

absolute india

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Supreme Court to hear pleas against constitutional validity of CAA on Monday

The Supreme Court has scheduled the hearing on nearly 200 petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) on September 12. Then President Ram Nath Kovind had given assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 on December 12, 2019, and turned it into an Act. The petitions alleged the Bill was against the basic structure of the Constitution.



'Get transgender persons employed'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and S. Ravindra Bhat is scheduled to hear the petitions on Monday. In December 2019, the apex court had declined to stay the operation of the law and issued a notice to the Centre on the petitions against the Act. The top court had then sought response from the Centre in January 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the matter could not come up for regular hearing before the court. The amended law seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslim migrants belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Jain and Parsi communities who had come to India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), one of the petitioners against the Act, claimed that the fun-

New Delhi: A bench headed by justice D.Y. Chandrachud told the Department of Personnel Training (DoPT) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to consult all stakeholders, including the National Council for Transgender Persons, to formulate the policy for providing employment to the third gender. The bench said the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, brought into force on January 10, 2020, marked a watershed in the rights of transgender persons and imposed a positive obligation on the state authorities. It further added that the order was passed to ensure implementation of the 2019 law as the issue at hand transcended beyond petitioner's claims on employment.

damental Right to Equality is violated by the Act and it intends to grant citizenship to a section of illegal immigrants by making an exclusion based on religion.

EWS QUOTA: HEARING FROM SEP 13

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Thursday that from September 13 it will begin hearing the petitions challenging the validity of the 103rd Constitutional amendment, enacted in 2019, to provide 10 per cent quota to economically weaker sections (EWS) in jobs and education. Attorney General (AG) K.K. Venugopal suggested some key issues -- whether the 103rd Constitutional amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria? Whether the 103rd Constitution

amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting the state to make special provisions in relation to admission to private unaided institutions? And, can the amendment be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution also in excluding the SEBCS/OBCs/SCs/STs from the scope of EWS reservation? A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit said the three issues suggested by the AG broadly covered all the aspects raised in the petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the 103rd Constitutional amendment.

'COMPARISON WITH SIKHISM IS INCORRECT', SC ON HIJAB ROW

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday told a counsel, representing a petitioner challenging the Hijab ban in Karnataka government educational institutions, that comparisons with turbans worn by Sikhs will be improper and practices of Sikhism were well ingrained in the culture of the country. Justice Gupta said five Ks of Sikh have been held to be mandatory and a five-judge bench of this court held that wearing turban and kirpan is essential for Sikhs. "That is why we are saying that comparison with Sikh may not be proper," he said.

Pasha reiterated just like the five Ks for Sikhs, there are five pillars of Islam and that is the exact position for us. Justice Gupta pointed out the condition of admission in a medical college in Punjab was that those who did not follow Sikhism cannot get in, and a girl was denied admission, as she trimmed her eyebrows and the matter is pending here. He further added that Sikhism practices are well established, and well ingrained in the culture of the country.

Rahul Gandhi to stay in container till conclusion of Bharat Jodo Yatra

Kanyakumari: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with other 117 permanent members -- part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra who are accompanying him, will stay in freight containers for the next five months till the conclusion of the Yatra, a source said on Thursday.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra would undertake a 3,570 km-long journey through 12 states, scaling from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. About 60 large freight containers equipped with sleeping beds, toilets, air-conditioners and other facilities have been put up keeping in mind the varying degrees of temperature, humidity and environmental aspects that Rahul Gandhi and those part of the Yatra would be facing in the next five months.

The container will be parked in a new place everyday in the evening in the village like milieu for unwinding the Yatris. All the permanent Yatris of the journey will eat together and stay close.

Punjab Police bust ISI-backed terror module

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a major blow to ISI-backed terror module jointly handled by Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh, alias Landa, and Pakistan-based gangster Harvinder Singh Rinda, the police have arrested three of their close aides, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Thursday.

Yadav also said that at least 25 accomplices, who are aiding them in carrying out illegal activities across the state, have been identified.

The DGP said the arrested persons include the prime perpetrator of planting an improvised explosive device (IED) at Shahabad in Haryana recently, who has been identified as Nachhatar Singh, alias

Moti, a resident of Tarn Taran.

The other two arrested accused have been identified as Sukhdev Singh, alias Shera, and Harpreet Singh, alias Happy.

The police have recovered one IED containing RDX weighing 1.5 kg along with detonator, two pistols, eight cartridges, and a motorcycle without a registration number from their possession.

The DGP said that as per preliminary investigation, it has been revealed that the accused were in



URAV YADAV, IPS GENERAL OF POLICE, PUNJAB

direct contact with Lakhbir Landa, and were involved in extortion and cross-border smuggling of arms, explosives and drugs on a large scale. The development came amid the ongoing war against drugs and gangsters waged by Punjab Police on the directions of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to make the state a drugs-free and crime-free.

Troops of India, China begin withdrawal from Gogra-Hot Springs in Ladakh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

SINCE THE STANDOFF BEGAN IN MAY 2020, THE TWO SIDES HAVE SO FAR HELD 16 ROUNDS OF TALKS WITH BOTH SIDES OF PANGONG TSO IN FEBRUARY 2021 AND PP-17 DISBANDING IN THE GOGRA-HOTSPRINGS AREA IN AUGUST.

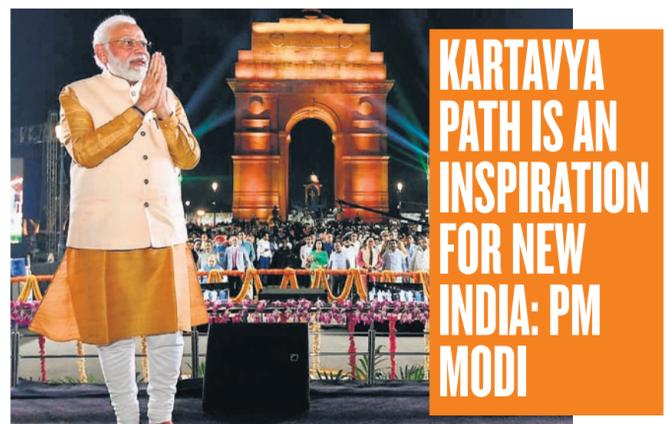
AFTER A VIOLENT CLASH IN GALWAN IN 2020, THE POINTS OF CONFLICT THAT NOW REMAIN ARE DEMCHOK AND DEPSANG, WHICH CHINA HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE, SAYING THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE CURRENT STANDOFF.

India and China announced on 8 August that their armies had begun disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh, a step forward to end the ongoing standoff since May 2020. The move comes ahead of next week's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, which is being attended by both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Neither side has so far confirmed whether the two leaders will hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the summit, something they haven't spoken to since the start of the standoff in April 2020.



On September 08, 2022, as per the consensus reached in the 16th round of the India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting, Indian and Chinese troops began a coordinated and

planned withdrawal in the area of Gogra-Hotsprings (PP-15). Way, which is conducive to peace in the border areas. Both sides said in a joint statement issued on Thursday.



KARTAVYA PATH IS AN INSPIRATION FOR NEW INDIA: PM MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the Central Vista corridor, which has been renamed as Kartavya Path. He also unveiled the statue of Subhash Chandra Bose installed behind India Gate and described it as a historic occasion when the country has done away with relics of the Colonial past.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a special gesture, the Prime Minister announced that in the Republic Day function next year, all labourers and workers who have worked on the Central Vista project, would be his special guests. Bose's family members though were conspicuous by their absence.

"The colonial name of King's Way has now been renamed as Kartavya Path," he said in his address. "During the British era, there was a statue of King George V installed under the canopy situated behind India Gate. This now has been replaced with Netaji's statue," he said. Subhash Chandra Bose, Modi said, was beyond worldly pleasures and never hankered for posts.

UK's Queen Elizabeth II passes away after reigning for 70 years

Prince Charles, 73, who had been heir to the crown for 70 years -- the longest in the country's history -- has ascended the British throne. The development followed immediately upon his mother Queen Elizabeth II, 96, passed away after being monarch since 1952 - which surpassed Queen Victoria's 63-year reign. Victoria ruled up to 1901. Elizabeth was also Queen of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, among other territories.

- ▶ QUEEN ELIZABETH II THE UK'S LONGEST-SERVING MONARCH.
- ▶ THE QUEEN WAS BORN ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA MARY WINDSOR, IN MAYFAIR, LONDON, ON 21 APRIL 1926.
- ▶ THE QUEEN CAME TO THE THRONE IN 1952 AND WITNESSED ENORMOUS SOCIAL CHANGE.

London | Agencies

Queen Elizabeth II, has died at Balmoral aged 96, after reigning for 70 years, the BBC reported.

Her family gathered at her Scottish estate after concerns grew about her health earlier on Thursday. With her death, her eldest son Charles, the former Prince of Wales, will lead the country in mourning as the new King and head of state for 14 Commonwealth realms, BBC reported. In a statement, Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon."

"The King and the Queen Consort will remain at



Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow. "All the Queen's children travelled to Balmoral, near Aberdeen, after doctors placed the Queen under medical supervision.

Her grandson, Prince William, is also there, with his brother, Prince Harry, on his way.

Queen Elizabeth II's tenure as head of state spanned post-war austerity, the transition from empire to

Commonwealth, the end of the Cold War and the UK's entry into - and withdrawal from - the European Union.

Her reign spanned 15 prime ministers starting with Winston Churchill, born in 1874, and including Liz Truss, born 101 years later in 1975, and appointed by the Queen earlier this week, BBC reported.

She held weekly audiences with her prime minister throughout her reign.

Air India 'kicks off' direct flights to Doha from key cities for football extravaganza

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Air India on Thursday announced the introduction of 20 new flights per week to Qatar from key Indian cities. The added capacity will cater to the surge in demand expected around the football extravaganza in Qatar scheduled in November and December 2022.

The flights, to be introduced from October 30, will connect Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai with Qatar's capital Doha during this period. Thirteen flights per week will operate from Mumbai, four from Hyderabad and three from Chennai. These flights will be in addition to the existing daily flights to Doha from Delhi. The additional connectivity to Qatar follows Air India's increase of

24 new flights on its domestic network last month. These additional 24 flights included two new frequencies on each of the Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Bengaluru and Mumbai-Chennai routes, as well as one new frequency on the Mumbai-Bengaluru route. The strengthening of network connectivity is being enabled as more aircraft return to service.

Commenting on the introduction of new flights for Qatar, Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India, said: "Bringing in the football extravaganza in this part of the world, Air India aims to provide strong connectivity between India and Qatar. Football fans across India are excited to be in stadiums in Qatar where the world's best football talent will be competing with each other."

THREE STUDENTS DETAINED IN AMRITSAR FOR BOMB HOAX MESSAGE

Amritsar: Two WhatsApp posts featuring Pakistan flag and bomb hoax scripted in both English and Urdu by three Class 9 students of private DAV Public School triggered scare following which the security beefed up in this Punjab city. The students were later detained.

One post threatened a bomb blast and another firing on the school and they were widely shared on WhatsApp on Wednesday.

Acting swiftly on the complaint of the principal, the security was stepped up at the school by deploying commandos and sniffer dogs.

During the probe, the police found it an act of mischief by three students of the school.



B'LURU FLOODS: K'TAKA LEADERS TRY TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Bengaluru flood crisis has given an opportunity to Karnataka's political leaders to score brownie points ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections in the state.

The ruling BJP as well as the Opposition Congress leaders are going on boat rides, campaigning against each other.

Sensing the public mood turning against the BJP government, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai attempted to pass the buck to the Congress, holding it squarely responsible for the crisis.

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra paid a visit to flood-hit areas of the city on Thursday. They took to boats to reach destinations in the flood-hit areas.

Jnanendra said that at times of a crisis, politics should not be done.

"Siddaramaiah should advise the government. He ruled the state for four years. These inundated build-



ings are not built in last four years," the Home Minister added.

"This crisis situation and heavy rainfall has opened our eyes. We will work towards finding a permanent solution," he said.

"The heavy rains have put people in crisis. The SDRF and fire depart-

ment personnel are working round the clock. Rescue operations are being carried out at 70 locations. Through boats, 1,011 persons have been rescued in a single day," he added. Siddaramaiah after visiting the flood-affected areas hit back at the BJP government, saying that dur-

ing his tenure action was taken to remove 1,300 among 1,953 encroachments.

If the ruling BJP would have removed the remaining 600 encroachments, this situation would not have arisen, he added.

"Chief Minister Bommai says that previous government (headed by Siddaramaiah) is responsible for the crisis. Do we have to tell what they have done? It is easy to escape from responsibility. They (BJP) have opposed removal of encroachments," he added.

Sources in the BJP said that the present crisis would prove to be a challenge for the ruling party in the elections to the BBMP as well as the state Assembly.

According to Congress sources, its leaders are upbeat about the backlash that the BJP is receiving from the people. The flood-affected areas are represented by BJP MLAs and it is definitely going to spoil their chances, they said.

Defamation case against Rahul Gandhi: RSS leader withdraws appeal in SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

RSS leader Rajesh Kunte on Thursday withdrew his appeal filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Bombay High Court order, which declined to entertain his plea seeking a transcript of Rahul Gandhi's speech made in 2014, allegedly blaming the RSS for Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, he admitted as evidence in a defamation case.

A bench comprising justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Bela M. Trivedi told Kunte's counsel that the court agrees with the high court's observation in the matter. The high court had noted that a person charged with defamation cannot be compelled to admit or deny any document and the prosecution/complainant has to stand on its own feet and prove its case on its own.

In September 2021, the high court had dismissed



Kunte's plea seeking that the transcript of Rahul Gandhi's speech made in 2014, in which he allegedly blamed the RSS for Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, be admitted as evidence in a defamation case against him.

A court in Bhiwandi in Maharashtra is hearing a defamation case filed in 2014 by Kunte against Rahul Gandhi for reportedly saying that "RSS people killed Mahatma Gandhi", allegedly at an election rally in Bhiwandi. In 2016, the top court had declined to quash

the defamation case.

The Bombay High Court, in March 2015, had dismissed Rahul Gandhi's plea seeking to quash the defamation case, prompting him to move the apex court. Later, he withdrew the plea from the apex court.

In June 2018, the Bhiwandi court framed charges against Rahul Gandhi for allegedly making defamatory remarks against the RSS. Rahul Gandhi pleaded not guilty and the court framed charges and the case was set for trial.

Need behavioral shift towards organ donation: Mandaviya

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday that there has been less than expected response towards organ donation, and that a behavioural shift is needed towards this noble act in the country.

"Despite having rich knowledge and defined responsibility, there has been less than expected response towards organ donation from our citizens. We need a behavioural shift towards organ donation in the country. I urge everyone to create widespread awareness for this through a 'Jan Andolan'," Mandaviya said. The Health Minister was speaking at an event to mark the 37th National Eye Donation Fortnight at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here. "In a country that is globally recognised for seeing health as 'seva' and considering its health professionals as life savers, we can similarly create 'seva bhav' of donating organs and make a mind shift in our countrymen towards eye and organ donation," he said.



Underscoring the importance of eye donation, Mandaviya said that organ donation provides quality life to the recipient and a sense of satisfaction for the donor families.

He also thanked the donor families for their noble deed of donating corneas of their loved ones which will give the gift of vision to the needy patients. Quoting Bhagwat Gita's shloka of "karmanye vadhika raste, Ma phaleshu kadachana", Mandaviya also highlighted the country's vibrant culture and traditions that teach us "Seva Bhav" and "Sahyog".

PERFUMER PIYUSH JAIN RELEASED FROM JAIL AFTER 254 DAYS

Kanpur (UP): Perfumer Piyush Jain was released on Thursday from Kanpur jail after spending 254 days behind the bars. A sum of Rs 196 crore and 23 kg gold were found in the walls of the house during a raid in December last year.

Although Jain had been granted bail two days ago, but his release was delayed due to verification of documents. His wife Kanta Jain and son Priyansh Jain submitted bonds of Rs 10 lakhs each after which he was released. The team of Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) Ahmedabad had raided the residence of perfume trader Piyush Jain in Kanpur and his firm in Kannauj on 23 December 2021. In the raids that lasted for four days, more than Rs 196 crore was recovered from both the places. Also 23 kg of foreign stamped gold and 600 litres of sandalwood oil were recovered.

I was not invited properly for Netaji statue unveiling: Mamata

Kolkata | Agencies

Clearing the air as to why she decided to skip the unveiling of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's statue at the Indian Gate canopy in Delhi on Thursday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the invitation sent to her was not proper.

"A letter, probably written by an under secretary, reached my office only on Wednesday. In the letter, it was written that the Prime Minister will unveil the statue at 7 pm on Thursday and I should be there by 6 pm. Do they think that I am their servant or bonded labour?"

"How can an under secretary write such a letter to the Chief Minister of a state? At least the letter should have come from an Union minister. So, I garlanded Netaji's statue in Kolkata this morning only," Banerjee said at a gathering of Trinamool Congress workers and leaders at the Netaji Indoor stadium here on Thursday.



She also informed that Chief Secretary H.K. Dwivedi has already replied to the invitation on this count. Wanting know why the Union

government is so 'angry' with her, Banerjee said, "What is the reason for such anger? They had earlier broken Netaji's statue in New Delhi."

KCR'S DAUGHTER HITS BACK AT TELANGANA GOVERNOR

KCR'S DAUGHTER HITS BACK AT TELANGANA GOVERNOR

Hyderabad | Agencies

Hitting back at Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K. Kavitha alleged on Thursday that the office of the governor has turned into a political stage to defame the state government and the chief minister.

"The office of Governor of Telangana has turned into a political stage that is determined to defame the TRS govt and CM KCR garu," tweeted Kavitha hours after Tamilisai attacked the state government for "humiliating" her.

"The statements of Hon'ble Governor come at a time when they realised that the BJP driven smear campaigns can't con the people of Telangana," wrote Kavitha, a member of Telangana Legislative Council.



On completion of three years in office, the governor addressed a news conference at Raj Bhavan on Thursday, launching an attack on the

chief minister and the state government.

She alleged that the state government is discriminating against a woman governor by not following the protocol.

She said she was even denied the opportunity to unfurl the national flag on Republic Day or deliver her speech. She alleged that hurdles were being created in her efforts to reach out to people. She also criticized Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for not visiting Raj Bhavan despite her invitations.

"It will go down in the history of Telangana, how a woman governor was treated," she said.

State ministers have also hit back at the governor for her comments saying her conduct was not befitting of a person holding the post of governor.

Army helps 25 Assam students get job in renowned hotels

Guwahati | Agencies

In an exceptional move, the outreach programme of the Indian Army facilitated 25 students of Assam in getting jobs at various renowned hotels across the country, Defence officials said on Thursday.

Defence Spokesman Lt. Col. A.S. Walia said that earlier in February this year, the Indian Army organised an outreach programme for registration of youth for Hotel Management Courses under Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) in which many students attended the event at Tamulpur.

He said that 25 selected students were enrolled, sponsored by ASRLM and further trained by Pragati Edu Tech at Silchar initially and subsequently shifted to Guwahati



after the floods this year.

After completion of the course in the first week of September, all the 25 students have been placed at renowned hotels across the country including Hyatt, Oberoi, IBS and many others with a good salary. Lt. Col. Walia said. The Defence spokesman said that outreach initiatives of the Indian Army has created awareness among the students from remote vil-

lages of Assam to get employment options nationwide. The gesture of facilitating opportunities and continued monitoring throughout the course was appreciated by the students and parents. The Indian Army has also conducted various outreach programmes in Assam including Skill Development Mela, training for Agniveer recruitment and entries into the National Defence Acad.

Nihangs murder man in Amritsar over chewing tobacco

Amritsar | Agencies

In a horrific murder caught on camera, a factory worker was hacked to death by three men, including two Nihang Sikhs, over his chewing tobacco on a street in Golden Temple's vicinity in Amritsar last night, police said today. One of the accused, Ramandeep Singh, has been arrested while searches are on for the two Nihang Sikhs.

A CCTV camera outside a hotel captured the murder. The body remained on the street overnight, next to a drain, until police got to know this morning.

It was just after midnight when the Nihang Sikhs - part of an ultra-conservative order within the Sikhs - got into a quarrel with victim Harmanjeet Singh, a Chatwind area resident, reported to be in his 20s. "They had taken offence to his chewing tobacco and being drunk while roaming in that area," Police Commissioner Arun Pal Singh



told reporters. The street is barely a kilometre from the temporal Sikh shrine Harmandir Sahib or Golden Temple.

"It is shameful that while there were 6-7 people on the spot, none of them called us," the city police chief said.

Harmanjeet's mother said he was to migrate abroad soon; though she could not speak more. The victim, Harmanjeet Singh, worked in a local factory.

On Wednesday night, he was sitting on his motorcycle when

two Nihangs approached him. The two-minute CCTV clip shared by the police shows a brief verbal spat before one of the Nihangs pulls out his sword. The victim pushes him and tries to escape on foot, but the two Nihangs grab and overpower him. A third man is seen joining the assault and landing dagger blows on the victim. Bleeding and staggering, the victim gets up as the attackers walk away. And then he turns a corner, beyond the camera's view.

Gujarat AAP candidate's photo consuming liquor puts party on defensive

Ahmedabad | Agencies

After the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced Kalpesh Patel as the party's Vejalpur (Ahmedabad city) constituency candidate, his old photos allegedly showing him consuming liquor and partying with friends surfaced on Thursday.

His political opponents have seized the opportunity to target the AAP and its candidate.

Launching a scathing attack on the AAP, Gujarat BJP spokesperson Rutvij Patel has questioned the AAP, saying whether the latter's convener Arvind Kejriwal is going to lift liquor prohibition in Gujarat.

Patel alleged, "One AAP candidate is seen in a photograph enjoying a liquor party, another party candidate is facing allegations of being involved in a Rs 300 crore scam. Its one leader is anti-Gujarat and had misled tribal community against the Narmada project. AAP leaders and their party believes in double standards. People of Gujarat will never vote for such



candidates and party." Defending Kalpesh Patel, AAP spokesperson Yogesh Jadhvani said, "Can anyone prove that Kalpesh was drunk in Gujarat, the socialising might be out of Gujarat or even out of country, prohibition is in Gujarat, not outside."

Slamming the BJP, the AAP spokesperson said that the BJP stands exposed in the health, education and infrastructure sector so it is not interested in discussing core issues. It is targeting political opponents and candidates on personal issues to malign them.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ameer Qureshi Resident - 104, A Sector, Indrapuri, Bhopal, my name in my passport is Ramzan Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ramzan Qureshi is registered, in my Aadhar card number 9883 0842 8396 and other original documents my name is Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ameer Qureshi, which is true and correct. In future I may be known as Iqbal Qureshi S/o Ameer Qureshi.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Army No. 15439442P Rank-NK, Name MD ISHTIYAQUE ALAM Residing at Village jhirwa purwari Post sirma-ha Tehsil Forbesganj District Araria state Bihar Pin code-854318 have changed my son name from AAMER ISHTIYAQUE to AAMIR ISHTIYAQUE vide affidavit dated 05/09/2022 at Bhopal Court Madhya Pradesh.



UDDHAV THACKERAY MAY LOSE MORE MLAS TO SHINDE CAMP AMID DUSSEHRA RALLY ROW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The tussle between Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is intensifying amid the Dussehra rally row. Meanwhile, the two factions are also fighting for the label of the 'real' Shiv Sena. According to reports, the Uddhav camp may suffer a blow soon as around 15 leaders may join the Shinde camp next month. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's group has decided to establish itself as the real Shiv Sena by holding the Dussehra Mela, which is the political identity of the Shiv Sena. It is understood that the Shinde group is trying to get logistics from BJP along with MNS chief Raj Thackeray for this. Eknath Shinde went to 'Shivavirith' and met Raj Thackeray. Shinde, while talking to the media, commented on the arguments that are being



made about whether Raj Thackeray will also attend the Dussehra gathering of the Shinde group or not. The Dussehra gathering of Shiv Sena is held every year at Shivaji Park Maidan. This year, too, an application was filed for the meeting. However, the Mumbai Municipal Corporation has not yet given permission for Shiv Sena's Dussehra gathering. The municipality officials clarified that a decision would be taken after Ganeshotsav. Now, if the Shiv Sena wants to hold a

Dussehra gathering by challenging it, the strength of the Shinde group alone will not be enough in Mumbai. Due to this, the Shinde group has started testing to get direct and indirect help from like-minded leaders and parties for the Dussehra gathering. Union Micro and Small-Scale Industries Minister Narayan Rane has stated that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena's Dussehra gathering will be held at Shivaji Park. Rane has also said, "if Shinde calls, I will go to the meeting."

Days before immersion, sound levels cross permissible limits, finds survey

For the last 20 years, Dr Mahesh Shindikar, assistant professor of biology from COEP Technical University, and his team of students have been monitoring sound levels at 10 locations along Laxmi Road on the last day of Ganesh festival.

Team Absolute | Pune

Noise levels have breached permissible limits across the city and even crossed 90 decibel much before the final day of Ganesh immersion procession, according to a survey conducted by the College of Engineering, Pune (COEP), which was recently accorded the status of a technical university by the Maharashtra government. For the last 20 years, Dr Mahesh Shindikar, assistant professor of biology from COEP Technical University, and his team of students have been monitoring sound levels at 10 locations along Laxmi Road on the last day of Ganesh festival. "This year, in addition to this exercise, we also systematically measured and recorded noise levels during



7 pm and 9 pm for the past eight days across different locations in the city. The average noise level recorded for 10 days was between 80-

90 decibel," Dr Shindikar told media. Normally, the permissible limit for a residential area, commercial area and industrial area is

55, 65 and 75 decibel. "This study was performed with the objective of raising awareness and social responsibility during Ganesh

festival. Celebrations during Ganesh festival in Pune attract wide attention. The enthusiasm of these celebrations, however, was dampened by the pandemic situation in 2020. Pune's Ganesh Mandals and citizens were eagerly awaiting the festival this year. Pune residents and Ganesh festival enthusiasts visiting the city experienced noise which is more than permissible limits even for an industrial area.

The noise may not seem much amidst the processions and celebrations, but the intensity has severe implications on health. Most of the locations under this study are near residential areas and hospitals; affecting the children and the elderly residing in nearby areas," Dr Shindikar said.

Citizens hold silent protest at SGNP against Ganesh idol immersions in Dahisar river

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The protest, held at 7 am, was organised by Mumbai March, a citizens initiative working to push for the rejuvenation of Mumbai's rivers. The citizens held a silent protest at Mumbai's Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) Thursday morning against the decision to allow Ganesh idol immersions in Dahisar river inside the national park on the tenth day of the festival on September 10. The protest, held at 7 am, was organised by Mumbai March, a citizens initiative working to push for the rejuvenation of Mumbai's rivers. Mumbai March is also in the process of filing a public interest litig-



ation in the Bombay High Court Thursday to disallow the immersion inside SGNP. The immersion inside SGNP was stopped in 2018

and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) constructed permanent artificial immersion ponds outside the national

park in its car parking lot. However, political banners and posters were put up in the area Tuesday announcing to Ganesh mandals that

immersion is now being allowed inside the national park. "The boating spot at SGNP is turned into an immersion spot. This is the source of the Dahisar river. The spot is rich in marine biodiversity," Vikram Chogle from Mumbai March said. "Moreover, the immersion spot is about a kilometre inside the park. As immersion goes on till late morning the next day, there will be loud music, flood lights and a lot of crows inside the park overnight," he added. Chogle further said Mumbai March sent notices to the BMC, forest officials and the Pollution Control Board regarding the decision but did not receive a reply, adding they will hence approach the court shortly.

Bombay HC quashes FIR against UT administrator Praful Khoda Patel, 8 others

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court Thursday allowed pleas by nine persons, including Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH) Union Territory Administrator Praful Khoda Patel, seeking to quash a Mumbai Police FIR for the death of Parliamentarian Mohan Delkar on February 22 last year. A division bench of Justices Prasanna B Varale and Shrikant D Kulkarni found "substance and merit in submissions by petitioners and found it a fit case to quash FIR to prevent an abuse of law." Delkar, 58, a seven-term MP from Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH), was found dead in a room at a hotel in Marine Drive. The Mumbai Police, on March 9, 2021, had registered an FIR on charges of abetment to



suicide and under relevant provisions of the Atrocities Act after Delkar's family members visited the Marine Drive police station and lodged a complaint on behalf of Delkar's son Abhinav. "Considering all these aspects, we find merit in petition and substance in submissions by petitioners and it is a fit case for the court to exercise its power under section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) to prevent an abuse of process of law. The FIR filed by Abhinav Delkar (MP's son) is thus quashed and set aside," the bench held. The complaint was filed against

Patel, then district collector Sandeep Kumar Singh, then Superintendent of Police Sharad Darade, then deputy collector Apurva Sharma, sub-divisional officer Manasvi Jain, police inspector (Silvassa) Manoj Patel, DNH administrative department official Rohit Yadav, political leader Fattesingh Chauhan and then talathi of Silvassa Dilip Patel for allegedly having abetted suicide by "misusing their posts and powers and intentionally conspiring and planning against Delkar". The High Court had from time to time continued the interim protection from coercive steps granted on April 27, 2021 based on the state government's statements. The division bench had concluded the hearing on July 5 and had reserved its verdict, which it pronounced Thursday.

CBI court rejects Vidhie plea to stay with her mother, Indrani Mukerjea

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The special court on Wednesday rejected Vidhie Mukerjea's plea seeking permission to live with her mother, murder accused Indrani Mukerjea who is out on bail, on grounds that Vidhie had not yet been examined by the prosecution in the Sheena Bora case in which she is a witness.



"[Vidhie] is an important witness and her examination is yet to be recorded. In such circumstances, and in view of the terms and conditions imposed by the Supreme Court do not permit A-1 (Indrani) to meet Applicant Vidhie Mukerjea in any case," the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court said while rejecting Vidhie's plea. The court also reserved order on Indrani's plea that her Indian Residency permit as an Overseas Citizen of India be returned to her. The CBI objected to her plea stat-

would be of "great emotional significance". Vidhie is Indrani's youngest daughter from her second marriage to Sanjeev Khanna, and Bora's half-sister. She is one of the witnesses in Bora's murder case, in which Khanna, one of the other accused, received bail in June. Indrani, Khanna, and their driver Shyamvar Rai, are accused of murdering Bora, who was Indrani's daughter from a previous marriage. Indrani was arrested in August 2015 and received bail in May this year. The trial court however restrained Indrani from any contact with witnesses in the case. "Applicant's (Vidhie) mother is suffering from irreversible cerebral ischaemia, she is frail and requires proper personal and medical care, which the Applicant would like to provide to the best of her ability and time. The Applicant's mother has no family, apart from the Applicant, in Mumbai," Vidhie's plea stated.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 19-year-old woman who went missing on Tuesday afternoon from Amravati in Maharashtra, drawing "love jihad" allegations from BJP leaders as well as independent Lok Sabha member Navneet Rana, was found at the Satara railway station on Wednesday night, police said. An officer from the Rajapeth police station said Thursday that police will register an FIR only if the woman, whose identity has been withheld, has any complaint. "We sent a message on wireless and roamed around with her brother to find her. We asked him if we could circulate her photos in our circle to find her but he refused. We spoke to two of her female friends, who gave us a lead. We detained a man known to her and got another lead which we worked on with help from our cyber police. She was traced to Satara around 11pm on Wednesday. She is being brought back. Police as well as women commission will record her statement to find out if she has any complaint against anyone," said the police officer. After the woman left home



without informing her parents, they got a missing complaint registered at the police station on Tuesday night. Local BJP workers led by spokesperson Shivraj Kulkarni then alleged this was the fifth case of "love jihad" in the region. And Rana claimed the woman had been confined by the members of a community. Rana created ruckus at the police sta-

tion on Wednesday saying senior inspector Manish Thakare recorded her phone call when she called him to inquire about the investigation. She said she had also asked police to act sternly against the man they had detained. The lawmaker was caught on camera shouting at deputy commissioner of police Vikram Sali. "Who gave you the right to record my call? Why can't I call to ask about women's safety? Is it because I am a Dalit that my calls are recorded? Do you think I am mad?... Call the police commissioner here or I will not get up from here. Who gave you the order? Give me an answer. Hindu women are being targeted and you record my calls. You do not teach me." Rana also wanted police to summon and question the detained man's parents and brother. "There are so many such cases in Amravati. Amravati is getting a bad name because of this. I am the MP and I am answerable for this," she said. The MP, who shouted at the DCP banging a remote control on a table, was finally escorted out of the police station. This ruckus delayed the investigation on the missing complaint by two hours, according to a police officer.

KRK's life is in danger, son Faisal Kamaal seeks help

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The case of actor-turned-critic Kamaal Rashid Khan, aka KRK, has got a new angle. A tweet from his verified Twitter account claimed that his life is in danger just after he was granted bail in the case of the derogatory tweet. The tweet was allegedly sent by KRK's 23-year-old son Faisal Kamaal. However, it has not been confirmed whether the tweet is indeed from Faisal or whether the threat mentioned has any basis. KRK's account tweeted on Thursday afternoon, in a two-tweet thread. "I am KRK's son Faisal Kamaal. Some people are torturing to kill my father in Mumbai. I am just 23 years old and living in London. I don't know how to help my father." The message went on, "I request @juniorbachchan @Riteishd and @Dev_Fadnavis ji to save my father's life. Me n my sister will die without him. Because he is our life. I request public also to support my father to save his life. We don't want him to die like #SushantSinghRajput #WeStandWithKRK." Abhishek and Riteish



have seen interacting with KRK on Twitter and are well-liked by him. The two actors did not immediately respond to the tweet. KRK is facing two criminal charges. On August 30, he was arrested at Mumbai airport in connection with alleged derogatory tweets about actors Akshay Kumar and Ram Gopal Verma, among others. Later, the former actor and film critic was arrested in connection with a molestation case filed by Versova police in 2021. On Tuesday, a Mumbai court granted him bail in the molestation case. He was also granted bail in the case of the tweet on Wednesday. It's unclear whether KRK, who was in judicial custody, was immediately released.

Shinde-Fadnavis government to revive state planning board, rename it as state advisory board

The newly-constituted board will be composed of experts from various fields and will function as a think-tank to aid the government on development issues in key areas including agriculture, irrigation, health, education, and environment among others



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Eknath Shinde- Devendra Fadnavis government has planned to revive the State Planning Board and rename it the State Advisory Board (SAB), a senior minister in the government said. The newly-constituted board will be composed of experts from various fields and will function as a think-tank to aid the government on devel-

opment issues in key areas including agriculture, irrigation, health, education, and environment among others. The CM is expected to hold review meetings with the board every fortnight, the minister mentioned above and who did not wish to be named, said. "Our focus areas would be agriculture, healthcare, employment generation and education. We also want to focus on other key areas that will help the government leave its imprint

on citizens. We have started identifying the experts from various fields and will confirm their names soon. CM Shinde will hold review meetings with the board every 15 days. The recommendations by the board will be taken up seriously for implementation," the senior minister said, adding that a formal announcement will be made in the coming days. The experts will include retired bureaucrats, retired judges, entrepreneurs and

leading personalities in various fields. Maharashtra had its own state planning board in existence till 2014 until the BJP-led union government dissolved. Previous Thackeray government had announced plans to appoint Shiv Sena MLA Rajesh Kshirsagar as executive chairman of the Board but it was never fully constituted. In 2014, after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance at the Centre dissolved the national planning commission, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in the state dissolved the state planning board as well. The board formulated five-year plan as well as annual plans. It also held financial reviews, monitored project implementation and coordinated between government departments. It also provided inputs and recommendations on Centre-aided or Centre-sponsored programme and schemes, and prepared policy briefs for its chairperson - a position held by the CM.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Not wearing seat belts can be fatal

Wearing rear seat belts may be mandatory in India, but, a majority of people on rear seats don't bother - and this can be fatal, say experts. While the government has made it mandatory for car makers to install six airbags, but, experts said that people, especially rear seat passengers, need to be educated to wear seat belts as abroad. Even Motor Vehicle Rules say that passengers in the rear seats (back seat) are also supposed to wear seat belts. As stated in Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), the driver and the persons seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front facing rear seats, as the case may be, wear the seat belts while the vehicle is in motion. Failure to do so can result in a fine of Rs 1,000. As per a WHO report, wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of death among drivers and front seat occupants by 45-50 per cent, and the risk of death and serious injuries among rear seat occupants by 25 per cent. Passengers sitting on rear seats have nothing to hold them into their position in case of an accident if the seatbelt is not strapped in. A rear passenger not wearing seat belts, in case of an accident, is prone to hitting the front seat's backrest. This can lead to whiplash injury, often impacting vertebrae and cutting oxygen supply to the brain in many cases. In many cases, a rear passenger without belts can collide with the front seat, pushing the front passenger into the dashboard or deploying an airbag, posing a fatal risk. It has been seen that in a few cases, the rear passengers can even fly out of the windscreen or hit the dashboard or steering wheel.

IRAQ-KURDISTAN OIL TUSSLE

The perilous relationship between Iraq and Kurdistan has soured once again, due to the latter's oil exports to Turkey. There are reports that international oil firms operating in Kurdistan have asked the US to help defuse an upsurge in tension between Iraq's central government and the Kurdistan Autonomous Region or Kurdistan regional government (KRG), according to a letter seen by Reuters.

Asad Mirza

Over the years, Kurdistan had been supplying oil to Turkey and in the present circumstances they say intervention is needed to ensure oil continues to flow from the north of Iraq to Turkey to prevent Turkey having to increase oil shipments from Iran and Russia.

Besides this to a large extent the economy of the Kurdistan region depends on oil export, as the monetary support from Baghdad is not enough to cover its developmental projects, and shutting the oil export could pose a grave threat to its economy and it may even collapse.

Earlier in February, Iraq's Federal Court deemed that an oil and gas law regulating the oil industry in Iraqi Kurdistan was unconstitutional. Following the ruling, Iraq's federal government, which has long opposed allowing the KRG to independently export oil, has increased its efforts to control export revenues from Kurdistan.

Reuters reports that it has copies of letters which shows that some oil multinationals even approached US ambassadors in Baghdad and Ankara in January 2022, seeking mediation in a separate case dating back to 2014 concerning the Iraq-Turkey Pipeline (ITP).

Baghdad claims that Turkey violated the ITP agreement by oil from Kurdistan, which it deems illegal, through the pipeline to the Turkish port of Ceyhan.

According to Iraq's oil ministry the final hearing in the case took place in Paris in July, and the International Chamber of Commerce will issue a final decision in the coming months.

Apart from requiring Turkey to get more crude oil from Iran and Russia, a cessation of oil flows through the ITP, would cause the KRG's economy to collapse, oil companies' letter to US representatives said.

Iraq is already getting benefit of high oil prices, which leapt to 14-year-highs after major oil exporter Russia invaded Ukraine in February and they remain close to \$100 a barrel. The ITP has the capacity to pump up to 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude, roughly one percent of daily world oil demand, from Iraqi state-owned oil marketer State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) as well as the KRG. For now it is pumping 500,000 bpd from northern Iraqi fields.

The multinational oil companies have also lobbied US con-



gress members to write letters to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in August. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on August 16 that disputes between Baghdad and Erbil were between the two sides, but the US could encourage dialogue.

Al Arabiya TV channel reporting on the matter quoted Raad Alkadiri, managing director for energy, climate, and sustainability at Eurasia Group, as saying that the US has become disengaged from Iraq over the past decade. And thus, no pressure from Washington or other governments will resolve the issues between Baghdad and the Kurds.

To make matters further complicated last week, SOMO threatened legal action against international buyers of Kurdish crude, only adding to the risks associated with investing in the region. This is the latest step by Baghdad in the escalating dis-

pute with the KRG over who should control Kurdistan's oil. Experts say that Kurdistan could see its oil production and exports halved within five years, further depleting the already drained coffers of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

The investment climate in Kurdistan is currently not conducive to major oil industry investments, despite Kurdistan officials' claims to the contrary, amid a bitter dispute between the KRG and the federal government of Iraq over who has the right to control the oil resources and revenues in the semi-autonomous region. A Kurdish official has described the dispute as the worst fallout between Baghdad and Erbil in nearly 20 years. Oil exports account for over 80 per cent of the KRG budget, and without revenues from oil, the region faces even more hardships, on top of the limited budget allocations from the federal government in Iraq, which itself is a caretaker cabinet as politicians have been unable to form a regular government for nearly a year after the October 2021 general election. Without new investment in oil, Kurdistan risks losing half of its current oil production by 2027, according to government documents seen by Reuters.

But attracting investment to Kurdistan again is much easier said than done.

Throughout the 20th century, Kurds in Iraq oscillated between fighting for autonomy and for independence. Kurds experienced Arabisation and genocide at the hands of Ba'athist Iraq. The Iraqi no-fly zones over most of Iraqi Kurdistan after March 1991 gave the Kurds a chance to experiment with self-governance and the autonomous region was de-facto established. The Baghdad government only recognised the autonomy of the Kurdistan Region after the fall of Saddam Hussein, with a new Iraqi constitution in 2005. A non-binding independence referendum was passed in September 2017, to mixed reactions internationally. The Kurdistan Region largely escaped the privations of the last years of Saddam Hussein's rule and the chaos that followed his ousting in 2003, and built a parliamentary democracy with a growing economy. It seems that now perhaps the time is ripe for the international community to step-in to ensure Kurdistan's independence once and for all, from Iraq and let the country embark on its route to democracy and prosperity.

international

Europe hit new solar power high

BERLIN | Agencies

Long periods of sunshine took solar power generation in Europe to a record high this summer, helping reduce the need for gas imports, according to a report Thursday. Energy think tank Ember said the European Union generated 12% of its electricity from solar power from May to August, up from 9% during the same period last year. Electricity generated from photovoltaic installations narrowly topped the share provided from wind or hydropower, while coming in just below that produced from burning coal. Ember said that without the 99.4 terrawatt hours of electricity provided by solar, the EU would have had to buy 20 bil-



lion cubic meters of gas, costing about 29 billion euros (nearly \$29 billion) during the four-month period. The Netherlands and Germany, not known for their sunny climates, had the highest share of electricity from solar, followed by Spain. Poland saw the biggest increase in solar power generation compared with 2018, increasing installed capacity 26-fold, the report said. "The solar records set this

summer helped keep the lights on and reduced the EU's now critical gas consumption, providing short-term relief to the soaring cost of energy," its authors said. With Europe trying to wean itself off Russian gas because of the war in Ukraine, and high fossil fuel prices expected to last for years, they urged governments to ensure solar power use can expand further, including by removing regulatory hurdles. The authors noted this would also help the EU achieve its climate goal, saying solar power - which provides much less electricity in the winter months - would need to increase up to nine-fold by 2035 for the bloc to meet the emissions targets set in the 2015 Paris accord.

BRITAIN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH II 'UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION'

LONDON : Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is "under medical supervision" because "doctors are concerned" about her health, Buckingham Palace announced Thursday. "Following further evaluation this morning, The Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision," the palace said. "The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral." The 96-year-old monarch has spent the summer at Balmoral Castle, the royal family's estate in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. On Wednesday, the Queen canceled a meeting of her Privy Council and was told to rest, a source at Buckingham Palace told ABC News. At the time, the palace would not comment on the queen's health beyond saying she was heeding doctors' advice to rest.

Iranian diplomats leave embassy in Albania after expulsion

Albania | Agencies

The last staff of the Iranian Embassy in Tirana left the building Thursday after they were given 24 hours to leave Albania over a major cyberattack that the Albanian government blames on Iran. It is the first known case of a country cutting diplomatic relations over a cyberattack. The final two embassy cars with about 10 passengers left the compound Thursday near noon after much movement inside the building overnight. Albanian special police forces and officers were seen surrounding the compound, which still flew the Iranian flag, immediately after the Iranians left. Movement inside the Iranian embassy in Tirana had been nonstop overnight. An empty barrel was seen taken into the compound and later a fire was started in it, apparently burning documents. A diplomatic car went in and out,



while an Albanian police officer communicated with the embassy before two officers entered and left after a few minutes. On July 15, a cyberattack temporarily shut down numerous Albanian government digital services

and websites. Prime Minister Edi Rama said Wednesday that there was "undeniable evidence" that the Iranian government was behind the attack. The United States supported the move by Albania, a NATO member, and vowed unspecified retaliation against Iran for what it called "a troubling precedent for cyberspace." Iran condemned the diplomats' expulsion, calling the action ill-considered and short-sighted, according to Iranian state TV. In a statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry denied Tehran was behind any cyberattack on Albanian government websites, adding that it's Iran which is a target of such attacks on its critical infrastructure.

Ties between Iran and Albania have been tense since 2014 when Albania sheltered some 3,000 members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, or MEK, who had left Iraq.

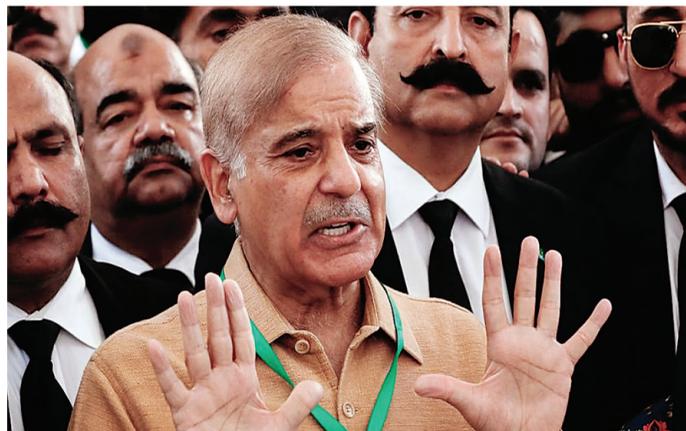
AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT TIPPED TO HEAD SENSITIVE UN RIGHTS OFFICE

Austria : United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has proposed a veteran Austrian diplomat to head the global body's human rights office at a time when it is facing harsh criticism from China for accusing Beijing of abuses against Muslim minorities. The proposal circulated to member states late Wednesday of Volker Tuerk, currently undersecretary-general for policy in Guterres' office, needs to be approved by the U.N. General Assembly. Tuerk, who spent many years working for the U.N. refugee agency, would succeed Michelle Bachelet of Chile as High Commissioner for Human Rights, based in Geneva. Bachelet's term ended in August with the release of a highly anticipated report on human rights in China's western region of Xinjiang. The report accused Beijing of serious human rights violations against Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups that may amount to "crimes against humanity." China blasted the report, accusing the U.N. rights office of fabrication and allowing itself to be used by Western nations.

WORLD SHOULD RAMP UP CLIMATE CHANGE FIGHT

ISLAMABAD | Agencies

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif told an American diplomat Thursday that the world must step up its fight against climate change to avoid more deadly flooding in the impoverished Islamic nation, the government said. Sharif made the comment in a meeting with Derek Chollet, a senior State Department official visiting Islamabad to assess damages and arrange for aid in the wake of floods that have killed 1,355 people, affected 3.3 million people and made more than half a million homeless. According to the statement, Chollet "affirmed that the U.S. would stand by Pakistan in the wake of this immense challenge, extend vital support, and help affected people rebuild their lives and communities." The meeting came a day ahead of the first American paneload expected to arrive in Pakistan with supplies. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also was to arrive in Pakistan Friday to travel to flood-hit areas. Guterres is arriving in Pakistan less than two weeks after he issued an appeal for \$160 million in emergency funding to help millions affected by record-breaking floods that have caused at least \$10 billion in damages. Last week, Guterres warned about the effects of climate change in the future. "Let's stop sleepwalking toward the destruction of our planet by climate change," he said on August 31



in a video message to a ceremony in Islamabad. "Today, it's Pakistan. Tomorrow, it could be your country," he said at the time. So far, U.N. agencies and several countries have sent dozens of paneloads of aid to Pakistani flood victims. Washington has announced the U.S. will provide \$30 million in assistance to help victims of the flood. The catastrophe has added

new burdens to the cash-strapped Pakistan and highlighted the disproportionate effect of climate change on impoverished populations. Experts say Pakistan is responsible for only 0.4% of the world's historic emissions blamed for climate change. The U.S. is responsible for 21.5%, China for 16.5% and the EU 15%.

Ex-chancellor Merkel's memoirs to be published in 2024

BERLIN | Agencies

Angela Merkel, who served as chancellor of Germany for 16 years, will release her political memoirs in 2024. Her publisher announced Thursday that the former chancellor, who is co-authoring the book with her longtime adviser Beate Baumann, will provide an exclusive, personal look into her political life and work. "I am pleased to reflect on central decisions and situations of my political work in my book ... and make them understandable to a broad public, also with recourse to my personal biography," the ex-chancellor said in a note released by publisher Kiepenheuer & Witsch. Merkel, 68, steered Germany safely through a succession of crises including the global financial crisis, the migrant crisis and the coronavirus pandemic. Looking back at her chancellorship shortly

after she left office, she said that while the 16 years in office had fulfilled her, they had also been challenging because of the constant need to pay attention to, prevent, or react to crises. Merkel, a former scientist who grew up in former communist East Germany, became Germany's first female chancellor on Nov. 22, 2005. Named "The World's Most Powerful Woman" by Forbes magazine for 10 years in a row, Merkel has been cast as a powerful defender of liberal values in the West. Millions of women admire her for breaking through the glass ceiling of male dominance in politics, and she's been lauded as an impressive role model for girls. However, since Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine in February, the former chancellor has also been accused of appeasing and engaging too closely with Russian President Vladimir Putin.



CHEETAH REHABILITATION IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK, A WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE-CM CHOUHAN

Prime Minister will be apprised about one district-one product and the entrepreneurship of sisters of self-help groups. Discussion held on preparations for Prime Minister Modis visit to Sheopur district

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the work of bringing cheetahs from Namibia to rehabilitate them in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park is being done as per the prescribed parameters. This is a work of national importance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself will inaugurate this work on September 17 at Kuno National Park in Sheopur district. All necessary preparations should be made to complete this programme with full dignity and enthusiasm. Chief Minister was receiving information at his residence today about the preparations being made in connection with the Prime Minister's visit to Sheopur district on September



17. It was informed that rehabilitation work will be done in Kuno National Park of Sheopur district as per the prevailing internationally practised techniques of cheetah management.

PREPARATIONS MADE IN KUNO FOR REHABILITATION

The work of vaccination of animals has been completed in the village adjoining Kuno National Park area. Awareness camps have been organized in all the villages of the area. Here favourable conditions have been developed for the habitat of cheetahs. Necessary civil works along with water arrangements have also been completed. To increase the density of wildlife in Kuno, chitals have been brought from Narsinghgarh and released. According to experts, the hunting density in the area is sufficient for cheetahs. Male cheetahs live together in groups of two or more. At first the cheetahs will be kept in small separate enclosures for two to three weeks. After a month they will be shifted to bigger enclosures. After assessment of the cheetah's adaptation in large enclosures by experts, first the male cheetahs and then the female cheetahs will be released into the open forest. Action will be taken in this regard as per necessary protocol.

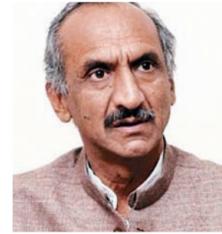
CHEETAHS WERE DECLARED EXTINCT IN 1952

It was informed that cheetah was declared extinct in India in the year 1952. In the year 2009, international cheetah experts held a discussion with the central and state government for cheetah restoration. In 2010, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) conducted a survey of potential areas for cheetah restoration in India, in which the Kuno Sanctuary, which is currently the Kuno National Park, was found to be the most suitable among 10 sites. Work will be done according to the prescribed protocol and guidelines for the replacement of cheetahs that are on the brink of extinction in India. The integrated management of the project envisages the habitat of about two dozen cheetahs in 750 square kilometers of the National Park of Kuno. Apart from this, about 3 thousand square kilometer forest area is suitable for free movement of cheetahs in two districts Sheopur and Shivpuri.

Congress appoints J.P. Agarwal as in-charge for MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed six-time MP, including in both Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha, and Delhi's seasoned politician, Jai Prakash Agarwal as new in-charge of Madhya Pradesh Congress. Agarwal replaced outgoing MP Congress in-charge Mukul Vasnik, who was given the role in 2020 after the Kamal Nath-led Congress government was dissolved due to shifting of over 20 Congress MLAs to the BJP, along with Jyotiraditya Scindia.



The development came after Wasnik requested the Congress president Sonia Gandhi to relieve him from his current responsibility as in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, so that he can oversee other organisational matters. "Congress president has appointed Jai Prakash Agarwal as AICC in-charge of Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect," it added. Wasnik will, however, continue as an

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary but will oversee other organisational matters," AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal said in an official circular issued on Thursday.

A Delhi-based political observer claimed Agarwal is considered one of those seasoned politicians who can energise the Congress cadre at the grassroots level, from district to block level. "He is soft spoken but hard decision making leader who can make effective reconciliation among the warring section/faction of the Congress to give a befitting challenge to the ruling BJP, which the grand old party is in need at present," the political observer said while talking to reporter.

The development came just 15 months before the 2023 assembly elections in the state and the Congress has started gearing up for its preparations. The AICC said

Identity card should be mandatory for entry in Garba: Culture Minister

Team Absolute | Gwalior

Madhya Pradesh's Culture and Tourism Minister Usha Thakur has said that identity card should be made mandatory for entry to Garba to be held on the occasion of Navratri in the coming times. Tourism Minister Thakur said that these Garba pandals had become a great medium of love jihad, so it becomes imperative that no person should

hide his identity in the Garba. All the organizers should decide that every person coming to the pandal should be allowed entry only after showing the identity card. Taking forward his point, Tourism Minister Thakur said that although all the organizations have become aware, yet no one should be allowed to enter the Garba Pandal by hiding the identity, because Garba Pandal had become a big medium of love jihad.

FOR THE PROSPERITY OF STATE



With his wife, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has prayed for the prosperity of the state by offering prayers at the Barhwal Shri Ganesh temple at Rangai Ghat in Vidisha on Wednesday.

POLICE RAIDS BISHOP'S HOUSE AND OFFICE, RECOVERS HUGE STACK OF CASH

Jabalpur: Madhya Pradesh's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in Jabalpur on Thursday conducted searches at the residence and office of a bishop of the church of North India Jabalpur Diocese, police said.

During this raid, a large amount of cash and foreign currency was recovered from Bishop P.C. Singh. A currency note counting machine had been installed to count the seized cash. During the probe conducted by the EOW, it has been found that the bishop transferred more than Rs two crore in cash from educational institutions to religious institutions between 2004-05 and 2011-12, as well as misused the funds to amass wealth. According to the information received by the EOW, a complaint had been filed against Singh. It was alleged that on the basis of forged documents, he changed the name of a housing society and himself became the Chairman of the Board of Education, Church of North India Jabalpur Diocese. The accused bishop allegedly misused his position and embezzled the fees received from students of educational institutions and for his own personal use.

Shop license will be canceled for selling drugs in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, necessary steps are being taken to curb the tendency of drugs among children and to end the availability of drugs, in this sequence it has been decided that the licenses of shops from where drugs are being sold will be canceled. Will go in the meeting of officers of Social Justice Department and representatives of voluntary organizations, it was decided that a task force would be constituted at the district level for voluntary organizations and departments, whose work would be reviewed every month. The work of canceling the license of shopkeepers selling narcotics to children and inspecting gutka and drug shops within 100 meters of



the school premises will be reviewed. Do not sell any medicine without a prescription, as many drugs are used as narcotics.

Commissioner of Social Justice E. Ramesh Kumar said that awareness material related to Section-77 and 78 of Juvenile Justice Act should be made available to voluntary organizations. Institutions

should use this material in the settlements at the district level in the coming month. In the upcoming Prohibition Week and Durga Mahotsav festival, work plan of the township and district will be prepared in collaboration with social workers, department, city safety committee members and youth members at the pandals.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan plants Moulshree, Gulmohar and Neem saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Moulshree, Gulmohar and Neem saplings in Smart city Park today. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, office bearers and members of MP Physiotherapy Association also participated in plantation on Physiotherapy Day. Moulshree planted today is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in large clusters among the well-arranged leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. It is also rich in medicinal properties. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the ultimate medicine.



CM CHOUHAN GETS INVITATION FOR SPECIAL EVENT BEING HELD IN AYODHYA

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was called on by prominent saints of Satna district along with former minister Rajendra Shukla at the CM's residence. Chief Minister Chouhan was invited to attend the religious programme being held at Ayodhya Dham from October 5 to 14.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Chouhan was informed that the Jagadguru, Shankaracharya, Mahamandleswar and divine saints of different provinces of the country are meeting at Ram Janma-Ayodhya on the Silver Jubilee of the Maha Mahotsav of Mantraraj Anusthan organised by Swami Ramharshan Devacharya J. Saints from other countries of the world will also participate in this.



Tribal vote bank in BJP-Congress in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Elections to 46 civic bodies are going to be held in Madhya Pradesh by the end of this month, this election is very important for the BJP and the Congress, because in these elections, the tribal vote bank is going to be fierce between the two. Most of the areas where these elections are going to be held are tribal dominated areas. Elections are to be held in 46 bodies in the state on September 27 this month, polling will be held on

September 27 and results will be declared on September 30, the places where elections are to be held, these include 17 municipalities and 29 municipal councils. These Nagar Palikas and Nagar Parishads fall in 18 districts of the state and most of these areas are tribal dominated.

The BJP and the Congress have consistently claimed to have an influence on the tribal vote bank. In the year 2018, the Congress had won 30 of the 47 seats reserved for this category, and the BJP got only 16 seats, while in the

2013 elections, the BJP won 31 out of 47 seats. Therefore, before the assembly elections to be held in the year 2023, both the parties are trying to give a message that their hold is on the tribal class by registering maximum victory in the elections to be held at 46 places of the body.

On one hand, if we see, BJP is making every effort to gain entry into the tribal vote bank in the state, for this Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have visited the state.



Controversy erupts as Ranbir-Alia returned without praying Mahakal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor and his wife Alia Bhatt reached the Mahakaleswar temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday evening, but had to return without seeing them after the Bajrang Dal protested. Since then a new controversy has started. Reacting to the development, State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said, "Nobody stopped them (Ranbir and Alia) from worshipping in the temple,

despite requests from the local administration to go there and offer prayers, they themselves did not go there." Decided to leave. If they have been stopped, then how did the other team members perform their puja in the temple?"

Leaders of the opposition Congress and other political outfits reacted to the issue, gheraoing the ruling BJP for 'banning' them from entering the temple. The state Congress has termed the Hindu outfit's protest as 'political

terrorism'. Narottam Mishra gave a piece of advice on Ranbir Kapoor's 11-year-old statement, in which the actor said, "I am a mutton, paya, beef... red meat eater. I love beef." "Be it Ranbir or anyone else, he should refrain from making statements that hurt religious sentiments," Mishra said. Reacting to the home minister's remarks, state Congress media wing chief K.K. "Ranbir and Alia returned from Ujjain without offering prayers at the Mahakal temple fearing 'political terrorism'," Mishra said.



She shows off her diamond ring for the first time

DAISY LOWE SHARES A KISS WITH FIANCÉ JORDAN SAUL

London | Agencies

Daisy Lowe looked on cloud nine as she shared a kiss with her fiancé Jordan Saul while attending Jamie Winstone's birthday party at Chateau Denmark in London. The model, put on a romantic display with her partner as she showed off her eye-catching diamond engagement ring for the first time. Daisy was seen presenting the shimmering rock to her friends as she caught up with her nearest and dearest at the event.

The media personality looked sensational for the night as she donned a black scooped neck top and a matching mini skirt. The star also opted for

a pair of black tights and added height to her frame with matching ankle boots. Carrying a black clutch bag, Daisy added to her look with a matching necklace and a light pallet of makeup. The star looked in good spirits as she and Jordan wrapped their arms around each other while posing for the camera. Jordan opted for a casual look as he sported a black T-shirt with a matching blazer and a pair of grey trousers.

The outing comes after Daisy gave a candid insight into her sex life and admitted she feels happiest when having sex 'two or three times a day'. The star also explained that orgasms are a great way to 'relieve stress'.

Speaking to local newspaper, she said: 'I always knew good sex made me feel a lot better - orgasms are so good for stress relieving.' Noting that she mainly has sex 'every other day', Daisy expanded: 'On a great day, two or three times a day if that's where it gets to.'

Further in the chat, Daisy pointed out her biggest 'turn-ons' - noting that good driving and kindness was the key to her heart.

Daisy, who has been dating beau Jordan for almost two years, often speaks candidly about body openness and positivity.



Amal Clooney looks ray of sunshine in a yellow minidress

London | Agencies

Amal Clooney looked gorgeous as she and husband George headed to the Ticket to Paradise after party following the film's premiere in central London. The couple, who wed in 2014, slipped into more comfortable outfits after taking to the red carpet earlier in the evening and later left their swanky hotel hand in hand. Amal, slipped into a canary yellow mini dress which was adorned with sequins. The frock boasted a high neck and billowing sleeves and clung to every inch of her incredible figure. Her chocolate tresses were styled in Hollywood glamour curls, and she completed her look with a classic red lip and lashings of mascara. The stunner added height to her frame with a pair of metallic high heels, and clutched a small gold handbag. Meanwhile George, donned a casual polo shirt and jeans which he teamed with a smart sports jacket. The couple appeared in high spirits as they exited their hotel and made their way to the party at celebrity hotspot 180 Strand. It comes after they hit the red carpet to celebrate the movie's release, and Amal slipped into a sequined gown for the occasion. Meanwhile George, who shares five-year-old twins Ella and Alexander with his wife, layered his suit over a crisp white shirt which he wore open at the neck. The handsome couple were soon joined by the equally sublime Julia Roberts, George's co-star in the film and long-time friend. The pals joked around and admired each other's stylish outfits before posing for the cameras.



'It's just not attainable': Zac Efron

London | Agencies

Zac Efron has revealed he fell into a deep depression while training for his 2017 film, Baywatch. The 34-year-old, who looked absolutely ripped in the film, said in a new interview this week that he was training so hard and taking diuretics that he became depressed. Zac also said he started to suffer from insomnia and felt 'burned out' due to the intense training and filming schedule. He told to a health magazine: 'That Baywatch look, I don't know if that's really attainable.' Zac said he took Lasix, a diuretic, to help achieve his ripped look in the film which eventually took a toll on his mental health. He added: 'I started to develop insomnia and I fell into a pretty bad depression, for a long time. Something about that experience burned me out.' 'I had a really hard time recentering. Ultimately they chalked it up to taking way too many diuretics for way too long, and it messed something up.' Zac stars on the cover of Men's Health and shows off his ripped physique, but says he's happier now with a higher percentage of body fat. Zac previously told the publication in 2020 that he skipped carbs to shed the weight for Baywatch. 'When I shot Baywatch, I didn't have a carb for, like, six months,' he said. 'I almost lost my mind. You need this. I still can't get over how this diet of carbs and low protein is the exact opposite of any trainer has ever taught me.' According to magazine, Zac worked out with the help of a personal trainer and did a series of grueling workouts to get into tip top shape for Baywatch.

Zac revealed he suffered a 'pretty bad depression' after using diuretics

Did Harry spit on Chris Pine in Venice? Singer dismisses idea with a joke

Los Angeles | Agencies

The alleged spitting incident at Venice Film Fest became a joke for Harry Styles to crack at his Madison Square Garden concert. The 'As It Was' hitmaker, reports magazine, joked about the viral video footage that has divided the Internet following the Venice Film Festival premiere of 'Don't Worry Darling': Did he or did he not spit on co-star Chris Pine?

Pine's representative had denied the allegation saying the idea of Styles spitting on Pine was "ridiculous".

According to magazine, during Styles' concert set, the singer and actor, joked that he went "very

quickly to Venice to spit on Chris Pine," according to multiple fan videos. After the remark, the crowd erupted in applause. Shortly following Monday's 'Don't Worry Darling' premiere, Internet users ran with the idea that Styles did spit on Pine when he bent down to take his seat next to the actor. Earlier, Pine's representative told magazine: "This is a ridiculous story, a complete fabrication and the result of an odd online illusion that is clearly deceiving and allows for foolish speculation."

The representative added: "Just to be clear, Harry Styles did not spit on Chris Pine. There is nothing but respect between these two men and any suggestion otherwise is a blatant attempt to create drama that simply does not exist."



Idris Elba: 'On Playing James Bond: I'm Not That Guy'

Los Angeles | Agencies

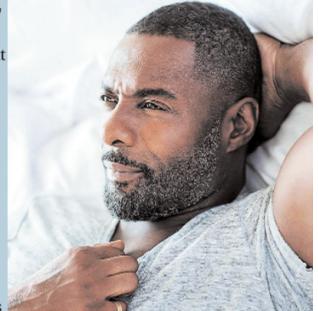
'Pacific Rim' star Idris Elba might have delivered a number of hit films, but the role he gets asked about the most is one he never played. The actor finally opened up on being faced with a barrage of questions about him taking over the reins as James Bond. Elba is not keen on stepping into the shoes of the charming agent.

"I'm not gonna lie," he said in the most recent episode of 'The Shop' podcast, quoted by Deadline. "Every corner of the world I go -- and I'm talking about different cultures -- they always go: 'Bond!' Elba said, pointing his finger in imitation of a fan.

Elba, despite years of queries, is still willing to address speculation about the role. "It is not a goal for my career," the actor said bluntly. "I don't think that, you know, playing Bond will satisfy some of my personal goals."

"And I feel it is beyond me at this junction. It's beyond me. You know, it's not a question of, 'Should I?', 'Do I?', 'Will I?', it is what the will of the nation dictates sometimes," he added, before speculating that even just the discussion is a good thing.

"I'm not that guy, but in everyone's world I might be. And that - job done. Because the truth is, you know, a lot of people are really seeing Idris playing Bond as the 'alternative Bond'. And as long as that alternative is existing, that's great for the growth of f**** casting", he added.



'The Son' gets 10-min ovation at Venice film fest

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Wolverine' star Hugh Jackman and his 'The Son' co-star Laura Dern left a lump in the throat of the audience at the Venice Film Festival with the world premiere of 'The Son', which earned a 10-minute standing ovation. Jackman appeared visibly moved during the film's reception, as did the audience. Jackman hugged Zen McGrath amid the ovation.

According to a website, the film, which centres on a gut-wrenching family tragedy, led to audible gasps from viewers during one dramatic scene. Based on this rapturous reception, Zeller might be back for more Oscar glory with 'The Son'. An official synopsis from Sony Pictures Classics states that 'The Son' centres on

"a family as it falls apart and tries to come back together again".

That Jackman stars as a father whose 17-year-old son comes to live with him after deciding he can no longer stay with his mother (Dern) years after his parents' divorce. Jackman's character, Peter, has a new partner, Vanessa Kirby's Beth. Peter overextends himself to give his son a better life.

Jackman and Dern were both in attendance at the Venice premiere with Vanessa Kirby. Anthony Hopkins, who won an Oscar for his turn in Zeller's last film, 'The Father', didn't make it to Venice,

but he has a spirited cameo in 'The Son', playing Jackman's distant yet very outspoken father. Sarah Ferguson walked the film's red carpet, while Steve Buscemi was spotted in the cinema.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nicole Scherzinger



Asia Cup 2022

KOHLI'S 1ST TON IN T20I, BHUVI'S FIFER HELP INDIA THRASH AFGHANISTAN BY 101 RUNS

Dubai | Agencies

Already out of the tournament, India signed off from Asia Cup 2022 on a high with a 101-run thrashing of Afghanistan in their final Super Four match at the Dubai International Stadium on Thursday. As captain Rohit Sharma was rested, Kohli was promoted to open the batting. What followed next was something which anyone could have predicted, leaving Kohli himself surprised.

After a rollicking opening stand of 119 off 76 balls, with stand-in captain KL Rahul making 65 of those runs, Kohli accelerated amazingly from 59 off 40 balls to get his next 63 runs off just 21 balls to score a long-standing 71st international century. On the back of Kohli's century, India made a mammoth 212/2. Then, senior pacer Bhuvneshwar's spell of 5/4, with lots of swing and hitting the right areas consistently, dismantled the Afghanistan challenge, eventually restricting them to 111/8 in 20 overs. It was a day to forget for Afghanistan, who arrived into this game less than 24 hours after a one-wicket heart-break against Pakistan in Sharjah.



Brief scores

India 212/2 in 20 overs (Virat Kohli 122 not out, KL Rahul 62; Fareed Malik 2/57) beat Afghanistan 111/8 in 20 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 64 not out, Mujeeb Ur Rahman 18; Bhuvneshwar Kumar 5/4, Deepak Hooda 1/3) by 101 runs

Bhuvneshwar Kumar: highest wicket-taker for India in T20Is

Dubai: Senior pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Thursday became the leading Indian wicket-taker in T20Is with his 84th wicket in the shortest format during his team's game against Afghanistan in Super Four stage of the Asia Cup 2022 at the Dubai International Stadium, here. The 32-year-old pacer surpassed leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's tally of 83 wickets and finished with brilliant figures of 5/4 from his four overs. Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is the leading wicket-taker in T20Is with 122 wickets.



ACTUALLY, I WAS SHOCKED, THIS IS THE LAST FORMAT I THOUGHT: KOHLI

Dubai: Very few people would have predicted that Virat Kohli would break his drought of centuries in international cricket in a T20I match. But on Thursday, in a dead rubber against Afghanistan at Dubai, the wait of 1020 days ended with a sensational career-best 122 off just 61 balls in Asia Cup 2022. After he hit his 71st international century, to be on par with former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, coming after a prolonged lean patch of nearly three years and a break from the game for a month and a half, Kohli himself was surprised over getting his maiden T20I hundred which took India to 212/2.

They dropped catches, including of Kohli on 28, looked jaded and simply weren't at their best.

SAFF Women's Championship

INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN 3-0

Defending champions India got off to a winning start at the 2022 SAFF Women's Championship as they beat Pakistan 3-0 in their opening match at Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu on Wednesday. While an own goal from Pakistan captain Maria Jamil Khan broke the deadlock in the first half, goals from Dangmei Grace and Soumya Gaguloth rounded up the match for the Blue Tigress. India's penetration into the Pakistan box via the wide channels was the key outlet in their attacking. The first goal was result of the same as Sandhya Ranganathan operating in the left channel sent a low cross that wasn't dealt with properly by Pakistan goalkeeper, Shahid Bukhari and fell in the way of the onrushing Pakistan captain, who was unable to control it in time. Anju Tamang set up the second goal for India as she sent a through ball for Dangmei Grace on the right from the edge of the box and the latter



slotted it past the goalkeeper at the near post. Deep into the added time in the second half, Pakistan were unable to control another low cross from the left hand side that fell right in the area for

Soumya Gaguloth, whose left footed strike was enough to make it 3-0. Both the teams will now feature on Saturday, September 10 as India play Maldives and Pakistan face Bangladesh.

Indian F2 racer Jehan Daruvala aiming for repeat Monza win

Monza, Italy | Agencies

India's Jehan Daruvala heads to Monza this weekend, one of the Indian Formula 2 racer's most rewarding venues, hoping to score a repeat of the win he took last year at Italy's 'Temple of Speed'. The 23-year-old has taken four podiums at the hallowed track across various categories, including his second Formula 2 victory last year. With the venue setting the stage for the penultimate round of this year's Formula 2 season, Jehan is fired up to deliver another strong result around the circuit's flat-out blasts as he bids to end his campaign on a high. Jehan said, "Monza is a circuit I love and I've always done well here. I was pretty dominant at the track last year and if we



get it right there's no reason we can't do the same again this time out. Apart from the history of the track and its unique demands, this weekend will also be special as it's the home race for my team Prema Racing. We were back on the pace in Zandvoort and this weekend we will once again give it everything to bring home the best result." The 5.7-km long Monza circuit is among the fastest and most historic on the calendar. The layout com-

bines mainly long straights linked together by slow chicanes. The track has always suited Jehan well. The Red Bull-backed racer has stood on the podium there while racing in Formula Renault, European Formula 3, and FIA Formula 3. Last year, he raced away to a dominant Formula 2 win having qualified on the front row. The Monza round of the Formula 2 championship will support this weekend's Formula One Italian Grand Prix.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey announces plan to expand women's football

Team Absolute | New Delhi

All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey announced his plans to expand women's football, and introduce a new age-group league to get the best talents at a young age. "We are shortly introducing an under-17 women's league in India in association with the Sports Authority of India," Chaubey said during a media interaction in Kolkata on Thursday (September 8, 2022). Hinting that he would like to maintain a complete gender equality in Indian football, the AIFF president said the federation has the plan to introduce a minimum salary cap for the players in the Indian Women's League (IWL). "It is not right that honorariums of footballers should have huge differences at men's and women's levels. All efforts should be made to restore a balance," Chaubey said. Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran, Secretary General, AIFF, Avijit Paul, Member, Executive Committee, AIFF, and Sunando Dhar, Deputy Secretary General, AIFF were also present on the occasion. The AIFF president revealed that the newly-elected committee has the plan to take the Indian licensed coaches and professional foot-



ballers to a level, where they will soon be most sought-after people in their own profession at the world stage. "Today, Indian businessmen, corporate executives, scientists etc. are holding top positions in the world. Then why not our coaches and players can do the same? We believe that given the right education and directions, they too can prove to be the best in the world. We should try for that," he maintained. Chaubey, while pointing out that improvement of the game at the state level is the best pathway for taking Indian football ahead, said a lot of importance would be given in future to

Santosh Trophy and other inter-state championships. "Over the years, some of the best names of Indian football have risen from these meets. We will continue to nurture these tournaments," he promised. Making it clear that misuse of funds in football should be stopped and dealt with in the strictest possible manner, Chaubey stated: "Our aim is to take the game through the schools. In India, there are 16 lakhs Government schools with 25 crores students. Most of these schools have a football ground each. If we can tap that area, and attach our licensed coaches with the physical trainers at the school, then a lot can be done without wasting energy and resources." Announcing that the Technical Committee meeting of the AIFF will be summoned shortly to finalise several issues like coaching, scouting and selections of players, the AIFF President said a balancing act between the interest of the National team and the clubs needs to be maintained since both are important for taking Indian football forward together. Replying to a question, the AIFF president said the Federation would send the names of its nominees for the Padma Shri and Arjuna awards by September 15.

US Open 2022:

ALCARAZ OUTLASTS SINNER IN HISTORIC QUARTERS, TO FACE TIAFOE IN SEMIS

New York | Agencies

Carlos Alcaraz outlasted Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-7(7), 6-7(0), 7-5, 6-3 in an epic five-hour, 15-minute long quarter-final to reach the semi-final of US Open 2022, here. The classic quarterfinal between Alcaraz and Sinner ended at 0250 hrs on late Wednesday night and became the second-longest match in US Open history. Before this match, the most late finish in US Open history was 0226 hrs, which happened three times. The longest match in event history came in the 1992 semi-finals between Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang, which lasted five hours and 26 minutes. The Spaniard saved match point at 4-5 in the fourth set and rallied to maintain his hopes of becoming the youngest World No. 1 in the history of the ATP Rankings next Monday. The 19-year-old, who with the win qualified for the ATP Finals for the first time, will face American Frances Tiafoe on Friday in the semi-finals. "Honestly, I still don't know how I did it. You have to believe in yourself. I believed in my game," said Alcaraz, who signed autographs for fans despite the late hour and tossed his sneakers into the crowd. "It was really difficult to close out the



match. I tried to stay calm, but it is difficult at the moment," he added. The fans inside Arthur Ashe Stadium arrived for a tennis match on Wednesday evening. By the time the clock struck midnight, that clash turned into a heavyweight fight. More than two hours later, both men were still bludgeoning

the ball with unrelenting force and showed incredible speed and athleticism to repel each other's attacks. As much skill was on display in the match, there was just as much courage and will. Both men refused to lose, but only one was able to advance. The level was so high, the match may be remembered as the moment in which Alcaraz and Sinner stepped out of the shadow of the 'Big Three' era. Their fourth ATP Head to Head meeting lived up to the hype and felt like more than a quarter-final. Alcaraz, who lost twice against Sinner in the past three months, levelled their rivalry at 2-2 behind 58 winners compared to just 38 unforced errors. Alcaraz was unable to convert opportunities to win the second and third sets, which nearly proved fatal. The 19-year-old let slip five set points in the second set and was unable to serve out the third set. The teen unleashed haymaker after haymaker to put himself in a winning position in both sets, but Sinner repeatedly bounced off the ropes and swung back with force. Those moments were less about what Alcaraz did wrong and more about what Sinner did well, as he raised his level and often hit highlight-reel shots. When the Italian played an exquisite third-set tie-break, which he won 7/0, the momentum was firmly on his side

Ostrava Open: Swiatek leads entry list featuring Rybakina, Raducanu, Azarenka

Ostrava (Czech Republic) | Agencies

World No 1 and two-time Roland Garros titlist Iga Swiatek is leading the entry list featuring six Grand Slam champions for the AGEL Open, a WTA 500 tournament in Ostrava, starting on October 3. Swiatek will be joined by freshly crowned Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, as well as two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka, 2021 US Open champion Emma Raducanu and former Roland Garros winners Jelena Ostapenko and Barbora Krejickova. Krejickova and two-time major finalist Karolina Pliskova will lead the home contingent at the biggest Czech tournament of the season. Four more Top 10 players: defending champion



Anett Kontaveit, last year's runner-up Maria Sakkari, Roland Garros semifinalist Daria Kasatkina and Paula Badosa, will be also in the mix. In 2021, Kontaveit captured her first WTA 500 title in Ostrava, the start of a still-active 20-match winning streak on indoor hard courts that saw the Estonian vault to her current World No 2. Last

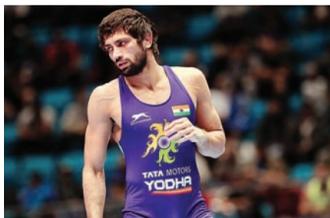
autumn, Kontaveit collected titles in Ostrava, Moscow and Cluj-Napoca to seal her debut at the WTA Finals Guadalajara, where she was runner-up to Garbie Muguruza. Notably, the AGEL Open has been a fixture on the Hologic WTA Tour calendar since 2020, when Aryna Sabalenka defeated Azarenka to take the inaugural title.

Confident of winning World C'ship gold, says wrestler Ravi Dahiya

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Olympic silver medalist wrestler Ravi Dahiya has now set his sights on winning gold medals at the upcoming World Championships and the postponed Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China next year.

He is currently training in Russia to prepare for the World Championships, which will begin in Belgrade from September 10. "My only aim in life as a sports person is to bring laurels to my country and my immediate goals are to win gold medals at the World Championship and the Asian Games," Dahiya, who won the gold medal in the 57kg category at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, said in a release. The 24-year-old Indian left for Russia last month with his coach Arun Kumar and has been training with the Russian wrestlers and coaches at the academy in Vladikavkaz, the same place



where Olympic gold medalist Zaurbek Sidakov trains. The Indian has put in some invaluable training time at the academy and is raring to face the upcoming challenges. "For me, the high expectations of my fans is actually their love and support towards me and only motivates me to do better. There is no pressure on me to perform," said Dahiya, who had claimed a bronze medal in the last World Championships in 2019.

India handed tricky draw, placed along side England, Spain and Wales in Pool D

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India were handed a tricky draw for the Hockey World Cup to be held in Odisha in January 2023, after they were placed alongside three European teams - England, Spain and Wales - in Pool D. At world number 5, India are the highest-ranked team in the group but securing a direct berth for the quarterfinals won't be straightforward for the hosts. In England (rank 6), they will face an opponent against whom they have a mixed record. Matches between India and England have often been high-scoring, with England having an edge in major events. Spain (rank 8) have always been a tricky team to play against and have become stronger under former Netherlands coach Max



Caldas and while Wales (rank 16) might seem weakest among the four

teams, they have shown an ability to punch above their weight in

European competitions. The group winners will advance directly to the quarterfinals while the teams placed second and third will have to play crossover matches to determine their fate. On paper, Pool D is the toughest pool with three evenly-matched teams fighting for the top spot for direct place in the last-8. Pool A comprises Australia, Argentina, France and South Africa. In Pool B, Belgium and Germany will battle it out for the top spot along with South Korea and Japan while the Netherlands, Chile, Malaysia and New Zealand form Pool C. The 16-team event will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29. This is the second consecutive World Cup to be held in India - and fourth overall.

