Malik alleged.

Moreover, attempts were made to brainwash and pressurise him even through his own family members, including a lawyer-son, who pleaded with him to drop the Wankhede matter.

"Many officials and other known persons cautioned me that the narcotic business is very big with huge stakes, and I could even



be killed for it. I said I will die when I have to, but will not be deterred from unravelling the truth," Malik said.

He added that Wankhede had met Union MoS for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale and other Dalit party leaders in the past as he was "so unnerved" by the fake caste certificate matter.

On Sunday, Wankhede's father Dnyandeve and wife Kranti called on

Athawale and dismissed Malik's allegations of conversion as an outcome of vendetta, while the Minister threw his weight behind the Wankhede family.

"Malik says we deprived a Dalit of his rights... We are also Dalits. If you have anything to say, go to the court. My son or I have never converted," said Dnyandeve Wankhede.

Malik had alleged that the process began from 2015 and Dawood became Dnyandeve, Yasmeen became Jasmine and she divorced her Muslim husband who is not settled in Europe, plus Sameer Wankhede and his sister Jasmine did not convert because they born Muslim as their father had converted.

"I have repeatedly stated that this is not about caste-religion but about a fake Scheduled Caste certificate on the basis of which Sameer Wankhede has snatched the job of a deserving Dalit boy or girl. I will fight till the end," he declared.

He hit out at the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) Vice Chairman Arun Halder, who had said that Sameer Wankhede had not converted.

"Halder may be a BJP leader but he is appointed to a Constitutional post and he must uphold its dignity. He must first conduct a probe into the matter, and submit his report to Parliament, instead of giving comments to the media," he said.

NIA court sentences man for 7 years in fake currency case



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in Mumbai has convicted an accused in Bhivandi, Maharashtra and sentenced him to seven years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and imposed a fine of Rs 1,00,000 in Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) case.

An NIA special court, Mumbai pronounced judgement pertaining to recovery of fake Indian currency notes having value of Rs 4.78 lakh from five accused, all residents of Bandra (East). Five accused were Rehan Abbas Shaikh, Shafahad Mukhtar Ansari, Anees Iklal Shaikh, Kishor Namdeo Fular and Rohit Kumar Nagendra Singh. The case was originally registered on October 11, 2018 at Bhiwandi Taluka police station of Thane dis-

tricts, Maharashtra under section 489-B, 489-C, & 34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Subsequently, NIA re-registered the case on December 4, 2018 and took up the investigation.

After investigation, the NIA had filed three charge sheets. First charge sheet was filed on January 5, 2019 and subsequent charge sheets were filed on September 30, 2019 and April 23, this year against nine accused persons. On October 30, accused Rohit Kumar Nagendra Singh pleaded guilty before NIA Special Court, Mumbai. The Court convicted him for the offence under section 120-B, 489 (B) and 489 (C) of IPC and sentenced him to seven years of RI and fine of Rs 1000.

Trial against the remaining charge-sheeted accused is continuing.

WR suburban trains in Mumbai get LCD TVs to beam infotainment

The WR has operationalised the TVs in eight of the proposed 20 suburban trains (rakes) which will fetch a 'non-fare revenue' of Rs 65 lakh per annum.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hoping to lighten and brighten up the mood of millions of daily commuters, the Western Railway has for the first time installed LCD TV screens on a few suburban trains, an official said here on Sunday.

The WR has operationalised the TVs in eight of the proposed 20 suburban trains (rakes) which will fetch a 'non-fare revenue' of Rs 65 lakh per annum.

The contract has been awarded to Digitech Engineers and Computech Private Ltd., for five years and the WR will earn around Rs 3.45 crore through it, said WR Chief Spokesperson Sumit Thakur. "This is the first time



that an EMU rake is fitted with such 24" LCD screens which will display commercial advertisements, as well as railway and public-related information to the commuters," said Thakur.

It will aid as another medium of railways to reach messages to the people and add to the aesthetics of the coach while enhancing the travel experience of the commuters. Currently, the feedback from commuters in the initial runs has been very positive, said Thakur.

Maharashtra tops among states under 'Sudden Death': NCRB

Madhya Pradesh also accounted for maximum deaths of 4,611 out of 22,221 under 'Poisoning', as per the NCRB data. A total of 931 incidents of consumption of illicit/spurious liquor caused 947 deaths in the country during 2020. The states where various such deaths were reported include Madhya Pradesh (214 deaths) followed by Jharkhand (139 deaths), Punjab (133 deaths), Karnataka (99 deaths) and Chhattisgarh (67 deaths).

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bureau has also collected data on fire accidents according to places of occurrence for appropriate preventive strategies. A total of 9,329 cases of fire accidents were reported in the country during 2020, showing a decrease of 15.5 per cent as compared to 11,037 cases in 2019. Total 9,329 incidents of fire accidents caused injuries to 468 persons and 9,110 deaths during 2020.

The cause-wise analysis of fire accidents revealed that 57.6 per cent of total deaths were reported in residential buildings during

2020. Large number of cases of fire accidents were reported in Madhya Pradesh accounting for 15.3 per cent of total such cases during 2020. A total of 50,512 accidental deaths were reported in 53 mega cities during 2020.

As per the NCRB data, the Mega City refers to a city which has a population of 10 lakh or more

Maximum numbers of accidental deaths 5,221 were reported in Mumbai accounting for 10.3 per cent of total deaths, followed by Delhi City (3,994 deaths), Bengaluru (3,644 deaths), Pune (2,599 deaths), Nagpur (2,258 deaths) and Surat (2,119 deaths). The Rate of

accidental deaths in these 53 mega cities was higher than all India rate of accidental deaths, said the data. The rate of accidental deaths was highest in Raipur (92.1), followed by Rajkot (90.8), Nagpur (90.3), Faridabad (88.2), Aurangabad (81.8) and Vasai Virar (80.9) as compared to average rate for the cities (31.4). A total of 311 deaths due to forces of nature were reported in these 53 mega cities during 2020.

Among specified causes of accidents due to forces of nature, maximum deaths were reported due to 'Exposure to cold' followed by 'Heat/Sun stroke', accounting for 40.8 per cent

and 21.2 per cent of total such accidental deaths. Due to 'Exposure to cold' maximum deaths were reported in Amritsar (47 deaths), Ludhiana (28 deaths) and Ranchi (9 deaths). A total of 87,016 cases of 'Other' accidents were reported in 53 mega cities which caused injuries to 41,910 persons and 50,201 deaths during 2020. The cause-wise analysis of deaths due to other causes revealed that 26.7 per cent, 24.8 per cent, and 6.9 per cent deaths in 53 cities were due to 'Sudden Deaths' (13,385), 'Traffic Accidents' (12,461), and 'Falls' (3,468) respectively.

Daily tickets allowed for local train travel

The state government had asked the railways to discontinue daily tickets and issue only monthly passes after resumption of the train services following the second wave of Covid-19

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Passengers will be able to once again buy daily tickets for single or return journeys in the local trains on the suburban railway network in Mumbai and surrounding cities.

Following the demands from passengers, the Maharashtra govern-



ment on Sunday permitted the Central and Western Railway to restart issuing of daily tickets on their suburban railway network for

all those who are fully vaccinated and have completed the mandatory cooling period of 14 days after vaccination.

The state government had asked the railways to discontinue daily tickets and issue only monthly passes after resumption of the train services following the second wave of Covid-19. Only people working in the essential services were allowed to get daily tickets.

"As one time ticketing was allowed on long distance passenger trains before too, this relaxation means that all fully vaccinated residents may travel in local and passenger trains on all routes and through all kinds of tickets that may be issued by railways including daily ticketing. Being fully vaccinated will be the only mandatory condition for issuance of any kind of tickets for travel in trains," said a statement issued by Aseem Gupta, principal secretary, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation.

Maharashtra MLC by-election on November 29

The polling will be conducted on November 29, and the counting of votes will take place on the same day after 5 pm.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The by-election to the state legislative council will take place on November 29. The bypoll for the lone MLC seat was necessitated following the death of senior Congress member Sharad Ranpise.

Ranpise (71) died in September this year. His six-year term was to end in 2024.

The decision was announced by the state election commission on Sunday. The notification for the election will be issued on November 9. The last date for filing nominations is November 16. The scrutiny of candidates will be carried out on November 17 and nomination can be withdrawn till November 22. The polling will be conducted on November 29, and the counting of votes will take place on the same day after 5 pm. The 288-member Maharashtra legislative

assembly will act as the electoral college.

The election commission has also directed the chief secretary of Maharashtra to depute a senior officer from the state to ensure that the extant instructions regarding Covid-19 containment measures are complied with while making arrangements for conducting the election.

The by-poll is poised for a straight fight between the BJP and the Maha Vikas Aghadi. Although official candidates are yet to be announced, the Congress will hope to get the support of its ally NCP and Shiv Sena.

Mumbai cruise drugs case: Model Munmun Dhamecha released from jail

The Bombay High Court had on Thursday granted bail to her along with co-accused Aryan Khan, the son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and Arbaaz Merchant.

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Fashion model Munmun Dhamecha was released from the Byculla women's jail here on Sunday, three days after she was granted bail in the cruise drugs case in which she was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on October 3.

The Bombay High Court had on Thursday granted bail to her along with co-accused Aryan Khan, the



son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and Arbaaz Merchant.

On Friday afternoon, the HC made available its operative order in which it imposed 14 bail conditions on Aryan Khan, Merchant and Dhamecha, stipulating their release on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh each with one or two sureties of the same amount. The release order of Dhamecha was put in the bail box outside the Byculla jail late Saturday evening, after the bond process was completed. Dhamecha's advocate Ali

Kaashif Khan on Sunday said, "She has been released from the jail after completion of all the legal formalities. We are now going to file an application before the NCB seeking permission to allow her to go Madhya Pradesh, as she hails from there."

Her co-accused Arbaaz Merchant, who is lodged at the Arthur Road jail, is yet to be released. Aryan Khan, who was also lodged in the Arthur Road jail following arrest in the case, returned home on Saturday.

Sameer Wankhede: NCB scarecrow cooks up Bollywood's "shraadh"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lights, Cameras... Raid...! When the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede planned a rave party raid aboard the Cordelia Cruise luxury ship, one thing was guaranteed tonnes of publicity, even if the actual drug recovery maybe a few tolas.

For, among those present on the ship on October 2 was Aryan Khan, the son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan and producer Gauri, besides a few others from the glam-entertainment world.

Truly, a 'heady' ambience for the NCB's high-profile operation, a first-ever on a luxury cruiser in India, and he effected a big haul of big names, but barely any worthwhile quantity of drugs.

Amid a national furore and international attention, Wankhede zoomed around to catch a total of 20 alleged junkies by their collars and dumping them in the lockup, all the while basking in the reflected glory.



In the past over a year since Wankhede, 42, (IRS 2008), was deputed to the IPS-dominated NCB for the late Sushant Singh Rajput death probe he jumped head-first with surgical strikes to "uproot the drug citadel in Bollywood and Mumbai". Many well-known names like Arjun Rampal, Rhea Chakravorty, Deepika Padukone, Shradha

Kapoor, Rakul Preet Singh, Sara Ali Khan, comedy couple Bharti Singh and Harsh Limbachiya, Armaan Kohli and the latest, Aryan Khan, were trapped in his net, and at one point he even went tantalisingly close to the Karan Johar's 'girebaan' (collar). Earlier, during his stint at the Mumbai Airport Customs, Wankhede dabbled in his favourite glamour game cornering/detaining people like Shah Rukh Khan, Anushka Sharma, Katrina Kaif, Ranbir Kapoor, Bipasha Basu, Mika Singh, Minisha Lamba, Vivek Oberoi, Ram Gopal Verma, etc., and once even the 2011 World Cup Cricket Trophy made of gold-silver, which was 'released' after the BCCI coughed out the customs duty! A far

cry from the days when the NCB was a ghost, its name rarely heard in public like the 2001 arrest of actor Fardeen Khan compared with the daily parade of a charade now, akin to a 'saas-bahu serial'. If Wankhede was hoping for a pat or promotion, there was some disappointment this time suddenly chinks were exposed both in the anti-drug actions and intentions, the NCB's reputation in tatters and the hunter became the hunted.

The name dreaded by Bollywood suddenly came under intense scrutiny as the Nationalist Congress Party Minister Nawab Malik single-handedly snooped on the super-sleuth to hammer hollow the NCB's credibility.

Like a thirsty bloodhound, the bearded, bespectacled Malik coolly launched a serial expose to prove Wankhede's actions as 'farjical' (fraudulent) strikes unearthing Bharatiya Janata Party-linked 'independent witnesses', his unsavoury friends, a wanted-nabbed criminal, alleged fake caste certificate, religious credentials, etc., that rattled the officer. As Aryan Khan remained in a vice-like grip for 29 nights, Wankhede spent sleepless nights, ran from one NCB probe to another, knocked the doors of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the DGP Sanjay Pandey, Mumbai CoP Hemant Nagrale, the NCSC, the Special NDPS Court and the Bombay High Court.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Support for the national cricket team or its players is no litmus test for patriotism

People who allegedly celebrated the victory of Pakistan against India in a T20 cricket World Cup match on October 24 are facing the brunt of the state. All of them are Muslims. In Rajasthan, a young schoolteacher has been terminated by a private school and the police have charged her under IPC Section 153B for 'imputations, assertions prejudicial to national integration'. In Jammu and Kashmir, the police have registered two cases against unknown persons under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other sections. In Uttar Pradesh, three students from J&K have been charged under IPC Sections 153A (promoting enmity between groups), 505 (creating or publishing content to promote enmity) and, later, Section 124A, sedition. The wisdom, propriety or acceptability of celebrating Pakistan's victory is beside the point. From moral, tactical, and practical perspectives, this sweeping policing is unwise. No democracy, least of all a country of India's size and diversity, can demand unyielding uniformity and conformity from its population, on all questions and at all times. It is unlikely that any of these charges will stand judicial scrutiny, but that only makes this spectacle a ridiculous distraction for the stretched law enforcement system. Far from enforcing national integration as the purported aim of this heavy-handed police action is, it will only brew more resentment and social disharmony apart from derailing young lives. An unremitting loyalty test of citizens can be a self-defeating pursuit for a country like India that has global ambitions. People of Indian origin live around the world, with split loyalties. There are US citizens who chant victory for India at gatherings in their home countries addressed by the Indian Prime Minister, and there are British and Australian citizens who boo their own country in favour of India during sporting events. Sports teams around the world have members of foreign origin. Infusion of toxic hyper-nationalism in sports is bad in such a world, more so for India.

In the land of Josh and Mayel, Asmat Malihabadi carries the legacy

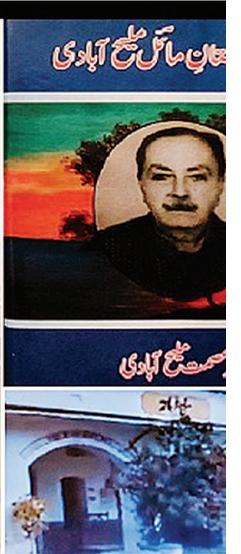
IN THE TOWN FAMOUS FOR ITS POETS, LITTERATEURS, CULTURE AND MANGOES, FEW REMAIN TO CARRY THE LEGACY

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

Malihabad is known for its culture and literary heritage. The land known for poets like legendary Faqir Mohammad Khan 'Goya', Shabbir Hasan Khan 'Josh' Malihabadi and author



MALIHABAD IN TWENTY FIRST CENTURY



Mayel Malihabadi is known for the unique lifestyle and the huge production of multiple varieties of mangoes. Walking in the lanes of the historic town, one repeatedly hears people rue that now few are around to carry the literary legacy forward. The names of contemporary writers that come up are just Asmat Malihabadi and Khan Mohammad Atif, both veterans authors. Sad, that in the town of 'Shayari-Inquilab' Josh Malihabadi, there are no more major wordsmiths. Asmat Malihabadi is an accomplished poet who also writes prose and has penned short stories. He has been painstakingly penning books and is compiling the rich literary heritage of the town and the region, so that it's preserved for future. In fact, he has collected and compiled

almost the entire poetry of Josh Malihabadi in the Kulliyat-e-Josh that brings to us Josh's huge output, in terms of poetry, at one place. This book that runs into 1600 pages brings to us the complete works of Josh, who was among the most prominent poets to have challenged the British Empire during the freedom movement. But this is just one of his major works. In fact, Asmat Malihabadi has churned out books after books for years. His boom 'Dastan-e-Mayel Malihabadi' once again brought focus on the author who wrote 140 novels in his lifetime. This book also focuses on Malihabad, the town's history, its role during freedom movement, as well as the literary contribution of major personalities and then goes on to inform us about Mayel Malihabadi's life, his complete body of works and brief info about most of the legendary author's novels—both historical as well as social novels.

Not only he has written separate books on Josh's elegiac poetry and his revolutionary nazms and documented Josh's stay in Hyderabad during Nizam's era till his controversial exit, Asmat Malihabadi holds the forte in this cultural island. 'Unfortunately, there is no major library left in Malihabad. The Goya library closed long ago', says Dr Asmat Malihabadi who probably turned his own house into a library to compensate the loss. The house is full of books that include rare literary texts. Once I asked my wife, what will happen to these books after me, he says. 'She jokingly said that they will be occasionally taken out, placed on clothesline, ensured that they are saved', he says. But, the irony is about lack of interest towards literature and the decline in the culture of reading books.

One of his couplets:
Ham hi hain, Asmat-e-Malihabad
Ham se hai Azmat-e-Malihabad
Khan Mohammad Atif is also a prolific writer, besides, veteran Urdu Ahmad Saeed Malihabadi. But is there anyone after them? That's the question, which haunts Malihabadis. "Where is the next generation? There was excessive focus on mangoes and the feeling that our families own mango orchards, so youths indulged in fun and flaunting their possessions, rather than focusing on literary aspects, education and culture. In recent years, change has come, but there are hardly any writers in the new generation. Isn't it a tragedy that when a new book comes, one has to think whom to give, share with or discuss?", he says.

international

Cambodia to vaccinate 5-yr-old kids

Phnom Penh | Agencies

Cambodia will begin vaccinating five-year-old children against Covid-19 across the country using the Chinese Sinovac jab from Monday onwards, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said in a statement. "Five-year-old children in all 25 cities and provinces will receive two doses of Sinovac vaccine from November 1, 2021 onwards and an interval between the first and second doses is 28 days," MoH's Secretary of State Or Vandine said in the statement. When taking their children for the jab, parents or legal guardians must bring along their birth certificates, family record books or passports, Xinhua news agency quoted the Secretary as saying.



The latest move comes after the Southeast Asian nation has administered at least one dose of a Covid vaccine to 13.7 million people aged six years and older, or 85.6 per cent of its 16-million population, the MoH said. Of them, 13.05 million, or 81.6 per cent, have been fully inoculated and 1.83 million, or 11.4 per cent, have taken a third or a booster dose, it added.

Taliban warns of global problems if their govt isn't recognised

Kabul | Agencies

The Taliban have called on the US and other global powers not to waste time in recognising their government in Afghanistan, warning that failure to do so would have major problems and consequences not only for the country, but the world at large. "Our message to America is, if the non-recognition continues, Afghan problems continue, it is the problem of the region and could turn into a problem for the world," said Zabihullah Mujahid, the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, during a press conference in Kabul. "The reason why the Taliban and US went to war last time was because the two did not have formal diplomatic ties. The US invaded Afghanistan in 2001 following the September 11, 2001, attacks after the then-Taliban government refused to hand over chief of the Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden." Mujahid said that the issues that led to war in the past could be resolved through negotiations and political compromise. "Recognition was the right of the people of Afghanistan," he said, adding that the failure to do so would result in continuous seizure of Afghan assets and funds at a time when the country is faced with severe economic and humanitarian crisis. Since the fall of Afghanistan in August, no country has formally recognised the Taliban government.



The global community is now being engaged through delegation level meeting by the Taliban, who are working towards assuring and establishing what they claim to be a changed image and outlook of the group as compared to the past. Taliban delegations are meeting dignitaries of various

countries, including China, while senior foreign officials have visited Kabul recently with an aim to create mutual grounds of understanding towards a more inclusive government structure in Afghanistan. At the moment, due to non-recognition by the global community, foreign assets worth \$10 billion, parked majorly in the US Federal Reserves, have been blocked. Afghanistan has been a country, which primarily banked on foreign aids to run at least 80 per cent of its operations, is now reeling into humanitarian crisis and an economic meltdown. "Granting recognition to the current system is the right of Afghans and no one can deprive us of this right nor will it benefit anyone," Mujahid further said at the press conference. On the other hand, the global community maintains that the Taliban need to live up to its public pledges of ensuring rights to Afghan women and minorities. On the issue of the female education, Mujahid claimed that "young girls in many Afghan provinces have returned to school and the issue is gradually being resolved across the country". While the Afghanistan crisis continues to swell and worsen, it seems that the Taliban are still not ready to consider demands of the global community and are not ready to be, what they call "directed" by any foreign country. "We will not give this right to foreigners to direct us about how our girls should undertake educational activities. This is an internal Afghan matter," Mujahid added.

Archaeologists discover interior of ancient tomb at Egypt's Saqqara necropolis

Cairo: An archaeological mission from the Cairo University has discovered the interior of a tomb at the Saqqara necropolis near Giza Pyramids, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said in a statement. The tomb belonged to Pthahemwia, an official who served under King Ramses II in the 19th Dynasty around 3,300 years ago, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying. "The importance of discovering this tomb is due to the positions held by its owner, who was a royal scribe, head of the treasury, chief overseer of the cattle and also in charge of divine offerings at the temple of Ramses II in Thebes (Upper Egypt)," said Mostafa Waziri, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. The excavations of Cairo University's Faculty of Archaeology at Saqqara necropolis started in the 1970s and the actual search for royal tombs began in the 1980s, which led to the discovery of several tombs from the Ramesside Period, according to Ahmed Ragab, dean of the faculty. But the current mission, led by archaeology professor Ola el-Aguizy, has been working in the site since 2005 and has recently unveiled the entrance and interior of Pthahemwia's tomb. "What has been discovered of the tomb is its entrance built of stone carved with reliefs showing the owner of the tomb. The entrance leads to a hall whose walls have drawings painted and coloured on a layer of plaster," said el-Aguizy, head of the mission. She added that the mission unearthed stone blocks with inscriptions and a number of Osirian columns, some standing in place and others buried by sand. The Saqqara necropolis contains numerous pyramids, including the world-famous Step pyramid of Djoser, sometimes referred to as the Step Tomb, and a number of mastaba (a flat-roofed, rectangular structure with inward sloping sides) tombs. The Djoser pyramid, built during the Third Dynasty, is the oldest complete stone building complex known in history.

No place for armed militia in the country: Pak NSA warns TLP protesters

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf has warned the proscribed Tehreek-e-Labbaki Pakistan (TLP) protesters of being mindful of the fact that the country will not tolerate or allow presence of any armed militia. Yusuf stated that the TLP protesters had crossed the line by using force against security officials, that resulted in the death of at least three security officials, while dozens others were injured. "TLP had crossed the red line and exhausted the state's patience," he said. "Do not test the proposition. As the basic principle of national security, the state will never shy away from protecting each and every citizen from any form of violence," said Yusuf, giving a clear caution to TLP from trying to taking matters into their hands. The NSA went on to say that any outlaws, who target security personnel, damage public property and create widespread public disruption, "would be treated like terrorists without any leniency". While the NSA has come out with clear plans of not bowing down to the TLP demands, the Imran Khan-led government has initiated and resumed negotiations with the proscribed group's



clerics, aiming to come down to a settlement and an arrangement, which would stop thousands of protesters, who have been marching towards Islamabad, causing massive chaos, violence and disruptions, leading to confrontation with the security forces. As per details of the new round of talks, influential leaders were brought to Rawalpindi and Islamabad, where brief round of negotiations were held. What seemed to differ in the new round of talks was the change of tone by the government officials, as senior ministers were directed to refrain from issuing strong statements against the

banned TLP. Details also revealed that the detained Saad Rivzi, the amir of TLP was brought to Islamabad along with at least three senior members of the TLP Shura, Maulana Shafiq Amini, Engineer Hafezullah and Pir Inayatul Haq for direct negotiations with the government's negotiation committee. While the negotiations are underway, some TLP leaders are still angry over government ministers branding the outfit as Indian agents. "Why did they brand us Indian agents? The whole nation wants to know who is getting money from the enemies. We have asked the government to change the negotiating team which does not insult us after the meeting," said a TLP leader. The issue has pushed the country into a non-time bound unrest as authorities have blocked road routes leading to Islamabad by digging bunkers, blocking roads with containers and deploying thousands of security personnel across the Punjab province, with an aim to stop the protesters from what they call the red line and move towards the federal capital. Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken notice of the ongoing anti-government march and has given the mandate to the negotiating team to ensure that the matter does not aggravate into further chaos in the coming days.

IRAN CALLS FOR ENDING SYRIA SANCTIONS, YEMEN SIEGE

Tehran: An Iranian envoy to the UN has called for lifting Western sanctions against Syria and ending the siege on Yemen by the Saudi-led coalition.



Zahra Ershadi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iran to the UN, said that it is quite alarming that, according to the UN reports, the number of refugees and displaced people in Syria is increasing, reports Xinhua news agency. The efforts aimed at addressing the underlying causes of this trend must be redoubled, Ershadi said to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. Likewise, the Yemen issue has remained the most acute humanitarian crisis globally, with millions of people in need of humanitarian assistance, she said. To provide the conditions for an end to this tragedy and bring peaceful solution to this crisis, the inhumane blockade imposed on this nation must be removed fully and immediately," she was quoted as saying. In March 2021, the Saudi-led coalition completed its sixth year of war in Yemen against the Houthis to support President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Yemen has been mired in civil war since September 2014 when the Houthis militia forced the internationally recognized government of President Hadi out of the capital Sanaa. Meanwhile, the sanctions against Syria, which have intensified since the 2011 Civil War, resulted in wide impact on the Syrian population, leading to a near-embargo of the country as a result of the sanctions imposed by trade or humanitarian aid entities to that country and the legal complexity of such measures. The impact also affects the medical sector.



Governor, CM greets on Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day



Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have extended greetings to all the people of the state on Madhya Pradesh foundation day.

heart state of the country. The state has touched new dimensions of development. The participation of citizens in development in the last one and a half decade has also been commendable.

By-polls acid test for 'new' BJP leadership

BJP is seeing a gradual shift in the state leadership as the old guard is replaced by a new crop of leaders.

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal www.absoluteindianews.com

The by-polls held on Saturday are the first major test for the new emerging leadership of the state BJP which has replaced the old guards of the organization and is trying to establish their own sphere of influence within the party.



had grown in the party after 2019, had come time and again as the potential CM face of the party. A senior Lok Sabha member from the state said, "The party in the state is going through a transition phase. Leaders who used to form the core team of the party are replaced gradually by a new team."

Experts who are closely observing the developments in Bhopal also argue that these by-polls are significant for Shivraj Singh Chouhan himself as the central leadership will analyse his performance and productivity in the state for the 2023 Assembly polls which is only two years away.

VD Sharma had grown significantly within the party in the state. The BJP had removed many CMs to check the anti-incumbency in states, therefore you cannot predict what will happen after the by-polls. The saffron party had deputed more than a dozen ministers and 50 MLAs and the entire rank and file for the by-polls of three assembly seats and the lone Lok Sabha seat that is spread across the different regions of the state; it is all done under the supervision of Vishnu Datt Sharma."

Sardar Patel has set a unique example of national integration: CM

CM CHOUHAN ADMINISTERS OATH ON NATIONAL UNITY DAY AT SHAURYA SMARAK REAL CREDIT OF NATIONAL UNITY GOES TO IRON MAN SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel has done the work of uniting the country. Sardar Patel was a great patriotic leader with amazing determination. Sardar Patel has set a unique example of national unity by merging more than 500 princely states.



the 'Divide and Rule' policy of the Britishers. Chouhan said that Sardar Patel made his invaluable contribution whether it was the farmers' movement of Bardoli or the movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Chouhan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that due to his efforts, a statue of Sardar Patel has been installed in Kevadiya as a symbol of the unity of the country, for which iron was collected from village to village.

towards the jawans posted on the borders of India. We must work dedicatedly to combat terrorism. Considering each and every person of India as his own, one must work with brotherhood to take the country forward. He said that a powerful India is coming up under the leadership of PM Modi. Chouhan administered the oath of National Unity Day to the people present. He told them to take the oath and follow it sincerely. Chief Minister lit the lamp at the swearing-in ceremony and paid floral tributes at the portrait of Sardar Patel. Chouhan released a book 'Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and Indian Politics' focusing on the untouched aspects of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's

life, nationalist thought-philosophy and various dimensions under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Under the joint aegis of Directorate of Swaraj Sansthan and Dharampal Research Chair, 18 research papers in selected English and Hindi presented in the national seminar organized in the year 2018 have been compiled in the book. Chouhan paid homage to the immortal martyrs by laying a wreath at the Shaurya Smarak. He also honored the painters who made paintings based on the saga of bravery. Chouhan paid floral tributes at the statue of Mother India in the Shaurya Memorial complex. He met the police personnel and encouraged them.

Youth should familiarize future generation with Patels contribution to national integration: Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the countrymen, especially the younger generation, should make efforts to bring alive the legacy of Sardar Patel and acquaint the future generations with his unique contribution in building modern India. He said that the contribution of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel in the national unity of India is unforgettable. Patel was addressing the conclusion of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan organised by Nehru Yuva Sangathan and the launch of Jal Shakti Mission 'Catch the Rain 2.0' at Water and Land Management Institute, Bhopal on Sunday. Governor Patel said that people save money for the happy future of the children and ignore the environment, whereas environment and water conservation is most important for the safe future of the future generation. He said that India is a country of youth. The youth will have to be determined to make their best contribution in nation-building. He said that the country is rapidly moving towards self-reliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Everyone's cooperation is necessary in this because everyone's cooperation, everyone's development, everyone's faith and everyone's effort is the basis of building a self-reliant India. He appreciated the work being done by Nehru Yuva Kendra for environment and water conservation. He wished everyone a Happy Diwali. On this occasion, Patel honoured the director of Doordarshan Kendra Bhopal, Pooja Vardhan and other persons for their cooperation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Souvenir and poster were unveiled. The programme started with the lighting of the lamp. Member of Parliament Pragna Singh Thakur said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made cleanliness campaign a mass movement by presenting his own example. He has shown that when people's mind is focused, even impossible tasks are accomplished. He said that youth determine the condition and direction of the country. It is necessary for cleanliness that every person should be aware of the cleanliness and health of himself, family and community. Lt. Col. Arun Kumar Singh, Executive Director, Nehru Yuva Sangathan said that in view of the 75th Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, the organisation has collected more than the target of 75 lakh single use plastic collection from all the districts of the country during the campaign. The State Director of the organisation RN Tyagi gave the welcome address. The vote of thanks was given by Surendra Shukla, Deputy Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Rural women move towards self-reliance on the strong foundation of self-help groups



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission is providing sustainable opportunities for the institutional development and livelihood by forming self-help groups for social, economic empowerment of women from rural poor families in the state since 2012. So far, the Mission has formed 3 lakh 36 thousand 521 self-help groups in 45 thousand 135 villages. 38 lakh 31 thousand families have been linked to these groups. The groups are being financially supported by the mission in the form of circular funds, community investment funds, disaster funds and bank linkages. With this amount, their small and big financial needs are fulfilled, due to

which they are saved from the debt trap of moneylenders. In the last two years, the target of disbursement of bank loans to the groups for conducting various livelihood activities has been increased manifold to Rs. 2550 crore in this year. Separate interest subsidy is also being provided to the groups along with capital at affordable interest rates. The state government, while expanding the scope of the work of women self-help groups, has given the experience of running large businesses to the women of the groups by giving them a huge task of operating nutritional food plants. Self-help groups are being supported at every level, in new areas like operation of Didi Café and fair price government shops, sewing school uni-

forms, operation of procurement centers for purchase of crops, cowshed operation, pasture development, operation of oxygen plant in hospitals, tap water schemes in rural areas, electricity bill distribution work, maintenance of roads, collection of minor forest produce, etc. while giving priority to construction and supply of material like bricks used in construction works. 103 types of small enterprises including sewing, soap, incense sticks manufacturing etc. are being done by the members of the groups to earn extra income along with means of traditional income like agriculture-animal husbandry. Aajeevika Rural Marts have been established at the district level in collaboration with NABARD to sell the products of the groups. Sale and purchase of products is being supported through the Aajeevika Mart portal. Aajeevika Bhawan has been constructed at the block level for the use of clusters. A large number of government buildings have been allotted to the clusters for the meetings of the groups and for setting up livelihood activity centers and training centres.

CM pays tribute to former MLA Late Nanalal Patidar



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday reached Guradiya Pratap village in Tehsil Suwasra of Mandasaur district and paid tribute to former MLA Late Nanalal Patidar and consoled the bereaved family. Chouhan said that to make the name of Shri Patidar ji eternal, his statue will be installed in Suwasra and the Suwasra Bus Stand will be named

after Patidar. Chouhan said that Late Patidar devoted his whole life to the service of the society. He lived a glorious life of 90 years. Very few people are fortunate enough to live such a life. Patidar was not a member of one family but a member of a larger family. We all should follow the path shown by him and fulfil his resolve. Chouhan said that it is the result of late Shri Patidar's values that there are most

educated people in this village and there are 14 doctors in the village. The result of giving good values is that today the children here are also doing miracles. A trust is also being run in the name of Patidar, which is fulfilling the resolutions of the people by organising eye camps and serving them. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan prayed to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

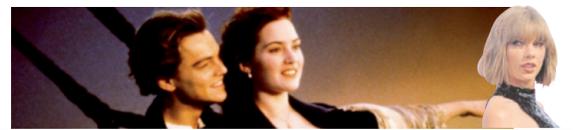
CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER PM INDIRA GANDHI

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to former Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary at his residence on Sunday. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India for three consecutive terms from 1966 to 1977. After this, she again became the Prime Minister for the fourth time in 1980. She was the first woman Prime Minister of India.

CM PLANTS SAPTAPARNI SAPLING



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a Saptaparni sapling along with the sisters of Tulsi Self-Help Group Mendora in Smart Garden on Sunday. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Saptaparni, an evergreen medicinal tree, has great importance in Ayurveda.



Global success of 'Squid Game' sparks debate in Korea over IP rights

Los Angeles | Agencies

Since the survival drama 'Squid Game' gained larger-than-expected popularity throughout the world on Netflix, the world's big-name platform operators such as Disney+ and Apple TV+ have been competing to spend big money to secure Korean-made content.

tent hub for its globally popular cultural content such as K-pop, TV series and films, reports Yonhap news agency.

These critics say local productions should seek ways to reduce their financial dependence on global content titans. Netflix has spent some \$700 million on South Korean projects since its market debut in 2015 and increased its investment to \$500 million for 2021 alone. Disney+ said it will heavily invest in the coming years to create seven original releases in the Korean language, including 'Outrun by Running Man', a spin-off of the long-running South Korean TV show 'Running Man'. Its Korean service will be officially launched on November 12.

The announcement was closely followed by Apple TV+ revealing its own plan to open the service in South Korea next week. Its Korean business has been widely anticipated as it already had ordered Korean-language originals, including the sci-fi thriller 'Dr Brain', starring Lee Sun-kyun, star of the Oscar-winning 'Parasite', and a TV adaptation of the novel 'Pachinko', star-

ring Oscar-winning Youn Yuh-jung.

Defenders of this cultural cross-pollination say the recent rush of global streaming powerhouses and the subsequent heated-up competition for promising Korean content will afford greater opportunities to Korean creators who have struggled to get a big-enough budget to dramatise their ideas.

Hwang Dong-hyuk, who directed and wrote 'Squid Game', said in a previous interview that the project had been turned down by local investors and broadcasters for about a decade before Netflix approved it a few years ago.

Critics, however, pointed out that the streaming platforms' huge risk-taking investment may limit the intellectual property rights of Korean creators as the companies demand the entire IP of the shows they invest in.

According to insiders, Netflix shoulders the entire financial responsibility for a project, allowing local producers a 10-30 per cent profit margin, in return for global distributing rights of the underlying show and its copyrightable works.

Keith Urban fills in for Covid-struck Bryan Adams at Hall of Fame concert

Los Angeles | Agencies

Country star Keith Urban stepped in for Bryan Adams after the rocker who immortalised himself with 'Summer of '69' tested positive for Covid and pulled out of Saturday night's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Adams, reports Variety, was set to perform in a medley of songs with Christina Aguilera, Mickey Guyton and H.E.R. in honour of this year's inductee, Tina Turner. The Canadian rock immortal was set to recreate his duet 'It's Only Love' (from his 1984 album 'Reckless') with H.E.R., but the plan had to be abandoned. He was tested for Covid before arriving in Cleveland, Ohio, for the festivities.

All participants in the Hall of Fame ceremony were required to show a negative Covid test, regardless of vaccination status. Adams is fully vaccinated and showing no symptoms. Urban took the stage at Cleveland's Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse to handle vocals and guitar for the planned collaboration with H.E.R. Angela Bassett, who portrayed Turner in the 1993 film 'What's Love Got to Do With It?' (and received an Oscar nomination for the role) was on hand to induct the icon into the Hall for a second time as a solo artiste. Aguilera sang 'River Deep, Mountain High' and Guyton tackled 'What's Love Got to Do With It?'



'THE BATTLE OF LAKE CHANGJIN' TAKES POLE POSITION AS 2021'S TOP GROSSER

Los Angeles | Agencies

China's jingoistic Korean War epic, 'The Battle at Lake Changjin', has become the highest-grossing film in the world for 2021, surpassing the Chinese New Year breakout comedy hit 'Hi, Mom', reports 'Variety'. It was released on September 30, China's National Day.



The film, which has been made mandatory viewing for all government employees in China, recreates the gritty battle fought in harsh winter weather conditions by the Chinese People's

Volunteer Army at the Chosin Reservoir, a.k.a. Lake Changjin, against U.N. troops led by the Americans. Chinese victory in the battle

led to the eventual withdrawal of U.S. troops from North Korea.

The war film, co-directed by Chen Kaige, Tsui Hark

and Dante Lam, has grossed \$845 million in 29 days, marching past 'Hi, Mom', which earned \$821 million at the beginning of the year over a 90-day period.

'Lake Changjin' at present is China's second highest-grossing film in history behind local title 'Wolf Warrior 2' (\$854 million), where also Wu Jing plays a pivotal role, that of a military action hero, as in the Korean War film.

Buoyed by the success of 'Lake Changjin', its producers have already started work on a sequel titled 'Water Gate Bridge'.



'G.I. JOE', 'TRANSFORMERS' PRODUCER TO REMAKE KOREAN FANTASY FILM FOR HOLLYWOOD

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Korean action fantasy film 'Spiritwalker' will be remade for US audiences by Lorenzo di Bonaventura, who was behind the hit film series 'G.I. Joe' and 'Transformers', the film's distributor has said. But the Korean company, ABO Entertainment, did not give further details of the remake project.

Directed and written by Yoon Jae-keun, 'Spiritwalker' is about a man who cannot remember his own identity and wakes up in a different body every 12 hours. Each time forced to discover who he is, he launches a desperate search to find himself, finally coming across a woman who claims to recognise him.

Actor Yoon Kye-sang plays the lead role in the movie, which won the Excellence in Action Award at this year's New York Asian Film Festival. It is set to hit South Korean screens on November 24, reports the Yonhap news agency.



'Rust' tragedy: Halyna Hutchins was 'my friend', says Alec Baldwin

Alec Baldwin has given his first comments on-camera regarding the tragedy on the set of 'Rust', the western that he was producing, in which a prop gun held by him accidentally discharged, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, reports 'Variety'.

In an intense but polite conversation with the paparazzi on a roadside in Vermont, Baldwin addressed the fatal incident and explained his relationship with Hutchins. The video was distributed by the entertainment news website TMZ.

"She was my friend," Baldwin said. "The day I arrived in Santa Fe and started shooting I took her to dinner with Joel [Souza], the director. We were a very, very well-oiled crew shooting a film together and then this horrible event happened."

The actor also affirmed he was unable to make comments about the ongoing investigation on orders by the sheriff's department in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He also said he doubted whether shooting for 'Rust' would ever resume. A Change.org petition created in Hutchins's name, calling for a ban on real firearms on sets and demanding better working conditions for crew members, had garnered more than 81,000 signatures at the time when this report was filed. Responding to the petition, Baldwin said: "I'm not an expert in this field. So whatever other people decide is the best way to go, in terms of protecting people's safety on film sets, I'm all in favour of and I will cooperate with that in any way that I can."



Camila Cabello



T20 World Cup

MITCHELL, WILLIAMSON LEAD NEW ZEALAND TO 8-WICKET WIN OVER INDIA

Dubai | Agencies

Daryl Mitchell (49 off 35 balls) and Kane Williamson (33 not out off 31 balls) led New Zealand to an emphatic eight-wicket win over India in an important Group 2 match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Dubai International Stadium here on Sunday.

After restricting India to paltry 110/7 in 20 overs, New Zealand chased down the target easily with 33 balls to spare.

Martin Gupthill began by hitting Varun Chakravarty for back-to-back boundaries in the third over. Gupthill took a boundary off Jasprit Bumrah in the next over. But on the next ball, Gupthill miscued a loft to mid-on, Shardul Thakur grabbed it on the second attempt. Daryl Mitchell welcomed Ravindra Jadeja in the final over of Power-play with a six over long-on followed by back-to-back fours.

Post Powerplay, Mitchell continued this good show, slamming



Mohammed Shami for a six over deep square leg. He then took 14 runs off Thakur in the tenth over, smoking a six over cow corner followed by back-to-back fours. Mitchell stitched a partnership of 72 off 54 balls with Kane Williamson to keep New Zealand steady in the chase.

Mitchell fell a run short of his maiden T20I half-century in the 13th over, holing out to long-on off Bumrah. Williamson hanged around to hit two fours off Hardik Pandya in the 14th over before scoring the winning single to complete their first win of the ongoing tournament.

Brief scores :

India 110/7 in 20 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 26 not out, Hardik Pandya 23, Trent Boult 3/20, Ish Sodhi 2/17) lost to New Zealand 111/2 in 14.3 overs (Daryl Mitchell 49, Kane Williamson 33 not out, Jasprit Bumrah 2/19) by eight wickets

Afghanistan hammer Namibia by 62 runs

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

All-round Afghanistan hammered Namibia by 62 runs in a Super 12 stage match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at Sheikh Zayed Stadium, here on Sunday.

With this comprehensive victory, Afghanistan go second in the table with four points in three Super 12 matches in the tournament.

Riding on some entertaining knocks by Mohammad Shahzad (45) and Hazratullah Zazai (33), Afghanistan posted 160/5 in 20 overs. Apart from Shahzad and Zazai, Asghar Afghan (31) and Mohammad Nabi (32) also played vital innings for Afghanistan.

In reply, Namibia lost wickets at regular intervals and could only score 98-9 in



20 overs and lost the match by 62 runs. David Wiese (26 off 30) was the top-scorer for Namibia while Naveen-ul-

Haq (3/26) and Hamid Hassan (3/9) were the main wicket-takers for Afghanistan.

Brief scores

Afghanistan 160/5 in 20 overs (Mohammad Shahzad 45, Hazratullah Zazai 33; Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton 2/21) win against Namibia 98-9 in 20 overs (David Wiese 26; Naveen-ul-Haq 3/26, Hamid Hassan 3/9)

Neeraj Chopra gets Rs one crore reward from CSK for Tokyo achievement

Chennai | Agencies

Indian Premier League (IPL) side Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Sunday rewarded Tokyo Olympic gold medalist, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, with Rs one crore for his "stellar achievement" at the quadrennial games.

CSK also presented a special jersey with the number 8758 (highlighting Chopra's medal-winning effort of 87.58 metres) as a mark of respect to the thrower, who joined 10m air rifle shooter Abhinav Bindra as only the second individual gold medalist in the Olympics from the country.

"The entire nation is proud of Neeraj for his stupendous achievement. By becoming the first Indian to win a medal (gold) in the track and field, he has set a benchmark and is an inspiration for the next generation. 87.58 is a number that will forever be etched in Indian sporting his-



tory and it's an honour for us to present this special jersey to Neeraj. We wish he brings more glory to the nation," said CSK CEO KS Viswanathan. The 23-year-old athlete, after receiving the award and special jersey, mentioned that the past two months have been an opportunity for him to experience new things and also thanked the Chennai Super Kings

management for the support. "Thank you so much for your support and for the prize. It feels good. The last two months have been hectic and an opportunity to experience new things. I never thought that I'll get so much love after winning gold. It was completely unexpected and it feels good. Hopefully I'll work hard and get good results," said Chopra.

Men's World Boxing: Akash, Narender storm into quarter-finals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Akash Kumar and Narender entered the quarter-finals at the 2021 AIBA Men's Boxing Championships with commanding victories in Belgrade, Serbia on Sunday.

While Akash outclassed Puerto Rico's Caleb Tirado by a unanimous margin in the 54kg Last-16 bout, Narender produced a power-packed performance to upstage the former Asian Games champion veteran Tajikistan pugilist Jakhon Qurbonov by the Referee Stopping the Contest (RSC) verdict in the second round of the +92kg pre-quarterfinal contest.

Akash started the day for India on a winning note. Playing their first match in the competition, both the boxers began with an aggressive note and traded punches continuously in a highly busy first two rounds of the 54kg Last-16 bout. The 21-year-old Indian had received a walkover in his opening match while Tirado was given a bye in the first round.



Taller among the two pugilists, Akash made good use of his height and landed some sharp punches to tilt the momentum in his favour. Having taken a comfortable lead after the first two rounds, Akash showed tactical brilliance and started maintaining distance in the final round which denied his opponent any chance to make a comeback into the match. With this dominating 5-0 triumph, Akash is now a win away from confirming a medal for the country at

the ongoing Championships.

Later on Sunday night, two more Indian pugilists will play their respective pre-quarterfinal bouts. The current Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) and debutant Nishant Dev (71kg) will play against Georgia's Giorgi Tchigladze and Mexico's Alvarez Verde respectively.

Earlier, in the matches played late on Saturday, seasoned boxer Shiva Thapa made his way into the Last-16 stage with an easy 5-0 victory against

John Brown in the 63.5kg round-of-32 contest. The five-time Asian champion put up a dominating show against his opponent from Sierra Leone to continue his winning run at the tournament. Meanwhile, another Indian in action, Govind Sahani (48kg) ended his campaign in the pre-quarterfinals stage after suffering a 4-0 defeat against Georgia's Sakhil Alakhverdovi. Sachin Kumar also went down fighting against USA's Robby Gonzales in the 80kg Last-32 match. While Akash and Narender entered the quarter-finals, eight other Indian boxers, from the 13-member Indian contingent that took part at the world's prestigious event, have made it to the pre-quarterfinals stage. Apart from Govind, who exited on Saturday, the challenge is still alive for the remaining boxers in the tournament, which has been witnessing strong competition between 650 top boxers from more than 100 participating countries from across the world.

AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers: Dheeraj's shootout heroics secure second Group E spot for India

Dubai | Agencies

Goalkeeper Dheeraj Singh's heroics under the bar did wonders for India as Igor Stimac's team had their best-ever finish in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers to date, after they held Kyrgyz Republic to a goalless draw in their final qualifying game at the Fujairah Stadium late on Saturday night.

Earlier, UAE beat Oman 2-0 to end as the topers of Group E in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

As the match between India and Kyrgyz Republic ended in a stalemate, both sides finished the group on four points apiece, with the same goal difference (zero), and equal number of goals scored in all the matches (2). To decide who takes the second and third spots, respectively, in Group E, a penalty shootout was held, which India won 4-2.

In the penalty shootout, Dheeraj started with a couple of spectacular saves while Rahul KP, Rohit Danu, Suresh Singh, and Rahim Ali scored from the spot. Stimac made only one change to the starting XI from the previous game against the



UAE, handing Amarjit Singh his first start in this campaign as he replaced Jeakson Singh in the middle. Lalengmawia Ralte tried to fire the opening salvo as early as the fifth minute but his long-ranger could not pose any threat to the Kyrgyz defence. Two minutes later, Rahul, from the left flank, outran Kumarbai Uulu with sheer pace, but eventually Adilet Kanybekov neutralised his effort.

The central Asian outfit sprung to life three minutes later when forward Alygulov Maksat was denied by Narender inside the 18-yard-box. Five minutes later, the youngster cancelled Tapaev Temirbolot's right-footed curler. Rahim shielded off Artiukov Daniil before rolling

it to an onrushing Vikram whose left-footed effort flew away from the target in the 21st minute. The forward played another pivotal role a minute later as he passed the ball to Amarjit, but the Manipuri midfielder skied his effort after four minutes.

Borubaev Gulzhigit beat the offside trap to outpace Asish Rai from the left, but Dheeraj came up with a spectacular save after the half-hour mark to keep the score unscathed. Both teams headed to the changing room with the scores unchanged.

Kyrgyz Republic resumed with more intent and came close to breaking the deadlock in the 50th minute but Maksat skied his effort. India appealed for a penalty on the hour-mark anticipating a handball inside the Kyrgyz box but the Maldivian referee Mohamed Javiz paid no attention.

India latched on their best possible chance seven minutes later when Deepak Tangri put an acrobatic bicycle kick from handshaking distance, only to be thwarted by Kyrgyz goalkeeper Tokotaev Erzhan. Ten minutes before the end of regulation time, substitute Rohit Danu could have opened the scoreline, but Narender's shot from an acute angle was fisted away by the goalkeeper leaving the Indian dugout agast.

Mumbai City FC beat Hyderabad in pre-seasons friendly

Fatorda | Agencies

Igor Angulo and Gurkirat Singh got on the scoresheet with two fine strikes as defending champions Mumbai City FC begin their preparations for Indian Super League (ISL) new season with a 2-1 win over Hyderabad FC in a pre-season friendly on Sunday.

Defending champions Mumbai City FC kick-started their pre-season preparation with a fine performance in Goa. Playing their first match for the Islanders, Igor Angulo and Gurkirat Singh helped the team start the pre-season preparations on a winning note with goals in either half as the Islanders prepared for their ISL title defence. Former Mumbai City striker Bart Ogebeche scored the equaliser for Hyderabad FC in the early minutes of the second half. Assistant coach Hiroshi Miyazawa along with Strength and Conditioning coach Danny Deigan put the boys through the paces ahead of their first pre-season outing. Mumbai City FC will play their second friendly match against Jamshedpur FC on November 4.



The eighth season of the ISL will start on November 19, 2021, and will continue till March 2022.

ICC CONGRATULATES AFGHANISTAN'S ASGHAR AFGHAN FOR A FINE CAREER

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday congratulated former Afghanistan captain Asghar Afghan for a superb career that has seen him play a crucial role in his country's rise in international cricket.

The 33-year-old, who has been a part of all seven major ICC tournaments that Afghanistan have participated in, made a surprise announcement to retire from the sport on Saturday. His final match came against Namibia in the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 on Sunday. He received a guard of honour by the Namibian fielders when he walked in to bat in the T20 World Cup clash between both sides in Abu Dhabi. Afghan joined his teammate Mohammad Shahzad in the middle in the final delivery of the tenth over after Rahmanullah Gurbaz was trapped LBW on four by Loftie-Eaton. He played a vital knock of 31 runs before being dismissed by Ruben Trumpelmann in the 19-over of the innings. "Asghar has been a great ambassador of the game and played a huge part in Afghanistan's rise up the ranks in world cricket. He has played a pivotal role as batter and led his team astutely during his time as captain," said ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice.

My dreams are being realised: Deepa Malik on historic recommendations for National Awards

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elated by the record-breaking recommendations of para-athletes for this year's National Sports Awards, Deepa Malik, the president of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), feels that her dreams are being realised and it's heartening to see para-athletes get equal respect and appreciation.

The announcement of the national sports awards was delayed in order to consider the performances of para-athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics, held from August 24 to September 5 and India had phenomenal performances at the mega-event. India's paralympians finished their campaign in Tokyo with an unprecedented 19 medals, including five gold, and signed off 24th in the overall tally -- the highest ever.

All five gold-medal winning para-ath-



letes -- Pramod Bhagat (Badminton), Sumit Antil (Athletics), Avani Lekhara (Shooting), Krishna Nagar (Badminton) and Manish Narwal (Shooting) -- have been recommended for Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, the highest sporting honour of India.

Meanwhile, eight paralympians -- Yogesh Kathuniya (Discus throw), Nishad Kumar (High jump) Praveen Kumar (High jump), Sharad Kumar (High jump), Suhas LY (Badminton),

Singhraj Adhana (Shooting), Bhavina Patel (Table Tennis) and Harvinder Singh (Archery) -- have been recommended for 2021 Arjuna Award.

"Give us an opportunity and we will show our ability. Under the leadership of PM Modi, and all the recent Sports Ministers... Paralympics have been given equal appreciation and respect and I think this is the dream which I had when I started representing India 16 years ago as a para-athlete," an elated Deepa Malik told IANS on the sidelines of Women in Motorsport commission event. "I see my dream being realised and I am happy as president of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), I can become a little part of the change. We have dominated the awards and the whole world is applauding the champions," she added.

Oct 31, 1987: Chetan Sharma picked first-ever cricket World Cup hat-trick vs Kiwis

Team Absolute | New Delhi

This day, 34 years ago, India's Chetan Sharma scripted history by becoming the first bowler to take a World Cup hat-trick. This was also the first instance of an Indian taking a hat-trick in any format of the game. The right-arm pacer achieved the feat during India's last Group stage match against New Zealand in Nagpur on October 31, 1987 when during the 42nd over, he dismissed Ken Rutherford, Ian Smith and Even Chatfield on three successive deliveries at a crucial juncture in the game.

New Zealand had won the toss and opted to bat first and the match looked competi-

tive with the Kiwis at 182/5 before Sharma's heroics made it 182/8 and the visitors could only muster 221/9 from their 50 overs.

Sharma finished with figures of 10-2-51-3.

The former Indian pacer last played for India in 1994 and became a commentator later on. He played 23 Tests and 65 ODI's for India, picking-up 61 and 67 wickets respectively. He is now chairman of the selection committee. Interestingly, India will take on New Zealand in the ICC T20 World Cup Super-12 clash later on Sunday in Dubai. It is an important match for both the sides to win as they have lost their previous matches respectively.



Sanya Malhotra: 'Meenakshi Sundareshwar' was a learning experience

Actress Sanya Malhotra, who started her journey with the 2016 biographical sports drama 'Dangal', will be next seen in 'Meenakshi Sundareshwar' in which she stars opposite Abhimanyu Dassani. She says it has been a learning experience for her as it opened the doors to a different working style for her. The actress revealed that it added another layer to her thought process, she said, "Art clearly adds a lot to an artist. This film was a really good learning experience for me. During the first week of our shooting, we were shooting in Karaikudi and Vivek (the director of 'Meenakshi Sundareshwar') shared a visual reference photo for a scene for a montage in the film." "As an actor, I've never worked like that. But then, I saw that visual reference that Vivek had shown, it was a very beautiful painting. It was such a great learning experience for me because sometimes you have to keep that actor aside and just see visually," she added. As an actor, one has to constantly observe and draw from their surroundings, learn and unlearn a lot of things to get the pitch and tone of characters in place. 'Meenakshi Sundareshwar' proved to be a learning curve for the actor. The film directed by Vivek Soni, is a rom-com and tells the story of a couple who struggle with the challenge of a long-distance relationship immediately after their marriage. Produced by Dharmatic Productions, the film is all set to stream on Netflix from November 5.



Mandira Bedi recalls late husband Raj Kaushal's hard work on 'Akkad Bakkad Rafu Chakkar'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Well-known actress Mandira Bedi expressed her happiness and recalls the passion of her late husband Raj Kaushal, who was also the director and producer of the web series 'Akkad Bakkad Rafu Chakkar'. The trailer of this web series was out recently and it is all set to stream from November 3.

produced by Mandira Bedi. Mandira said that her husband Raj worked hard for this series and it was very close to him: "I am very happy and extremely emotional at the same time as the show that Raj made with all his heart and hard work will finally be released on Prime Video. His dedication and passion for this show in particular has reflected in 'Akkad Bakkad Rafu Chakkar'."

"The show was very close to his heart and to mine as well and I must express my utmost gratitude to the entire team, who worked tirelessly to put the show out for the world to see. I do hope the audience enjoys the show as much as Raj and his team enjoyed making it," she concluded. 'Akkad Bakkad Rafu Chakkar' stars Vicky Arora in the lead along with Anuj Rampal, Swati Semwal, Mohan Agashe, Shishir Sharma, Manish Chaudhari and Sudhanshu Pandey. It will be streaming from November 3 on Prime Video.

WHY RAJAMOULI AND PAWAN KALYAN DIDN'T GET TO WORK TOGETHER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

S.S. Rajamouli, being India's one of the most popular directors, has been busy promoting his upcoming Telugu visual extravaganza 'RRR' ('Roudram Ranam Rudhiram').

During a recent media interaction, Rajamouli had spoken elaborately on all the questions asked by his fans and the media. Considering the fact that Pawan Kalyan is one of the biggest stars in the south film industry, Rajamouli was quizzed about directing Telugu's 'Powerstar'.

Rajamouli simply answered, "I really love Pawan Kalyan". He went on, to explain why things failed to materialise and how both went their ways to attain their own interests. "In the initial times in my career, I tried my best to come up with a story for Pawan Kalyan. I always had that intent to direct him. We even had short conversations, where I had mentioned about us working together", the 'Baahubali' director said. "Later, I decided that I need to come out of my comfort zone and start making movies, which give



much more than just a mass-masala entertainer does. At that point in time, Pawan got busy with his political interests. Hence, our paths diverged," Rajamouli explained. Rajamouli made India's most prestigious movies like the 'Baahubali' series. With 'RRR', he brings together the biggest Telugu heroes - Ram Charan and NTR. 'RRR' got an ensemble cast which includes Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt. 'RRR' is to hit screens worldwide on January 7, 2022.

VINOD MIRANI | Mumbai

There is a great sigh of relief in film exhibition circles as well as the film trade in general. With the green signal from the Maharashtra government to the cinemas to reopen from October 22 onwards, it is back to business for the film distribution and exhibition trade. The cinemas in almost all states in the country were allowed to open up gradually, except in the state of Maharashtra. For the Bombay circuit, Mumbai city and suburbs contribute a big share to the box office. Besides, the city is also the heart of everything in Hindi films. No wise man with stakes in crores would want to release a film till the cinema lockdown is lifted in Maharashtra. Now that the new films are releasing in cinema halls, it is back to business for the film trade; back to business alright but, it is not yet back to business as usual.

Two new films released on October 22, the day cinemas reopened for the public, "Bhavai" and "Bablu Bachelor". There is not much of a public response yet. I think the reopening as well as the opening features were not publicized enough or, rather, not at all. Was the flocking of crowds taken for granted? The reason to say so is that, had "Bhavai" released on OTT, it would have definitely received a much better response. And, that is because Pratik Gandhi, who plays the pivotal role in "Bhavai", has established himself as a performing star material with "Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story". And, people

would have wanted to watch "Bhavai" for his sake at least (which, they may eventually do). Since, this is about cinemas reopening, the films released on October 22 were not even expected to draw crowds. Traditionally, pre-Diwali fortnight has always been considered a dull period for film business. People's priority is to plan for the Diwali celebrations, spend money towards that end and not on watching a movie. Unfortunately, the new generation corporate honchos have neither been taught about traditions nor have they learnt from experience. Consumer goods or even luxury items may sell during this period (the period is all about adding comfort to your family and life). Even Diwali day won't get you the desired footfalls except in some metros. So it has never been wise to release a new film on the eve of Diwali. Diwali is a family and social festival, outings happen thereafter. It is a wise decision to release "Sooryavanshi" on November 5, a day after Diwali. The cinemas, especially some of the multiplex managements, did try to attract viewers with schemes for their opening fare, "Bhavai" and "Bablu Bachelor". The schemes proved to be a bonus for the few who came and not a lure for others. It is not yet time for the cinema owners to rejoice even if the long awaited "Sooryavanshi", which stars three (these kinds of multi-starrers have not been seen since the 1970s) top actors, Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn and Ranveer Singh. To add to that, it is a Rohit Shetty directorial film and he believes in delivering thorough entertainers.

"Sooryavanshi" is a high budget film and would need full capacity cinema screens to make its mark, for even if it collects between 90 per cent and 100 per cent, the real figures would amount to only half of that. And, this is because many states have allowed the cinemas to function but with the restrictions of filling only 50 per cent of the full capacity and that is not conducive to a good business for a film like "Sooryavanshi". But, the multiplexes, especially the top few chains, which call the shots, are acting pricey. Having come out of the year-and-a-half of lockdown, they have started dictating terms again with the makers of "Sooryavanshi", the film which was held back for the same amount of time for the cinema release instead of going for the OTT! The multiplexes want "Sooryavanshi" to share the play time and screens 50:50 with the Hollywood release, "Eternals". The multiplex managements' contention is that Hollywood keeps them supplied all year long while a Hindi filmmaker gives just one film a year! Is the Hindi industry made of just one producer and one film a year? The haggling has already started but this will definitely be a bad experience for the filmmakers. The market for Hollywood films has grown tremendously in India and their various dubbed versions in the regional languages has broadened the market for them. But, it makes little sense to sacrifice the potential of a major film like "Sooryavanshi", that too during the Diwali festival, for a Hollywood film. It is rather selfish

Diwali and 'Sooryavanshi' Promise Revival, Exhibitors Willing

of cinema managements. The audience for "Eternal" is not going anywhere. The release of "Sooryavanshi" will also be the post-Covid-19 pandemic test for the cinema business, it will determine if the people have come out of the pandemic fear. The film's stay and the business at the box office will decide if the people are ready to take to cinema going, yet. Least that is needed to boost people's confidence some more is for the governments all over India, including and mainly Maharashtra, to allow the cinemas to function at 100 per cent occupancy as a Diwali bonus (the Delhi administration has done so this week.). Not only cinemas, all the trades will stand to gain. People have been thronging the local markets, and crowded transport services, restricting cinema occupancy to 50 per cent makes no sense, really.



SHALINI KAPOOR ON HER ROLE IN UPCOMING SHOW 'SIRF TUM'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Well known TV face Shalini Kapoor will be seen in the upcoming show 'Sirf Tum' featuring Vivian Dseena and Eisha Singh. Shalini will be essaying the role of the mother of Vivian's character 'Ranveer'.

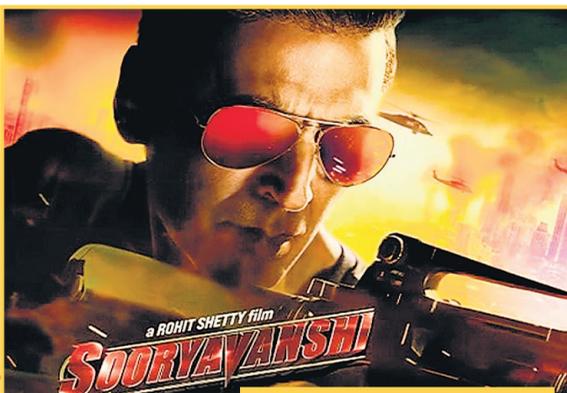
The 'Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum' actress depicts the personality of a loving mother, 'Mamta Oberoi', who is sweet and tolerant towards everyone. She has a pleasing personality. She is a silent and simple person but at the same place wise and observant also.

Speaking about her role, Shalini Kapoor said: "Sirf Tum' is a unique tale of love backed by a very powerful cast. My role is loveable and very impactful that will bring many new twists in the show. I look forward to working with the cast and bringing to life 'Mamta's character very soon."

Shalini is also known for her roles in films like 'Aandaz', 'Dhadak' and TV shows as 'Saat Pher', 'Qubool Hai', 'CID' and many more.

While Shalini will be seen playing 'Mamta', Nimai Bali will play 'Vikrant Oberoi', Ranveer's father and Mamta's husband. Eisha will be depicting 'Suhani's character on-screen.

The daily soap 'Sirf Tum' will air soon on Colors.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nikita Dutta