For Generation Ace

Like our stories? Have something to share? Send in your bouquets and brickbats to absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com

facebook.com @absoluteindianews | twitter.com @absoluteindnews | instagram.com @absoluteindianews | Live TV Live Tv @absoluteindianews

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

absoluteindia

VOL. 7, ISSUE 276, BHOPAL | MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022 I ₹5 I PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL,MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02

Gang posing as Mumbai Police officials loot wellness company...

HOLLYWOOD > 06

Ashton Kutcher with moustache was 'like a different guy': Mila Kunis...

SPORTS > 07

Simona Halep moves into Toronto final; set to enter Top-10 in latest...

NOTICE

Happy Independence Day

Absolute India office will observe holiday on 15th August 2022. Next issue will be published on 17th August 2022.

Editor

'DATE WITH DESTINY' TO 'TRYST WITH DESTINY'

INDIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S FAMOUS 'FREEDOM AT MIDNIGHT' SPEECH OF 1947

"We think also of our brothers and sisters who have been cut off from us by political boundaries and who unhappily cannot share at present in the freedom that has come. They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen, and we shall be sharers in their good and ill fortune alike. Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. Freedom and power bring responsibility. And the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell. To the nations and peoples of the world we send greetings and pledge ourselves to cooperate with them in furthering peace, freedom and democracy. And to India, our much-loved motherland, the ancient, the eternal and the ever-new, we pay our reverent homage and we bind ourselves afresh to her service."

PREZ HIGHLIGHTS INDIA'S SUCCESS STORY

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu in her maiden address to the nation on the eve of Independence Day talked about India's vibrant democracy, success story of Covid vaccines, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the growth of the country's economy after the pandemic. The President on Sunday said that it is a cause of celebration "not only for all of us but also for every advocate of democracy around the world". "When India won independence, there were many international leaders and experts who were sceptical about the success of democratic form of government in India. They had their reasons to be doubtful. In those days, democracy was limited to economically advanced nations. India, after so many years of exploitation at the hands of foreign rulers, was marked by poverty and illiteracy. But we Indians proved the skeptics wrong. Democracy not only grew roots in this soil, it was enriched too," the President said.

Murmu said that 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' festival is dedicated to the people of India. "Based on the success achieved by the people, the resolve to build 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is also a part of this Mahotsav. Citizens from all age-groups have keenly participated in a series of events held across the country," she added.

The President said that the pandemic has uprooted lives and also economies in the entire world. "The government and policy-makers deserve credit for beating the global trend and helping the economy flourish. During the last few years, unprecedented progress has been made in the development of physical and digital infrastructure."

BJP'S VIDEO BLAMES CONGRESS, COMMUNISTS FOR PARTITION

New Delhi: *On Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, the BJP blamed the Congress and the Communists for accepting the demand of the Muslim League for a separate nation. In an over seven-minute video released by the saffron party on Sunday, the BJP indirectly blamed Jawaharlal Nehru and Congress leaders for bowing to the demand of a separate nation raised by the Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, instead of opposing it. While narrating the story of Partition, the video frequently shows Nehru and Jinnah. It also features Cyril John Radcliffe, who drew the map to divide India into two nations, asking how those who had no knowledge of Indian culture, heritage, civilisation and values drew borders between people living together for centuries in just three weeks.*

"Where were those people at that time who had the responsibility of fighting against these divisive forces," the BJP asked while sharing the video on Twitter. At the end, the BJP also blamed the Communists for the Partition.

TRAGEDY OF PARTITION CAN'T BE MISUSED TO FUEL HATE: CONG

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday attacked the BJP for 'using' the tragedy of partition for political goals.

Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh alleged that the real intent of the Prime Minister to mark August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' is to use the most traumatic historical events as fodder for his current political battles. Ramesh said "The truth is Savarkar originated 2 nation theory and Jinnah perfected it. Sardar Patel wrote, 'I felt that if we did not accept partition, India would be split into many bits and would be completely ruined'.

"Will the PM also recall Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, the founder of the Jan Sangh, who championed the Partition of Bengal against the wishes of Sarat Chandra Bose, and who sat in free India's first Cabinet while the tragic consequences of Partition were becoming evident?" he added

The Congress alleged that the "modern day Savarkars and Jinnahs are continuing their efforts to divide the nation. The politics of hate will be defeated".

IMRAN KHAN ALL PRAISE FOR INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Lahore: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has once again praised Indias foreign policy, which he said works for the people of the country.

Speaking at a rally in Lahore on Saturday, Khan said that India bought oil from Russia because it was in its people's interest, but the Pakistan government did not have the guts to do so, despite skyrocketing inflation, ARY News reported."If India can safeguard the interests of their people, why cannot our government do the same? Because they are afraid about their foreign properties," he said.

At the rally, as per reports, Khan played a video clip of Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar.

"Jaishankar is telling them who are you? Jaishakar said 'Europe is buying gas from Russia and we will also buy it as people need it'. This is what an independent country should be like," Khan said while praising India.

PM Narendra Modi likely to announce key health projects today

Team Absolute | New Delhi

This Independence Day is likely to witness key announcements including "Heal in India" and "Heal by India" projects in the health sector by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to sources, PM Modi's speech from the Red Fort on August 15 may also mention the expansion of the National Health Mission under a new name, "PM Samagra Swasthya Mission".

Under the "Heal in India" campaign, the medical infrastructure at 37 institutions in 12 states will be strengthened with a view to establish the nation as a major destination for wellness and medical travel.

Highlights of the project also include streamlined visa requirements for international patients and their partners, interpreters and special desks at 10 designated airports, a bilingual portal, and more.

The government has selected 44 countries, mostly in Africa, Latin America, the SAARC, and the Gulf, from which a considerable number of people travel to India for medical treatment.

They said that the price and standard of care in these countries were also taken into consideration.

Similarly, as part of Heal by India initiative, the Health Ministry is creating an online database of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. Heal by India initiative aims to position the country as a global source of trained and competent labour in the health sector.

The database will also include a section where professionals can specify the country in which they are most interested in providing their services.

'NAGA NATIONAL FLAG' HOISTED TO CELEBRATE 'NAGA I-DAY'

All eyes are on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech from the ramparts of Red Fort on Monday morning.

Kohima/Imphal | Agencies

The Naga tribals hoisted the "Naga national flag" and organised programmes in Nagaland and at many villages in the Naga dominated areas of Manipur on Sunday to celebrate the "Naga Independence Day".

A considerable number of Naga tribals inhabited in many of the 16 hill districts of Manipur while there are Kuki tribals in these hill districts, bordering Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram and Myanmar.

A statement said: "All Nagas unite with one decision, one faith, and one politics on the principle of Nagalim for Christ. The Nagas have endured 25 years of gruelling ceasefire living up to "our commitment for a peaceful solution of the Naga political issue. We have also waited patiently for seven long years after the historic Framework Agreement was signed on August 3, 2015. We have not left any stone unturned of what it takes to bring a solution that is honourable, inclusive, and acceptable to both the Nagas and the Government of India. The ball is now in the court of the Government of India to make the right move and to fulfil the commitment given to the Nagas."

Manipur-based All Naga Students' Association (ANSA) in a separate statement referring to a Manipur government notification said that the blanket order to hoist Indian National Flag on August 15 circulated in various departments including the education department whereby "directly and indirectly confronting the rights and sentiments of the Nagas and provoking us is condemned".

PUNJAB POLICE BUST ISI-BACKED TERRORIST MODULE

Chandigarh: Thwarting a possible terrorist attack ahead of Independence Day, Punjab Police have busted a Pakistan's ISI-backed terrorist module with the arrest of four members associated with Canada-based gangsters.The accused were associated with Arshdeep Singh, a.k.a. Arsh Dala, and Australia-based gangster Gurjant Singh, a.k.a. Janta. They were apprehended from Delhi during the intelligence-led operation carried out by the Counter-Intelligence unit of Punjab Police with the help of Delhi Police.The Police have also ecovered three hand-grenades (P-86), one IED and two 9 mm pistols along with 40 cartridges from the possession of arrested persons, said Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav here on Sunday.This is the third such module of cross-border smuggling of arms and explosives that has been busted by the Punjab Police in less than a week.

Those arrested have been identified as Deepak Sharma of Moga; Sandeep Singh of Ferozepur; and Sunny Dagar and Vipin Jakhar, both of Delhi.

Akasa Air founder, top broker Rakesh Jhunjhunwala passes away

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Top broker-investor and founder of the recently-launched Akasa Air Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, passed away here on Sunday morning, a close friend said.

A Chartered Accountant by qualification and training, he was 62 and is survived by his wife Rekha and two children. Often referred to as the 'King of Bulls' in the stock markets, Jhunjhunwala's latest venture Akasa Air's maiden flight took off exactly a week ago on August 7, last Sunday.He had also shot into the limelight for his palace-like new residence coming up at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai, and had been on the board of several top companies. hunjhunwala had an estimated net worth of $5.5 Billion (as of July 2022), which made him the 36th richest man in India. Jhunjhunwala was also chairman of Hungama Media and Aptech, as well as a director of Viceroy Hotels, Concord Biotech, Provogue India, and Geojit Financial Services .Jhunjhunwala invested Rs 5,000 in capital in 1985 which grew to Rs 11,000 crore by September 2018. The first big profit of Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was Rs 5 lakh in 1986. Between 1986 and 1989, he earned almost Rs 20-25 lakh profit.

Akasa Air is an Indian airline co-founded by Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and former Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dubey. The airline currently has two aircraft with additional order for 70 more aircraft and flies to three cities as of August 9.

CUET RESULT FOR UG ADMISSIONS LIKELY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

New Delhi: The result of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for undergraduate (UG) admissions in colleges and universities is likely to be announced in early September.

The exams are being conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The examinations, that are being held in six phases due to several instances technical glitches leading to postponement and cancellation, started on July 15 and will end on August 30.

The result of CUET-UG will be released on the website of NTA.Along with this, the results will be sent to various concerned Central and other universities. The universities and colleges will release the cut-off list on the basis of this result after which the new session of the first year will start in the colleges.Around 6.31 lakh students have appeared in the CUET-UG examinations so far in 3 phases.

Admit cards are being issued to the candidates for the CUET-UG examinations' fourth phase scheduled on August 17, 18 and 20. A total of 3.72 lakh candidates will appear in this phase.

As per the NTA, the CUET-UG phase 5 examination will be held on August 21, 22 and 23, for which the admit card will be issued on August 17.

Tribal woman Panchayat president in TN to hoist national flag for first time

Chennai | Agencies

An Irula tribal woman, Saraswathi Vijayan who is the president of Velukkattai Panchayat in Krishnagiri district, will hoist the national flag for the first time since she assumed office two years ago.

The Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front (TNUEF) conducted a recent survey in 24 districts of the state and found that several Panchayat presidents of the Dalit community were not allowed to hoist the national flag and many were not even allowed a seat in office.

It may be noted that after the survey report was carried extensively by the media, Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary, V. Irai Anbu ordered all the district collectors to prevent caste discrimination while hoisting the national flag during the Independence day celebrations.

Saraswathi Vijayan, who became president of Velukkattai Panchayat in January 2020, was not allowed to hoist the flag on the Panchayat premises. During Republic Day celebrations in 2020, she had to hoist the flag at Panchayat Union Middle school instead of the Panchayat office.

After this news came to light, Velukkattai Panchayat secretary and BDO went to the spot on Thursday and erected a pole on the premises of the Panchayat for the president to hoist the national flag on the Independence day celebrations.

While the Dravidian political parties of Tamil Nadu have been professing the ideology of Periyar, in practice clear demarcation and discrimination are happening to many Dalit families in Tamil Nadu. It may be recalled that in October 2021, there were a series of murders in South Tamil Nadu with Dalits and upper caste clashing against each other.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER BREAKS OUT IN SRINAGAR

Srinaga | Agencies

Ahead of the Independence Day, a chance encounter has started between terrorists and security forces at Nowhatta in downtown Srinagar on Sunday, officials said.

"Chance encounter started in Nowhatta area of Srinagar. Police and CRPF are on the job," police said.

Additional reinforcements of police and security forces have reached the spot and the area has been cordoned off.

There have been a series of encounters between terrorists and security forces across Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of this year in which many terrorists and their commanders have been eliminated.

One scooter, one AK-47 rifle and two grenades were recovered by the security forces from the site of the chance encounter in the old city area of Srinagar on Sunday.

The police said one scooter used by the terrorist, one AK-47 rifle and two grenades were recovered from the Nowhatta old city area in Srinagar where a chance encounter took place between the security forces and a terrorist on Sunday evening. One police constable, Sarfraz Ahmad from Batote in Ramban district, was injured in the encounter. Ahmad has been shifted to the hospital where his condition is stated to be stable so far.

Searches are on to trace the terrorist, who was injured in the encounter.

GUNFIGHT BREAKS OUT AT RAJOURI IN J&K

Srinagar: An encounter has started between terrorists and security forces at Kandra hills area in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Sunday.

The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area.

Security forces cordoned off the area. Terrorists hiding there started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces. "Today, at around 7.30 p.m., operational contact has been established by troops of Indian Army, Rashtriya Rifles and SOG with terrorists at Kandra Hill in district Rajouri (J&K)," army said. There have been a series of encounters between terrorists and security forces across Jammu and Kashmir over the last few months.

Bid to create violence in Manipur on I-Day foiled; 8 militants held

Imphal | Agencies

Eight top cadres of banned militant outfit People's Liberation Army (PLA) were arrested from four districts of Manipur and their attempt to create violence ahead of the Independence Day was foiled, defence sources and police said on Sunday.

A defence spokesman said that in a major blow to the proscribed insurgent group PLA's nefarious design to disrupt the 75th Independence Day celebrations in Manipur, Assam Rifles alongwith Manipur Police launched a series of intelligence-based joint operations from August 11 to 13 and foiled major sabotage activities.

He said that eight hardcore insurgents of PLA were arrested from Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Kakching districts.

During the operation, two 9 mm pistols with magazines, 35 live rounds and two hand grenades were recovered.

These insurgents were also involved in killing of non-Manipuri local residents at Kakching town and Andro village in Imphal East district, recently.

This successful joint operation would be a big step in ensuring peace and tranquility in Manipur, the spokesman said.

Apprehended insurgents along with recovered arms and ammunition were handed over to Manipur Police.

A senior police officer said that following the preliminary investigation, it was revealed that the extremists have been targeting non-locals in the valley districts.

Punjab resumes Bhagat Singh award for youth

Chandigarh | Agencies

On the eve of the country's 75th Independence Day, the Punjab government on Sunday announced to restart the Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh State Yuva Award, which was lying defunct for long. Two youth from each district of the state will get the award.

The aim to resume this award is to make the youth a partner in the development of the state, besides empowering them. The Yuva Bhavan constructed in Chandigarh is also being renovated and revived as a centre of excellence.

Sports and Youth Services Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer said the government is making efforts to disseminate the ideology of Bhagat Singh and prepare

the youth for taking leadership role in the state.

The award carries a cash amount of Rs 51,000, a medal, a scroll, a blazer and a certificate.

The award is given to two persons in the age of 15 to 35 years from each district of the state.

Youth welfare activities, NCC, NSS, social services, cultural activities, sports, national unity, blood donation, awareness against drugs, educational merit, heroic deeds, scouts and guiding and adventure activities are the criterion for bestowing the award.

Gang posing as Mumbai Police officials loot wellness company in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Inspired by Akshay Kumar-starrer Bollywood flick 'Special 26', four persons, including two women, posing as Mumbai Police officials robbed a wellness company in the national capital, an official said on Sunday.

The gang comprised eight members in total, of which seven have been arrested by Delhi Police. They have been identified as Prashant Kumar Patil (29), Jahid (43), Neha alias Anjali (30), Neha Kashyap (22), Imran (20), Faisal (42) and Sanjay Manocha (52). Search is on for the eighth accused.

Furnishing the details, Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) Usha Rangnani said that Vijay Yadav, the complainant who owns a wellness company located in Netaji Subhash Place Complex in Pitampura, approached the police on August 10 and said that four persons, claiming to be from the Mumbai Police, entered his office on the pretext of conducting a raid.

"They started physically assaulting Yadav and demanded Rs 20 lakh from him. They also forced the complainant to call his wife at gunpoint and ask for the money. The complainant's wife then came with Rs 5.75 lakh, which was collected by a female gang member from outside the office," the DCP said.

At around 5:30 p.m., the robbers locked the complainant and his four female employees in the office and left with the cash, 10 mobile phones, one laptop and around 45,000 cash collected from inside the office. During investigation, the police came to know about few other suspects who had accompanied the four robbers, but didn't enter the office. It was suspected that these other accused persons might have been known to the complainant due to which they didn't go inside the office. "Raids were conducted at several locations and one suspect, Prashant Kumar Patil, was nabbed," Rangnani said.

On sustained interrogation, Patil disclosed that he along with seven others, including two women, were involved in this robbery. On Patil's instance, both the accused women were nabbed from different locations in Delhi. uring further interrogation, it was found that two other accused -- Jahid alias Guru Jee and Sanjay Manocha -- had fled to Mewat in Haryana, while three others -- Majid, Faisal and Imran -- fled to Bhopal and Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh. The police then conducted multiple raids and arrested Jahid from Mewat, Imran from Vidisha, Faisal from Bhopal, and Sanjay from his hideout in Delhi. "Within 72 hours of the incident, seven out of the eight accused persons were nabbed by the police. The cash they had robbed has also been recovered," Rangnani said.

During the course of investigation, it was found that Mazid, Faisal, Imran and Neha alias Anjali had entered the office of the complainant, presenting themselves as Mumbai Police officials.

Since, the other accused persons were known to the complainant, they didn't go inside.

Jahid and Prashant were the main conspirators of this robbery.

Ghana national held for running Customs clearance racket

New Delhi: The Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a Ghana National who was part of a module of cheaters engaged in duping people on the pretext of Customs clearance for high valued overseas gifts.

The accused, identified as Godfrey Appiah alias King Kevin, was living in India even after his visa had expired. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of IFSO, K.P.S. Malhotra, said that a complaint was received wherein the complainant had alleged that he had been duped of Rs 12,75,000 on the pretext of Customs clearance on a puported gift sent by a woman named Salviya Graffin.

The woman, after befriending him on Facebook in May, gradually started chatting with him and after gaining his confidence, told him that she has sent a gift to him. "Soon after, he started receiving phone calls from unknown persons claiming to be from the Customs department and other agencies, asking him to pay for the Customs clearance and other charges for the gift. Accordingly, a case was regis-

Push for agro export promotion to achieve USD 23.56 billion target for 2022-23

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a renewed push for agro export promotion to achieve USD 23.56 billion target for 2022-23, APEDA, an export promotion body for agricultural products of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has made an outreach strategy.

Officials said that nearly 300 events will be organised under the plan in the current year for boosting exports. The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) has planned to create awareness among stakeholders of food export by highlighting its impact on human life through various online platforms, including social media platforms.

As per the proposed outreach strategy, it is planned to establish a strong and regular connection with exporters, farmers, Agriprenures, food processors, logistics providers, foreign exchange management companies, etc, with the help of different mainstream publications and electronic channels as well as prominent social media platforms by highlighting a list of potential products have an abundant export potential.

A list of potential markets will also be displayed at various social media platforms. Besides country-wise and product-wise specific requirements of India's export potential, products would be highlighted especially at the APEDA portal for exporters.

Also, quick updation of importing countries' requirements immediately may be circulated among the stakeholders and product wise benefits of India's exports to its preferential partner countries would also be highlighted to grab more opportunity in the partner countries.

To attract more exporters, APEDA export procedures would be circulated at various platforms especially at electronic media and one pager news of its procedure for export to be circulated at grass root and village level along with its benefits.

Working in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call towards creating Atmanirbhar Bharat, focus is on nurturing potential budding Agriprenures through practical and technical training and motivate them to choose agriculture export as an attractive career.

The apex agro export promotion body of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry also proposed to organise a programme for Agriprenures to harvest export opportunities from diversified agro climatic zones in India.

The stakeholders in agri supply chain such as farmers, students, officials, etc would be oriented for agriculture export procedures, guidelines, fiscal and financial incentives in agri supply chain from government, sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues in supply chain viz., residues, maximum residue limits, traceability, etc.

J&K LG PERFORMS 'SAMAPAN POOJA' MARKING END OF AMARNATH YATRA

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday morning performed the 'Samapan Pooja' which marks the end of annual Amarnath Yatra, and prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the people.

"I truly admire and appreciate the selfless contribution of all stakeholders and citizens for making this difficult Yatra hassle-free for the pilgrims", said the Lt. Governor. The Lt. Governor lauded the efforts of J&K Police, Army, CAPFs, Airforce, NDRF, SDRF, volunteers, doctors, healthcare personnel, political and religious leaders, Sant Samaj, Shrine Board officials, UT Administration, langar organisers, telecom service providers, sanitation workers, ponywalas, pithuwalas, civil society groups and other enlightened citizens from all walks of life for ensuring successful culmination of this year's Yatra. Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and the UT Administration had made all the arrangements for carrying out traditional religious rituals at the holy cave. Meanwhile, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board facilitated the carriage of Holy Mace (Pavitra Chhari) to the Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnathji.

GOVERNOR, CM OTHERS GREET PEOPLE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his cabinet colleagues and Leader of Opposition in the state assembly Govind Singh have extended greetings and best wishes to state's people on the occasion of 75th Independence Day.

Governor Patel Remembered martyrs Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaq Ullah Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose besides all known and unknown freedom fighters and paid tributes to them.

Governor Patel called for developing character and moral values drawing inspiration from sacrifices, personality and ideals of freedom fighters. This is the festival for strengthening national unity, peace and harmony. The Governor exhorted youths to contribute their mite in development of state and country and peace and progress of state's residents.

The Governor has wished for prosperity of state's residents on the occasion.

Chief Minister Chouhan has extended greetings and best wishes to people of the state on Independence Day. In his message Chouhan wished that may the sacred festival of Independence Day bring about a new message for progress and development of state and country. He urged people to resolve on the occasion to defend the freedom attained through sacrifices made by martyrs and contribute their best to development of the state and country. He urged state's people to engage themselves in state's development with renewed vigor and dedication.Leader of Opposition in the state assembly Govind Singh congratulating the people of the state said, "The supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs for the freedom of the country could never be forgotten. We have to maintain our independence at every cost and have to lead the country and the state on the path of development and prosperity."

Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang has greeted state's people on Independence Day. In his message, Sarang said that Independence Day rekindles the memories of brave sons of the soil whose struggle resulted in India's freedom. He urged state's people to undertake united efforts for state's progress with renewed vigor.

Bhopal Mayor Malti Rai in her message said that the occasion of Independence Day reminds us of the supreme sacrifice made by great martyrs for the mother land. It is an occasion to pay tribute to them. It is the time to bow in reverence to the memory of all those sacrifices that made it possible for us to enjoy freedom, she added.

Dam breach: Situation 'under control now:' CM

ON THURSDAY, LEAKAGE WAS REPORTED FROM THE DAM, BEING CONSTRUCTED ABOUT 35 KM FROM THE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, FOLLOWING WHICH A FLOOD ALERT WAS SOUNDED DOWNSTREAM OF THE RESERVOIR.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said the situation in Dhar district, where a breach was reported in a wall of the reservoir, is under control now. He also said about a bypass channel being created, which will help enable the discharge of water to reduce the pressure on the reservoir walls.

On Thursday, leakage was reported from the dam, being constructed about 35 km from the district headquarters, following which a flood alert was sounded downstream of the reservoir. "The whole team is keeping an eye on the Dhar dam.
Preparations are on to ensure the safety of the public," the chief minister added. On Sunday, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed two medium-lift helicopters to Indore following a request by the state government for humanitarian assistance disaster relief (HADR) near the Karam River dam.Meanwhile, the IAF is working with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the state government for any operations that have to be undertaken, it said in a statement.

Around 200 army personnel, including engineers, and three teams of the NDRF from Bhopal and Gujarat's Vadodara Surat are at Dhar. Besides them, eight groups of the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) are also at Dhar to bring the situation under control.

The water started releasing safely through the channel at 3 am on Sunday, local officials said. A pause in rains in Dhar since Friday has also stopped water from accumulating further in the reservoir. The local officials further said that

almost 18 villages downstream would have submerged had the dam burst.

As a precautionary measure, people from 12 villages in Dhar district and six villages in Khargone district have been shifted to safer places.

State water resources minister Tulsi Silawat and industries minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon had gone to the dam site to take stock of the situation.

Notably, the dam is coming up at a cost of Rs 304 crore, of which Rs 174 crore has been spent so far.

People's life, Safety is our priority: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has given necessary instructions to the concerned officials after getting information about safe and harmless drainage of water from the dam of the Karam Medium Irrigation Project under construction in Dharampuri tehsil of Dhar district. Chouhan said that it is good to note that the speed at which the drainage started from last evening has picked up pace. Efforts to secure the dam have been successful. Our priority and commitment is also the safety of the lives of the people. It has also been ensured that there is no harm to cattle along with humans. Not only this, instructions have been given that there should be no harm in the villages too.

Chouhan was getting updated information about the work of safe drainage of water as well as accommodation, food and other arrangements for the residents of nearby villages at the Situation Room in Mantralaya on Sunday. He instructed the administration to make necessary arrangements for the people living in the relief centres.

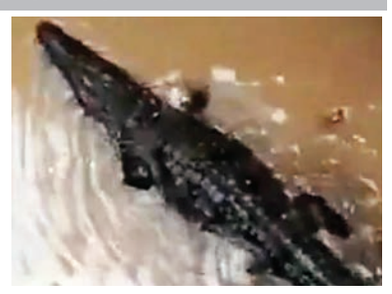
Chouhan reached the Situation Room located at Mantralaya on Sunday morning following continuous monitoring and issuing necessary instructions and received information while discussing with Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat, Chief Engineer Water Resources Madan Singh Dabur, Chief Engineer Chandrashekhar Ghatale and Dhar Collector and SP. Two other ministers, Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon and Prabhuram Choudhary are also visiting the dam area to take stock of the arrangements. CM also discussed with the member of Dam Safety Authority Vivek Tripathi. CM took the information about the current water level of the dam and took details of the aspects of its coming to a safe condition. Chouhan discussed over phone with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat this morning and gave them information about the plan and its implementation to secure the lives of the residents of the dam area and the release of the water to the river by constructing a separate route from the dam.

Chouhan informed that till yesterday there was a situation of release of about 10 cumecs, which has been successfully increased three and a half times today to 35 cumecs. Measures to increase it are also being considered. The entire action is being taken keeping in mind the safety of life and property. CM said that efforts are being made on a war footing to ensure that the people are completely safe and the dam should be in a safe condition due to the drainage started by constructing a bypass channel. The situation is completely under control. Once the drainage started, the earthen wall was expected to widen and allow more water to drain out, but the expected amount of water did not drain due to side wall. Now the effort is to create a completely safe environment by removing maximum water from the dam as soon as possible. We will not rest until this task is completed.

Crocodile Enters Residential Colony, Rescued

The reptile was spotted in a colony near the old bus stand in the early hours of the day, following which the authorities were informed.

Team Absolute | Shivpuri



A crocodile wandered into a residential colony in Shivpuri district amid heavy rainfall on Sunday and was captured after an hour-long operation, an official said.

The reptile was spotted in a colony near the old bus stand in the early hours of the day, following which the authorities were informed, sub divisional officer of police (SDOP) Ajay Bhargava said.

A rescue team from Madhav National Park was called in and the crocodile was captured after an hour-long effort, he said, adding that the eight-foot-long reptile was later released in Sankhya Sagar Lake According to officials, the crocodile might have entered the colony from a swollen nullah passing next to it.

In a video of the rescue operation, the crocodile can be seen in front of a house in a narrow lane of the residential colony.

Following the rain on Saturday night, the district administration directed its employees not to leave the headquarters without prior permission of the collector.

CM PLANTS NEEM, BADAM AND HARSINGAR SAPLINGS

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem, Badam and Harsingar saplings in Smart Udyan on Sunday. Members of Nisha Education Welfare Society, Bhopal and journalist Prasanna Shahane and family also accompanied Chief Minister Chouhan in planting saplings. Neem planted today is known as the supreme medicine rich in antibiotic properties. Consumption of almonds is considered useful in high blood pressure, constipation and heart disease. It is rich in potassium, magnesium, calcium and vitamin E Harsingar is an excellent medicinal plant.

MP set to become fifth state to implement Model Tenancy Act

Madhya Pradesh is preparing to become the fifth state to implement the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) which was approved by the Union cabinet in June 2020.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh is preparing to become the fifth state to implement the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) which was approved by the Union cabinet in June 2020.

The process to implement the tenancy laws has been initiated and a draft has been prepared by the urban development department of the Madhya Pradesh government. The state government has recently sought public suggestions regarding the implementation of this law and this proposal is likely to be put before the cabinet soon.

Sources claimed that once the proposal gets approval from the cabinet, it can be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Assembly. The Monsoon Session is scheduled in September.

Officials who are associated with this development said the state has prepared the Madhya Pradesh Tenancy Act on the basis of the Model Tenancy Act, 2021 of the Centre. The officials said the intention of the government is that the tenancy market should grow and should be regulated by proper norms.

"There are many important aspects of this act, the most important of which is that the mutual agreement between the landlord and the tenant will now become a right. This agreement shall be within the legal framework," said an official in the urban housing department.

At present, such agreements are done on nominal stamp paper and they do not remain in any legal framework. After the MTA system is introduced, the tenant will not be able to occupy the house illegally. If someone wants to rent a house for living, then he will have to give two months advance payment and if he wants to take the place for business then he will have to give six months advance payment.

Similarly, the owner of the building will have to appeal to the competent authority to vacate the premises before the expiry of the contract.

If the contract is to be renewed, then a request has to be made one month before the expiry. The tenancy system will also be applicable to the premises of government buildings, universities, organisations, religious institutions.

The agreement will have complete details of the premises, Aadhaar number and there will be full information with the photos of both the tenant and the landlord, as per the draft prepared by the state government.

It said that the information about the agreement has to be given to the Gram Panchayat or Panchayat Samiti or Zila Panchayat or Municipal Corporation or Municipality or Nagar Panchayat or Development Authority or Housing Board within one month.

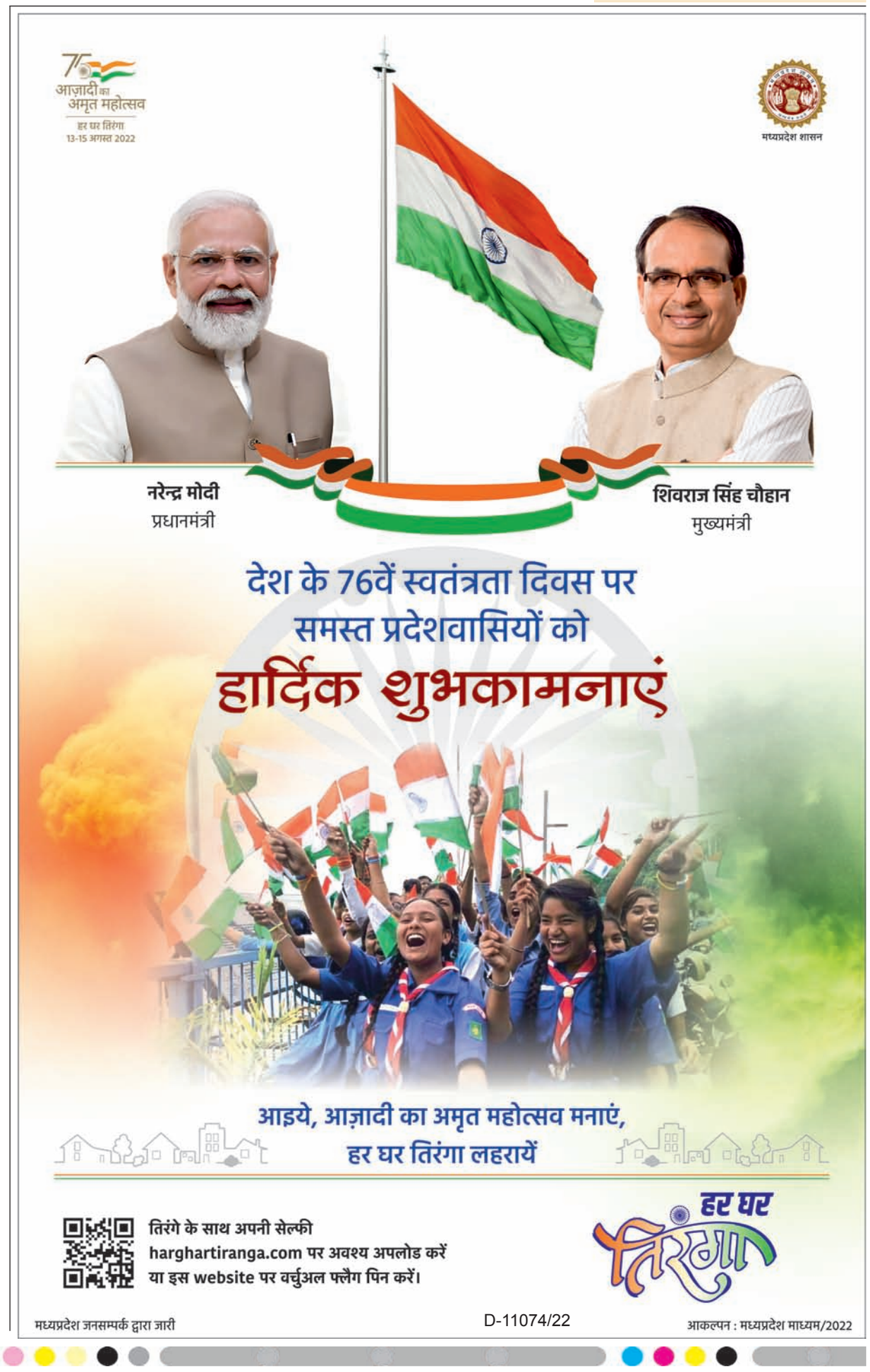
The competent entity will give a number to the tenancy agreement. It will be uploaded on the digital government system. Tenants will not be able to keep another tenant in the same premises. There will be no sub-agreement.

The security amount will be refunded to the tenant on the date of vacating the premises. There will be two copies of the agreement. One will remain with the owner and the other with the tenant. Both the owner and the tenant will be responsible for repairing common wear and tear.

If both refuse to do any work, then the owner will be able to get the repair done by deducting the security amount and the tenant after deducting the money from the rent.

Notably, over a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) in June 2021, only four states have so far revised their tenancy laws.

Earlier in July, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore replying to a query in the Rajya Sabha said, "As per information available with MoHUA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have revised Tenancy Acts on the lines of MTA."



EDITOR'S SPECS

'Jhanda Ooncha Rahe Humara'

The family of Shyamlal Gupta 'Prashad', the writer of the patriotic song 'Jhanda Ooncha Rahe Hamara' will be felicitated in his village at Narwal in Kanpur at Ganesh Sewa Ashram. Shyamlal Gupta's three grandsons Rakesh Gupta, Sanjay Gupta and Rajesh Gupta live with their families in in a dingy lane of Jagannath Road in Generalganj, Kanpur. Gupta, who belonged to Kanpur, had vowed to walk barefoot till the country attained freedom from the British. Vinayak Singh, Block Development Officer of Sarsaul, said that the freedom fighter's school, Omar Vaishya Inter College on Birhana Road in Kanpur, is holding Tiranga Yatras and a lecture series with a theme centred on him. Shyamlal Gupta was born on September 9, 1896 as the third child of Visheshwar Prasad and Kaushalya Devi. He penned the 'Jhanda' song on March 3, 1924 and it became a sensation in no time. The song became so popular that Khanna Press had published 5000 copies of it. Among several patriotic numbers written in those times, it was given the title of 'Jhanda Geet' or the flag song. The same year, the All India Congress Committee also recognised it as the flag song and it was sung for the first time on Jallianwala Bagh Diwas on April 13, 1924 at Phoolbagh, Kanpur, in the presence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Sarojini Naidu presented this song at the Haripura session of the Congress in the presence of Mahatma Gandhi in 1938, and she even sung it in the film "Azadi ki Raah" 10 years later. Several historians have expressed dissatisfaction that Shyamlal Gupta Prashad remain a forgotten freedom fighter. Among the freedom fighters, he was unique. He not only walked barefoot, but also never used an umbrella till India got its freedom.

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

Asad Mirza

India is celebrating 75 years of its independence. An apt time to reconcile the republic's gains and losses and also access where the critics of the current government have gone wrong.

15 August 2022, India and Indians have travelled a long way on the road to democracy during the last 75 years. We have every reason to be proud of our country and its achievements. The government has planned big events across the country to commemorate the 75 years of Independence as 'AmritMahotsav'.

However, the critics of the current government say that the Indian democracy is under siege. They point out further that Indian democracy is in serious decline according to major international democracy rankings, or that India may no longer be a democracy at all.

They allegedly claim that the deterioration in the quality of Indian democracy has only accelerated since the 2019 re-election of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

What the critics say

Critics also allege that due to the social engineering initiated by the BJP, historically oppressed Bahujan (backward) communities who do not conform to the image of a good Hindu are sought to be marginalised as do the religious minorities who find themselves identified as internal enemies.

Bemoaning further they allege that liberals and leftists, activists who have raised issues of the environment and human rights, and anyone else perceived to be "anti-national" have been included to the list of internal enemies.

They turn hoarse saying dissent is muzzled, increasingly through official edicts. Old controversies like in Mathura and Varanasi over temples and mosques are reignited, and claims that mosques were built upon the demolition of temples have resurfaced.

They allege that the social fabric knitted together by India's diverse communities is being torn and new religious flashpoints have been created.

But here it would be pertinent to note that India shares its democratic degradation with many other countries across the world. This process has been variously described as authoritarian, populist, ethnocratic, exclusionary and fascist.

But to be sure, the dominant groups in ethnocracies value democracy - at least for themselves - and often take pride in their democratic institutions. But a polity based on the structural exclusion of a section of its population cannot reasonably be said to qualify as a democracy.

India under Modi

Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gone on to extol India as the mother of all democracies, invoking the country's heritage of participatory decision-making and checks and balances.

However, all these shrill noises of criticism and dissent beg a question. If all these accusations are true, then what has prevented the other political parties of India to prevent this bulldozing by the BJP and adopt the practices and systems which have made the BJP - a party which it is today.

Critics say that mobilisation of interest groups and booth management efforts are underway in full swing as is the momentum for the next general elections. Is there anything that can stop the BJP juggernaut?

There is a good reason why the BJP is in power in 18 states out of 28, and has more than 400 members in Parliament, and 1,300 legislators in state assemblies.

Driving the party is its 'here and now' approach. There is no room for political complacency - with an energetic prime minister who communicates with the people directly; there is simply no other option for the karyakartas (workers).

Contrast this with other political parties, BJP's careful planning,

managing its cadres and execution resulted in these victories, whereas the GOP of India i.e. the Indian National Congress had lost the plot much before the 2014 elections.

Opposition parties

The INC it seems had taken the electorate for granted, the young emerging leadership of the party was side-lined by the old satraps, its party management at the legislative and ground-level both had floundered completely. I myself had witnessed 2 general elections in UP before 2014, where at booth level the party had no both agents or managers to manage the voters.

We also should not forget the long list of communal riots, which happened under the Congress rule: from Moradabad to Aligarh to Bhagalpur to Nellie, Assam. The long process to bring the culprits to justice, the court ruling in Hashimpura case came after 31 years of the massacre.

It claimed to be concerned for Muslims but in fact no confirmatory action was taken by any Congress-led government after the Ranganath Misra Commission's report of 2004 or Sachar Committee's report of 2006. So the words were only hollow with no concerted action forthcoming.

Before that the Communists, too had lost the plot completely. Their rout was more or less linked to the booming of the Indian economy after India opened up its economy and the market reforms rolled in. The middle class which now had access to more consumer goods and could aspire to a more lavish life style, had no place for the politics of demonstrations and agitations.

The other smaller parties like the Samajwadi or the RJD or the NC, except the south Indian parties were interested in furthering their own petty selfish goals and they were nearly decimated under the BJP juggernaut.

As far as the minorities of India are concerned and particularly the largest minority i.e. the Muslims, they themselves are to be blamed for their woes.

After independence the community as a whole seems to have withdrawn into a shell. It was not seen as part of the Indian mainstream, their self-promoting leaders kowtowed to their political masters by assuring them of the Muslims' votes for their own personal benefit.

These leaders failed to drive their community to a path of greater learning and become an essential part in the growth of the country, as the other minorities like Sikhs and Parsis did. By neglecting this they neglected their own growth also.

Future scenario

Right now it is a right-wing push that is dictating the frenetic pace of statecraft now, but there is nothing wrong in this, as the right wing has come to power using the democratic tools available to every party.

If the political critics of the BJP bemoan the so-called social engineering engineered by the BJP, use of social media to further its messaging, then who had stopped them to follow or use the same tools.

In an interview Badri Narayan, social historian, columnist, opined that there is no political party like the BJP anywhere, which starts working for elections two years in advance as well as governing, both at the same time. It is a mega political machine in every sense.

Senior academic and researcher at the LSE, Manisha Priyamhas been quoted as saying that the BJP under Prime Minister Modi is an electoral party, more than an ideological one. It takes every election at every level very seriously, not just the Lok Sabha polls.

This makes us ponder what has stopped the other political parties from adopting the same strategy and planning? If they are not up to it then they themselves are to be blamed. No one else! Stop bemoaning! Get your act together!

After 75 years of independence, we Indians indeed need a new political system in the country, where every section could contribute and reap the benefits of progress and development, equally and which should put a stop to the political spoils of all political parties.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi)

international

US LAWMAKERS ARRIVE IN TAIWAN DAYS AFTER PELOSI'S VISIT

Taipei | Agencies

Five US lawmakers arrived in Taipei for a surprise visit on Sunday amid escalated tensions across the Taiwan Strait, following a trip earlier this month by Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

According to the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), which acts as the de facto US embassy, the two-day visit is part of a larger trip to the Indo-Pacific region. Discussions are to focus on regional security, trade and investment, among other issues, dpa news agency reported.

Taiwan's foreign ministry welcomed the visit, saying that the delegation will meet with President Tsai Ing-wen and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu.

The visiting lawmakers, from both Republican and Democratic parties, are Senator Ed Markey and Representatives John Garamendi, Alan Lowenthal, Don Beyer and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen.

China increased pressure on Taiwan both militarily and economically after a 19-hour visit to Taipei by Pelosi on August 2-3.

Taiwan has had an independent government since 1949, but China considers the island part of its territory. In 1979, Washington formally cut diplomatic ties with Taipei and built relations with Beijing.

AT LEAST 41 DEAD IN COPTIC CHURCH BLAZE IN EGYPT

Cairo: At least 41 people have died in a fire at a Coptic church in Giza near Cairo, the Health Ministry of Egypt said on Sunday.The fatalities were due to thick smoke and a stampede triggered by the blaze, Health Minister Khalid Abdul Ghafar said in a statement, dpa news agency reported.Fourteen others were injured in the fire at the Abo Sefein Church in the city of Giza. Twelve are still in hospitals, while two others have been discharged.The Coptic Church said a large blaze broke out during a morning mass service on Sunday.

The fire was due to a faulty electric circuit caused by an air conditioner in the church building, the Interior Ministry said.The blaze was later brought under control, the ministry added in a statement. Five civil defence personnel were injured in the incident.

Images in the Egyptian media showed the facade of the church partially blackened out due to the fire that gutted parts of the building's interior.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sissi offered condolences to the Coptic Pope Tawadros II, the presidency said.Egypt has the largest Christian community in the Middle East, accounting for around 10% of the country's mostly Muslim population of more than 100 million.

Europe's rivers run dry as drought could be worst in 500 years

London | Agencies

Across Europe, drought is reducing once-mighty rivers to trickles, with potentially dramatic consequences for industry, freight, energy and food production - just as supply shortages and price rises due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine bite, local media reported. Driven by climate breakdown, an unusually dry winter and spring followed by record-breaking summer temperatures and repeated heatwaves have left Europe's essential waterways underreplenished and, increasingly, overheated, The Guardian reported.

With no significant rainfall recorded for almost two months across western, central and southern Europe and none forecast in the near future, meteorologists say the drought could become the continent's worst in more than 500 years, The Guardian reported.

"We haven't analysed fully this year's event because it is still ongoing," said Andrea Toreti of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. "There were no other events in the past 500 [years] similar to the drought of 2018. But this year, I think, is worse."

Germany's Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG) said the level of the Rhine, whose waters are used for freight transport, irrigation, manufacturing, power generation and drinking, will continue dropping until at least the beginning of next week, The Guardian reported.

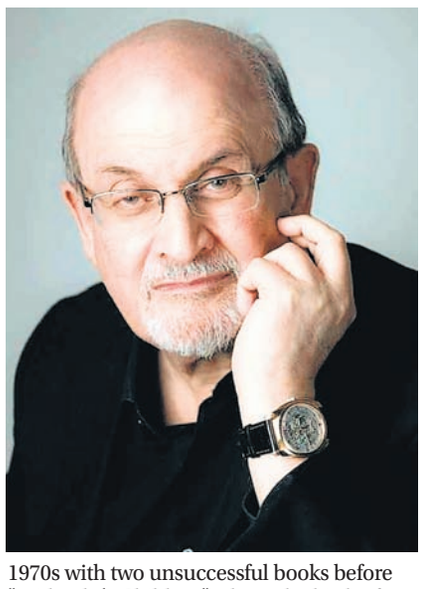
A vital part of northwest Europe's economy for centuries, the 760 miles (1,233km) of the Rhine flow from Switzerland through Germany's industrial heartland before reaching the North Sea at the megaport of Rotterdam.

In Italy, the flow of the parched Po, Italy's longest river, has fallen to one-tenth of its usual rate, and water levels are 2 metres below normal. With no sustained rainfall in the region since November, corn and risotto rice production have been hard hit.

The Po valley accounts for between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of Italy's agricultural production, but rice growers in particular have warned that up to 60 per cent of their crop may be lost as paddy fields dry out and are spoiled by seawater sucked in by the low river level, The Guardian reported.

Salman Rushdie off ventilator and talking following stabbing in US

London | Agencies



Author Salman Rushdie has been taken off his ventilator and is talking as he recovers from being stabbed in the US.

British-American writer Aatish Taseer said, in a since-deleted tweet, that the 75-year-old was "off the ventilator and talking (and joking)", which was then confirmed by the author's agent Andrew Wylie.Wylie had earlier said Salman was using the ventilator and could lose an eye after he sustained injuries to his arm and liver in the attack, dpa news agency reported.

The Indian-born Briton, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" led to death threats from Iran in the 1980s, was about to deliver a lecture in New York state on Friday, when he was attacked.

The man accused of stabbing him pleaded not guilty on Saturday to charges of attempted murder and assault.A lawyer for Hadi Matar, 24, entered the plea on his behalf during a formal hearing at a court in western New York.

Salman was stabbed at least once in the neck and once in the abdomen, according to police, before he was taken to hospital.

Salman began his writing career in the early 1970s with two unsuccessful books before "Midnight's Children", about the birth of India, which won the Booker Prize in 1981.

The author lived in hiding for many years in London under a British government protection programme after the fatwa.

Liz Truss holds a commanding lead over Rishi Sunak in race to be next UK PM

London | Agencies

Foreign secretary Liz Truss holds a commanding 22-point lead over British-Indian ex-minister Rishi Sunak in the race to become the next Tory leader and UK prime minister, according to an exclusive poll of party members for The Observer.

With less than three weeks to go before the September 2 deadline for voting, the survey by Opinium of 570 Conservative members puts the foreign secretary on 61 per cent and the former chancellor on 39 per cent, The Guardian reported.

Truss' lead is, however, less than in some other recent polls of the Tory electorate, possibly suggesting that Sunak may have closed the gap in recent days.

She has come under increasing pressure over her refusal to back what she describes as "handouts" to help people with their energy bills, and was heavily criticised for a U-turn over pay rises for public sector workers outside London and the south-east of England.Opinium's detailed questioning also uncovers a striking lack of enthusiasm for either candidate when members are asked whether they would prefer one of them to Boris Johnson to run the party and country, The Guardian reported.Opinium asked members what the main single reason was that they backed one of the two candidates. For Sunak the most cited reason was that he would be better at managing the economy (22 per cent), while 10 per cent said they regarded him as the most competent or intelligent.A main reason mentioned by people who backed Truss was dislike of Sunak (14 per cent). The same proportion (14 per cent) said the foreign secretary was more honest and trustworthy, while 10 per cent chose the fact that she had remained loyal to Johnson and not called on him to resign. Some 2 per cent of Tory members cited race or ethnicity as a reason for supporting Truss and not Sunak.Chris Curtis of Opinium said that despite an apparent growing nostalgia among Tory members for Johnson - and a less than ecstatic response to either of the candidates bidding to replace him - it was now hard to see how Truss could fail to become the next prime minister, The Guardian reported.

"From the moment we knew the final two candidates, it has been clear that Truss has had all the momentum, and our latest poll sets out just how large her lead among the party members has become," he said.

MAHA CABINET: BJP TAKES THE CAKE, SHINDE GROUP SETTLES FOR CRUMBS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday allocated portfolios in the 20-member state Cabinet with ally Bharatiya Janata Party grabbing a majority of the coveted ministries.

Shinde will handle Urban Development, GAD, IT, PWD (Public Projects), Transport and other departments, as per an official announcement.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has been given a bagful of big portfolios, including the crucial Home, Finance and Planning, Law and Justice, Water Resources, Energy, Housing and Protocol.

The much-awaited distribution of portfolios came five days after the CM expanded his Cabinet on Tuesday by inducting 18 ministers, nine each from Shiv Sena Shinde Group and BJP, though there are no women in the team so far, after Shinde and Fadnavis took oath on June 30.

The portfolio allocation was announced after approval from Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, even as the Leader of Opposition, NCP's Ajit Pawar, the Congress and the Shiv Sena took regular potshots at Shinde-Fadnavis for the delay in assigning responsibilities to the ministers. The other ministries not assigned to anyone shall be handled by Shinde till the next round of Cabinet expansion scheduled after the upcoming Legislature Session.

These include Information and Public Relations; Marketing; Social Justice and Special Assistance; Relief and Rehabilitation; Disaster Management; Soil and Water Conservation; Environment and Climate Change; Minority and Wakf.

BJP's share in portfolios:

Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil - Revenue, Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry

Sudhir Mungantiwar - Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries

Chandrakant Patil - Higher and Technical Education, Textiles and Parliamentary Affairs

Vijaykumar Gavit - Tribal Development

Girish Mahajan - Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Medical Education, Sports and Youth Welfare

Mangal Prabhat Lodha - Tourism, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Women and Child Development

Ravindra Chavan - Public Works (excluding Public Enterprises), Food & Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection

Atul Save - Cooperation, Other Backward and Bahujan Welfare

Suresh Khade - Labour.

Shinde Group's share in portfolios:

Gulabrao Patil - Water Supply and Sanitation

Dadaji Bhuse - Ports and Mines

Sanjay Rathod - Food and Drug Administration

Sandipan Bhumre - Employment Guarantee Scheme and Horticulture

Uday Samant - Industry

Tanaji Sawant - Public Health and Family Welfare.

Abdul Sattar - Agriculture

Deepak Kesarkar - School Education & Marathi Language

Shambhuraj Desai - State Excise

Face of Maratha movement Vinayak Mete killed in car crash, probe ordered

Raigad | Agencies

Veteran politician and President of Shiv Sangram Party Vinayak Mete -- who espoused the cause of the Maratha community for over 3 decades -- was killed in a road accident on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway here on Sunday morning, officials said.

Mete, 52, was coming from Beed via Pune to Mumbai in his SUV to attend a Maratha panel meeting scheduled with top state leaders this afternoon, when the mishap occurred. He was rushed to the MGM Hospital in Kamothe, Navi Mumbai where the doctors declared him dead on admission.

A doctor at MGM Hospital later told mediapersons that he didn't exhibit any signs of life and with grievous head, neck and limbs injuries, had been killed instantaneously in the accident. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde -- who rushed to the hospital along with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis -- announced a probe into the incident.

The Raigad Police have set up eight teams to investigate the accident and shall also interrogate the SUV driver Eknath Kadam, who has survived and also a police bodyguard, who is presently said to be critically injured. Mete was at the forefront of the agitations in the past to demand reservations for the Maratha community which fructified, and he headed a key committee that was executing the project to construct a grand memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea. Mete's body was taken for an autopsy at Sir J.J. Hospital and handed over to his family and taken to his Wadala residence. After keeping it for public 'darshan', the body is likely to be flown to his native Beed district where the funeral is expected to be performed later. According to Raigad Police, around 5.05 a.m., Mete's Ford Endeavour (SUV) was proceeding towards Mumbai when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

The speeding SUV rammed into an unknown vehicle in the lane ahead and crashed beside the road, fatally injuring Mete and seriously hurting the police bodyguard and the driver Kadam. However, owing to some delayed communication, a police team rushed there only after an hour and shifted the three victims to the MGM Hospital.

Besides Shinde and Fadnavis, Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar, Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray, state Congress President Nana Patole, state cabinet ministers NCP MP Supriya Sule, Chhagan Bhujbal, Dhananjay Munde, Pankaja Munde, Deepak Kesarkar, and other leaders across the political spectrum grieved Mete's sudden demise.

Raju Shrivastav's nephew shares health update, urges fans to not believe rumours

Team Absolute | Mumbai

There has been a minor improvement in comedian Raju Srivastava's health. His nephew, Kushal Srivastava, revealed on Saturday that the comedian, who is on ventilator in ICU in AIIMS, New Delhi, is "getting better".

Raju had suffered a cardiac arrest while at a gym. There were claims that he overexerted himself at the gym but now Kushal has denied such claims.

Sharing an update about his health, Raju's nephew Kushal told ETimes: "Raju Ji's condition is gradually and slowly getting better. Doctors are also saying that he is showing a positive response. There are no signs of negative results in his reports which is again a positive sign. Also, Raju Ji moved his hand and fingers which doctors have informed us. He is a fighter, he will be back."

He requested the comedian's fans to not disturb the family and has asked their well-wisher to refrain from sending messages to the family.

He also asked everyone to stop spreading rumours about Srivastava's condition. He said: "There are also rumours that he exercised a bit too much on the day when he suffered a heart attack which is baseless. He would always run on the treadmill, he never indulged in lifting heavy weights. He was doing his daily exercise."

Raju has been a part of the entertainment industry since late 1980s. He received national recognition after participating in the first season of the stand-up comedy show 'The Great Indian Laughter Challenge' in 2005.

'Golden joint' launched on Chenab Railway Bridge in J&K

Srinagar/Mumbai | Agencies

Decked with the national flag, the 'Golden Joint' of the Chenab railway bridge was launched on Saturday thereby inaugurating the World's highest railway bridge.

To commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', the world's highest bridge in Reasi district of J&K was decked up with the Tricolour by the workers on this occasion.

The workers were seen celebrating and hoisting the national flag with love and pride right in the middle of the bridge at the golden joint. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav took to Twitter to showcase a video of the launch of the golden joint and the deck closure ceremony from the Chenab bridge. The 40-second video added in the tweet shows the workers celebrating atop the world's highest bridge as they have worked tirelessly for years to achieve this feat.

Sanjay Gupta, CMD Konkan Railway told reporters, "From the two ends of the Chenab River valley, the bridge superstructure on the arch was gradually pushed so that it eventually connected at the centre of the arch... This has been a long journey. The term 'golden joint' was coined by civil engineers. It's the world's highest railway bridge.

A few days before laying the golden joint, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd Deputy Managing Director, Giridhar Rajagopalan had told IANS, "Both ends will finally meet to complete the bridge overarch deck and the segments will be joined with the help of High Strength Friction Grip (HSFG) bolts to mark the critical 'golden joint' on the iconic structure. This will complete the Chenab River bridge, 359 metres above the riverbed, an extraordinary achievement and heralding a new chapter in the history of J&K."

The bridge comprises 93 deck segments, each weighing around 85 tonnes, launched simultaneously from both ends of the valley over the massive steel arch and work on joining five segments in full progress on the single line linking Katra (Jammu) with Qazigund (Kashmir), some 75 km away, he said.

The project is part of the ambitious 272-km long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining Jammu with the Kashmir valley as an all-weather highspeed alternative, named the 'Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project'.

CCI approves merger of HDFC Bank, HDFC Ltd

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposal of merger of HDFC Bank and HDFC Ltd.

"Commission approves proposed combination involving amalgamation of HDFC Limited, HDFC Bank, HDFC Investments and HDFC Holdings," CCI said in a tweet on the microblogging platform Twitter on Friday.

Whenever a deals over certain limit has been struck in the marketplace then it needs an approval from the regulator to keep a tab on unfair business practices. HDFC Ltd, the largest housing finance company of the country in April had decided to merge with HDFC Bank.

Salim Khan goes for a walk, with tight security

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Salim Khan went for a walk today with strong security. It's worth noting that this was the first time the veteran actor came out after receiving death threats. While strolling, Salim Khan was spotted holding our national flag owning India will celebrate its 75th year of independence, August 15th. The entire country will celebrate Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on this date.

For the uninitiated, The Mumbai Police have granted Bollywood actor Salman Khan a personal weapon licence following death threats against him and his father, famous writer Salim Khan, in June, according to official sources.

The Mumbai Police had strengthened security at the father-son duo's Bandra west apartment and taken additional procedures in response to a hand-written death threat, while the actor applied for a firearm licence. In early June, a message was discovered with the threat, "you will meet the same fate as Moosewala," the Punjabi artist slain in May.

SATARA'S APSHINGE VILLAGE BOASTS OF 'HAR GHAR SOLDIER'

Quaid Najmi | Satara

Satara's tiny Apshinge -- also known as the 'army village' -- is renowned for its huge contribution to the country's military establishments in its more than four centuries of existence but, arising from a need to conquer hunger pangs, and survive the local economic challenges.

Over the centuries, Apshinge gained national fame for dedicating at least one person to serve in the armed forces, with many sacrificing their lives in the service of the 'Matrubhoomi' (Motherland).

At the entrance, there is a War Memorial, which bears the names of those who were martyred in different wars, chronologically, with the grateful British rulers engraving a proclamation - 'The only military village in the country!' - a permanent and historic stamp on its service credentials.

However, this distinct honour and sacrifice emerged out of different compulsions as Apshinge and its surroundings had barren soil, rocky land, with little or no irrigation facilities for agriculture, thus pushing the youngsters to the sole profession of army service in those days, Nationalist Congress Party Satara Lok Sabha MP, Shriniwas D. Patil, told correspondent.

"There was also a gender imbalance, with a higher male population in that region, and coupled with poor farming opportunities, many took to the military service for a living, they were compensated well and the whole tradition started," said Patil, whose wife Rajani's 16 relatives were/are in the armed forces.

Thus, 'armed' with a professional alternative, Apshinge folks have served the Maratha army, the British Indian Army, Azad Hind Sena and now the Indian Army with distinction, participating in World War I and World War II, the India-Pakistan and the India-China wars.

During World War I, 46 bravehearts from Apshinge made the supreme sacrifice, four in the 1962 India-China war, two in the India-Pakistan war in 1965 and one in the 1971 war that led to the birth of Bangladesh in 1971. Many of their kin still live in the village.

Prior to that, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind Fauj had four fighters from Apshinge, and back in history, many defended Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's kingdom through his armies in different places.

"Almost each home has given a soldier or an officer or a martyr to the country. The kids here live in an ambience of military ranks, uniforms, medals or honours, pictures of heroes or martyrs hanging in their rooms, and they grow up well-versed with army culture, discipline, protocols and rigours, which inspires others," said a forest official from Satara, Rohan Bhate-Shah.

Bhate-Shah's freedom fighter grandfather Kalyanji J. Shah alias Babubhai Masurkar, was honoured with a Copper Plate (Tamra Patra) on behalf of the then PM Indira Gandhi to mark the Silver Jubilee of I-Day in 1972, in Satara.

Apshinge attracted and hosted scores of dignitaries, including the then Governor of Bombay Province John Colville, Viceroy of India Lord A. P. Wavell, former Governor-General of India Lord Louis Mountbatten, India's first Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal (Gen.) K. M. Cariappa, and more.

Located around 17 kms from Satara town, Apshinge is populated by around 3,000 people, and currently over 1,600 are serving in the armed forces. Almost 90 percent of the youths were recruited to protect Great Britain during World War I.

Though there is no formal military academy here, the armed forces seemingly act as a 'magnet' for the youngsters here with generations from some families serving the army and the nation even today, said Bhate-Shah.

On Independence Day on Monday, Mumbai's Sri Shanmukhananda Fine Arts & Sangeeta Sabha (SSFASS) will honour 75 war heroes from Apshinge at the hands of Lt. Gen. H. S. Kahlon, the GOC, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa.

"Apshinge children get military training during school, so we shall set up a state-of-the-art gymnasium to enhance the physique and performance of those desirous of joining the armed forces," SSFASS President Dr. V. Shankar told correspondent.

The SSFASS will also redevelop the existing school building, construct a community hall with facilities for army men and other amenities, he added.

"On I-Day, the SSFASS shall confer 'Shanmukha Shaurya Ratna Award' to Apshinge village with a cash prize of Rs. 500,000, a citation and mementos, 25 War Widows of Martyrs shall be felicitated with Rs. 200,000 reward and 75 students will render the full (five stanzas) of the National Anthem," SSFASS Spokesperson K. A. Viswanathan added.

Today, prosperity smiles on Apshinge, the village has modern facilities, a sense of 'army camaraderie' and helpful nature among the people, even cultivation has improved in the vicinity with modern techniques, but the centuries old tradition of serving the Motherland continues.

Beyond 'Thor', 'Lightyear', Malaysia firm on banning films with 'LGBT elements'

Los Angeles | Agencies

As the world sails past eight months of 2022, the Malaysian government still seems to be stuck in ancient times. The Malaysian government has revealed the reason behind banning the Marvel film 'Thor: Love and Thunder' - the film's LGBTQ+ elements, something that is prohibited in the country.

According to 'Variety', a minister said on Wednesday that the government is committed to curtailing gay culture. Both 'Thor' and Pixar animated film 'Lightyear' were submitted by distributor Disney for classification and censorship by the country's Film Censorship Board (LPF).

In both cases, the LPF asked for cuts that the studio chose not to make, effectively depriving the pictures of a theatrical release.

'Lightyear' was banned in 16 or more Muslim-majority countries.

Ashton Kutcher with moustache was 'like a different guy': Mila Kunis

Los Angeles | Agencies

In what seems like Hollywood version of 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi', actress Mila Kunis was surprised by her husband Ashton Kutcher's moustache which he grew for his character in the latest movie 'Vengeance'. The actress, though, was very accepting of the transformation, reports People magazine. During an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live with guest host David Alan Grier, the What Happens in Vegas star opened up about his facial hair transformation for his latest movie Vengeance. According to People, in the movie, Kutcher's character, rural Texas music producer Quentin Sellers, has a pencil-thin moustache.

"This character, when I first saw it, I was like, 'This is interesting.' He kinda had this Boss Hog vibe to him," Kutcher recalled, remembering such "bad guys" with thin moustaches in Cannonball Run and Smokey and the Bandit. "I was like, 'Alright, I think this guy has got, like, this air of sophistication'."

Talking about Kunis, Kutcher added: "Then my wife had to deal with it and that was all fun."

People adds that when asked by Grier about how she took his facial hair, Kutcher said Kunis was very accepting.

"We've been together for seven years, so when I brought home the moustache she was like, 'Oh it's like a different guy!'" Kutcher said.

As for the movie itself, 'Vengeance' marks B.J. Novak's first time as star and director.

Quoted by People, Kutcher said, "BJ had this amazing screenplay that he wrote and he came to me and he was like, 'Hey, I'm gonna direct this thing, this is going to be my directorial debut and there's a role I want you to play'".

Emily Blunt joins 'Deadpool 2' Leitch series 'The Fall Guy'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The TV series 'The Fall Guy' already had star power with Ryan Gosling and David Leitch. Now, it has added one more name to its list. Hollywood star Emily Blunt is set to co-star opposite Gosling in the series, which now has a March 1, 2024 release date, reports Deadline.

The feature film is inspired by the 1980s series of the same name and will be directed by Leitch, who is producing with partner Kelly McCormick via their 87North along with Guymon Casady, who will produce through Entertainment 360.

According to Deadline, Drew Pearce, who worked with Leitch on Universal's Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw, wrote the script and serves as executive producer.

Gosling will also produce. Geoff Shaevitz and original series creator Glen A. Larson will executive produce. Matt Reilly will oversee the project on behalf of Universal. Production for the film is set to begin in Australia this fall. Deadline further adds that after action-heavy roles in films such as 'Edge of Tomorrow' and 'A Quiet Place' franchise, this series gives Blunt another franchise-possible action pic she can sink her teeth into. The film marks a reunion for Blunt and Universal after she recently wrapped production on the Christopher Nolan movie 'Oppenheimer', which also stars Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Matt Damon. Blunt was also seen not very long ago in the Disney movie 'Jungle Cruise' opposite Dwayne Johnson. She is currently filming the Netflix drama 'Pain Hustlers' opposite Chris Evans.

Madonna hides her 'ugly' teeth with new grills

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop-icon Madonna doesn't really like her teeth as she thinks they are so "ugly". She shared that it is the reason she wears mouth grills to hide them.

Regularly seen wearing jewellery over her gnashers, the 63-year-old pop superstar finally opened up about why she decided to change up her look with customised mouth bling - saying she worries her teeth don't look very nice, reports aceshowbiz.com.

During an appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, she showed off her latest grill piece, telling the host, 'I just got these new grills, and if I start lisping will you tell me?' Jimmy replied, "Ooh they're beautiful! I love them."

The 'Material Girl' singer then went on to explain she had the new grills made as a special birthday present for herself as she prepares to turn 64 on August 16. She added: "They're my 'birthday grills'. It's almost my birthday, so I got myself a pair of grills."

Madonna then told the host she has been wearing mouth jewellery for "decades" and explained the reason why she covers her teeth. She said: "People have a problem with my grills, I don't know why ... I just like the way it looks - it's mouth jewellery - and I have really ugly teeth."

During the interview, Madonna continued to worry about whether her latest accessory was giving her a lisp and went on to take it out before the host stopped her. She said: "No, don't! Leave it, it looks cool!"

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Tasha Ghouri

JK Rowling receives death threats over tweet for Salman Rushdie

Los Angeles | Agencies

British author J.K. Rowling, who is known for the 'Harry Potter' series, recently received a public threat from an Iran-backing extremist, following her denunciation of the attack on fellow British author Salman Rushdie, reports Deadline.

Rowling, who was previously targeted by some trans activists for her beliefs on gender - had published a post expressing her horror at the attempt on Rushdie's life, when one responder threatened her.

Rowling earlier wrote on Friday night: "Horrifying news. Feeling very sick right now. Let him be ok." Meer Asif Aziz, described in his Twitter bio as a student, social activist, political activist and research activist' responded: "Don't worry you are next."

According to Deadline, Rowling publicly asked Twitter to intervene, asking @TwitterSupport, "Any chance of some support?" but Aziz's post currently remains in place. He had previously described the man arrested for attacking Rushdie's, Hadi Matar, as a "revolutionary Shia fighter".

Deadline further states that Rowling confirmed that the police are involved, telling followers: "To all sending supportive messages: thank you. Police are involved (were already involved in other threats)."

Birmingham 2022 successes could mark the start of a new era in Indian athletics

Avinash Kr Atish | New Delhi

The 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham was a huge success for India and athletics was one such discipline which gave fans opportunities to celebrate record-breaking moments.

As expected, India experienced a medal rush in boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton and table tennis in CWG. However, the one field which helped shoot up the country's medal tally was athletics.

At Gold Coast 2018, India could only manage three medals in the discipline. But this time around, India's athletes set new benchmark, winning eight medals, including one gold, four silver and three bronze, which augurs well for next year's Asian Games and the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

The performances in track and field by youngsters like steeplechaser Avinash Sable, triple jumpers Eldhose Paul and Abdulla Aboobacker, walkers Priyanka Goswami and Sandeep Kumar, javelin thrower Annu Rani, long jumper Murali Sreeshankar and high jumper Tejaswin Shankar were heartening which stole the show.

The undoubted star for India in track and field in Birmingham was Avinash Sable, who challenged the Kenyan hegemony in the 3000m steeplechase, finishing second, losing the gold medal by 500th of a second.

Abraham Kibiwot, the gold medallist, presented a brave front but it was sure he had his heart in his mouth for a few seconds as Sable made a late charge to the finish line, virtually hanging onto the Kenyan runner's shoulder as he crossed the finishing line.

Eldhose Paul, who led a 1-2 finish in triple jump, was the other big gain for India from track and field, one who could be further groomed into a medal winner at Paris.

In men's long jump, Murali Sreeshankar won the first-ever silver medal for India in the event.

Sandeep Kumar, who won bronze in men's 10km race walk, did it with a personal best timing, while Priyanka Goswami took the silver in the women's event, shattering the national record with a personal best timing of 43:38.83.

By clinching the bronze, Annu Rani won a first-ever medal for India in women's javelin throw at CWG.

Around one year ago, Neeraj Chopra's gold at the Tokyo Olympics gave Indian athletics a new lease of life. It changed the mentality of Indian athletes and gave them a new identity at the global level.

Going by India's credible show at CWG 2022, one can say that the success in Birmingham could be the beginning of a new era in athletics for India.

European Swimming Championships

ROMANIAN TEEN SHATTERS 13-YEAR-OLD 100M FREESTYLE WORLD RECORD

Rome | Agencies

17-year-old Romanian world champion David Popovici became the youngest swimmer to break the men's 100m freestyle world record at the European Swimming Championships here on Saturday.

Popovici stormed home in a time of 46.86 seconds and shattered the 13-year-old world mark of 46.91 set by Brazil's Cesar Cielo at the 2009 FINA world championships, which also were held at the same pool at Rome's historic Foro Italico.

In the men's 100m freestyle final, Popovici was the second in the first 50m with 22.74 and turned to dominate the field with 24.12 in the second half, beating Hungarian butterfly world champion Kristof Milak 47.47

and Italian Alessandro Miressi 47.63, respectively.Popovici also broke the world junior record, European record, European junior record and meet record at the same time.

The Romanian young sensation claimed two gold in the 100m and 200m free at the FINA worlds in Budapest, Hungary in June.

Popovici was convinced that this was his chance to erase the name of Brazil's Cesar Ciehlo's from the record books and replace it with his own; but only by swimming .05 faster than the 46.91 mark that was set in this very same pool at the 2009 FINA World Championships.

It took a step by step improvement to achieve a new world record of 46.86, one that brought a huge smile to the face of 17 year old David Popovici and brought the crowd at the Foro Italico pool to its feet. Popovici shaved 0.05 off a dusty world record that was set in a shiny suit. The Romanian split 22.74 in his first lap coming back in 24.12 beating Hungary's Kristof Milak by .61 of a second. He became the youngest world record holder in history in this event. A historic mark at a historic venue.

National Bank Open

Carreno Busta stuns Evans, sets final clash with Hurkacz

Montreal (Canada): | Agencies

Pablo Carreno Busta reached his first ATP Masters 1000 and National Bank Open final after registering a 7-5, 6-7(7), 6-2 victory over Daniel Evans in the semifinal, here.

The 31-year-old had a match point in the second-set tie-break but saw his perfect set streak on the week snapped at nine before storming back in a dominant final set on Saturday night.After so little separated the competitors for most of the two-hour, 58-minute marathon, Carreno Busta raced through the finish line by winning the final 12 points, including eight on return.

The Spaniard will next face eighth seed Hubert Hurkacz as he bids to become the first unseeded champion at the National Bank Open since Argentina's Guillermo Canas in

2002.

The World No 23 advanced to his second final of the season (Barcelona) by pairing his aggressive baseline game with a dominant first-serve performance in which he won 79 per cent (49/62) of points on his first delivery. He fired 43 winners and broke on five of his eight chances as he took control of the match down the stretch.

Rayo hold Barca in Camp Nou, while Villarreal off to a flier

Madrid | Agencies

FC Barcelona kicked off the new La Liga season with a disappointing 0-0 draw at home to Rayo Vallecano.

Barca had moments of impressive football on Saturday night, but Rayo defended well and have not conceded a goal in their last three meetings with the Catalans.

The visitors began by pressing Barca high up the pitch, but were pushed deeper as the half progressed, although Alvaro had a good chance well saved by Marc Andre Ter Stegen.

Dimitrievski saved well from Ansu Fati (who came on as a second half substitute) and Sergio Busquets after the break, while Lewandowski sent an effort just wide and Pierre Emerick Aubameyang had another cleared off the line in the closing minutes.

Second half goals from Nicolas Jackson and Alex Baena spoiled Valladolid's return to LaLiga and gave Villarreal a winning start to the season in the Jose Zorilla Stadium.

The result was slightly harsh on a battling display from the home side, but Villarreal had more quality in the vital areas of the pitch.

Jackson opened the scoring four minutes after the break and two goals from Baena in the last 10 minutes assured a 3-0 win for Unai Emery's side.

Joselu's 98th-minute penalty saved a point for Espanyol away to Celta Vigo, who had led 2-0 through Iago Aspas and Goncalo Palencia, only for Edu Esposito to pull a goal back in the 72nd-minute penalty before Oscar Mingueza's late foul allowed the former Alaves striker to complete the fightback.

The new season began on Friday night with Osasuna winning 2-1 at home to Sevilla.

Chimmy Avila opened the scoring for Osasuna in an entertaining match in the ninth minute, but Rafa Mir leveled for the visitors almost immediately afterward and it wasn't until the 74th minute until a penalty taken by youngster, Aimar Oroz decided the game.

I HOPE SHANE WARNE IS LOOKING DOWN AND IS PRETTY PROUD I SPUN IT A BIT: ALANA KING

Manchester: Australia leg-spinner Alana King paid a fantastic tribute to the legendary Shane Warne in epic style, claiming the first-ever hat-trick in women's edition of The Hundred, propelling her team Trent Rockets to defeat Manchester Originals by 43 runs. Apart from finishing with figures of 4/15 from 20 deliveries, Alana took a spectacular diving catch and was also handy with the bat in hand, scoring 19 from just nine balls as Manchester's chase of 120 was ended at 76.

Alana began by castling Cordelia Griffith (12). She then trapped Sophie Ecclestone for duck and clean bowled Kate Cross yet again for a duck to complete a spectacular hat-trick. She could have bagged four wickets in four balls if the Trent Rockets had gone for the lbw review against Ellie Threlkeld. After the match ended, Alana hoped that Warne, the legendary leg-spinner who died in March this year, was looking down and feeling proud of her performance against Manchester Originals.

Simona Halep moves into Toronto final; set to enter Top-10 in latest WTA rankings

Toronto | Agencies

Romania's former world No. 1 Simona Halep, a two-time major champion, beat the challenge from No.7 Jessica Pegula of the US to advance to her fourth National Bank Open final and biggest since 2020.

With her impressive run in the WTA 1000 tournament, the 30-year-old Halep, who will take on Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil in the final here, will return to Top-10 in the world when the latest ranking are released on Monday.

Two-time champion Halep entered the final of the tournament defeating Pegula 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. Toronto is Halep's first final since winning the Melbourne 250 in January and the biggest final for the former No.1 since winning Rome in 2020.

Currently ranked No.15, Halep saw her 373-week reign in the Top-10 end nearly a year ago when she dropped out on August 9, 2021. She can rise as high as No.6 if she wins the title on Sunday, according to wtatennis.com.

Into her 18th WTA 1000 final, Halep is bidding to win her ninth WTA 1000 title and 24th career title.

Facing Halep for the first time, Pegula raced through the opening set cashing in on her flat baseline game and efficient work at the net. Halep struggled from the baseline, with her backhand breaking down often. But Halep shifted gears early in the second set, breaking the American twice to build a 4-1 lead.

"I changed a little bit the tactics," Halep said. "In the first set, it was a little bit too fast. She was hitting super strong and I didn't feel the rhythm.

Then I just calmed down and I tried to just push her back a little bit more."

The victory is Halep's 37th of the season, tying her with Tunisia's Ons Jabeur for the second-most wins on tour.

WORLD JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS: INDIA'S ANAHAT SINGH ENTERS QUARTERS

Nancy (France): Indian squash player Anahat Singh entered the quarterfinals of the women's singles event of the 2022 WSF World Junior Championships after beating England's Torrie Malik 3-1, here on Saturday. The 14-year-old defeated Malik 11-5, 11-5, 6-1, 11-7. She will face Egypt's Fayrouz Abouelkheir for a place in the semifinals.

"I really didn't expect that, but surprisingly I wasn't nervous!" Anahat said after her win over Malik.Anahat, a Grade 9 student from Delhi, was also a member of India's squash contingent in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games. She was the youngest member of the Indian contingent in Birmingham.

GPBL: KGF Wolves clinch thriller, Bengaluru Lions edge out Mysore Panthers

Bengaluru | Agencies

With both the teams, tied at 3-3 at the end of the fourth match, KGF Wolves, boosted by the presence of mentor HS Prannoy, won the match decider (Super Match) to bag three points and surge ahead of their rivals Malnad Falcons in their group B encounter in the Grand Prix Badminton League (GPBL) at the Karnataka Badminton Association, here on Saturday.

The Falcons opened their account with two points winning their trump match (women's singles) with the Wolves restoring parity in the next match (Men's doubles). Falcons won a point in the third while Wolves won the fourth, thus rendering the Super Match as the decider.

Earlier, Bengaluru Lions overcame a 0-2 deficit to post a thrilling 7-2 victory over Mysore Panthers to begin their campaign on a winning note. The City team shares the top spot on the leaderboard along with Mandya Bulls at seven points. KGF Wolves are third at six points.

Brentford sting Man United in Premier League humiliation

London | Agencies

Manchester United suffered one of their worst defeats in Premier League history as Erik ten Hag's side barely laid a glove on Brentford in a 4-0 defeat on Saturday.

Ten Hag was looking for a response to last weekend's 2-1 home loss to Brighton and Hove Albion and was able to hand Cristiano Ronaldo a start, but all United got was a humiliation, reports DPA.

David de Gea was at fault twice as Josh Dasilva and Mathias Jensen put Brentford two up inside 18 minutes, before Ben Mee and Bryan Mbeumo ensured Brentford became only the third side to put four past United in the first half of a Premier League game.

While the Bees could not inflict further misery on Ten Hag and United, it mattered little as the damage was already done.

United gave Thomas Frank's men a helping hand for the opener as De Gea inexplicably let Dasilva's 25-yard effort squeeze into the bottom-right corner after Ronaldo had been robbed.

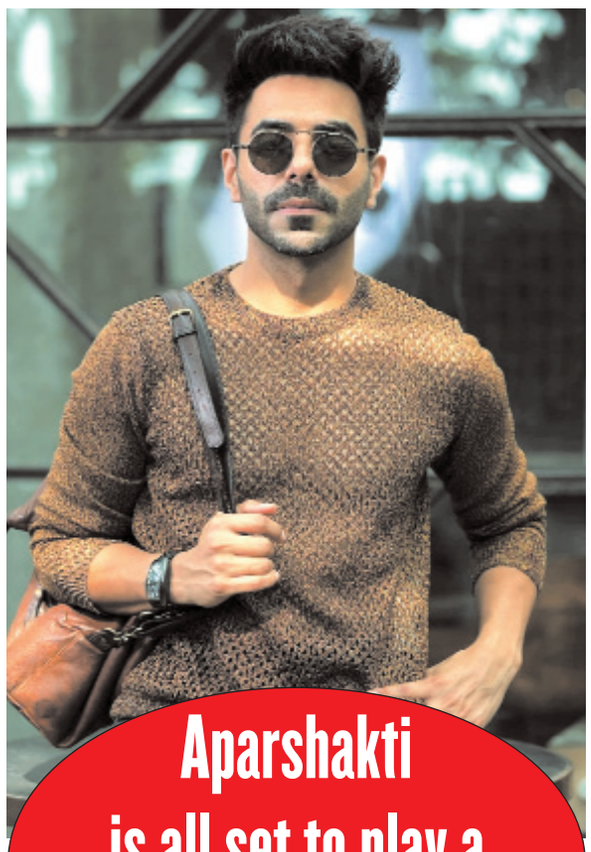
The floodgates then opened.

Shortly after United escaped a similar

situation, Christian Eriksen was dispossessed inside his own box following an ill-advised pass from De Gea, and Jensen applied a disguised finish with 18 minutes played.

The off-balance Mee nodded in at the back post as United failed to cope with the hosts' physicality, and by the 35th minute it was 4-0 -- Dasilva racing onto a clearance to play an exquisite pass into the box where Mbeumo held off Luke Shaw to score.Ten Hag made three changes at the break and that at least helped stem the flow of goal concessions. United improved as an attacking threat, with Ronaldo presented with a couple of half-chances and Eriksen testing David Raya with a header.

But still Brentford eased to a famous victory.



Aparshakti is all set to play a Kashmiri terrorist

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actor Aparshakti Khurana is all set to give 'Dhokha to his fans! Before readers jump to any conclusion, lets clear the doubt first.

'Dhokha - Round D Corner' is a suspense thriller from director Kookie Gulati with Aparshakti, R. Madhavan, Khushali Kumar and Darshan Kumar starring in key roles. Aparshakti, who's mostly seen in comic roles, will be seen in a different avatar in the movie -- playing a Kashmiri terrorist.

The actor is well-known for his comic roles films such as 'Stree', 'Luka Chuppi', and most recently, 'Hum Do Humare Do'. However, now he will be seen in a negative role in 'Dhokha'.

Speaking exclusively with correspondent, the actor said, "'Har tarike ka kaam hona chahiye' (one should do [illegible] kinds of work). I think I have many sides to my overall personality. When I was doing theatre in Delhi, I used to get only intense, dark roles and I would tell my director that I think my comic side is really good.

"But the director would say no Apar, there is anger and intensity in your eyes, which will go really well with negative characters'. But when I started doing films, people only saw me doing comic roles. Then I thought every stage has a different acceptance. I am glad now that the other side of me as an artiste, which is intense or negative shade, can be delivered now. I have tried to show a different sides of myself as a performer and I hope that the audience accepts me in this new version on the big screen." Aparshakti credits director Gulati for his character in 'Dhokha', which will release on September 23.

The Sequin queens of B-Town

Mumbai : Our favourite Bollywood celebs not only dazzle us with their acting abilities, but also with their dress sense. They frequently turn heads with their outfits and set huge fashion targets. Did you miss out on some of the best past appearances of the celebrities? Don't worry, we've got the latest version of the best dressed celebs to keep you up to date.

ANANYA PANDAY

It's party time for Ananya! Shimmer trends in Bollywood keep us hooked to our phones, and Ananya Panday makes a point of wooing us with her #ShimmerInSheer look. There is no doubt that black is the colour for every season, and Panday wears it beautifully. The GenZ actress donned an Aadnevik transparent beaded french lace gown. Sheer complements the sheen, and the high slit adds sass.

JANHVI KAPOOR

Janhvi Kapoor, our beautifully weird GenZ star, is next. Kapoor looks great in this classic shimmery gown. Her outfit is notable for its plunging neckline and her look. Janhvi is all that is required to top the list of Shimmer trends in Bollywood.

MALAIKA ARORA

Let's call it a glittery night, because our very own Malla is no stranger to nailing certain Bollywood trends. Malaika Arora Khan appears to have mastered the shimmer trend in Bollywood. In her sequined gown, she resembles a disco ball. The sophisticated makeup adds to her overall charm.

MOUNI ROY

Our lovely Bengali Babe and the new bride in B-town are never afraid to make a statement with her stunning presence. In this black sequin dress, she exudes sugar, spice, and everything wonderful.' Roy works hard to pull off this daring sequined ensemble.

KIARA ADVANI

That is an excellent visual portrayal of a genuine Purple star. Kiara looks stunning in a sequined Lilac jumpsuit. The broad neckline and stylish sleeves give her the appearance of a queen awaiting her crown.

'Pushpa' music composer Devi Sri Prasad to hoist Indian flag on Times Square

Team Absolute | Chennai

One of the leading music directors of the Tamil and Telugu film industries, Devi Sri Prasad, who was most recently in the news because of his score for 'Pushpa: The Rise', will hoist the Tricolour at Times Square in New York on the Independence Day-eve.

The music director, who has delivered several chartbusters, took to social media to make this announcement.

He said: "I am truly honoured to be invited as the Guest of Honour for the ceremonial lighting of the Empire State Building in New York and the Indian flag hoisting on Times Square on the eve of the 75th Independence Day of India." The event has been organised by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA). Interestingly, mega star Kamal Haasan, too, will be in the United States on Independence Day. He will hoist the National Flag at an event organised by the Association of Indo-Americans in the United States. The actor will also be honoured for completing 63 years in the Indian film industry.

TAMANNAAH TO PLAY FEMALE LEAD OPPOSITE RAJINIKANTH IN 'JAILER'?

Team Absolute | Chennai

If the industry grapevine is to be believed, actress Tammannaah Bhatia has now been roped in for director Nelson Dilipkumar's much-awaited action entertainer 'Jailer', featuring the Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the lead.

However, there has been no official confirmation in this regard. In fact, the only actress to have confirmed her presence in the project is Ramya Krishnan, who is believed to have told a publication that she had begun working on the film from August 10.

Work on this film is progressing on a specially erected jail set in a Hyderabad studio. Well-known stylist Aalim Hakim has been roped in to create the superstar's look for this film.

The film, which will be Rajinikanth's 169th, is being produced by Kalanithi Maran of Sun Pictures and has Anirudh scoring its music. Other members of the cast and crew are yet to be officially announced by the unit.

SAUMYA TANDON URGES FANS TO HELP LATE 'BHABIJI' STAR DEEPESH BHAN'S FAMILY REPAY LOAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Television actress Saumya Tandon, who plays Anita Vibhuti Narayan Mishra in the popular show 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!', has been raising funds for her late co-actor Deepesh Bhan's family, after he passed away recently. The actress took to her Instagram to share a video in which she is urging fans to come out and financially help Bhan's family to repay a home-loan of Rs. 50 lacs. She also recalled fond memories with Deepesh.

In the video, Saumya said in Hindi:Deepesh Bhan is no more with us but his memories are still with us. He was a talkative person and often used to talk about his home, which he bought after taking a home loan for his family. He got married and even has a son but then he left us. Now, we can repay him by giving back his house to his son." Saumya added: "I have created a fund and whatever amount will be collected will be given to Deepesh's wife, through which she can pay the home loan. So, please contribute to making Deepesh's dream come true." She shared the fund link on her account and added to the post: "This is for one of the sweetest co actors I worked with @Deepesh_b2 . Let's show good people don't go unnoticed. Every small bit counts. #helpdeepeshsfamily", she added as she posted the link of the fund in her bio. Deepesh, who played Malkhan in 'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain!', died on July 23 while playing cricket.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Bhumi Pendnekar

Owned, Published and Printed by Yogendra Chaturvedi at P.G. Infrastructure and service Pvt.Ltd, Karond Bhanpur Bypass Road, Bhopal-462037 (MP) and published from 8/1, Malviya Nagar, Bhopal- 462011 ■ **Editor -** Yogendra Chaturvedi, **Advisory Editor-** Sarika Chaturvedi, **Executive Editor-** Nagendra Sharma| (*responsible for selection of news under PRB act). RNI. No. MPENG/2015/69891 Phone No. 0755-3577179, www.absoluteindianews.com, E-mail- absoluteindiadesk@gmail.com,(Bhopal will be the jurisdiction of any dispute.)