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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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Prashant Kishor meets Nitish Kumar amid speculation over...



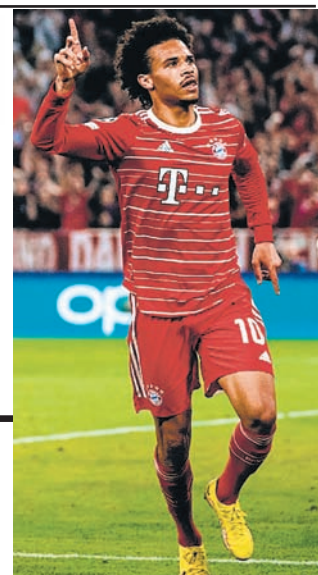
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Bayern down Barcelona in UEFA Champions League...



DESPITE OATH OF NOT LEAVING PARTY, GOA CONGRESS MLAS SWITCH TO BJP

CONGRESS: COLLAPSES AGAIN

► AHEAD OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN GOA THE CONGRESS HAD ADMINISTERED AN OATH THAT THE ELECTED MLAS WILL NOT LEAVE THE PARTY BUT ON WEDNESDAY 8 MLAS SWITCHED TO THE BJP LEAVING THE CONGRESS IN SHOCK.

► FORMER CHIEF MINISTER DIGAMBAR KAMAT, MICHAEL LOBO, DELILAH LOBO, KEDAR NAIK, SANKALP AMONKAR, RAJESH FALDESAI, ALEXIO SEQUEIRA AND RUDOLF FERNANDES ARE THE EIGHT LEGISLATORS WHO HAVE SWITCHED SIDES.

► THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO JOIN THE BJP WAS MADE ON JULY 10, 2022, BY THESE MLAS. HOWEVER THEY HAD NOT SUCCEEDED. EVEN RECENTLY THEY TRIED AGAIN TO GATHER EIGHT, TWO-THIRD, MLAS TO AVOID ACTION UNDER THE ANTI-DEFECTION LAW. HOWEVER, THEY FAILED THE SECOND TIME ALSO.



GOD IS WITH ME: DIGAMBAR KAMAT

"I have faith in God. I again went before God and shared the entire situation and sought his guidance. He then told me to take a decision saying 'I am there with you'."

CONGRESS CHHODO YATRA STARTS FROM GOA: CM

"I think a maximum number of Congress leaders will leave the party and join BJP. 'Congress Chhodo Yatra' has now started from Goa."

MLAs purchased like sack of rice and cattle: Goa Forward Party

"This act of betrayal has taken place on the Hindu auspicious period of Pitru Paksha, even God will not bless them. The MLAs are purchased like sacks of rice and these MLAs have allowed them to purchase, how one purchase cattle. Now, BJP has to check who original BJP leaders are."

AAP COMPLAINT TO PUNJAB DGP ABOUT THREATS, MONEY OFFERS TO MLAS

Chandigarh: Amid allegations of BJP attempting to bring down the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, the AAP on Wednesday said it has filed a formal complaint along with all proofs to Director General of Punjab Gaurav Yadav for a fair probe into threats and money offers to its legislators.

It lashed out at the saffron party, calling it a "serial killer" of democracy and condemned "Operation Lotus" for the "dubious manner" in which elected governments in the country are being brought down. State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema told media that the BJP has "murdered democracy" by toppling elected governments in various states after "using" central investigation agencies and through money lures. It tried the same in Punjab, but the staunch soldiers of AAP foiled the BJP's "nefarious agenda".

He alleged BJP agents and workers from Delhi and Punjab have "tried to break" 35 MLAs of AAP to topple the government in Punjab. Cheema said a complaint against BJP leaders and agents has been submitted before the DGP for "offering Rs 25 crore each to at least 10 MLAs in the state and also giving life threat to Jalandhar West MLA Sheetal Angural and others for exposing their wicked agendas before the public".

Three - year old raped in Morena, accused arrested

Morena, (Madhya Pradesh) | Agencies

A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a labourer at a town in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, following which the police arrested him, while the local civic authorities pulled down his "illegal" house, officials said.

The 35-year-old accused, identified as Girraj Rajak, was arrested after the incident that occurred in Banmore town on Tuesday evening, said Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rai Singh Narwaria.

The girl was sitting outside when the accused lured her away to a deserted place nearby and sexually assaulted her, he said.

"When the girl's mother heard her crying, she rushed to the place and saw the accused fleeing from the spot. She also followed the accused for some distance, but failed to catch hold of him," the ASP said.

The victim's mother then approached the local police station and filed a complaint, following which he was arrested, he said.

The local authorities demolished his house on Wednesday, he said, adding that the girl was admitted to a hospital in Gwalior, where she is undergoing treatment, and her condition is stable.

Police sources said the accused worked as



a labourer at a stone quarry. He is married and has three children. He was involved in a similar offence in the past, they said.

Talking about the action against Rajak's house, Banmore Municipal Council's chief municipal officer Yaswar Goyal said, "The entire colony where the residence of the accused is located is illegal. Therefore, his house was brought down."

The incident took place days after a three-and-a-half-year-old nursery student was raped allegedly by her school bus driver inside the vehicle in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal on September 8.

The police later arrested the bus driver and a woman attendant. The Bhopal district administration later also demolished the "illegal" house of the accused driver on the directives of authorities.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress had P Chidambaram as senior election observer and Dinesh Gundu Rao as state in-charge. Both of them failed in the elections as the BJP swept to power.

The turncoats had been in the BJP earlier. Digambar Kamat, an old BJP hand, switched to the Congress and was made chief minister and has now defected again. Similarly Michael Lobo and his wife were also in the BJP. P Chidambaram said, "the curse of Goa's politics is the 'buying' of MLAs. Since 2014, there is a wholesale buyer in the Indian market."

On January 22, three dozen Congress candidates for the assembly elections pledged their loyalty to the party at three religious institutions; a temple, a church and a mosque, ahead of the February assembly polls in the state. The precaution was taken because of doubts in the voters' minds that the Congress candidates may defect to the BJP, following the mass defection of 10 Congress legislators to the BJP in July, 2019.

KARNATAKA SPECIAL COURT ORDERS GRAFT PROBE AGAINST YEDIYURAPPA



Bengaluru | Agencies

In a setback to BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa, a special court for cases against MPs/MLAs on Wednesday ordered the filing of case and investigation by the Lokayukta police, into allegations of misuse of power when he was Karnataka Chief Minister.

The special court's order came on a plea by social activist T.J. Abraham who has alleged that Yediyurappa had allegedly awarded a BDA housing project to Ramalingam Constructions in return for financial favours diverted through shell companies.

Abraham had previously approached the court seeking probe against Yediyurappa, his son B.Y. Vijayendra, Co-Operation Minister S.T. Somashekar and six others.

However, the special court had dismissed the petition for not taking prior consent of the Governor. Subsequently, Abraham had appealed the High Court which had directed the special court to revisit the case. Yediyurappa said that there is no truth in the allegations and he will emerge innocent, while expressing full faith in the judiciary. "It's a conspiracy against me," he said.

MEGHALAYA GOVT ISSUES LICENCES FOR CASINOS

Shillong: Amid the strong opposition from various circles against the issuance of licences to operate casinos in Meghalaya, the state government has issued licences to set up three casinos in the hilly state, officials said on Wednesday. The Joint Action Committee Against Casino (JACAC) and other organisations have been strongly agitating against the setting up of casinos in the state including in Ri-Bhoi district, which borders Assam. Meghalaya Taxation Minister James P.K. Sangma told the state assembly on Monday that temporary licences were issued to provide additional attractions to the tourists, visiting the state from other states.

Drugs valued at Rs 200 crore seized, six arrested in Gujrat

Porbandar | Agencies

Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) have seized 40 kg heroin valued at Rs 200 crore from a Pakistani fishing boat and arrested six persons in this connection near the International Maritime Border Line (IMBL).

During the intervening night of September 13 and 14, on a specific intelligence input, the ICG strategically deployed two fast interceptor class of ships, C-408 and C-454 for patrolling in areas close to the IMBL.

During midnight, the Pakistani boat was observed moving suspiciously in Indian



waters, 5 nm inside notional IMBL and 40 nm from Jakhau.

On being challenged, the Pakistani boat over boarded a consignment and started evasive maneuvering, the ICG said in a statement.

The consignment was skillfully recovered by one of the two

ICG ships and found to be a drug haul.

"On visual examination, the drug is believed to be heroin with quantity approx. 40 kg and market value of Rs 200 crore.

The other ICG ship, braving very rough seas in pitch dark night and marginal weather conditions, maneuvered and stopped the boat," the ICG added.

The boat is being brought to Jakhau for further joint investigation by all agencies.

This is the fifth such joint operation by the ICG and ATS, Gujarat in the last one year in which huge quantity of narcotics is seized and those involved in the crime are arrested.

PRESIDENT MURMU TO ATTEND QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FUNERAL

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will represent India at the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London on September 19.

Murmu will be visiting London from September 17 to 19 to offer condolences on behalf of the Government of India. Queen Elizabeth, the former head of state of the UK and Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, passed away on September 8. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences at the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited the British High Commission in New Delhi on September 12 to convey India's condolences. India also observed a day of national mourning on Sunday (September 11).

12 killed, 24 injured in J&K road accident

Jammu | Agencies

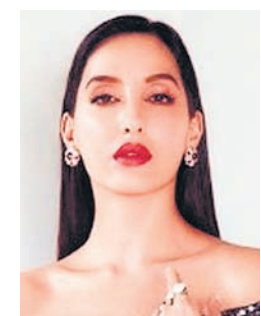
Twelve persons were killed and 24 others injured on Wednesday in a road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. Police sources said that a minibus went out of the driver's control near Brari Ballah in the Sawjian area of Poonch district. "The minibus rolled down into a gorge. Nine persons were killed in this accident while 27 others were injured. "Army rescue teams assisted by police and civilians shifted the injured to sub-district hospital in Mandi town.

"Attending doctors said the condition of 11 injured passengers is critical," police sources said. J&K Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha has announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia



compensation to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the accident. Sinha said on his official Twitter page, "Saddened by loss of lives due to a road accident in Sawjian, Poonch. Condolences to bereaved families. "May the injured recover soon. Rs. 5 lakh would be given to the next of kin of deceased. Directed Police and Civil authorities to provide best possible treatment to the injured".

EOW SUMMONS NORA FATEHI IN RS 200 CR EXTORTION CASE



New Delhi: After grilling actress Jacqueline Fernandez for over eight hours on Wednesday, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has again summoned Bollywood personality Nora Fatehi for questioning at 11 am on Thursday in connection with the ongoing probe into the Rs 200 crore extortion-cum-cheating case involving multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekar, who is presently lodged in jail. Nora was earlier grilling by the EOW in connection with the same case in the first week of September.

On Wednesday, Jacqueline reached the EOW office here at around 11 am and her grilling went on till about 8 pm.

According to sources, after grilling Nora on Thursday, the police will decide when to summon Jacqueline again.

On Wednesday, Jacqueline was confronted with another accused in the case, Pinky Irani.

Video shows how Kolkata Police van was torched, BJP says "Wasn't Us"

Kolkata | Agencies

Torching of a police vehicle has become a central point of BJP's protest in Kolkata that turned violent yesterday, with videos showing how it was ransacked, its windshields and windowpanes smashed, and a man lighting the fire up close. Youth Congress national chief BS Srinivas tweeted a close-up video, which shows a man in a saffron T-shirt using a cigarette lighter to set fire to a towel kept in the police van. "Just identify,



which party's 'nationalist rioters' are burning police jeeps in West Bengal?" he wrote, in Hindi. He tweeted another video that showed men waving BJP flags and ransacking the police vehicle. In the caption, he took jibes at PM

Narendra Modi's past statements: "I am sure the Prime Minister will identify these rioters by their clothes and flags, and, in his heart, will never be able to forgive them." The BJP denied its workers lit the fire. "Police may do it themselves," said Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, "Our workers were not carrying any weapons. Maybe Trinamool Congress's jihadis came and carried out the violence." The party has claimed the violence started upon provocation by police.

Nadda's accolades for BJP's successful march

Kolkata: There might be differences in opinion in the political circles in West Bengal on the greater future impact of the BJP's march to state secretariat against corruption issues, but leaders of the saffron brigade have received accolades from the party leadership for the same.

Sources said that the party's state president, Sukanta Majumdar received a telephone call from the party's national president, J.P. Nadda on Tuesday night. "Besides congratulating Majumdar for leading the successful march to the state secretariat agitation programme on Tuesday, Nadda also advised him to conduct similar agitational programmes in the coming days. Our state president was also advised by Nadda to specially focus on the different corruption issues against the state government and the ruling Trinamool congress like teachers' recruitment irregularities scam, coal smuggling and cattle smuggling, among others," confirmed a state committee member of BJP in West Bengal.



AD-HOC APPOINTMENT/PROMOTIONS TO BE MADE IN RARE CASES ONLY: CENTRE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the Centre announcing that 10 lakh people will be given jobs in the Central government in the next 18 months, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has made it clear that ad hoc appointment or promotions are to be made in rare cases, in order to meet the functional requirement of the organisation while keeping the policy imperative that all posts have to be filled on regular basis.

While making an ad hoc appointment or promotion, it may be noted that persons appointed on ad hoc basis to a grade are to be replaced by persons approved for regular appointment by direct recruitment, promotion or deputation, as the case may be, at the earliest opportunity, it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, in June,

announced that 10 lakh people will be given jobs in the Central government in the next 18 months. Subsequently, a Task Force was constituted to coordinate the progress of filling up of the vacant posts as per the Recruitment Plan.

As per DoPT, ad hoc promotion may be resorted to in such rare circumstances, where the cases have been pending for long before the tribunal/court and the Cadre Controlling Authority or administrative Ministry is unable to make regular appointment or promotion and where the post cannot be kept vacant on functional grounds.

It may be in the cases where short-time vacancies have arisen due to the regular incumbent having proceeded on leave for more than 45 days, or on short-term deputation, etc. (of less than one year) and the post cannot be kept vacant on functional

grounds, the vacant post may be filled on ad hoc basis, it said.

DoPT said that Ministries and Departments can make regular appointments in Group 'A' or Group 'B' posts under 'One Time Method' by making a reference to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for deciding the method of recruitment to that post.

Further action to fill the post may be taken according to the advice tendered by the UPSC. All such appointments will be treated as regular appointments. Further powers have been delegated to Ministries and Departments to frame Recruitment Rules for Group 'C' posts without consultation with DoPT. Such posts are in any case outside the purview of the UPSC.

Therefore, no ad-hoc appointment may be made on the grounds that recruitment rules (RRs) for the post do not exist, said the DoPT.

TWO TERRORISTS KILLED IN SRINAGAR ENCOUNTER



Srinagar: Two terrorists have been killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar district on Wednesday, police said.

"One more terrorist killed (Total 02). Identification being ascertained. Search going on," police said. The firefight at Nowgam area started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. As security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding there started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces.

There have been a series of encounters between terrorists and security forces across Kashmir over the last few months in which many terrorists and their commanders have been eliminated. A terrorist was killed in an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Heff Shirmal area in Shopian district on Monday.

Prashant Kishor meets Nitish Kumar amid speculation over 2024 bid

Patna | Agencies

Pol strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor, who was giving statements against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar till last week, met him on the dinner table in the latter's official residence, sources said on Wednesday.

Sources said that Nitish Kumar called him through former Rajya Sabha MP Pawan Kumar Verma, and Kishor stayed at CM's residence for two hours on Tuesday night and discussed various issues.

The development came in wake of Nitish Kumar, after the Delhi visit to cement opposition unity, claimed that Kishor does not know ABC of Bihar, and is a businessman, who worked with several parties in the country despite having been given an offer to stay in the JD-U.

Retaliating, Kishor said that Nitish Kumar will activate his 'Paltimar' plan again before 2024



or 2025.

Sources have said that Verma met Nitish Kumar on Monday and the latter reportedly assigned him to convince Kishor to work with him.

Sources said that Nitish Kumar gave the offer to Kishor to work with him as the Prime Ministerial candidate of the opposition parties for the 2024

Lok Sabha election.

Verma on Tuesday hinted that some people left Nitish Kumar after he supported the BJP and CAA in 2020, and now, he has separated his party from the BJP, many people are joining him again. Kishor is currently busy in Jan Suraj campaign in Bihar and he has scheduled his Padyatra from October 2.

Cattle smuggling scam: Businessmen admits giving money, costly vehicles to Mondal

Kolkata | Agencies

Two businessmen, based in Bolpur in West Bengal's Birbhum district, on Wednesday told the CBI that they have provided cash and costly vehicles to Trinamool Congress strongman and party's district President, Anubrata Mondal, who was arrested over his alleged involvement in the multi-crore cattle smuggling scam.

Rajib Bhattacharya, owner of a number of rice mills in Birbhum district, reached the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) temporary camp office for questioning and said that he made a payment of Rs 66 lakh to Mondal, which he also mentioned in his income tax returns details.

Later while coming out of the CBI camp office after three hours of questioning, he told waiting media persons the same. "Anubrata Mondal



asked for Rs 66 lakh for the treatment of his wife, which I provided. I am yet to get back that money. I have informed the CBI officials about this,"

Bhattacharya said.

The other businessman, questioned by the CBI sleuths on Wednesday, was Maloy Peet, owner

of a private polytechnic college and a private medical college at Bolpur.

Recently, when the CBI sleuths raided Bolpur-based Bhole Byom Rice Mill, reportedly owned by Mondal's daughter, Sukanya Mondal, they traced two high-end SUVs registered with two governing trusts under which the private polytechnic college and the private medical college operate. In the integration, Peet admitted to the CBI sleuths that he gave the two SUVs to Mondal for his use. Later he told media persons that since Mondal is an influential person and without his assistance, it was impossible to run the medical and polytechnic colleges at Bolpur, he had, hence, agreed to provide the two vehicles.

However, sources said that the CBI sleuths suspect that much of the proceeds of cattle smuggling had been routed to finance these two private colleges. However, Peet, so far, has denied this allegation.

Guwahati | Agencies

The Assam government plans to convert all its secondary schools to higher secondary level, the Assembly was told on Wednesday.

Replying to a question, Education Minister Ranaj Pegu said that as per the New Education Policy, the state government has already upgraded 215 high schools to the higher secondary level.

The preparation to convert another 785 high schools to the higher secondary level is underway, he added.

The initial upgradation list was prepared by the Education Department, based on the availability of logistics, manpower, etc. and



gradually, the other schools will also be upgraded, Pegu said. The minister also said that operationalisation of classes in the newly-upgraded schools will be looked into at the district level. The required administrative machinery will be provided by the state government.

Earlier, a majority of the state government schools in Assam had classes up to 10 only while a few could take students at 10+2 level also.

The state government colleges in the state have the facility to teach higher secondary standard students.

Six labourers killed as lift collapses in under-construction building in Ahmedabad

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

At least six labourers were killed and one seriously injured after the lift of an under-construction building collapsed here on Wednesday.

The lift crashed from the seventh floor. The under-construction high-rise building, named Aspire-II was located near the Gujarat University campus. "At the time of the accident seven labourers were inside the lift, which was used to carry various materials. The lift crashed from the seventh floor on Wednesday morning. The labourers were working in the lift chamber," said Mahendra, an eyewitness and labourer at the site. He told the media that all the labourers hailed from the Panchmahal district. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said the



incident will be probed and action against responsible builders will be taken. Hitesh Barot, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation Standing Committee Chairman told the media that all aspects of safety measures will be investigated, and if the builder was found responsible, suitable action will be taken against him or the company.

KASHMIR TO GET ITS FIRST ELECTRIC TRAIN ON GANDHI JAYANTI

Srinagar: On October 2, electric train will start moving on the 137 kms long Banihal-Baramulla corridor of Jammu and Kashmir rail link.

Indian Railway officials said that work on the project was going on since August 2019. The mandatory principal chief electrical engineer (PCEE) inspection of the electric rail link will take place on September 26 and on Gandhi Jayanti, the project will be inaugurated, the railway officials said. "Trials on Baramulla-Budgam part of the 137-Kms long electric train link have already been completed while the trial on the remaining Budgam-Banihal portion will be carried out on September 20", sources said, adding that the project cost of the electric train link from Banihal to Baramulla is Rs 324 crore.

ED raids private firm, seizes gold and silver worth Rs 47.76 cr

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The searches were conducted in connection with the money laundering probe in case of Parekh Aluminex limited.

The ED had registered money laundering case against Parekh Aluminex Limited on March 8, 2018. An official said that the company duped banks and took loans to the tune of Rs 2296.58 crore. The money was thereafter siphoned off by layering through various companies. The money was routed to various accounts in context of providing unse-



cured loans and investments. The same was not the purpose of taking the loans and there were no agreements in place for such transactions.

During the search action, keys to private lockers were found in the premises of Raksha Bullion. On searching the private lockers, it was found that the locker

operation was being done without following the proper norms. "No KYC was followed and there was no CCTV camera installed at the premise. There was no in and out register. Searching the locker premise revealed that there were 761 lockers of which three belonged to Raksha Bullion. On operating the lockers, 91.5 kgs of gold and 152 kg of silver was found in two lockers and the same was seized. An additional 188 kgs of silver was also seized from the premises of Raksha Bullion," said the official.

SIX LABOURERS KILLED AS LIFT COLLAPSES IN UNDER-CONSTRUCTION BUILDING IN AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad: At least six labourers were killed and one seriously injured after the lift of an under-construction building collapsed here on Wednesday.

The lift crashed from the seventh floor. The under-construction high-rise building, named Aspire-II was located near the Gujarat University campus. "At the time of the accident seven labourers were inside the lift, which was used to carry various materials. The lift crashed from the seventh floor on Wednesday morning. The labourers were working in the lift chamber," said Mahendra, an eyewitness and labourer at the site. He told the media that all the labourers hailed from the Panchmahal district.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation said the incident will be probed and action against responsible builders will be taken. Hitesh Barot, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation Standing Committee Chairman told the media that all aspects of safety measures will be investigated, and if the builder was found responsible, suitable action will be taken against him or the company. The police were also carrying out the investigation parallelly.

400-year-old Naick-era stone inscription found in Theni



Chennai | Agencies

A team of students and professors of Mannar Thirumalai College in Madurai recently discovered a 400 year old Naick-era stone inscription at a temple in Andipatti taluk in Theni.

The archaeologically precious material was discovered by Assistant professors of the Department of History of the college, R. Praiya and S. Rajagopal

along with a few students. Social activist S. Aswath was also in the team.

The stone inscription was originally installed at Pandya Meenakshi Sundareswar temple. However, this temple is now in a dilapidated condition. Unaware of its archeological and historical significance, local people installed the stone inscription at Vinayagar temple. The stone has a Vaishnava symbol, the sun, the moon and a lotus flower with

blurred letters. Retired Archeologist Dr C. Santhalingam, while told media persons: "The inscriptions on the stone talk about Veerakandama Naicker having received a donation from Muthu Veerappa Naick who was the 6th ruler of the Madurai Naick Kingdom". According to the local people, further exploration could provide more information on the Kandamanaykanur local administration.

Minor gang-raped in Aligarh, 4 held

Aligarh (UP) | Agencies

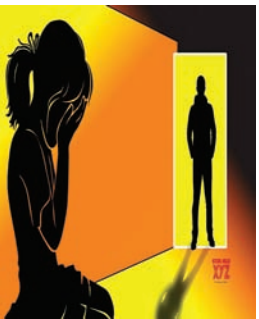
Three men were arrested for allegedly gang-raping a 13-year-old girl in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Wednesday.

A woman, who is the survivor's neighbour and also an accomplice in the crime, was also arrested.

The matter came to light after the girl's mother filed a police complaint in the case at the Harduaganj police station.

In her complaint, the woman alleged that the accused, who had also filmed the act, threatened to circulate the video across social media platforms if she dared to tell anyone about the crime.

DSP Vishal Kumar said: "On basis of the complaint received from the victim's family, an FIR has been registered against three men and a woman under IPC sections 376D (gangrape), 506 (criminal intimidation), 342 (wrongful confinement), 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and sections of the POCSO Act. The entire matter is being investigated in



detail."

According to the FIR, the 13-year-old was taken and locked in a room by the accused woman at her home on Sunday afternoon, where three accused men allegedly gang-raped her. They also filmed the crime and let her go home in the evening, the officials said. The victim's mother said: "We had approached the nearby police outpost on Sunday to file a complaint but policemen there pressured us to reach a compromise with the accused. However, when the matter came to the notice of senior officials, they registered an FIR in the case." They were arrested late on Tuesday night, the officials said, adding that further investigation is underway.

CHANGE OF NAME
I SAHODRA GOND is legally wife of No. 4277911Y HAV KISHOR SINGH GOND presently residing at Vill Ghutariya Post- Tendukheda Dist- Damoh (M.P) Pin:470880 have changed my DOB from 05/10/1983 to 05/10/1979 vide affidavit No. 75AA 724003 dated 13/Apr/ 2022.

CHANGE OF NAME
I faizan ahmed khan s/o shri shafiq ahmed khan, resident-12, prince colony, opposite prabhu nagar, lower idgah hills, bhopal aadhar no. 8338 17109046 Earlier my name was Faizan Ahmed. I have changed my name to Faizan Ahmed Khan, have registered Khan in my surname, I should be known by this name in future.

नाम परिवर्तन
मैं NIRMALA SHRIVASTAVA सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरे पासपोर्ट में मेरे सस्तेम की स्पेलिंग वुटिगश SHRIVASTAVA अंकित हो गई है। जबकि मेरे सस्तेम की सही स्पेलिंग SHRIVASTAVA है। जो मेरे सभी शासकीय दस्तावेजों में दर्ज है। अतः मुझे मेरे सही नाम NIRMALA SHRIVASTAVA W/o GOPAL KRISHAN SHRIVASTAVA के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए।
पता : 100 - ए, कस्तूरबा नगर, हबीबगंज, भोपाल (म.प्र.) - 462023



UPROAR OVER NUTRITIONAL DIET IN MADHYA PRADESH ASSEMBLY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The picture that was expected in the monsoon session of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly came to the fore on the second day of the session. There was a fierce debate between the ruling party and the opposition over the discussion on nutritional diet, due to which the proceedings were adjourned twice, finally the Speaker Girish Gautam had to adjourn the proceedings till Thursday.

In the monsoon session, the opposition is preparing to completely surround the ruling party and something similar was seen today. Former minister and MLA PC Sharma reached the assembly with children with a placard in his hand and lodged a protest against the incident with the girl in a private school in Bhopal. Along with this, many Congress MLAs started carrying placards regarding the nutrition diet scam, when they were stopped by the police, there was a ruckus in the house about this. Leader of Opposition Dr Govind Singh alleged that Congress MLA Panchi Lal Meda



was thrashed by the police. On the other hand, BJP MLA Umakant Sharma was accused of catching and pushing the call of Congress MLA, on which Parliamentary Affairs Minister Dr Narottam Mishra said that the opposition MLA has caught the collar of our MLA.

During this, there was a constant demand from the Congress to dis-

miss the adjournment given regarding the nutritional food scam and it was said that the Chief Minister's statement should be made after the discussion, but it did not happen. The Chief Minister's statement was made earlier, on which the Congress MLAs created a ruckus, as a result, the proceedings were adjourned twice for five minutes and 10 min-

utes, but the opposition remained adamant on the demand of discussion on the adjournment, as a result, the proceedings were adjourned till Thursday.

There was a fierce fight between the Congress MLA and the ministers of the ruling party over the discussion on nutritional diet in the assembly, Minister Gopal Bhargava talked about the discussion after the question hour, then Leader of Opposition Govind Singh said that except the issues of nutritional diet during the question hour. Statements should be made on other subjects. Meanwhile, when the Chief Minister stood up to speak, the opposition started a ruckus, there was a constant ruckus and the Congress directly accused the government of running away from the discussion.

It is to be known that after the disclosure of large-scale irregularities in nutritional diet in the report of the Accounts General recently, the Congress is on the attack and wants to surround the government in the House.

All decisions of Yuva Panchayat will be implemented: CM Chouhan

Chief Minister Chouhan sends off youths to visit Wagha border under "Maa Tujhe Pranam Yojana". CM planted saplings of Neem, Harsingar and Moulshree with youths.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the State Government will leave no stone unturned in implementing all the decisions taken in Yuva Panchayat. It was a decision of the Yuva Panchayat to send the youths on Desh Darshan (country tour). The youth of the state should visit the international borders of India and the spirit of courage and patriotism should be strong in them, for this purpose the Anubhav Yatra is being undertaken.

Chief Minister was interacting with the young participants, who were leaving for the international border tour of the country under "Maa Tujhe Pranam Yojana", after planting saplings in the Smart City Park. Sports and Youth Welfare and Technical Education Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia was also present. Chief Minister Chouhan along with Minister Scindia and youths planted saplings of Neem, Harsingar



and Moulshree. Chouhan said that September 14 is celebrated as Hindi Diwas. Mother tongue is the basis of progress and pride for us. It is a matter of pride that medical education is starting in Hindi in the

state. CM Shri Chouhan wished the youth for progress in life and bright future and administered oath to the youth to actively participate in the activities of environmental protection.

Very heavy rain alert in Gwalior-Chambal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Clouds are raining heavily in many parts of the state including state capital Bhopal, due to which rivers and streams are in spate, while the Meteorological Department has issued a warning of very heavy rain in Gwalior-Chambal area in the next 24 hours. The weather patterns have changed once again in the state from Tuesday evening. The sequence of rains is continuing in the capital Bhopal and other areas, due to which the water level of rivers like Narmada, Kshipra etc. has increased. At the same time, water is being drained by opening three gates of Tawa dam in Narmadapuram, while water is also being



drained from Bargi dam in Jabalpur. The Meteorological Department has forecast that in the next 24 hours very heavy rain may occur in the districts of Gwalior-Chambal

division. Apart from this, there is a possibility of heavy rain in the districts of Sagar division, Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Ujjain, Neemuch, Mandsaur, Satna etc.

Muslims are welcome at Garbas, if their sacred scripture permits them: Culture Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the holy festival of 'Navratri' a few days away, the controversy on Garba dance in Madhya Pradesh has started again after Usha Thakur, the minister for tourism and culture, said that 'Garba' programmes have become places of 'Love Jihad', and "Muslims will be welcomed at Garbas if their sacred scripture Quran permits them to pursue idol worship."

The minister said that they (Muslims) aren't being invited to Garbas, but if "they are so high in faith for the Garbas, then they should have faith in idol worship also which should be allowed by their sacred scripture Quran as well". "Also, Muslim men, who have faith in pursuing idol worship will only be welcomed at Garba venues, if they come along with their female family members," Thakur told journalists in Bhopal on Tuesday.

The minister, however, reiterated that no one will be allowed at any Garba venues across the state without authentic identity proofs. "We are writing to all district collectors, requesting them to ensure that entry at Garbas during the coming Navratri celebrations is only allowed to those, who carry authentic ID proofs. This will stop those who



hide their actual identity from entering the Garba venues."

Last week, the minister stated that "Garbas in the past had turned into a big medium of 'Love Jihad' activities, but now all concerned stakeholders have become very alert about it. Just to ensure that no one enters the Garba venues by hiding their real identity, and no one should be allowed entry into the Garba pandals without proper ID proofs." While asking the Garba organisers to

ensure strict implementation of 'No Entry without ID proof at Garbas', the minister had said, "This is 'salaah' (advice) as well as 'naseehat' (instruction)."

Importantly, in 2013, while she was the BJP MLA from Indore, Thakur, ahead of Navratri celebrations had demanded ban on the entry of non-Hindus, particularly Muslims at the Garba venues, for preventing Muslim men from seducing Hindu girls and women. She had then demanded making Aadhaar and other ID proofs mandatory for entering the Garba venues to prevent Muslim men from entering the venues by posing themselves as Hindus.

In 2017, an umbrella group of Hindu festival organisers in Bhopal, the Hindu Utsav Samiti too had demanded from the district administration in the state capital to make possession of Aadhaar document necessary as the ID proof for entry into the Garba pandals to prevent the entry of non-Hindus (particularly Muslims) at those venues.

Garbas, which form a seminal part of Navratri celebrations, are organised across Madhya Pradesh during the Shardiya Navratri, but they are most popular in Malwa-Nimar/West Madhya Pradesh region, including Indore and adjoining districts.

TWO DEAD, 20 INJURED AFTER BUS FALLS INTO RIVER IN KHANDWA

At least two persons died while over 20 others were got injured after a private bus fell into a river in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district on Tuesday.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The bus (MP-09/FA6658) carrying around 40 passengers was heading toward Indore from Khandwa when it fell into Satsri river. Officials said the injured persons have been rushed to nearby hospitals and the bus has been pulled out of the water. Preliminary inquiry by the local police revealed that the incident occurred due to overtaking at high-speed due to which the driver lost control of the bus.

The deceased have been identified as Kailash Chetram (45) and RadhaVerma (50).

"At least 20 passengers got injured, out of which the condition of two is critical. All the injured passengers are being treated in Khandwa," the police said.



Meanwhile, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan extended his condolence to the deceased and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.

the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.

Police and junior doctor clash in Gwalior, SP's car key snatched

Team Absolute | Gwalior

In Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, there was a fierce confrontation between the police and the junior doctor of Gajaraja Medical College, the reason for this was to stop the junior doctors who were drinking alcohol while sitting in the car, because when the city superintendent of police stopped the drinkers, the accused drove their car. snatched the key and broke the mobile too. After this, the police entered the hostel and adopted the police method to take out the junior doctor.

According to the information received, some junior doctors were drinking alcohol while sitting in the car on the side of the road late on Tuesday night. During this,

CSP Rishikesh Meena, who was on patrol, tried to stop these junior doctors from doing so, then these people entered the college hostel directly. When the CSP entered the car in the hostel, a large number of junior doctors living in the hostel came out and snatched the CSP's car key and punctured the tire, not only that they snatched the CSP's mobile and broke it. There is even an allegation that the junior doctor took the gunner of the CSP hostage and even beat him.

As soon as the police force came to know about this development, a large number of police personnel and officers reached the hostel of junior doctors and started wielding sticks. After this, the

students were dragged out and many students were seen running towards the terrace. Some students have also suffered injuries due to falls. Later the mobile and the key of the car were recovered from the CSP.

Additional superintendent of police Mrigankhi Dekha said that six medical students were detained and car keys were recovered from them. An announcement was made by the police to get the guilty junior doctors out of the hostel but they did not come out. There has been a serious crime in the hostel premises, so the junior doctors have been taken out of the hostel and taken to the police station. Action will be taken against whoever is found guilty in the investigation.

MP ASSEMBLY PAYS TRIBUTE TO SHANKARACHARYA

Bhopal: The legislators of Madhya Pradesh on the first day of the state Assembly session paid tribute to 'Shankaracharya' -- Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati, who passed away earlier on Sunday at his ashram in Narsinghpur district.



Leaders from the ruling BJP and Congress recalled the oldest Hindu seer narrating his childhood in native place, his friend's contribution as a freedom fighter, days spent in jail during the British era, besides his greatness as a prominent Hindu seer. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the demise of Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati is a loss of the country. The seer, who breathed last at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday and was ritually placed into 'Samadhi' in Narsinghpur on Monday evening in the presence of hundreds of his disciples.

MP CONG TO LAUNCH 'TALENT HUNT' TO IDENTIFY SKILFUL YOUTH AT LOCAL LEVEL

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh unit of Congress will soon launch a "talent hunt" programme across the state with an aim to strengthen the party at booth level and connect with the youth in villages.

According to state party spokesperson Anand Jath, the purpose is to identify talented youths from both rural and urban parts and appoint them as party spokespersons at district and block levels.

The initiative which is set to begin soon. Sources privy to the development, told IANS that the process will continue for the next few months as the party has decided to strengthen its local level media management department ahead of the Assembly elections due in November-December 2023. As part of the strategy, a team of Congress leaders would visit the party's district and block offices and hold interactive sessions with youth party workers. They will judge the talent of youths through their way of presentation, their deep knowledge on subjects and more importantly their views on Gandhian ideology. Young people, including women, even those not associated with the party will be given a chance to show their talent, the spokesperson said.

Elaborating further, Jat said: "Basically, the idea is to identify talented youth and give them an opportunity to hone their skills and career in politics. Our top leadership - Rahul Gandhi and here in Madhya Pradesh - MPCC chief Kamal Nath want to



involve youngsters from across the society. The selected young brigade will be tasked to take Gandhian thoughts, revolutionary works done during the Congress government etc. among the people and beat the BJP's ideology of hate and creating division in the society."

Through this process, the grand-old-party also wants to bring to the forefront youngsters who are talented but deprived of opportunities. Jat claimed that the "talent hunt" process would be completely transparent and the selection would be done on the basis of talent, instead of recommendation from the leaders associated with the party. "Kamal Nath has given clear instructions that each youth would be selected on the basis of talent and not on the recommendation of party leaders. Two-three youths will be selected from each district. These young brigades will reach out to people in villages and wards and will inform about development works done during the 15 months of the Congress rule in Madhya Pradesh, for instance- loan waiver of farmers, establishment of Ram Gaman Path, extension of Mahakal corridor and many more," Jat further added.

Once selected, the party's cadre associated with the communication/media department will work to enhance their skills through debates on various subjects.

The initiative also forms a part of Congress' preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections and the state Congress leadership is laying more emphasis on strengthening its ground level cadre - districts and blocks.

Vibha Vindu, who is associated with the communication wing of the MP Congress, told IANS: "Skilful communication is crucial for convincing the people. Through my own experience, I believe this talent hunt process will encourage more and more youth to associate with Congress' ideology."



EDITOR'S SPECS

Urbanisation increasing unprecedented flooding

Unprecedented floods in Bangladesh followed by Assam floods, extremely heavy rain in Madhya Pradesh, parts of Rajasthan and Bengaluru in India, and the Pakistan deluge. Climate experts say all calamities have shown how the quantum of extreme events has increased exponentially in South Asia. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) last year warned about the increase in extreme weather events across South Asia in the coming years if the emissions continue to be unchecked. Asian urban areas are considered high-risk locations from projected climate change, extreme events, unplanned urbanisation and rapid land-use change, as per the expert. With increasing urbanisation, the cities are at greater risk as the volume of damage in terms of loss of human lives, property damage and economic losses are higher than in the rural areas. Cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai are home to millions of people and so high is the climate risk. Studies say Asia is home to 54 per cent of the world's urban population, and by 2050, 64 per cent of Asia's 3.3 billion people will be living in cities. Asia is also home to the world's largest urban agglomerations: Tokyo (37 million inhabitants), New Delhi (29 million) and Shanghai (26 million) are the top three with Cairo, Mumbai, Beijing and Dhaka home to nearly 20 million people each. By 2028, New Delhi is projected to become the most populous city in the world. In the warming environment, urban flooding is a major threat to the cities and towns. Regional ecological challenges coupled with climatic variability have aggravated flood risks. Urban flooding that was primarily a concern of municipal and environmental governance has now attained the status of 'disaster'. Extreme rainfall has direct and increasing consequences on urban flooding risk, which is further exacerbated by urbanisation trends that reduce land permeability, divert water flow and disrupt watersheds.

WRACKED BY INFIGHTING & REVOLT AGAINST PCC CHIEF, CONG IN DISARRAY

Mohammed Shafeeq

The BJP's emergence as a strong opponent to ruling TRS in Telangana has pushed the Congress to the third place, and the grand old party faces an uphill task to arrest its decline ahead of next year's Assembly elections. Series of defections, a string of defeats in by-elections, disastrous performance in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) polls and continued infighting have considerably weakened the party in its former stronghold. The Congress appears to be in complete disarray with resignation of some of its top leaders in recent weeks and the open revolt by some seniors against state Congress chief A. Revanth Reddy. The recent resignation of sitting MLA from Munugode constituency, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, and his subsequent defection to BJP has added to the woes of the Congress, which does not look ready to confidently face a by-election. The outcome of the upcoming by-election is likely to indicate the direction of the wind before the 2023 polls. The bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh by granting statehood to Telangana in 2014 was a political gamble by the Congress, which was hoping to reap the political dividend by claiming credit for carving out the separate state. However, TRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao dashed its hopes by rejecting the proposal to merge his party with the Congress. He decided to maintain the identity of TRS as an independent political party. KCR, as Rao is popularly known, succeeded in claiming credit for achieving the goal of a separate state by winning the public mandate. In the 2014 elections, held just before the formal bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, TRS won 63 seats in the 119-member Telangana Assembly. The Congress, which was completely wiped out in Andhra Pradesh due to the public anger over the bifurcation, could win 22 seats in Telangana. However, the party failed to keep its flock together as several of its leaders defected to TRS. In the 2018 Assembly elections, held a few months before the term of the Assembly was to end, Congress faced a disaster. It could win just 19 seats, though it had forged an electoral alliance with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and other TRS opponents.



However, the worst was yet to come. Even before it could gear up for the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, it had lost as many as 12 MLAs to the ruling party. Though the party salvaged some pride by winning three Lok Sabha seats, with the reduced strength in Assembly it lost the status of main opposition to Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM), a friendly party of TRS. Congress suffered a huge embarrassment as it failed to retain the Huzurnagar Assembly seat, where by-election was necessitated following the resignation of Uttam Kumar Reddy after his election to the Lok Sabha. The TRS wrested the seat from Congress as its candidate S. Saidi Reddy was elected with a huge margin of over 43,000 votes. Uttam Reddy's wife N. Padmavathi Reddy finished a distant runner-up. The BJP, which became aggressive following its impressive performance in the Lok Sabha polls after winning four seats, added to the worries of Congress. Projecting itself as the only viable alternative, the saffron party started making inroads in Telangana. The BJP wrested Dubbak from the TRS in 2020 to further consolidate itself. The saffron party, which hardly had any presence in the constituency, pushed Congress to third position. The Congress suffered another humiliation the same year as it could win just two seats in the 150-member Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). In its best-ever performance in the civic

body, the BJP bagged 48 seats to deny the TRS a clear majority. The emergence of BJP as the main opposition party sent the alarm bells ringing. Owing moral responsibility for the defeat, Uttam Reddy had resigned as the party chief. The Congress was pinning its hopes on the by-election to Nagarjuna Sagar to revive its fortunes in the state. But its senior leader and former minister K. Jana Reddy lost by over 18,000 votes to TRS debutant Nomula Bhagat, whose father late Nomula Narasimhaiah had defeated Jana Reddy in 2018. The only solace for the Congress was that it finished runner-up and BJP was a distant third with its candidate forfeiting his deposit. The appointment of Revanth Reddy as the new state president by the central leadership last year after ignoring several seniors and strong contenders triggered open revolt by a section of leaders, who saw Revanth as an outsider as he had defected to Congress from TDP just before the 2018 elections. The change of guard also could not bring any change in the party's fortunes. Several seniors started openly attacking Revanth Reddy for sidelining them. In the Huzurabad by-election held last year, Congress' performance was disastrous. Eatala Rajender's resignation from the constituency after he was dropped from the state Cabinet by Chief Minister

Chandrasekhar Rao had caused the by-election. He switched loyalties to BJP and contested the by-poll as the candidate of the saffron party. Rajender defeated his nearest rival Gellu Srinivas Yadav of TRS by 24,068 votes. Rajender polled 1,06,780 votes while Srinivas Yadav secured 82,712 votes. The Congress candidate secured only 3,012 votes and lost the deposit. It was a disaster for Congress which had secured 47,803 votes in 2018 to finish runner-up. BJP is confident that in Munugode, Rajagopal Reddy will repeat the performance of Eatala to give it another victory. Political observers say the by-election offers another opportunity to Congress to arrest the slide and improve its prospects in the big battle ahead. With speculations doing rounds in political circles that Rajagopal Reddy's brother and MP Venkat Reddy may also quit Congress and join BJP, Congress is likely to face more embarrassment. Under attack from his critics within the party over his style of functioning, Revanth Reddy will be under big pressure to deliver and give a befitting counter to Komatireddy brothers and his bitter critics on their home turf.

international

'UKRAINE HAS PULLED OFF ONE OF GREATEST COUNTER ATTACKS IN MODERN HISTORY'

London | Agencies

Vladimir Putin has no good options for how to react after a lightning offensive by Ukraine inflicted Russia's most serious and rapid military defeat on the battlefield since the Second World War, a UK military expert said, Daily Mail reported. Justin Bronk, a research fellow at London's Royal United Services Institute, has analysed the latest situation in an article as Ukrainian troops continued to pile pressure on retreating Russian forces. Ukraine is now seeking to hold onto its sudden momentum that has pro-



Alexander Sladkov accidentally revealed the scale of their losses in Ukraine, telling the Kremlin-run Rossiya 1 news channel that a 'huge number of people' have died, Bronk said. Bronk said Ukraine has 'baited Russia into accepting an attritional battle in a very militarily disadvantageous position', adding that Russia 'will be hard pressed simply to avoid any more disasters before winter'. The expert said it had been 'one of the most successful counter-offensives we've seen in modern history in terms of territory gained over a given speed of advance,' Daily Mail reported. It comes as Russia's state media war correspondent

duced major territorial gains, with Russian troops surrendering en masse amid hopes that a turning point in the war has finally been reached. The counter-offensive left the Kremlin struggling for a response to its largest mili-

tary defeat in Ukraine since Russia pulled back from areas near Kyiv after a botched attempt to capture the capital early in the invasion, Daily Mail reported.

Pakistan's rivers to witness increased flows in coming days



Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has forecasted that the upper catchments of the country's eastern rivers may get affected due to increased flows in the coming days. According to a report released by the NDMA, water flows may increase in the eastern rivers of Sutlej, Ravi, and Chenab, and their associated tributaries and canals from September 17-18, reports Xinhua news agency. The NDMA has directed all the concerned authorities to maintain an enhanced alert

level and monitor the developing situations to reduce reaction and response times, the report said. It has further notified the authorities to manage the timely evacuation of the at-risk population from low-lying and flood-prone areas as per evacuation plans and the availability of shelter, food and medicines in those shelter camps. The total death toll in Pakistan from this season's monsoon rains and floods since mid-June has risen to around 1,481 along with 12,748 injured.

SHOOTING AT THAI ARMY COLLEGE KILLS 2

Shanghai | Agencies

Bangkok: A shooting incident at a Thai army college in Bangkok on Wednesday claimed the lives of two people and injured another person, a military spokesperson said. The gunman, a 59-year-old staff worker at the Royal Thai Army War College, shot at his colleagues at around 8.55 a.m., Xinhua news agency quoted deputy army spokesperson Sirichan Ngathong as saying. The perpetrator was taken into custody after he surrendered to the police and the motive for the shooting is still unclear, he said.

Shanghai raises emergency response as typhoon Muifa approaches

Shanghai | Agencies

Shanghai on Wednesday upgraded its typhoon emergency response to Level III, the third-highest, as Muifa, the 12th typhoon this year, moves closer. The municipal flood control and typhoon and drought relief headquarters raised the response level at 7 a.m. Wednesday, according to the flood control office of Shanghai. As of Wednesday morning, more than 1,900 ships had returned to port, and two tourist attractions and two parks had been temporarily closed, reports Xinhua news agency. The city had also assigned personnel to inspect dikes, construction sites and other areas as Shanghai braced for the typhoon. In China's Zhejiang province, the local flood control and typhoon and drought relief headquarters upgraded the emergency response to Level I, the highest level, on Tuesday afternoon. A total of 11,680 fishing boats had returned to port in the province by Tuesday noon. More than 719,800 people had been



evacuated to safe places by Wednesday morning. Muifa was observed over the ocean 185 km southeast of Xiangshan county in Zhejiang province at 10 a.m. Wednesday. It is expected to move northwestward at a speed of 20 to 25 km per hour, China's National Meteorological Centre said in a statement. The typhoon will make the first landfall in coastal areas between Sammen county and Zhoushan, Zhejiang province around nightfall. The second landfall is expected between the coastal areas of Jiaying city in Zhejiang and Shanghai's Pudong district on Wednesday evening, according to the forecast.

Trump blasts 'weaponised' FBI as he fumes over seizure of My Pillows CEO's phone

Ashe O. | Washington

Former President Donald Trump claimed the US had become a "weaponised police state" after fuming over a report that MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell's cellphone had been seized by the FBI. Lindell, one of the most prominent 2020 election conspiracy theorists, said federal agents took his phone while questioning him about Tina Peters, a Colorado clerk who is under incitement over allegations of tampering with election voting equipment, the Newsweek reported. Lindell posted a video online charging that he was targeted by a "weaponised" FBI, adding what happened to him was "disgusting." In a post on Truth Social, Trump also made a similar claim



while showing support for the man who frequently backs the "false claim" the former President lost the last election due to widespread voter fraud. "Our Country is a laughing stock all over the

World. The majesty of the United States is gone. Can't let this happen. TAKE BACK AMERICA!", he said. Speaking on his online show The Lindell Report, the MyPillow CEO

described how FBI agents approached him while he was at a Hardee's fast food restaurant in Mankato, Minnesota. Lindell said the agents asked him about Peters, Dominion Voting Systems, and Doug Frank, an Ohio math teacher who claims he has a mathematical algorithm to prove the last election was stolen from Trump, which has frequently been debunked. The agents then told Lindell they had a warrant to seize his phone and ordered him to turn it over. Lindell shared with the Washington Times a letter, he said, accompanied the search warrant which stated there is "an official criminal investigation of a suspected felony is being conducted by an agency of the United States and a Federal Grand Jury in the District

Wildfires burns over 3,200 hectares of land in France



Paris | Agencies

Wildfires have burned over 3,200 hectares of land in France's southwestern department of Gironde, forcing 840 people to be evacuated, the local government announced in a statement. "More than 900 firefighters from Gironde and other departments will be mobilized, thanks to the arrival of reinforcements from other departments in the coming hours. Two Canadairs, one Dash (plane) and three water bomber helicopters have

been deployed since this morning," Xinhua news agency quoted the statement issued late Tuesday as saying. The local government said emergency accommodations are being offered to evacuees in Le Porge and other municipalities. No further evacuations are planned at this time, it added. More than 30,000 hectares of land had been burned in the department of Gironde this summer due to dry weather and heatwaves, according to media reports.



SUSPECTING THEM TO BE KIDNAPPERS, SANGLI MOB BEATS UP 4 SADHUS

Sangli | Agencies

In a shocker, a group of at least four Sadhus was thrashed by a mob on suspicion that they could be child-lifters, officials said, even as police got into action and detained six persons. The incident occurred on Tuesday in Lavanga village in the Jat tehsil of the district in western Maharashtra and revived memories of the lynching of three Sadhus in Palghar district. Though no formal police complaint has been filed yet, the incident sparked a fresh political row between the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). According to locals, the four Sadhus, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, had entered Maharashtra by a car from Karnataka's Bijapur and were proceeding to the pilgrimage centre of Pandharpur. On Tuesday, they were reportedly asking a boy for directions when some locals intervened, and suspecting them to be kidnappers,



hammered them. Videos of the incident -- showing some persons assaulting them with blows, sticks and belts -- went viral on social media platforms triggering protests and allegations between the ruling and opposition combines.

Slamming the Shinde-Fadnavis government, state Congress President Nana Patole said this is part of the BJP's "dirty politics" that Hindu Sadhus are being thrashed in such a manner. "The BJP is virtually ruling the

state, the Deputy CM and Home Minister (Fadnavis) are from the BJP.. Now what face they have left to show," said Patole. Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant said that a similar incident had occurred in Palghar in April 2020 in the Palghar village ruled by the BJP and several local BJP office-bearers were also involved. "The BJP used that incident to label the MVA government as 'anti-Hindu'... A similar situation has arisen in Sangli now. Whose government is in power? Will they hand over the probe to the CBI?" Sawant demanded. Ruling BJP Spokesperson Ram Kadam termed the incident as "appalling and barbaric" and would not be tolerated in the state, while assuring a full probe into the matter. Sangli Police Superintendent Dixit Gedam told the mediapersons that the police have launched suo moto investigations and detained at least six persons, and appealed to the people not to fall prey to such rumours.

INDIA AIMS TO LEAPFROG IN QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY WITH INDUSTRY'S HELP : MINISTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As India embarks on its Techade journey, the government aims to build capabilities in quantum and high performance computing with the help from industry leaders like IBM, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday. Addressing the IBM's flagship 'Think' conference virtually, he said that quantum technology is a very important piece of India's tech journey. "Quantum is, notwithstanding the usual marketing hype that always accompanies new emerging technologies, clearly a technology that cannot be ignored. India intends to build capabilities in quantum and high performance computing to address challenges of the future," the minister told the gathering. Chandrasekhar, along with Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India and Tom Rosamilia, Senior Vice President, IBM Software, also unveiled a white paper on quantum technology. The minister said that India, in the coming years, must move from being a consumer of technologies to being an architect and a producer of technologies and innovation. Chandrasekhar last year launched QSim - Quantum Computer Simulator Toolkit - to enable researchers and students to carry out



research in quantum computing. The project is being executed collaboratively by IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee and C-DAC with the support of MeitY. Earlier this week, IIT-Madras became the first Indian institution to join IBM's quantum network to advance quantum computing skills development and research in the country, the tech major announced on Monday. IIT Madras' Centre for Quantum Information, Communication and Computing (CQuICC) will focus on advancing core algorithms in research areas like quantum machine learning, quantum optimisation and applications research in finance.

SBI hits Rs 5 lakh crore market capitalisation



Team Absolute | Mumbai

State-owned lender, State Bank of India (SBI) hit the Rs 5 lakh crore market capitalisation on Wednesday after its shares touched a record high of Rs 564.45. With this market capi-

talisation, SBI stood on the seventh position in the market capitalisation ranking. SBI has become the third lender in the country to cross the market cap of Rs 5 lakh crore. HDFC Bank held first rank in this list, which was

followed by ICICI Bank. At 1.10 p.m., SBI shares were up Rs 14.75 or 2.64 per cent at Rs 573.00. Meanwhile, Sensex was trading 126.21 points or 0.21 per cent down at 60,444.87, and Nifty was 32.90 points or 0.18 per cent down at 18,037.15.

PUNE FRIENDS COMMITTED SUICIDE WITHIN HOUR OF EACH OTHER

Pune: Two 19-year-old women, both childhood friends and living in the same building in Pune, allegedly died by suicide within a span of one hour, police said. The incidents took place on Tuesday evening in Maharashtra's Hadapsar town, they said. One of the women found dead in her bedroom at around 6:30 pm, police inspector Arvind Gokule told Press Trust of India. "While the body was being sent for an autopsy in an ambulance, the woman's childhood friend jumped to death from the terrace of the four-storey building at around 7:30 pm," he said. One of them was a commerce student and the other was pursuing an animation course, the police said. No note was found and the reasons behind their extreme step were not yet known, the police said.

Jacqueline Fernandez joins probe in Sukesh Chandrashekar extortion case

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez appeared before the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police to join the investigation in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion cum cheating case involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. She went inside the EOW office from a back door and was accompanied by her counsels. The EOW had earlier postponed her questioning on her request and had fixed the matter for Wednesday. Pinky Irani, an associate of Fernandez has also been summoned to join the investigation and both are likely to be grilled together. Sources in the unit said that they have prepared a long list of questionnaire which will be asked to the actress. "We will ask her about her relationship with Chandrashekar and the gifts, money which she received from the conman. We might confront Irani and Fernandez," the source said.



There are possibilities that the questioning can go for two or three days. The questions that will be asked to Irani and Fernandez have been prepared by the top officials of the agency to nail the lies of Chandrashekar. In the first week of September, the EOW officials had recorded the testimony of another Bollywood actress Nora Fatehi in the matter. Chandrashekar was arrested for allegedly cheating and extorting money from some high-profile people, includ-

ing former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh. Many Bollywood actors and models have been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for their alleged links to Chandrashekar. In April last year Chandrashekar was arrested in another money laundering case linked to the 2017 Election Commission bribery case, which allegedly involved a former AIADMK leader among others.

Based n suicide note, Thane Police charge victim's husband, family members

Team Absolute | Thane

Based on a purported suicide note found with a 38-year-old housewife who hanged herself two days ago at Dombivili in Thane district, police have registered a case against her husband and seven members of his family, including in-laws, an official said on Tuesday. The accused, originally hailing from Jalgaon in north Maharashtra, have been charged with abetment to suicide and other offences, he said. An official from the Manpada police station of Dombivili in the Kalyan division said based on a complaint by the 71-year-old father of the woman, the police have registered the case against the eight under IPC sections 306 (abetment of suicide), 377 (unnatural offences), 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman

subjecting her to cruelty) and 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), among others. No arrest has been made so far, he said. The police said the woman got married to one Dinesh Sriram Patil way back in 2004. According to the complaint, since 2008 the woman had been subjected to mental and physical harassment by her in-laws and other family members for some reason or the other. The victim's in-laws also doubted her character, it said. Fed up with the constant harassment, the woman hanged herself at her husband's home in Dombivili on September 11, the police said. The next day the police found a suicide note in her clothes and registered the case. However, the police have not revealed the content of the suicide note.

Builder held for raping actress under marriage pretext



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A builder was arrested by Mumbai Police on Tuesday for allegedly raping a small-time actress under the pretext of marrying her, an official said. The accused, Aditya Ajay

Kapoor, had met the 24-year-old actress, who had worked in some Telugu movies, at the residence of a common friend in suburban Bandra. They exchanged phone numbers and stayed in touch. Over a period of time, they became close to each

other, the official said. "Kapoor maintained physical relations with the woman by promising to marry her," the official said quoting the FIR. The complainant stated that Kapoor raped her at his residence in the Cuffe Parade area and also in Goa.

Mysterious underground sounds in Latur village



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In what may seem like a plot from popular Netflix series 'Stranger Things', residents of a village in Maharashtra's Latur district are puzzled after mysterious sounds can be heard underground, across the village. This has been happening now for over a week. The mysterious underground sounds have been reported at Hasori village in the district, an official said on Tuesday. In order to get a scientific explanation, district officials have requested experts from the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism to visit the village to study the strange phe-

nomenon, he said. Hasori village is located 28 km from Killari - a place where a deadly earthquake had claimed more than 9,700 lives in 1993. But no seismic activity has been recorded since in the area, officials said. As per local reports, loud mysterious sounds are being heard underground since September 6, leaving villagers scared and puzzled. Latur district collector Prithviraj BP visited the village on Tuesday and appealed to the people not to panic. A team of experts from Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University of Maharashtra's Nanded will visit the village today, officials said.

Bust of Annabhau Sathe - Father of Dalit Literature - adorns Moscow library campus

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai/Moscow

In a unique honour, a bust of the Maharashtra-born Tukaram B. Sathe, famed as 'Annabhau Sathe', the Father of Dalit Literature - was inaugurated at the famed Margarita Rudomino All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, on Wednesday. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the bust, terming it as "a historic development which will further strengthen relations between India and Russia". Fadnavis consecrated the bust - gifted by the University of Mumbai - in the presence of Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, the varsity's Annabhau Sathe Study Centre Director Dr. Baliram Gaikwad and Dr. Sanjay Deshpande, Director, Central Eurasian Studies Department, ICCR President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, besides around 300 invitees at the famed library campus in the Russian capital this afternoon. The Dy CM also recalled the sterling contributions



of Annabhau Sathe to Dalit literature though he attended school "for only one day" owing to the prevalent social systems," but went on to create an impressive body of literary works and is a famous figure in the Russia academia. "After his epochal visit to Russia, he wrote the 'Ballad of Stalingrad' and 'My Journey To Russia - A Travelogue', many of his books were translated into Russian language and he was regarded as the 'Maxim Gorky of India', plus fostered ties between

the people of the two countries," Fadnavis said. A portrait of Annabhau Sathe, gifted by the Millionaire Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mumbai to the ICCR was also unveiled and went on display at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Dr. Gaikwad told correspondent earlier that Annabhau Sathe was the proponent of Rural Literature in India, and had travelled to Russia for two months in 1961 as India's 'cultural ambassador'. "He left an indelible mark there and was the first Indian whose books were prescribed by Russian universities' syllabi," said Dr. Gaikwad of Annabhau Sathe, who had humble beginnings but emerged as one of the tallest literateurs from Maharashtra gaining international respect. Russia has also instituted scholarships in his name, many scholars have specialized on his literature, while his books have been translated into 27 languages worldwide, and three of his books in Russian language were also relaunched on Wednesday at the 101-year old library.

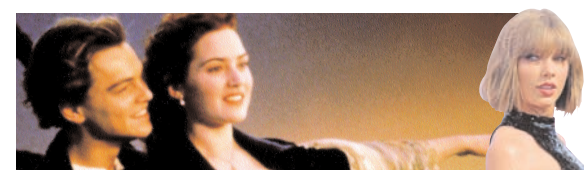
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'The Pitch Perfect'

GROUP CHAT IS 'DISGUSTINGLY ADORABLE': ANNA KENDRICK

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anna Kendrick has said that she's still in close contact with her 'Pitch Perfect' co-stars. Actress starred in the 'Pitch Perfect' film franchise alongside the likes of Rebel Wilson, Anna Camp and Brittany Snow, and Kendrick has said that the cast remain as close as they've ever been.

She shared: "We are texting each other going like, 'Oh my gosh, you guys it's almost been 10 years and remember this night?' And like sending pictures from filming the first riff off in that empty pool and we're freezing cold. So it's very, it's almost like disgustingly adorable."

Kendrick starred in all three 'Pitch Perfect' movies between 2012 and 2017, and she's developed a strong bond with her co-stars over the last decade.

She said: "I think like by the third movie, it really did feel like these girls are family like in the way that you don't even choose your family. I'm so grateful to have those relationships and to have this weird, accidental family."

Meanwhile, Kendrick recently endured some drama at the Toronto International Film Festival, where she got herself stuck in an elevator.

Kendrick shared: "It was very dramatic. The second that the elevator like kerplunked it was like... well, obviously we're not trapped in this elevator, that would be too crazy, that would be insane. I was in this absurd comedy."

"Everything else I had was like a miniskirt, but something tells me today is going to be the day to wear the long flowy skirt and that was the day that I had to climb out of a hatch at the top of an elevator" She added.



My new approach of living has transformed my life:

Kendall Jenner

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Kendall Jenner shot to global stardom in the reality TV series 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians', but she thinks the public has an inaccurate perception of them. She said: "There's so many false narratives (about us). So many people think they have you figured out when they don't even know the half of it."

"It can feel really unfair because that is not who I am. That can really get to me sometimes and that really sucks. But then looking at myself in the mirror and being like, 'I know who I am, so why does anything else matter?'"

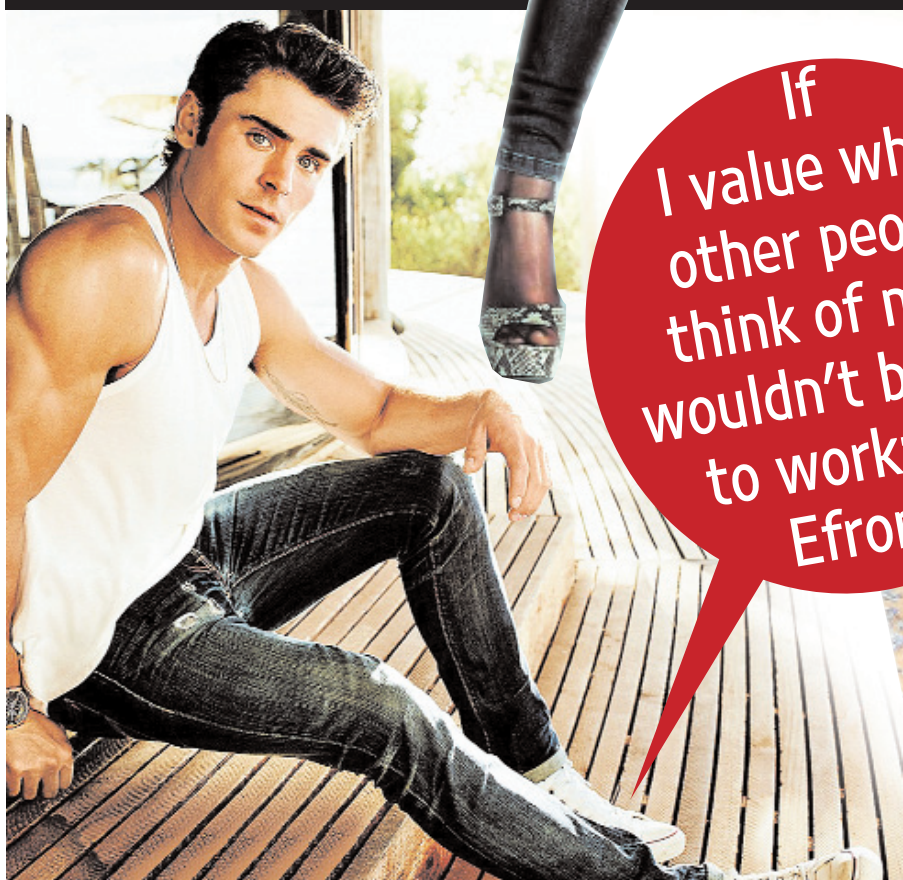
"Everything else is just noise." She confessed to feeling "extremely overworked" in her early twenties and admitted that stepping back has done "wonders" for her. Speaking on the 'On Purpose' podcast, she told host Jay Shetty: "The things that I accomplished, even my job, at one point when I was younger, I decided I wanted to be a model. I didn't stop until I was 24, then I was like, 'Okay I think I need to take it back a notch.'"

"There was a core five years where I was extremely overworked, not my happiest, and I felt like I was saying yes to everything because I felt really grateful to be in the position I was in."

Kendall ultimately decided to make her wellbeing her number one priority. She admits that her new approach has transformed her life. She said: "I just wasn't happy anymore so I had to set those boundaries for myself." "I need to start saying no when I can and start prioritising me and my well-being. It has done wonders to me."

'I started saying no when I can and started prioritising me'

Zac hits the red carpet after 3 years



If I value what other people think of me, I wouldn't be able to work: Zac Efron

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Zac Efron was all smiles while attending the 2022 Toronto Film Festival. The public appearance, which is the actor's first in three years, arrived just days after the 'Baywatch' star addressed rumours that he underwent plastic surgery.

The actor, who stepped out to promote his latest movie 'The Greatest Beer Run Ever', was seen in high spirits while gracing the red carpet at the event. Star looked dapper in a grey suit coupled with a black polo neck shirt and black shoes. Prior to this, Efron made headlines after he broke silence on his 2021 face transformation. The 'High School Musical' star, who sent the Internet into a frenzy last year with his look, set the record straight in an interview with Men's Health for the October cover story. During the interview, the star revealed that

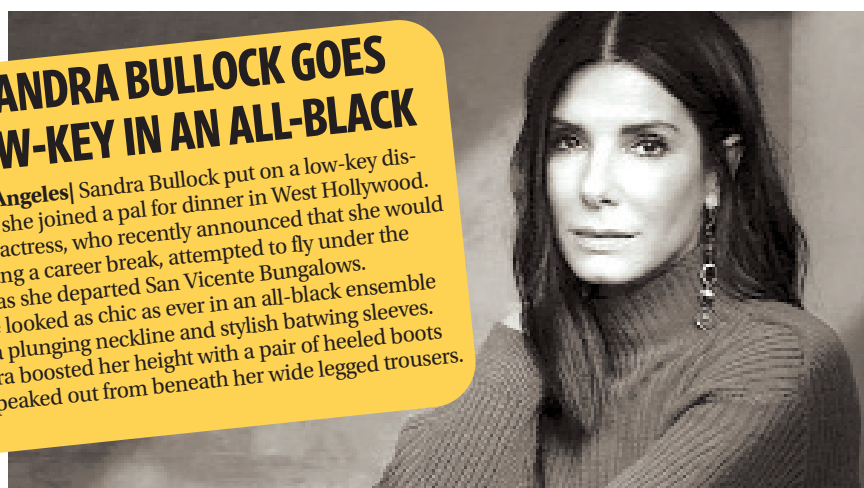
he broke his jaw while running in his house with socks on. He went on to share that he slipped and hit his chin against a granite fountain, adding that he passed out after the incident. Once he woke up, his chin bone was "hanging off his face". Back in April 2021, the actor drove the Internet wild after he participated in Bill Nye's "Earth Day! The Musical" video with Justin Bieber and Dixie D'Amelio.

"A big budget musical spectacular? Bill, wow," he said in the clip.

Despite the troll, Efron made it clear that he's unbothered by it. "If I valued what other people thought of me to the extent that they may think I do "the" Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile" leading man said. "I definitely wouldn't be able to do this work."

SANDRA BULLOCK GOES LOW-KEY IN AN ALL-BLACK

Los Angeles | Sandra Bullock put on a low-key display as she joined a pal for dinner in West Hollywood. The actress, who recently announced that she would be taking a career break, attempted to fly under the radar as she departed San Vicente Bungalows. She looked as chic as ever in an all-black ensemble with a plunging neckline and stylish batwing sleeves. Sandra boosted her height with a pair of heeled boots that peaked out from beneath her wide legged trousers.



You don't know what you're missing, his loss: Dionne Warwick

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Dionne Warwick has hilariously mocked actor Leonardo DiCaprio's alleged relationship rule. The 81-year-old said that the "Titanic" star doesn't know what he is missing, with his supposed "25-year rule".

The 'Walk on By' songstress added it was the actor's loss he has form for dating women who are no older than 25.

She tweeted on Wednesday, "I just heard about Leonardo DiCaprio's 25 year rule. His loss. You don't know what you're missing."

The mother-of-two's message to her 608,000-plus followers quickly racked up almost 700 comments, with many praising Warwick as a "legend".

It comes as DiCaprio, is back on the market after it

emerged in August he had quietly split from his girlfriend, model Camila Morrone, a few months after she turned 25. Insiders said the pair grew apart after seven years, and called it a day earlier this summer.

DiCaprio hasn't previously publicly dated a woman over 25, with his exes Gisele Bundchen, Bar Refaeli and Blake Lively not being over that age when they were together. Morrone previously hit back when quizzed about their 22-year age gap, saying people should be free to date whoever they want without question. She said during their relationship she was regularly mocked by trolls, including one who predicted her relationship with the actor would be "over when you're 25."



Dionne mocks DiCaprio's about rumoured '25-year' dating rule

Everything Everywhere All at Once: Michelle Yeoh and Huy Quan's latest release has everything everywhere ALL at once

FILM REVIEW

BY: SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Cast: Michelle Yeoh as Evelyn Quan Wang, Stephanie Hsu as Joy Wang / Jobu Tupaki, Ke Huy Quan as Waymond Wang, James Hong as Gong Gong (Chinese, "maternal grandfather")

Director & Writer: Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert

Runtime: 2 hours 15 minutes

Rating: 4/5



first 15 minutes of the film are the only sane part. After that, everything started happening at once. Which makes the viewer overwhelmed by the chaos.

To be more specific, the film is a visual treat. After a long time, we finally get to see a film that will blow your mind in a variety of ways. In terms of acting, each character in the film plays an important role and contributes to the film's

brilliance.

Evelyn, played by Michelle Yeoh, is a Chinese-American immigrant who runs a facility with her husband Waymond (The Goonies and Temple Of Doom star Ke Huy Quan, who is finally back on our screens). Her story has a particularity. But her feelings are universal: she is overwhelmed by the relentlessness of her life, consumed by everything, everywhere, all at once.

She has a business to run, taxes to file, customers to please, a father to live up to, a husband to argue with, and a daughter to whom she is increasingly unable to relate. As a result, she's closed off, trapped under the weight of her failed hopes and dreams, struggling to maintain a life she despises.

Stephanie Hsu, who plays Joy (Evelyn's daughter), is a real delight. She is the antagonist, but not quite the antagonist.

Ke Huy Quan's brilliant performance backs up all of this. The actor has two roles and does so well that you can tell the difference even when nothing about his appearance changes.

It's so fascinating that you almost don't want science fiction to come in. But when it does, it does so spectacularly, with Waymond's 'Alphaverse' self-introducing Evelyn to alternate universes where she can be anything she wants: a singer, a chef, or an action-movie

star. With the multiversal evil Jobu Tupaki ("an agent of pure chaos") threatening to end everything, Evelyn must 'Verse-Jump' into her other life paths and use those skills to fight back. The events that follow are heart-pounding.

Everything Everywhere All At Once's magic is in its title - within it, you'll find every genre and feel every emotion. Brownie points to the amazing background music which compels the viewers to fall in love with the movie all over again.

Technically, this film has everything that makes a good film. The right amount of close-ups to create tension and the right amount of pans ensures that it appeals to the eyes. It's gloriously cinematic, relishing in the simplicity of filmmaking's most essential tools while deploying them to their full potential.

Conclusion: This film has it all: action, drama, love, anger, and so on. It is a must-see.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Kaia Gerber



INDIA WOMEN THRASH ENGLAND TO LEVEL T20I SERIES 1-1

Derby | Agencies

Following their nine-wicket defeat against England women in the opening T20 International, India hit back with an equally impressive comeback win as vice-captain Smriti Mandhana smashed an unbeaten half century to help the visitors level the series with an eight-wicket victory at the Country Ground in Derby late on Tuesday. The 53-ball 79 from Mandhana was enough for India to chase down a competitive 142/6 from England for the loss of just two wickets and with 20 balls to spare.

The deciding third T20I will be played at Bristol on Thursday, following which the focus will shift to the One-day International series beginning at Hove on September 18. On a day when Freya Kemp becomes the youngest woman to make a T20I half-century for England, the total proved too less for India who



batted with far more authority in the chase, with Shafali Verma (20) and Mandhana giving India a solid start of 55 runs. By the time the young opener departed in the sixth over, Verma had laid a solid foundation from where Mandhana just took off, hitting 13

boundaries and scoring at a strike rate of nearly 150. With none of the damp and soggy English conditions to trouble India after their travails in their opening game, which they lost by nine wickets, India went about their task in a cool manner at Derby's

Incora County Ground. England women lurched from 16/3 to 54/5 before 17-year-old left-hander Freya Kemp guided them to a face-saving score with an unbeaten 51. Mandhana then put on an opening partnership of 55 with Verma, who departed following a sharp return catch to Sophie Ecclestone. However, an unbroken stand of 69 with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (29 not out) ensured victory for the tourists. In between, Dayalan Hemalatha lost her wicket to Freya Davies. Mandhana brought up the winning runs with a boundary off off Davies.

Brief scores

England 142 for 6 in 20 overs (Freya Kemp 51 not out; Sneh Rana 3/24) lost to India 146 for 2 in 16.4 overs (Smriti Mandhana 79 not out) by eight wickets.

Robin Uthappa retires from Indian cricket

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former India opener Robin Uthappa on Wednesday announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket.

Uthappa shared a heartfelt post announcing his retirement from all forms of cricket on social media.

The right-handed batter said it has been "greatest honour" to represent India and Karnataka during this illustrious career.

"It has been my greatest honour to represent my country and my state, Karnataka. However, all good things must come to an end, and with a grateful heart, I have decided to retire from all forms of Indian cricket. Thank you all," Uthappa said on the Koo app.

Uthappa played the 2004 Under-19 World Cup. He made his international debut



two years later and featured in 46 ODIs and 13 T20Is for India.

"It's been 20 years since I started playing professional cricket, and it has been the greatest honour to represent my country and state, Karnataka - wonderful journey of ups and downs; one that has been fulfilling, rewarding, enjoyable and has

allowed me to grow as a human being," Uthappa further said in the post.

The stylish batter was a part of the Indian side which lifted the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 in South Africa. The batter from Karnataka has won two IPL trophies - one for KKR and one for CSK in 2014 and 2021 respectively.

Virat rises 14 spots to 15th on latest ICC T20I batter rankings

Dubai | Agencies

Star India batter Virat Kohli has risen 14 spots to 15th overall on the ICC T20I batter rankings due to his efforts in the recently-concluded Asia Cup in the UAE. Kohli scored his first international century in almost three years - against Afghanistan - and scored 276 runs in the continental showpiece event.



has also been rewarded for his dominant performances at the Asia Cup, while a new No.1 all-rounder has been crowned in the shortest format of the game.

Sri Lanka match-winner Hasaranga improved three places to sixth on the bowler rankings and seven spots to fourth on the all-rounder list after he was adjudged 'Player of the Tournament' at the Asia Cup.

On the list for T20I bowlers, India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar (up four spots to seventh) and Pakistan duo Haris Rauf (up nine places to equal 25th) and Mohammad Nawaz (up seven spots to 34th) were among the biggest movers after strong performances at the Asia Cup.

There was no movement inside the top 10 on the latest Test player rankings, but there were some big jumps made by England and South Africa players following the completion of their recent three-match series.

Kohli has some way to go before he is back into contention for the top ranking for T20I batters, but he is at least moving in the right direction now after returning to form during the Asia Cup.

The champion right-hander was the big mover near the top of the T20I batter rankings, with India team-mate KL Rahul (up seven places to 23rd) and Sri Lanka star Bhanuka Rajapaksa (up 34 spots to 34th) also making good ground on those players near the top.

Sri Lanka all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga

Bayern down Barcelona in UEFA Champions League

Berlin | Agencies

Bayern Munich made it two wins from two in this season's UEFA Champions League after goals from Lucas Hernandez and Leroy Sane, edging a wasteful Barcelona 2-0 in Group C.

Barcelona started powerfully on the road and created the first opportunity as Pedri tested Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer with a low shot from eight metres in the ninth minute.

Former Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski then had a great chance to break the deadlock, but the unmarked Pole pulled over the target with 18 minutes gone.

Lewandowski remained in the thick of things and kept Neuer busy as the Bayern keeper had to save a dangerous header on target three minutes later.

The visitors were the more energetic team as Raphinha unleashed a promising long-range effort at the half-hour mark, Cinhua reports.



Bayern needed some time to gain a foothold into the clash, with the next chance not coming until the 31st minute, when Marcel Sabitzer lacked accuracy in front of the goal.

Barcelona came out with all guns blazing after the restart and should

have opened the scoring, but Raphinha's hammer went just wide.

However, the opener was scored at the other end and against the run of the play, as Joshua Kimmich's long ball found Hernandez, who headed home to mark the opener in the 50th

minute. Bayern's goal shocked the visitors, and the home side made it 2-0 four minutes later, after Sane benefited from Jamal Musiala's good build-up work and through-ball to beat Barcelona custodian Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Starc, Marsh, Stoinis to miss upcoming T20Is against India due to injuries

Melbourne | Agencies

Australia trio of left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc, all-rounders Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis are set to miss the upcoming T20I series against India due to injuries.

Opener David Warner had already been rested from the trip and now, Starc (knee), Marsh (ankle) and Stoinis (side strain) have been ruled out of the short tour of India.

"Selectors felt with three games in six days across three cities - including travel to India and internally - Marsh, Stoinis and Starc are best served remaining in Australia to prepare for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," said a statement from Cricket Australia (CA).

Earlier, a report in cricket.com.au said pacer Nathan Ellis, all-rounders Daniel Sams, and Sean Abbott will be the replacements for the injured trio



on their trip to India, with matches to take place on September 20, 23 and 25 in Mohali, Nagpur and Hyderabad respectively.

The last time Australia played a T20I series against India, it was in 2019, where Australia won two-match series 2-0. Marsh and Stoinis were injured during Australia's ODI series against

Zimbabwe at Townsville and against New Zealand at Cairns. But Starc, their pace spearhead, is a late exclusion from the tour to India after a scan on his knee in Sydney on Wednesday.

The trio's absence means that Australia will have some changes to their desired playing eleven on tour of India.

EQUESTRIAN STAR MIRZA EYES GLORY AS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BEGINS ON THURSDAY

New Delhi: Ace Indian equestrian rider Fouaad Mirza is all set to compete in the FEI World Championship Eventing 2022, scheduled to commence in Pratoni del Vivaro, Italy on Thursday. The Asian Games double silver medalist, Mirza is the lone Indian to have qualified for the 15th edition of the World Championship Eventing, which will be conducted at the historic equestrian venue Pratoni del Vivaro.

The venue had hosted the Eventing discipline of the 1960 Rome Olympics.

"I'm very excited to participate in the World Championship at the historic venue where top riders from across the world will compete. I have trained hard in Germany while preparing for the event and I look forward to giving my best and bringing glory to the country. I would also like to thank the Sports Ministry and Equestrian Federation of India for their support and encouragement," the 30-year-old Indian rider said. The Bengaluru-born Mirza will enter the competition along with his horses, Seigneur Medicott and Dajara 4. Seigneur Medicott was part of Mirza's historic Tokyo Olympics campaign last year, where he became the first Indian to reach the Olympics final.

It was also the same horse, which helped Mirza win two silver medals at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.

CPL 2022: Mayers, Mujeeb star as Barbados score sixth win in a row

Port of Spain | Agencies

Barbados Royals batsmen Kyle Mayers and Corbin Bosch put on 98 for the second wicket and made it an easy eight-wicket win over Trinbago Knight Riders in the Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

This was after Mujeeb Ur Rehman took three for 17 as TKR were restricted to 132.

That helped Barbados Royals keep their unbeaten run intact as they made it six wins from six matches in CPL.

The Barbados Royals won the toss and opted to field first. Their spinners Rahkeem Cornwall and Mujeeb Ur Rahman wreaked havoc as four wickets fell in the first seven overs and the Knight Riders struggled to get back into the game.

Nicholas Pooran put up a valiant fight with a battling half century but the 132 they posted was short of a competitive total.

Chasing the modest target Mayers hit a blistering 79 to stun the crowd at Queens Park Oval and Royals cruised to a comfortable win. Bowling first Royals took the



Knight Riders top order in Powerplay. Cornwall and the debutant Mujeeb Ur Rahman dismissed Tion Webster, Colin Munro and Tim Seifert in quick succession to leave Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard with a major rescue job on their hands.

When Pollard fell to Rahman straight after the Power Play all looked lost for the Knight Riders but Pooran and Narine

put together a fine rebuilding partnership to leave the home team well set at 100 for 4 with five overs to go. That did not last long.

For Knight Riders Daryn Dupavillon provided the early joy by clean bowling Cornwall for one. But then the Hero CPL leading run scorer, Kyle Mayers, hit a stunning 79 from 35 balls to guide the Royals to the edge of victory. Corbin Bosch and Quinton De Kock saw out the remaining runs with minimum fuss.

Brief scores: Trinbago Knight Riders: 132 in 20 overs (Nicholas Pooran 52, Sunil Narine 30, Mujeeb Ur Rehman 3/17) lost to Barbados Royals 133/2 in 16 overs (Kyle Mayers 79, Corbin Bosch 33 not out) by eight wickets.

TT FEDERATION MARRED BY CHAOS, NEEDS REVAMP: HC-APPOINTED COA



New Delhi | Agencies

Observing the "sorry state of affairs" in the running of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) and the need to revamp it, the Delhi High Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Wednesday observed that there is total mismanagement in TTFI's functioning with no record of any decision or meeting to take major decisions. In its 91-page report

submitted before the high court, the CoA said there "is a critical need to re-examine the entire byelaws and its constitution in view of not only the sports code, but also for fair and transparent execution of functions as they are being managed in an unprofessional manner".

The CoA, which was categorically clear in observing that the sport's governance in the country since long has been plagued by nepotism, fieldism, lack of accountability and financial irregularities, recommended that "there is also requirement of various effective steps, which are required to be taken by the TTFI in the procedure of election, the auditors, the appointment of ombudsman and for grievance redressal".

The high court, hearing a petition filed by ace women's paddler Manika Batra, had in February directed the appointment of an administrator to run the TTFI, saying its faith was shaken in view of the sports body's "sorry state of affairs".

Ganguly, Shah set for second innings as SC allows amendment to BCCI constitution

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) plea in connection with the amendments proposed to its constitution to relax the cooling-off period requirement.

The cooling-off period for office bearers will kick in after two consecutive terms at either the BCCI or at the state association level. The office bearers can now have a maximum of 12 years at one go: two three-year terms at the state association level and two three-year terms at the BCCI, and after this, the cooling-off will be applicable.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the BCCI, submitted before a bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hima Kohli that clause 6 as approved by the top court indicates that a person who has competed one term at the state cricket association level followed by one term at the BCCI



would have to undergo a three-year cooling off period.

Therefore, the cooling off-period would come into effect after only one

term at the BCCI.

Mehta had submitted before the bench that three years is a very short time period to prove leadership quali-

ties to take the sport forward, and urged this provision, in the existing constitution, be modified to reflect that it comes into effect after an office-bearer has completed two consecutive terms. On this existing cooling-off period rule, the top court said it is unduly stringent and needs to be modified with regard to the purpose with which cooling-off periods were introduced.

The proposed amendment enables the current President Saurav Ganguly and Secretary Jay Shah to seek a second term at BCCI. According to the unamended clauses, they would have attracted disqualification - they have completed one term each at the state association and the BCCI.

The top court noted submissions from senior advocate Maninder Singh, amicus curiae in the matter, that there was no justification in confining the cooling-off period to the President and Secretary, and it should extend to all office-bearers at the BCCI.



MY PIANO IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY SONG WRITING: ANDREA JEREMIAH

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress, singer and songwriter Andrea Jeremiah says her piano is an integral part of her songwriting. Taking to Instagram, the actress recently shared details of her piano, which she says occupies the pride of place in her living room.

She wrote, "My grandfather worked in the Railways, and my father was the first in his family to get a professional degree, he is a practicing lawyer. So we went from bike and rented apartment to car and owning an apartment."

"The growth was slow, steady and real. My parents made sure that we had everything we wanted, but owning a piano was a luxury I did

not have all through the years of studying the instrument. So I would go to a friend's place to practice before my piano exams.

"My father bought me a piano only when I turned 18, and ironically that's when my piano lessons took a backseat to acting."

"I still have my piano though. It occupies pride of place in my living room, and it's an integral part of my songwriting."

On the acting front, the actress will be seen playing the lead in a series of films including 'Kaa' and director Mysskin's horror thriller 'Pisau 2'.



Ayushmann Khurrana calls Huma 'Chumma Qureshi'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has given Huma Qureshi an interesting nickname and calls her 'Chumma Qureshi'.

During a conversation with Kapil Sharma, when he teased her saying that many people called her Chumma Qureshi and asked her how she got this name, the 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actress revealed the entire

story behind it.

She also told him about her friendship with Ayushmann and how during a media interaction, he gave her this name.

"Ayushmann and I did a music video together and ever since then we became really good friends. So during that time, I used to call him Ayush-Man which sounds similar to Super-man. And in one of the media interactions, he jokingly called me Chumma Qureshi which still cracks me up." Huma is coming as a special guest on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' along with the cast of 'Maharani Season 2' including Sohum Shah, Amit Sial, Pramod Pathak, Dibyendu Bhattacharya and Anuja Sathé.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt wish to do a romantic comedy together



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are currently enjoying the success of their new film, Brahmastra. The film has done well. It is without a doubt one of the most significant releases of 2022. Following the success of Brahmastra, Ranbir and Alia have plans to collaborate on more films in the future.

According to a leading news channel, the couple wants to collaborate on a romantic comedy film. "Both Ranbir and Alia were waiting for Brahmastra's release before deciding to work in a film again. They wanted to get feedback from the audience to explore more films in the future. They were offered films in the past, but the duo said no to them. However, the success of Brahmastra is making them explore more options together. They wish to do a romantic comedy together. About Brahmastra, they are really happy with the feedback received. In future, if any offer comes to them, they will consider if it is good," said the source.

Brahmastra marked Ranbir and Alia's first on-screen collaboration. One of the major highlights has been the duo's chemistry. In the film, they played the characters Shiva and Isha.

Meanwhile, Alia will appear in the films Jee Le Zara and Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. With the film Heart Of Stone, she will also make her Hollywood debut. Ranbir, on the other hand, will appear in an untitled film directed by Animal and Luv Ranjan.

My role has multiple layers and is a complex personality: Leena Jumani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Kumkum Bhagya' actress Leena Jumani talks about her character and how her on-screen personality is going to change the storyline of the show 'Appnapan... Badalte Rishton Ka Bandhan'.

She says: "I started my career with Balaji back in 2008, and after that I never had to look back, thus coming back here is like coming back home. And, I couldn't let go of the chance of working with them once again on such an endearing drama like 'Appnapan' that beautifully sheds light on the complexities of relationships."

On what she likes about her role, Leena adds that it is a complex personality with many insecurities.

"I was really attracted to Sonali's role as it has multiple layers to it; while she has a soft side to her but her insecurities bring out her dark side. On one hand, viewers

will see she loves her sister Pallavi (Rajshree Thakur) but somewhere she is very jealous of the fact that she got married to Nikhil (Cezanne Khan), whom she always adored."

The actress goes on to continue throwing more light on the relationship between on-screen sisters played by her and Rajshree.

"Sonali's jealousy will create a lot of problems in between the two sisters; amping up the drama in the show," Jumani added.

She looks forward to receiving a positive response from the audience.

"In between, I got many offers but I did not take them up as the characters were not very appealing to me. But when I got the role of Sonali, I was very thrilled to begin another chapter here as the character is challenging which helps me give my best and do better. Thus, looking forward to an amazing journey."



PERIOD FILMS NEED TO BE TOLD WITH SENSITIVITY: DILJIT DOSANJH

Mumbai | Diljit Dosanjh,

who is all set for the release of his upcoming film 'Jogi' on Netflix, has talked about

working on a sensitive film centred around the anti-Sikh riots that erupted in Delhi after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in Delhi in 1984. Dosanjh, who was helmed by ace director Ali Abbas Zafar, who's best known for 'Gunday', 'Sultan' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai', said that it is important for a story of the kind around which the film revolves to be narrated with credibility and in a sensitive manner. 'Jogi' charts a story of three friends who unite to save hundreds during the riots that tear apart their city. Apart from Diljit, the film's lead star cast includes Kumud Mishra, Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub, Hiten Tejwani and Amyra Dasturi. In the film, Diljit's character, Jogi, advocates brotherhood, unity and courage to fight against all odds and go the extra mile to protect his loved ones.

VINEET KUMAR SINGH AND POOJA PANDEY'S SIYA IS A BRUTAL DEPICTION OF REAL WORLD



FILM REVIEW

BY: SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Cast: Vineet Kumar Singh and Pooja Pandey

Director: Manish Mundra

Runtime: 1 hours 57 minutes

Rating: 3/5

Synopsis: Siya is the tale of a 17-year-old rape victim who, in the end, is victimised by an ineffective justice system that has been used as a puppet by the wealthy.

Review: Siya, starring a perceptive Vineet Kumar Singh and Pooja Pandey, the movie's heart and soul, is directed by Manish Mundra, who previously served as producer on masterpieces such as Newton and Masaan.

Siya takes inspiration from at least six recent, closely related real-life occurrences. However, the Unnao and Hathras Rape Cases' shadows will stand out more clearly. Knowing what awaits our protagonist Siya Singh, as she goes about her day collecting genhu and lakdi on her bicycle, makes your heart turn to ice. She is kidnapped, subjected to continuous brutality, and chained to a bed without access to food or water as men alternate



turns assaulting her.

The movie is rife with outright use of power-political, financial, and social-in all three of these areas. Siya is constantly being reminded that she is small and weak. And subject to the desires of the powerful. She will be put down by force if she dared to reject one of their offers of "love."

Mundra presents us with literature that is brutal at its core in his directorial debut. This year, at least, nothing else like the film has come out of the Hindi film industry. It is brilliantly and simultaneously so upsetting and uncomfortable that it takes

you several hours or even days to process.

Vineet Kumar Singh, who portrays the backbone in Siya, never misses a beat. But Pooja Pandey is Siya's heart and soul. Within a matter of seconds, she sheds tears of pain, anger, and hopelessness. She is exceptional.

Without a doubt, the movie has incredible music. It has been kept very neatly by the decision-makers to intensify the movement.

Conclusion: This movie may be upsetting to you, but that's just how the world is. It's worth watching.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Warina Hussain