

absolute india



VOL. 7, ISSUE 310, BHOPAL | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

NATION > 02
Nitish to 'contest' LS polls from UP, BJP says he stands no chance...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
'We don't know how long we've got him for': Kym Marsh...



SPORTS > 07
It's an honour to go beyond McGrath's career Test wicket ...

SUPREME COURT'S BCCI VERDICT & IT'S LIKELY IMPACT ON INDIAN CRICKET

DECODED

According to the BCCI constitution, an office-bearer who has held any post for two consecutive terms (three years per term), at a state association or in the BCCI or a combination of the two, shall not be eligible to contest an election without completing a cooling-off period of three years. During the cooling-off period, the person cannot serve in any capacity at either the BCCI or at the state level.

- ▶ AS PER THE NEW ORDER/CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT, THE COOLING-OFF PERIOD FOR OFFICE-BEARERS WILL KICK IN AFTER TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS AT EITHER THE BCCI OR AT THE STATE ASSOCIATION LEVEL.
- ▶ SO 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 PERIOD WILL BE APPLICABLE.



The 'cooling-off period'

The 'cooling-off period' was a major recommendation made by the Justice RM Lodha Committee to reform cricket administration in the country. As per Lodha, the idea was to have impartial cricket administrators and ensure that there is no monopoly. The problem with the sports administrators in India is, once they occupy the top post, they don't want to leave it. The BCCI might have only few with that issue, but other sports in India have seen many administrators, who have occupied the chair for a long duration and did very little for the welfare of the game. Even the courts have intervened to remove them from their posts for the better functioning of that sports body.

Supreme Court -- Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli -- accepted a majority of those amendments, thus rolling back to a large extent the reforms

recommended by the RM Lodha Committee in 2016, which were meant to revamp the BCCI's functioning and structure.

Politicians get a breather

There is no certainty whether a good sportsperson will become a good administrator. Likewise, a politician can also become a good or ordinary administrator -- at least the previous regimes have shown us that.

While implementing the Lodha Committee recommendations in 2016, the Supreme Court had ruled that no minister and public servant can become a member in the BCCI. The reference to public servants meant MPs and MLAs.

The directive to bar ministers from holding a post still stands, but the Court in the recent hearing agreed to change the clause which now allows MPs and MLAs to be part of state associations and the BCCI. In the current scenario, this amendment would be seen as a big relief for office-bearers like Rajeev Shukla, the vice-president of the BCCI, who recently became a member of the Rajya Sabha.

The entry of MPs and MLAs in the state associations and BCCI can change the whole ball game. For example, if a sportsperson wants to contest elections for a post in a sports body, he will face a serious challenge from a politician candidate to garner votes and win. Eventually, it will lead to less representation of sports personalities in the administration.

ALL ASSOCIATIONS TO HAVE A VOTE

The Lodha Committee had recommended that each state should have just one vote even if some had more than one cricket association. This led to a problem because even entities like Railways and Services lost their right to vote at BCCI AGMs.

Earlier, due to the Lodha Committee recommendations, cricket units like Vidarbha and Mumbai (both part of Maharashtra state, which also has the Maharashtra Cricket Association), and Baroda and Saurashtra (both part of Gujarat, which also has the Gujarat Cricket Association) were suffering, as each state had only one vote. That meant the vote was rotated among the three associations of these states.

Punjab MMS Scandal: Prime accused held in Shimla

There were reports that the accused girl student had made nude videos of some women students and sent those to a youth in Shimla, who allegedly uploaded them on social media.



Chandigarh | Agencies

objectionable videos' on Sunday.

The prime accused in the Chandigarh University video leak row was arrested from the Himachal Pradesh capital on Sunday, police said.

Chandigarh University in Punjab's Mohali district has been witnessing strong student protests since Saturday night after it was reported that a woman student leaked obscene videos of several occupants of the girl's hostel online.

Donning black T-shirts, students of Chandigarh University in Punjab's Mohali district continued to protest demanding justice over the alleged 'leaked

Following protests by the students on Saturday night, a female MBA student of the private university was arrested by the police on Sunday morning on charges of making an objectionable video.

She has also been accused of filming her fellow hostelers and making the videos viral.

As the matter drew angry political reactions, the university authorities clarified that "no videos were found of any student which are objectionable, except a personal video shot by a girl which she shared with her boyfriend".

Also dismissing reports of suicide attempt by some students who were allegedly filmed, the authorities said "there are rumours that seven girls have committed suicide whereas the fact is that no girl has taken any such step".

Senior Superintendent of Police Vivek Soni, who is leading the investigation team, categorically told the media that no attempt to suicide was reported after the incident came to light. Also, he said, so far there is no evidence of the video going viral.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday ordered a high-level probe into the incident.

27 KILLED, 20 INJURED IN CHINA BUS ACCIDENT



Beijing: Twenty-seven people were killed and 20 others injured after a bus turned on its side in China's Guizhou Province early Sunday morning. The bus with 47 people on board was running on a highway section in Sandu Shui Autonomous County when the accident happened, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the county's public security bureau.

'Stop threatening media', Kejriwal to PM's media advisor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Addressing Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) first Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan here on Sunday, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the Prime Minister's media advisor of threatening the media.

"There's one gentleman named Hiren Joshi who works in the Prime Minister's Office. He is the media advisor to the Prime Minister. Editors and owners of big news channels have shown me the vulgar abuses and threatening notes he sends them," the AAP chief claimed.

Kejriwal alleged that Joshi sends messages saying "if you show Kejriwal on your channel, we will do this or that", there is no need to cover



AAP, you are misusing your channel" etc.

"Is this how you'll run the country, by threatening people," the Delhi CM asked.

"Today, I want to tell Hiren Joshi that if someone leaks the screenshots of the messages you have sent to these editors on social media, you and the Prime Minister won't

be able to show your faces in this country," Kejriwal said.

For the first time, all the elected representatives of AAP from across the nation met at the Rashtriya Janpratinidhi Sammelan on Sunday. The meeting was called to discuss ways to strengthen the party organisation.

ACB raids Waqf Board in corruption case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have apprehended four people who allegedly obstructed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials while they were conducting a raid in the Waqf Board corruption case, an official said Sunday.

The accused were identified as Afsar (20) and Anwar (31), both residents of Batla House, Shakeel Ahmad (45), a resident of Jakir Nagar and Sikander (45), a resident of Jogabai Extension.

Earlier on Saturday, the police had arrested Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan's close aide Hamid Ali in the Arms Act case and also lodged three separate FIRs. "One illegal weapon and some live cartridges were recovered from Hamid Ali's house. He was arrested in this case," Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) Esha Pandey said.

The second FIR was registered against Kaushar Imam Siddique alias Laddan, a resident of Jogabai



Extension in Arms Act. A country-made pistol and three live rounds were recovered from his place.

As per latest update, the accused Kaushar Imam Siddique is still at large in one case of arms act. The third FIR was lodged for obstructing the raiding party of ACB in discharge of government work for which now four people have been apprehended.

Meanwhile, a video of MLA Khan's supporters assaulting and manhandling the ACB officials surfaced on Sunday and has gone viral on social media.

GROSS DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS RISE 30% IN 2022-23, NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS UP 23%

New Delhi: Gross direct tax collections till 2022-23 as on September 17 stood at Rs 8.36 lakh crore, witnessing a growth of 30 per cent over collections of corresponding period of last year.

Net direct tax collections stood at Rs 7.01 lakh crore for the current fiscal till September 17, showing a 23 per cent rise over the corresponding period of last year. Cumulative advance tax collections were at Rs 2.95 lakh crore till September 17 in 2022-23, a growth of 17 per cent over the corresponding period of last year, according to the data released by the Finance Ministry.

Refunds amounting to Rs 1,35,556 crore were issued up to September 17, up by 83 per cent over last year.

Fast processing of income tax returns (ITRs), with almost 93 per cent of duly verified ITRs were processed till Saturday.

Faster issue of refunds were initiated, which saw an almost 468 per cent increase in the number of refunds issued in 2022-23, the statement said.

ALL INDIAN LANGUAGES ARE NATIONAL LANGUAGES: EDUCATION MINISTER

Chennai | Agencies

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said that the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises all Indian languages as national languages.

In his address at the 36th convocation ceremony of SASTRA deemed to be University at Thanjavur, he also said that the country has the knowledge capability to find sustainable solutions at global level. Pradhan, who is also

Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Minister, said that NEP 2020 recognises the positive impact of the mother tongue in fostering critical thinking and innovation, as well as its potential in terms of teaching methodology and learning outcomes.

He also said that entrepreneurship should be promoted and that bridging the gap between education and skills was important.

Pradhan said that initiatives were in place for harnessing and integrating knowledge in Indian folklore and old literature.

▶ **FACT CHECKER AND JOURNALIST MOHAMMED ZUBAIR TWEETED ABOUT THE MATTER AND SAID THAT THE BJP LEADER SHARED AN OLD AND AFFECTIONATE PICTURE OF RAHUL GANDHI WITH HIS NIECE MIRAYA VADRA WITH A CLAIM THAT HE'S FLIRTING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.**

▶ **ZUBAIR FURTHER RECOGNIZED THE YOUNG WOMAN AS MIRAYA VADRA, DAUGHTER OF RAHUL'S SISTER PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA. PRIYANKA GANDHI HAS TWO CHILDREN - A DAUGHTER AND A SON (RAIHAN VADRA).**

▶ **THE BJP LEADER SOON WENT INTO DEFENSE AND TRIED TO EXPLAIN OR RATHER TRANSLATE HIS TWEET. TAGGING ZUBAIR, HE BLAMED THE LATTER FOR SPREADING 'FAKE NEWS'.**

▶ **HOWEVER, NETIZENS DID NOT TAKE KUMAR'S TWEET KINDLY. AFTER FACING BACKLASH, KUMAR DELETED THE TWEET. HE LATER POSTED ANOTHER TWEET STATING HE WAS MISUNDERSTOOD AND DELETED TWEET.**

TN BJP IT cell head tweets old image of Rahul Gandhi with misleading claims

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An old image of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sitting with his niece Miraya Vadra is being shared on social media with captions falsely linking it to Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

The image, showing Gandhi touching Miraya Vadra's palm affectionately, has been tweeted by Bharatiya Janata Party leader CTR Nirmal Kumar, who heads BJP Tamil Nadu unit's social media. The tweet, which has since been deleted, was captioned in Tamil as, "Pappu is playing with children by putting mehendi on them. Feeling sad for the 10 members who're taking him to the yatra" Kumar also posted the image on his Facebook account with the same caption.



The image has been widely shared on Facebook with the same claim.

Fact Check BOOM ran the viral image through a reverse image search on Google which led to several images uploaded on Getty Images showing Gandhi and Miraya Vadra, wearing the same attire. Miraya Vadra

is Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra's daughter. The title of the image on Getty reads, "Tributes Paid To Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi On His 71st Birth Anniversary". In the original image, former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Robert Vadra can be seen seated along with them. The caption further reads, "Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi with his niece Miraya Vadra during a remembrance ceremony for the 71st birth anniversary of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Veer Bhumi on August 20, 2015 in New Delhi, India. The same image was also documented in a Deccan Chronicle photo story titled "Priyanka Vadra's daughter Miraya makes rare public appearance", which was published on August 21, 2015.



DRI SEIZES 2 LAKH E-CIGARETTE STICKS WORTH RS 48 CR FROM GUJARAT'S MUNDRA PORT

Bhuj (Gujarat) | Agencies

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized around 2.04 lakh e-cigarettes from a container from the Mundra port.

The international market value of the seizure was around Rs 48 crore, making it the biggest seizure of e-cigarettes in recent days.

E-cigarettes imports and exports are banned in India. The e-cigarettes were being attempted to be smuggled by way of misdeclaration and concealment through Mundra Port. Acting on an intelligence input, the container was identified and checked upon arrival by DRI which led to the recovery of e-cigarettes.

E-cigarettes and all other accompanying goods in the container have been accordingly seized under provisions of the Customs Act.

Further investigation revealed that the goods were mis-declared as



"Floor Clean Mop". During the examination of the container, It was found that apart from some cartons of

"Floor Clean Mop", there were several boxes containing Hand Massager, LCD writing Pad 8.5 inch, Silicone

Pop up Toys which were not declared

After taking out around 60% of the Container, some carton boxes which were being de-stuffed felt heavier than usual. There were 251 such cartons. Upon opening and counting, it was revealed that 250 cartons together contained 2 lakh pieces of e-cigarettes of 2500 puff Variant, while 1 carton contained 400 pieces of e-cigarettes of 5000 puff variant, all of "Yuoto" brand, made in China, of different flavors like Milk Coffee, Mint Ice, Energy Drink Tea, Coke Ice, etc.

This is the second such seizure by DRI in Gujarat in recent times. Earlier on 4 September, DRI had seized another consignment of E-cigarettes with a market value of Rs 20 crore by intercepting a truck near Surat.

India has banned the production, manufacturing, import and export, sale, distribution, and advertising related to e-cigarettes since 2019, citing concerns of potential smoking hazards in the younger population.

Govt can conduct survey of madrasas: Maulana Arshad Madani

Saharanpur | Agencies

Maulana Arshad Madani, veteran Muslim scholar and principal of Darul Uloom in Uttar Pradesh's Deoband, has said that it was well within the rights of the government to undertake a survey of madrasas.

"Let them conduct the survey. I see nothing wrong in it. There are no illegal activities being carried out in the madrasas. If any madrasa has been constructed illegally after land grab, we will have no problem if the government demolishes it," he told reporters.

He said that the community has no problem in providing information about the madrasas to the government.

"The government can do whatever it feels is in national interest but there should be no efforts to target the



Muslims. This is a message that is being sent across and we are opposed to it," he said.

Maulana Madani said that madrasa has been the centre of enlightenment and love for thousands of years.

"Madrasas are there to fulfil our religious needs. Imams for lakhs of mosques are needed. They come from these madrasas. I have told madrasas that all questions

of the government should be answered. Madrasa land should be legal," he added.

He further said that madrasa operators have been told that there should be good and hygienic food arrangements in madrasas.

About 500 persons related to various madrasas attended the convention in Darul Uloom on Sunday and discussed the issue of survey threadbare.

Indian Army invites industry for emergency procurement of critical equipment

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Army has invited domestic defence industries to offer critical equipment for emergency procurement.

Proposals have been invited for guns, missiles, drones, counter-drone, loiter munition, communication and optical systems, as per a series of tweets from the Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information. The Army has also invited the proposals for specialist vehicles, engineering equipment, and alternate energy resources.

"In keeping with its commitment to fight the future wars with Indigenous Solutions, Indian Army



invites Indian Defence Industry to offer critical defence equipment for Emergency Procurement," it announced.

The industry will have to deliver the equipment within one year of signing the contract.

"The process will be based on compressed time-

lines, wherein the procurement window will be open to Indian Industry for six months & the industry would be expected to deliver equipment within one year of signing the contract. Procurement cases will be based on Open Tender Enquiry", it said in another tweet.

SIX KILLED ON SALEM HIGHWAY AS TRUCK COLLIDES WITH MINIBUS

Chennai: Six people were killed in a road accident on the Salem-Chennai highway at Pethanickenpalayam on Sunday morning.

The accident occurred when a truck rammed into the Omnibus that was parked on the road at 12.30 a.m.

The deceased were identified as Omnibus occupants T. Thirunavakkarasu (61), his wife Vijaya (59), his son Ravikumar (47), relatives T. Senthil Velan (42), Subramani (41), and Dheepan (27), the cleaner of the bus. Thirunavakkarasu and his family members were on way to Chennai to attend the puberty function of his granddaughter. Another relative Jayaprakash (41) suffered multiple injuries including fractures and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Salem.

Vazhpaday Deputy Superintendent of Police, N. Shwetha while speaking to media persons said that Thirunavakkarasu was loading all the materials required for the function in the storage area of the Omnibus, and the cleaner, Dheepan was helping him when the truck rammed into the back side of the Omnibus.

The DSP said that Thirunavakkarasu, Deepan, Ravikumar, Subramani and Senthil Velan died on the spot while Vijaya suffered grave head injuries and was taken to the hospital where she was declared brought dead.

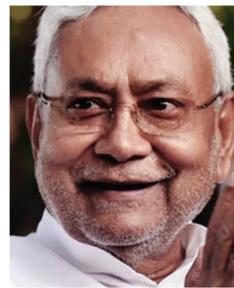
Nitish to 'contest' LS polls from UP, BJP says he stands no chance

Lucknow | Agencies

Reports of Samajwadi Party having invited Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Uttar Pradesh in 2024, have drawn a sharp reaction from the ruling BJP in the state.

Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said that Nitish Kumar stands no chance in Uttar Pradesh.

"On his own, Nitish Kumar barely managed to win two seats. His seat share increased in subsequent polls as he contested with BJP support. But, now, without Modi's face, he stands no chance in UP and even in Bihar, he would find things difficult. In fact, he would not open his account,"



said Maurya.

Reports from the JD(U) have indicated that Nitish Kumar has been invited to contest either the Mirzapur Lok Sabha seat or the Phulpur seat, both of which have a sizeable Kurmi population.

The Mirzapur seat is

presently held by Union minister and Apna Dal chief Anupriya Patel. The Apna Dal is a Kurmi-centric party that is a BJP ally. The Phulpur seat was won by Keshavi Devi Patel of BJP in 2019.

Significantly, Keshav Prasad Maurya had won the Phulpur Lok Sabha seat in 2014, a first for the BJP.

He quit as Phulpur MP after becoming the deputy chief minister and became an MLC.

Both Nitish Kumar and Maurya are OBC leaders in their states for their parties and since Nitish Kumar dumped the BJP and patched up with the Rashtriya Janata Dal to form the government, the BJP has been targeting Nitish Kumar.

NBW issued against Chinmayanand

Shahjahanpur | Agencies

Non-bailable warrant (NBW) has been issued against former union minister Swami Chinmayanand, for not appearing in a pending rape case against him before the court of the additional chief judicial magistrate (ACJM) in Shahjahanpur.

The case was filed in 2011 and a charge sheet was subsequently filed in the court in October 2012.

Trial proceedings thereafter could not start following the Allahabad high court's stay order.

In 2018, the Yogi government decided to withdraw the case against Chinmayanand and filed an application before the court of chief judicial magistrate under section 321 of CrPc.

The application was rejected by the CJM after the rape survivor filed an "objection." Later, the survivor moved an application in the high



court mentioning that "she doesn't have any objection, if the case is withdrawn".

That decision is pending before the high court and the case proceedings began in the lower court in Shahjahanpur.

Recently, the lower court directed police to ensure the accused is produced on September 26, the next date of hearing.

Shahjahanpur SP Sanjay Kumar, said, "We have come to know about the NBW. We will take necessary action."

UP man held for burning tricolour, posting clip on social media

Rae Bareilly | Agencies

Rae Bareilly Police have arrested a man for burning the tricolour and uploading a video of the act on social media.

The accused, Narendra Saini, 27, was arrested from Shivgarh. He has been charged with insulting the national flag and is booked under Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Circle officer of Maharajganj, Ram Kishore Singh, said that preliminary questioning revealed that the youth was frustrated as he was not able to secure a job and was not doing well in studies either.

He also had a fight with his parents about three months ago after which he left his house and was staying with his maternal grandparents. "No criminal record of the accused or any of his family



member has been found. He owes no allegiance to the ideology of any political outfit," he said. In the wee hours of September 16, the accused uploaded the objectionable video of burning the tricolour which also has a temple in the backdrop.

"A team was formed which first reached the residence of the accused and found that he was at his grandparents' place," said SHO, Rakesh Chandra. Later, on Saturday evening, he was arrested from Jagdishpur village in Shivgarh area.

SOUTHWEST MONSOON TO RECEDE FROM NORTHWEST IN THREE DAYS: MET OFFICE

Chandigarh: The southwest monsoon is likely to recede from the northwest region in three days with no chance of precipitation now onwards, the local Met office said on Sunday.

Due to anti-cyclonic flow over northwest India at lower tropospheric levels, dry weather is very likely over west Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi during the next five days, it said in a statement.

Hence, conditions are becoming favorable for the withdrawal of southwest monsoon from parts of northwest India during the next three days, it added.

India achieves milestone in voluntary blood donation



Team Absolute | New Delhi

With more than 87,000 people voluntarily donating blood in a single day on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, India on Saturday achieved significant milestone of creating a new world record.

The countrywide mega voluntary blood donation drive under 'RaktDaan Amrit Mahotsav' was kickstarted by Union Minister for Health Mansukh Mandaviya by donating blood at a camp at Safdarjung Hospital.

As many as 87,137 people voluntarily donated blood in a single day by the evening,

the country has surpassed the previous best of 87,059 (2014) to create a new world record. Today I am happy to inform that on the birthday of Prime Minister @NarendraModi ji, under

RaktDaanAmritMahotsav, more than 87,000 people have voluntarily donated blood, which is a new world record. This is an invaluable gift from the country to our beloved Pradhan Sevak,"

Mandaviya said in a tweet in Hindi. A total of 6,136 camps had registered for the mega drive while over 1.95 lakh blood donors registered themselves on E-Rakt Kosh portal.

EOW TO QUIZ JACQUELINE AGAIN TODAY

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has summoned Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez again on Monday for questioning in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion-cum-cheating case involving Multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekhar.

On Wednesday, the EOW had grilled Jacqueline for over eight hours in connection with the case. As per sources, the EOW has summoned the actress again as it found contradictions in her earlier statements. To clear the contradictions, the EOW had also quizzed another Bollywood personality, Nora Fatehi, and Pinky Irani, an aide of Chandrashekhar, on Thursday. According to the ED chargesheet, Jacqueline knew about Chandrashekhar's involvement in criminal activities but she chose to overlook them and indulged in financial transactions with the conman.

28 yrs later, UP woman reports rape by family members

Aligarh | Agencies

Nearly 28 years after the incident, a woman has come forward to report her sexual assault as a seven-year-old child by male members of her step-father's family.

The 35-year-old woman, wife of a former Army officer, told the police that the assaults continued till she was 19-years-old.

An FIR has now been filed based on her complaint in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh.

The woman claimed that initially police refused to lodge the FIR, after which she approached the SSP, National Commission for Women, and the grievance redressal portal of the Chief Minister.

The FIR was finally registered under IPC sections 376 (rape), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and 506 (criminal intimidation).

According to the FIR, one of the woman's step-uncles first raped her when she was seven. She claimed that she narrated the entire incident to her mother and complained of stomach pain. "But my mother gave me some medicine and asked me to keep quiet."



Then a second step-uncle raped her, and it carried on.

The woman alleged that she was raped frequently at different locations till she was 19.

"After that, I tried my best to stop them as much as I could. They could not rape me but still outraged my modesty," she said. The woman got married in January 2011. "After marriage, they tried to rape me whenever I went home to meet my mother but I resisted," she added. The woman, a mother of two minor girls, said that unable to cope with the mental trauma, she eventually informed her husband about what she had been going through.

"He supported me and encouraged me to fight against my exploitation," she said. "On April 11 this year, my husband took me to my step-father's house to talk about the matter. When he narrated my horror story, he was beaten up. My mother supported them and did not trust me. Over the past four months, we have been trying to register an FIR. But now I have the support of my husband and will fight for justice till the last breath," she added.

The women's police Station House Officer Savita Dwivedi said, "The woman has filed a detailed complaint. All the aspects of the case are being probed."

PFI case: NIA detains 4 after raids, seizes incriminating documents & cash

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday detained four persons after conducting searches at multiple locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in a case registered against Popular Front of India (PFI) cadres in Nizamabad by Telangana Police.

The names of the four detained have been withheld so far as the probe is ongoing, said source.

"Today, we conducted searches at 38 locations in Telangana (23 in Nizamabad, four in Hyderabad, seven in Jagtial, two in Nirmal, one each in Adilabad and Karimnagar districts) and at two locations in Andhra Pradesh (one each in Kurmool and Nellore districts) in the case relating to Abdul Khader of Nizamabad District, Telangana and 26 other persons," the official said.

He said that the accused were organising camps for



imparting training to commit terrorist acts and to promote enmity between different groups on the basis of religion. "During the searches conducted today, incriminating materials, including digital devices, documents, two daggers, cash Rs 8,31,500 have been seized," the official said. Further investigation in the matter was on.

The case was initially registered on July 4 at Nizamabad police station in Telangana. During investigations by the state police, four accused namely, Abdul Kader, Sheikh Sahadulla, Md Imran and Md Abdul Mobin were arrested by the Telangana Police. Later, the case was re-registered by the NIA on August 26.



AJIVIKA SCHEME TURNING WOMEN LABOURERS INTO SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Sundeep Pouranik | Bhopal

The 'Ajivika Mission' in Madhya Pradesh that aims to transform the lives of poor and weaker sections is writing a new success story.

The self-help groups (SHGs), constituted under the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (MPSRLM), have given opportunity to many women in the state to become small business owners from labourers. They are not just living a happy life, but are also showing a new path to their colleagues.

More than 45 lakh women, associated with over 3.86 lakh women SHGs, are working under MPSRLM or the state Ajivika Mission.

These groups are involved in vegetable production, milk production, incense sticks, hand wash, soap making, agriculture and animal husbandry based livelihood activities and operation of livelihood nutrition 'vatika'.

One of these SHGs is being run by Sunita Adivasi of Sheopur. Earlier, she used to earn a daily wage of Rs



30 to 50 as a labourer but today she became an owner. She joined a SHG and took a loan of Rs 70,000 to set up a flour mill.

The flour mill ran in such a way that she started earning over Rs 30,000 every month from it and repaid the loan amount.

Later, she took another loan of Rs 50,000 for farming related activities and got a tubewell installed. Not only

this, she planted guava in 2.5 bigha of land, apart from this she has bought a four wheeler, which she calls 'Ajivika vahan' (livelihood vehicle). Sunita Adivasi, while remembering her old days, recalls that once she had to worry for wages, but today she has become an owner and is earning more than Rs 70,000 every month. Her annual income is more than 10 lakhs.

Similar is the story of Kalia Bai Kushwaha of Sheopur's Karahal, who is associated with Radha SHG.

She says that when she joined the SHG, her life started transforming. Kushwaha recalls that in the past, on several occasions they (she and her family) could barely arrange meals in a day. Together she and her husband used to earn hardly Rs 150 per day.

Today the situation has changed. She took a loan and then bought a hand cart on which she started selling ice cream. Along with that she also bought a sewing machine. Gradually the situation changed and today she has become an owner.

Kushwaha says that about 450 women are associated with the SHG, out of which 300 were such women who used to go out in search of work, but today their conditions have changed. Women have also been given training in fish farming and are earning handsome money.

Overall, the status of women associated with SHGs working under MPSRLM is constantly transforming, making them owners from labourers and servants.

Vice President Dhankhar pays floral tributes to Amar Shaheed Shankar Shah-Raghunath Shah

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor Mangubhai Patel and CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid floral tributes to tribal hero Amar Shaheed Raja Shankar Shah and his son Kunwar Raghunath Shah, on their 165th Balidan Diwas in Jabalpur today. They both had sacrificed their lives for the protection of the country and religion, Dhankhar recalled the sacrifice of King Shankar Shah of Gondwana kingdom and Kunwar Raghunath Shah on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The royal family of the Gondwana kingdom has the distinction of being the first among the princely states of India in the first freedom struggle, who were executed by tying them to the mouth of cannon.

Union Minister of State for Steel and Rural Development Faggan Singh Kulaste, State Public Works, Cottage and Village Industries Minister and Minister in-charge of Jabalpur district Gopal Bhargava, Forest Minister Dr. Kunwar Vijay Shah, Tribal Affairs and Scheduled Castes Welfare Minister Meena Singh, Khajuraho MP Vishnu Dutt Sharma, MP Rakesh Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Sampatia Ujke, MLA Sihora Nandani Maravi and public representatives were present.

Vice President Dhankhar, Governor Patel and CM Chouhan were welcomed with traditional tribal Baiga dance on reaching the statue of Amar Shaheed Raja Shankar Shah and



Kunwar Raghunath Shah at Malgodam Chowk in Jabalpur. Vice President Dhankhar spoke to Dayaram, a member of the Baiga dance group who came from Dindori district and congratulated him for his performance. All the members of the dance troupe were very happy to interact with the Vice President.

King Shankar Shah and his son Kunwar Raghunath Shah sacrificed their lives for the country in the freedom struggle. They used to instill enthusiasm and zeal for freedom among the people with their thoughts and poetry against the oppressive policies of the British rule. Their poetry ignited the fire of rebellion against the British. Deputy Commissioner E. Clark, with the help of intelligence, took the father and son captive on 14 September 1857 at 4 pm. After a fake trial that went on for next three days, the heroic sons Raja Shankar Shah and Kunwar Raghunath Shah were executed on 18 September 1857 by being tied to the mouth of the cannon at 11 am.

Trees are important for environmental balance - CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that trees play the most important role in the balance of environment. A tree not only gives life to humans, but the life of animals, insects and moths depend on it. It is the home of the birds. Chief Minister Chouhan said that he himself plants trees every day. He congratulated the people participating in plantation and appreciated the organisation conducting it. The Chief Minister said that you have inspired Madhya Pradesh by planting saplings, one day I will come to Jaora and see the plantation on this hill and will also plant saplings myself. CM Chouhan was addressing a



plantation programme in Ratlam district virtually from Jabalpur on Sunday morning. A plantation programme was organised by the organisation Heartfulness Ram Chandra Mission on 6 hectare hilly land of 24th Battalion, about 6 km away

from Jaora town in Ratlam district, in which Chief Minister Chouhan virtually participated. Head of Heartfulness, Dr. Kamlesh Patel also participated virtually in the plantation programme from Hyderabad.

Credit war breaks out on Cheetahs, Cong says Narendra Modi not stating facts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Day after Cheetahs were released in the Kuno National Park by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Congress on Sunday claimed that it was their government which initiated the process, and accused the PM of stating the facts.

The Congress on Sunday said that the process of induction was started by the UPA government and former Union Minister for environment Jairam Ramesh released a letter to prove his point. "This was the letter that launched Project Cheetah in 2009. Our PM is a pathological liar. I couldn't lay my hands on this letter yesterday because of my preoccupation with the #BharatJodoYatra".

The letter written to M.K. Ranjit Singh on October 6, 2009 says, "Please



go ahead and prepare a detailed roadmap for the reintroduction of the Cheetah which should include a detailed analysis of different potential sites." The analysis should be carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India in collaboration with other organizations like BNHS and WTI. You may also like to take State Forest Departments as part of this study. I

expect that the roadmap would be submitted to the MOEF by the end of January 2010."

On Saturday, the Congress said that the 'tamasha' orchestrated by the PM was unwarranted and was yet another diversion from the pressing national issues, said Congress general secretary and in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh in a tweet. "PM

hardly ever acknowledges continuity in governance. Cheetah project going back to my visit to Capetown on 25.04.2010 is the latest example. The tamasha orchestrated by PM today is unwarranted and is yet another diversion from pressing national issues and Bharat Jodo Yatra," tweeted Jairam Ramesh.

He said further that when tigers were first translocated to Panna and Sariska during 2009-11, there were many prophets of doom, Ramesh said, adding that they were proved wrong. "When tigers were first translocated to Panna and Sariska during 2009-11, there were many prophets of doom. They were proved wrong. Similar predictions are being made on the Cheetah project. The professionals involved are first-rate and I wish the project the very best," he said in another tweet.

CM Chouhan plants saplings in the memory of immortal martyrs Raja Shankar Shah-Raghunath Shah

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in the memory of the pride of the tribal society, the great freedom fighters, the immortal sacrificers Raja Shankar Shah-Raghunath Shah on their martyrdom day. CM Chouhan planted Gulmohar, Gular and Almond saplings in the Smart City Garden of Shyamla Hills, Bhopal. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Ashok Shrimal, Khujena Motorwala, Shi Deepak Shrivastava and Dr. Shivam Patidar of Kalavyom Foundation participated in the plantation. The members of the foundation presented Shrimad Bhagavad Gita to CM Chouhan. alavy-



om Foundation is working in the field of art-culture, skill development and tourism.

The foundation works to provide a platform to the local budding talents, to explore

new opportunities for them and to provide financial support to the emerging talents.

CM EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF BLOOD DONATION

Bhopal| CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed gratitude to the social organisations of the state and more than 44 thousand people for taking a pledge to donate blood, on the birthday of PM Narendra Modi, for donating blood by the citizens through 574 camps in the state. CM Chouhan said that the citizens of the state, who stood together in every challenge, have successfully adopted the model of public participation and achieved a noble goal. I express my gratitude to all the citizens of the state for this virtuous effort for the welfare of humanity and on behalf of all the brothers and sisters of the state, once again wish the successful Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday. CM Chouhan gave this message to the people of the state through social media.

ITI Convocation Ceremony on September 20

CM Chouhan will distribute certificates to trainees in the state level programme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Industrial training institutes play an important role in the economic development of the country by supplying trained skilled manpower to the industries. In order to honour ITI passed boy and girl students for their dedicated efforts, there will be a state level ITI convocation ceremony on 20 September 2022. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will give merit-wise certificates to 10 trainees, placement/international

and apprentices with placement and 5 trainees each starting their own business and honour two placement officers for doing excellent work for placement at state level at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre Bhopal. Minister for Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment Yashodhara Raje Scindia will preside over the programme. It is noteworthy that the Central Directorate General of Training has decided to organise a

convocation ceremony every year for ITI passed trainees, celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence in the 75th year of independence. For the first time, convocation ceremony is being organised in all the government and private ITIs of the state on September 20, in which the national professional certificates will be distributed to 71 thousand 838 ITI students who have passed the All India Professional Examination in the entire state.

Lumpy vaccination of cows in gaushalas almost complete

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri, Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Gau-palan evam Gau-Samvardhan Board Working Council, inspected the Gaushalas of Ujjain and held a meeting with the operators of government and non-government gaushalas. Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri praised the operators for not having a single case of lumpy in all the gaushalas. Deputy Director Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. M.L. Parmar gave information about 24 government and 31 non-government gaushalas in Ujjain district. There are 10,500 bovines in these gaushalas.



percent vaccination has been done in gaushalas. It is a matter of happiness that most of the gaushalas have completed cent percent vaccination. He told the gaushala operators to take care of cleanliness and health of the cows in this way in future also. If any cow other than those in

the gaushala is found affected with lumpy, then make a separate arrangement and get it treated. Swami Giri informed that the movement of animals has been banned by imposing Section 144 in the districts bordering Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Lumpy disease in cows is not fatal, if it is treated on time, the animals can be saved. The virus has not been detected in the milk of the sick cow. This milk can be used after boiling. Swami Giri appealed to the people to donate fodder, husk, amount etc. for cow-sheds on birthdays, marriage and death

Thailand and Vietnam tourists admire Sanchi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The visits of Tourism, Culture and Religious Trust and Endowment Minister Usha Thakur and Principal Secretary Shekhar Shukla to Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia have started yielding positive results. In this sequence, about 30 tourists from Thailand and Vietnam, led by the famous actor and Buddhist monk Gagan Malik, who played the role of Lord Buddha and Lord Ram in Ramayana, visited World Heritage site the stupa of Sanchi. Additional Managing Director Tourism Board Vivek Shrotriya introduced all the tourists to the grandeur of Sanchi Stupa and the aura of Buddhism and spirituality.

Le Thi Huyen, a tourist visiting India for the first time, liked Saatchi very much. He said that he would like to visit the Sanchi stupa next time also. Buddhist Monk Gagan Malik said that the experience of all the tourists was wonderful. It has become an unforgettable moment in our life. In future also,



followers of Buddhism and tourists from Southeast Asian countries will continue to visit the state. Minister Thakur along with officials of the tourism department had attended the "Buddhabhoomi India-Buddha Journey in the Footsteps of Buddha" program in Thailand. Also participated in tourism road shows in Malaysia and Cambodia.

Along with this, tourists were also invited to visit the state. Minister Thakur along with officials of the tourism department had attended the "Buddhabhoomi India-Buddha Journey in the Footsteps of Buddha" program in Thailand. Also participated in tourism road shows in Malaysia and Cambodia.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Badaun mosque the newest in the eye of a simmering storm

After Varanasi and Mathura, it is now a mosque in Badaun that has attracted controversy with right-wing activists claiming it to be a Neel Kanth Mahadeva temple. A local court in Badaun has issued notices to the parties concerned on a petition filed by one Mukesh Patel who claims to be the state convener of the All India Hindu Mahasabha. The petitioner has claimed that the Jama Masjid complex in Badaun was once a fort of the Hindu king Mahipal. The mosque, according to the petition, was built by demolishing an ancient temple of Neel Kanth Mahadeva by Muslim ruler Shamsuddin Altamash. Recorded history says that the Badaun Jama Masjid was built by Altamash, also called Iluttmish, on his daughter Razia Sultana's birthday. The mosque is called Azimushan Jama Masjid. It is an 800-year-old Masjid, one of the largest and oldest mosques in India. The construction of this mosque started in 1210 AD and was completed in 1223 AD. Senior Division Civil Judge Vijay Kumar Gupta, who admitted the petition, issued notices to the Jama Masjid Vitranaya Samiti, Sunni Waqf Board, Archaeology Department of the Central and UP governments, Badaun District Magistrate, and principal secretary to the UP government, and asked them to file their replies before or on September 15 in this regard. The court has admitted the petition despite the Places of Worship Act 1991 prohibiting the hearing in such cases. According to the 1991 Act, the status of a religious place as it existed on August 15, 1947, cannot be altered. The only exception was the Babri Masjid because a court case was going on in the matter since the British days.

THE IRONY OF CHOICES

D.C. Pathak

Between the young stage in life when career options were conditioned by the pulls of 'social recognition' and the ripe years much later when one had the resources to follow an 'interest-linked' agenda, lies the story of how man-made considerations often impeded the freedom of will and pursuit bestowed by nature on humans. A welcome socio-economic trend is the legitimisation of options young people today have of exploring career paths outside of the known 'Medical-Engineering-Management' framework, linked to their personal interest in music, photography, filmmaking, research and fashion - and considered by them important enough to justify even raising of personal loans for supporting a startup in the chosen area. The irony of options that earlier played out in people's lives is somewhere getting resolved in a way that signifies progress and advancement of man's freedom. Opportunities have opened up outside of the traditional thought processes and they measure up to the norms of success in terms of both earnings as well as the personal satisfaction one got of doing things that might not have been socially 'prized' earlier. Of course, the luxury of options was always available to those who had education and a certain degree of financial backing and was thus a marker of the 'unequal' Indian society. However, the phenomenal growth of the middle and lower middle classes in the post-Covid economic recovery - thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's perceptive call of 'vocal for local' - has widened the area of options even for the ordinary people. In a way, the freedom of choice of work and avocation is returning to everybody in a substantive manner and becoming a transformative feature of the times we live in. Opting for a meaningful course of life is helped by an understanding set of parents, teachers and well-wishing friends - and the new-age thinking fortunately is traversing across these groups now. In a real life case, an ordinary middle class family of a widowed mother and three children - a son and two daughters - doesn't mind the son after graduation opting for a two-year special course on helping the growth of handicapped children. The son is satisfied with this profession becoming his source of livelihood. The work relating to 'special' children chosen by the young man shows a certain human



sensitivity in him but there is also in general a welcome trend noticed in India, of people not making a distinction of 'high' and 'low' in the work that gives them sustainable income. This is a feature of the developed West where a young man would take up part time work at a patrol pump to supplement his income. A welcome trend in India again is the new determination of boys and girls of humble backgrounds to complete their education and then plunge into an honest attempt to join in the superior civil services - availing of the great equality of opportunity offered by the nation for achieving success through sheer merit. This is helping to make the country's administration more people-oriented and democratic in its ethos. It is somewhere mollifying the ill-effect of extreme class disparities and creating an environ of equitability - all of this becoming possible because of the diversification of options perceived by a free and forward looking society. Unemployment no doubt had added to the spectacle of poverty but even then the rise of freedom of choice and equality of opportunity has helped alleviate the harsh impact of the latter on social development. In his last Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Modi perceptively noted that Indian youth have become aspirational in the sense that they show determination to improve on their current placing - whatever it is - and not rest content with status quo. The youth wish to push ahead with their skills and special interests - not bound in the traditional notions of socially recognised 'careers' of distinction - and have already

acquired a global outreach to information of entrepreneurship and trade for thinking of new initiatives. Desire to become part of a chain for product development and delivery has emerged as a great pull that knowledge economy is exercising on active people everywhere. If the canvas of options is large the youth will be optimistic even in a situation of personal difficulties - Prime Minister Modi fully realised the importance of 'diversity' in the growth story of a developing economy like India's and emphasised this angle in his speech. An extremely powerful indicator of how things are shaping up in India in recent years in favour of universal growth is the emergence of young Indian women in all spheres of national life - from defence services to business enterprises and from science and technology to holding top Ambassadorial assignments. Complete gender equality is the hallmark of economic growth just as equal participation of women in electoral process benchmarked the state of democracy in the country. In the Modi regime, the irony of options being restricted earlier by considerations of caste, class and gender has largely been set right. Economic liberalism, emphasis on 'ease of doing business' to attract investment and encouragement to domestic 'startups' and globalisation have enabled India to overcome the handicap of a Covid-affected fiscal system and pull the country out of a dump. The credit for this largely goes to the strategy laid down by a Prime Minister who knows all about economy and trade and who can see the importance of global outreach

on one hand and the localised measures taken for the benefit of the common man on the other. The single largest reason for inadequate socio-economic development of India after Independence was the rapid rise of corruption in all spheres of the government because of the nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminals. The preponderance of corrupt politicians fostered nepotism, weakened law enforcement and destroyed merit based processes. The advent of new rule at the Centre in 2014 was attributable to the trust people reposed in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi that promised personal integrity at the top and governance with a firm hand. The deep gains of governance at the Centre are visible and opportunities are multiplying even though unemployment and disparities are still to be eliminated. Prime Minister Modi remains the most popular leader of the masses because his endeavours to bring about an improvement are not doubted. India's youth is optimistic and despite odds remain engaged in creating innovative ways of doing business, starting new 'services' and acquiring new skills. More and more Indian youth with required education and necessary financial backing are opening into the global economy on the strength of their merit and brilliance and bringing laurels to India and inspiration to the boys and girls here. Many global digital giants are headed by Indians - Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Sundar Pichai of Alphabet, Shantanu Narayan of Adobe, Parag Agrawal of Twitter and Arvind Krishna of IBM are the leading examples. The rise of India as an influencer of geopolitics and world economy is giving Indians a new sense of national identity and adding to their determination to forge ahead with their economic pursuits. The irony of options accepted not for reasons of personal choice but for their social 'prize' is finally getting resolved in favour of new openings in a wide spectrum of opportunities that a nation on the trajectory of growth and international importance is creating. A decisive outcome of the national strategy adopted by the Modi regime will be in evidence in the next few years.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau)

international

6.9-magnitude quake hits Taiwan



Beijing: A 6.9-magnitude earthquake hit eastern Taiwan's Hualien County at 2:44 p.m. Sunday Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC). The epicenter was monitored at 23.15 degrees north latitude and 121.30 degrees east longitude, at a depth of 10 km, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the CENC. Strong tremor was felt across the island. A three-storey building in Hualien, whose ground floor was a convenience store, collapsed, trapping some people, according to local media. A train carriage was turned over by a fallen rain shed in a railway station in Hualien, but all passengers left safe. A bridge fracture left two people injured. The rescue work is underway, according to local media.

RCEP contributes to region's post-pandemic recovery efforts: ASEAN joint statement

Siem Reap, Cambodia | Agencies

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) free trade agreement could be a contributor to the region's post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts, according to an ASEAN joint statement released on Sunday. The statement was issued after the inaugural RCEP Ministers' Meeting held in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, on the sidelines of the 54th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Economic Ministers' Meeting. The meeting welcomed the entry into force of the RCEP agreement on January 1, 2022 and looked forward to its ratification by all signatory states, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the statement. The mega-regional trade pact comprises 15 Asia-Pacific countries including 10 ASEAN member states - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and their five trading partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. "The meeting shared the view that the RCEP could contribute to the region's post-pandemic recovery efforts and to creating a more resilient supply chain," the statement said. "In this regard, the meeting highlighted the need to promote greater utilisation of the RCEP agreement to deepen regional



economic integration." The meeting also noted the progress of the work of the RCEP Joint Committee and welcomed the establishment of subsidiary bodies under the joint committee's supervision, it said. "The meeting encouraged officials to work to expand the utilization of the RCEP agreement and to monitor and review the implementation of the RCEP agreement to improve business environment in the region," the statement said. Also, the meeting looked forward to the expeditious establishment of the RCEP Secretariat, on terms to be agreed by the parties, to provide secretariat and technical sup-

port to the RCEP Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies, it added. "The RCEP trade deal is an important instrument to boost the post-pandemic economic recovery in the region," Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Penn Sovicheat said during a press conference after the meeting. "For Cambodia, the RCEP has injected new momentum into our foreign trade growth, and we have seen a remarkable rise in our export to the RCEP member countries in the first half of this year," he added. Sovicheat said Cambodia's total export to the RCEP member countries had increased to 3.28 billion US dollars during the January-June period of 2022, up 10 percent from the same period last year. Thong Mengdaiv, a research fellow at the Phnom Penh-based Asian Vision Institute, said the RCEP established the biggest trade bloc in the world's history, covering nearly a third of the global population, around 30 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), and 28 percent of global trade. "With free flow of products and more relaxing trade barriers among the 15 member states, RCEP provides various benefits and opportunities for the bloc to diversify their markets and enhance the production capability," he told Xinhua.

Over 1,500 killed, 12,000 injured in Pakistan's monsoon rains, floods



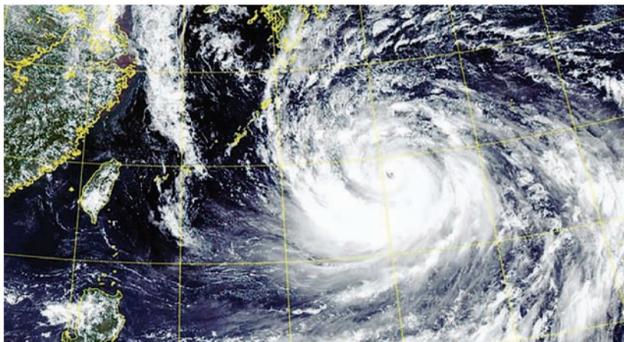
Islamabad | Agencies The total death toll in Pakistan from this season's monsoon rains and floods since mid-June has risen to around 1,545, along with 12,860 injured, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said. According to a report released by the NDMA on Saturday evening, 552 children and 315 women were among those who lost their lives in separate rain or flood-related accidents in the country. The country's southern Sindh province was the worst-hit region where 678 people were killed, followed by northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and southwest

Balochistan provinces which reported 306 and 299 deaths, respectively, Xinhua news agency reported quoting the NDMA. Moreover, 1,943,978 houses were destroyed and 9,43,909 livestock perished in different parts of Pakistan, the report said. It added that 12,735 km-long roads and 375 bridges have been damaged throughout the season. Additionally, 81 districts and an estimated 33,046,329 people have been affected by the floods, according to statistics published by the NDMA. Rescue and relief operations by the NDMA, other government organizations, volunteers and non-government organizations were underway in the flood-hit area.

Japan's Kyushu region braces for possibility of powerful typhoon landing

Tokyo | Agencies

Japan's southwestern region of Kyushu on Sunday braced for the possibility of a large and powerful typhoon landing, with the weather agency warning of unprecedented winds and waves. "The southern part of the Kyushu region may see the sort of violent wind, high waves and high tides that have never been experienced before," the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said Sunday, urging residents to exercise "the highest caution possible." A level 5 alert, the highest on Japan's disaster warning scale, was issued to more than 110,000 people in about 55,000 households in Kagoshima and Miyazaki Prefectures, with level 4 evacuation orders in place in cities such as Kagoshima, Miyazaki and Amakusa, Xinhua news agency reported quoting



public broadcaster NHK reported on Sunday. According to the JMA, the eye of Typhoon Nanmadol is south of Kyushu as of Sunday morning. It is slowly making its way in a north-northwesterly direction over the sea 30 km south-east of Yakushima island and packing gusts up to 252 km per hour. Nanmadol, the 14th of

the year, is forecast to make landfall in Kyushu on Sunday evening, before curving northeast and traveling across Japan's largest island, Honshu, through early Wednesday. The weather agency issued a special typhoon warning for Kagoshima Prefecture on Saturday night, an alert that is issued only when it forecasts dangerous condi-

tions seen once in several decades, marking the first time the agency has issued a such warning for an area apart from Okinawa Prefecture. Weather officials also warned that rain and winds could intensify even in areas far from the typhoon. Heavy precipitation is expected in western and some parts of eastern Japan through Monday.

3 killed in mid-air plane collision in US Colorado



Los Angeles | Agencies Three people were killed after two small planes collided in mid-air in the US state of Colorado, authorities said. The collision was first reported at 8:54 a.m. local time (1454 GMT) on Saturday, according to the Boulder County Sheriff's Office. The US National Transportation Safety Board confirmed in a tweet that it is investigating the mid-air collision of a Cessna 172 and a Sonex Xenos aircraft near Longmont, Colorado. First responders discovered two separate crash sites,

Xinhua news agency reported quoting the Sheriff's Office. "The first crashed aircraft was found in the 10,000 block of Niwot Rd on the south side. At this time there are two confirmed occupants in the aircraft, both of whom were deceased upon first responders arriving on scene," said the sheriff's office in a statement. "The second crashed aircraft was found in the 9,700 block of Niwot Rd on the north side," and the one confirmed occupant in it was also deceased before responders' arrival, the sheriff's office said.



BJP BETE NOIRE 'BABY PENGUIN' ADITYA THACKERAY BUSY BONDING WITH PEOPLE



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nearly three months after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, Shiv Sena's ex-minister Aditya Thackeray is on a "mass-connect" campaign through a series of rallies and public meetings over the past several weeks.

not only political wings, but also claws and fangs, to menacingly soar like a political "Garuda".

His rallies-meetings, mostly in the rebels' constituencies, are well attended by exuberant crowds who welcome him more as a "conqueror" rather than a trounced "Mavala" - the trusted warrior tribe of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's dreaded armies.

After the Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress MVA government led by ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was toppled, Aditya hit the ground running, going from one district to another, deliver-

ing "guerilla-style" hits at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his band of rebels, or at times, even the BJP and its Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis.

Preparing the ground for his father's political tour starting end-September, Aditya targets Shinde and his group of 40 Sena rebels, plus 10 others -- who quit the MVA regime and ensured its fall on June 29 -- expectedly raising the political temperatures and evoking bitter reactions from the ruling front.

With vastly improved oratory and enhanced confidence, some of the brickbats he aims at the Shinde group

include the '50 Khoke' (boxes, implying Rs 50 crore) tirade and 'Gaddar' (traitors), which particularly stung the red-faced rebels, leaving them swearing or threatening or just hopping mad...After the debacle of Vedanta Group-Foxconn choosing Gujarat for its Rs 2.06 crore mega plant, Aditya came up with the latest jibe -- inspired by the 1993 blockbuster "Baazigar" -- "Jeet ke haarne walon ko Khoka Sarkar kehte hain", as the rebels fumed. Aditya, 32, is an easy-mannered bearded, bespectacled, bunny-faced bachelor, usually clad in full-sleeved shirts and trousers or kurta-jeans, and shuns expensive tastes or T-shirts.

But he does not hesitate to dive into the political muck or throw down the gauntlet - and accept those hurled by the rebels - vociferously demanding that the rebels should quit their Assembly seats and face the electorate, accusing them of not just a "political betrayal" but also "human betrayal". The Shinde group dared, "first you quit" - and Aditya accepted the dare - "If you all quit, I will also resign... all of us can fight the elections..." Now, "election" has suddenly become a scary word, giving nightmares to the rebels, who tout themselves as the protectors of Shiv Sena founder the late Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva, while accusing Uddhav Thackeray of ditching and diluting it by joining hands with the NCP-Congress to become the chief minister in November 2019.

Maoist-hit village in Maha sings national anthem everyday



Team Absolute | Mumbai

With an aim to generate positive atmosphere, the people of Mulchera village in the Maoist-affected Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra have been singing the national anthem every day since August 15 this year after police and villagers took up the initiative together. Gadchiroli police said that residents of Mulchera village in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra start their day by singing the national anthem every day. Every day the villagers, along with shopkeepers and other small traders, gather in the village at 8.45 a.m. and sing the national anthem. This meaningful initiative has been started from August 15 this year.

Speaking to IANS, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police, Ankit Goel said that this is a good initiative. The villagers feel the collective patriotism everyday by singing the national anthem. It has been started by the police and villagers on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He stated that if its result is good, then it will be started in other Maoist-affected areas as well in collaboration with the villagers.

As part of this initiative, police officers of Gadchiroli play patriotic songs on loudspeakers for a minute in Mulchera village every day, Mulchera API Ashok Bhapkar told IANS. This informs the villagers that the national anthem is about to begin. After this, all the villagers gather in one place to sing national anthem.

According to the information, after Nalgonda village of Telangana and Bhilwadi village of Sangli district of Maharashtra, this is the third village in the country and the second village in Maharashtra, where this kind of collective national anthem is performed. Gadchiroli Police is continuously campaigning against the Maoists and the support of the villagers is most important for this.

Mulchera village, which is about 900 km from Mumbai, has a population of around 2,500. Significantly, this village has been considered a Maoist-affected village for years. Incidents of Maoist violence have been witnessed here many times. But now the national anthem has been started to erase this identity.

Sharad Pawar's "North India Mentality" remark on women quota in Parliament

Pune | Agencies

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar has said the "mentality" of north India and Parliament seems not conducive yet to giving reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies. The former Union minister made the remarks on Saturday at a programme organised by the Pune Doctors' Association where he and his daughter and Lok Sabha member Supriya Sule were interviewed. He was replying to a question on the Women's Reservation Bill, which aims to reserve 33 per cent seats in the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies for women which is yet to be passed,



and whether this shows the country is still not mentally ready to accept the women leadership. Pawar said he had been speaking on this issue in Parliament since he was a Congress Lok Sabha member. "The 'mansikta' (mentality) of

Parliament, especially of north India, has not been conducive (on this issue). I can recall that when I was the Congress Lok Sabha member, I used to talk about the issue of reservation for women in Parliament. Once after completing my speech, I turned back and saw that majority of MPs from my party got up and left. This means even for people from my party, it was not digestible," he said. The NCP chief said all (parties) should keep trying to get the bill passed. "When I was the chief minister of Maharashtra, reservation for women was introduced in local bodies like the Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti. It was opposed initially but later people accepted it," he added.

WOMAN JUMPS OFF BUILDING WITH 6-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IN MUMBAI, BOTH DIE: COPS

Mumbai: A 28-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide by jumping off the terrace of a building along with her 6-year-old daughter in Mumbai's Mira Road, police said on Saturday. The Kashmiria Police reached the spot, after being informed about the incident. An Accidental Death Report (ADR) was registered in the case and the bodies were sent for post-mortem. The police informed that the dead named Rekha Devasi took her 6-year-old daughter Ankita to the terrace and committed suicide after jumping off. The woman used to live with her husband and two children in the same building. The police said that they have not recovered any suicide note. A case of accidental death has been registered and the investigation into the case is on.

Institution like Niti Aayog would be set up in Maharashtra: Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday announced that an institution on the lines of Niti Aayog would be set up in the state for comprehensive data analysis and to make studied decisions on various sectors. Speaking to reporters here, Fadnavis said, "A delegation led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met the chief executive officer and other officials of the Niti Aayog. It was proposed that an institute of transformation on the lines of Niti Aayog would be set up to make studied decisions on various sectors. CM Shinde has given an in-



principle nod to this suggestion." The topics discussed during the meeting between the chief minister and the NITI Aayog officials ranged from monetisation of assets, blockchain in agriculture, transportation taking to alternative fuel or EV policy, non-conventional energy, drone in healthcare and agriculture, among others, he said. The NITI Aayog has also carried an extensive study on similar issues and developed a tool, where inter-related data from various departments is collectively analysed for a better decision-making process, Fadnavis added.

LEOPARD FOUND DEAD INSIDE FILM CITY

Mumbai: A leopard was found dead inside the Film City in Sunday today morning, a forest official said. There was no injury mark on the carcass which was sent for an autopsy, he said. The forest control room got a call around 10.30 am about the male leopard lying dead inside the Film City located in suburban Goregaon, the official said. The Sanjay Gandhi National Park, which is home to a number of leopards, is located nearby. A forest department team went to the spot and sent the carcass for the autopsy which will help them ascertain the exact cause of the feline's death, the official said. Forest officials have informed local police about the death of the leopard, he added.

OVER 100 CATTLE DEAD, 25 DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY LUMPY SKIN DISEASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The state's animal husbandry department on Saturday said that as many as 126 cattle have died and 25 districts have been affected by lumpy skin disease in Maharashtra. "A total of 126 infected animals have died including 47 in Jalgaon district, 21 in Ahmednagar District, 2 in Dhule, 18 in Akola, 14 in Pune, two in Latur, six in Satara, five in Buldhana, seven in Amravati, one in Sangli, one in Washim, one in Jalna and one in Nagpur District," a release from the state's animal husbandry department stated, reported a news agency. The state's animal husbandry department further informed that although lumpy skin disease (LSD) is rapidly spreading, it is not transmitted to human beings either from animals or through cow milk. "Lumpy skin disease (LSD) has been rapidly spreading all throughout the Maharashtra state. It is a cutaneous viral disease of the bovines. This disease is not transmitted to human beings either from animals or through cow milk," the animal husbandry department release stated. In the release, IAS officer, Sachindra Pratap Singh appealed on behalf of the government, "Although the



disease has been spreading, the spread is limited to cows and bullocks and is not zoonotic. Strict action will be undertaken in case of spreading rumours on

social media," reported news agency ANI. According to the animal husbandry department, a fund of Rs one crore per district has been made avail-

able through DPC for the purchase of medicines needed in the treatment of the disease. An honorarium of Rs 3 per vaccination has also been admissible to the vaccinators and interns of the Maharashtra Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (MAFSU). "The Government veterinary officers and private practitioners should carry out treatment as the MAFSU Treatment protocol. It is also requested to all farmers to avail free treatment for their affected cattle at their doorstep by intimating to nearby Government Veterinary Dispensaries / Livestock Development Officers about any symptoms of LSD," the release further said. Commissioner of the Animal Husbandry said, "According to Section 4(1) of Prevention and Control of Infectious and Communicable Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, every person, non-governmental organization, concerned local self-government body is obliged to report the said information to the nearest veterinary institution if symptoms of this disease are found in animals." The release by Maharashtra's animal husbandry department further advised the Gram-panchayats to carry out spraying of insecticides as a disease is spreading through flies, mosquitoes, ticks etc.

Ladakh decks up to welcome 2K sprinters for 5th Sarhad Kargil Int'l Marathon

Quaid Najmi | Pune | Kargil

The stark hills and dales of Ladakh are all set to welcome over 2,000 sprinters from all over India and some other countries who will participate in the '5th Sarhad Kargil International Marathon' (SKIM), scheduled on Monday (September 19), in Kargil with a theme, 'Run For Apricot', the organisers said here. The Chief of Army Staff, Gen. Manoj Pande will flag off the 5th SKIM in a virtual ceremony in the presence of top officials, while Lt. Governor Radha Krishna Mathur, Ladakh Police chief ADG Satish Khandhare shall attend the event, said Sarhad Founder Sanjay Nahar in Pune. "The SKIM is organised in collaboration with Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil and District Administration Kargil since 2017. The marathon was not held in 2019 and 2020 for various reasons," Nahar told correspondent. Speaking from site as the early winter chill flits in, Nahar said that the LAHDC CEC Feroz Ahmed Khan and Union Territory of Ladakh CEO Santosh Sukhadeve have reviewed the final preparations for the mega-event in the sparse-oxygen region where first-timers gasp for breath and need to acclimatise for some days. He said that this year's theme is 'Run For Apricot' as the local farmers' tribute to the Centre for permitting the export of the luscious Ladakhi fruit, after a gap of 35 years from



January this year. Recognised by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the SKIM winners will get prizes worth a total of Rs 8 lakh in various categories. "We envisaged the SKIM with an aim to amalgamate the Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh region with the rest of the country, and with participation by so many marathon-

ers from India and abroad, to unveil its tourism potential before the world," said Nahar. On this occasion, there will be a special function to give away the Sarhad's 'Kargil Gaurav National Award-2022' to six eminent persons for their contributions in various fields, on Monday (September 19). They are: Physiotherapist Dr. Ali Irani of Mumbai, acad-

mician and social activist Pt. Shankarprasad Agnihotri of Wardha, architect Imran Sheikh of Pune (all Maharashtra); retired Wing Commander Ashok Kumar Saraf from Jammu, media-person Shobha Kapoor from New Delhi and sculptor Tsering Gurmet from Ladakh. Another 100 locals will be felicitated for providing support to the Indian Army during the Kargil War of mid-1999, said the organisers, Dr. Shailesh Pagariya, Mohammad Ali, Syed Mehrajuddin Shah, Abhay Chajed, Sanjeev Shah and Vaibhav Wagh. They will be awarded certificates from EkIndia and a gold-silver-diamond ring designed and donated by Pune-based jewellers Sanket and his brother Sandesh Bijyani. "The ring is unique, infused with the soil collected from all over India, with 'Bharat' embossed on it signifying the country's ancient identity as a 'sone ki chidiya', a real diamond with the words - 'You Are The Diamond' - engraved on it," said Nahar. Meanwhile, the finishing touches were given to the 5th SKIM for the 42.19 kms full marathon, 21.09 kms half-marathon, besides other legs, and a wheel-chair run. Based in Pune, the NGO Sarhad is involved in social, cultural and educational activities dedicated to people in the violence-ravaged Jammu & Kashmir, besides working in other states like Assam, Manipur and Punjab. After the Kargil War, Sarhad has 'adopted' 39 orphans and another 150 children from Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh, taking full care of their education and other requirements since the past 23 years.

Charlotte Crosby calls for 'normal people' to appear on Love Island as she demands show overhaul

Los Angeles | Agencies

Charlotte Crosby has said she wants to see 'normal people off the street' appear on Love Island, while slamming the current beauty standards on television as 'f**ed'. The star, who rose to fame on Geordie Shore, wants to see greater diversity on the ITV show, insisting it would be more gripping if viewers were able to watch ordinary folk like Coronation Street's Fiz and Tyrone 'genuinely fall in love with each other'. She told the Daily Star Sunday: 'Love Island would be better if they had different kinds of people, 100 per cent the beauty standards on TV now are f**ed. I want to see people who are like Fiz and Tyrone on Corrie. I want normal people off the street who genuinely fall in love with each other. That would be so cute to watch.' Charlotte, who first appeared on MTV's Geordie Shore 11 years ago, admitted she would never have made it onto Love Island as she is the opposite of what she thinks the show's producers look for.

'There wouldn't be a chance in hell we would get on it,' she exclaimed, adding that fans loved Charlotte and her female co-stars because they were 'ordinary girls'. It comes after Charlotte, who is expecting her first baby, said she is yet to 'embrace' her pregnancy after the reality star's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She said she's been so 'worried' by Letitia's health that she hasn't thought about giving birth, a life-changing moment, which will be filmed for her upcoming BBC series.

'I'm going to be filming all the way up until I give birth and I will be filming the birth.'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Wilde looked sensational as she walked the red carpet in a shimmering emerald green dress at the Don't Worry Darling premiere at the Victoria Eugenia Theatre during the 70th San Sebastian International Film Festival in Spain.

The actress looked every inch the Hollywood siren as she arrived at the event where she was greeted by hoards of fans and photographers.

However, she stumbled about before heading inside as the heels of her towering shoes got caught in the long train of her gown. The star needed assistance from a member of staff to ensure she was safely unstuck. Olivia ensured she caught the eye of onlook-

OLIVIA SUFFERS WARDROBE MALFUNCTION AND ALMOST TRIPPED

ers at the premiere as her garment sparked under the bright lights. Her naked arms and shoulders were left exposed to the air due to the sleeveless design of the dress. The star wore her hair down and opted for lashings of make-up to highlight her pretty features.

Olivia plays the role of Bunny in psychological thriller film Don't Worry Darling, with her character being the best friend of Alice Chambers (Florence Pugh).

Don't Worry Darling tells the story of housewife Alice whose husband Jack (Harry Styles) moves them into a utopian community for his new company. She starts worrying that her husband and his company are hiding terrible secrets as her life is turned upside down. Wilde and Styles, who are an item, promoted the movie with Chris and fellow stars Gemma Chan and Nick Kroll, but Florence, who plays the lead, was notably absent from much of the festivities. During the premiere screening and on the red carpet in Italy, Florence appeared to keep her distance from her director.

Roxy Horner attended the Pam Hogg show during London Fashion Week



Los Angeles | Agencies

Roxy Horner put on a leggy display in a one shouldered glittering playsuit as she attended the Pam Hogg show during London Fashion Week on Saturday.

The model looked sensational in the number which she cinched in at the waist with an eye-catching dazzling buckle belt.

She elevated her frame in a pair of pointed toe clear and silver heels and carried her belongings in a chic coordinating handbag. Roxy slicked her long blonde tresses back in a ponytail from a centre parting which cascaded past her bust. Tuning up the glamour she opted for a large pair of dazzling hoop earrings and a radiant nude palette of makeup. Also at the event was Alice Dellal who worked in the show wearing two incredible ensembles. The Brazilian model posed up a storm in a plunging black and green sleeveless midi dress which she teamed with towering white lace up boots.

For her second look, the beauty wore a camo blazer with a black leather collar and large pockets which she teamed with a coordinated mini skirt.

She rocked a pair of black leather gloves with the outfit and a pair of knee high lace up boots. Roxy has been dating actor Jack Whitehall for two years.

The 45-minute one-off special episode, celebrating a decade since the show first aired, will reunite Alfie (Whitehall) with former students as they return to Abbey Grove for a joyfully chaotic careers day.



On her father's incurable cancer diagnosis

'We don't know how long we've got him for': Kym Marsh

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kym Marsh has expressed her gratitude at being asked to appear on Strictly Come Dancing this year after her father David was diagnosed with incurable cancer.

The television presenter is glad her parent will be able to watch her perform on the BBC ballroom dance contest, which starts next week, after he was given the go ahead to start treatment. She said: 'Since he was diagnosed last March I've just decided to grab everything while I can.' Without being melancholy, we don't know how long we've got him for, so you've got to make the best of these situations. 'My dad's diagnosis does change things. He's been telling me for years, "You never know what's around the corner, so grab things with both hands." But you don't think about that until an event happens. It makes you look at things differently.' Actress Kym revealed in June last year that her father Dave, had been diagnosed with incurable prostate cancer last year after delaying going to a doctor during lockdown. At the time, he was using a mobility scooter and the disease had spread to his pelvis, spine, ribs and left leg. Kym married Army Major Scott Ratcliff in October last year and he will also be able to watch her perform from a seat in the audience. Meanwhile, Kym is also delighted to have been asked to appear on Strictly for the experience - 22 years after she rose to fame on reality show Popstars before winning a place in band Hear Say. She said the BBC had approached her on a number of occasions to take part in previous years. And, while she admits it feels like her reality television roots, she is looking forward to the challenge of learning the routines. Kym and Dave told the publication that although they can never know for certain if things could have been different, they do know that 'speed is crucial' with cancer.

Newly-engaged Vick Hope commands attention in a red maxi dress

Los Angeles | Agencies

Vick Hope caught the eye as she departed the Rixo show during London Fashion Week on Saturday, months after saying yes to Calvin Harris' proposal. The radio presenter commanded attention in a bold red maxi dress featuring a gorgeous bow before wrapping up in a nude coat.

She added inches with a pair of dazzling green heels and threw a black handbag over her shoulder by its silver chain, while flashing her sparkling engagement ring. Vick was spotted wearing her diamond engagement ring at the Chelsea Flower Show in May after Calvin popped the question at his Ibiza farm, Terra Masia. A source said at the time: 'Calvin and Vick's relationship has moved quickly but they're smitten with each other. They could not be happier and are already planning their wedding, which is set to take place in Ibiza, where they grew close during Vick's secret visits to the White Isle. After keeping their relationship private, they decided to go public at the Chelsea Flower Show, they want everyone to now know their happy news.' Elsewhere, Vick and Maya Jama are the two front runners to take over Laura Whitmore's Love Island presenting job, a new report has claimed. According to The Sun, presenter Maya, 28, and TV and radio star Vick are reportedly being considered first by ITV bosses for the role to bring a 'cooler edge' to the show. Irish TV star Laura revealed her shock decision to quit her job after three years earlier this week - blaming, in part, the format of the show for her career choice.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Anaïs Gallagher



DAVIS CUP

NAGAL WINS AFTER YUKI/SAKETH LOSE AS INDIA GO DOWN 1-3 VS NORWAY

Lillehammer (Norway) | Agencies

Former Junior Wimbledon winner Sumit Nagal restored some pride for India by winning a rubber as Norway won 3-1 in the Davis Cup World Group First Round match here on Saturday.

With Norway taking an unassailable 3-0 lead, Nagal defeated Lukas HELLUM Lilleengen in straight games, winning in one hour and 22 minutes in the inconsequential rubber of the five-match tie. Nagal, the 25-year-old from Jaitpur, Haryana, won 6-2, 6-1.

Nagal's victory came after India had lost the World Group First Round encounter to Norway after Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni put up a strong fight but lost to US Open finalists Casper Ruud and Viktor Durasovic.

Bhambri and Myneni came back strongly after losing the first set to win the second but down in the third to lose 3-6, 6-3, 3-6 in a two-hour encounter at the Hakans Hall in Lillehammer.

Trailing 0-2 after India's top singles player Prajesh Gunneswaran went down to Ruud, the World No. 2 in



ATP Rankings, in straight sets -- 6-1, 6-4 and then Ramkumar Ramanathan too slumped to the same scoreline (6-1, 6-4) against Viktor Durasovic.

India's hopes of making a fightback depended on the doubles combination of Bhambri and Myneni, which has won six titles in the last year or so.

With senior doubles player Rohan Bopanna unavailable due to an injury, India had to depend on the Bhambri and Myneni but the duo got off to a poor start as Ruud and Durasovic won the first set.

The Indian pair lost its serve in the second game, but broke back immediately and levelled the score 2-2. But

the Norwegians broke back again in the sixth game (4-2) and went on to win the set 6-3. The Indian pair had a lot of chances -- they had six break points but could convert only one -- but could not capitalise on them.

They won 80% of points on the first serve and were also ahead on points won on the second serve. The Norway pair converted two of the four break points while the Indians won one out of six.

The tables turned in the second set as the Norwegian pair failed to convert even one of the 14 break points they won while the Indians converted the lone break point to win the set 6-3.

Games went with serve till 3-2 in the second set before the Indians broke Ruud and Durasovic to go up 4-2.

In the decider, the Indians lost the plot after 1-1 as they lost their serve in the fourth game as they went down 3-1. The hosts then went ahead 4-1 and went on to win the third set 6-3 to seal the tie in Norway's favour.

India will now go back to qualifiers again and play against one of the winners of World Group 2 teams.

India - Australia T20I series

Shami ruled out due to Covid-19, Umesh named replacement

Mohali | Agencies

Senior India fast-bowler Mohammed Shami on Sunday has been ruled out of the upcoming T20I series against Australia after testing positive for Covid-19, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The BCCI further said that pacer Umesh Yadav will replace Shami for the three-match series against Australia, starting from September 20 in Mohali. Notably, Umesh recently returned from his county stint with Middlesex in England, due to a quad muscle injury and was supposed to go for rehab.

"Fast bowler Mohd. Shami will not be able to take part in the upcoming three-day Mastercard T20I series against Australia after testing positive for COVID-19. The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Umesh Yadav as his replacement," said the BCCI in an official release. Shami had not played any competitive cricket after playing in the ODI series against England in July 2022. He has not played a T20I for India since their campaign in the T20 World Cup ended at Super 12 stage in the UAE in November 2021.

But his vast experience, and his performance in the IPL 2022, where he picked 20 wickets in 16 matches for champions Gujarat Titans, including 11 wickets in power-play, were sufficient to get him as a standby for the T20 World Cup in Australia to be held next month. The T20Is against Australia, starting from first game in Mohali on Tuesday, followed by second game in Nagpur on September 23 and final match on September



25 in Hyderabad, and then another three-match T20I series against South Africa on September 28, October 2 and 4, had provided India to test Shami in terms of performance, fitness and preparation. For Umesh, who last played a T20I match for India in February 2019, it is a chance for him to play for the country in the shortest format of the game in almost two and a half years. In IPL 2022, Umesh picked 16 wickets for Kolkata Knight Riders at an average of 21.18 and economy rate of 7.06. In Middlesex's Royal London One-Day Cup campaign, he picked 16 wickets at an average of 20.25 and economy rate of 5.17.

India squad for Australia T20I series: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav.

Arsenal's Ethan Nwaneri becomes youngest-ever Premier League player

London | Agencies

Teenager Ethan Nwaneri became the youngest player in Premier League history as he came off the bench in Arsenal's comfortable victory over Brentford, breaking the record previously held by midfielder Harvey Elliott.

The record was previously held by Liverpool teenager Elliott, who was 16 years and 303 days old when he came on for Fulham in 2019.

Young England underage international Nwaneri was introduced in the final moments and replaced goal scorer Fabio Vieira for Arsenal's 3-0 win over Brentford.

Nwaneri has featured at Under-18 and Under-21 levels for Arsenal this season and the attacking midfielder earned a spot in Mikel Arteta's squad with the likes of Martin Odegaard and Emile Smith-Rowe unavailable due to injury.

The schoolboy was promoted to first-team training this week having made his Under-21



debut at the beginning of September.

The attacking midfielder has recorded four goals and assists in four league games between the Under-18 and Under-21 this campaign. He caught the eyes of Arsenal fans when he scored on his Under-18 debut last year at the age of just 14, with many hoping that he would go on to be the next big thing.

INDIA A BEAT NEW ZEALAND A BY 113 RUNS, WIN SERIES 1-0

Bengaluru | Agencies

Joe Carter's fighting century (111) went in vain as India A beat New Zealand A by 113-run victory on Day 4 of the third unofficial Test, to win the three-match series 1-0 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, here on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 416 for victory, New Zealand A were bowled out for 302 in the second innings with Saurabh Kumar bagging a five-wicket haul (5/103).

New Zealand A, who started the day at 20/1, lost Joe Walker early as he was bowled by Shardul Thakur. Thereafter, Carter and Dane Cleaver stitched a partnership of 85 runs for the third wicket at a brisk rate.

However, India A managed to break the partnership just before the break, with Saurabh getting Cleaver out leg-before for his second wicket.

New Zealand A, who went into lunch at 118/3, kept India A at bay for the majority of the second session courtesy of an 82-run stand for the fourth



wicket between Carter-Chapman. Carter, who was on 42 off 107 at the end of the first session, scored at a quicker rate while Chapman had a strike rate of over 73 for his 45 before he was dismissed by Sarfaraz Khan late in the second session. New Zealand needed 195 runs to win in the final session and they approached it with positivity but in the

process also lost a few quick wickets. Sarfaraz got his second as Robert O'Donnell was trapped lbw while Saurabh dismissed both Tom Bruce and Sean Solia in front to leave New Zealand A at 267/7.

While Carter brought up his hundred, wickets continued to fall at the other end as Cam Fletcher was dismissed for 13 by Umran Malik, who bagged his first wicket of the match.

Jacob Duffy also couldn't do much as becoming Saurabh's fifth scalp while Carter was the last to depart, bowled by Mukesh Kumar.

Brief scores

India A 293 (Ruturaj Gaikwad 108, Upendra Yadav 76; Matthew Fisher 4-52) & 359/7 decl (Rajat Patidar 109 not out, Ruturaj Gaikwad 94; Rachin Ravindra 3-65) beat New Zealand A 237 (Mark Chapman 92, Sean Solia 54; Saurabh Kumar 4-48) & 302 (Joe Carter 111, Mark Chapman 45; Saurabh Kumar 5-103) by 113 runs.

Augsburg upset Bayern, Dortmund go top with win over rivals Schalke in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

Augsburg extended Bayern's winless streak to four games as Mergim Berisha scored the only goal of the match while Borussia Dortmund captured the top spot after substitute Youssoufa Moukoko provided the 1-0 winner against stubborn Schalke at the seventh round on Saturday.

Bayern controlled possession from the starting whistle and forced Augsburg onto the back foot in the opening stages as Sadio Mane and Leroy Sane tested goalkeeper Rafal Gikiewicz in quick succession.

Augsburg defended well and almost finished off a counterattack, but Bayern custodian Manuel Neuer was equal to Florian Niederlechner's hammer from 20 metres in the 24th minute, reports Xinhua. The German giants started an onslaught on Augsburg's goal but neither Jamal Musiala nor Leon Goretzka was able to break the deadlock before the half time.

The "Fuggerstadter" eventually flabbergasted Bayern with the opener at the hour mark when



Berisha tapped home a loose ball from 11 meters following a free kick. Bayern pressed frenetically for the draw but Thomas Muller and Sane couldn't beat Gikiewicz from promising positions. Augsburg's goalkeeper remained in the thick of things as he defused a dangerous header from Neuer in the dying seconds of the game.

The hosts' defence stood firm and ensured

Bayern Munich's first defeat of the season.

"When I look at the statistics, we should have won the game. After the deficit it was very difficult for us. I think about everything about me, about the situation, about everything," said Bayern head coach Julian Nagelsmann. "After four games without a win, we are stunned and devastated. If you can't turn your chances into a tangible reward, you stand there with zero points. That Manuel Neuer produced the best chance of the game says it all," said Bayern midfielder Thomas Muller. Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund recaptured the top spot as the "BVB" overpowered newly promoted Schalke by courtesy of youngster Moukoko, who headed home the winner in the 79th minute.

Eintracht Frankfurt snatched its third win of the season after goals from Sebastian Rode, Daichi Kamada and Kristijan Jacic smoothed the way for the 3-1 win over Stuttgart.

Milos Veljkovic's late 1-1 equalizer helped newcomers Werder Bremen to share the spoils with Bayer Leverkusen and Jonas Hofmann's first-half brace secured Borussia Monchengladbach a 3-0 victory over Leipzig.

It's an honour to go beyond McGrath's career Test wicket tally: Broad

London | Agencies

England pace-bowling stalwart Stuart Broad has said it feels great becoming the second-most successful Test fast bowler in the world behind team-mate James Anderson, adding that it was an "honour" to go beyond the legendary Australian quick Glenn McGrath.

Broad, 36, surpassed McGrath's tally of 563 Test wickets in the recently concluded Oval match against South Africa and is currently on 566. He now trails his partner Anderson in the wickets column for pacers, who has 667 wickets to his name.

"It was also an honour to go beyond Glenn McGrath's career Test wicket tally on our final bowling day of the summer (in the third Test at The



Oval against South Africa). McGrath was a hero of mine, someone I imitated in the garden, and the reason I wanted to become a bowler," said Broad in his column for the Daily Mail.

"It's incredible to be up there in his sort of company and to be in a one-two with my great mate Jimmy Anderson as the most prolific

seamers in Test cricket. It also raised a smile or two that I took the 564th wicket on the fourth anniversary of Jimmy going past Glenn (McGrath)."

Broad added the camaraderie in the England Test side since Brendon McCullum came in as head coach and Ben Stokes was appointed skipper has been superb.

Kohli is our third opener: Rohit Sharma

Mohali | Agencies

Ahead of the T20I series against Australia, India captain Rohit Sharma confirmed that talismanic batter Virat Kohli will be the third opener in the side. Rohit also hinted at Kohli opening the batting in a few matches as the hosts begin their final leg of preparations for the T20 World Cup, to be held in Australia next month.

"I had a word with Rahul bhai (Dravid, head coach) that we might have to open with Virat in some matches as he's our third opener. We have seen that in the last match (against Afghanistan) and we are happy with what we saw of it. I don't think we are going to experiment a lot with that position," said Rohit in the press conference.



Women's T20 WC Qualifier ZIMBABWE, THAILAND REGISTER WINS ON DAY 1

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Zimbabwe beat PNG while Thailand registered a commanding victory against UAE on Day 1 of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup qualifier, here on Sunday.

In the first match of the day, UAE were reduced to 7/3 with the top three making 0, 2 and 1 after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

A promising half-century stand between Kavisha Kumari Egodage and Natasha Cheriath revived the innings for UAE, but Nattaya Bhoochatham returned to scalp the wicket of Natasha to break the partnership.

Opener Nannapat Koncharenkai



continued to push Thailand towards the target and remained unbeaten on 34 as they completed a dominating win on day one of the qualifiers.

In the second match of the day, a three-wicket haul from Kelis Ndlovu and good spells from Nomvelo Sibanda and Precious Marange helped Zimbabwe bowl PNG out for 83 after being asked to bowl at the Tolerance Oval.

Tanya Ruma top-scored for PNG with a 25 off 35 balls from No 3, but none of the other batters managed to cross single digits as PNG struggled against some top-quality bowling.

Zimbabwe sealed the run chase with eight wickets to spare with Ndhlovu unbeaten on 25 off 33 balls.



Kritika Kamra on facing discrimination: Things are becoming better now



Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

After winning hearts in the tele world with shows like Kitani Mohabbat Hai, Kuch Toh Log Kahenge, and Reporters amongst others, Kritika made her big switch to Bollywood with Jacky Bhagnani-starrer Mitron. More recently, the actress grabbed everyone's attention with her act in Tandav and Kaun Banega Shikharwati. She is all set to feature in Tanuja Chandra's Hush.

Talking about her transition from TV to films and now OTT, the actress said, "The transition is not about switching from one medium to another, it's about widening the horizon. Although it has not been easy, but all I look forward to is doing more work."

She further shared about stereotypes and discrimination she had to face because she belongs from TV background.

"There have been certain stereotypes but for good. TV as a medium does differ in some way so I don't blame people for categorising it. Since our world is image-driven I have faced discrimination. But things are drastically becoming better now because of the authenticity in casting. In recent times we can see some projects having an ensemble cast but not appealing to the audience. Whereas there are shows which do not have famous faces but are appreciated by the audience. So the industry has many boxes. They box you in many different things and you have to keep breaking them."

Touted to be a suspense-thriller, the series also star Juhi Chawla, Ayesha Jhulka, Soha Ali Khan Pataudi, Shahana Goswami, and Karishma Tanna in the lead roles.

EX-MISS WORLD BULGARIA TO MAKE INDIAN DEBUT WITH MUSIC VIDEO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Miss World Bulgaria Margo Cooper is all set to make her debut in India. She will appear in new music video 'Aasman' along with Vatsal Seth. Margo, who has been living in India for quite some time now, is super excited about it.

Speaking about the music video she said: "The team is very professional and all of them are good human beings - a factor very important to me."

The music video was shot in Alibaug. Saying further about the first music video she asserted: "There is nothing better in life to do what you like and I am very lucky to have my first experience with such an amazing team. Though the language is Hindi it was not a challenge because I knew the script and love story of this song. I must say Vatsal is an experienced actor and a professional one. It was very easy and comfortable to work with him."

India is a country where music videos have always been made and appreciated by the audience. Margo added: "I think the audience here likes good visuals, love stories, and music. That's why the music video industry will always bloom here alongside movies."

Giving details about the music video, she explained: "I think it's all about feelings, it should touch someone's soul which can bring out some genuine emotions. I'm definitely keen on more music videos and it makes me happy."



YAMI GAUTAM BATS FOR DAD'S UPCOMING PUNJABI FILM

Chennai | Agencies

Yami Gautam, who has acted in Tamil and Telugu films as well, has urged audiences to go watch "Baghi Di Dhee", a Punjabi film directed by her father Mukesh Gautam, saying it was one of the best films she had watched recently. Taking to Instagram, Yami Gautam penned a lengthy post on the film and her thoughts on it. She said: "In times where we are all hustling to find good content for our audience, I got the chance to experience something really wonderful and special -- 'Baghi Di Dhee'! I know personally the incredible amount of hard work that has gone in, literally through high fever and sickness in nail-biting winters. The passion & sincerity with which the film has been directed is truly inspirational. Words are not enough to express how proud I felt as a daughter as I watched the final result of this labour of love directed by my father Mukesh Gautam. It's one of the best films that I have watched recently and feel even more proud that it's a Punjabi film."

"Also, a very special mention to my brother, Jasraaj! You are one of the brightest directors to look out for and the world shall soon see what a talent you are!"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With singing reality show returning with its new season, host Aditya Narayan talked about the show, the contestants and the judges, including Himesh Reshammiya, Neha Kakkar and Vishal Dadlani.

Aditya opened up about his bond with the judges, saying: "I have done many shows, but working with Vishal, Himesh and Neha is so much fun. All three are lovely human beings and it is so easy to work with. Neha and I are like buddies on the show and we always crack jokes and laugh out loud with each other. I have always learnt from them as even after achieving success, they have managed to stay grounded." Asked what new elements the audience will get to see from him in the show as a host, Aditya replied: "Honestly, I am the kind of person who doesn't prepare much for any show. 'Indian Idol' is a huge platform. I have been hosting it for the past three years and it is like a family to me. I feel each moment has its different charm. I try to stay involved to get something interesting out of it," he added.

Aditya also said: "I am so overwhelmed to see this year's talents, and every talent has a different journey." "I feel this year's talent is the best as there are various genres that each contestant is coming out with. If you listen to Senchari, she has a brilliant yodelling voice, Senjuti has a soothing soft and sweet singing talent, while Navdeep Wadali has fantastic classical range. A lot of other contestants also stood out during the audition round and it is so good to see such varied talents," he wrapped up.

NEHA AND I ARE LIKE BUDDIES ON THE SETS: ADITYA NARAYAN



'Remo inspired many choreographers to move to direction,' says Bosco Martis

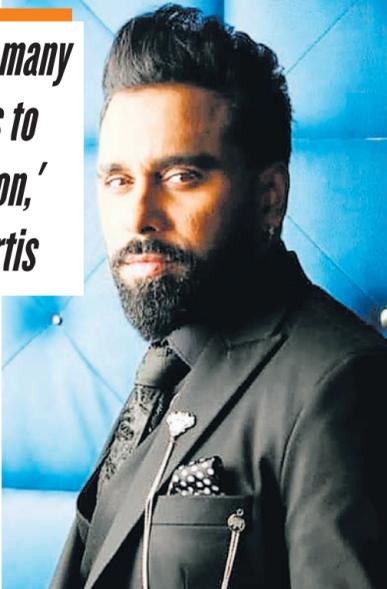
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular choreographer Bosco Martis opened up about how Remo D'Souza inspired him to direct a film and thus 'Rocket Gang' became his debut project as a director.

Bosco Martis and Caesar Gonsalves are a well-known choreographer duo in the industry, who got a lot of fame for their choreography in the track 'Senorita' in 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'.

While referring to Remo on the dance reality show 'DID Super Moms', Bosco said: "Rocket Gang' is the first film I am directing, and I know Remo knows the efforts that go into making a film."

Martis further added that not only he but Remo became an inspiration



for many in the industry to try their hand at direction.

"He is one of the choreographers who has started this journey of transforming from a choreographer to a director and definitely inspired many of us. We choreographers are also known as storytellers since we depict it through our performances, and I am so lucky to get such an amazing opportunity," he added.

SHRUTI HAASAN'S SONG GARNERS OVER A MILLION VIEWS

Team Absolute | Chennai

Shruti Haasan's single "She Is A Hero", which throws light on the struggles and triumphs of women, has been receiving immense love from audiences.

In less than a few days of its release, "She Is A Hero" has already crossed a million views and is showing no signs of slowing down.

"She Is A Hero" brings together varied artists and a mix of genres, all with one aim to celebrate women. The video of the song features girls from the NGO Shiksha Seva Foundation, which has made this track all the more special.

The track has been produced by Karan Kanchan and Karan Parikh while visual artist Santanu Hazarika dons the creative director's hat for this special track.

Screenwriter and lyricist Niranjan Iyengar has penned the additional Hindi lyrics for Shruti's part.

Commenting on the track, Shruti had previously tweeted, "She is a Hero is our ode to powerful stories of women all across the globe who go above and beyond in everything they do, regardless of the domain, with empathy, elegance and fortitude."



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aada Khan