

absolute india

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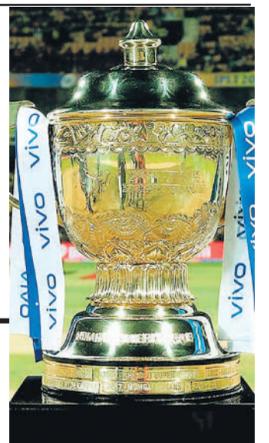
NATION >02
Andhra flood situation grim; CM reviews flood damage...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Fans eager to see global icon Priyanka Jonas in The Matrix...



SPORTS > 07
IPL 2022 will take place in India, confirms BCCI...



FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN A ROW INDORE DECLARED THE CLEANEST CITY OF INDIA

MP's PRIDE

Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fifth time in a row in the Central government's annual cleanliness awards while Chhattisgarh retained the first position in the state category. The second and third positions in the 'cleanest city' category of the 'Swachh Survekshan Awards, 2021' were secured by Surat and Vijayawada, respectively.

► Navi Mumbai bagged the first award in the category of 'Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge'. It also got the first position as India's 'cleanest big city' in the category of 10-40 lakh population.

► Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, having more than 100 urban local bodies, have been adjudged the second and third cleanest states in the country. In the category of states with less than 100 urban local bodies, Jharkhand has been ranked first, followed by Haryana and Goa.



nationwide cleanliness survey, 4,320 cities were covered in 28 days, adding that over 4.2 crore people had given their feedback. The 10 top-

Lonavala and Sasvad. New Delhi Municipal Council secured the first position in the country's cleanest small city category of 1-3 lakh population while Hoshangabad and Tripuri emerged as the "Fastest Mover small city" and "Best Small City in Citizens' Feedback" categories, respectively.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Although Indore and Surat retained their positions in the 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2021', Navi Mumbai lost its third spot to Vijayawada and was in the fourth position in the latest survey results announced by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on

Saturday. Varanasi, represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha, has been adjudged the "cleanest Ganga town" while Bihar's Munger and Patna have been ranked second and third in the category. President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the awards in presence of Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and others at an event here. The ministry said in the latest

ranked cleanest cities, having a population of more than one lakh, are Indore, Surat, Vijayawada, Navi Mumbai, New Delhi, Ambikapur, Tirupati, Pune, Noida and Ujjain. Lucknow has been ranked the lowest among 25 cities in the same category.

According to the ministry, Vita city of Maharashtra has been ranked the cleanest city with less than one lakh population, followed by

Noida emerged as the country's "cleanest medium city" in the category of 3-10 lakh population. In the category of cantonment boards, Ahmedabad was ranked the cleanest city, followed by Meerut and Delhi.

Surat has bagged the first award in the district ranking category while Indore and New Delhi have secured second and third position, respectively.

Robots now wipe tables, sort trash, open doors at Google offices

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Signalling an era of machines slowly taking over human work, a fleet of more than 100 robots are autonomously performing a range of useful tasks around Google offices in the US, like wiping tables, sorting trash, grasping cups and even opening doors for visitors.

Google's parent company Alphabet has announced that its 'Everyday Robots' project -- a team within its experimental X labs -- has moved some of its robot prototypes out of the lab and they are doing useful tasks around Google's Bay Area campuses.

"We are now operating a fleet of more than 100 robot prototypes that are autonomously performing a range of useful tasks around our offices," said Hans Peter Brondmo, Chief Robot Officer.

"The same robot that sorts trash can now be equipped with a squeegee to wipe tables and use the same gripper that grasps cups can learn to open doors," he said in a statement.

Over the last few years, Alphabet has been building an integrated hardware and



software system that is designed for learning, including transferring learning from the virtual world to the real world.

The robots are equipped with a mix of different cameras and sensors to take in the world around them.

"Using a combination of machine learning techniques like reinforcement learning, collaborative learning, and learning from demonstration, the robots have steadily gained a better understanding of the world around them and become more skilled at doing everyday tasks, the company informed.

Over the coming months, Googlers who work in Mountain View may catch glimpses of the robot prototypes wiping tables after lunch in the

cafes, or opening meeting room doors to check if the room needs to be tidied or if it is missing chairs.

"Over time, we will be expanding the types of tasks they are doing and the buildings where we operate and look forward to sharing updates from our journey over the coming months and years," said Brondmo.

Today, a single robot learns how to perform a complex task such as opening doors with a 90 per cent success rate with less than a day of real-world learning. "Even more excitingly, we have shown that we can build on the algorithms and learnings from door opening and apply them to a new task: straightening up chairs in our cafes," he added.

TWO PANCHAYATS IN RAJASTHAN VOTED AGAINST ALCOHOL

'NO' TO LIQUOR

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Turning up in large numbers, the women of two Panchayats-- Barar and Weir-- in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan voted for the removal of a liquor shop, thus sealing the fate of sale of alcohol in the village.

These two panchayats are now the fourth and fifth in the district to vote for the removal of a liquor shop in the village on Saturday. Earlier, polling has been held in Kachhali, Mandawar and Thaneta panchayats of Bhima subdivision of Rajsamand for the same. The voting took place under the relevant section of the Rajasthan Excise Act following a movement by the villagers. The Rajasthan Excise (Closure of Country Liquor Shop by Local Option) Rules, 1975, has a provision to close liquor shops through a panchayat voting if enough people vote against it. The voting started at 8am and continued till 5pm registering 64 per cent voting mostly by the women. The minimum votes required is 51 per cent of the total registered 5,632 voters. While a total of 3,326 votes were cast in favour of the move, 175 voted against the proposal.



World heritage site, Minaret of Jam in Afghanistan on the brink of collapse

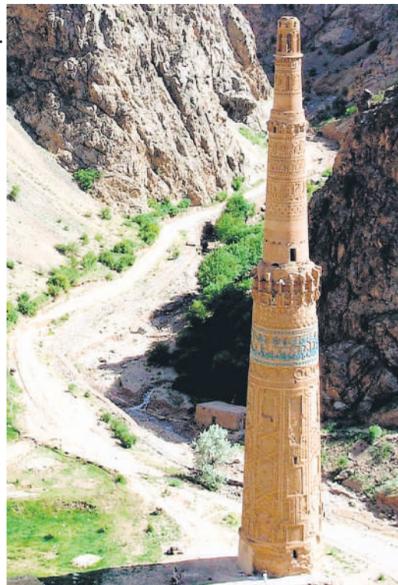
- The Minaret of Jam was built around 800 years ago in the era of King Ghiyasuddin Ghori.
- It is 62 meters high and was built entirely of baked bricks and is famous for its intricate brick, stucco and glazed tile decoration, the report added.
- The minaret has been on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Properties in Danger since 2002.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Minaret of Jam, a historic structure located in the western province of Ghor, is on the brink of collapse, provincial officials said on Friday, Tolo News reported.

The Minaret of Jam was registered with the UNESCO world heritage site in 2002. It stands between the Harirood river and the outskirts of Sarba Falak.

"If attention is not paid to the condition of the minaret, we will soon see the collapse of the minaret and it is a big shame. The officials at UNESCO should pay attention to this issue," said Abdul Hai, head of Ghor's information and culture department, the report said. "During the past 20 years, no attention was paid to protect the minaret. Now, we are extremely concerned that the minaret will collapse in the coming winter," said Hassan Hakim, a civil rights activist.



INDIA MAY HARVEST OVER 112 MN TONNES OF WHEAT: IIWBR DIRECTOR

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Favourable weather conditions and expectations of remunerative prices are the encouraging factors for the farmers to grow more wheat in the ongoing rabi season and India may hit a fresh record for the seventh consecutive year, said a top agricultural scientist, who expects wheat production to cross 112 million tonnes in the current crop year 2021-22. Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director, Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) has to say that the weather conditions are seen quite favourable for wheat cultivation and ideal sowing season going on. "Some areas under mustard seed and chickpea may shift to wheat this year because rains received in the month of October may have affected the early sown crops," he said. Several wheat growing states, including Madhya Pradesh, India's second largest wheat producer, after Uttar Pradesh, received rains in October as the southwest monsoon withdrew late this year, making it the seventh-most delayed retreat since 1975, according

to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Wheat producing states received good monsoon rains this year which helped the farmers in sowing as soil has good moisture conditions and there was no need of watering the field in several areas before sowing.

Wheat sowing is reportedly complete in a large part of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan while it is in progress in other parts of the country. As per the agricultural expert, farmers will prefer to cultivate late variety of wheat where moisture condition is still high in the soil while ideal time of mustard seed and chickpea sowing will be over.

Besides, the winter season is expected to remain severe this year which is favourable for wheat crop because wheat crop will be benefited if colder weather conditions persist during the season, said Dr. Singh who has predicted for the higher production of wheat this year ahead of sowing. However, the area under wheat will not increase much but higher yield will enhance the production, he added.

WUHAN SEAFOOD VENDOR, NOT ACCOUNTANT, WAS 1ST COVID CASE IN WORLD

NEW DELHI | Agencies

A new study published in the journal Science has claimed that the first identified Covid-19 case -- or 'patient zero' -- was a female seafood vendor at an animal market in the Chinese city of Wuhan who became symptomatic on December 11, 2019.

The peer-reviewed study contradicts earlier reported findings that the first Covid patient was a 41-year-old male accountant, who lived 30 km south of Huanan Market, and reported his illness on December 8.

However, when interviewed, the accountant reported that his Covid symptoms started with a fever on December 16 and the December 8 illness was a dental problem related to baby teeth retained into adulthood. "This indicates that he was infected through



community transmission after the virus had begun spreading from Huanan Market. He believed that he may have been infected in a hospital (presumably during his dental emergency) or on the subway during his commute," said Michael Worobey, University of Arizona evolutionary virologist, in the article. The accountant had also travelled north of Huanan Market shortly before his symptoms began. His symptom onset came after multiple cases in workers at Huanan Market, making a female seafood vendor there the earliest known case, with illness onset December 11.

On the occasion of Child Rights Day on Saturday, Priyanka Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) favoured early passage of the amendments to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act or COTPA Act. Echoing similar views, Shweta Shalini, youth leader and Maharashtra BJP spokesperson too called it necessary to save the youth and next generation. It is hoped that the Government might introduce the COTPA

Tobacco-free India' a right of every child; COTPA amendments should be passed at the earliest

A lot of kids as young as ten-year-old are becoming victim of tobacco, getting hooked to it for life-time. Ensuring 'tobacco-free India' to them is not only the responsibility of the nation but also the right of each child.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On the occasion of Child Rights Day on Saturday, Priyanka Kanoongo, Chairman, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) favoured early passage of the amendments to the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act or COTPA Act. Echoing similar views, Shweta Shalini, youth leader and Maharashtra BJP spokesperson too called it necessary to save the youth and next generation. It is hoped that the Government might introduce the COTPA

There are various studies that have scientifically established that if a person is kept away from tobacco till the age of 21 years and above, there is a very high probability that he/she will remain tobacco-free for the rest of his life. Several countries have now increased the minimum age of sale of tobacco products to 21 years and banned the sale of single cigarettes to control their easy accessibility and affordability to youth.

Increasing the minimum legal age for sale of tobacco products from 18 years to 21 years and banning the sale of loose/single sticks of cigarettes by amending COTPA 2003, is crucial to protect youth from tobacco as it has the potential to reduce tobacco use initiation and progression to regular smoking, experts feel.



Amendments Bill in this session of Parliament which would help save lives of many youth and kids from tobacco menace. The proposed amendments have many provisions in the interest of younger generation which is falling prey to this tobacco menace and suffering premature death. The amendments, which

are in public domain for discussion, proposes increase in legal age for sale of tobacco products to 21 years, comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising and promotion and ban on sale of single sticks of cigarettes/bidis. Kanoongo said, that, once the COTPA Amendments are passed, it will be at par with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act which has stringent provisions, ensuring basic rights of children. It is hoped that the Government might introduce the COTPA Amendments Bill in this session of Parliament."



BJP LEADER TATHAGATA ROY'S LATEST TWEET CREATES MORE CONFUSION

Team Absolute | Kolkata:

The latest tweet by veteran BJP leader and former Meghalaya and Tripura governor Tathagata Roy has triggered political speculations in the state. In his twitter handle Roy wrote - adieu West Bengal BJP -- that sparked rumours whether the controversial BJP leader is on his way to make out of the party.

The veteran BJP leader in his latest tweet in Bengali said, "I have not written all these things to get accolades from anybody. Some top leaders were so much involved in women and wealth, I wanted to alert the party about that. Now a tree is known by its fruit. I shall wait for the results in the civic polls. For now adieu West Bengal BJP."

The last sentence of the tweet was enough to trigger speculations about his breaking ties with the party. After the assembly poll debacle of the BJP, Roy had strongly criticised then state BJP President Dilip

Ghosh and central leadership like Kailash Vijayvargiya, Shib Prakash and Arvind Menon who had been entrusted with the responsibility of Bengal elections. The veteran leader went on to say that the top BJP leadership in the state was more interested in wealth and women than the performance of the party.

What is more interesting is that Roy despite attack from Ghosh and other leaders boldly defended his stand and said that he would continue with this battle until...

He in a tweet wrote recently, "I am getting several calls. I have consoled everybody that I am not leaving the party on my own wish. I am a common member of the party and I shall play the role of Vivek (conscience) in the party. If I would have decided to leave the party then I would have leaked many secret things but it is not happening now". Roy went on to say - "Joy Banerjee has left BJP. This continuous bleeding does not

augur well for the party in West Bengal. Dilip Ghosh advises me to leave BJP if I am ashamed of the party. I don't take him seriously. I am now merely a simple member. But I will stay on and try to put the party right. Until..."

Roy was referring to actor turned politician Joy Banerjee's decision to leave the party. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Banerjee on Saturday had alleged that he had been removed from the BJP's national working committee and his central security has also been lifted.

Though Roy didn't want to further go into the details of the tweet and said that I have said what I had to say. I won't tell anything more but Trinamool congress was quick to react on this. State spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, "This is an irreparable loss in the world of Bengali political entertainment. People will remember his contribution and his skill to make the people laugh".



Roy immediately rebutted saying - "He has been in jail for long for his involvement in Sarada ponzy scam and demanding the resignation of

the chief minister. I had some confusion regarding your whereabouts and his condition. It gives me pleasure to know that you are out on bail".

PM REPEALED FARM LAWS AFTER LISTENING TO 'MANN KI BAAT' OF FARMERS: BJP MINORITY MORCHA

New Delhi | Agencies

Welcoming the Centre's announcement to repeal the three farm laws, BJP minority morcha national president Jamal Siddiqui on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the decision after listening to the 'Mann Ki Baat' of the farmers.

"The decision to withdraw all the three agricultural laws can be taken only by Prime Minister

Modi with firm determination and strong will. The decision to repeal the farm laws is a slap to those politicians who were doing politics on the issue. He (Modi) gave priority to the unity and integrity of the country," he said.

"The BJP government is working with the basic mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' and the decision to withdraw all the three laws fulfils this mantra. The BJP government under the leadership of

Prime Minister Modi is committed to the welfare of the people and the results of the decision will be seen in the upcoming elections," Siddiqui said.

The minority morcha claimed that the decision has created panic among opposition parties.

"The decision to repeal the farm laws by Prime Minister Modi is historic and due to this there has been panic among the opposition parties," national media in-charge of the BJP minority morcha, Syed Yasir Jilani said.

In his address to the nation on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said, "It seems some of the farmers are still not convinced by our sincere efforts. We have decided

to repeal the three farm laws. The constitutional process to repeal these laws would be completed during the Parliament Session that would start at the end of this month."



Gurugram shooting: 12 arrested for ex-sarpanch kin's murder

Team Absolute | Gurugram

With the arrest of twelve people including three juveniles, the Gurugram police on Saturday claimed to have solved the murder case of several relatives of former sarpanch of Kasan village in Gurugram.

Six relatives of the former sarpanch were injured after armed assailants opened fire at the family on Diwali night. Later, four of those who were wounded in the incident had succumbed to their injuries. They were -- Vikas (21), Praveen (38), Sohanpal (35) and Balram (40).

However, the prime accused of the incident Yogender alias Rinku is yet to be arrested.

The police have recovered one Maruti Eco car, 4 mobiles, a canter key, 2 country-made pistols, 1 pistol, 7 cartridges, 5 used bullets and 1 motorcycle from their possession. The arrested have been identified as Amit Singh of Kaithal, Tarun Kumar alias Cheenu

of Panipat -- the duo were arrested on November 10 from village Kasan.

Subhash and David, residents of village Kasan, Gopal of Jaipur were arrested on November 12 from the Manesar area. Subhash the father of Yogender including two were behind the conspiracy, the police said.

The three juveniles were arrested on November 13 from Kasan village. The juveniles had reced the victim's house and provided information to the alleged criminals. Abhishek Saroha alias RC alias Tara Bawana alias Rohit of Bawana, Sanjeev alias Sanju alias Baba of Rohtak, Sahil alias Bheema and Vikas of Sonipat, all sharpshooters were arrested on Saturday near the KMP expressway in Farrukhnagar following a tip-off.

During questioning the accused revealed that after executing the crime they took assistance in Kaithal district and all the arrangements were made by Amit who is a relative of the prime accused Yogender.

Night temperature drops below zero in Kashmir

Srinagar: Night temperatures throughout the Kashmir Valley dropped below the freezing point on Saturday while at minus 12.0 degrees Celsius, Drass town of Ladakh remained the coldest. An official of the Meteorological Department (MeT) said, "Due to clear night sky, minimum temperatures throughout the Valley dropped below the freezing point."

"Srinagar had minus 1.5, Pahalgam minus 4.3, Gulmarg minus 1.0, Qazigund minus 1.8 and Kupwara minus 2.7 as the minimum temperature. "Drass town of Ladakh had minus 12.0, Leh minus 10.3 and Kargil minus 4.9 as the night's lowest temperature."

"Jammu city had 10.4, Katra 9.2, Batote 4.2, Banihal minus 0.4 and Baderwah 1.7 as the minimum temperature". The official said weather is likely to remain dry during the next 48 hours in both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Centre should junk its plans to privatise train services: PMK

Team Absolute | Chennai

PMK founder P.S. Ramadoss on Saturday said that the Centre should scrap its attempt to privatise train services after failing to get private investors for 13 trains running within Tamil Nadu and those originating from the state.

Ramadoss said no private party had shown interest in operating express trains from Chennai to Trichy/Madurai/Tirunelveli/Kanniyakumari/Coimbatore/Delhi/Mumbai/Kolkata/Jaipur/Hyderabad/Bengaluru and for Kanyakumari to



Ernakulam.

At the all India level, Ramadoss said, the private sector did not show interest in bidding for more than 95 per cent of the trains that were tendered out.

He said privatising passenger train services will result in an increase in fare impacting the

poor. Currently, 47 per cent of the passenger fare is cross subsidised by freight traffic and if the trains are privatised then the passenger fares will increase at least by 70 per cent if the bidder has to earn a profit.

Ramadoss said the conditions like revenue sharing by the private party with Indian Railways and only 10 per cent of the trains being privatised have deterred the private sector from showing interest.

The PMK leader said the government instead of relaxing the two conditions should scrap its plans to privatise the train services.

Woman dies after taking second dose of Covid vax

Patna | Agencies

A woman in Bihar's Aurangabad district has died after taking the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine on Saturday, an official said.

The deceased, Rinku Devi, went to Sadar Hospital in Aurangabad and took the second dose of Covid vaccine.

She collapsed on the road while returning home, in Bhadua village.

Her husband Jitendra Singh rushed her to the Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared her dead on arrival.

Angered by her death, a large number of the woman's family members went to the Sadar hospital and allegedly damaged some properties, besides assaulting the medical staff including two



doctors -- Vikash Kumar, deputy CMO, and Amrit Kumar. The two doctors had to escape in a bid to save themselves.

The situation was normalised after over 100 police personnel arrived at the hospital and managed to disperse the mob.

"My wife was healthy while visiting the Sadar hospital... She wanted to take the second dose of Covid vaccine as just couple of days remaining for our daughter's marriage. I am sure that the doctors of the hospital had given her wrong injection that led to her death. Murder case should be registered against the alleged doctors and nurses," Jitendra Kumar said.

An officer of Khudwa police station said: "We have received complaint from the medical staffs who were beaten by violent mob. We are also waiting for the postmortem report to ascertain actual cause of her death. Legal action will be initiated after the report."

Andhra flood situation grim; CM reviews flood damage, relief measures

Amaravati | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday conducted an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in the state's Chittoor and YSR districts.

On Saturday, the death toll rose to 24, while 1,316 villages have been inundated according to the authorities. With further rainfall expected, the state government has put rescue and relief support on standby mode.

Taking to the skies on Saturday, the Chief Minister reviewed the rain damage inflicted in Kadapa, Renigunta, Tirupati cities. He also surveyed the Peruru project, and Swarnamukhi river areas, along with inundated areas affected by Papagni and Penna rivers.

Arriving at Kadapa Airport, the chief minister interacted with the Navy personnel engaged in relief operations. He also spoke to local MLAs, and district authorities regarding the relief measures.



The chief minister also inspected the Veligallu and Annamayya project area which was severely damaged due to floods.

Reddy also surveyed Pincha project and the areas affected by the Cheyuru River and other flood-prone areas.

He also directed the officials to take immediate sanitation measures in Tirupati city and prepare a master plan on the drainage system in the city to take appropriate action.

20-yr-old woman gang-raped in Delhi

New Delhi | Agencies

A 20-year-old woman was gang-raped in the national capital last week after which police swung into action and arrested two people, police said on Saturday.

According to an official, a call was received on November 13 at the Pandav Nagar Police station.

When the police reached the spot in Mayur Vihar Phase-1, they found two females who told them that one of them was gang-raped by two people. The accused also attempted to assault the other - a minor.

Delhi Commission of Women's Crisis Intervention Centre's (CIC) counsellor was informed who recorded the victims' statement. "The victims were counselled," the official said.



Both of them were then sent for medical examination and a case under sections 376 (Rape), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code was registered against the accused and an investigation initiated.

The police deployed several teams and a massive search operation was launched to nab the accused. The accused identified as Nawal, a resident of Acharya Niketan Patparganj in Delhi and Nagendra Bhatti, a resident of Pandav Nagar in Delhi were later arrested from Yamuna Khadar area of the city.

On sustained interrogation, they admitted to having committed the crime. "The investigation is still on," the official added.

Nigerian national held with heroin worth Rs 2 cr in Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested a Nigerian national with Heroin worth Rs 2 crore in the international market, an official said here on Saturday.

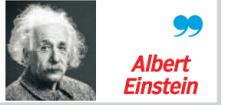
Furnishing details, DCP Dwarka Shankar Choudhary, said information regarding an African National, engaged in supplying drugs, was received on Friday at the Mohan garden Police Station.

Subsequently, a police team was constituted to conduct the raid at a specified spot. "At about 3.05 p.m. on Friday, a police team reached the spot and noticed one African National waiting for someone. When the police team tried to catch him, he tried to flee. He was overpowered after a brief chase," Choudhary said.

After much questioning, the accused identified himself as Prince Chinecherem, a resident of Nigeria. The police said that all the legal formalities as prescribed under NDPS Act were carried out and a search was made as per legal procedure laid down under NDPS Act. "One white colour polythene, containing some brown powder, was recovered. The substance that was recovered appeared to be Narco and contained characteristics of Smack or Heroin," the senior official said, adding that the substance was later identified as 280 gm of Heroin.

The police have registered a case under section 21 of the NDPS act and further probe is on.

Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution.



BOMBAY HC SAYS, NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY, COMMON INTENT AGAINST ARYAN KHAN

'NO PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE'

Delivering the detailed 14-page order, Justice Nitin Sambre said that considering the material brought on record by the NCB, the court has not found that prima facie, there was no positive evidence against the accused trio. It may be recalled that Khan, Dhamecha and Merchant were granted conditional bail by the high court on October 28 vide a speaking order and the detailed order was made available only on Saturday.

"This court is required to be sensitive to the fact that there has to be presence of basic material in the form of evidence so as to substantiate the case of conspiracy against the applicants (accused)."

Justice Nitin Sambre

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has ruled that there was "no prima facie evidence" against Aryan Khan and co-accused Munmun Dhamecha and Arbaaz Merchant for charges pertaining to 'conspiracy' and 'common intent' in the case lodged against after the cruise ship raids. Justice Sambre further said that the NCB claim on the common intention to commit an offence under the NDPS Act, (accused) found to be in possession of commercial quantity of drugs and hatching conspiracy is

Even the WhatsApp chats of Aryan Khan, or all the three accused had nothing objectionable or suggesting a conspiracy with the other accused in a meeting of minds to hatch a conspiracy and commit offences under the NDPS Act.

Justice Sambre said that the probe till date suggested that the accused trio were travelling independently and there was no 'meeting of minds' on the issue, as contended by the NCB.

Accordingly, since there was no offence of conspiracy, the rigours of NDPS Act Section 37 on grant of bail would not apply here, the court said, granting bail to Khan, Dhamecha and Merchant last month.

"liable to be rejected".

The court said that merely because the accused trio was travelling on the cruise cannot be grounds to invoke the offence under Section 29 (criminal conspiracy) against them.



He further said that no drugs were found on Khan, while the quantity recovered from Dhamecha and Merchant were 'small' under the NDPS Act. Under such circumstances, in order to invoke the offence of conspiracy against the accused, there has

to be positive evidence about an agreement to do an unlawful act, or to do lawful act by unlawful means, and such agreement must precede with meeting of minds, but there is no such material in this case, said the court.

All Rajasthan ministers resign ahead of cabinet reshuffle

Team Absolute | Jaipur

All ministers of the Ashok Gehlot-led cabinet in Rajasthan have been made to resign on Saturday evening by the Congress high command ahead of major cabinet reshuffle on Sunday.

A decision to this effect was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Meanwhile, the party MLAs have been asked to be present at the PCC office in Jaipur on Sunday at 2 p.m. The oath taking ceremony is likely to take place at 4 p.m. at the Raj Bhavan.

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra had expressed their desire to work for the party in Uttar Pradesh.

Ajay Maken, the state in-charge of Rajasthan Congress, who is in Jaipur, will discuss the names of the prospective ministerial candidates with CM Ashok Gehlot.

State Congress chief Govind Singh Dotsara, who along with two other ministers had offered to resign in a letter to party's national pres-



ident Sonia Gandhi, had moved a proposal in this regard at the beginning of the meeting following which all ministers resigned.

Dotsara, Harish Chaudhary and Raghu Sharma had expressed their desire to work for the party in the letter to the Congress president.

Although it has not yet been decided which new faces will be included in the cabinet till the filing of this news, the process of reaching out to a large number of Congress MLAs in Jaipur started last Friday evening.

"We have been asked to go to the PCC (Pradesh Congress Committee) office at 2 pm on Sunday where fur-

ther instructions will be given by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, AICC general secretary Ajay Maken and PCC chief Govind Singh Dotsara," Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, who held the charge of the transport minister, told reporters in Jaipur.

Rajasthan, where the number of MLAs is 200, can have a maximum of 30 ministers, including the chief minister. The strength of the Ashok Gehlot cabinet was 21 before the ministers resigned.

Apart from the ruling party MLAs, independents who support the government and those who defected from the Bahujan Samaj Party to the Congress also have expectations from the reshuffle.

Pak PM Imran Khan my 'elder brother', says Sidhu

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Saturday addressed Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan as his 'elder brother'.

He made the statement while interacting with the CEO of the Kartarpur project in Pakistan.

He was in Kartarpur along with several Punjab cabinet ministers to pay obeisance in Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.

Sidhu also said he has lots of love for the Pakistan Prime Minister.

Responding to Sidhu's



remarks, BJP IT Cell head Amit Malviya slammed the Congress high-command for favouring 'Pakistan loving Sidhu over veteran

Amarinder Singh'.

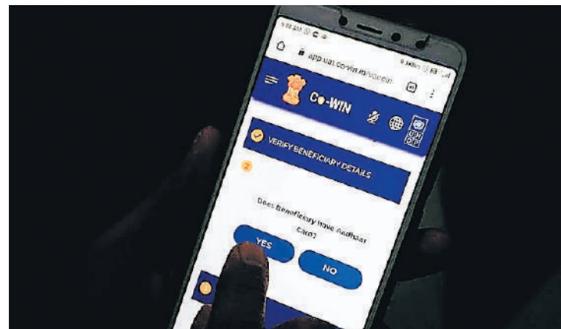
"Rahul Gandhi's favourite Navjot Singh Sidhu calls Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan his 'bada bhai'. Last time he had hugged Gen Bajwa, Pakistan Army's Chief, heaped praises.

"Is it any surprise that the Gandhi siblings chose a Pakistan loving Sidhu over veteran Amarinder Singh?", asked Malviya.

In 2018, Sidhu raked a controversy when he hugged Pakistan Army Chief General Bajwa during his visit to Pakistan for Imran Khan's oath-taking ceremony.

'KNOW YOUR VACCINATION STATUS' ENABLED ON COWIN PLATFORM

To avail the service on Co-WIN, the users have to click on "Know Your Vaccination Status service" tab and they will be directed to another web page. The service provider has to submit the beneficiary's full name and mobile number registered on Co-WIN. The Co-WIN will validate the details as per the authorisation permission and an OTP will be sent to the beneficiary's registered mobile number. On successful mobile OTP authentication, Co-WIN will share back the vaccination status with vaccination event details and demographics.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A new feature 'Know Your Vaccination Status' has been enabled on the CoWIN digital platform. The feature will help to verify a citizen's vaccination status. The feature could be utilised by a service provider like travel agencies,

offices, employers, entertainment agencies etc or government agencies like IRCTC and government offices among others for facilitating a service requested by the citizen. The service is being built to help citizens who may not have the vaccine certificate available in digital or paper form for

availing a requested service and can support the service provider to verify the vaccination status of the citizen, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet, "Now flaunt your vaccine badge! Share your vaccination status with your friends & family through CoWIN portal with 2 easy steps of Enter Your name and mobile and OTP."

The feature will not reveal the verifying person's protected health data.

The service may be enabled via open APIs (Application Programming Interface) or No-code webpage integration that Co-WIN has created for private and government service providers to retrieve a person's vaccination status with the responses -- not vaccinated, partially vaccinated and fully vaccinated.

The individual could also share graphics on social media of their vaccination status.

BABY IS BORN TO BOTH PARENTS, EVEN AFTER DIVORCE FATHER CAN MEET CHILD: K'TAKA HC



Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has told the mother, who has been refusing her

divorced husband to meet their child, that she should allow the child to meet his father.

"The parents would have got divorced. But, the child is born to both of them. When this is the case, why are you preventing them from meeting, let them meet," the court told the mother on Friday.

The court further said that 'children of present age would be so intelligent that they will have the capacity to advise parents'.

The divisional bench headed by Justice B. Veerappa, while looking into the petition of a divorced husband settled in Chennai, pleading for directions from the court to his separated wife to allow him to meet their 12-year-old son.

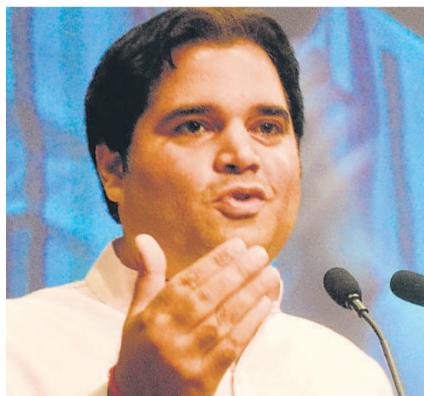
Varun Gandhi writes to PM on MSP and Kheri violence

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BJP MP Varun Gandhi, who has been criticising his own party for the last few months, on Saturday shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought a law on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers and an impartial probe into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Welcoming the Prime Minister's announcement of the repeal of the three contentious farm laws, Varun Gandhi demanded that immediate decision should be taken on other issues as well so that the protesting farmers call off their strike and return to their home.

He also demanded that Rs 1 crore ex-gratia should be given to families of



farmers who died during the protest.

The leader also sought withdrawal of cases registered against protesting farmers.

"Had the decision on repeal of farm laws been taken earlier, many precious lives would have been saved," he pointed out.

He also sought a free and fair probe into the Lakhimpur violence that claimed nine lives, and stern action against Union Minister Ajay Mishra.

The farmers were run over during a protest on October 3, allegedly by Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra.

BJP's Pilibhit MP has been embarrassing the party by taking entirely different stand over various issues like farmers' protest and the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

CENTRE BEGINS ASSET MONETISATION OF BSNL, MTNL

New Delhi: The Centre has begun the non-core asset monetisation of telcos -- BSNL and MTNL.

Accordingly, DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) has begun auction of BSNL and MTNL assets.

The monetisation commenced with the auction of first set of six properties belonging to the telcos.

"Non core asset monetisation commences with the first set of six properties of BSNL/MTNL bid out on the MSTC portal," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted on Saturday.

As per DIPAM website, asset monetisation involves creation of new sources of revenue by unlocking of value of hitherto unutilised or under-utilised public assets.



HM district commander killed in Kulgam encounter

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Newly appointed District Commander of proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) Mudasir Wagay was killed in Kulgam encounter on Saturday, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police said, acting on a specific input regarding presence of terrorists in Ashmuji area of district Kulgam, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, army's 9 RR and 18Bn CRPF.

During the operation, as the presence of terrorists was ascertained, they were given ample opportunities to surrender, instead they started firing indiscriminately on the



search parties. The joint parties ensuring safety of civilians rescued and shifted all the civilians to safer places. The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter.

Police said as per its records, killed terrorist Mudasir was an A plus categorized terrorist and was active since 2018 figuring among the list of most wanted terrorists.

DELTA-LIKE SARS-COV-2 VARIANT MAY INCREASE PANDEMIC SEVERITY

NEW YORK | Agencies

The traits of the Delta variant include enhanced transmissibility and an ability to infect people who had previous infections/vaccination.

The analysis simulated a SARS-CoV-2 pandemic with several different hypothetical variants including combinations of the two traits -- enhanced transmissibility, similar to the Alpha variant; partial immune escape, similar to the Beta variant; enhanced transmissibility with partial immune escape, similar to the Delta variant; and a variant with neither trait.

The analysis also factored in how certain variables, such as masking/physical distancing or vaccinations, would affect the pandemic's trajectory.

A SARS-CoV-2 variant with traits similar to that of the Delta variant might cause a more severe pandemic with more infections and breakthrough infections/reinfections than variants with either trait alone, finds a new study. The study, published in the journal Cell, indicated that a variant with enhanced transmissibility alone would likely be more dangerous than a variant that could partially evade the immune system. Yet a variant with both traits could cause more infections, reinfections, and breakthrough infections than a variant with either trait alone. "Thus far, evidence of immune escape -- the ability of a variant to evade the immune system and cause reinfections or breakthrough infections -- has been a red flag," said researcher Mary



Bushman from Harvard University. "Our findings say it's maybe more of a yellow flag -- this is not such a big deal on its own. But when it's combined with enhanced transmissibility, then it can be

a really big deal," Bushman added. For each of the scenarios, the team analysed the total number of infections as well as the number/percentage of infections averted by vaccination.



REPEALING FARM LAWS WILL PROVE DETRIMENTAL FOR FARMERS: MAHARASHTRA BJP CHIEF

“ Unfortunately, Prime minister Narendra Modi had to repeal these farm laws under unavoidable circumstances. There was no alternative ”

Team Absolute | Mumbai

State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil on Saturday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to repeal the three farm laws as the latter was left with no other choice. Patil added that such a decision will prove detrimental for the farmers. Patil said, "We still believe farm laws were necessary. These laws were framed keeping the welfare of farmers in mind. The implementation of the farm laws would have brought prosperity to farmers. Unfortunately, Prime minister Narendra Modi had to repeal these farm laws under unavoidable cir-

cumstances. There was no alternative." He further added, "I come from a family of farmers. As a son of a farmer, I am anguished over the developments."

The Maharashtra BJP chief said that the farm laws had helped increase farmers' earnings. "They had the mechanism to stop exploitation of farmers. There were proper checks and balances in the interest of farmers. These laws would have brought prosperity to the agriculture sector," he said.

"However, a small group of farmers in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh protested against these laws. It is unfortunate that the farmers could not be convinced. We did not succeed to impress the significance of the farm laws to the protestors. The developments also show how one group influenced the decision for the entire country. Despite court rulings, these protests continued," the BJP leader added.

Patil signed off by saying, "Majority of farmers did not support these



agitations. Under the farm laws, farmers had the freedom to sell their crops outside APMC markets. They could sell their crops any-

where without any pressure and ensure higher returns. The laws had the provision for contract farming, which would have benefited farm-

ers financially and made farming sustainable. A section is rejoicing, but most farmers will stand to lose after the PM's announcement."

Maha got 'freedom' from BJP 2 years ago: Sanjay Raut

Team Absolute | Nashik

Taking a swipe at certain Bollywood personalities, Shiv Sena MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut on Saturday said here that Maharashtra secured 'freedom' two years ago.

"We made the correct move... Maharashtra got Independence two years ago... We could flutter the 'saffron' flag above Mantralaya," Raut said, without naming the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party.

The obvious reference was to the ouster of the BJP after the Assembly elections a couple of years ago and the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray taking office in November 2019.

Speaking at a party event here, the Sena leader also touched on the repeal of the three farm laws by observing how the 'Quit India' Movement resulted in the collapse of the British rulers in 1947.

"This time, the people are angry and they would not have bothered to see who is the Prime Minister or the Home Minister... that's why the 3 (farm) laws have been revoked," Raut said. He added that the Sena would make a sweep of the upcoming



Nashik Municipal Corporation elections by bagging a minimum 100 of the 122 seats and unseat the ruling BJP.

Commenting on BJP state President Chandrakant Patil terming the PM's Friday decision as 'unfortunate', Raut said that if he (Patil) is indeed feeling so sad, "we shall send him a consolation message and organise a condolence meeting".

Patil retorted saying that the government couldn't convince some people on the 3 farm laws and hence repealed them, while Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis said the PM showed 'rare magnanimity' by his action to yank off the laws.

The PM's decision Friday was hailed by the ruling MVA allies, farmers organisations, social groups and farmland activists, who termed it as a 'victory' of the peasants agitating for the past one year.

Maha woman forest guard killed in tigress attack

Team Absolute | Chandrapur

In a tragic incident, a woman Forest Guard was pounced upon and killed by a tigress in the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), here on Saturday morning, officials said.

The tragedy occurred when the officer - identified as Swati Dumane, 31 - along with three other beat colleagues from Kolara Forest Range of TATR, was conducting a tiger count in the vicinity, said Jitendra Ramgaonkar, Chief Conservator of Forests, TATR. Around 7 a.m., Dumane and her three beat helpers launched a sign survey as part of the All India Tiger Estimation-2022 exercise currently underway, he said.

After trudging around 4 km from the Kolara gate till compartment No 97 inside the TATR core area, the team saw a tigress sitting on the path ahead of them, barely 200 metres away.

They waited for almost half an hour for the tigress to move, but later, decided to take a detour through a thick patch of the for-

est, Ramgaonkar said. Upon noticing the human movements, the tigress followed them and attacked Dumane from the rear side as she was moving just



behind the three beat helpers. Even as the trio ahead realised what was happening, the tigress fatally mauled and dragged Dumane deep inside the jungle. The beat helpers informed the

seniors outside the forest who rushed to the spot and managed to trace out Dumane's body from a thickly wooded area where it was abandoned by the tigress.

"The body has been sent for autopsy at the Chimur Government Hospital. The AITE-2022 exercise of sign survey and transect walk on foot has been suspended in TATR till further notice and precautions to avoid such incidents are being taken," Ramgaonkar said.

"Dumane hailed from the adjoining Gadchiroli district and is survived by her husband and a 4-year-old daughter. She joined the Forest Department service in 2011. The TATR foundation has released an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh for her family," Maharashtra Vanrakshak-Vanpali Association, Chandrapur President Pradip Kodape told IANS.

The Forest Department is providing all assistance to the bereaved family and her last rites were performed with full honours this evening

Maharashtra cuts excise duty on imported liquor by 50 per cent

Mumbai | Agencies

In a significant move to arrest smuggling and bootlegging of imported liquor brands, the state government has reduced the excise duty on them by 50%.

Thus a price of 1000 ml imported bottle, mostly scotch whiskey starting from minimum Rs 5,800 to maximum Rs 14,000, will at least reduce by 35 to 40%. The notification in this regard was issued on Thursday. "We have reduced taxes from 300% to 150%. Now, the call on reduction in prices is to be taken by the liquor companies that are expected to do so Monday onwards," said a senior state government official.

According to excise department officials during the three financial years starting 2016-17 till 2018-19, the excise revenue from imported spirits was around Rs 200 crore.

However, they said, the revenue dipped to Rs 100 crore during fiscals 2019-20 and

2020-21. This, they said, did not occur because of Covid but due to sudden rise in sales tax. "Also the formula for excise duty was revised earlier. This added a heavy tax burden leading to price rise and ultimately affecting the profit limits and also the volume of sale. With this tax cut we expect the volume and tax revenue to grow further," they added.

Sources with International Spirits and Wine Association of India (ISWAI), said the decision would make the prices in Maharashtra match with those in other states like Goa as actual reduction would be around 35 to 40%.

Excise officials expect the sale of bottles to rise to 2.5 lakh from the present 1 lakh eventually increasing the revenue to Rs 250 crore from present Rs 100 crore. "With this cut we expect the incidents such as people smuggling bottles from Delhi and other states to Maharashtra cities through flights or trains to come down," they added.

Randeep Hooda shares 'incredible' clip of six tigers walking together in Maharashtra forest

Many wildlife photographers and forest officers weighed in to say it was an extremely rare to see a big group of animals walking together

Team Absolute | Mumbai

For any nature enthusiast spotting any animal in its natural habitat is a big treat. One man, however, got very lucky when he saw not one but six tigers together on a jungle trail. The stunning video came to light when actor and wildlife photographer Randeep Hooda shared it on Twitter, leaving fellow netizens feeling jealous.

In the video going viral, a person on a forest jeep was seen filming a streak of tigers strolling in the forest area quite nonchalantly. The person zooms it closer to show all the wild cats calmly enjoying

their morning walk on the vehicle tracks. While seeing tigers in many Indian forest is not that uncommon but spotting so many is surely a very rare sight.

According to Hooda, the spectacular moment was captured at Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary in Maharashtra. Blown away by the special sighting himself, and expressing how big of a deal it is, the Highway actor wrote:

"Chappar Phad ke," while sharing the clip.

The tourism department of the country and the state of Maharashtra thanked the Bollywood actor for sharing and highlighting such beauty of Indian forest, hoping it would boost the pandemic-hit tourism industry. Many commented that while even spotting deer is difficult, seeing so many tigers at such proximity is such a blessing.



BJP RELEASES NAMES FOR 5 MLC SEATS, 1 UNDECIDED

Mumbai: Former Congress MLA Rajhans Singh is BJP's MLC candidate from Mumbai, while former Congress MLC Amrishi Patel is the candidate from Dhule. The party's central parliamentary committee on Friday announced candidates for five seats on December 10. The party did not announce a candidate for the sixth seat from Mumbai. Elected representatives from local self-government bodies vote for the candidate. In BMC, BJP has 83 corporators and a candidate needs 76 votes to win. Shiv Sena nominated Sunil Shinde.

"One seat is guaranteed for BJP and the other for Shiv Sena as both have requisite votes. Both candidates are likely to be elected unopposed," said a source. Sources said the party was confident of winning Mumbai and Dhule seats.

Former energy minister Chandrashekar Bawankule is the party's candidate for Nagpur and Amal Mahadik for Kolhapur.

Former BJP MLA Kolhapur South and Vasant Khandelwal is the party's candidate for Akola-Buldhana-Washim seat.

Pawar's 'urban naxalisation' in Maharashtra remark earns BJP's ire

BJP leader Ram Kadam has hit out at Sharad Pawar for his recent comments on 'urban naxalisation', asking him to clarify if he considers every citizen who is angry at the government as naxals.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra BJP has hit out at NCP supremo Sharad Pawar for his recent comments on 'urban naxalisation', asking him to clarify if he considers every citizen who is angry at the government as naxals.

BJP leader Ram Kadam said, "In the past, he (Sharad Pawar) never accepted that there is naxalism in the urban areas. But

now he's accepting it and he went to the extent of saying that hatred against the government is being spread in areas like Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur. He even added a new definition to this anger against the state government and said even those who hate the government are naxals."

The senior BJP leader questioned the NCP over the recent controversies in the state and the involvement of the state government. The NCP is part of the ruling MVA coalition in Maharashtra.

"Maharashtra government indulged in Rs 100 crore scandal, it blatantly took money for transfer of officers, it directly and indirectly supported the drug mafia, their ministers have done trade with Dawood's men. Should the people of Maharashtra sit quietly and not protest against the gov-

ernment?" asked Ram Kadam. He went on to say that the people are angry against injustice and have a right to protest, but the NCP is spinning this anger as naxalism. "They should know that everyone in the state has anger against this government. So will they call us naxals as well? The NCP needs to clarify this."

Sharad Pawar is on a four-day tour of Maharashtra's Vidharba region. While speaking at Gadchiroli -- a hotbed of naxal activity -- the NCP leader remarked that some elements were trying to create hatred against the state government. He termed this 'new phenomenon' as 'urban naxalisation' and said it needs to be stopped. The four-time chief minister said such elements were present in Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai and parts of Sahyadri ranges as far as Kerala.



Booked for molesting 9-year-old girl, man kills self

The now-deceased man had allegedly threatened the nine-year-old girl's mother that he would commit suicide if a case was registered against him

Team Absolute | Nagpur

A 41-year-old man ended his life by jumping into Gandhi Nagar lake in Maharashtra's Nagpur on Friday. As per reports, the now-deceased man, identified as Ayub Ibrahim Khan, took the extreme step after a case was registered against him at the Tehsil police station for allegedly molesting a nine-year-old girl.

Khan was employed at the shop of the minor girl's grand. The girl's mother had alleged that Khan made undue advances towards her daughter. After the matter was reported to the police, Khan was booked for molestation on November 15.

It is being reported that Khan had threatened the girl's mother, saying that he would end his life if a case

was registered against him. On Friday, he jumped into the Gandhi Sagar Lake and died. His body was fished out and later the members of his family gathered at the Ganeshpet police station. His family members sought action against people who accused him of molestation. The police have registered a case of accidental death.

In another incident, a man allegedly raped and murdered his daughter in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal. The accused committed the crime as he was upset with his daughter for marrying a man from a different caste.

The accused has been arrested under Sections 302 (murder), 376 (rape) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code. His son has also been arrested by the police for his alleged involvement in the crime.

Constable held for 'molesting' minor

The authorities suspended him on Friday and an inquiry has been initiated against him.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 28-year-old police constable working with the Local Arms unit of Mumbai Police has been arrested for allegedly molesting a 10-year-old girl.

The police said the incident took place in the crowded market outside Bhandup railway station. The authorities suspended him on Friday and an inquiry has been initiated against him.

According to police officials, the accused has been identified as Harshal Bodke, a resident of Kalyan who has been working with the force for five years.

An officer from Bhandup police station said, "Bodke had come to Bhandup on Sunday to meet his friends. They consumed alcohol at a bar here, after which he and his two friends went near the station for a joy ride."

Bodke suddenly stopped the bike and allegedly touched the minor inappropriately. "The girl was heading home with her mother when the incident took place," said an officer.

The police on Friday issued Bodke's suspension order. A senior police officer said, "He has been suspended and an inquiry has been initiated."

nearby. Officials then took them to Bhandup police station and lodged a complaint. Her statement was recorded on Sunday, after which the minor's medical examination was conducted and a case was registered under section 354 (outraging the modesty of a woman) of the IPC and sections 8 and 12 of POCSO Act.

"He was brought to the police station and subsequently placed under arrest," said an officer.

Bodke was produced in a magistrate court and remanded in police custody. He is currently in judicial custody, said police.

Senior police inspector Sham Shinde of Bhandup police station confirmed the arrest. During the questioning, the accused claimed that he did not touch the minor with intent to molest her.

"Bodke has claimed that he is frustrated by the fact that he is childless, due to which, after he saw the girl near the station, he went to talk to her. He claims he did not intend to molest her," said an investigator.

The police on Friday issued Bodke's suspension order. A senior police officer said, "He has been suspended and an inquiry has been initiated."



2nd Covid Death Of Fully Vaccinated Person Within Week

The fully vaccinated 54-year-old woman who died of Covid was completely healthy with no co-morbidities, and only had a problem of mild blood pressure, which is considered normal, said an AIIMS Bhopal doctor

Medical Sciences (AIIMS), had taken both jabs. Despite repeated attempts, the AIIMS public relations cell and management did not respond to calls. When contacted, a family member of the woman who died, who is a renowned doctor in Bhopal, said she was admitted to AIIMS after testing positive for coronavirus on

November 15. "She was 54 and died in AIIMS, Bhopal around 12.30 am during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. She was completely healthy with no co-morbidities. She was having a problem of mild blood pressure, which is normal," he said. The woman's husband is also a doctor with the Madhya Pradesh government.

This is the second death of a fully vaccinated COVID-19 patient in Madhya Pradesh within a week. On Sunday night, a 69-year-old fully vaccinated man died of the infection in Indore, the worst affected city in the state. Till Friday evening, Madhya Pradesh recorded 7,92,999 coronavirus positive cases and 10,525 deaths.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 54-year-old woman, who had received both doses of a Covid vaccine, died of coronavirus in Bhopal, taking the number of fully vaccinated persons succumbing to the infection to two in Madhya Pradesh within a week, officials said. Bhopal's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), Dr Prabhakar Tiwari, confirmed that the woman, who died due to the infection in Bhopal's All India Institute of

A "plant bank" will be made of the saplings received by CM

CM planted mango sapling presented by children

Kesia-Semia, Karanj and Mango in Smart Garden. On the occasion of World Children's Day, a mango sapling was presented by the children to Chief Minister Shri Chouhan. Smt. Baljit Saluja, Smt. Prarthana Mishra and Sushri Apoorva Shandilya of Bhopal's Sangini Sanstha also participated in plantation. In order to encourage public participation in the activities of environmental protection, Chief Minister Chouhan does tree plantation every day with social organisations, voluntary organisations and people active in this direction at the individual level. Sangini Sanstha runs training programmes on women empowerment along with environmental protection activities with government departments and school-colleges teachers.



The organisation is active in campaigning against violence towards women, free legal advice for the victim women, sanitation, reducing the use of plastic, skill development of domestic workers by forming groups and linking them with employment. The organisation conducted various activities related to awareness and necessary support in the first and second wave of Corona. Karanj is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Karanj is also used in religious works. Kesia-Semia is also useful from environmental and Ayurveda point of view.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that people are becoming more active regarding plantation. During his stay at different places in the state, he is getting large number of saplings as gift. Chouhan said that a "plant bank" would be made of these saplings received in gift and they would be planted at suitable places. Chief Minister said this on the occasion of plantation in Smart Garden. Chouhan today planted saplings of

Amazon made accused in marijuana sale through its portal by MP police

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Marijuana sale through Amazon e-commerce portal, the Bhopal Police in Madhya Pradesh which is investigating the matter, has made Executive Directors of Amazon Seller Services Limited as accused under section 38 of NDPS Act. The traders across the Country appreciate the firmness of MP Police in this matter and have complimented MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and MP Home Minister Narottam Mishra for the efficiency of the police system in MP, CAIT said in a statement. Earlier, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) had greatly appreciat-

ed the statement of Narottam Mishra giving a strong and unequivocal warning to Amazon that either to cooperate with the investigation conducted by the MP Police else they will be brought to MP by force. The statement of Mishra has generated hopes among the trading community across the country that this time this sensational issue will not be diluted since the statement has plugged all the escape routes for Amazon, CAIT said. CAIT had said that the current report of sale of marijuana through the e-portal of Amazon is a big shock and an eye opener that to earn profit these companies can do anything or everything including sale of prohibited goods.

CAIT highly regretted that whenever the Government plans any action against Amazon, they have a stereotype reply that the company is conducting an internal investigation. The pertinent question is whether Amazon is bigger than the government. Every time there is illegality they start an internal probe to avoid an external probe. Our agencies consider their probe bigger than Indian probe and hence do not take any action which encourages these companies to conduct more and more mal-practices, CAIT said. "It has been reported that Amazon has been facilitating trade of Marijuana through its marketplace e-commerce

platform which is meant to act only as a bridge between buyer and seller for the sale and purchase of permitted goods/services. However, from the recent findings of Madhya Pradesh Police it is clear that the drug racket being operated on the marketplace platform are not without the knowledge and active involvement of Amazon, but Amazon has been fully involved by storing such narcotics in their warehouses, provided their delivery channels for safe and secure delivery of the drugs to the customers and also taking major share of the sales proceeds (of the order of 66 per cent) as their profit/sales commission", CAIT said.

Why should only one day in a year be for children: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that why children should have only one day in a year, we want to create such a Madhya Pradesh in which every day of the year is for children. Children should smile, play, express themselves in creation to the fullest and create their own world. On the occasion of World Children's Day, Chouhan was releasing the 2022 calendar developed by the Child Rights Observatory, Madhya Pradesh on paintings made by children. It may be noted that November 20 is celebrated as International Children's Day in memory of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child Rights Observatory Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with UNICEF, has been working since 2007 to promote and protect child rights. Chief of UNICEF Madhya Pradesh Margaret Gwada, President of Child Rights Observatory Nirmala Buch, Secretary of the organization Sheela Bhambal took part in the programme. About 16 child painters were also present in the programme. Chouhan said that the creative potential of children has been manifested in a very beautiful way in the calendar. Children have expressed the frustration-



disappointment during the Corona period, its consequences and the state of hope in these circumstances, the joy of making disaster as an opportunity in the calendar. The difficulties of online studies during Corona period have also found a place in the calendar. The pain caused by loss of parents' job during Corona has also been expressed by the children. Children have also given expression to the happiness of staying with their parents for a long time in the Corona period. No one can describe the joy of affection, love, mother's love, intimacy, but children have also expressed these feelings in the pictures in the cal-

endar. Chouhan said that to deal with Corona, the state government has started a campaign with the support of people. There are many people in Corona who risked their lives to save the lives of others. The state government is continuously running a campaign for vaccination. Chief Minister appealed to the children to participate in activities like sports and music along with studies and make continuous efforts to enhance their talent. Hard work and continuous effort are the base of success. Capacity is developed only by putting in efforts. Only commitment and efforts helps a person to achieve the goal. Chouhan gave a message to the children to make their life useful for the society and the country. Chouhan appealed to the children to cooperate in the campaign to ensure 100 percent Covid-19 vaccination in the state. Chouhan asked the present children to put their messages on social media for vaccination. Appeals by children have an emotional impact on people. Gwada lauded Chief Minister's efforts for women empowerment and schemes being run specially for education and health of girl child and for cent percent immunization. Gwada said that the system developed for social security in the state is effective.

MADHYA PRADESH IS THE THIRD CLEANEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY

Indore hoisted the flag of cleanliness in the country for the fifth time

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the Swachhhta Survekshan-2021, Indore has raised the flag of cleanliness in the country for the fifth time in a row while maintaining its domination. The President Ram Nath Kovind presented Indore with the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge and the Best Clean City Award in the country at the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav organised at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday. Madhya Pradesh has received the third cleanest state award. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhopendra Singh, Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing OPS Bhadoria and MP Shankarlal Lalwani received the awards along with the entire team. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that Indore is wonderful, amazing, blessed are the people of Indore, who have kept Indore on top in cleanliness for the fifth time in a row. He has also congratulated the citizens, public representatives and officers and employees of all the urban bodies who received the award. Bhopendra Singh while congratulating all the urban bodies including Indore who received the award has said that all the people will try together to ensure that like Indore, other bodies also get the best ranking in Swachh Survekshan-2022. Minister of State Bhadoria has also congratulated the awarded urban bodies. Appreciating Indore, President Kovind said that it is good to be the best, but it is a big achievement to remain at the top. He wished and congratulated the city for its endeavour. Indore city has also got 5 star city certification today. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri congratulated and extended good



wishes to all the winners for their better performance. In the Swachhhta Samman Samaroh for the year 2021, 4 cities of Madhya Pradesh are included among the top 20 cities of the country in the category of more than 10 lakh population. Among these, Indore got first, Bhopal seventh, Gwalior fifteenth and Jabalpur got twentieth place. Similarly, out of 100 cities of the country in the western zone with a population of 1-10 lakh, 25 cities of Madhya Pradesh have been included among the 100 cities of the country. In the category of fifty thousand to one lakh population, 26 cities of the state are among top 100 cities of the county, in the category of population of 25-50 thousand, 26 of our cities are included, and in the category of population of less than 25 thousand, 35 cities of Madhya Pradesh are included. Thus, 116 cities of Madhya Pradesh are included in the top 100 cities in four population categories. It is noteworthy that Madhya Pradesh has got the third position in the category of states having more than 100 urban bodies for its adherence to urban bodies and various sanitation procedures. Six cities of the state Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Dewas, Hoshangabad and Barwaha and Pachmarhi Cantt were awarded for the excellent award category. Apart from this, 27 cities got

star rating. Five star was bagged by 1, 3 star by 9 and 17 cities have been declared 1 star. Along with Indore, Dewas and Bhopal have also secured the best position in the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge. Indore received Rs. 12 crores, Dewas Rs. 8 crores and Bhopal Rs. 3 crores as prizes in the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge. The city of Hoshangabad has got the honour of being the fastest growing city in the cities of 1 to 3 lakh population. On the other hand, Dewas has got the honour of innovation in the same category of cities. The city of Ujjain has got the award of Best City in Citizen Feedback among cities with a population of 1-10 lakhs. Bhopal has retained its last year's title of self-sustainable capital. In addition, Bhopal has been ranked third in the country in the Safai Mitra Suraksha Challenge. In the category of small towns, Barwaha of Khargone district got the honour of the fastest growing city in the zonal ranking. For the first time, the component of a motivational round was included in the Swachh Survekshan. In which 01 city Indore in Platinum-Diiva category, 35 cities in Gold-Anupam category, 03 cities in Silver-Ujjwal category and 27 cities in Bronze-Udit category, 04 cities in Copper Aarohi category, total 70 cities got ranking in this component.

Hanuwantia is as beautiful as Sentosa Island of Singapore: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Hanuwantia is as beautiful as Sentosa Island in Singapore. It was during his visit to Sentosa Island that he got the inspiration to develop Hanuwantia as a tourist destination. The deep blue water here is like the ocean. The people of cities yearn to see such a sight. Today Hanuwantia has a special place in Madhya Pradesh tourism. Chouhan said that along with cultural activities, various adventure activities like scuba diving, joy ride, hot air balloon etc. would be started in Hanuwantia. Tourists will also be able to enjoy sitting in a helicopter. Chief Minister launched Jal Mahotsav 2021-22 at Hanuwantia on Saturday, a tourist destination of Khandwa district. Chouhan congratulated all the concerned for the awards received by Madhya Pradesh in Swachh Survekshan. Indore city of Madhya Pradesh has been the first in the country for

the fifth consecutive time in the Swachh Survekshan. Other areas of the state have also set records in cleanliness. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan congratulated Mundi for coming first in the country in the category of garbage free cities having 25 thousand population. Chouhan said that Nimar region tells the glorious saga of the tribal heroes Tantya Bhil, Bhima Nayak, Khajya Nayak etc. Tantya Mama was born here. His armlets are kept here. The sacrifice day of Tantya Mama will be celebrated in the state on December 4 at Patalpani. Before this, a yatra will be taken out from Barda village of Pandhana tehsil of Khandwa district, the place of his birth, with a pot of his holy soil, which will conclude on December 4 at Patalpani. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan instructed Principal Secretary Culture Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla that an exhibition should be organised in Hanuwantia on the completion of 75 years of independence, which should display the saga of our country's patriots.

Chouhan said that the Tourism Department is doing wonderful work in the field of tourism. Employment opportunities are created through tourism. Tourism will be promoted more and more in the state. Rural tourism is also being started. Chouhan also directed to start Bird Watch Centre and Night Safari at Charkheda on the demand of Forest Minister Dr. Vijay Shah. Chief Minister said that all restrictions related to Corona have been lifted in the state for this purpose so that the livelihood of any section should not be affected. We have to take all precautions even after the ban is lifted. All should mandatorily get two doses of corona vaccine. Forest Minister Vijay Shah said that various islands of Narmada river in Hanuwantia region would be developed from the point of view of tourism. Bird watching centre and night safari can be started in Charkheda. Boats will be operated for Sant Singaji pilgrimage site. Here air service can also be started by arranging for landing on the water.





JOHNNY DEPP, AMBER HEARD RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN TO BE SPOTLIGHTED IN DOCUMENTARY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood personalities Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's relationship breakdown is getting a documentary on discovery+ titled 'Johnny vs Amber'.

It will tell the story of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard's relationship breakdown from each of their viewpoints in a two-part documentary, reports deadline.com.

The celebrity court case of the decade will first introduce Depp's side, how he felt he was married to a "Machiavellian liar" who would stop at nothing



to protect her image, before Heard's episode explains how the actress married the man of her dreams only to see him turn into a "violent drug-fuelled monster".

It will feature interviews with lawyers on both sides along with people close to the pair and extensive archive and audio footage.

Nick Hornby and Fran Baker are executive producing for UK Crazy Delicious producer Optomen, with Matt Reid for Discovery.

Hornby said: "Through the tapes, home videos and text messages shown in court, these films give viewers a rare and important insight into a marriage that went tragically wrong, and to better understand the hugely important issue of domestic violence."

'Squid Game' director says series poses questions on competitive capitalism



Seoul | Agencies

Hwang Dong-hyuk, creator of 'Squid Game', has said the smash-hit Netflix series was intended to pose questions about modern capitalist society that corners people into extreme competition.

"I thought capitalism has shown its own limitations in the 21st century," Hwang said in an online speech at a forum organised by SBS TV, reports Yonhap. "Everybody faces fiercely competitive situations and they are dragged down to the rock bottom of society if they fail to survive the competition." In 'Squid Game', Gi-hun, played by Lee Jung-jae, the final winner of the deadly contest of heavily debt-ridden people to win 45.6 billion won (USD 38.9 million) in prize money, is one of the victims of the capitalist society that made him struggle with business failures, a divorce and heavy indebtedness. But he does not lose humanity under the life-and-death pressure and the large sum of money and shows sympathy for weaker participants. At the end of the ninth and last episode, Gi-hun says by phone to those behind the mysterious competition, "I'm not a horse. I'm a person. That's why I want to know who you people are and how you can commit such atrocities against people." Then, he doesn't get on the plane to see his daughter in the United States, but turns around to leave the airport.

Delroy Lindo joins Marvel Studios' 'Blade'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Delroy Lindo is joining the cast of Marvel Studios' 'Blade', starring Mahershala Ali as the titular human-vampire hybrid.

Lindo is the first actor to join the cast since Ali broke the news of the 'Blade' reboot at the end of Marvel Studios' 2019 panel at San Diego Comic-Con, reports variety.com.

It is directed by Bassam Tariq and the script is by Stacy Osei-Kuffour.

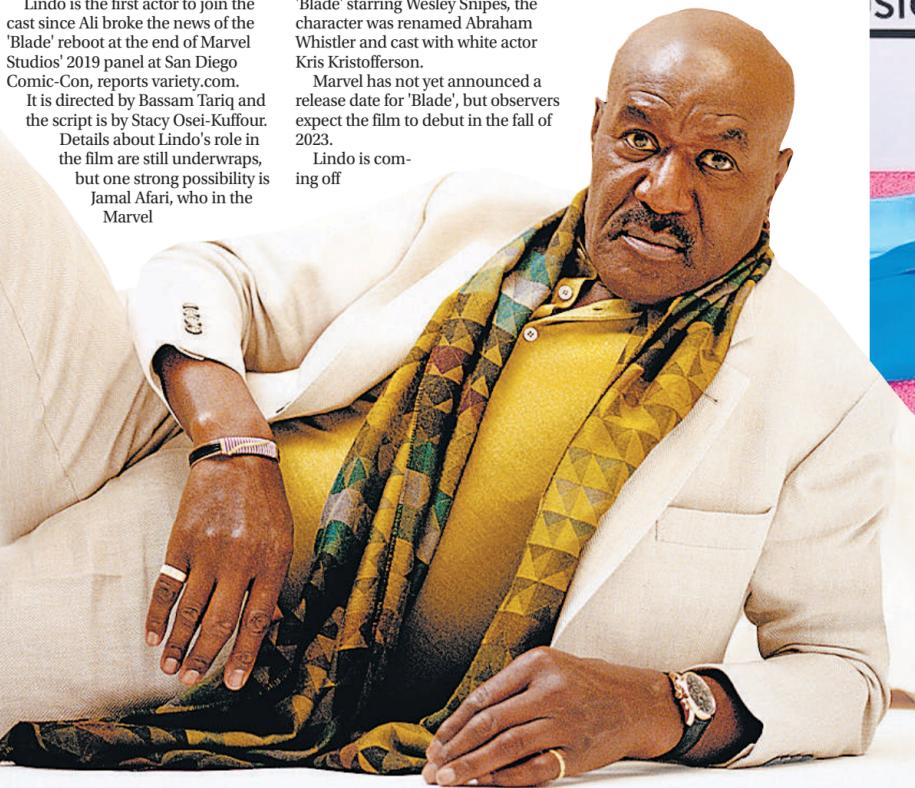
Details about Lindo's role in the film are still under wraps, but one strong possibility is Jamal Afari, who in the

comics is the man who raised and mentored Blade also known as Eric Brooks in the ways of vampire hunting when Eric was young.

In the comics, Jamal is Black, but in the 1998 feature adaptation of 'Blade' starring Wesley Snipes, the character was renamed Abraham Whistler and cast with white actor Kris Kristofferson.

Marvel has not yet announced a release date for 'Blade', but observers expect the film to debut in the fall of 2023.

Lindo is coming off



Fans eager to see global icon Priyanka Jonas in The Matrix Resurrections

London | Agencies

Much has been said about global powerhouse Priyanka Chopra's upcoming The Matrix Resurrections. While film promotions are in full swing in London, fans back home are waiting with bated breath to watch their favourite desi girl in action. Fuelling even more anticipation on the movie, PeeCee took to her Instagram to share some behind-the-scenes pictures from the promotions.

After making waves across the globe with movies like Baywatch and shows like Quantico, Priyanka Chopra will be seen making India proud once again with The Matrix Resurrections.

A source revealed, "Priyanka Chopra and The Matrix make for the perfect combination! PeeCee is a global icon with a humungous and diverse fan-base while The Matrix franchise is a cult classic that has always enjoyed a loyal following over the years and across the world!"

Adding another feather to her hat, Priyanka Chopra's The Matrix Resurrections will be releasing this december - the best Christmas present PeeCee could have offered her fans! She will be seen share screen space with the original Matrix superstars Keanu Reeves as Neo and Carrie-Anne Moss as Trinity.

Inspiring millions of young girls to chase their dreams, Priyanka Chopra is an unstoppable force who has grown from strength to strength, time and again, putting India on the global map of cinema.

another critically-acclaimed collaboration with Spike Lee in Netflix's aDa 5 Bloods'.

The western epic 'The Harder They Fall', he plays Bass Reeves, the real-life lawman who was an inspiration for the Lone Ranger. The actor will next appear in Neil Gaiman's 'Anansi Boys' series at Amazon, and he's set to make his directorial debut with the film 'Jabari's People.'



'SPENCER' IS MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN 'DIANA' OF 2013

FILM REVIEW
BY TROY RIBEIRO
(Showing in Theatres)
Direction: Pablo Larrain
Cast: Kristen Stewart, Sally Hawkins, Timothy Spall, Sean Harris, Jack Farthing, Jack Nielen, Freddie Spry, Stella Gonet, Richard Sammel, Elizabeth Berrington, Lore Stefanek and Amy Manson.
Duration: 115 minutes
Ratings: ***1/2 (three and half stars)



Coast. This biographical film about Princess Diana, presented as "A fable from a true tragedy", is

mounted like a psychological drama full of dream sequences, internal and external pain,

metaphor-laden scenes, and dialogues, showing her brooding moods.

The narrative begins with Diana sporting her blonde bob-cut hair and driving her little green car alone through the countryside lost in the area where she grew up as neighbours to the royal family.

Once on royal grounds, with her two sons William (Jack Nielen) and Harry (Freddie Spry) by her side, Diana is trapped in a loveless marriage to a diffident Prince Charles (Jack Farthing), who openly betrays her.

Feeling effectively imprisoned, Diana's anxiety and depression start to get the better of her when she finds a biography of Anne Boleyn (Amy Manson), the wife of Henry the VIII who was accused of adultery and beheaded so that her husband could marry once again, and she begins to find in Boleyn a kindred spirit.

As she's robbed of her privacy outside and inside the opulent estate, the walls of the Gothic palace feel as if they are closing in on her. She loses her grip on reality until she can break out and save

herself.

The director's vision is not a straightforward interpretation of the princess' displeasure with the royal traditions and holiday spectacle. He shows us Diana during her most vulnerable moments: weak, nasty, and most of all, self-destructive.

Kristen Stewart proves entirely compelling as the moody Diana. She effectively delivers her best with her doe-eyed, pitying tilt of the head, and the little upscale girl voice, but this is no impression. It is more an interpretation of a classic role, bringing layers of human complexities to a figure who, for all the myth that surrounds her, still looms large in the global conscience. As for her accent, there are a few moments that can be overlooked.

Timothy Spall, Sean Harris, and Sally Hawkins in supporting roles have their moments on screen. Jack Farthing appears as a poor caricature of Prince Charles.

Overall, Larrain's 'Spencer' is much more impressive than Oliver Hirschbiegel's 2013 film 'Diana' starring Naomi Watts.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Ellie Goulding



IND V NZ: INDIA MAY TEST RESERVE PLAYERS IN KOLKATA DEAD RUBBER

Team Absolute | Kolkata

With the three-match T20I series already in India's pocket, the hosts may look to test some reserve players while aiming for a 3-0 finish over New Zealand at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday. India have already gained an unassailable lead after claiming a seven-wicket victory in the second T20I in Ranchi on Friday. For New Zealand, it will be a chance of signing off from the series on a high before shifting focus to the two-match Test series. Rohit Sharma's first series as the T20I captain has panned out like a perfect script. Winning the toss and contributing to successful chases in Jaipur and Ranchi must have pleased him. He would be looking to do the same at Kolkata before going off on a break. At the same time, he would be thinking of trying the reserve players, who didn't get to be a part of the playing eleven in both matches of the series. Opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, who debuted on the white-ball tour to Sri Lanka in July and was the orange cap winner when Chennai Super Kings won IPL 2021, will be eager to get a run with the bat. Same goes for Avesh Khan, who took 24 wickets for Delhi Capitals and was the second-highest wicket-taker behind India's latest debutant, Harshal Patel. Then there's Ishan Kishan and Yuzvendra Chahal, who could get some game time if first-choice players are given rest. One can expect Venkatesh Iyer to be given a go with the ball to showcase his medium-pace skills.

For New Zealand, a tight schedule after playing the T20 World Cup final meant that the players looked a little exhausted. It resulted in the batting order unable to overcome the squeeze put on by the Indian bowling attack on both occasions in the series. If it was in the last five overs in Jaipur, New



Brief scores

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Venkatesh Iyer, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Avesh Khan, Mohammed Siraj, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan.

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

Zealand squandered the flying start in power-play at Ranchi. Leading the strangulation job from the front has been ace off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. With figures of 2/23 and 1/19 from two matches, Ashwin has reinforced his credentials in being an effective white-ball bowler. With the pitch

at Eden Gardens expected to be a batting paradise despite the possibility of it offering a lot for the pacers as well as spinners and dew coming into the equation yet again, expect the script to continue the same way as it has been in the first two matches.

IPL 2022 will take place in India, confirms BCCI

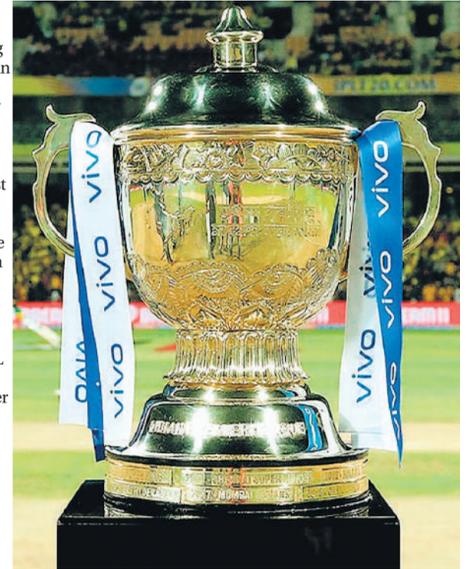
Team Absolute | New Delhi

There is good news coming in for the cricket fanatics in the country as the BCCI secretary, Jay Shah on Saturday made it clear that the 15th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will take place in India. Shah confirmed the latest development during the 'The Champions Call' event in Chennai, organised to celebrate Chennai Super Kings' victory in IPL 2021.

"I know you all are waiting to see CSK play at Chepauk. Well, the moment is not very far. The 15th season of the IPL will take place in India and it will be more exciting than ever with two new teams joining," Jay Shah said, adding, "we have a mega auction coming up, so it will be interesting to see what the new combinations look like."

In October, the national cricket board had confirmed that franchises from Lucknow and Ahmedabad will be added to the 2022 edition of the lucrative league, making it the only second edition of the tournament to have ten teams.

The 2021 edition of the IPL began in India but it was suspended midway through the tournament due to multiple



Covid-19 cases in the camps of participating franchises.

The season was then completed in September-October later this year in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Earlier, the entire 2020 IPL also took place in the UAE.

Augsburg upset Bayern 2-1 in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

First-half goals from Mads Pedersen and Andre Hahn secured Augsburg a surprising 2-1 win over frontrunners Bayern Munich at the curtain raiser of the 12th round in Bundesliga here. Bayern had a bright start into the clash on Friday night and could have broken the deadlock with seven minutes gone, but Omar Richards pulled over the target from inside the box. Augsburg responded well to Bayern's early chance and staged a well-positioned bulwark as the game clock ticked. Bayern lacked in accuracy in the final third and invited Augsburg to make it two as Zeqirji dispossessed Marcel Sabitzer before finding Hahn, who nodded home the 2-0 advantage in the 35th minute, Xinhua reports. The German record champions responded with furious attacks and eventually halved the deficit three minutes later after Robert Lewandowski made the most of Thomas Muller's back-heel lay-up.



With the result, Bayern Munich suffered its second loss of the season. Meanwhile, Augsburg secured vital points to climb out of the bottom three onto the 15th spot.

The following fixtures are set for later on Saturday: Runners-up Borussia Dortmund host Stuttgart, Armenia Bielefeld see Wolfsburg, Bayer Leverkusen meet Bochum, Borussia Monchengladbach face Greuther Furth, Hoffenheim take on Leipzig and Union Berlin encounter local rivals Hertha Berlin.

Indonesia Masters Badminton: Sindhu, Srikanth lose in semi-finals

Bali | Agencies

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu and former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth crashed out of the 2021 Indonesia Masters badminton tournament after losing their respective women's and men's singles semi-final matches, here on Saturday.

The 26-year old Sindhu wasn't at her usual best and lost 13-21 9-21 against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in a one-sided semi-final contest that lasted for just 32 minutes.

The Indian shuttler struggled with keeping her returns in right from the start and she never recovered from an early deficit. On the other hand, Yamaguchi got a great dip on her shots, often catching Sindhu out at the net and as the Japanese shuttler registered a comfortable win.

This was Sindhu's first loss to Akane in 2021. She had earlier beaten her in the All England Open quarter-finals and during her bronze-medal run at Tokyo 2020.

The Japanese shuttler will now face South Korea's An Seyoung as she chases her third



World Tour title of 2021.

This was also Sindhu's second-straight loss in the semis at a World Tour event, having lost to Sayaka Takahashi at the French Open last month.

Meanwhile, K Srikanth, who had beaten compatriot HS Prannoy in the quarter-finals, was no match for reigning World Tour Final champion Anders Antonsen. He lost 14-21 9-21 to Antonsen in the men's singles semi-finals, which lasted for 41 minutes.

Antonsen will play Japanese world No. 1 Kento Momota in the final as he looks for his fourth World Tour title and first one this season.

Dhoni yet to decide on IPL 2022

Chennai | Agencies

Rushing all the speculations about his participation in the coming IPL season, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni on Saturday said that he is yet to decide to play for his franchise.

Dhoni said that he is not in a hurry to make the decision as there is ample time for the coming season.

"I will think about it, there is a lot of time, right now we are just in November. IPL 2022 will be played in April," said Dhoni at an event in Chennai.

Earlier, after winning the IPL 2021, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) skipper MS Dhoni remained tight-lipped regarding his participation in the next year's edition of the tournament.



Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on August 15 last year. When asked about his participation in next year's IPL, he had said, "When it comes to the farewell, you can come and see me play for CSK, and that can be my farewell game. So you will get the opportunity to bid me farewell. Hopefully, we will come to Chennai and play my last game over there and can meet all the fans."

Could not have asked for a better debut: Harshal Patel

Ranchi | Agencies

India pacer Harshal Patel, who bagged the Player of the Match award for his superb bowling in the second T20I against New Zealand, has insisted that he couldn't have asked for a better debut in international cricket. He also said that his plan was to stick to the processes he had followed during the Indian Premier League.

After bagging the purple cap by picking 32 wickets for Royal Challengers Bangalore in IPL 2021, Patel made his India debut in the second T20I against New Zealand in Ranchi, which the hosts won by seven wickets. For his figures of 2/25, Patel bagged the 'Player of the Match' award.

"It took me a lot of time to make my debut, but I do not have any regrets. I am very happy. My learnings during that time are helping me now. I could not have asked for a better debut," said Patel to Yuzvendra Chahal in a video released by BCCI on Saturday.



Patel also expressed surprise over vice-captain KL Rahul not getting the Player of the Match award for his knock of 65 off 49 balls. "In my mind, after the match ends, when you see the scoreboard, my name should be on top of the three bowlers. I did that but I did not expect to win the Man of the Match award. Honestly, I felt KL (Rahul) should have been given this award. But I am not complaining because the way he played on a difficult pitch, it was an exceptional

RAILWAYS HAMMER KARNATAKA TO WIN 13TH TITLE

Bengaluru | Agencies

Railways hammered Karnataka by eight wickets in the final of the Women's Senior One-Day Trophy at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday. It was also the 13th time that Railways, also the defending champions, had won the trophy, asserting its domination.

Mithali Raj-led Railways side after electing to field first, pacer Renuka K Singh blew Karnataka away with the new ball, taking out the top four of S Shubha, D Vrinda, G Divya, and captain Veda Krishnamurthy to leave the hosts reeling at 28/4 in eight overs.

In reply, Railways overhauled the meagre total in 22.2 overs with eight wickets in hand. Opener S Meghana top-scored with 36 from 43 balls, including five fours and a six. Though they lost Punam Raut and Meghana, Nuzhat Parween (20 not out off 38 balls) and D Hemalatha (17 not out off 23 balls) ensured that there were no more hiccups to Railways path of winning the final despite rain interrupting the proceedings in between.



Brief scores

Brief scores: Karnataka 74 all out in 38 overs (Niki Prasad 21, K Prathyoosha 16, Renuka K Singh 4/16, Swagatika Rath 2/7) lost to Railways 76/2 in 22.2 overs (S Meghana 36, Nuzhat Parween 20 not out, Shreyanka Patil 1/15, Sahana S Pawar 1/19) by eight wickets

ATP Finals: Ruud to face Medvedev in semis

Turin | Agencies

Casper Ruud of Norway rose to the challenge as he defeated Russia's Andrey Rublev 2-6, 7-5, 7-6(5) in a winner-takes-all 'Green Group' match to set up a semifinal clash with Daniil Medvedev at the year-end elite Nitto ATP Finals here. The 22-year-old bounced back from losing his opening round-robin match against Serbian Novak Djokovic by defeating Cameron Norrie of the UK to set up a crunch clash against Rublev, with the Russian also holding a 1-1 record after two matches. With the pressure on, Ruud used his aggressive game on Rublev, hitting his powerful groundstrokes with precision as he rallied from a break down in the second and third sets to secure his victory in two hours and 24 minutes. The world No. 8 has finished second in



the Green Group behind Djokovic and will

face Medvedev in the last four later on

Saturday, while the world No. 1 will play Germany's Alexander Zverev in the other semifinal. Ruud, who is making his debut at the season finale, fired 34 winners and broke Rublev three times as he rallied back to reduce his ATP head-to-head deficit to 1-4 against the 24-year-old. The Norwegian has enjoyed a standout 2021 season, capturing four-level titles in Geneva, Bastad, Gstaad, Kitzbuhel and San Diego. Ruud also reached the semifinals at ATP Masters 1000 events in Monte Carlo and Madrid and became the first Norwegian to crack the Top 10 in the ATP Rankings. Rublev was making his second appearance at the season finale, having fallen in the round-robin stage in London last year. Earlier this year, the fifth seed clinched the title in Rotterdam and reached the final at ATP Masters 1000 events in Monte Carlo and Cincinnati.

Shaheen Afridi becomes joint-leading wicket-taker in T20 Powerplay

Dhaka | Agencies

One of the most prolific and prospective bowlers of Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi has become the joint-leading wicket-taker in the Powerplay in T20s since 2020. He was once again exceptional with the new ball, striking in the first over of the innings against Bangladesh.

Afridi shares the lead with England's Samit Patel who also has taken

32 wickets in Powerplay since 2020.

A left-arm orthodox spinner and an attacking lower middle-order batsman, Samit Patel is now playing for Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.

With 31 wickets in his kitty, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is in the third position while Afghanistan's Mubeen Ur Rahman is 4th with 30 wickets in Powerplay since 2020.



Aamir Khan's 'Laal Singh Chaddha' locked for Baisakhi 2022 release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan has locked Baisakhi 2022 for the release of his much-talked-about film 'Laal Singh Chaddha'. It will hit the big screen on April 14, 2022.

Atul Kulkarni has done the Indian adaptation of the Academy Award-winning film 'Forrest Gump' that was written by Eric Roth. 'Laal Singh Chaddha' also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and has been directed by Advait Chandan with music by Pritam and lyrics by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The film is presented

by Viacom18 Studios.

Aamir Khan Productions and Viacom18 Studios announced the film's release date as Baisakhi, April 14, 2022 with a brand new

poster that captures the chemistry between Aamir and Kareena, who last worked together as a romantic pair in the blockbuster '3 Idiots'. Shot in over 100 locations across India, the love story spans

different time periods of the journey of the protagonists.

'Laal Singh Chaddha' is produced by Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao and Viacom18 Studios.



Balaji Telefilms, Pen Marudhar acquire India theatrical rights for 'Jersey'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The producers of the Shahid Kapoor-starrer 'Jersey' have tied up with Balaji Telefilms and Pen Marudhar for the film's pan-India theatrical release. The film is a remake of a Telugu film of the same title directed by Gowtam Tinnanuri and as it diversifies its exhibition territory, the producers of the film have completed the tie-up keeping in the mind the best possible release of the film.

Producer Aman Gill says, "After a long wait we are excited to be releasing our film 'Jersey' in theatres and we feel there is no better partner than Balaji Telefilms and Pen Marudhar to achieve the best release for our film."

Ekta Kapoor, Managing Director, Balaji Telefilms, adds, "A film like 'Jersey' deserves a theatre viewing experience and it is exciting that we are able to bring forth this for the audience."

Jayantilal Gada of Pen Marudhar echoes the thoughts as he says, "The content of this film is worthy of showcasing in theaters, and we are glad to have this opportunity to associate and release a great film."

The film, which is presented by Allu Arvind and produced by Aman Gill, Dil Raju, S. Naga Vamsi, and also features Mrunal Thakur and Pankaj Kapur. 'Jersey' is Shahid Kapoor's next mega release after his blockbuster outing 'Kabir Singh' and is all set for release on December 31, 2021.

**RICHA CHADHA
HAILS TIGMANSHU
DHULIA AS 'ONE OF
THE FINEST
DIRECTORS'**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Richa Chadha recently wrapped up filming of her upcoming web series 'Six Suspects', which is based on Vikas Swarup's 2008 novel of the same name.

The actress will be seen playing an investigating officer in the thriller show helmed by Tigmanshu Dhulia which also stars Pratik Gandhi, Ashutosh Rana, Shashank Arora and Raghavir Yadav.

The actress spoke highly of her director as she said, "Tigmanshu is one of the finest directors we have and it was always a dream to work with him someday. I am very happy about this collaboration. He kept me on my toes and I learnt a lot. My co-actors, Pratik Gandhi, Tishoo bhai, Ashutosh Rana, Shashank Arora and Raghavir Yadav, are all celebrated artistes."

With 'Six Suspects', Richa will continue her legacy of no nonsense roles. Her stint with content like 'Inside Edge', 'Unpaused' and 'Madam Chief Minister' to name a few, have given her the opportunity to portray strong-willed characters. 'Six Suspects' is soon to be released on Disney+ Hotstar.



Let's pledge to all children their childhood and their future: Ayushmann Khurrana

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Youth icon and Bollywood star Ayushmann Khurrana is a thought-leader who is aiming to bring constructive, positive changes in society with his progressive, conversation starting entertainers. Ayushmann, voted as one of the most influential people of the world by TIME Magazine, has been recently appointed as UNICEF's Celebrity Advocate for their global campaign EVAC (Ending Violence Against Children). On World Children's Day also known as Child Right's Day, Ayushmann reveals that the health crisis that happened during the pandemic has turned into an acute humanitarian and child rights crisis now. Ayushmann pledges to constantly work towards protecting child rights. He says, "We have seen that the pandemic that started as a health crisis has turned into an acute humanitarian and child rights crisis. Children are affected in many ways, directly and indirectly, such as losing

out on their physical and mental well-being, learning, social interactions, nutrition. Many lost their parents as well. We have children not only living an emotional tragedy, they are also at high risk of neglect, abuse and exploitation." He adds, "Let's pledge this



World Children's Day to give back to all children their childhood and their future, impacted due to the pandemic. COVID-19 has changed the way many of us will live and work. Let's reimagine and take action so that all children are protected from all manner of abuse; that they can safely go back to school and learn and are mentally and physically healthy."

'BIGG BOSS 15' BUZZ

Shamita Shetty all set to return to the house?

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shamita Shetty, who left the reality show 'Bigg Boss 15' on medical grounds, has re-entered the house, according to sources, and will be seen on 'Weekend Ka Vaar' with Rashami Desai, Devoleena Bhattacharjee and Abhijit Bichukale (last seen on 'Bigg Boss Marathi Season 2'), all of whom are wild card entries. The channel, though, has not confirmed this news.

Shamita left immediately after Raqesh Bapat's exit. It was rumoured initially that Raqesh could also re-enter the show, but it was confirmed later that he wasn't.

Bapat, in fact, took to social media to share updates on the state of his health and how he felt helpless, even though he was willing to continue in the show for a longer time. He thanked his fans for always supporting him.

His chemistry with Shamita, whether on 'Bigg Boss OTT' or on 'Bigg Boss 15', had caught the attention of their fans. The exit of both together therefore came as a shock. Now, as Shamita is returning, there could be more twists in the game inside the house, much to the delight of the fans of the show.

John Abraham: 'Satyameva Jayate 2' is for masses, not niche audience

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor John Abraham, who is playing a triple role for the first time in his career in his upcoming film 'Satyameva Jayate 2', says that the film has been quite specifically made for the mass audience who go to the theatres and enjoy the out-and-out commercial film.

The film is a sequel and the first instalment was released in 2018.

According to the actor, the second part is made purely after receiving approval from the audience that translated at the box-office.

While after the release of the trailer, on social media, it has received a lot of negative responses, John in conversation with IANS opens up on his thoughts. John told IANS: "Firstly, our film 'Satyameva Jayate 2' is made for the mass audience and not for the niche. People who buy tickets, go to the theatres, especially the audience of single-screen theatres in a small town, are not



bothered about the reviews and critical explanation. They want entertainment.

"That is why their enthusiasm is also reflected in the box-office collection. For us, actors and producers, that is the most important factor. I also must men-

tion that there is a clear disconnect between what is happening on social media and how that is played out on box-office collections. We made this film clearly for the mass audience who came to watch 'Satyameva Jayate'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shakti Mohan