

# absolute india

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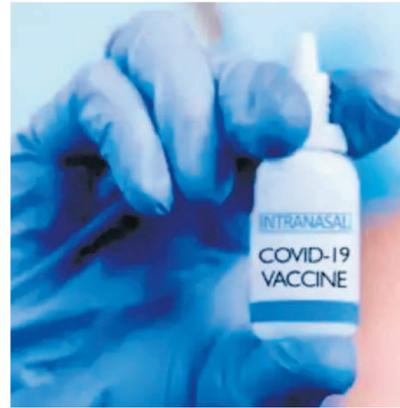
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**Another history awaits Neeraj Chopra as he starts favourite...**



## Nasal Vaccines could be beneficial in controlling Covid: WHO

Nasal Covid-19 vaccines could help to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control, the World Health Organization said Wednesday after homegrown products were approved in India and China. The WHO welcomed the new front in the fight against the virus -- but also said it wanted to see the data behind the vaccines, to assess whether to approve them.



► CHINA ON SUNDAY LAUNCHED THE WORLD'S FIRST INHALABLE COVID VACCINE, CONVIDECIA AIR, WHICH IS MADE BY CANSINO BIOLOGICS AND ADMINISTERED THROUGH A NEBULISER.

► INDIA APPROVED A NASALLY-ADMINISTERED COVID-19 VACCINE FOR EMERGENCY USE ON TUESDAY, DEVELOPED BY BHARAT BIOTECH.

GENEVA | Agencies

WHO emergencies director Mike Ryan said nasal vaccines generated immune response in the respiratory mucosa in the lungs. "You're generating the first line of defence at where the virus enters and causes a lot of damage," he explained. In doing so, nasal vaccines could potentially prevent a person from being infected and passing the virus on. Ryan cited how nasal and injectable vaccines are used in combination to combat diseases such as polio, giving full protection

to the internal systems. That opportunity to reduce both the severity of infection and onward transmission "may offer us a much stronger prospect of control of Covid in the long run", he told a press conference. He encouraged innovation that would develop a second and third generation of vaccines "that we may need ultimately to deal with the end of Covid and to deal with future respiratory virus threats". Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, welcomed the news. CanSino and Bharat Biotech both have WHO-approved injectable Covid-19 vaccines.

**DEATH EVERY 44 SECONDS**

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the continuing global decline in reported Covid cases and deaths was encouraging, but said it was "dangerous" to assume those trends would persist. "Last week, one person died with Covid-19 every 44 seconds. Most of those deaths are avoidable," he said. The Omicron variant's BA.5 subvariant has become globally dominant, but dozens of subvariants are circulating.

## BJP TREATING NATIONAL FLAG AS THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY: RAHUL GANDHI

To take on the Narendra Modi government in the upcoming 2024 elections, Congress launched the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' on Wednesday in which Rahul Gandhi started the 3,570 km journey lasting about 150 days from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. The party has made it clear that he will not stay in any hotel but rather will complete the entire journey in a simple manner.

► RAHUL GANDHI CONSIDERS THE BHARAT JODO YATRA JOURNEY AS A WAY TO CONNECT WITH THE COMMON PEOPLE.

► CONGRESS LEADER SAID, "I LOST MY FATHER IN THE POLITICS OF HATRED AND DIVISION. I WILL NOT LOSE MY BELOVED COUNTRY IN THIS EITHER. LOVE WILL TRIUMPH OVER HATE. HOPE WILL DEFEAT FEAR. TOGETHER WE WILL WIN."

► CONGRESS PARTY SAID THE 'BHARAT JODO YATRA' THAT IT WILL BE A TURNING POINT IN INDIAN POLITICS AND A NEW BEGINNING.



Team Absolute | Kanyakumari

The Congress party started its Bharat Jodo Yatra on Wednesday in Kanyakumari. Leading the yatra, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi slammed the Bhartiya Janata Party and said that the opposition was not scared of the BJP. His remarks came while addressing the rally on its inaugural day in the evening hours. "They (BJP) think they can frighten the opposition using CBI, ED, and IT. The problem is they don't understand Indian people. Indian people don't get scared. Not a single opposition leader is going to be scared of the BJP," said Congress MP Rahul Gandhi.

He further highlighted the importance of the Indian tricolour and called out the BJP for allegedly treating it as their personal property. "It gives me great joy to begin Bharat Jodo Yatra from this beautiful place. The national flag represents the religion and language of every single person living in this country. They (BJP and RSS) think that this flag is their personal property," he added. Rahul Gandhi will stay in the container for the next 150 days. Sleeping beds, toilets, and AC are also installed in some of the containers. During the journey, the temperature and environment will differ in many areas. The arrangements have been made keeping in view the

intense heat and humidity with the change of places. Speaking at the launch of the Congress 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' at a rally, Gandhi said during the British period, there was one East India Company that controlled the country, now there are three-four companies doing so. "Today, India faces its worst-ever economic crisis. The highest level of unemployment that we have ever seen and the country is heading into a disaster," he said. "Unfortunately, our friends in the media are fully controlled," the former Congress chief alleged in his speech that was being simultaneously translated into Tamil by an interpreter.

## RAJPATH RENAMED AS KARTAVYA PATH, PM TO INAUGURATE

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday inaugurate the newly-named Kartavya Path - a stretch of the Central Vista from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate that will have red granite walkways with greenery all around, refurbished canals, state-wise food stalls, new amenity blocks and vending kiosks. According to the government, it symbolises a shift from erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment. PM Modi will also unveil a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate. These steps are in line with the Prime Minister's second 'Panch Pran' for New India in Amrit Kaal: 'remove any trace of colonial mindset', it said. The CPWD has set up five vending zones where 40 vendors each will be allowed and two blocks near the India Gate with eight shops each. Some states have shown their interest to set up their food stalls. It lacked basic amenities like public toilets, drinking water, street furniture and adequate parking space. Further, there was inadequate signage, poor maintenance of water features and haphazard parking. Further, new pedestrian underpasses, improved parking spaces, new exhibition panels and upgraded night lighting are some other features that will enhance the public experience.

**HIGHWAY PROJECTS:**

## Ministry writes to states to comply with maintenance norms



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has written to the state authorities asking them to issue necessary instructions for strict compliance of safety norms of highway projects. The ministry has also referred to the report of a parliamentary standing committee in which it has taken note of various measures for rectification of black spots and recommended a mechanism to ensure periodic monitoring and maintenance of highways. "The Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has taken note of the various measures taken by the Ministry for rectification of black spots and recommended that periodic monitoring and maintenance measures such as regular trimming of shrubs and trees to ensure a system may be put in place so that the signs on the highways are clearly visible to the drivers in all weathers." The letter said the ministry issued a standard EPC document on March 5, 2019, which

specifies the maintenance obligation of the contractor. As per the letter, Schedule-E of this EPC document obliges the contractor to ensure at all times during the maintenance period, the project highways conform to the maintenance requirement prescribed in this schedule," it said, referring to the relevant regulations. "Further as per Table 3, maintenance norms of safety related items and other furniture items, obstruction due to trees and plants including middle plantation shall be removed immediately." The Ministry said, therefore, all concerned shall be required to strictly comply with the same. It is requested to issue necessary instructions for. Earlier on Tuesday, taking into account the fact that most of the people sitting in the back seats in cars do not wear seat belts, the Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari said that the passengers who sit in the back seat will not wear seat belts. They will be punished if they do not wear the belt.

## 1,166 GRAM PANCHAYATS ELECTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA ON OCTOBER 13

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a sort of mini-general election in Maharashtra, 1,166 gram panchayats in 18 districts will directly elect sarpanch and gram panchayat members. State Election Commissioner UPS Madan gave this information on Wednesday. The model code of conduct for the election process came into force from Wednesday. Enrollment will start from 13th September. Filing will be done from 21st September to 27th September, 30th September will be the last date for withdrawal of nominations.

Madan said that on October 13, from 7.30 am to 5 pm, the coating will be done in all the villages, but the polling in Naxal-affected areas will end at 3 pm. The counting of votes will take place on October 14 and the result will be declared on the same day. The districts where Gram Panchayat elections will be held are Thane-500 villages, Raigad 20, Ratnagiri 51, Sindhudurg 04, Nashik 194, Pune 02, Nandurbar 206, Satara 16, Kolhapur 04, Amravati 01, Washim 01, Nagpur 17, Wardha 09, Chandrapur 94, Bhandara 20, Gondia 06 and Gadchiroli 21.

## Digital currency to be launched this year as a pilot project: RBI Deputy Governor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor T. Rabi Shankar said on Wednesday that the central bank will launch its digital currency as a pilot project this year. Addressing the India Ideas Summit, he said that Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is the most efficient system for cross border payments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget that a CBDC would be launched during 2022-



23. However, Rabi Shankar reiterated that RBI is not aiming for

a cashless society, but is keen to offer viable options to customers. Shankar further said that the Unified Payments Interface or UPI is likely to become more internationalised. He said that RBI is trying to examine the policy on digital payments based on the feedback received from the stakeholders. Highlighting the growing importance of digital payments segment in the country, Shankar said that it is growing at the rate of 40 to 50 per cent per annum.

## Tractors hit the road in rain-hit Bengaluru

Bengaluru | Agencies

Tractor has become a new buzz word in the hi-tech circles of the city. The tractor, which is used in fields and construction sites, is now seen on the roads of Bangalore. Ever since the rains started here, people are facing a lot of trouble. Unfazed by the gloomy scenario unfolding in the city since Sunday, tech and start-ups are leaving their cars and riding on tractors to ensure the honor show. Social media is flooded

with examples of technocrats in the city and their mentors riding tractors. If Gaurav Munjal, owner of Unacademy, rides a tractor safely with a pet dog, Arjun Mohanan, CEO of Upgrade India, also took the help of a tractor to make it an office. The sight of tractors carrying passengers from the city airport has been a common sight. Motorists, who usually complained about slowing down of tractor traffic on city roads, are now seeing tractors in a new light.

## INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT RAIDS AT MORE THAN A DOZEN PLACES IN THE COUNTRY

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department is conducting raids at over two dozen places across the country on Wednesday related to those who collected donations for political parties and were allegedly involved in tax evasion. The source said that raids are being conducted in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Sources also said that tax evasion worth crores of rupees has been detected in the guise of donations to political parties. "It is basically fraud and tax evasion which was done in the name of giving donations to political parties," the source said. The raids started on Wednesday morning and are still on.

## "Will Right To Dress Include Right To Undress?"

### Supreme Court remarks at Hijab Row hearing

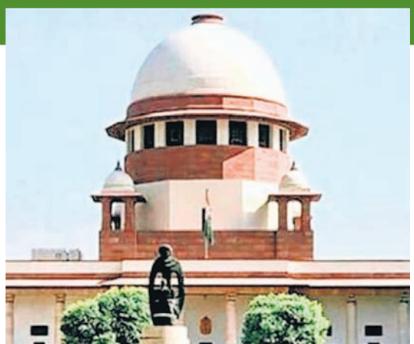
Team Absolute | New Delhi

Justice Hemant Gupta of the Supreme Court today asked a lawyer arguing for the right to wear the hijab in educational institutions: "You can't take it to illogical ends. Right to dress will include right to undress also?" The lawyer, Dev Datt Kamat, replied, "Nobody is undressing in a school." This was part of a longer exchange between the court and the lawyer, during which Justice Gupta also remarked: "Problem here is that

one particular community is insisting on a headscarf (hijab) while all other communities are following the dress code. Students of other communities are not saying we want to wear this and that." When lawyer Kamat said many students wear rudraksh or cross as a religious symbol, the judge responded: "That is worn inside the shirt. Nobody is going to lift the shirt and see if someone is wearing rudraksh." The court is hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging

the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab - scarf that covers the hair, neck, and sometimes a woman's shoulders - in educational institutions of the state. The bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia had on Monday spelt out a key issue at the heart of the matter: "You may have a religious right to practise whatever you want to practise. But can you practise and take that right to a school which has uniform as a part of dress you

have to wear? That will be the question." On whether wearing hijab is an essential practice under Article 25 of the Constitution, the bench had said, "The issue can be modulated little bit in a different way. It may be essential, it may not be essential." "What we are saying is whether in a government institution you can insist on carrying your religious practice. Because the Preamble says ours is a secular country," the bench observed at a previous hearing.





## NAGA TALKS: MEETING HELD IN GUWAHATI, CENTER EXTENDED CEASEFIRE

Team Absolute | Guwahati/New Delhi/Kohima

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio and other members of the core committee on the Naga political issue held a meeting in Guwahati on Wednesday, ahead of a meeting with the central government. In addition, the Center on Wednesday extended by another year a 'ceasefire agreement' with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Nikki group, one of the eight Naga outfits including the National Socialist Council's flagship Isak-Muivah faction. The 'Ceasefire Agreement' was first signed with the NSCN-IM in 1997 and was extended to seven other Naga outfits in subsequent years.

In Guwahati, a senior official said that the Nagaland Chief Minister along with Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton and other core committee members reached Guwahati on Wednesday afternoon and held a meeting with Assam Chief Minister Sarma, who is also the convener of the BJP.

The senior leader told reporter that, after the meeting, the Nagaland Chief



Minister and other core committee members left from Guwahati for New Delhi to hold a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders.

Rio had earlier said that NSCN-IM and Centre's representative A.K. Mishra will hold discussions to resolve the Naga political issues. I hope that the Central Government, NSCN-IM and all other stakeholders will resolve all aspects related to the long Naga political issues soon. Mishra during his three visits to Nagaland since last year met the Chief Minister, leaders of NSCN-IM, Naga National Political Groups (NNPG), Core Committee on Naga Political Issues as well as Naga civil society and discussed peace talks.

Mishra had also discussed the Naga issue with Assam Chief Minister Sarma during his first visit to Nagaland in September last year.

The Center is holding separate peace talks with the NSCN-IM and other Naga groups, which came together a few years ago under the banner of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG). Since 1997, the government has held more than 85 rounds of talks with the NSCN (IM) and other Naga groups.

Former negotiator of the government and the then Governor of Nagaland, R.N. Ravi had rejected these demands on several occasions. The ruling parties in Nagaland, all other Naga bodies and civil society organizations are making every effort to resolve the Naga political issue before the next assembly elections in February next year.

The BJP, the NDPP formed an opposition-less all-party United Democratic Alliance (UDA) government to advance the Naga political issue between the Center and Naga organizations and various other groups. The NDPP is the principal party of the ruling coalition in Nagaland along with the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has 12 MLAs as a key constituent.

## 2 HYBRID TERRORISTS ARRESTED IN J&K'S SHOPIAN

Srinagar: Two hybrid terrorists have been arrested in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Police said, "Shopian police have arrested two hybrid terrorists of banned terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba. They have been identified as Faizan Fayaz Bhat, son of Faizan Fayaz Bhat, a resident of Buden Rafiabad, Sopore, and Yawar, son of Nizamuddin Mir, a resident of Konsu, Shopian. Nizam as Mir." Arms and ammunition including two pistols, two pistol magazines, two grenades, 20 pistol rounds, one AK-47 magazine and 50-AK live cartridges were recovered from them.

## NIA files chargesheet against 8 accused in Pulwama Jaish conspiracy case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday filed a charge sheet in a special court in Jammu in the Pulwama Jaish conspiracy case. The case relating to a conspiracy hatched by Pakistani terrorists of banned terrorist organization Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) with OGW to carry out terrorist acts against security forces in South Kashmir was initially registered on March 11 at PS Pulwama And the NIA had re-registered on April 8.

Chargesheet filed against Naseer Ahmed Malik alias Maulvi, Imtiyaz Ahmed Rather, Rais Ahmed Sheikh alias Jugbeer, Yawar Rashid Gani, Suhail Ahmed Khan alias Sahil, Shahid Ahmed Shergojri, Anayt Gulzar Bhat and Jahangir Ahmed Dar under sections of the Indian Penal Code went. Investigation has revealed



that the accused persons had provided safe shelter, transportation and other logistic support to Jaish terrorists Aquab Mushtaq Bhat (a local) and Kamal Bhai alias Jatt (Pakistani), who were expected to commit terrorist

acts against the security forces. were planning. Following this, the security forces launched a search operation in Chewa Kalan area of Pulwama in which both the terrorists were killed after the encounter.

## Kart'ka HC asks special court to reconsider the corruption case against Yeddyurappa

Bengaluru | Agencies

In a setback to the ruling BJP, the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday asked former CM B.S. The allegations of corruption against Yeddyurappa have been asked to be reconsidered. Yeddyurappa has recently been nominated to the Central Parliamentary Board and the Central Election Committee, the highest decision-making body of the BJP.

A bench headed by Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav said social activist T.J. Abraham demanded a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) against Yeddyurappa and his family members.

The petition alleges that during his tenure as chief minister Yeddyurappa and his family members had taken bribes of hundreds of crores from Ramalingam Construction Company for awarding contracts for housing projects of Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). The special court has dismissed the personal complaint against Yeddyurappa and others for not taking prior consent of the governor. The High Court set aside this order and directed the lower court to reconsider the decision. In the petition, Yeddyurappa's son and BJP vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra, son-



in-law Virupakshaappa Yamakanamrudi, son-in-law of Yeddyurappa's daughter Chandrakanta Ramalingam, Cooperation Minister S.T. Somashekar, IAS officer Dr. G.C. Prakash and others are parties in the corruption case. The bench further said that the special court will decide on registration of FIR and investigation. On November 11, 2020, a case was registered with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC. The court's decision could prove to be a setback for Yeddyurappa, who is gearing up to lead the BJP in Karnataka for the upcoming assembly elections.

## Dual and joint degrees possible for students in higher educational institutions in India and UAE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian and foreign higher education institutions can grant joint degrees as per UGC norms. Apart from this, students have been given the freedom to pursue degrees through studies in Indian as well as foreign universities. India and UAE have gone a step ahead with the joint degree and dual degree. The Central Government has approved the Indian Ministry of Education to enter into such agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Education, Government of India and the Ministry of Education, Government of the United Arab Emirates, on cooperation in the field of education. The objective of this MoU is to further strengthen and expand the scope of the ongoing academic



cooperation between India and the United Arab Emirates. An MoU was signed with UAE in 2015 in the field of education which expired in 2018. In 2019, in a meeting between the education ministers of the two countries, it was proposed

to sign a new MoU on behalf of the United Arab Emirates. The new MoU covers the changes brought by the National Education Policy 2020 in India's education ecosystem. The objective of this MoU is to promote the exchange of informa-

tion education, capacity development of teaching staff of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), higher education institutions in both countries for offering twinning, joint degree and dual degree programmes. It aims to facilitate academic collaboration among other similar fields. According to the Union Ministry of Education, this MoU will revitalize educational cooperation and enhance academic mobility between India and the United Arab Emirates to promote mutual recognition of these qualifications. This also includes cooperation in TVET as UAE is a major work place for Indians. The Ministry of Education, Government of India says that this MoU will be valid for a period of five years from the date of signing and will be automatically renewed with the consent of both the parties. Once signed, this MoU will replace the MoU signed with the United Arab Emirates in 2015.

## Flood alert in Tamil Nadu

Chennai | Agencies

A flood warning has been issued on the banks of Kolidam river in Cuddalore in view of the rising water flow from the Mettur dam in Salem. An alert has been sounded on the banks of the Kolidam river after the Mettur dam released water at the rate of 90,000 cusecs.

The Cuddalore District Collector has urged the people living along the river to be alert as the water in the river can rise anytime after the release of water from the Mettur dam. He has also directed people not to go to the reservoirs for swimming, fishing or any other purpose as the water level can go up anytime. The District Collector also warned against taking selfies on the



banks of the river. It has been raining in Salem, Erode and Cuddalore districts of Tamil Nadu for the

past few days and many reservoirs are already filled with heavy inflow of water and rain in the catchment

areas. Two elderly women died in the area after heavy rains in Salem. The deceased have been identified as Palaniyammal (80) resident of Dr. Rathinam Street near Swaminathapuram in the district and Rukmani (78) resident of Govinda Gounder, Peramanoor. Officials in Salem district told reporter that they were living alone in their homes and Palaniammal was finding it difficult to walk. Salem Corporation Mayor Ramachandran said that suddenly the canals in Govinda Gounder Thottam and Swaminathapuram were closed and hence water entered the houses. He said the rescue operation is on and the situation is under control.

## TRAFFIC JAMS, FLOODED ROADS IN MANY AREAS AFTER HEAVY RAIN IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: Traffic jams and waterlogging was reported at several places in Hyderabad on Wednesday evening following heavy rain.

Macha Bollaram at Alwal received 91.9 mm of rainfall, followed by LB Nagar (84.3 mm), Dabeerpura near Charminar (77.5 mm) and Mailardevpally (71.3 mm) from 8.30 am to 8 pm today, according to official data. The Met Centre of India Meteorological Department (IMD) said heavy rain occurred at isolated places in Jangaon and Narayanpet districts of Telangana. In its weather warnings, it said heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Adilabad, Komram Bheem, Asifabad, Mancheril and other districts on September 8.

It also said heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet and others.

## 5 UP policemen suspended after brawl over 'affair'

Bareilly | Agencies

Five policemen have been suspended following an altercation between two constables over an affair with a female colleague. SSP Satyarth Anirudh Pankaj suspended five policemen, including a constable, Yogesh Chahal, an inspector (crime) and the SHO, for 'indiscipline'.

An internal inquiry has also been ordered. According to reports, two constables, who are in their 20s, got into a heated argument at Baheri police station over an affair with a female colleague.

Things soon turned ugly after one of them, Monu Kumar, picked up a service revolver and opened fire inside the station. The bullet did not hit anyone and hit the floor. "If a policeman is involved in an affair with a colleague, it is his personal matter. There is nothing objectionable or illegal in this. The action has been taken only on negligence and dis-

**SUSPENDED**

ciplinary grounds," the SSP said. Kumar hails from Baghpat district in western Uttar Pradesh and was posted at Baheri police station in December 2019. A woman constable from its neighboring district of Muzaffarnagar had joined the same police station in January this year.

Monu Kumar and the lady constable knew each other for a long time. They were in a relationship for the past one year before they were posted at Baheri station. Another constable Yogesh Chahal made lewd comments about their relationship, which led to a controversy. Among those who were suspended, the in-charge of the armory in the police station, Manoj Kumar is also included, because Monu Kumar picked up the loaded pistol from there and fired it and put it back.

## Performance of Delhi government schools below national average: Union Education Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Coming down to the Delhi government, the Union Education Minister said that the average performance of Delhi government schools is less than the national average. He accused the Kejriwal government of Delhi and said that before coming to power, the Aam Aadmi Party had promised that 500 model schools would be built in Delhi, but an RTI has revealed that only 63 new schools were opened in Delhi in the last 7 years. Went on the other hand, regarding the Punjab government, he said that there is a delay in payment of salaries of government employees in Punjab.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the quality of a school is revealed by the performance of its leader but not a single principal was appointed for government schools in Delhi in the year 2020 and 21. The Union Education Minister says that the Delhi government itself has put this



information on the portal of its education department.

The Union Education Minister said that the Delhi government makes tall claims about education, but the truth is that the enrollment of students in Delhi's schools has

decreased as compared to earlier. Referring to the National Assessment Survey, the Union Education Minister said that the performance of government schools in Delhi is behind the national average.

## THE ROBBER LOOTED MORE THAN 11 LAKH RUPEES BY BLASTING THE ATM

Satara (Maharashtra): A robber sprayed dark paint on a CCTV camera in the state's Satara district in the early hours of Wednesday and then detonated an ATM of Bank of Maharashtra and looted over Rs 11 lakh. The police informed about the matter. The incident took place in Nagathane village at around 2.45 am, when the villagers were sleeping when the robber entered the ATM with a handkerchief and face covered.

To hide his identity, he sprayed some dark color on the CCTV and then used some explosives to detonate one of the two ATM dispensers in the cabin.

An official of the Bargaon police station said that he managed to open one ATM and robbed Rs 11.16 lakh from it, while the other ATM did not suffer much damage. "The explosive is under investigation and prima facie it appears to be gelatin based, but we can say only after a thorough investigation," an official said. Pre-explosion CCTV footage showed that the robber had entered the ATM around 2.30 a.m. and within barely 15 minutes he robbed the money and fled on the scooter.

## Karnataka minister Umesh Katti dies of heart attack

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Minister Umesh Katti died of a heart attack in Bengaluru late Tuesday night. According to family sources, 61-year-old Umesh Katti complained of chest pain and collapsed in the bathroom at his residence in Dollars Colony at 10.30 pm.

He immediately got M.S. Ramaiah was taken to the hospital. However, Umesh Katti succumbed to a heart attack in the hospital. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai immediately reached the hospital as soon as he got the information. Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, who was in Mysore, has also left for Bengaluru.

The minister's body was taken to his native Tilakwadi in Belagavi on Wednesday morning. The body will be kept for public darshan at his residence at Shivbasavagar in Tilakwadi.

Umesh Katti was the senior-most elected representative in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. He entered politics in 1985 after the death of his father Vishwanath Katti.

Umesh Katti had advocated a separate North Karnataka state and also claimed that he would become the chief minister of the



new state.

He did B.S. Yeddyurappa, DV. He also served as a minister in the cabinets during the tenure of the BJP government led by Sadananda Gowda and Jagadish Shettar.

He represented Chikkodi assembly constituency for eight times. He had represented the Janata Party, Janata Dal, Janata Dal and BJP. Umesh Katti also contested elections in 2004 as a candidate of Congress party.



### CONGRESS POLITICS IS CONFINED TO ATTACKING PM, CENTRE: MINISTER RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil quit the Congress and joined the BJP ahead of the 2019 elections. He said Congress was attacking the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government as it was struggling to retain its identity.

Maharashtra Revenue Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil on Wednesday hit out at the Congress, saying that its politics revolved around attacking the Centre, keeping larger party-related and public issues on the back-burner. "Congress politics starts and ends with attacks on the Centre," Vikhe Patil said in Ahmednagar, commenting on the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra. "Congress leaders' sole concern is to keep their own identity. The party is struggling for survival. What is appalling is that Congress' real agenda is



kept on the back-burner and it is not even bothered about taking up public causes," the BJP leader added. In Maharashtra, the Congress compromised its ideology to become part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, Vikhe Patil said. The Congress, he alleged, got secondary treatment in the MVA government, and yet, Congress leaders remained in the alliance with the Shiv

Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party for power. "Congress finds itself on weak ground. To retain its identity, it has to show it is doing something. So, the easiest thing to draw attention is to attack the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government. For each and every thing, they hold the Centre responsible, which is unfortunate," Vikhe Patil observed.

## Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde to visit 12 Ganesh mandals in Pune

Team Absolute | Pune

Shinde's visit will begin from Kasba Ganpati, which is a village deity of Pune, followed by other "honoured" Ganesh mandals - Tulsibaug, Guruji Talim, Tilakwada, Dagdusheth Halwai, Akhil Mandai and so on. Ganesh mandal headed by former mayor Murlidhar Mohol and his supporters is also among the ones to be visited by the chief minister.

The chief minister will call on actor Nana Patekar at his home in the Donje village and offer prayers at the Ganesh idol installed by the actor. Shinde will return by road to Mumbai in the afternoon. Leaders of all political parties have been visiting Ganesh mandals across the city realising the significance of pleasing the mandals which have an influence on the public. Party workers are actively involved in the public celebration of the Ganesh festival



through these mandals. Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadanavis, Shiv Sena

leader and Deputy Chairperson of Maharashtra Legislative Council Nilam Gorhe, state Congress chief Nana Patole have already visited the

Ganesh mandals in the city. Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar is also expected to offer prayers at a Ganesh mandal in Pune.

### Grandson kills woman, son helps him dump pieces of her body

Based on the preliminary investigation, the police arrested Sahil, who had been living with the victim, on August 28 and Sandeep, who lives in a separate house.



Mundhwa police station on August 10, Sahil said his grandmother had been missing since August 5. However, in the last week of August, the victim's daughter Shital Manoj Kamble approached the police alleging the involvement of her brother Sandeep, 42, Sahil's father, and Sahil in the disappearance and possible murder of her mother over a suspected dispute over property. Based on the preliminary investigation, the police arrested Sahil, who had been living with the victim, on August 28 and Sandeep, who lives in a separate house in the same Keshavnagar area, on August 30, on the charges of

abduction and criminal conspiracy towards kidnapping the victim.

During the custodial interrogation of the father and the son and subsequent investigation, it came to light that their family house and gold ornaments were owned by the victim. She had asked her grandson to leave the house multiple times in the past. "The probe has revealed that on August 5, following a fight with his grandmother, Sahil strangled her to death. He later kept her cell phone at a different place to mislead the possible investigation," said inspector Brahmanand Naikawadi, in-charge of Mundhwa police station. According to the police probe, Sahil then bought a chainsaw and chopped his grandmother's body into pieces. His father then helped him transport and dump the body in a jack well and as well as riverbeds in different areas.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court said that the boy had 'positively responded to rehabilitative efforts' and deserved to be released on bail 'so that he can develop himself with full potential'. The Bombay High Court, while holding that a child in conflict with law cannot be denied the right to be reunited with his family if the report of an expert of the observational home stated that he is not a danger to society, recently granted bail to a boy booked in a gang rape of a seven-year-old girl in 2020. The applicant, who was a minor at the time of the incident, recently turned 18. The court referred to provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and observed that the applicant should get benefit of being released on bail despite the Juvenile Justice Board and a special court having rejected his pleas thrice. The bench noted last month that "the applicant is now an adult and his stalled education cannot be discontinued further" and "he



deserves to be reunited and restored with his family" and "same will be in his best interest so that he can develop himself with full potential". A single-judge bench of Justice Bharati H Dange was hearing the bail plea argued through advocate Maharukh Adenwalla seeking the applicant's release on bail under the 2015 law. The applicant was arrested in December 2020, and being a minor,

he had filed a bail plea through his mother. As per prosecution, the girl was gang-raped by five adults and the applicant, and the incident was revealed after the minor narrated the ordeal to her parents. As per the complaint, the accused persons had taken the victim to a secluded area and touched her private parts and threatened her that she should not disclose about the incident. A few days later,

the accused allegedly sexually assaulted her. The lawyer argued that on the date on which the alleged offence was committed in 2020, the applicant was 16 years and five months' old and he belonged to a lower middle class socio-economic background. The applicant said he had passed Class 10 but could not pursue his education due to his mother's illness, family's financial difficulties, and later due to his detention in an observational home. Adenwalla referred to the January 2021 reports of the probation officer and child guidance clinic about the applicant's present psychological and physical status that said he is not a danger to society, and recommended opportunity to the applicant to become a "better person". Adenwalla said his continued detention in the observational home was unnecessary, adding that the applicant was falsely implicated in the case on the basis of a statement by his paternal uncle, with whom his family is at loggerheads, and the victim had failed to properly identify the applicant.

### Saamana editorial supports Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra, slams BJP for criticising initiative

In an editorial, Shiv Sena extended its support to the Congress's outreach programme and took a dig at BJP.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena, through its mouthpiece Saamana, Wednesday lashed out at its friend-turned-foe BJP for criticising and ridiculing Congress party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi which commenced Wednesday from Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. In an editorial, Shiv Sena extended its support to the Congress's outreach programme and took a dig at BJP. It added that BJP's criticism shows that the ruling party in the Centre is "till scared of Congress", a party which is said to have been weakened and shattered. The editorial further stated, "As soon as the Congress party announced the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the leaders and spokespersons of the BJP started



criticising it. This simply means that BJP is still afraid of Congress. If it were not so, there would be no need

to take notice of the so-called "desperate, disappointed and weakened Congress Yatra". It added, "It is clear

that difficulties will increase if the Congress rises again. They are scared thinking what if Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi succeed in gaining public support? It is due to this fear that a personal criticism of 'Bharat Jodo' is on. This does not suit the largest political party in the country." The editorial also appealed to the people to keep aside political differences and support the yatra.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra of Congress will start from Kanyakumari under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and will culminate in Kashmir after covering a distance of 3,570 km from South to North India. Congress has also coined a slogan for the yatra - 'Mile Kadam Jude Watan' - which loosely translates into the idea of uniting the country.

### Moderate to heavy rainfall expected in Mumbai till mid-September

According to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Mumbai is expected to receive moderate rainfall on September 7, and heavy rainfall at isolated places on September 9 and 10.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

It is likely to receive moderate to heavy rainfall between September 8 and 12, with a wet spell in the city on September 9, 10 and 11, which is likely to bring a cumulative 200 mm of rainfall in Mumbai, according to Skymet Weather Services, a private weather forecasting company. A cyclonic circulation and a low pressure area/depression is likely to come up over central parts of

Bay of Bengal. "This weather feature will reach the east coast on September 8, with an east-west oriented trough extending across Maharashtra up to Mumbai," Skymet said in a statement on Wednesday. According to an India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast, Mumbai is expected to receive moderate rainfall on September 7, and heavy rainfall at isolated places on September 9 and 10. "There are chances of light to moderate rain on September 8, 9, and 10. By the

evening of September 10, rain activity may increase in the city. There will be short intensive spells on September 11 and 12," Mahesh Palawat, vice-president (climate change and meteorology), Skymet Weather, said. "Basically, heavy rains will continue on and off till September 13, but since it is on and off throughout the day, there will be less chances of extreme discomfort to commuters," Palawat added. Rainfall is likely to clear out by mid-month over Mumbai.

### BMC begins free diabetes testing at Sion Hospital

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has undertaken the initiative to gauge the health parameters of the city's population and plans to open similar centres at other civic hospitals too.



Municipal Corporation (BMC) has undertaken the initiative to gauge the health parameters of the city's population and plans to open similar centres at other civic hospitals too. "This is being done for the first time where outsiders can voluntarily undergo a test for diabetes. We are also inviting patients and their kin who visit the hospital to take the tests," said Dr Mohan Joshi, dean of Sion

Hospital. The NCD corner at Sion Hospital began functioning in August. The hospital is near Dharavi, Asia's biggest slum, which has a high prevalence of diabetes. "So, slum dwellers who cannot afford expensive tests can just come to the NCD centre and take the test," Dr Joshi added. The BMC now plans to open a similar centre at KEM Hospital, the biggest civic-run hospital in Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Citizens of Mumbai can now get tested for diabetes, for free, at the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) corner at the Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital or Sion Hospital. The Brihanmumbai

### VoltUp to open 500 battery-swapping stations in deal with Adani, Hero and Zomato

THIS IS THE FIRST SMART, ELECTRIC MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP IN INDIA BETWEEN A BATTERY-SWAPPING STARTUP AND INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER AND LAST-MILE PARTNERS.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Battery-swapping startup VoltUp announced a partnership on Wednesday with Adani Electricity, Hero Electric and Zomato to open 500 electric mobility stations across Mumbai by 2024, catering to over 30,000 riders daily.

Starting with 120 docks in 10 locations between Goregaon and Borivali, the partnership plans to add 50 locations by year-end to cover the western line from Churchgate to Mira-Bhayandar. This is the first smart mobility partnership in India

between a battery-swapping startup and infrastructure, original equipment manufacturer and last-mile partners. The BJP has been ridiculing and criticising the yatra by saying that a 'Congress Jodo' yatra would do better for the party. The BJP also claimed

the yatra "is for the siblings" (Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi) and no one else will join it. The Saamana editorial further read, "The BJP is saying that the tour is to save the Gandhi family. If the Congress or any other political party has planned an outreach programme for national unity, no one should spoil it. Such programmes are now a must for national unity. There is no reason to criticise Congress's national tour." Inadequate charging infrastructure and electric vehicles' high prices and long charging time have been the major hurdles to the adoption of electric mobility in the country. VoltUp, Adani Electricity, Hero Electric and Zomato have come together to scale up infrastructure by bridging the gaps, the startup said. VoltUp will now be able to provide instant energy to Zomato delivery agents, for whom charging their two-wheeler batteries proves to be challenging.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Why rural tourism is beneficial for India?

As the travel revolution continues to unfold, the benefits of tourism are spreading further across India and empowering locals to earn a living and make ends meet, a new analysis reveals. With people continuing to embrace flexible new approaches to travel and living, communities that have traditionally missed out in the past are increasingly well-positioned to secure a bigger slice of the tourism pie, according to a new Airbnb report Further afield: Spreading the benefits of the travel revolution. That's presenting fresh opportunities for locals looking for new ways to supplement their income as they grapple with rising costs of living. In India, the non-urban nights booked have increased by about 140 per cent when comparing the second quarter of 2022 with the pre-pandemic second quarter of 2019. Internal Airbnb data comparing Q2 2022 with pre-pandemic Q2 2019, shows that a number of destinations outside major cities have seen considerable growth in searches. In India, Haldwani, Uttarakhand recorded a growth of about 330 percent during this period, Jibhi, Himachal Pradesh showed more than 270 percent growth followed by more than 240 percent growth in both Bir, Himachal Pradesh, and Varkala, Kerala. The typical non-urban Host earnings in India grew by almost 40 percent in the second quarter of 2022 when compared to the same period in 2019. On Airbnb, non-urban nights booked for long-term stays (28 days-plus) in India where more than double when comparing the second quarter of 2022 with the pre-pandemic second quarter of 2019. Many people across India are turning to host as a way to harness the travel revolution in a way that directly benefits them and their families. Through hosting, they're working to secure their financial independence and make a tangible economic contribution to their local community.

WILL FARMERS DECIDE 2022 LS ELECTIONS, KCR OFFERS FREE WATER AND POWER?



Vinod Kumar Shukla

Issues related to farmers that have become Achilles' heel for the Modi government have certainly some quick fix solutions to the level of satisfaction with Telangana chief minister K Chandrababu Naidu (KCR) when he promises to provide free power and water to farmers across the country, if a non-BJP government comes to power at the Centre after the 2024 Lok Sabha hustings. On the other hand and contrary to the promises made by the NDA government to double the income of farmers by 2022, the central government was forced to eat humble pie by withdrawing three farm laws after a year-long farmers' protest while KCR has been delivering goods in the state.

India which still has around 65 per cent of its population dependent on agriculture and the sector being one of the biggest contributors in the country's GDP, experts have been of the view that the country was able to withstand the Corona crisis because India is a predominantly agriculture-based economy. So the focus of KCR on the agriculture sector and farmers seems to be a wise move. When he promises to give free electricity and

power to farmers, he has a ready reckoner with him. He claims that the BJP government sold off properties worth Rs 12 lakh crore while expenditure on free electricity and water to farmers would cost around Rs 1.45 lakh crore which the country will be able to bear easily. But the important thing is that this will augment the income of farmers which are otherwise forced to live a life of penury. Farmers' suicides across the country are testimony to the fact.

But amid all these discussions what KCR is saying is not just a hollow promise but he walks the talk. The Telangana CM is already delivering what he is promising at all India level. An irrigation deficient region like Telangana needed a visionary project and the CM has come up with the Kaleshwaram irrigation project. The Rs 1 lakh crore worth project is the costliest irrigation project of the country which has metamorphosed the agriculture sector of the state. It has changed the fate of farmers and the state as well. Punjab is the state with highest agricultural produce in the country. Telangana came into existence in 2014 but it is now the second highest agriculture producing state in the country due to the policies

implemented by the state government. This Kaleshwaram irrigation project was conceived and implemented by the Telangana CM in less than five years' period.

Every farmer needs initial investment for production activities which is certainly very high. Understanding their requirement, the Telangana government decided to provide Rs 10,000 per acre per farmer per year for purchasing seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, labour services and other expenditure to sow the crop. They are continuously being provided the amount. Rs 10,000 per acre per farmer is transferred straight away to their accounts. So far the state government has disbursed Rs 50,000 crore to farmers. The state government will disburse Rs 14,000 crore under this scheme in the current financial year and thus total disbursement into farmers account by March 31, 2023 will reach approximately to Rs 64,000 crore. This has not only helped them to sow their crop on time to get maximum produce but rid them of debt for money lenders.

Farmers are the only community that doesn't have any institutional social security. So the Telangana government launched a scheme

called Rythu Bina with the objective of providing Farmers Group Life Insurance Scheme. It is an attempt to provide financial relief and social security to the family members in case of loss of life of a farmer. Farmers in the age group of 18 to 59 years are eligible for the enrolment under this scheme whose entire premium is paid by the Telangana government to the Life Insurance Corporation of India. In case of the death of the enrolled farmer, due to any cause whether natural or otherwise, an amount of Rs 10 lakh is deposited into the designated account of the nominee within ten days of the demise of the said farmer. This scheme has a tremendous impact on bereaved families for sustenance.

Recently over 100 farmers' organisations from 26 states participated in a two-day programme in which KCR appealed to them to join politics to help solve their own problems. In a democratic country, there is a democratic process to solve any problem. Protest should be organised if need be. In a democracy, voters are the king but they failed to realise their strength. This is absolutely incorrect to have this notion that it is wrong to be in politics. Farmers participating in the programme must reach to their areas, organise meetings with their people, discuss their problem; prepare a national level programme, discuss the matter with scientists, economists, journalists and intellectuals and deliberate with them. A blueprint must be prepared to discuss the problem of farmers in the meeting and deliberate upon their solutions. KCR also talked about a training programme for farmers like every other sector in the country. The farming community must use the power of their votes against the people who are planning to hand over agriculture to industrial-

ists. He is of the firm view that solutions to their problem lies with them and he is with them to assist wherever he is required. A new kind of politics is unveiled.

If the leadership of the state is concerned about farmers not getting enough water to irrigate their land, it is also concerned about the floods in certain areas. The Chief Minister announced that Rs 1,000 crore will be allocated for the permanent solution to all the flood problems in Bhadrachalam area including the construction of residential colonies on a permanent basis for the development of embankment around Bhadrachalam Seetharamula Devasthanam, repair of embankment towards Burgampadu and permanent solution to all flood problems. He assured the people of the flood-affected areas that there is nothing to fear and that the government will take all necessary measures for their protection.

KCR has decided to build colonies for the flood affected people on a permanent basis. He directed concerned authorities to identify suitable places in flood-proof high places, collect complete information about the victims and take up construction projects. The NDA ruled Bihar failed to come up with any solutions for floods in Bihar. The healing touch by the government policies which he implemented in Telangana, now the CM wants to benefit farmers across the country. He feels this is possible when a "non-BJP flag" would unfurl in the country after the next general elections, by bringing the Opposition to power. He is meeting with leaders of the country with his tested delivery mechanism. There are many to unfold in the days to come to challenge the government at the Centre.

international

HILLARY CLINTON SAYS SHE WILL NOT RUN FOR US PRESIDENT IN 2024

Ms Clinton was speaking at a news channel, where she was asked by the anchor if the leader would ever run for President again.



Clinton, "What if Donald Trump runs again?" The former US Secretary of

Washington | Agencies

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Tuesday said that she will not be running for President again, following her two failed bids in 2008 and 2016. Ms Clinton was speaking at a news channel, where she was asked by the anchor if the leader would ever run for President again. "No, no," she said, as quoted by The Hill. "But I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that we have a President who respects our democracy and the rule of law and upholds our institutions," she added. The anchor further asked Hillary

State responded that Mr Trump would not fit into that category and that "he should be soundly defeated" if he runs again. Hillary Clinton was defeated by Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. During the 2016 election cycle, Ms Clinton was plagued in scandal following the revelation that she had a private email server while serving as Secretary of State during the Barack Obama administration, prompting a lengthy FBI probe, News reported. Donald Trump has been teasing another run for President in 2024, and according to The Hill, polls show that he has a good shot of clinching the Republican nomination. Ms Clinton has said that she would endorse President Biden if he runs for reelection the same year. "Joe Biden beat Donald Trump in a huge, landslide victory in the popular vote. I think that says a lot," Ms Clinton had said on television in late June, The Hill reported.

UK'S LIZ TRUSS DIALS UKRAINE'S ZELENSKY IN 1ST CALL WITH FOREIGN LEADER

London: Britain's new Prime Minister Liz Truss on Tuesday pledged her full backing to Ukraine in a call to President Volodymyr Zelensky, shortly after taking office. "In her first call with a counterpart since becoming Prime Minister, she reiterated to the Ukrainian leader that he had her full backing, and Ukraine could depend on the UK's assistance for the long term," a spokeswoman said. They also discussed "the need to strengthen global security and the measures necessary to cut off the funds fuelling (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's war machine," the spokeswoman said. "The leaders deplored Putin's attempts to weaponise energy, and the Prime Minister said it was vital Russia's blackmail did not deter the West from ensuring Putin fails." Britain has been a staunch ally of Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion on February 24. London has funnelled military hardware, funding and training resources to Kyiv's embattled forces, now waging battles in the nation's south and east.

Putin Denies Using Energy As "Weapon", After Halting Gas Delivery To Europe

MOSCOW | Agencies



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday denied that Moscow was using energy as a "weapon", days after Russia halted natural gas deliveries via a key pipeline to Europe. "They say that Russia uses energy as a weapon. More nonsense! What weapon do we use? We supply as much as required according to requests" from importers, Putin told the Eastern Economic Forum in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok. Russian gas giant Gazprom said Friday that the Nord Stream pipeline due to reopen at the weekend after three days of maintenance would remain shut for repairs. The Kremlin says sanctions have blocked the return of a Siemens turbine that had been undergoing repairs in Canada. "Give as a turbine, we will turn Nord Stream on tomorrow, Putin said. "We are ready to do this tomorrow, just need to press a button. But we were not

the ones who introduced sanctions," Putin added. Speaking about the possibility of a price cap on Russian natural gas, Putin said it was "another stupidity" and "another non-market solution with no prospects". "If European countries want to give up their competitive advantages, that's up to them," Putin said, adding that Russia is ready to cooperate with "any country". Following the imposition of economic sanctions over the Kremlin's offensive of Ukraine, Russia has reduced or halted supplies to different European nations, causing energy prices to soar.

NASA'S JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE CAPTURES "GIANT SPACE TARANTULA" IN STUNNING NEW IMAGE

United Nation | Agencies

Resembling a burrowing tarantula's home line with its silk, the Tarantula Nebula houses the hottest and most massive stars known to astronomers, NASA explained.

A "giant space tarantula" has been caught by NASA's powerful James Webb Telescope. At 161,000 light years away from Earth in the Large Magellanic Cloud galaxy, the Tarantula Nebula is the nickname for 30 Doradus - the largest and brightest star-forming region in the Local Group, the galaxies nearest our Milky Way, according to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"Take a moment to stare into the thousands of never-before-seen young stars in the Tarantula Nebula, reveals details of the structure and composition of the nebula, as well as dozens of background galaxies," the US space agency wrote on Instagram while sharing a mesmerising image of the "space tarantula".

23 Killed, 11 Injured In Vietnam Karaoke Bar Fire

BERLIN | Agencies

The blaze engulfed the second and third floors of the four-storey building on Tuesday night, trapping customers and staff members as dense smoke filled the staircase, state media reported. Hanoi: The death count from a fire that tore through a karaoke bar in southern Vietnam has risen to 23, an official said Wednesday. The blaze engulfed the second floor of the building on Tuesday night, trapping customers and staff as dense smoke filled the staircase and blocked the emergency exit, reports said. Many crowded onto a balcony to escape the flames, which grew quickly as they caught the wooden interior, while others were forced to jump from the building, state media added. Photos showed plumes of smoke billowing out of the bar -- located in a crowded residential neighbourhood in Thuan An city, north of commercial hub Ho Chi Minh City in Binh Duong province -- as firefighters on cranes tried to extinguish the blaze. "We are still searching for more victims but the death count so far is 23, and 11 people injured," Mai Hung Dung, a top official with the ruling Communist Party in Binh Duong, told AFP. Authorities had previ-



ously put the death count at 12. The initial cause of the fire was said to be an electrical short circuit, state media reported, citing a report by Binh Duong authorities. Witness Nguyen Sang, who lives near the karaoke bar, told the news site that when fire trucks arrived at the scene, a receptionist said there were 40 people stuck inside. "Many people ran outside through the main entrance, but many others could not stand the heat and they jumped down, breaking their hands and legs," Sang said. Rescue workers searched through the night for anyone trapped in the 30-room bar, according to state media. Police said the karaoke bar's fire prevention regulations had been checked prior to the blaze, it added. In what was previously Vietnam's deadliest fire, 13 people died in a 2018 blaze in an apartment complex in Ho Chi Minh City. In 2016, a blaze in a karaoke bar in the capital Hanoi left 13 people dead, prompting a country-wide assessment of fire prevention measures at bars and clubs. Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on Wednesday ordered a further inspection of high-risk venues, especially karaoke bars. Last month, three firefighters died after trying to extinguish a fire at another karaoke bar in Hanoi.

Israel Unveils 2,700-Year-Old "Extremely Rare" Iron Age Papyrus Note

Jerusalem | Agencies

Israel's Antiquities Authority displayed Wednesday a rare papyrus note in ancient Hebrew dating back 2,700 years, recently brought back to Jerusalem after its chance discovery in the United States. The letter fragment, written in the Palaeo-Hebrew used during the First Temple era, constitutes four lines beginning "To Ishmael send", with the rest of the words incomplete. "We don't know exactly what was being sent and to where," said Joe Uziel, director of the antiquities authority's Judeaan Desert scrolls unit. In the Iron Age, Hebrews used clay fragments to scrawl short notes and animal hide for scriptures, with papyrus reserved for official correspondence, said Eitan Klein, deputy director of the authority's antiquities theft prevention unit. Papyri were left in the dry climate of the Judeaan desert could have survived the ages, but there were only two other papyri from the First Temple era known to researchers before the latest discovery, Klein said. "This papyrus is unique, extremely rare," he said. Its serendipitous journey to the Israel Antiquities Authority's conservation laboratory



began when Shmuel Ahituv, one of Israel's top ancient Near East scholars, was tasked in 2018 with completing the work on a book about ancient Hebrew script by the recently dead Ada Yardeni. Ahituv was surprised to see in the book's draft a picture of the "To Ishmael" papyrus, which he had not been familiar with. He contacted Klein, and with the help of Yardeni's daughter, managed to locate the US academic who had connected Yardeni to the owner of the fragment -- a man in Montana. The owner

had inherited the papyrus from his late mother, who in 1965 purchased or received it as a gift from Joseph Saad, curator of the then Palestine Archaeological Museum. Saad had obtained it from legendary Bethlehem antiquities dealer Halil Iskander Kandu, who Klein said had most likely bought it from Bedouin who found it in a Judeaan Desert cave. Back in the United States, the woman had framed the papyrus below a picture of Saad and Kandu, and hung it in her home.



## RELEVANCE OF LIFE LIES IN THE HARMONY BETWEEN MATERIALISM AND SPIRITUALISM: GOVERNOR

### Governor Mangubhai Patel attended the convocation ceremony of Barkatullah University in state capital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the meaning of life lies in the harmony of spiritualism with materialism. He told the students that if you spend your whole life in mobilizing resources, you will become a means yourself. The meaning of life is in living life by considering materialism as the means and spirituality as the end.

Governor Patel was virtually addressing the convocation ceremony of Barkatullah University, Bhopal from Raj Bhavan. On the occasion of convocation, 74 scholars were awarded Ph. D. degrees, 94 post-graduate degrees and 27 students were awarded gold medals.

Governor Patel said that the brilliance of the knowledge of education, which has been obtained by the scholar students, should be used to spread light in the dark life of the deprived and backward classes. He also urged the teachers to inspire the students to participate in the social concerns with their own example, accept the responsibility of the underprivileged and find solutions to



the challenges. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given an opportunity in the form of National Education Policy to enable the students to successfully face the challenges of the 21st century by nurturing their original talents. For the success of the policy, it is necessary that the teachers should constantly update and strengthen themselves according to the new circumstances and environment. Make efforts to bridge the gap in access to the education, participation and learning levels of different classes. Get the research work done keeping in mind the current needs. Encourage origi-

nal thinking, innovative, socially beneficial and problem-oriented research work. Get the dissertation uploaded on the website. Funding for research should be obtained from industrial institutions and the corporate world.

Governor told the students that convocation is such an important stage in the life of an educated person, from where the attainment of knowledge is accomplished under the guidance of teachers in a safe environment of the campus. At the same time, a new era of struggle with the realities of life begins. After today life experiences will be teacher and

ground truths will be education. Taking lessons from them, one has to move forward in life.

Madhya Pradesh is leading in the implementation of National Education Policy - Minister Shri Yadav Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that as much as education is important in life, diksha (initiation) is equally important. Diksha makes a person cultured and gives a sense of the direction to life. Expressing his gratitude to Governor Mangubhai Patel, he said that Governor Mangubhai Patel has given special emphasis on organising the convocation every year. Joining online despite not being able to be physically present is a sign of his deep dedication towards the convocation programmes. He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan, the state is leading in the implementation of the National Education Policy. He said that since ancient times India has guided the path of welfare of humanity through education. The Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi is an opportunity to get determined to achieve the same glory of India.

## CM Chouhan plants saplings with social workers and citizens



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in Smart City Garden along with the members of Uddeshya Yuva Samajik evam Jan Kalyan Samiti. CM planted saplings

of Neem, Saptaparni and Kachnar. The Samiti is motivating people for cleanliness and plantation along with social welfare works.

Importance of plants The Kachnar planted today is a beautiful flowering tree. Abounding in antibiotic ele-

ments, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Saptaparni plant is an ever-green medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. It is used in the manufacture of various medicines.

## Ranbir and Alia did not go to see Mahakal themselves: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Film actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt had to return from Ujjain without a darshan of Baba Mahakal, as both of them did not consider it appropriate to visit the temple due to the opposition of Bajrang Dal. It has been said from the government that both the actors did not go to visit themselves, while all the arrangements were made by the administration.

Film actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt had come to Ujjain to seek the blessings of Baba Mahakal for the success of their film Brahmastra, along with film director Ayan Mukerji. Before reaching Ujjain, the trio had also shared a video of themselves on social media in which they talked about coming to Ujjain. After receiving the news of Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt coming to Ujjain, activists of Bajrang Dal and Hinduist organization took to



the road to protest against their temple entry. The people of Bajrang Dal were angry over an alleged statement of Ranbir Kapoor. In this alleged statement of Ranbir Kapoor, it was said that he likes beef.

Due to the protest of Bajrang Dal, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Ayan did not go to the temple, instead they directly reached the residence of Collector Ashish Singh. Later Ayan Mukerji and others reached the temple and saw Baba Mahakal, but Ranbir and Alia did not go to visit, it is being said that Alia is pregnant and they did

not come to visit to avoid any kind of push.

There has been a clarification from the government on this matter and the state Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra has said that the Ujjain administration had arranged for film actor Ranbir Kapoor and actress Alia Bhatt's visit to Mahakal Baba, but despite the administration's request, Ranbir and Alia herself did not go for darshan. Regarding Ranbir Kapoor's statement, he said, by the way, artists should not use words that hurt the sentiments of people.

## MP Cong to organise prayer in support of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh Congress will organise a 'Sarvadharm Prarthana Sabha' at Bhopal's New Market area to extend support to the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

On this occasion, Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) general secretary Rajiv Singh appealed to the party leader and workers to assemble in the area for the 'prarthana sabha (prayers meet)'. Dignitaries associated with all religions have also been invited to participate in the meet at 4.30 p.m.

During the prayer meet, the MPCC has set up a big screen for the live telecast of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Besides, various programmes have been prepared for this occasion at the party's district offices across the state, Rajiv Singh told reporter.

With an eye on the 2024 general elections, Congress MP Rahul



Gandhi will launch the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from

Kanyakumari this evening. The 3,500 kilometre-long-yatra will be

covered in nearly 150 days.

Earlier in the day, Rahul Gandhi paid tribute at the memorial of his late father Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur, where the former Prime Minister was killed in a suicide attack on May 21, 1991.

After visiting his father's memorial, Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "I lost my father to the politics of hate and division. I will not lose my beloved country to it too. Love will conquer hate. Hope will defeat fear. Together, we will overcome."

Gandhi will attend an event at Kanyakumari's Mahatma Gandhi Mandapam in the evening where Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will hand over the national flag to him for the yatra launch.

The 3,500 kilometre-long-yatra, dubbed by the Congress as the "longest march" organised in the country over the last century, will be launched at around 5 p.m. with a rally, and the 'padyatra' or foot march will begin from Thursday morning.

## Autos will run with colour code, CNG autos will be given priority in permit : Transport Minister

NEW POLICY LAID DOWN FOR AUTO RICKSHAW. PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED FOR 5 YEARS



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Transport and Revenue Minister Govind Singh Rajput has informed that now all types of autos will be operated according to the colour code in the state. This colour code will be determined according to the permit of that area. He said that separate permits would be issued for urban and non-urban areas. Colour coding will be done in auto rickshaws on the basis of permit. Electric

and CNG auto rickshaws will have yellow hood and green body and petrol and diesel powered auto rickshaws will have yellow hood and black body. Whereas yellow hood and red body has been prescribed for auto rickshaws operating in areas other than the city. Permit will be cancelled if more than 3 passengers are seated in auto rickshaw.

Transport Minister Rajput said that priority will be given in granting permits to CNG auto rick-

shaws to protect the environment and curb the consumption of diesel and petrol. The temporary permit will be valid for only 4 months, while the permanent permit will be issued for 5 years. Permits will be provided to vehicles with a seating capacity of up to 3 passengers in auto rickshaws. Transport Minister Rajput informed that the Collector will be able to restrict the areas and routes for the operation of e-rickshaws on the basis of urban population.

## PUNJAB POLICE CAUGHT ARMS MANUFACTURER FROM KHARGONE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal: Punjab Police has arrested an arms maker from Madhya Pradesh and recovered several weapons including 24 pistols from his possession. Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav gave this information on Wednesday. The arrested person has been identified as Sonu Singh of Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh, who was running an arms manufacturing factory and illegally supplying to other states.

Police have recovered 24 pistols, one revolver and 25 other weapons from his possession, taking the total seizure of weapons to 80. Police on Friday arrested two persons - Bhorelal alias Manish Bade and Kailash Mal Singh - who were involved in large-scale supply of illegal arms to Punjab as well as other states. Both are residents of Madhya Pradesh.

The DGP said that this action has been taken based on the interrogation of Bhorelal and Kailash Mal.

## Aadhaar Card has given a new identity to the people: Principal Secretary

### Workshop on 'Recent Initiatives to Simplify Use of Aadhaar'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Principal Secretary, Food and Transport, Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, has said that the Aadhaar card has helped to establish the identity of every citizen of the country. Kidwai was addressing the State Level Workshop on 'Recent Initiatives to Simplify Use of Aadhaar' by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) at the Academy of Administration. He said that Aadhaar also gave identity to individuals who did not have anything to identify themselves. He said that sharing of best practices and recent initiatives taken by UIDAI is one of the important features of this workshop. He said that



'Aadhaar' has become incredibly strong. He said that more than 313 DBT welfare schemes are using the Aadhaar platform for targeted distribution of benefits and subsidies to beneficiaries and the estimated savings is Rs.2.22 lakh crore. The two

sessions of the workshop deliberated on the latest authentication features added to the Aadhaar ecosystem, cases of innovative use of Aadhaar and best practices implemented in Madhya Pradesh, data privacy and information security, Direct

Benefit Transfer and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System. Along with this, the details of m-Aadhaar App, Aadhaar Online Services, Aadhaar Enrollment and Updation Services to make a smooth experience for the residents were also explained in detail. ITS, Deputy Director General, UIDAI Sanjay Kumar Sohni, pointed out that Aadhaar has become the core of India's digital public infrastructure. It has bridged the digital divide, enabled e-KYC services, provided doorstep banking service through mobile and provided the facility of direct cash transfer to the bank accounts of needy and eligible beneficiaries of various welfare schemes of the government.

## Child went to watch Ganesh festival dies due to electrocution

### Seven-year-old Mohit Kumar, who had gone out to watch the Ganesh festival in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, died due to electrocution.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

This incident happened on Tuesday night. According to the information received, Ganesh festival was going on behind the office of ward number 29 Nehru Nagar, where seven-year-old Mohit was found in an unconscious condition.

People took him to the hospital for treatment but by then he had died.

Local people say that the wire of the earth has come out from the electric pole and it got electrocuted and that child died.

It is said that Mohit was a student of class IV and was the only son in his family. His father does his personal

work and mother is a domestic lady.

He had gone out to see the tableau and there is also an electric pole at the entrance of the park of the place where the Ganesh idol is kept, where there is a possibility that the child got electrocuted due to the wire of the Athirang.

## SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN SHOULD RESIGN: CONGRESS ON RATION DISTRIBUTION SCAM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan should resign, the Congress has demanded, citing an alleged scam in ration distribution. "It is a scam of at least Rs 2,000 crore," said former minister and senior Congress leader Jeetu Patwari.

"There should be an inquiry by a High Court judge or an independent agency. But no such thing is possible if CM Chouhan remains in his post," he added.

The BJP government today contested the very basis. "It was only a draft report. The Women and Child

Development Department will give a timely reply to it. The draft is not the final report," state minister Vishwas Sarang said.

The 36-page report found large-scale fraud, fake beneficiaries, and irregularities in production, distribution and quality control in the ambitious free food scheme for school children. All this comes at the risk of leaving children under-nourished and costing taxpayers crores of rupees.

"The Women and Child Department said it distributed 4.05 metric tonnes of ration till 2021 while spending Rs 2,393.21 crore on 1.35 crore beneficiaries. But trucks

claimed to be transporting ration were not trucks and their registration numbers were found to be of motorcycles, cars, autos and other small vehicles," Congress's Jeetu Patwari cited.

But the government has said "clerical errors" were the reason for bikes being "mistaken" for trucks. Minister Vishwas Sarang said, "We collected information from one of the plants in Baadi and found that THR (take-home ration) was transported through 1,734 trucks. The AG initially objected to use of 34 vehicles by saying the numbers were not of trucks. We found that all 34 numbers had difference of only one

number due to clerical error. All numbers, minus that error, were actually of trucks. In a document, wrong number was entered."

On discrepancy in the number of beneficiaries he said surveys over the years found that the number of eligible adolescent girls under the scheme had reduced from 2.6 lakh in 2018-19 to 1.28 lakh in 2020-21. "In 2021, only 15,000 remained," he said.

Chief Minister Chouhan, who was recently in the news over being removed from the BJP's top decision-making panel, has not responded to these demands for his resignation.



Los Angeles | Agencies

They tied the knot over the weekend after getting engaged last October following nine years together. And Happy Mondays star Bez was the picture of happiness as he married his partner Firouzeh Razavi in an intimate ceremony at Kentchurch Court in Herefordshire on Saturday. Newly released photographs from the special day show the musician, 58, and his personal trainer bride, 34, exchanging their vows in a church surrounded by their loved ones. The newlyweds could then be seen partying

BEZ CUTS WAS IN 'PIMP HAT' AS HE KISSES HIS BRIDE FIROUZEH RAZAVI



the night away with their friends at their reception, which took place in a field near their historic wedding venue.

Their fun-filled Persian ceremony, to honour his new wife's heritage, included 'a free bar' and 'Game Of Thrones-inspired rituals'.

In the snaps, Bez cut a dapper figure in a crisp white three-piece suit, which featured a waistcoat with a gold trim, a dusty blue tie and a smart jacket and trousers.

Bez, whose full name is Mark Berry, completed his wedding attire with a large 'pimp' top hat and flashed a huge smile as he celebrated his special day.

Meanwhile, Firouzeh looked every inch the bride in a fairytale white off-the-shoulder gown with a silver beaded corset and an extravagant ballgown skirt.

She styled her dark tresses in a half-up half-down style with her locks fixed in place with a white veil and a glitzy silver tiara.

Speaking to the publication, Bez said: 'I still love a good party and I put a lot of effort into organising this wedding with her.'

'My suit was made for me by a friend and it looked cool as f\*\*k. I looked like some mother\*\*\*\*g pimp.'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Former One Direction member and actor Harry Styles says he doesn't know what he is doing in the acting industry. Despite playing a lead role in the new movie 'Don't Worry Darling', the pop superstar confesses that he feels out of his comfort zone as an actor. "Music I've done a lot longer so I'm a bit more comfortable. What I like about acting is I feel like I have no idea what I'm doing," he told reporters at the Venice Film Festival. The 'As It Was' singer explained that he considers music and acting to be "opposite in a lot of ways", but he embraces the "fun" sense of the unknown that comes with both professions. Harry, 28, said, "making music is a really personal thing".

"There are aspects of acting where you're drawing from experiences a bit, but for the most part you're pretending to play someone else. That's what I find the most interesting about it. They can aid each other in a way. "Any time you get to view the world through a different lens, it can help to create whichever way it goes. I find it really different. I think the fun part is that you never know what you're doing in either one of them," he adds. Harry shared that he plans to combine both music and acting going forward. "I feel very lucky I get to do something I love as a job. I feel like being able to explore this has made me feel even luckier I get to do two things I really enjoy. "In terms of the future... I enjoy both. It's all fun to play in both worlds and see how they affect each other," the popstar concludes.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has unveiled that she hates being asked for favours. She shared that she has "a problem saying no to people."

The 41-year-old star said: "I do have a problem saying no to people, so I hate when people ask me for things. It's like, 'Hey, will you do this work thing, it'll just be two seconds.' And I'm like, 'It's not that easy.' "I'm coming from Calabasas, which is an hour each way. It takes about two hours in glam, so if someone asks me to do a five-minute cameo, it's never just that. But, all my friends and family, no one ever really asks me for anything or needs anything. We're all just cool."

Kim has enjoyed huge success during her career, and she has massive following on social media, too. However, the 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star still struggles with her self-confidence. She told Interview magazine: "It's so weird. I have a problem being super confident. I've always been more self-deprecating, and I get shy when it comes to, 'Describe yourself. Talk about yourself.' Things like that."

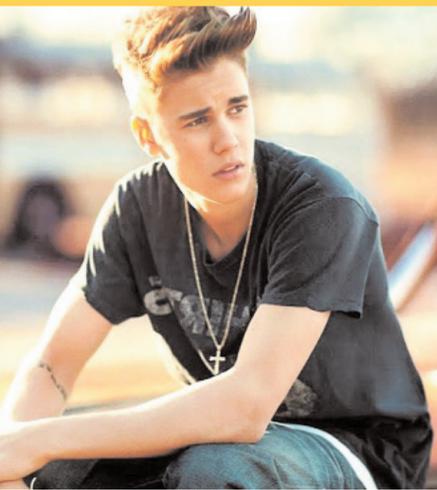
Kim was married to Kanye between 2014 and 2022, and she admits that their relationship helped to transform how she's perceived.

The reality TV star, who split from comedian Pete Davidson earlier this year, said: "I mean, when I was with Kanye, and he was introducing me to a lot of people, I think that definitely got a lot of people to have a different level of respect."

"I've also seen a s\*\*t more recently - going to law school, just doing what I want and becoming my own person and people seeing that and respecting that. There's levels to it."

I really struggle to say 'no' to people: Kim Kardashian

Justin Bieber cancels 'Justice' World Tour to focus on his health



Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Justin Bieber has officially canceled the remainder of his 'Justice' world tour. When sharing the announcement via Instagram Story on September 6, the 'Peaches' crooner revealed that he had to make the decision to focus on his health. "Earlier this year, I went public about my battle with Ramsay-Hunt Syndrome, where my face was partially paralysed," the 28-year-old began his statement. "As the result of this illness, I was not able to complete the North American leg of the Justice Tour. "After resting and consulting with my doctors, family and team, I went to Europe in an effort to continue with the tour. I performed six live shows, but it took a real toll on me," the Canadian star continued. "This past weekend, I performed at Rock in Rio and I gave everything I have to the people in Brazil." Justin went on to recall: "After getting off the stage, the exhaustion overtook me, and I realized that I need to make my health the priority right now. "So I'm going to take a break from touring for the time being." Justin was supposed to perform across Europe and Australia over the rest of 2022 with his gigs scheduled to wrap up in spring 2023. He initially postponed 14 shows after being stricken with Ramsay Hunt syndrome.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Lawrence is still learning to deal with issues from her childhood. While acknowledging that her mother is a "wonderful person", the 32-year-old actress is still trying to resolve some of her past problems. "Art more often than not is about one's mother. I hesitate to say that because I would hate for somebody to go back and watch my movies, or watch this movie in particular, and think that that is the way that I'm painting my mother," she said. "My mother is a wonderful person," said Lawrence, who stars in the new psychological drama film 'Causeway'.

"But that doesn't mean that there aren't still things from my childhood that I'm working out."

However, her perspective has changed entirely since she became a mom. The Hollywood star, who gave birth to a baby boy called Cy in February, told the October issue of Vogue magazine: "So many of my films in the past have been about my mother, my childhood. I wonder what will happen now that I'll be witnessing somebody else's childhood."



"And I wonder what he's going to be talking about with his therapist. She wouldn't put me down. She kisses me on the mouth. She asked me not to go to college." Despite this, Lawrence is relishing the challenge of motherhood. The actress, who married Cooke Maroney in 2019, shared: "My heart has stretched to a capacity that I didn't know about. I include my husband in that. "And then they're both just, like, out there, walking around, crossing streets. He's gonna drive one day. He's gonna be a stupid teenager and be behind the wheel of a car. And I'm just gonna be like, good night! You know? Like, who sleeps?"

'Many of my movies are about mother': Jennifer Lawrence



Ming-Na Wen





## Asia Cup 2022 Super Four

# PAK BEAT AFGHANISTAN IN A LAST-OVER THRILLER, INDIA OUT OF CONTEST

Sharjah | Agencies

Pakistan defeated Afghanistan in a last-over thriller by one wicket to confirm their spot for the Asia Cup 2022 final where they will face Sri Lanka on Sunday. With this result, both India and Afghanistan have been eliminated from the final race and their meeting tomorrow will be a dead rubber now. Chasing 130, Pakistan slipped from a comfortable spot as Afghanistan roared back into contention with quick bowlers.

Pakistan and Afghanistan produced a contest for the ages at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Wednesday night. After being limited to a below par 129/8, Afghanistan bowled their hearts out to make a match out of it. They launched a staunch



defense of their total. They neutralised the threat of Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Mohammad Nawaz and pushed the contest into the last over. Fazalhaq Farooqi and Fareed Ahmed took three wickets each to keep Afghanistan's hopes alive and kicking. However, in the decisive over, Farooqi rightly went for the yorker length deliveries but failed to execute them properly. As a result, he bowled two full tosses in a row.

Pakistan were in a precarious spot at 119/9. But then, Naseem Shah delivered as he blasted both the full tosses for consecutive sixes to take Pakistan over the line and seal a memorable win. With that, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have qualified for the Asia Cup 2022 final and will clash for the title on Sunday (September 11). India, the defending champions, and Afghanistan have both been eliminated from the race and their clash tomorrow is now only good for academic purpose.

# India's Anupama Upadhyaya becomes new Junior World No. 1 in BWF rankings

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Anupama Upadhyaya replaced fellow Indian shuttler Tasnim Mir from the pole position and became the new Junior World No. 1 in the under-19 girls singles category to win the top title in the latest BWF Junior rankings. The 17-year-old from Panchkula, who had claimed junior international titles in Uganda and Poland earlier this year, replaced fellow Indian Tasnim Mir from the top position on Tuesday. She has jumped two places to grab the pole position with 18,060 points from 18 tournaments and is one of the four girls who figure in the Top 10 of the junior rankings. Three other Indian female shuttlers in the Top 10 are Tasnim Mir (number 2) and two 14-year-olds -- Anvesha Gowda (number 6) and Unnati Hooda (number 9). Overall, Anupama is only the sixth Indian shuttler to top the junior rankings. In boys, Aditya Joshi (2014), Siril Verma (2016), and Lakshya Sen (2017) achieved the top position in the past, while 18-



year-old Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian became the World No. 1 last month. Anupama has recently cracked the senior women's Top 100 ranking and is currently placed at World No. 63. A product of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Anupama had an impressive run this year as

she made it to the semifinals at the Syed Modi International Super 300 in January before entering the quarterfinals of the Orleans Open Super 100 event. The Indian is currently preparing for the Junior World Championships scheduled to be held in Santander, Spain from October 17 to 31.

# Neymar's otherworldly pass for Mbappe goal

Hosting Juventus in their Group H opener, Paris Saint Germain started as favorites. But the French Ligue 1 champions had to pull out the big guns on the field to register a 2-1 win.

Paris | Agencies

Champions League football returned for the 2022/23 season. And it didn't take Neymar Jr. long to leave his mark and truly kick it off in style on matchday 1. The 30-year-old has looked unstoppable for Paris this season so far, with a total of 16 goal involvements (nine scored and seven assisted) across his eight outings including last night. Hosting Juventus in their Group H opener, Paris Saint Germain started as favorites. But the French



Ligue 1 champions had to pull out the big guns on the field to register a 2-1 win. And it all started with that absurd of a football pass from the number 10. Here, have a look at it. Over, and over again. As soon as Neymar

receives the ball from Presnel Kimpembe, the nearest Juventus player to him is former PSG player, Adrien Rabiot, who played as the right sided midfielder in Juventus' classic 3-5-2 formation on the night. Rabiot makes a move from his more central position towards the left channel, trying to stop the PSG winger from spreading menace. It is here that Neymar cuts inside, moving farther away from Rabiot and closer to the Italian team's centre pivot and another PSG player as long as a week ago, Leandro Paredes.

## ICC T20I Rankings:

# Rohit climbs three places to 14th; Surya kumar Yadav drops to fourth spot

Dubai | Agencies

India captain Rohit Sharma gained three slots to be at 14th while Suryakumar Yadav dropped a place to fourth among batters in the ICC T20I rankings issued on Wednesday. Rohit (612 rating points) climbed three spots after scoring a 41-ball 72 against Sri Lanka in an Asia Cup Super 4 match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday. However, Suryakumar (775 rating points), apart from his sensational 68 off just 29 balls against Hong Kong, failed to replicate his performances against Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the big games. Star batter Virat Kohli gained four places and is ranked 29th after scoring 60 against Pakistan. Ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (up eight places to 50th) and young



pacer Arshdeep Singh (up 28 places to 62nd) have also progressed. Hardik Pandya remained at fifth spot in the all-rounder's chart. Topping the batting chart is Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan (815 rating points), who has displaced his teammate and captain Babar Azam (794 rating points). Rizwan has scored 192 runs in three matches in the Asia Cup and is the leading run getter in the tournament so far. Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka has gained one spot to be placed at number eight, after notching up scores of 20, 35, and 52. The 24-year-old also made 52 off 37 balls to help his side beat India in a Super Four match on Wednesday. Afghanistan batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz also gained 14 places to be ranked 15th, after his knock of 84 against Sri Lanka in the Super Four clash.

## SAFF Women's Championships:

# INDIA BLANK PAKISTAN 3-0 TO START CAMPAIGN ON A HIGH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Defending champions India blanked Pakistan 3-0 to make a winning start to their campaign at the SAFF Women's Championship at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu here on Wednesday. The win extended India's unbeaten run to 27 matches in the Championship. An own goal from rival captain Maria Jamil Khan, and an opportunistic strike from Dangmei Grace in the first-half effectively settled the issue in favour of India. A late goal from Soumya Gaguloth completed the rout in added time. The Blue Tigresses were dominant almost throughout, not much willing to part ways with the ball. They preferred to stretch it through the flanks, and Anu Tamang was omnipresent in the middle, essaying it to the strikers upfront with her defence splitting passes. However, despite the domination, the



first goal that came India's way in the 15th minute was a rather lucky one -- an own goal from rival captain Maria Jamila Khan. Sandhiya, operating down the left, sent in a cross which goalkeeper Syeda Mahapara Shahid

Bukhari managed to get a hand to while diving to her left. The rebound hit onrushing Maria's leg and rolled into the net. The second goal, nevertheless, came straight out of the draw-goal board. Collecting the ball just out-

side the box, Anju, caught in between a jungle of legs, set it up for an unmarked Dangmei Grace with her left foot.

Grateful, Grace received it, and slipped it between Syeda and the near post to give India a 2-0 lead. India came close to adding another in the 29th minute, but even as Ranjana's left footer beat Syeda under the bar, it hit the post. Changing over, India earned their first corner in the 55th minute. Off the counter, Pakistan earned a free-kick outside the Indian box, but Indian goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan collected Maria's shot with effortless ease. With the Indians pressing hard, Pakistan were not able to break the shackles and go all out into attack. Instead, they preferred to stay back and defend, with Zulfia Nazir waiting upfront around the centre circle. But the Blue Tigresses weren't much able to make use of the series of corners earned all throughout.

## US Open:

# Karen Khachanov downs Nick Kyrgios to Set up Casper Ruud Duel

New York | Agencies

Karen Khachanov set-up a US Open semi-final duel with Casper Ruud on Tuesday when he battled past "devastated" Nick Kyrgios in a big-hitting five-setter, shattering the Australian crowd-pleaser's dreams of a maiden Grand Slam title. Russian 27th seed Khachanov triumphed 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (3/7), 6-4 over the Wimbledon runner-up to make the last-four at a major for the first time. Earlier Tuesday, Norwegian fifth seed Ruud defeated Italy's Matteo Berrettini 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) to make his second Slam semi-final of 2022 having finished runner-up to Rafael Nadal at the French Open. Khachanov fired 30 aces and a total of 63 winners past Kyrgios. "I did it, guys. Finally, you are showing me some love," Khachanov told the mostly pro-Kyrgios crowd on Arthur Ashe Stadium. "It was a crazy match I was expecting it would be like this. I'm ready to run, to fight to play five sets. We played almost four hours and that's the only way to beat Nick." The Russian said he had "nothing to lose" when he faces Ruud on Friday. "I would like to win it," said Khachanov who lost to the Norwegian on clay



in Rome in 2020 in their only previous meeting. "But as deep as you go the expectations rise up. I did the step forward, I made my first semi-final and I think I have nothing to lose." "I just want to go for it and be ready for the next match and hopefully it will be a good one." Kyrgios, who had knocked out defending champion Daniil Medvedev in the last-16, hit 31 aces in his 75 winners. However, his unforced error count of 58 was almost double the 31 of Khachanov. "I'm devastated. It's heart-breaking for me and everyone," said Kyrgios. "I feel like I have let so many people down."

# Plug gaps and improve before T20 World Cup: Gavaskar to Team Management

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has urged the Indian team management to plug gaps after an unimpressive show in the ongoing Asia Cup T20 tournament, saying that fans should also back the side and encourage them before the ICC Men's T20 World Cup starts. Gavaskar's comments came after India went perilously close to elimination after a six-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in their super four-stage match of the Asia Cup on Tuesday. The result left the Men in Blue at the mercy of the other teams to have a chance of making it to the final. It also meant that India skipper Rohit Sharma's scintillating 41-ball 72 went in vain, as the islanders completed a chase of 174 with a ball to spare. "Let's get behind this Indian team. Give them encouragement. Yes, okay fine, this has happened, but what is more important now? The T20 World Cup. Because after 2007, India have not won the T20 World Cup. India have won the Asia Cup quite a number of times. It's



time to get behind and tell them it's happened, but please see the areas you can improve and plug those gaps," Sunil Gavaskar told.

India won both its group games but stumbled in the Super 4 as it also failed to defend 181 against archrival Pakistan last Sunday. If Pakistan beats Afghanistan on Wednesday, India will be eliminated and both Pakistan and Sri Lanka will qualify. India, in the meantime, are scheduled to play their last and final Super Four match against Afghanistan on September 9 in Dubai.

# Another history awaits Neeraj Chopra as he starts favourite in Diamond League Finals

The winner of each Diamond discipline at the Final will be awarded a Diamond Trophy, USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest.

Hungary | Agencies

Another historic feat awaits Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra as he will start as favourite in the prestigious Diamond League Finals here on Thursday. Chopra had made a spectacular return from a one-month injury lay-off by winning the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League series and qualifying for the two-day finals here. He became the first Indian to clinch a Diamond League meet title. He had missed the Birmingham Commonwealth Games (July 28 to August 8) due to a minor groin injury he had suffered during his silver-winning performance in the World Championships in USA in July. The 24-year-old Indian superstar hit form immediately on return as he hurled the spear to 89.08m in his first



attempt to seal the win in style in Lausanne on July 26. It looked like the injury had not happened at all as he produced his third career-best effort. The youngster from Khandra village near Panipat in Haryana will be eyeing his maiden Diamond League Finals title. He had qualified for the Finals in 2017 and 2018 also, finishing seventh and fourth respectively. The Diamond League encompasses 32 Diamond Disciplines, following a

championship style model. Athletes earn points at the 13-series meet to qualify for the final of their respective disciplines. The winner of each Diamond Discipline at the Final will be crowned 'Diamond League Champion'. The six-man javelin throw field here will be without world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who is recovering from injuries after he was assaulted inside a boat in his country last month. Chopra's biggest rival will be the Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic whom the Indian had beaten in Lausanne also. Vadlejch, who has a 90m-plus throw to his name this season, produced a best of 85.88m in Lausanne.

He made it to the Zurich Finals with most points 27 while Chopra qualified on fourth spot with 15 points. The top six in the Diamond League standings qualify for the Zurich Finals.



## Katrina Kaif calls her relationship with Vicky Kaushal unexpected

*'It was my destiny and it was really meant to be'*

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are one of the most adorable couples of tinsel. The two tied the knot on December 9, 2021, in Rajasthan. The wedding was an intimate affair with only close friends and family members in attendance.

Recently, Katrina Kaif appeared on Karan Johar's talk show Koffee with Karan with Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi. During the episode, Katrina also finally spilled the beans on her relationship with Vicky Kaushal.

The actress made a shocking revelation and said that Vicky was never on her 'radar'. Katrina said: "I did not even know much about him. He was just a name I had heard but had never associated with. But then, when I met him, I was won over!" Further, calling her relationship 'unexpected and out of the blue', the actress shared, "It was my destiny and it was really meant to be. There were so many coincidences that at one point all of it just felt so unreal."

On the work front, Katrina will be next seen in an upcoming horror comedy film Phone Bhoot alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter, which is all set to hit the theatres on November. Apart from that, she is also a part of Merry Christmas along with actor Vijay Sethupathi. She will also be seen in Tiger 3 with Salman Khan, and Jee Le Zaraa alongside Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt.

Vicky Kaushal too has interesting films in his pipeline. While he is prepping for Meghna Gulzar's biopic Sam Bahadur, the actor has Mera Naam Govinda in post-production. Vicky will also be seen sharing screen space with Sara Ali Khan in a comedy-drama.



## Boycott Bollywood: Swara Bhaskar, calls it "profitable business"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Swara Bhaskar wears her heart on her sleeve and never shies away from expressing her opinions. Currently, every second film in Bollywood is falling prey to the boycott trend.

Recently, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor starrer magnum opus Brahmastra also found itself in hot waters after a video of Ranbir Kapoor's beef-eating comment went viral. Due to this, Ranbir and Alia were also restricted to enter Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain. A day after the incident, Swara Bhaskar took to her social

media handle and shared the screenshot of a tweet that urged people to not waste money on watching Brahmastra. Along with the post, she wrote, "The profitable business of 'Boycott Bollywood'."

A few days ago, Swara had shared her take on the ongoing boycott trend on social media against Bollywood, and said that she did not think it was a major reason behind films not doing well at the box office.

Talking about Brahmastra, the flick is all set to release on 9th September and also stars Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna, and Mouni Roy in pivotal roles.

**RANBIR KAPOOR ON SHAMSHERA'S DEBACLE**

**THE FILM DIDN'T WORK BECAUSE OF CONTENT**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranbir Kapoor recently made a comeback on the silver screen after a hiatus of four years with Shamsheera. Directed by Karan Malhotra, the film also starred Vaani Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt. However, the film canned at the box-office. Currently, Ranbir Kapoor is gearing up for the release of his magnum-opus Brahmastra. To promote the film, the actor and other cast members attended an event at Delhi. During the press conference, Ranbir was quizzed about Shamsheera's poor box-office collection, to which he replied, "If Shamsheera didn't run at the box office it means the audience didn't like the film. The film didn't work because the content wasn't good." On the work front, Ranbir Kapoor has Animal with Rashmika Mandanna and Luv Ranjan's next yet-untitled alongside Shraddha Kapoor in his pipeline. Talking about Brahmastra, the flick is all set to release on 9 September and stars Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna, and Mouni Roy in pivotal roles.



**ANUSHKA SHARMA REVEALS 'MOMENT FROM A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD'**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Bollywood star Anushka Sharma took to social media to reveal a glimpse of 'Chakda Xpress', which is inspired by the life and times of women cricketer's all-time greatest fast bowler Jhulan Goswami.

In the image, Anushka is seen recreating a moment from Jhulan's life.

A thoughtful Anushka as Jhulan is seen making an

important phone call while pouring rain beats down on everything around her.

She captioned it: "A moment from a story that needs to be told!"

Anushka has always strived to be a perfectionist in her career and she is doing the same for 'Chakda Xpress'. She is currently prepping before she starts another schedule of the film. The Netflix Film, which is tracing the glorious journey of one of the fastest female pacers in

the history of world cricket, will showcase how Jhulan moves up the ladder despite countless hindrances to fulfil her only dream: to play cricket. Jhulan went on to captain the Indian women's national cricket team and is a role model for aspiring cricketers in the country. In 2018, an Indian postage stamp was issued in her honour. She holds the world record for the highest number of wickets taken by a woman in an international career.



**THERE'S NO TIME TO BE JEALOUS, SAYS KAMAL HAASAN**

Team Absolute | Chennai

Stating that there was no time to be jealous of another's success, actor Kamal Haasan said that this was a fact that both Tamil Superstar Rajinikanth and he realised at a very young age.

Participating in the audio and trailer launch event of director Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyin Selvan 1' that was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Tuesday night, Kamal said: "The film

industry is a small family. In this family, there is no time for jealousy."

"When I don't have the time to do my work, there is no time to be jealous. This is something that he (pointing to Rajinikanth) and I realised at a very young age."

"We have seen victories. Big ones. Double victories. Defeats. When victories come (irrespective of whom it comes to), we rejoice, because one's defeat will affect the whole industry and

one's victory will lift up the entire industry."

Congratulations A.R. Rahman, the music director of 'Ponniyin Selvan', Kamal said that every song that the composer had scored for the film had increased his heart beats. Calling Rahman's music 'unique', Kamal said that he had played out his songs to the actor after returning from Bali where he had gone to do research for the songs of the film.

**INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY**



**Avneet Kaur**