

absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 280, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

NATION > 02

PM Modi attacks Oppn, says those who talk big lack vision...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Salma Hayek, Annie Murphy in talks to star in 'Black Mirror' season 6...



SPORTS > 07

Stuart Broad joins elite club of bowlers with 100th wicket...



CBI RAIDS DELHI DY CM MANISH SISODIA'S RESIDENCE, 21 OTHER LOCATIONS TRIGGERS

COUNTER CHARGES

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has named Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia as accused No. 1 in its FIR lodged in connection with the irregularities in Delhi government's excise policy. The FIR has been lodged under Sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 477-A (falsification of accounts) of the Indian Penal Code. The allegations against Sisodia is that liquor businessmen were allegedly given exemption of Rs 30 crore, and the licence holders were allegedly given extension as per their own will. The policy rules were made by violating the excise rules, the FIR said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday was raiding 21 locations in Delhi and six other states, including the residence of Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

The raids were being conducted in connection with the alleged irregularities in the Delhi Excise Policy.

Sources said that a CBI team was at the Sisodia residence in the morning and was "grilling him and scanning different documents at his house".

The probe teams were also raiding the house of former Excise Commissioner E. Gopikrishnan, four public servants and others.

The raid was going on in seven states and could go till evening, said the sources. Sisodia claimed that he was innocent and the CBI was working at the behest of the Centre.

Sisodia went on to say that they will give them full cooperation in the investigation so that the truth can come out soon. He said that till now many cases were filed against him but nothing had come out.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal shared The New York Times front page article featuring Delhi's Education model and Manish Sisodia. Kejriwal said that he is the best education minister in Independent India.



"CBI has come. They are welcome. We are extremely honest. Making the future of millions of children. It is very unfortunate that those who do good work in our country are harassed like this. That is why our country has not yet become number-1."

Manish Sisodia, Dy. CM, Delhi

"The same day when America's most reputed newspaper NYT has lauded Delhi's model and has published Manish Sisodia's photo on the front page, the Centre has sent the CBI to his residence. The whole world is talking about Delhi's model of health and education. They want to stop this. That's why Delhi's health and education ministers are being raided and arrested."

Arvind Kejriwal, CM, Delhi

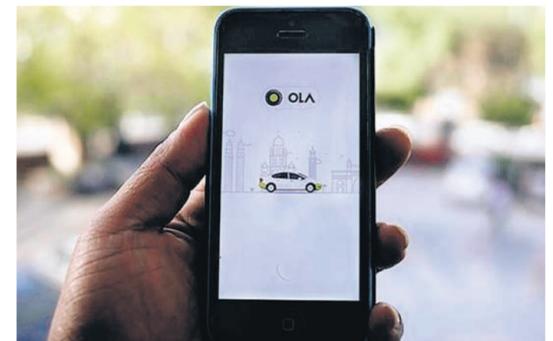
15 NAMED AS ACCUSED IN CBI'S FIR

New Delhi: As per the FIR, accessed by correspondent, apart from Sisodia, the CBI has mentioned then Commissioner, Excise, Arva Gopi Krishna, the then Deputy Commissioner, Excise, Anand Tiwari, then Assistant Commissioner (Excise), Pankaj Bhatnagar, entertainment and event management company Only Much Louder's former CEO Vijay Nair, Pernod Ricard's former employee Manoj Rai, Brindco Sales Pvt Director Amandeep Dhal, Indospirit Group Managing Director Sameer Mahendru, Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd Director Amit Arora, Mahadev Liquors' authorised signatory Sunny Marwah, three private persons Arun Ramchandra Pillai, Arjun Pandey, and Dinesh Arora and two private firms, Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd, and Mahadev Liquors.

"It has been exposed, same word and same author in New York Times and Khaleej Times. AAP is misusing Delhi people's money to get the photo published by paying money."

Manoj Tiwari, BJP leader

Ola ordered to pay Rs 95,000 to Hyderabad man for overcharging



Hyderabad | Agencies

A consumer court in Hyderabad has directed Ola Cabs to pay Rs 95,000 to a customer for overcharging him and also for deficiency in service.

The petitioner alleged that he was billed and forced to pay Rs 861 for a 4-5 km journey which should not have cost more than Rs 200.

Jabez Samuel complained that he, his wife, and an assistant had booked a cab on October 19, 2021 for four hours. They found the cab untidy and the driver not only refused to turn on the AC but also behaved rudely with them. After travelling for a distance of about 4-5 km, they deboarded the cab.

A bill of Rs 861 was generated. The complainant did not have to pay the driver as he had availed of the Ola money cash credit service.

The petitioner brought to the notice of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission that they had to make alternate arrangements and skip some of the

scheduled programmes that day.

Samuel said he lodged a complaint with Ola Cabs over excess bill, but the higher authorities of the company failed to intervene. He said Ola executives made repeated calls asking him to pay the bill.

He paid the bill in January 2022 but approached the consumer court to get justice. Ola Cabs did not appear before the commission to contest the case even after being served notice.

Taking note of Samuel's complaint and the mental agony caused to him, the commission asked the ridesharing company to pay Rs 88,000 compensation to the customer and Rs 7,000 as costs of the hearing.

The commission fixed 45 days as the time for compliance and if the firm fails to comply with the order, it would be liable to pay interest.

The company has also been directed to refund the amount of Rs 861, along with interest at 12 per cent per annum from the date of the journey till realisation.

WHO EXPERTS RECOMMEND 2ND COVID BOOSTER FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Geneva | Agencies

Countries should consider giving a second Covid-19 vaccine booster to the elderly, pregnant women, health workers, people with weaker immune systems and those at higher risk of severe disease, according to a team of experts from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Most Covid-19 vaccines consist of a primary series of two doses, with a first booster administered some four to six months after completion to improve immune response.

While several countries had rolled out the second booster dose against Covid, the WHO had so far not recommended it.

But after a meeting, last



week, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization recommended the fourth dose or the second booster against Covid, but only for the vulnerable people. Protection offered by current vaccines declines substantially within a few months, particularly in the

context of each variant of concern.

The guidance focuses on the need for a second booster as Omicron remains the dominant variant. It does not take into account future variants, or variant-containing vaccines, which are in late-stage development.

'Relationship purely consensual': SC quashes rape charges against man

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has quashed rape charges against a man, saying that the woman and him had a consensual relationship, which existed before her marriage with another man, went on also during her marriage, and continued after her divorce.

A bench said: "The relationship between the parties was purely of a consensual nature. The relationship was in existence prior to the marriage of the second respondent and continued to subsist during the term of the marriage and after the second respondent was granted a divorce by mutual consent."

It said taking the allegations in the complaint, it is impossible to find in the FIR or in the charge sheet, the essential ingredients of an offence under Section 376 IPC.

The top court judgment came on the plea by the man challenging the Allahabad High Court order refusing to quash the rape charges and the charge sheet filed against him in the case. The top court observed that the woman in her statement recorded before the magistrate had accepted, they had known each other since 2013 and subsequently got into a relationship.

Hawala operator for terror outfits LeT, Al-Badr held in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a joint operation, Delhi Police and Jammu and Kashmir police in assistance with central agencies arrested a Hawala operator for funding terror outfits LeT (Lashkar-e-Taiba) and Al-Badr.

The accused was identified as Mohammed Yaseen.

"Inspectors Sunil Kumar Rajain and Ravinder Joshi under ACPs Lalit Mohan Negi and Hridaya Bhushan were working on an information. They held Yaseen, a resident of Turkman Gate in Delhi. He was working as an agent in Hawala transactions related to funding of terror outfits LeT and Al-Badr. On Aug 17, Yasin gave around Rs 10 lakh to a terror operative Abdul Hamid Mir of J&K for further use in terrorist activities in J&K. In this regard, J&K Police registered a case and had arrested Abdul Hamid Mir from Jammu Bus Stand along with the terror funding amount of Rs 10 lakh," said HGS Dhaliwal, the DCP of Special Cell.

The official said that on August 18, an information



was received from central agencies and J&K police regarding a person engaged in funding of terrorist activities and operating from Meena Bazar, Delhi itself.

After receiving the information, a raiding team was constituted and deployed in and around area of Meena Bazar. Yaseen was finally held. The police said that they have recovered cash Rs 7 lakh and a cell phone from him.

During interrogation, Yaseen disclosed the police that the Hawala money was being sent to Surat and Mumbai through South Africa.

Yaseen was the Delhi link in this Hawala chain and from Delhi this amount was further transferred to J&K through different couriers.

This amount is further given to operatives of banned terror outfit LeTs and Al-Badr in J&K. Further investigation in the matter is on.

ONGC, IRCTC among 21 PSEs running without full-time heads

As many as 21 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) including Maharatna entity ONGC, Navratnas Oil India Ltd (OIL), and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), among others, are functioning without a full-time head. In some cases, the top posts have been lying vacant for as long as 18 months.

► SOURCES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, WHICH COMES UNDER FINANCE MINISTRY, SAID THAT ALL THE 21 VACANT POSTS OF CMDs AND MDS ARE UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF BEING FILLED UP.

► SOME OTHER ENTITIES WHICH ARE RUNNING WITHOUT A FULL-TIME CHIEF INCLUDE MAHANADI COALFIELDS, HMT LTD, HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION LTD AND SAGARMALA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD AMONG OTHERS.

Animesh Singh | New Delhi

According to sources in the Department of Public Enterprises, the country's biggest oil refining company ONGC is without a

Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) since April 1, 2021 i.e. 16 months, while its subsidiary OIL is working without a head since July 1, 2022. Similarly Railway Ministry's catering arm IRCTC is also without a full-time Chairman since February 1, 2021, a gap of more than 18 months. BEL too has no chief since July 1, 2021

while Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Chairman's post is lying vacant since June 1 this year.

While in the case of SCI and OIL, the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) has recommended candidates for the posts of CMD and MD, for entities like ONGC, IRCTC and BEL, the selection process for CMDs and

chairpersons is undertaken by Civil Services Board or Search Cum Selection Committee.

Sources added that though efforts are made to ensure that posts at board level don't lie vacant for long durations, CPSEs have been functioning without regular heads due to various reasons.



BSF head constable killed in Tripura militant attack

Team Absolute | Agartala

In the first incident of terrorist violence in Tripura this year, a Border Security Force (BSF) head constable was gunned down by militants of the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) on Friday, police said.

The BSF has sought the help of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) to nab the NLFT militants, belonging to Biswa Mohan faction.

A police spokesman said that the NLFT cadres fired on a BSF patrolling party at Simna Two along the India-Bangladesh border in north Tripura district, injuring Head Constable Girjesh Kumar Uddey, 53, who was shifted to an Agartala hospital but succumbed to his injuries.



A huge contingent of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) led by Inspector General of Police, Law and Order, Arindam Nath and senior BSF officials have rushed to the mountainous areas for taking further course of action.

A BSF official said that massive operations are underway in close coordination with the BGB to track down the insurgents responsible for the attack.

The slain Head Constable, a resident of Madhya Pradesh, belonged to the BSF's 145th Battalion.

TRS LEADER KAVITHA WRITES TO CJI ON BILKIS BANO CASE

Hyderabad: Telangana Legislative Council member Kalvakuntla Kavitha has written to Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, requesting him to intervene so that the release of 11 convicts in Bilkis Bano rape case is withdrawn immediately. Bilkis Bano was 21 and was pregnant when this gangrape took place during the 2002 Gujarat riots. On August 15, the Gujarat government released the 11 convicts. Kavitha highlighted technical and legal points, noting that "this case was investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). It was the Special CBI Court that sentenced these convicts. Section 435 (1) (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code states that the power of the state government to remit or commute a sentence in any case which was investigated by the CBI shall not be exercised by the state government, except after consultation with the central government".



PM MODI ATTACKS OPPN, SAYS THOSE WHO TALK BIG LACK VISION

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Launching a veiled attack on the Opposition parties while addressing the 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' event held in Goa virtually, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for a long-term approach for nation-building, saying that those who are not bothered about the country only talk big but can't work with a big vision for water security.

Modi said that seven crore households in the country have been given piped water in just three years under the 'Har Ghar Jal' mission, "whereas in seven decades since Independence, only three crore households had this facility".

Under the mission, all rural households are to be provided with clean piped water.

"It is true that to form a government, one does not have to work that hard as one has to work to build a



country. We have all chosen to work for nation-building. That is why we are working on the challenges of the present and the future. Those who do not care about the country, are not bothered about spoiling the present

or future of the country. Such people can definitely talk big, but can never work with a big vision for water," the Prime Minister said.

He further said, "There were about 16 crore rural households in the

country, who had to depend on outside sources for water. We could not have left such a large population of the village fighting for this basic need. That's why three years ago I had announced from the Red Fort that every house would get piped water. Rs 3.60 lakh crore are being spent on this campaign and despite the interruptions caused by the biggest epidemic of 100 years, the pace of this campaign did not slow down. The result of this continuous effort is that in just three years, the country has done more than double the work done in seven decades. This is an example of the same human-centred development, which I talked about this time from the Red Fort."

Modi congratulated Goa for becoming the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified state where every household is connected to piped water. He also acknowledged Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu as first Union territories to achieve the feat.

'Unprovoked': Thoothukudi firing probe panel report indicts police, Collector

Chennai | Agencies

The Justice Aruna Jagadeesan (ret'd) Commission, which probed the police firing on May 22-23, 2018 on protesters in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi, leading to the death of 13 persons, has come out heavily against police officers involved as well as the then district Collector N. Venkitesan.

The report, submitted to the state government on May 18, is still to be tabled in the Assembly. However, according to the report, as accessed by the IANS, the Commission has held the police firing to be "totally unprovoked and indiscriminate" and coming down heavily against Venkitesan, said that he "had made ill-conceived decisions".

The report also said that police had fired at fleeing protesters and that there was no material evidence with



the police that indicated that the protesters were militant.

Noting that police had taken safe shelter and used sharpshooters from long range to fire at the protesters, the Commission, in its report, has recommended action against 17 officials including then IGP, South Zone, Shailesh Kumar Yadav, then DIG, Tirunelveli, Kapilkumar Sarathk, then Thoothukudi SP P. Mahendran, and Venkitesan.

The commission, in its report, also came down heavily against the officers for not properly promulgating pro-

hibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC. It said that even after promulgating prohibitory orders in respect of two police station limits, the officials did not prevent the demonstration against Sterlite on SAV school grounds in Thoothukudi. This has led to confusion and police not being able to prevent the public from turning violent.

The report, however, said that there were no intelligence failures but the district administration did not attach much significance to the intelligence report.

Damage to Mahatma Gandhi photo: One staff of Rahul's Wayanad office, 3 Cong workers held

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Congress in Kerala cried foul after the police probing the vandalism of Lok Sabha member Rahul Gandhi's office in Wayanad arrested one staff of his office - Ratheesh and three other Congress workers on Friday. The incident took place on June 24.

Alleging that Gandhi, who is the Wayanad MP, failed to act on the issue of 'buffer zone' of eco-sensitive areas, the SFI protesters had allegedly shouted slogans against him and damaged his office in Wayanad.

A picture of Mahatma Gandhi was found broken and confusion arose when the SFI protesters claimed they did not destroy it and allegations were there that it was the work of Congress workers.

The police launched a probe and four Congress workers were arrested on Friday.

Local Congress legislator T. Siddique said this is nothing but a ploy to divert the attention as the assembly begins its sitting on Monday. "The AKG Centre-state headquarters of the CPI-M was attacked in the last week of June and all know this was the work of the CPI-M itself to divert attention and to target the Congress party, the Congress workers in Wayanad have been arrested for destroying the picture of Mahatma Gandhi which was in



the office. This is the way the police of Vijayan are acting," said Siddique.

"This act is also done to please Narendra Modi and it's hilarious that the police are yet to examine the CCTV footage from the office where the vandalism took place. Without that how can the police conclude like this. It's just a ploy to keep their folly of attacking the CPI-M headquarters," added Siddique.

The police have taken into custody the four Congress workers including the staff of Gandhi and sources reveal all four will be given bail from the station itself.

School, trust in Partha Chatterjee's late wife's name under ED lens

Kolkata | Agencies

An international residential school and its managing trust, both in the name of the deceased wife of former state Partha Chatterjee, have come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probing the multi-crore teacher recruitment scam in West Bengal, in which Chatterjee is the prime accused.

The name of the school is BCM International School, while the name of its managing trust is Babli Chatterjee Memorial Foundation, named after Partha Chatterjee's deceased wife, Babli Chatterjee.

The two members of the trustee board are Partha Chatterjee's son-in-law Kalyanmoy Bhattacharya and the latter's maternal uncle Krishan Adhikari. The residence of Adhikari is located within a kilometre of the international school at Pingla in West Midnapore district.



ED sleuths have already submitted details about this school and the memorial trust to a special ED court in Kolkata where the trials of Partha Chatterjee and his close aide Arpita Mukherjee are being held.

The ED's counsel had also given an explanation as to why the investiga-

tors feel that the proceeds of the recruitment irregularities in West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) were routed through this school. ED sources said that the school is built over an area of 1,50,000 lakh sq ft and its building is fitted with high-quality imported marble slabs

and granites. The school also has several high-end Volvo buses.

"In simple terms, the school is a perfect example of any high-standard international school. We even talked to some of the landowners who sold their land for setting up the school, and many of them said that they received a major part of the money in cash. They also said that most of these purchases were made in the first half of 2017, which is immediately after the end of the demonetisation period," an ED official said.

The ED officials have raided the residence of Krishna Adhikari once and also questioned him on this count. The agency sleuths have also sent communiques to Partha Chatterjee's daughter, Sohini (Chatterjee) Bhattacharya and son-in-law Kalyanmoy Bhattacharya, both settled in the US, to come to Kolkata at the earliest for questioning. However, no positive response has been received from their end so far.

KEJRIWAL LAUNCHES 'MAKE INDIA NO. 1' MISSION

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced a mobile number for common people to give a 'missed call' to connect with AAP's 'Make India No. 1' mission.



In a digital press briefing, he said, "I am issuing a number today, missed call number 9510001000. Those who want to see India as the number 1 nation in the world, give the missed call on this number. We all 130 crore people have to join this movement." "We had announced day before yesterday that we have to make India number one country in the world. The dream of making India number one is now taking the shape," he said in the briefing.

6 DEAD IN 3 SEPARATE GUJARAT ACCIDENTS

Ahmedabad | Agencies

At least six people were killed in three separate accidents in Gujarat, police said on Friday.

All three accidents took place on Thursday night. In the first accident, an Ahmedabad family were travelling in their personal vehicle from Vatva to Vadodara. The car rammied into a truck, killing all the four persons travelling in the vehicle on the spot.

Ahmedabad police said the exact cause of the accident is being investigated. The victims were identified as



Jayshree (60), her daughter-in-law Hitika (40), grand-

daughter Jaini (four) and driver Akbar Chatra.

The second accident was a hit and run reported in Ahmedabad. The victim, Vishal Gaikwad (25), was returning home from work when an Audi coming from the opposite direction on the Chimanbhai bridge hit his bike and dragged him for almost 100 meters.

In the third accident, a dumper hit a motorcycle near Limkheda circuit house road, in which bike rider Kanubhai died on the spot and his brother Dilipbhai was hospitalised in critical condition.

The driver of the dumper is absconding.

BENGALURU COLLEGE FACES CASE FOR CREATING JAM WHILE CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Bengaluru | Agencies

A case has been filed against Bengaluru's Mount Carmel College (MMC) for violating rules while celebrating Independence Day and creating chaotic traffic, police said on Friday. According to police, the mega celebrations organised by the MMC saw a footfall of 6,000 to 8,000, resulting in disturbance of traffic in the arterial roads of the central business district on Monday.

The case has been filed under various provisions of IPC including wrongful restraint, obstruction in public way, public nuisance, and

unlawful assembly.

The police said that the management had sold tickets to outsiders, through students, for Rs 100. The visitors had parked their vehicles on the road, creating a chaotic traffic situation outside campus. Police also that the students were asked to sell 20 tickets each and the management had given 10,000 tickets. The trouble started when the management turned down a large crowd from entering the premises. According to police, the college had sought permission for the celebration of Independence Day, but, sold tickets for its silver jubilee event.

EX-GUV COMPARES MODI WITH LORD KRISHNA



Rajkot: Former Governor of Karnataka and senior BJP leader Vajubhai Patil on Friday compared Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Lord Krishna in the fight against 'Parivaarwad' (dynastic politics).

Vala was addressing a Dharma Sabha in Rajkot on Friday, where he quoted Modi's recent statement from the Red Fort, "We have to fight against corruption and Parivaarwad," Vala said Lord Krishna was fighting against one-sidedness during the Mahabharata Kal and Prime Minister was fighting against nepotism in present times."

Vala said that he believes that to win all the 182 seats in the state Assembly was difficult, but not impossible for the Bharatiya Janata Party, with the commitment that the party works with and the determination with which it fights the elections.

Earlier, 'saala' influential in Bihar, now 'jeeja', claims BJP leader

Patna | Agencies

A day after Bihar minister Tej Pratap Yadav invited his brother-in-law Shailesh Kumar to a meeting of the state pollution control board, former BJP minister Janak Ram on Friday targeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the RJD for promoting family politics.

"Earlier, saala (wife's brother) was influential, now jeeja (sister's husband)," he said in a reference to RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav's brothers-in-law Sadhu Yadav and Subhash Yadav being very influential and dictating terms when he was Chief Minister and now Shailesh Kumar in the government of his son, Tej Pratap Yadav. "Old situation repeated in the new government. Jungle Raj part 3 arrived in Bihar," he claimed.

Hitting out at Nitish Kumar, Ram said: "When I was the minister, I used to go to him for approval of sanctioning jobs in



the department, but he did not even listen. He does not want a Dalit leader seated along with him. He often got angry with me."

Building Construction Minister Ashok Chaudhary, of the JD-U, came to the defence of Tej Pratap Yadav.

"When a leader is newly appointed as a minister, his/her family members used to go into

the offices to see work. It happened sometimes with me as well though I became the minister for the fifth time. Tej Pratap Yadav went to the office for the first time, and his brother-in-law went with him. It is not a big issue. Though, it was an official meeting and he (Shailesh Kumar) should have gone away then," Chaudhary said.

INTER-FAITH COUPLE FOUND DEAD IN UP IN APPARENT SUICIDE PACT

Shamli: The body of a 15-year-old girl has been recovered from her boyfriend's relative house in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district after she went missing a day earlier, police said, adding the boy also died later.

According to police, the boy was lying unconscious close to the girl's body and was still alive when found.

He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, officials said. The incident took place in a village in Shamli where the girl used to live with her maternal grandfather's family. Station house officer (SHO), Karmveer Singh said: "The couple were in relationship with each other and both had left their houses on Wednesday night. The autopsy report has revealed that both the victims died due to consumption of poison. So far, police have not received complaints from both sides." Meanwhile, SP Shamli, Abhishek said "Both the victims belong to different communities. Our investigation is on and necessary action will be taken."

Five held for stripping girl, thrashing couple in UP



Hamirpur | Agencies

Five of the six persons accused of stripping and beating a girl in Hamirpur have been arrested after a video clip of the incident went viral on social media.

Three persons were arrested on Thursday night and two on Friday morning. According to reports, the girl was sitting and talking at a secluded spot with her male friend when a group of men arrived and began abusing the couple.

They then beat up the youth and stripped the girl.

They beat her with a belt. It is not yet known whether they sexually assaulted the girl or not.

Police officials said that the matter was under investigation and the girl was being sent for medical examination. Meanwhile, Vimla Batham, head of state women commission, has strongly condemned the incident. "We are taking cognisance of the incident and will ask the government to ensure strict punishment for the accused. The incident is proof of the fact that we are heading towards jungle raj," she said on Friday.

SEX RACKET BUSTED AFTER COPS RAID GURUGRAM SPA CENTRE, 4 ARRESTED

Gurugram: Gurugram police have arrested four people, including two women, for allegedly operating a sex racket from a spa centre here.

The arrested, which also includes the spa centre's owner Bhagat Singh and manager Yogesh, have been booked under different sections of the Immoral Trafficking Act and an FIR has been registered at the Sector 50 police station.

According to the police, the spa is located in the Ocus Quantum Mall in Sector 51. The women were arrested for prostitution. While one is a resident of Chhattisgarh, the other is from Mathura. In the preliminary inquiry, it was revealed that the owner and manager had pushed both women into prostitution and used to charge Rs 2,000 per customer. All the accused were produced in the court which sent them to judicial custody in Bhondsi jail."



DALIT GIRL BEATEN UP FOR SITTING IN FRONT ROW, TEACHER BOOKED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh police lodged an FIR against a woman government teacher for passing casteist slurs and thrashing a 16-year-old dalit girl for allegedly sitting in the front row of the class.

According to police, the incident occurred on August 2 at the Government Higher Secondary Girls School, Baidhan, in the Singrauli district.

In the police complaint, Anjana Saket (name changed), a student of class 12th, alleged that when the teacher Jagriti Singh entered the classroom that day, she was enraged after seeing Saket on the front bench of the class. She subsequently passed casteist slurs and hit Saket with the book on her head multiple times.

"I fell unconscious for hours after she hit me with a book on my head," the complainant

claimed in the FIR.

Acting on the complaint, police lodged the FIR against the accused teacher Jagriti Singh on August 17 at Bairan police station of Singrauli.

"On the complaint of a dalit girl, police booked a teacher Jagriti Singh under section 294, 323 and 506 of the IPC and also invoked two sections of SC/ST Atrocities Act - 1989," said Arun Kumar Pandey, town inspector of Bairan police station. The probe is underway, he added.

According to an official communication issued by the district collector a day after the FIR, the decision to slap a case against the teacher was taken based on the findings of the District Education Officer (DEO) Rohini Prasad Pandey, who was instructed by the district collector Rajeev Ranjan Meena to probe the matter. A day after the incident, the victim, along with her parents, approached the district collector

demanding strict action against the teacher.

During the probe, the DEO found evidence of assault and discrimination and submitted the report on Wednesday to the collector. Acting on the report, an FIR was lodged against her, the collector told reporters on August 18. Many students and teachers have also endorsed the allegations made by the students against the teacher, said officials.

The district collector has also sent a letter to the Rewa commissioner to initiate a departmental inquiry against her as she violated the sections of Madhya Pradesh Civil Service (conduct) 1995.

"We have also written to the concerned department to initiate the suspension process," said Meena in the official communication.

Despite repeated attempts, DEO Pandey was not available for comment.

State government is as strong as Lord Krishna's thunderbolt on the wicked: CM

► CHIEF MINISTER SHIV RAJ SINGH CHOUHAN EXTENDS BEST WISHES ON SHRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

► WORSHIP AT SHRI RADHA KRISHNA TEMPLE AT BARKHEDI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the day of Shri Krishna Janmashtami is a day of joy, gaiety and enthusiasm. Lord Krishna gave the same message that gentlemen should be softer than flowers and wicked should be harsher than thunder. According to the policy of Lord Krishna, whoever plays with the peace and harmony of the state,



the state government will be harsher than the thunderbolt. Chouhan was addressing the devotees present on Shri Krishna

Janmashtami after offering prayers at Shri Radha Krishna Temple at Ahirpura Barkhedi. Chief Minister launched the

Palki Yatra of Bal Gopal. Greeted and greeted the devotees on the occasion of Shri Krishna Janmashtami with the chant of "Nand ke Ghar Anand Bhayo, Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki."

Chouhan has said that the message of Karma with love and devotion has been given by Lord Shri Krishna. Always do good deeds without worrying about the result. He prayed Lord Krishna for happiness, prosperity and good health of the people of the state. Chief Minister said that the blessings and grace of Lord Shri Krishna always remain on our country and India should be established as a world guru under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Mayor Malti Rai, MLA Rameshwar Sharma, social worker Rahul Kothari and citizens were present on the occasion.

Upset Over Low Garlic Prices, Farmers Dump Sacks Of Crop In River



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a rare video going viral on social media, some farmers can be seen throwing sacks full of garlic into a river in Madhya Pradesh reportedly due to low prices. According to reports, farmers dumping garlic stacks into the Parvati river from a bridge dividing Sehore and Rajgarh districts. One quintal (100 kg) of

garlic is produced at a cost of Rs 2,500-3,000, however, it was fetching just Rs 300 to Rs 600 per quintal in the market.

Responding to the incident, a group of farmers in the state said that cultivators were getting abysmally low prices for their garlic crop and even sought that the Centre allow export of the produce to give the market a boost.

In the viral video which was posted by Kisan Swaraj Sangathan (KSS), a farmer can be heard saying they were throwing the bumper garlic crop as prices offered to them were very less. A functionary of the KSS said that the viral footage is from Ashta town in Sehore district and had been sent by one of its workers there.

Angry farmers even said that they would agitate in front of local MLAs and MPs as well as the state Assembly if the issue was not resolved at the earliest possible.

"Traders are purchasing garlic in the Rs 1-4 per kilogram range. However, cost of production per kilogram was Rs 30-40. We are facing huge losses and so are dumping the produce," farmer Jamshed Khan of Phulmogra village claimed.

Farmers group led by Suryopal Singh Thakur submitted a memorandum to the Jawar tehsildar after holding a protest.

Letter was marked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and sought immediate export of onion and garlic in the interest of farmers of the state. It takes Rs 2,000 to produce one quintal of onion, while it is being sold in the range of Rs 500-800.

CHIEF MINISTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO KUSHABHAU THAKRE



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tributes to Kushabhau Thakre on his 100th anniversary and garlanded his portrait. CM Chouhan has tweeted that "Founder member of Jan Sangh, former National President of BJP, architect of the organisation, Nishkam Karmayogi, revered Kushabhau Thakre Ji's entire life was dedicated to nation, organisation and social service. His great ideas for the service to the nation will continue to inspire all of us to remain active on the path of service."

BJP Versus BJP in MP After Leader's Criticism Of Brahmins

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The BJP found itself on the backfoot with the Brahmin community in Madhya Pradesh following a leader's controversial remarks. It has also got two leaders of the ruling party working against each other. Pritam Singh Lodhi is considered a loyalist of the party's former Chief Minister Uma Bharti. A police case has been filed against him on a complaint by a youth leader of the BJP.

Addressing a function to felicitate meritorious students on the birth anniversary of warrior queen Avantibai Lodhi on Wednesday, Pritam Singh Lodhi slammed the Brahmins. "The Brahmins were fooling and harassing people in the name of offering religious rituals and prayers," he said. "They were grabbing money and other things from commoners. They (Brahmins) are prospering on our money and

resources," he said after the felicitation.

"Seeing beautiful women from good families, they (the Brahmins) want to have food in the homes of those women. They (Brahmins) want young women seated in the front row and make elderly women sit in the back row," Lodhi said while addressing the event at Shivpuri's Kharai village.

The video of the BJP leader's controversial remarks is being widely circulated. Shortly after that, a Brahmin leader of the ruling party's youth wing, Praveen Mishra, got a police case lodged against Lodhi. He has been accused of promoting enmity between two groups.

The Congress was quick to target the ruling party and the Shivraj Singh government. "The BJP leader's public statement is part of his party's well-planned conspiracy against the Brahmins and other general category people," said Congress spokesperson KK Mishra.

"In November 2021, the ruling party's national general secretary in-charge for Madhya Pradesh, P Murlidhar Rao, had said in Bhopal that Brahmins and Baniyas were in his pocket. What Lodhi has said is the extension of Rao's earlier statements," he added.

Mishra questioned why the Brahmin leaders of BJP, such as VD Sharma, Gopal Bhargava and Narottam Mishra, were silent over Lodhi's statements. "The entire Brahmin caste should unite against BJP, else days aren't far when we will be assaulted by these people," Mishra said while demanding an apology from the party.

Lodhi had contested the last two assembly polls against Congress veteran KP Singh 'Kakkaju', from Pichhore. In the 2018 polls, he lost by a narrow margin of about 2,500 votes. He is already accused in at least 37 criminal cases, including four attempt-to-murder and two murder cases.

Chief Minister plants saplings with press photographers

CM clicked photographs of press photographers on World Photography Day and Planted Almond, Peepal and Gondli saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings with press photographers today on World Photography Day. Chouhan himself clicked photographs of press photographers and greeted them on World Photography Day. CM Chouhan planted Almond, Peepal and Gondli saplings. President of Photojournalist Welfare Society Bhopal Shamim Khan, Photographer of Chief Minister Press Cell Salim Mirza, Ravinder Singh of Pradesh Times, Jaspreet Singh of Hari Bhoomi, N Chouksey



of Swadesh along with press photographers Sandeep Gupta, Prithviraj and Vishnu also participated in tree plantation. Along with Chouhan six-year-old Divyanka Bhosle also planted a sapling. Her family members associated with

Chhatrapati Shivaji Seva Kalyan Samiti Bhopal, Dinesh Bhosle, Durgesh Bhosle and Priyanka Bhosle also planted saplings. Committee members Mukesh Mail, Akash Prajapati, Vibha Garud, Sushri Jyoti Andhade also participated in plantation. Peepal is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Almond is a dry fruit. Technically it is the seed of the fruit of the almond tree. The almond tree bears pink and white fragrant flowers.

The fruit of Gondli is used as a food item and its wood is used for commercial purposes.

MP-EOW raids:

Jabalpur RTO has assets worth Rs 300 crore; 6 Houses, Home Theatre,

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A swimming pool, jacuzzi and mini bar - this is not a description of a 5-star resort but are among the many luxurious features of the palatial house of a government officer in Madhya Pradesh.

The 10,000 square feet bungalow also features a home theatre and a separate office for the assistant Regional Transport Officer or RTO, Santosh Paul.

The visuals of the luxury amenities surfaced during an ongoing search at his house in Jabalpur in connection with a case related to

disproportionate assets.

The raids, conducted by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), also led to the recoveries of Rs 15 lakh cash, expensive jewellery, luxury cars, four more houses and one farmhouse.

Paul's wife Rekha is a clerk at his office. As per initial probe, the couple had assets 650 per cent higher compared to their known sources of income.

Pal owns assets worth Rs 300 crore which comprise six houses, a farmhouse and several luxury vehicles, officials said. Raids conducted at three locations including the official's residence by the

Economic Offences Wing of the Madhya Pradesh Police led to the recovery of cash and jewellery worth Rs 16 lakh.

The recoveries, however, may only be the tip of the iceberg. As per official estimates, the assets owned by Pal amount. A video of the raids at the official's residence shared by news agency ANI showed a lavish house, luxury vehicles, a jacuzzi and a private theatre too.

As per officials, the authorities have also unearthed several undisclosed properties linked to Pal, including a 1247 square foot house in PP colony, 1150 square

foot house in Shankar Shah ward, and two 10,000 square feet residential buildings in Shatabdipuram, etc.

The raids also revealed the lavish lifestyle that the RTO official maintained. The official's opulent residence had a personal movie theatre replete with recliner seats and a screen.

Singh has been posted in Jabalpur since 2018 and has many of his relatives also involved in work related to the RTO department. The officer came under the spotlight following complaints against him, including threatening an auto driver with a fake case.

RAPE ACCUSED 'MIRCHI BABA' SPENDS HIS TIME WITH DREADED CRIMINALS IN JAIL

Bhopal: Mirchi Baba alias Vairagyanand Giri, who once claimed to have political leaders, bureaucrats and thousands as his followers is currently spending his days as the cellmate of dreaded criminals in Bhopal Central Jail.

Mirchi Baba was shifted here on August 8 after he was accused of raping a woman by her giving 'bhabhuti.'

Ever since he landed in this jail, not one political leader or bureaucrat, or follower has visited him here, Dainik Bhaskar reported.

The baba was accused of rape by a 28-year-old woman from Raisen who filed a case at the Women's Police Station in Bhopal. Baba was arrested from a hotel in Gwalior on August 8. The woman had in her complain said that she had been married for four years and had been issueless. Then she met Mirchi Baba who claimed that he could help her have a child if she worshipped him.

The woman further claimed that the Baba on the pretext of treating her fed her intoxicating tablets and then raped her in July this year. Police are also on the lookout for Mirchi Baba's disciple Gopal, who has also been named as an accused in the case. Police said it was Gopal who brought the Raisen woman to meet Mirchi Baba has been complicit in this and several other crimes of the baba.

'Perverse:' SC Sets Aside MPHC Order Discharging Rape Accused

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has termed as "utterly incomprehensible" an order of the Madhya Pradesh high court discharging an accused of the offence of rape essentially on the ground of delay in the registration of the first information report (FIR).

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and JB Pardiwala said the facts of this litigation were quite "heart-breaking" and set aside the order of the high court holding that the impugned order could be termed as "perverse and not sustainable in law."

The verdict was pronounced on August 12 but was yet to be uploaded on the apex court website.

"At the cost of repetition, we state that the impugned order of the High Court is utterly incomprehensible. We have yet to come across a case where the high court has thought fit to discharge an accused charged

with the offence of rape on the ground of delay in the registration of the FIR," Justice Pardiwala said while writing the judgement on behalf of the bench.

The top court, however, did not interfere with the decision of the trial court of discharging the accused Amit Kumar Tiwari from the offence punishable under Section 306 (abetment to the commission of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Notably, the case dealt with the death of a minor girl, who died by suicide after she delivered an illegitimate child conceived with the accused. On April 27, 2020, the survivor had complained of stomach pain and was taken to a private nursing home, thinking it was a case of stomach tumour. While waiting for the doctor at the nursing home, the girl delivered a child on the bench and was rushed to the minor operation theatre. The girl told her father that Tiwari was the father of her child and they both would start a new

life with their baby in a nearby town.

The father of the victim went to bring some money from the village and by the time he returned, the girl had died by suicide and the infant was lying on the dressing table. After that, an FIR was lodged against the accused.

An FIR was registered under Sections 376 (rape) and 306 of the IPC and Sections 5 and 6 of the POCSO Act and a chargesheet was filed. The special court framed charges against the accused.

Allowing a revision petition filed by the accused, the Madhya Pradesh HC noted, "Even in the life time of the deceased she did not approach the police. The story as narrated by the mother of the deceased seems to be doubtful on the ground of delay." The court discharged the accused.

The Supreme Court also rapped the state government for not appealing the order and said that it is a "disturbing feature of this litigation" that the father of the deceased had to

come before this court seeking justice.

The top court said that the state is expected to challenge the illegal order passed by the high court. Barring a few exceptions, in criminal matters, the party who is treated as the aggrieved party is the state - which is the custodian of the social interests of the community at large. So it is for the state to take all the steps necessary to bring the person who acted against the social interests of the community to book, the SC said.

It said, "...the impugned order of the high court could be termed as perverse and not sustainable in law. We refrain from observing anything further in regard to the exact and correct age of the deceased at the time of [the] commission of the offence as alleged as it may cause prejudice to the parties in some manner or the other. It is for the trial court to determine the correct age on the basis of the evidence that may be led by the prosecution as well as by the defence."



EDITOR'S SPECS

RENOVATION OF AYODHYA

As Ayodhya gears up for a new look with the grand Ram temple as the epicentre, an international level 'Ramayana Museum and Cultural Centre' will be a major attraction. The proposed museum is to be established on 10 acres of land at Ramasnehi Ghat between Ayodhya and Lucknow. This will enable people to get 'grand and divine darshan of the entire life of Lord Ram in one location instead of visiting different cities. Envisaged by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, official sources said that the proposed museum will have performances of the Ramayana through puppets from Russia, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and others including from India. A kitchen with delicacies from Madhubani, Avadh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka will also be operational. Ramayana related arts, culture, handicrafts, folk cuisine, Ramayana Vishwa Yatra Vithika, 'Ram Van Gaman Marg', Ramayan-based art gallery, Ramayan-based library, research and publication centre, presentation of Ramayana through puppetry and Ramlila performances on the campus will be the features of the museum," said an official. A special centre for handicrafts of Ramayana will also be established in the form of souvenirs. The museum also plans to offer accommodation for tourists. Construction will be done keeping in mind arrangements for the stay of the state, foreign and foreign tourists on the campus. Large for group passengers, some dormitories and some single rooms will be built. Four large rooms will be built for administrative control. Passengers will have the facility of group prayers in the morning and evening. Multilevel parking will be provided and public toilets will also be built. A forest area, known as Panchavati, will have plantations of the Ramayana trees in a rectangular form.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHTS OF THE NATION

Seema Singh

As we celebrate 75 years of Independence, it is a high time to introspect and contemplate about the gains and losses we made in past this much of years.

We got Independence after a long struggle on August 15, 1947. On this day, a new Independent state came into existence. On January 26, 1950, the Constitution of India was implemented, which begins with the Preamble.

The Preamble indicates the mission and vision of the Constitution. The Preamble begins with "We the People of India" followed by "Sovereignty, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity". All of these goals are the collective responsibility of every citizen of this nation.

Here sovereignty and fraternity is related to the rights of the nation and rest with the rights of the citizens. Unfortunately, the concept of nation has not received appropriate attention within the existing constitutional scheme.

In fact, in the entire Constitution, the term 'nation' has hardly been mentioned at one or two places, only under the chapter of Fundamental Duties.

Article 1 of the Constitution begins with - India i.e. Bharat shall be a union of States. For majority of the people, there is no difference between India and Bharat, but in reality there is a big difference. India is a political entity comprising territories and citizens but Bharat is one of the most ancient cultural civilizations.

India is defined according to the modern theories of political science, but the meaning of Bharat remained undiscussed in post-Independent India.

Bharat is one of those rarest nations whose geography naturally defines its territory. According to Puranas, from the Himalayan range in north to the Indian Ocean in south, the entire region was the land of Bharat. Before 1857, the area of Bharat was somewhere around 1 crore sq km which is now hardly 33 lakh sq km. Bharat Mata means a living entity having all the rights of a natural person. Like any other person, Bharat Mata has the right to dignity, sovereignty and integrity and it is the responsibility of every Bhartiya to protect her rights even at the cost of their own life. Bharat Mata has some distinguished rights - like right to territorial sovereignty, ecological sovereignty, cultural sovereignty and spiritual sovereignty.

Here the meaning of territorial sovereignty is any attempt to alter the territorial boundaries should be discouraged and defended by the people of this country with best of their ability. This right of motherland is non-compromisable. Our land has been divided 24 times in the last 2500 years, which proves that we could not



successfully defend the territorial sovereignty of this country.

The idea of ecological sovereignty is deeply ingrained in Indian society in connivance with spiritual sovereignty.

The Bhartiya culture is fundamentally eco-centric. Bhartiya darshan always believed in the deep alliance of human being with nature and considered itself as the trustee, and not the owner of the same. The philosophy of non-duality removes the difference among the different creation of supreme divine whether inanimate or animate.

Through the spiritual richness of this nation, we kept our ecology balanced for thousands of years and also provided a safe ecosystem to all components of nature, including the five elements of universe or 'Panch Mahabhoots', i.e., Ether, Air, Fire, Water and Earth. Bhartiya culture does not believe in exploitation of nature but under the influence of globalisation we are compromising with the cultural and ecological sovereignty of this nation and leaving behind our richest cultural and spiritual heritage, which is the constant source of our existence in all odds. As we mark the 76th Independence Day, we need to analyse how much we are concerned about our nation's rights. There are several good reasons for celebrations.

We are now the fifth largest economy of the world, there is a considerable hike in per capita income and we are among the most powerful nations in the world.

But there is more to inspect, to think and to analyse. It is a reality that our total forest cover is now only 21.71 per cent though it should at least be 33 per cent of the total area.

In coming years, we are going to be the most populated country leaving behind China, which is going to cause immense pressure on our natural resources.

We are the third most polluted country in the world. We are under serious ecological threat. Around 10,000 species of plants and a

few hundred animal species are under severe threat due to the violation of ecological sovereignty of the nation. Air pollution was responsible for 16.7 lakh deaths in India in 2019, or 17.8 per cent of all deaths in the country that year.

According to a report by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), natural disasters, such as cyclones, floods and droughts, cost India around \$87 billion in 2020. Air pollution cost Indian businesses about \$95 billion or Rs 7 lakh crore every fiscal. There are around 76 active terrorist organisations operating in India. Our border areas are constantly receiving direct or indirect threats; divisive voices are rising from within the nation. These data reveals that we have heavily compromised with the cultural, ecological, spiritual and territorial sovereignty of our nation.

All these data indicate that the threats faced by the nation is actually damaging each of us. All these threats are challenging not only our right to life but also to our cultural, ecological and territorial existence.

Our Constitution and our courts are very much concerned about the protection of the rights of the citizens. Under Articles 32 and 226 on the violation of the fundamental rights, immediate relief can be claimed before the Supreme Court or any high court. But what about the rights of the nation? They have not been properly recognised by us.

In fact, in many cases of conflicts between the rights of the nation and the rights of the citizens, the latter's rights prevail.

In a very recent observation, the Supreme Court suspended the sedition law. The right to freedom of speech and expression of the citizens is many times protected in violation of the restriction of Article 19(2) which is also a constitutional mandate. Even after 75 years of Independence 'Rajdroha' is not recognised in the form of a separate offence,

though it directly violates the right of the nation. Many a times courts are mixing rights of refugees and rights of intruders and illegal migrants and passing such orders which are adversely affecting the rights of the nation.

Perhaps we don't have the realisation that without protecting the rights of the nation, rights of the citizens cannot be protected.

In few recent judgments of high courts some ray of hope could be seen, as the courts gave recognition to the ecological right of the nation when they recognised the rights of rivers, birds and animals.

In 2017, the Uttarakhand High Court (UHC) had ruled that rivers Ganga and Yamuna, the Gangotri and Yamunotri glaciers, as well as other related natural elements are 'legal persons' with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

And more recently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court declared the entire animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic, as legal entities having a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person. In both the judgments, the ecological and environmental sovereignty of the nation were indirectly recognised.

All these discussions conclude that we are very indifferent with the importance of the rights of the nation. The importance can be understood from those who are stateless and known as illegal migrants or intruders. We still don't realise that we cannot exist without the existence of our nation.

This is not the responsibility of the armed forces and the government only to protect the rights of the motherland. This should be our collective responsibility.

It is high time for the government/s and judiciary to recognise the rights of the nation and to give them supreme priority.

Governments should be responsible to citizens, but every citizen must also be responsible to the nation. We cannot survive as a powerful citizen unless the rights of the nation are protected. So let's take a pledge to save our nation, to save its values, its sovereignty and its culture. Let's take a pledge that we will not destroy what we have not created on our motherland... we will save this divine motherland at all cost raising above our petty interests. Let's rise together to protect the territorial, cultural, ecological and spiritual sovereignty of the nation to save our existence and to save the future of the coming generations.

(Dr Seema Singh is Assistant Professor, Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

international

Attacks in Ukraine's Kharkiv likely aimed at diverting troops: UK



London | Agencies

Russia's consistent shelling of Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine, is probably aimed at keeping significant troop numbers there, "to prevent them from being employed as a counter-attack force elsewhere", according to the UK's Ministry of Defence. At least 12 civilians were killed in Russian strikes on residential areas of the city on Wednesday, the ministry wrote in its latest intelligence

update on Twitter. It noted that Kharkiv is within range of most Russian artillery types, reports news agency. "Multiple rocket launchers and generally inaccurate area weapons have caused devastation across large parts of the city," the defence intelligence update said. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began at the end of February, the British government has regularly published details of its latest intelligence on the conflict. Moscow accuses London of a targeted disinformation campaign.

GANDHI STATUE IN NY SMASHED AMID WAVE OF CONTINUED ATTACKS

New York | Agencies

A statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of a temple in New York has been toppled and smashed in the second attack on the memorial this month and a local volunteer watch group has sprung into action to protect it. The incident in the early hours of Tuesday was the latest in a series of attacks on Gandhi statues in the US. Six men destroyed the statue at the Sri Tulsi Mandir with a sledgehammer and painted hate-filled words, around it and on the road, according to media reports quoting police. The statue had been vandalised earlier on August 3 and knocked over, according to the Queens Daily Eagle. Police released a surveillance video of the men between 25-30 years who are suspected of involvement in the attack. They fled the scene in a white Mercedes Benz and in a dark-coloured car that may be a Toyota Camry used as a for-hire vehicle, according to police. Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar, the first Hindu elected to the New York State legislature, told CBS New York TV on Thursday. "When the Gandhi statue was vandalised, that really flew in the face of all of our beliefs and it's very disturbing for the community" To know that



Gandhi represents peace and somebody would come and just target the statue and vandalize it, it's very sad," temple founder Pandit Maharaj told the New York Post. Meanwhile, volunteer watch group, the Cityline Ozone Park Civilian Patrol, tweeted on Thursday that its members increased their presence around the temple. "We increased our presence at Tulsi Mandir and were happy to see (police from) the 106 Precinct there as well. A big thank you to our four volunteers who were out for 7 hours overnight," it said in a tweet. After the first attack, Rajkumar had brought together several elected officials, including House of Representatives Foreign

Affairs Committee Gregory Meeks, to condemn the attack and demand police action. "Acts of hate have no place in our community and nation and the perpetrators need to be held accountable," Meeks was quoted by the Daily Eagle. The temple is located in South Richmond Park, an area with many people of Indian descent. A combination of leftists and Khalistanis have targeted Gandhi statues across the US, sometimes by circulating petitions for removing them, as in the case of another statue in New York City that was also vandalised by placing a shroud over it, and at other times by damaging them. During the protests against police excesses in February 2020, a statue in Washington had vile personal attacks on Gandhi and anti-India slogans painted on it. It was vandalised again in December that year by pro-Khalistani elements during a protest in support of the farmers' agitation in India. In another incident, a statue of Gandhi was cut at its leg and toppled over and its head was cut in half in Davis, California, in January last year. The same statue had also been vandalised with slogans in June 2020. Speaking to New York Post, Rajkumar noted that "Hindu hate is on the rise".

Salman Rushdie attack was unjustifiable: Imran Khan

Islamabad | Agencies

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has condemned the attack on Salman Rushdie, describing it as "terrible" and "sad", and saying that while the anger of the Islamic world at the author's book "The Satanic Verses" was understandable, it could not justify the assault. In an interview to the Guardian, Khan also said he expected Afghan women to "assert their rights" in the face of Taliban restrictions in which he sought to moderate his reputation as a firebrand. He is fighting for his political survival after being ousted from office in April. Khan says his staff and followers are being persecuted and intimidated and he is battling eight-year-old charges of illicit campaign financing that could lead to him being banned from politics. Ten years ago, Khan pulled out of an event in



India because Rushdie would also be appearing and the two men exchanged insults, but he does not appear to have expressed support for violent action against the Indian-born author. His denunciation of the attack is striking, however, in a region where most politicians have ducked comment. The Guardian reported. Asked for his response to the knife attack in New York state that left Rushdie badly wounded, Khan said: "I think it's terrible, sad." Rushdie understood, because he came from a Muslim family. He knows the love, respect, reverence of a Prophet that lives in our hearts.

PUTIN, XI PLAN TO ATTEND NOV G20 SUMMIT: INDONESIA PREZ

Jakarta: Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping are both expected to attend the G20 summit in Bali in November, Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced. "Xi Jinping will come. President Putin has also told me he will come," news agency quoted Widodo as saying to Bloomberg in an interview published on Friday. Indonesia currently holds the G20 presidency. Widodo had invited Putin but the Kremlin has so far not confirmed the Russian President's plans either way. Bloomberg could not initially obtain confirmation of Putin and Xi's attendance plans from Russian and Chinese sources. Putin's participation in the summit is considered problematic in the West amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and several countries have put in doubt whether they would participate if he attended in person.

Britain facing public health emergency: Health officials

London | Agencies

Senior officials in UK's National Health Service (NHS) on Friday made an "unprecedented" appeal to the government to take action on rising energy prices as the country faces a "public health emergency". The NHS Confederation sent a letter to ministers, warning that surging costs mean people will have to choose between skipping meals to heat their homes or living in cold and damp conditions this winter, reports news agency. Health leaders said they are concerned that widespread fuel poverty will increase the high number of annual deaths associated with cold homes, estimated at 10,000, and add pressure to an already overwhelmed health service. NHS Confederation chief executive Matthew Taylor said: "The country is facing a humanitarian crisis. Many people could face the awful choice between skipping meals to heat their homes and having to live in cold, damp and very unpleasant conditions. This in turn could lead to outbreaks of illness and sickness around the country and widen health inequalities, worsen children's life chances, and



leave an indelible scar on local communities." Taylors said these outbreaks of illness will strike "just as the NHS is likely to experience the most difficult winter on record". "NHS leaders have made this unprecedented intervention as they know that fuel poverty will inevitably

lead to significant extra demand on what are already very fragile services," he added. "Health leaders are clear that, unless urgent action is taken by the government, this will cause a public health emergency." It comes as energy regulator Ofgem is set to raise the cap on

energy prices from October, leading household bills to soar. The government has faced calls to freeze bills or provide more support to households, but Ministers have said no action will be taken until a new Prime Minister is in place on September 5.

622,000 TONNES OF GRAIN SHIPPED FROM UKRAINE SINCE DEAL: TURKEY

Ankara: A total of 622,000 tonnes of grain have been shipped from Ukraine's Black Sea ports since an agreement was reached in late July, according to the Turkish Defence Ministry. Twenty-five vessels left Ukrainian ports to export grain while 18 ships have entered the ports since August 1, the Ministry said on Twitter. Turkey and the UN helped bring Russia and Ukraine to an agreement on the export of Ukrainian grain at the end of July, breaking a blockade on Ukrainian ports since Moscow's invasion in February, reports news agency. The vessels have to undergo inspection by an international team at a joint coordination centre in Istanbul set up to monitor the grain exports across the Black Sea. The shipments are seen as crucial for the many countries dependent on grain from Ukraine, known as the breadbasket of Europe. Shortages and soaring prices have led to fears of severe shortages, especially in poorer nations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with famine looming in many areas. Millions of tonnes of grain have been stuck in Ukrainian ports since Russia attacked its neighbor and blockaded the country's ports. Ukraine, for its part, had mined the port approaches for fear of the Russian invasion. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Ukraine on Thursday.



'DAHI-HANDI' CELEBRATED WITH GUSTO IN MAHA, 24 'GOVINDAS' INJURED IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After two years of Coronavirus restrictions, Krishna Janmashthami and 'dahi-handi' were celebrated with religious fervour and gusto all over Maharashtra on Friday, though at least 24 'Govindas' were injured in Mumbai.

The celebrations started at midnight with thousands of devotees joining the prayers, aartis, and bells heralding the birth of infant Balgopal at scores of Krishna temples in and around Mumbai.

These included famed ones like ISKCON temples at Juhu and Chowpaty, the Shri Krishna Pranami Temple at Kalbadevi, the Guruvayoor Shree Krishna Temple in Navi Mumbai, and many other smaller little known places of worship dedicated to Lord Krishna.

In the morning, it was the turn of hundreds of 'Govinda' groups - both all-boys or all-girls troupes - moving around the city at scores of 'dahi-handi' events to celebrate Lord Krishna's fascination for curds and butter. The youths formed tall pyramids, ranging from modest four to dizzying nine or 10 tiers to reach the 'handi' (pot) hanging at the top, smash it with a coconut, and savour the treat of fresh curds and butter trickling all the way down - akin to Lord Krishna



who used to raid homes in Gokul in his childhood for the milk and curd in them. Thousands of people gathered at various grounds, chowks, roads or societies watching the Govinda gangs zealously eyeing the 'dahi-handis' - and also the accompanying cash prizes, ranging from Rs 100,000 to Rs 25,00,000 for the winning group - and even a promise of a foreign trip for setting a world record. VIPs including Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy

CM Devendra Fadnavis, political leaders of various parties, attended some of the celebrations in their respective areas. Some organisers had invited prominent Bollywood and Marathi film stars to attend and perform at their events, along with other artistes, affording a dance and musical extravaganza at several venues.

The state government has announced an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh for each 'Govinda' besides free

treatment for those who fall and suffer injuries, plus compensation.

Till 5 p.m., around two dozen 'Govindas' fell from various levels while forming the pyramids and around 5 are still in hospital.

Similar enthusiastic Janmashthami and 'dahi-handi' celebrations were held in Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Pune, Nagpur, Kolhapur and other towns or villages across Maharashtra amid tight security by police.

'Need to use state-of-the-art technology to get people to use public transport'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

To make the maximum number of citizens use the public transport, it is time to use technology in a sophisticated way, said Union Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Gadkari appealed to the BES&T administration in Mumbai to digitize the public transport system as 70 per cent subsidy is received from the Centre for digitalisation. The Union Minister proposed to Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to build a multi-storey bridge to solve the problem of traffic congestion in Mumbai. For the Mumbai-Delhi 12 hour highway journey, cooperation from the state is needed, added Gadkari.

If water taxis are introduced to connect with Navi Mumbai airport, it will be reachable in just 17 minutes and it is also pollution free. If BES&T takes up this project, it will be beneficial and it is easy to go for a 100-seater fast speed boat.

The Minister's advice to BES&T is to electrify all buses soon, so the losses



will be covered soon. "Government should think about using hydrogen. Flex engine vehicle production has already started. Most of these vehicles are manufactured in Maharashtra. If taxis and Auto rickshaws in Mumbai start using electric or flex engines, it will help reduce pollution. This will also bring financial benefits by reducing the cost of petrol." Gadkari appealed to the

Maharashtra government to send proposals for ropeway, cable car and funicular railway. 165 such schemes have been approved across the country. A double-decker bus that runs on water and in the air can be started in Mumbai by putting a ropeway peeler from Nariman Point, like in the Philippines. For this, he said BES&T may start working on Detailed project Report (DPR).

Speed-boat 'scare': Maha ATS files FIR against unknown persons

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After probing the drifted speed-boat scare' on Raigad shores, the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) has filed a complaint against unknown persons, officials said here on Friday.

ATS chief Vineet Agarwal, who rushed to Raigad along with his team, and the Raigad Police have investigated the matter, and a possible terror angle has been discounted for the present.

On Thursday, the state security apparatus went into a tizzy after the severely damaged yacht washed up on Harihareshwar beach, around 200 km south of Mumbai, as the fisherfolk alerted the local authorities.

The UK-flagged 53-foot-long yacht 'MY Lady Han', owned by an Australian cou-

ple, was found with some documents, three AK-47 rifles and boxes containing live ammunition, sparking a major security scare in the state. The Navi Mumbai ATS Unit is handing the probe and has filed a first information report invoking various sections of the Arms Act against unknown persons.

Later, a Dubai-based Neptune P2P Group announced that it had provided security to the yacht in June 2022.

The Maharashtra government informed the legislature that the speedboat suffered an engine failure in the high seas on June 26 and the crew on board were rescued by a Korean warship.

Later, after drifting in the Arabian Sea for 52 days, it finally washed up on Harihareshwar Beach on Thursday afternoon.

The Neptune P2P Group said that after the yacht was damaged during monsoon, an emergency was declared, the crew members were rescued though they could not salvage the vessel owing to extreme weather conditions.

The yacht was slated to sail from Oman to Europe with its owner Hannah Laundergun and her husband James Robert sailing it, along with at least one unidentified crew member, when the mishap took place.

The security provider said it had presumed the vessel to have sunk but after it was found on Raigad shores, the Neptune P2P Group is coordinating with the vessel owners, and the authorities in India and United Kingdom for the official recovery procedures of the vessel and the 'controlled items' (weapons) on board.

NIA TEAM LIKELY TO VISIT RAIGAD

New Delhi: A

team of National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to visit Maharashtra Raigad where cache of explosives and three AK-47 assault rifles were found on Thursday on an abandoned boat at Harihareshwar beach. According to the information, the Maharashtra government has shared details of the entire incident with intelligence agencies as well as with the NIA.

The NIA is also keeping an eye on the entire incident, a source said, adding a team of NIA Mumbai is all set to reach Raigad. The Maharashtra government has said it is taking the matter seriously, and is in touch with the probe agency.

The NIA has not made any official statement as of now.



Fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi's HCL House to be auctioned on Sep 23

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Debt Recovery Tribunal-I (DRT-I) has ordered the auction of prime property belonging to absconder diamantaire Nirav D. Modi in one of the cases filed by Punjab National Bank (PNB) to recover a part of their whopping dues of more than Rs 2,133-crore.

As per the Mumbai DRT-I's order, HCL House in Marol shall be put up for e-auction on September 23, with a reserve price of Rs 52 crore, against the massive amounts outstanding since nearly five years to the PNB and 15 more banks.

"Proclamation of sale under Rules 38, 52(2) of the second schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993," said the August 11 order by Recovery Officer Ajeet Tripathi.

The case pertains to PNB plus 15 public and private sector banks versus Nirav Modi's group company Firestar International Ltd. and other



known or new entities from whom the dues are recoverable.

The latest auction comes in the recovery process initiated by various banks after the infamous PNB scam

of over Rs 14,000 crore erupted in the Indian banking sector in February 2018 -- almost a month after Modi, his wife Aml and others fled the country (January 2018).

Sachin Tendulkar to flag off Mumbai Half Marathon on Aug 21

THE OLDEST MALE PARTICIPANT IN THE HALF MARATHON WILL BE AN 82-YEAR-OLD WHILE HIS FEMALE COUNTERPART WILL BE 72 YEARS. THE YOUNGEST RUNNERS ON THE GRID WILL BE A 7-YEAR-OLD GIRL AND AN 8-YEAR-OLD BOY, WHO WILL BOTH FEATURE IN THE 5K CHALLENGE.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar will flag off the Mumbai Half Marathon 2022 here at Jio Gardens, Bandra Kurla Complex on Sunday (August 21), which returns to the city race circuit after a covid-induced hiatus.

Tendulkar will also felicitate the winners of the half marathon and timed 10k run.

Over 13,500 runners from all walks of life, will compete in three different categories of the MHM, which has become one of India's most prestigious road runs. Of this, over 4,000 are scheduled to take part in the 21k challenge, and 7,000 and 2,500 respectively in the timed 10k and 5k runs, the organisers informed in a release on Friday.



"Running, as a form of exercise, has many benefits, both for your physical as well as mental fitness," Tendulkar, the Brand Ambassador of Ageas Federal Life Insurance -- the title sponsors of the Mumbai Half Marathon, said on the eve of the run.

The half marathon will start and finish at the Jio Gardens, BKC, and will comprise two loops of 10k each through the interior roads of the complex. The half-marathon (21k) will begin at 5.15 am, the 10k at 6.20 am and the 5k at 8.00 am.

The participation of various corporate teams will add competitive heft and excitement to the event which is now in its fifth edition. The event will also witness participation from over 2,000 runners from the Indian Navy.

Akasa Air operates its maiden flights on Bengaluru-Mumbai route

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

After successfully taking off on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Bengaluru-Kochi routes, Akasa Air, India's newest airline, on Friday inaugurated its first service on the Bengaluru-Mumbai route, enabling it to offer twice-daily flights in each direction.

Further expanding its operations on the Bengaluru-Mumbai route, the airline will commence one additional daily flight from August 30, and another from September 19.

In addition, strengthening its pan-India network connectivity, the airline has also added a new route between Bengaluru and Chennai, which will commence from September 10.

In line with the airline's vision of adopting a phased approach to grow its network across India, Akasa Air has already announced flights for six routes across five cities, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Bengaluru,



and Chennai.

The airline started its commercial operations with two aircraft and received its third aircraft on August 16. It will continue to grow its fleet by adding one new aircraft every two weeks with a view to establish a strong pan-India presence with a focus on metro to tier 2 & 3 route connectivity.

Dilapidated 4-storey building crashes in Mumbai's Borivali suburb



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A four-storey dilapidated building crashed in the Saibaba Nagar area of Borivali west suburb around 12.30 p.m., BMC Disaster Control said here on Friday.

According to BMC, the ground-plus-four floor Gitanjali Building which collapsed, was declared a dangerous structure and had been vacated, and further

details were awaited. The incident occurred when the dahi-handi celebrations were in full swing in the vicinity, and the rescuers were checking to ascertain if any persons were injured or trapped there.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade sent 10 fire tenders, three ambulances to the spot, and other teams have also been rushed for relief and rescue operations.

KARNATAKA AND MAHARASHTRA TOP CHATTIEST STATES IN INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

In the 1980s, everyone stepped out in the evening to talk with their friends, relatives, and neighbours about their daily lives, catch up on current events, share anecdotes and information, and debate politics. In 2022, one loses track of time incessantly exploring the internet, discovering unique and occasionally mind-blowing information from throughout the world and country. They share intriguing stuff with friends and family and start conversations about a variety of topics. Discussions concerning long-lost folklore, diversity, new innovations, and almost everything are still happening on, but only on the internet.

But where are most of these conversations coming from? Which are some of the chattiest regions of India? Let's find out.

ShareChat has discovered that Karnataka is the chattiest State in India and tops the list. It is followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Telangana.

The land of gold - Karnataka With a monthly engagement of over 11.3



million users, Karnataka tops the list of the chattiest regions across India that engage in their native language. ShareChat has also created a lot of buzz in the Kannada industry as KOLs from the cinema and TV industry continuously join Live Audio chatrooms to

engage with thousands of fans. More than 0.26 million Kannada creators on the platform deliver nearly 3.1 million unique content on varied themes in a month. One of the popular ongoing Kannada chatrooms on the platform is Namma Adda, which invites

actors, singers, journalists, doctors, and lyricists to conduct sessions to discuss their genres of expertise.

Renowned personalities from Karnataka like Vinayak Joshi, Vani Hariharikrishna, Shashank Sheshagiri, Master Manjunath have also hosted several chatroom sessions. Popular Kannada composer Manikant Kadhri and playback singer Supriya Ram were seen jamming in a special 'Svara Sanje' session on ShareChat Audio Chatroom with a total audience of 30K+ from the Kannada-speaking community.

The state that never sleeps - Maharashtra

Maharashtra comes second on the list with more than 10 million monthly active users engaging on the platform through different formats. More than 0.18 million creators from the land of Bollywood deliver +2.1 million content creations on different themes on the platform monthly. Recently two creators from Maharashtra, Akki and Pihu who met each other on the platform's Live Audio Chatrooms, are now happily married. They credit the platform for making their destinies collide.



KYLIE JENNER 'ALMOST' HAD A DIFFERENT NAME

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kylie Jenner's parents had thought of a different name for her with a political pedigree. The reality TV star revealed on TikTok that her parents, Kris and Caitlyn Jenner, almost named her Kennedy Jenner.

"My name is Kylie, but it was almost," she wrote over a video of her and daughter Stormi Webster. The video continued with a series of pictures from the beauty mogul with the name "Kennedy" written over them, reports local magazine.

In the last shot, The Kardashians star added a fake Kylie Lip Kit that was edited to say "Kennedy Lip Kit" instead. "Doesn't hit the same," the Keeping up with the Kardashians alum captioned the post. According to People, her former brother-in-law Kanye West's 'I Love Kanye' played in the background of the video.

"OK but Kendall and Kennedy go really well together," a fan wrote in the comment section. "No way," commented another. People further states that last week, Kylie celebrated her 25th birthday. For her yacht birthday party, she wore a shimmering, skintight, off-the-shoulder gown. Kylie paired the neutral number with a high bun and sparkling earrings.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Megan Thee Stallion has opened up about navigating her life since her mom Holly Thomas lost her battle with brain cancer in 2019.

In a new emotional interview, the 'Traumazine' artist tearfully shared about being an orphan.

Speaking to hosts Ebro Darden and Nadeska Alexis during an interview, the 27-year-old rapper shared how her mother's death continues to affect her, reports a website.

"At this point in my life, I realised that my mama was really driving the car for a long time," she mused. "I didn't even have to think about too many things when mama was with me. I feel like it is just recently that it's clicking to me, like whom can I ask anything to?"

Megan later said that she hates to put people, except her mom, in her business.

"When I'm going through something personal, I'm like, 'I just got to pray,' because I don't even know who I can ask. Who can I ask about this situation? And who do I trust?" she said while holding back her tears.

"When I would do something good, my mama would say, 'Good job, that was good we did that,'" the rapper recalled, before breaking down in tears. "But I know my mama would say get your s**t together."

Megan then tearfully recalled the last conversation she had with her mom and how her words got her

Megan Thee Stallion talks about being an orphan after losing mom

through. "She was just like, 'Just because I'm sick, you and T Farris, y'all don't stop. Y'all need to go to L.A. and still do your show.' And I was like, 'Yeah, yeah, yeah!'"

"All right. I'm going to be back up here in a little bit. And then it was just over so quick and I was just like, Oh my God, what do I do?" She said: 'Don't stop, so then I just took that literally. And we're here today,' she shared.

Thee Stallion, whose father died when she was a teenager, lost her mother in March 2019. Shortly after the passing of her mom, the college graduate and 5-time Grammy-winning rap star lost her grandmother.



Ariana DeBose signed for 'House of Spoils'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Ariana DeBose, who bagged Academy Award for the Best Supporting Actress for her performance in 'West Side Story', is set to star in the psychological thriller 'House of Spoils'.

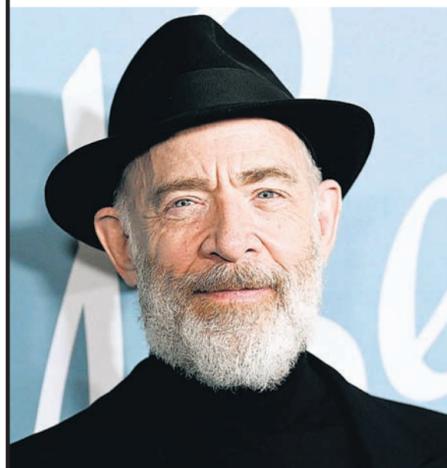
She will play an ambitious chef who opens her first restaurant but has to contend with the powerful spirit of the estate's previous owner who threatens to sabotage her at every turn, reports a website.

Bridget Savage Cole and Danielle Krudy are directing the project off their script based on their original idea. 'House of Spoils' reteams Cole, Krudy, Secret Engine and Amazon Studios following the latter's acquisition of Cole and Krudy's Blow the Man Down, produced by Secret Engine, out of 2019 TIFF. According to Deadline, cameras are expected to roll in the fall.

DeBose took home Oscar, BAFTA, Critics Choice and SAG awards for her star-making role as Anita in Steven Spielberg's remake of 'West Side Story'. In winning her Oscar, she became the first openly queer Afro Latina to win an Academy Award.

Deadline further states that she is also starring in Sony's Kraven 'The Hunter', which will be released on January 13, and Matthew Vaughn's action film 'Argylle' for Apple.

J.K. SIMMONS LOOKS SET FOR ANOTHER SOLID PERFORMANCE IN 'YOU CAN'T RUN FOREVER'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Thriller film 'You Can't Run Forever', which stars Academy Award winner J.K. Simmons, has wrapped up its principal photography and the first stills from the film are here.

The stills, accessed by a website, give an idea about the film's universe and setting. The film, formerly titled 'The Woods', is a rollercoaster ride that follows a sociopathic killer as he hunts a tormented teenager through the woods.

According to a website, its cast also includes Allen Leech and Fernanda Urrejola. Simmons' wife Michelle Schumacher has directed the film from her and Carolyn J. Carpenter's script, with Randle Schumacher producing for Rubber Tree Productions. Simmons told to a website: "One of the things I loved about the script was the mystery of 'why' and the stark reality that sometimes knowing the answer to that question only raises more questions. But there's no question that this movie is going to scare the hell out of people."

"The film is about trauma and survival, and about how sometimes we think we couldn't possibly survive something so horrible in our lives, only to realise not only can we survive, but we are stronger than before," added Schumacher. "It's about the love and strength of the family you're born into and the family you choose."

Salma Hayek, Annie Murphy in talks to star in 'Black Mirror' season 6

Salma Hayek and Annie Murphy are in talks to star in the new season of 'Black Mirror'.

According to a website, the dystopian Netflix series is slowly assembling a star-studded roster of talent for its long-awaited Season 6, with Hayek and Murphy the latest actors set to join the cast.

Website previously revealed that the new season has signed Zazie Beetz, Paapa Essiedu, Josh Hartnett, Aaron Paul, Kate Mara, Danny Ramirez, Clara Rugaard, Aiden Thornton, and Anjana Vasan. Rory Culkin, who was most recently seen in FX's 'Under the Banner of Heaven', is also joining the show. Hayek recently wrapped on Angelina Jolie's new movie 'Without Blood', which has been filming in Italy, and stars in Steven Soderbergh's forthcoming 'Magic Mike's Last Dance'. She also starred in Ridley Scott's 'House of Gucci' and Marvel's 'Eternals'.

A Hayek-produced series on the death of Argentina's Eva Peron, titled 'Santa Evita', aired on Disney's Star last month.

Meanwhile, Murphy, who is best known for her Emmy-winning turn as Alexis Rose on CBC and Netflix's 'Schitt's Creek', starred in the new season of Netflix's 'Russian Doll', and also leads 'Kevin Can F*** Himself'. The website first revealed that a new season of 'Black Mirror' was in the works back in May, though specific details about stories are still being kept under wraps.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Nicole Scherzinger



PLAYING HOCKEY FOR INDIA HAS GIVEN ME EVERYTHING: SALIMA TETE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In recent years, the Indian Women's Hockey Team has gone on to become one of the most memorable chapters in the country's sporting history. Often considered as underdogs at the highest level, the Indian Women's Hockey Team has consistently punched well above their weight category, giving the fans plenty to cheer about. One of the youngest players in the Indian set-up, Salima Tete has been instrumental in the team's success stories in the last half-decade or so, and of course, she hopes to be central to many more moments of glory. On Episode 30 of Hockey Te Charcha, Salima Tete, who was part of the Bronze medal winning team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, looks



back at her journey and more. Salima, who is now back in her home town in Simdega in Jharkhand after a very long season, explained that ahead of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham the team was focused on ensuring they don't return without a success story to narrate. "After

we had a bad campaign at the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Spain and Netherlands 2022, the team's aim and our focus was very clear. We wanted to do well at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, there was no other option. We were sure we had to get a medal before returning back

to India. Kuch na kuch karna hi hai," Salima said. A forceful presence in the Indian defensive line-up, Salima believes that the players' meetings with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi is nothing short of motivating, and not just for someone like her.

"Meeting the PM was a very big thing for someone like me. All of us meeting the PM, is a source of motivation, so that we keep working hard and trying to achieve good results, and it is also very encouraging for the younger players coming through the system."

Rolling back the clock by a few years, Salima threw some light on her journey, speaking fondly about the likes of Asunta Lakra and Nikki Pradhan, both of whom have been influential mentors in her career.

Western & Southern Open PEGULA ELIMINATES RADUCANU, SWIATEK FALLS



Cincinnati: After back-to-back wins over former grand slam champions Serena Williams and Victoria Azarenka, England's Emma Raducanu has been eliminated from the Western & Southern Open by America's Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-4. In a clash between two of the world's top 11 players, it was the 28-year-old Pegula who proved slightly too good for her 19-year-old opponent in a number of different areas

Champions Chess Tour

Pragg, Carlsen score similar 3-1 wins in fourth Rd, remain on top

Miami | Agencies

The FTX Crypto Cup seems to be heading towards a tense two-horse race as Indian teenager Pragganandhaa and Norway's World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen both crushed their opponents in the fourth round here and remained in joint lead. The two front-runners look increasingly impossible to catch up with as they stretched their lead over the pack with three points each on Thursday, that took them to perfect 12/12 scores.

Pragg defeated American Levin Aronian 3-1 while Carlsen handed a similar verdict to Vietnam's Liem Quang Le in the fourth round. The second Major of the Meltwater Champions



Chess Tour season may now go down to the final round on Sunday when Carlsen, the world champion, and 17-year-old Pragg face each other.

With three rounds to go,

Carlsen and Pragg aren't completely in the clear yet though. The exciting teenager Alireza Firouzja is still in the hunt for the FTX title and sits third on the leaderboard with eight points.

IND v ZIM ODI series

Was waiting for a long time to come back, play for India again, says Deepak Chahar

Harare | Agencies

Thursday saw pacer Deepak Chahar make his first international match in almost seven months memorable by picking 3-27 in seven uninterrupted overs to set the base for India's 10-wicket thrashing of Zimbabwe in the first ODI at Harare Sports Club.

After the match, where he was adjudged as "Player of the Match" Chahar was understandably pleased over bouncing back to play for India again. He even corrected his teammate, left-arm spinner Axar Patel, over the time he spent on the sidelines since tearing his left quadriceps in February during the T20I series against the West Indies.

"It's been 6 and a half months, not two months. When you are out for such a long time, you are always eager to make a comeback into the Indian team. It was a tough phase and time.



But the good thing is that it keeps changing. I was waiting for a long time to come back and play for India

again," said Chahar in a video posted by the BCCI on their social media accounts. Getting back to new ball

duties, Chahar took his time to find his groove and rhythm before becoming comfortable and taking out the opening pair as well as Wesley Madhevere. "It feels so good. The landing area was hard and my spikes were not gripping. I started to land properly only when the area got rough. And luckily I got a wicket, which took the pressure off," added Chahar. The video had a moment of laughter when Axar said to Chahar, "You keep making strong comebacks." In reply, Chahar said, "You keep taking the interview." Jokingly, Axar, who had referred to Chahar as India's own AB de Villiers, responded by saying: "No, no." Thanks to the three wickets taken by Chahar, Patel and Prasidh Krishna, India were able to bowl out Zimbabwe for 189. Chasing 190, Shikhar Dhawan and Shubman Gill remained unbeaten on 81 and 82 respectively to help India take 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Bhaichung Bhutia, Kalyan Chaubey, Shaji Prabhakaran file nominations for AIFF president's post

Former India captain Bhaichung Bhutia, Shaji Prabhakaran, Kalyan Chaubey filed their nominations for the president's post in the upcoming All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections, scheduled to be held here on August 28.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bhutia's name was proposed by his friend and teammate Deepak Mondal and seconded by Madhu Kumari who is part of the electoral college as an 'eminent' player.

Former player Kalyan Chaubey too has filed the nomination for top job and emerged as the front runner in the race. Also filing the nominations are former player Eugeneon Lyngdoh (Meghalaya football association) and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata



Banerjee's brother Ajit Banerjee. The deadline for

filing nominations ends on August 19, 2022.

India name women's squads for England tour; Jhulan returns for ODIs, Navgire gets maiden call-up

Mumbai | Agencies

India on Friday announced the women's ODI and T20I squads for England tour, which begins on September 10.

Both teams will be captained by Harmanpreet Kaur with senior fast bowler Jhulan Goswami making a comeback in the ODI squad. The 39-year-old Goswami had missed the tour of Sri Lanka in July amid speculations about her international future. Meanwhile, Kiran Navgire - the batter from Maharashtra who plays for Nagaland - who



made an impression at domestic level and in the Women's T20 Challenge earlier this year, received her maiden call-up to India's T20I squad. On the other hand, Jemimah Rodrigues, who was ruled out of The Hundred in England with a wrist injury, was

named in both squads. Wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh returned to the T20I squad but batter Yastika Bhatia, who had made an appearance in the CWG 2022 final as a concussion substitute lost her place in the T20I squad, but she was retained in the ODI squad.

REAL MADRID COACH ANCELOTTI CONFIRMS CASEMIRO'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE

Madrid: Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti on Friday confirmed that midfielder Casemiro is on the verge of leaving the club to join Manchester United in a deal thought to be worth up to 70 million euros. Rumors about Manchester United being interested in the 30-year-old began to circulate this week, with Casemiro to be offered a five-year contract to move to Old Trafford.

Friday morning saw Casemiro omitted from the Real Madrid squad to travel to play Celta Vigo on Saturday and when asked about the player's future in his pre-game press conference, Ancelotti was very clear, reports.



KKR head coach post came as a surprise, looking forward to fulfill responsibility: Chandrakant Pandit

Team Absolute | New Delhi

One of the most reputed domestic cricket coaches Chandrakant Pandit, earlier this week, was appointed as the head coach of the IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders. Pandit recently guided Madhya Pradesh to their maiden Ranji Trophy title, having won the national championship multiple times with Mumbai and Vidarbha. Highlighting his induction as the head coach of KKR, Chandrakant Pandit said that the news came to him as a surprise in England. Pandit said that he was in England when KKR CEO Venky Mysore called him and asked him to catch up for a chat. "During Ranji season I got the message from KKR CEO Venky Mysore wishing me luck for the finals and further said we will catch up sometime but I didn't realise it then. Later, when I was in England he messaged me again



enquiring whether I'm in Mumbai or not?" Pandit told Jagran TV. He said that at first he didn't notice anything but when Mysore called him again and

asked when he will return to Mumbai "I got suspicious". "When I returned to Mumbai and met him, he offered me to take the head coach role.

Durand Cup FC GOA REGISTER FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON, DEFEAT INDIAN AIR FORCE 1-0

Panaji | Agencies

An early strike by Muhammed Nemil made all the difference as defending champions FC Goa registered their first win of Durand Cup 2022, defeating the Indian Air Force 1-0 at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan on Friday. Nemil's goal - his second in as many games this Durand Cup - saw his tally in Durand Cup history rise to six from eight games overall.

FC Goa head coach Deggie Cardozo made three changes to his team's starting XI against Mohammedan SC as Mallikjan Kalegar, Ayush Chhetri and Mevan Dias replaced Rayan Roger Menezes, Shanon Viegas and Jovial Dias respectively.

Stuart Broad joins elite club of bowlers with 100th wicket at Lord's

London | Agencies

England's quick Stuart Broad has become only the second player to take 100 Test wickets at Lord's, joining long-time pace-bowling partner James Anderson, who was on the field to welcome him in celebration.

On the second day of the opening Test against South Africa, the 36-year-old Broad dismissed Kyle Verreyne with an edge behind to Ben Foakes to become the second player to take 100 Test wickets at the venue. The Proteas though took a commanding lead in the match, first dismissing the hosts for a paltry 165 in 45 overs before lunch on Day 2 and then notching up 289/7 for a 124-run advantage.

Broad with the record becomes the fourth person to take 100 Test wickets at a single venue, entering an exclusive group with his teammate as well as Sri Lankan pair Muttiah Muralitharan and Rangana Herath. Muralitharan has achieved the feat at three venues: Galle, Kandy and the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo, according to ICC.

The feat is just another achievement in the sport for Broad, who is



approaching Glenn McGrath's fifth spot on the all-time Test wicket-taking list. Broad, with 553 scalps, is 10 away from equalling his Australian rival, and could well pass him by the end of the

current series. In terms of quick bowlers, Anderson (658 scalps so far) would be the only man separating Broad at the top once overtaking the Australian.,

Neymar and Mbappe PSG penalty row over, Brazil star could leave before September 1

Berlin | Agencies

Kylian Mbappe and Neymar have patched up their differences at Paris Saint-Germain, but coach Christophe Galtier has not ruled out the prospect of a sensational departure before the transfer window closes.

Asked whether Neymar might move on before the September 1 deadline, Galtier indicated it was highly unlikely but not entirely out of the question, reports.

A spat between Mbappe and Neymar became apparent during PSG's 5-2 Ligue 1 win over Montpellier last Saturday, with the pair seeming to disagree over penalty duties.

Mbappe missed an early spot-kick but thought he would have a chance to make amends when PSG were awarded a second penalty, only for Neymar to take over responsibility and make no



mistake. It was clear Neymar considered he was next in line, but Mbappe may have thought the duty remained his.

It has led to suggestions of a rift between the star pair that could prove disruptive in the dressing room, with Mbappe looking best placed to win any such tug-of-war after signing a bumper three-year contract in May. He scored later in the

Montpellier game but refused to celebrate, to the frustration of a number of team-mates. Galtier said the matter was put to bed during training this week, saying: "There's no malaise. We have been making plans, saying what we need to say to one another. I can confirm that in all honesty it's been a good week with everyone working hard to prepare well for the game against Lille.



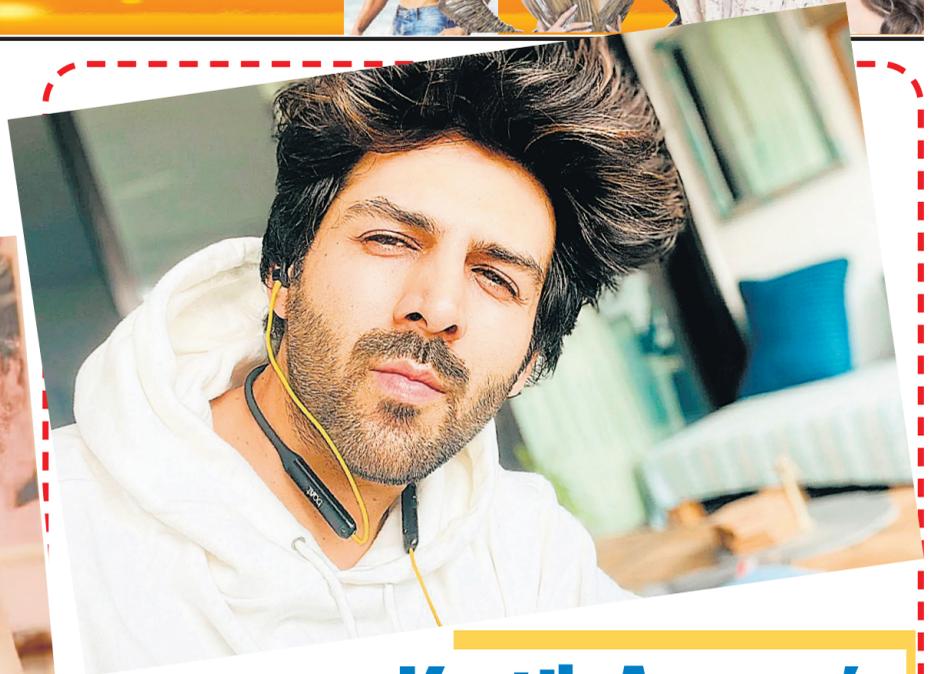
Vijay Deverakonda: Currently, the country is enjoying South Indian cinema

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

It goes without a doubt that Vijay Deverakonda is one of the hottest hunks in the South industry. The actor has a massive fan following down South, and now he is all set to enter the Pan-India market with his film Liger opposite Ananya Panday which is all set to release. Ahead of the release, in a media interaction, the actor opened up about how he looks at the debate of Bollywood films not doing well and that they should learn from the South. Sharing his thoughts, the actor said, "Any debate is good because we need something to keep ourselves busy by writing or talking about it. But, it's just a cycle and nothing is permanent. Currently, the country is enjoying a certain kind of cinema and the South of India happens to make more of that."

Further, the actor spoke about the importance of studying audience preferences and changes in environmental stuff. He stated, "More than being about Bollywood or Tollywood, it's about studying what audiences are watching, why it is that particular cinema intriguing them and give them consequently. Also, a lot of environmental stuff has changed with OTT, social media and short video formats coming up. One is being entertained by something new, every five minutes. So all these things alter the reaction toward entertainment and we are trying to comprehend how they are changing the dynamics of entertainment and cinema."

He also elucidated his thoughts on why the conversation about South films faring is going around. "The conversation about South films faring at the box-office is doing rounds because the biggest grosser has come from films like RRR, Pushpa, and KGF as compared to Hindi films right now. But once films like Brahmastra, Laal Singh Chaddha and Raksha Bandhan are released, things may change", said Vijay.



Kartik Aaryan's sweet gesture is sure to win your hearts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Kartik Aaryan's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 impressed everyone and broke several records at the box office. With the film, Kartik delivered one of the biggest grossers of the year. Even months after its release, the buzz around the movie has not died down. Recently, Kartik Aaryan met a Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 fan in a young street vendor.

Taking to his social media, the actor dropped an adorable video in which he can be seen interacting with a young street vendor about his movie Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. The vendor tells the superstar how much he loved the movie as he had also gone to watch it. The two also does the signature step of the film before. In the caption, Kartik wrote, "No Reward bigger than this?? #BhoolBhulaiyaa2"

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 raked in 250 crores at the box office. The film also

starred Tabu and Kiara Advani in key roles apart from Kartik. On the work front, besides this, he will also be sharing the screen with Kiara Advani once again for Satyaprem Ki Katha.

He also has films like Shehzada alongside Kriti Sanon and Freddy in his pipeline. The actor will also be seen collaborating with Kabir Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala in which he will be seen in a never-seen-before avatar. He is also in talks for Tezaab remake.

Neha Kakkar trolled for bursting into tears on the sets of reality show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Neha Kakkar is a versatile artist, who is also known to have a sensitive side and she has been seen getting teary-eyed on many occasions. The diva is currently judging the second season of reality show superstar singer which is co-judged by music director and singer Himesh Reshamiya. A video clip of the show's promo has been shared on Instagram which has now grabbed the attention of netizens because of Neha Kakkar weeping. The singer has been heavily trolled for bursting into tears after one of the contestants named Mani Punjab croons to the song 'Maahi Ve' on show.

The young boy's talent leaves Neha Kakkar extremely emotional on the show. The singer is even seen being shocked at the little boy's heart touching performance effortlessly. Choking back tears, Neha Kakkar can be seen praising the boy in the video. She said, "I have sung this song several times on many shows but I can't sing as you have. Later, she hugs the boy and this leaves the audience applauding. However, some netizens have slammed her for crying on camera every time she's part of a show. Taking to the comment section of the video, one user wrote, "Are yaar ye to yaha aur is game main bhi ro rahi hai". Another user said, "Rone ki kaha bat ho gayi didi isme."

The third user said, "Drama Queen Neha Kakkar". On the personal front, Neha Kakkar got married to singer Rohanpreet in the year 2020. The couple met through a music video and fell in love. They got married in a grand affair in the presence of the family.



SALMAN KHAN FLAUNTS HIS LONG HAIR AS HE SHOOT IN LADAKH

Actor Salman Khan has got our hearts racing ever since he announced his upcoming projects. One of his much-anticipated projects is Bhaijaan for which he recently jetted off to Ladakh.

The actor has now treated us to a stunning picture from the picturesque locale. Taking to Instagram, Salman shared a picture in which he is seen sporting long hair. In the photo, Salman wore an olive green sweater, black pants, shoes and dark sunglasses. Sharing the post, Salman wrote, "Leh.. Ladakh..."

Salman has several films in the pipeline including Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali which is now titled Bhaijaan alongside Pooja Hegde and Venkatesh Daggubati. Helmed by Farhad Samji and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the movie is scheduled to release on December 30. He will be seen in action thriller film Tiger 3 with Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi. Reportedly, Salman will have a cameo in Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming action film Pathaan, which is slated to release on January 25, 2023.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Zara Yasmin

Diljit's film about friendship in testing times to release on OTT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh is very choosy when it comes to Hindi films. Hence, one can be assured about his next film 'Jogi' to be a good piece of work.

The film is headed to OTT for a release next month. Set in Delhi in 1984, 'Jogi' also stars Kumud Mishra, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub, Hiten Tejwani and Amyra Dastur.

The film unravels the story of a resilient friendship and courage in times of adversity when the national capital city was plagued by riots after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.

Talking about the film, Diljit said in a statement: "Playing the role of Jogi has been one of the most fulfilling experiences and I am excited for my digital debut on Netflix. The entire

team has worked really hard to bring to life this beautiful story and I want to thank Ali and Himanshu for trusting me with this role."

The film has been directed and co-produced by Ali Abbas Zafar, who is known for blockbusters such as 'Sultan' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai'.

Commenting on the film heading straight to Netflix, Ali Abbas Zafar said: "Jogi" is a very special film to me and who better than Diljit to helm the role of 'Jogi'! It's about hope, brotherhood and courage in the times of adversity and is a story of how tough times very often unite different people."

Produced by Himanshu Kishan Mehra and Ali Abbas Zafar, 'Jogi' will premiere on Netflix on September 16, 2022.

