

NATION > 02

Shankaracharya Swaroopanand Saraswati's successors named...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

'Traumatised for life' Britney may never perform again...



SPORTS > 07

SAFF U-17 Championship: India defeat Bangladesh 2-1, book...



Retail inflation rises to 7% in August over high food prices

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's retail inflation in August 2022 rose to 7 per cent, up from 6.71 per cent in July, mainly due to high food prices, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Food inflation for August stood at 7.62 per cent, a steep rise over 6.75 per cent recorded in July.

In June, retail inflation stood at 7.01 per cent while in July, it had fallen marginally to 6.71 per cent. Now in August it has again risen to 7

per cent due to rise in prices of vegetables, cereal, milk, clothing, footwear, and housing. This is the eighth consecutive month when retail inflation, which is measured on consumer price index (CPI), has remained above Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance level of 6 per cent.

A poor monsoon, especially in northern India, has led to shortage of crops like wheat and rice, leading to the government imposing a ban on their export.

This has led to high food prices, which has reflected in rising retail inflation.

VARANASI COURT RULES IN FAVOUR OF HINDU PETITIONERS IN

GYANVAPI CASE

The Varanasi court on Monday said that the Hindu petition for worship in Shringar Gauri was maintainable and the five Hindu women's plea seeking right to worship in the Gyanvapi complex will be heard. District judge A.K. Vishvesha dismissed the petition filed by the Muslim side citing the Places of Worship Act and questioning the maintainability of the petition.



Team Absolute | Varanasi

In May, the Supreme Court had assigned the case to the Varanasi district judge's court, shifting it from a lower court where it was being heard till then.

The Supreme Court had ordered that "Keeping the complexity and sensitivity of the matter in view, the civil suit before the civil judge in Varanasi shall be heard before a senior and experienced judicial officer of the UP judicial service." A month before the Supreme Court's intervention in the case, the Varanasi civil court had ordered the filming of the Gyanvapi mosque, based on the petition by the Hindu women who claimed that there are idols of Hindu Gods and Goddesses in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

A report of the filming at the mosque was then submitted to the Varanasi court in a sealed cover, but the Hindu petitioners

"The court rejected the Muslim side's petition and said the suit is maintainable. The next hearing in the matter will be on September 22."

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side

"Our legal team would study the verdict and act accordingly. We will fight the matter legally."

Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali, Sunni cleric

controversially released details just hours later. The report claimed a 'Shivling' had been found in a pond within the mosque complex used for 'wuzu' or purification rituals before Muslim prayers. The judge hearing the case at the time had ordered the sealing of this pond. This filming inside the centuries-old mosque was challenged in the Supreme Court by the Gyanvapi mosque committee. The petitioners said the filming goes against the Places of Worship Act of 1991, which maintains the religious status of any place of worship

as of August 15, 1947. "Such petitions and sealing of mosques will lead to public mischief and communal disharmony, will affect mosques across the country," the mosque committee had argued. The mosque committee made similar arguments before the Varanasi district judge's court in the 'maintainability' case, while lawyers for the Hindu petitioners claimed the law does not bar their case and that they could establish in court that the mosque premises was actually a temple as on the day of Independence.

TIMELINE OF GYANVAPI COURT CASE

- ▶ **1998:** Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee approached the Allahabad High Court that the temple-mosque land dispute could not be decided by a civil court as it was not permissible by the law. The High Court granted stay to the proceedings for 22 years.
- ▶ **2019:** The case was revived when a plea was filed on behalf of Swayambhu Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar as the deity's next friend in the Varanasi court demanding a survey by ASI in the disputed area.
- ▶ **2020:** Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee opposed the petition seeking ASI survey of the entire Gyanvapi complex.
- ▶ **2020:** The petitioner approached the lower court for the resumption of the hearing of the 1991 petition.
- ▶ **March 2021:** The Places of Worship Act 1991 was taken up by a Supreme Court bench headed by then former Chief Justice S.A. Bobde. The petitioner was Ashwani Upadhyay.
- ▶ **August 2021:** Five female Hindu devotees filed a petition in the Varanasi Court seeking to worship deities Hanuman, Nandi, and Shringar Gauri, inside the Gyanvapi complex.
- ▶ **September 2021:** Allahabad High Court said that the court should wait for further judgement in the already proceeding cases of the matter.
- ▶ **April 2022:** Based on the petition filed in August 2021, the Varanasi district court appointed a court commissioner and videography survey of the complex. Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee challenged it in the Allahabad High court, which upheld

- the lower court order. The Masjid Committee also filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court.
- ▶ **May 6, 2022:** The videographic survey of the complex began.
- ▶ **May 12, 2022:** The court appointed senior advocate Vishal Singh to supervise the survey. He was appointed as special court commissioner. The court directed them to report details of the survey by May 17.
- ▶ **May 14-19, 2022:** The survey was resumed again and was conducted for two days. All the survey findings were submitted in a report to the court.
- ▶ **May 20, 2022:** The case proceedings were transferred to a district judge by the Supreme Court.
- ▶ **May 26, 2022:** The district court began hearing the maintainability petition of the case.
- ▶ **June 21, 2022:** Varanasi civil judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar, who had ordered the video survey of Gyanvapi mosque, is transferred to Bareilly.
- ▶ **July 11, 2022:** The Hindu petitioners in the Gyanvapi case decide to form a new trust, Shri Adimahadev Kashi Dharmalaya Mukti Nyas.
- ▶ **July 18, 2022:** The Supreme Court agreed to list a plea seeking 'puja', 'darshan', ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey and carbon dating by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) of the Shivling purportedly discovered in the Gyanvapi mosque's ablution area during a court-ordered survey.
- ▶ **August 24, 2022:** Varanasi Court reserved its order till September 12. The time was given to both parties to complete their arguments.

DU ADMISSIONS: CSAS PORTAL LAUNCHED FOR UG COURSES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the launch of the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal, Delhi University on Monday started the admission process for undergraduate (UG) courses. The portal will be open till October 3, giving students three weeks to apply for undergraduate courses.

Apart from Delhi University, many central universities and other varieties, that are part of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), have also started the admission process.

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) result is to be declared on or



before September 15. After the tentative date of the CUET result came out, Delhi University shared the information related to admission in DU on Monday.

Delhi University says that this year all the colleges affiliated to DU will have three-phase admission through the CSAS. Due to this, the new session of undergraduate courses in Delhi University is likely to start from November 1.

SC SEEKS CENTRE'S REPLY ON FRESH PLEAS AGAINST CAA, HEARING ON OCT 31

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Centre on fresh petitions challenging the validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and indicated it may refer the matter, of over 200 petitions against the law, to a three-judge bench. A bench, headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, directed the Centre to file response on the petitions challenging the CAA and also directed the Assam and Tripura government to file response on petitions having state specific question in connection with the CAA.

The top court indicated that it may refer the matter to a three-judge bench and scheduled the



hearing on October 31.

In order to streamline hearing on over 200 petitions, the top court said the petitions needed to be put in different compartments so that submissions could be easily advanced and confined to the challenges arising in respect of

such segments. The top court also issued notices in all fresh petitions against CAA, which grants citizenship to non-Muslim migrants who had come from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan on or before December 31, 2014.

'RIGHT TO DIGNITY, FAIR TREATMENT ALSO FOR BODY AFTER DEATH'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea of a father to hand over the body of his son, who was killed in the Hyderabad encounter in Kashmir in November last year, while asking the Centre to bring a law in connection with exhumation of bodies as there is no such legislation to deal with the request of family members of the deceased.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala said: "The right to dignity and fair treatment under Article 21 of the Constitution is not only available to a living man but also to his body after his death. We, as a court of law, respect the emotions and sentiments expressed by the appellant as the father of the deceased. However, the court of law should not decide the rights of the parties considering their sentiments."

Gadkari invites US investors for roads and highways projects in India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari called for investors from the US to come forward and invest in roads and highways projects in India which is a goldmine for investors.

The Union Minister also talked about Electric Highway which will be powered by solar which will facilitate charging of heavy duty trucks and buses while running.

Inaugurating virtually the Indo-US Economic Summit of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, he said the United States of America and India are prominent democracies of the World with strong bilateral relations.



"We have well-developed framework for Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) in the highway sector. Asian Development Bank has ranked India at the first spot in PPP operational maturity and also designated India as a developed market for PPPs. All project documentation, contractual decisions and approvals are now being done through the digital portal," the minister added.

The minister said that the government is also working on development of the Electric Highway which will be powered by solar, this will facilitate charging of heavy duty trucks and buses while running. "US-based companies can collaborate with our research and development efforts towards EV battery technologies and retrofitting industry," he said.

Vyapam case: Candidate, aide sentenced to jail for impersonation

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A special court for Vyapam cases in Gwalior has sentenced to two persons, one candidate and his aide who appeared on behalf of him in the Samvida Shala Shikshak Patratra Pariksha 2011 for Category II, to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

The court awarded jail term to Jitendra Kumar Jatav (candidate) and Gulab Singh Patel (solver) besides slapping a fine of Rs 13,100 on each of them.

The CBI had registered the case on August 4, 2015 in compliance of the order of the Supreme Court. The FIR was registered against the accused and others at Dehat police station in Bhind on charges of impersonation.

It was learnt during the investigation that a middleman approached a person to arrange a willing candidate



whom he assured to get selected through impersonation in the Samvida Shala Shikshak eligibility examination for Category-II being conducted by Vyapam for Rs 1 Lakh. In lieu of this, the middleman promised to give Rs 10,000 per candidate as commission. Accordingly, Gulab Singh appeared for the test impersonating Jitendra Jatav.

The special court found the accused guilty and sentenced them to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

K'taka surgeon runs 3 KMs, beats traffic to perform operation on time

"During the traffic, the Google map showed 45 minutes to get to the hospital. Normally, it takes 5 to 10 minutes to reach the hospital through that route. I waited but time didn't change on Google maps and I had an important surgery scheduled for morning besides several others during the course of the day. At that point, I just decided to walk. I run and work-out, so I used that to my advantage, crossed over the street and finished 3 kilometres in about 15 minutes."

Dr Govind Nandakumar

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka surgeon Dr Govind Nandakumar's efforts to reach the Manipal hospital beating the traffic jam to perform surgery on scheduled time has won numerous hearts. The doctor had to run for 15 minutes to reach the hospital as his car was stuck in the traffic jam following heavy rains and waterlogging.

His video of running towards the hospital has gone viral on social media winning him appreciation by netizens. "Saviour in white coat beats traffic to save a soul," says Subodh Kumar on Monday.

Ranjan Rai praised the doctor on his social media as the unsung hero. "Proud of Bengaluru Dr Govind Nandakumar who was stuck in a traffic jam and getting late for the surgery of his patient, so he runs 3 km to per-



form crucial surgery on time, leaving his car behind," he says. "Meet Dr Govind Nandakumar from Bengaluru who ditched his car in the heavy traffic and decided to run towards the hospital to perform an important surgery. Not every hero wears a cap, some wear white coats," said another user. The incident took place on August 30, when Gastroenterology surgeon Dr Govind Nandakumar was

en route to Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru's Sarjapur Road for an emergency laparoscopic gallbladder surgery. Nandakumar has performed more than 1,000 surgeries in the past 18 years. He says this was not the first time he ran to reach out to the operation theatre on scheduled time. He further stated that his car driver took two-and-a-half hours to reach the hospital.



SHANKARACHARYA SWAROOPANAND SARASWATI'S SUCCESSORS NAMED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Shankaracharya of Jyotish, Dwarka and Sharda peeth, Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati, who breathed his last at his ashram in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday afternoon, was given a farewell with traditional rituals, chanting of mantras and reciting of shlokas by hundreds of Hindu seers on Monday.

The Shankaracharya's body was placed on a chariot and carried from Jhoteswar Paramhansi Ganga Ashram to an Ashram located near the hillside where his mortal remains were ritually placed in 'Samadhi' in Narsinghpur district. The funeral procession was taken out amid the chanting of mantras and shlokas by hundreds of seers, while thousands of his disciples and locals bid him a tearful farewell.

Before the funeral procession, the successors of Swami Swaroopanand were also announced. According to reports, Swami Avimuktেশ्वरानंद has been made the head of Jyotishpeeth Badrinath and Swami Sadanand has been made the head of Sharda Peeth Dwarka. The names of both were announced in front of the body of the Shankaracharya. Subodhanand Maharaj, the personal secretary of the Shankaracharya, announced the names of the successors.



Many politicians, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, MP Congress chief Kamal Nath, Union Minister Prahlad Patel and many others had come to pay their last respects. Later, Kamal Nath said that the Madhya Pradesh government has not declared state

mourning after the death of the Shankaracharya. Nath urged Chief Minister Chouhan to declare state mourning. "I urge the Chief Minister to declare state mourning on the departure of Pujya Shankaracharya ji, respecting the sentiments of the entire Hindu society," Kamal Nath said.

The 99-year-old seer -- perhaps the oldest surviving Shankaracharya, passed away following prolonged illness around 3.30 p.m. after a mild heart attack on Sunday afternoon at his Ashram in Narsinghpur district. Just a few days ago, the seer had celebrated his 99th birthday on the occasion of Hartalika Teej.

Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati was born in Dighori village in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh in 1924. He was born in a Brahmin family and his childhood name was Potiram Upadhyay. He had left home aged just nine years in pursuit of God. He was a disciple of Shankaracharya Brahmananda Saraswati of Jyotir Math and of Shankaracharya (disputed) Krishnabodha Ashrama of Jyotirmath.

In 1950, his Guru Brahmananda made him a Dandi Sanyasi. He became the president of the Akhil Bhartiya Ram Rajya Parishad established by Swami Karpatriji.

On Krishnabodha Ashrama's demise in 1973, the title of Shankaracharya (disputed) of Jyotir Math, Badrinath passed to Swami Swaroopanand. Nine years later in 1982, he also became the Shankaracharya of Dwarka Peeth. When aged just 18, he had become a part of the country's freedom movement and was known as the "Revolutionary Sadhu" for taking part in the 1942 Quit India Movement. He was jailed for it and served a prison sentence for around a year and a half.

SIX YEARS' JAIL, FINE OF RS 1.5 LAKH TO I-T EX DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

New Delhi: A Special CBI Court in Lucknow on Monday awarded six years rigorous imprisonment to Arvind Mishra (IRS-1989 batch officer), the then Deputy Commissioner, Income Tax, Lucknow and imposed a fine of Rs 1.50 lakh in a CBI case.

According to information, a case was registered on November 29, 1999 on a complaint against Arvind Mishra, alleging a demand for a bribe of Rs 20,000 by him for issuing a "No Dues Certificate" in the prescribed format 34(A).

Subsequently, the CBI laid a trap and caught Mishra red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 from the complainant.

After completing the investigation, a chargesheet was filed against the accused before the special court. In this case, trial had remained stayed for most of the period as different petitions were pending in the matter before the High Court. The petitions filed by the accused were adequately countered by the CBI prosecutors. The CBI was successful in convincing both the trial court and the High Court about the merits of the prosecution case which led to the rejection of the petitions of the accused and waiver of interim relief in favour of the accused.

The trial court found the accused guilty and convicted him.



Large scale smuggling of contraband in Bihar's Saharsa jail

Patna | Agencies

BJP MLA Neeraj Kumar Bablu claimed that trading of contraband is taking place at large scale in Bihar's Saharsa jail.

Bablu further claims that 80 per cent of the inmates are addicted to contraband. The smuggling of contraband is happening with the connivance of jail superintendent and warders. The situation is alarming here as if any inmate dared to complain against the illegal activities, they were brutally beaten and humiliated by fellow inmates and gangsters. "We have demanded a thorough inquiry in this matter. He also urged the district and session judge of Saharsa to take cognizance of the matter and take action against the culprits," Bablu said. "The units of Bihar military police, home guard, SAP, and police personnel of jail entered the certain sections of the prison between September 4 to September 8 and brutally assaulted some of the inmates. As a result, three inmates named Abhijeet Singh, Vihay Thakur and Siti Mian are seriously injured," Bablu said.

Beside contrabands, the prison officials are also involved in smuggling of mobile phones. The rate of passing an android phone is Rs 3,000 and for simple phone, it is



Rs 1,000. The relatives of the criminals used to give money to the employees deployed at the gate or through the personnel deployed at the watchtowers. The relatives used to throw mobile phones inside the jail from certain sections of the wall and on the signal of personnel deployed at the watchtowers," Bablu said.

AHEAD OF SONIA-NITISH MEET, CONGRESS INDICATION TO ALLIES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Ahead of Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and former CM Lalu Prasad Yadav's meeting with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, the party has said that a strong Congress will be more effective for opposition unity and the allies should understand it.

The Congress, which had taken a backseat till now on the issue, along with Nitish Kumar, TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee along with Sharad Pawar, has taken the lead.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh responding to a questions said that, "opposition unity does not mean that Congress should be weak and our allies should understand that they will not allow Congress to weaken and a strong Congress will be the pillar in opposition unity." He said that Rahul Gandhi's yatra is for strengthening the Congress and if the opposition gets united it is good.

Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav has claimed that Nitish Kumar and RJD president Lalu



Prasad will together go to Delhi to meet Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

The remark came as Sharad Pawar on Sunday backed opposition unity while his party said that he is not in the race for the PM's post.

"Sonia Gandhi is currently outside the country. As soon as she returns to New Delhi, the two leaders will meet

her in a bid to unite the opposition parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha election," Tejashwi said.

Earlier, Nitish Kumar went to the national capital to meet the opposition leaders but as Sonia Gandhi was not in India he was unable to meet her. However, Nitish Kumar met Rahul Gandhi at that time.

Kumar met scores of political leaders including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, CPI-M Secretary General Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D Raja and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

The purpose of Nitish Kumar's visit was opposition unity. Before reaching New Delhi, Kumar had met RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav and TRS Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao. Nitish officially denied any prime ministerial ambition but the political commentators feel that the target is the PM's chair. However the biggest obstacle is the Congress which is maintaining that being the biggest political formation it should be the fulcrum of any alliance. Sources in the Congress say that the Nitish Kumar situation is evolving and we are watching how it unfolds.

Rahul Gandhi on Friday addressing a press conference in Nagercoil said that "opposition unity is a good thing" and it's the responsibility of other opposition parties to fight the BJP. Nitish Kumar had a nearly one-hour meeting with Rahul Gandhi on the issue.

BJP, Congress in war of words over Rahul's meeting with controversial Christian priest

Chennai | Agencies

The BJP and Congress on Monday engaged a war of words over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's meeting with controversial Christian pastor, George Ponniah, at Kanniyakumari during his Bharat Jodo Yatra.

BJP woman's wing President Vanathi Sreenivasan, in a statement, sought an apology from the Congress leader over his meeting with Ponniah and also demanded that he clarify if he subscribed to the views aired by the controversial Christian pastor on Hinduism.

She also asked what had transpired between Ponniah and Rahul Gandhi, alleging that the Congress leader does not have any time for Hindus and Hindu temples, but finds time to meet controversial people like George Ponniah.

During his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Gandhi met the Christian priest George Ponniah and the priest, in a video clipping, reportedly told him that "Jesus was a real



god unlike Shakti and other gods and goddesses".

As this has turned into a major controversy, the priest stated that he had not insulted the Hindu religion.

Meanwhile, the Congress has come out strongly against the BJP on the issue and with party leader Jairam Ramesh, in a statement on Monday, saying that "the

BJP hate factory was sharing tweets about Rahul Gandhi which had no relevance". Gandhi is now in Thiruvananthapuram as part of the 3,570-km-long Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir.

On Monday, he met the Latin Catholic priests who are agitating against the Vizhinjam port.

GUJARAT POLICE RAID BOOZE PARTY, ARREST 25 INCLUDING WOMEN

Anand (Gujarat) | Agencies

As many as 25 persons including women, who were enjoying a liquor party to celebrate a birthday, were arrested after Anand district police carried out a raid in a farm house.

Gujarat is a dry state where sale and consumption of liquor is prohibited.

Anklav Police Station head constable, Narendrasinh Pravinisinh in his complaint stated that Police Inspector H.M. Rana had received a tip-off that a liquor party is going on in Greenstone Villa farm house in the Navakhal village. When police team entered the villa and inquired about the loud music and party, a 22-year-old Siddhi Bhuva informed the police that friends had gathered to celebrate her birthday. Some 15 men and 10 women, all in their early 20's, were enjoying the liquor party.

Police have seized 10 bottles of Indian made foreign liquor - five empty bottles, three sealed bottles and two half empty bottles. All partying youth were from Vadodara and had come all the way to Anand to celebrate the party. Property worth Rs 11 lakh was also seized from them including vehicles.

Drone from Pakistan spotted in Punjab, returns after BSF fire

Chandigarh | Agencies

A drone from Pakistan was spotted close to the international border near Punjab's Gurdaspur on Monday morning, officials said.

The drone flew back towards Pakistan when Border Security Force (BSF) troops fired several rounds at it.

A search operation was underway jointly by a team of the BSF and Punjab Police.

A day earlier, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav told the media that 95 per cent of the RDX is coming through Punjab borders mostly by using drones.

As per the police records,



nearly 125 drone sorties from Pakistan to Punjab were recorded this year, much higher than the last year.

Goa Police to handover Phogat case to CBI today

Panaji | Agencies

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that the alleged murder case of TikTok star and BJP leader Sonali Phogat will be handed over to the CBI later in the day amid continued demands to do so by the people of Haryana.

"I have faith in the Goa Police. They are conducting investigation in a good way and also have got good clues. But considering the demand of the people of Haryana, I am giving it (case) to the CBI today," Sawant, who also hold the Home portfolio, told reporters here.

Sawant further said that "today I am writing a letter to the Union Home Minister that this case be given to the CBI". The Chief Minister said investigation into the case was almost completed. Phogat had come to Goa on August 22 and was staying at a hotel in Anjuna. She felt uneasy that night and the next morning, she was taken to the St. Anthony's hospital where she was declared brought dead.



Police on August 26 arrested Sudhir Sangwan (Phogat's PA) along with Sukwinder Singh in connection with her murder. Methamphetamine drugs were allegedly given to Phogat, while she was partying in Curlies restaurant in Anjuna.

Trinamool to bring motion in Assembly against central agencies' activities in WB

Kolkata | Agencies

The ruling Trinamool Congress will move a motion in the assembly against the "hyperactive" drives by central agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate in West Bengal.

A short session of the assembly will be held from September 14 when the motion will be moved. Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay said on Monday that a proposal on the motion has already been submitted in the assembly.

"There will be a discussion in which members of both the treasury benches and the opposition will participate. An atmosphere of tension and fear is being created in the state. The central agencies' officials are reaching the residences of people at odd hours. There will be discussions on this matter," the Speaker said.

The decision to move the motion was taken at a working committee meeting of the assembly



on Monday, which was attended by several ministers and MLAs of the ruling party, besides the Speaker and the deputy speaker, Ashish Bandopadhyay. However, none of the BJP legislators, who are members of the working committee, were present at the meeting. Emerging out of the meeting, parliamentary affairs and agriculture minister Sovande Chattopadhyay said that the motion will come up for discussion on September 19.

He slammed the opposition members in the working committee for their absence from the Monday meeting. "We too had been on the opposition benches for a long time. There had been differences with the then Speaker of the assembly but despite that we attended the meetings convened by the Speaker. There are some practices in the democratic system which we should not ignore," he said.

Till the filing of this report, there was no reaction from the state unit of the BJP on this count.



AJIT PAWAR LEAVE PARTY MEET IN FRONT OF NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY

Former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar skipped the chance to speak at the Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP)'s national convention meeting despite being one of the top leaders in the party.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ajit Pawar left midway in front of party chief Sharad Pawar just moments after party leader Jayant Patil was given the chance to speak before him which sparked rumours of a rift in the party.

Although the Maharashtra leader later clarified that he did not speak in the meeting because it was a national-level meeting, NCP Member of Parliament (MP) Praful Patel had announced on the stage that Ajit Pawar will speak before Sharad Pawar's concluding remark but the former deputy Chief Minister was missing from his seat. It was later on announced by Praful Patel that Ajit Pawar had excused himself to go to the washroom and will come back for the speech in front of cadres who



raised slogans in support of the former Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister. Meanwhile, NCP MP Supriya Sule was seen convincing Ajit Pawar to return for his speech on

the stage. When Ajit Pawar entered the meeting venue, party veteran Sharad Pawar had already started his concluding remarks after which the former didn't get any chance to

speak. In 2019, while Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress in Maharashtra were still discussing the alliance, BJP leader Devendra Fadnis on November 23, 2019, took oath as Chief Minister with NCP leader Ajit Pawar as his deputy. The two were sworn in at an early morning ceremony but the government lasted only 80 hours. Earlier on Saturday, Sharad Pawar was re-elected as the President of the National Congress Party (NCP) for the next four years. Sharing the information, the chief spokesperson of NCP, Mahesh Bharat Tapase said that Sharad Pawar unanimously was re-elected as the chief of the party. Notably, Sharad Pawar has been holding the office since 1999 when he founded the party with P.A. Sangma and Tariq Anwar after splitting from Indian National Congress.

MVA slams Maha govt for delays in naming district, Guardian Ministers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid reports of wide-spread havoc in farmlands and the delays in District Planning & Development Council meetings, Maharashtra's opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Monday attacked the state government, demanding the appointment of Guardian Ministers for various districts. "Many regions of Maharashtra have received heavy rainfall during the monsoon causing widespread losses to agriculture. The dams and water reservoirs are also overflowing and water is being discharged, causing further damage to crops," Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar said. Targeting Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, he said it's over two months since the new government came to power and more than a month since ministers were sworn-in and allocated portfolios. "So far, Guardian Ministers have not been appointed for the 36 districts.



This must be done without any further delays. The DPDC meetings are chaired by the Guardian Minister and they are directly responsible for all issues pertaining to their respective districts," Pawar demanded. The Congress too slammed the Shinde-Fadnis government for stopping funds to all sanctioned works from April onwards creating huge chaos at the ground level in the absence of Guardian Ministers. Shiv Sena's farmer face Kishore Tiwari said that he has been touring the floor-ravaged regions of Vidarbha (eastern Maharashtra) since the past few days and witnesses the growing agrarian dis-

stress. "This year, there have been a record number of farmers' suicides in the state yet the local administration has not bothered to reach out to the people and ensure that aid reaches them. Without Guardian Ministers, the aggrieved farmers have nobody to approach, and the Opposition is trying to air their plight," said Tiwari. Since the past fortnight, Maharashtra has been lashed by heavy rains in several regions resulting in waterlogging or flooding of orchards and farmlands and consequently farmers have complained of losses in many areas, especially Vidarbha and Marathwada districts.

Police summons Jacqueline to join probe on Wed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Jacqueline Fernandez to receive a fresh summons as she misses the questioning on September 12. Jacqueline Fernandez recently made headlines for personal reasons after being named in the charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in Sukesh Chandrasekhar's Rs. 200 crore extortion and money laundering case. Many stories about the actress dating the conman circulated on social media, but she has always remained silent and requested privacy. The Delhi Police recently asked Jacqueline to appear for questioning on September 12 in light of the recent situation; however, the actress will not appear due to 'prior commitments.' According to a senior police officer, Jacqueline informed Delhi Police via email that she will be unable to join the investigation at the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) headquarters on Mandir Marg due to prior commitments. According to the officer, "Now, we will issue a fresh summons to Jacqueline to join the investigation in the case. The dates of fresh summons will be decided soon." Meanwhile, Sukesh



Chandrasekhar is being held in a Delhi jail on more than ten criminal charges. Nora Fatehi was recently questioned by the Delhi Police EOW (Economic Offences Wing) in connection with a money laundering case involving jailed conman Sukesh Chandrasekhar. However, she stated that she was unaware of his criminal history.

Lumpy skin disease: Maharashtra steps up vaccination, urges livestock farmers not to panic

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the lumpy skin disease spreads rapidly among cattle in Maharashtra, state animal husbandry commissioner Sachindra Pratap Singh has said that funds to the tune of Rs 1 crore should be made available for each district from the district planning committee for procurement of vaccines and medicines. Around 10 lakh vaccine doses have been received for the control of lumpy skin disease, of which 1.25 lakh doses were distributed, Singh said. He also appealed to livestock farmers not to panic and cautioned private practitioners against prescribing expensive antibiotics and other supportive medicines for the LSD-ailing animals. "All necessary medicines required for the LSD treatment protocol are available with government veterinary dispensaries and taluka mini veterinary poly-



clinics," he said. A total of 4,78,442 livestock animals in 1,566 villages have been vaccinated. Out of the 2,387 infected animals in affected villages, 1,435 have recovered after treatment. The rest of the affected livestock are being treated, officials at the animal husbandry department told The Indian Express. Minister of animal husbandry

Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, along with animal husbandry commissioner, Sachindra Pratap Singh, visited the villages affected by the LSD in Jalgaon, Akola and Aurangabad districts on September 8 and reviewed the current situation by personally meeting the farmers and field officers. Lumpy skin disease is spreading rapidly in the

state. To prevent the spread, authorities should raise public awareness on a large scale. Social media platforms should also be used for public awareness. Vaccination campaigns should be conducted in collaboration with private livestock supervisors to control the LSD. The disease is curable if treated promptly and the mortality rate of livestock from this disease is very low, so livestock farmers should not panic," Singh said. "Farmers have been urged to contact toll free number 1800-2330-418 or state level call center toll free number 1962 of animal husbandry department," Singh said. The state of Maharashtra has been declared as a 'controlled area' with respect to the LSD. As per a government notification, the movement, market, races, animal fairs, exhibitions of cattle and buffalo species within the controlled area or any other place outside the area is prohibited.

RUPEE ENDS 6 PAISE UP AGAINST US DOLLAR AT 79.52

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian rupee ended 6 paise up, at 79.52, against the US dollar on Monday following stronger regional currencies and risk-on sentiments ahead of inflation data. At the Interbank foreign exchange market, rupee ended at 79.52, as against 79.58 against the US dollar. "Indian rupee appreciated for the third day in a row following stronger regional currencies and risk-on sentiments ahead of inflation data. The market is expecting a surge in inflation to 6.9 per cent from the previous 6.7 per cent amid higher commodity prices," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities. The Dollar index, which gauges the strength of greenback against the basket of six major currencies, was at 107.942. "Inflation will take centre stage this week as major economies unveil CPI updates. DXY has sharply cooled off from 110.78 to



below 109.00 levels with hawkish ECB lifting the euro. But DXY may find support at 108.20 levels," said



Kunal Sodhani, Vice President, Global Trading Center, Shinhan Bank. "Prices have been taking sup-

port near 79.90-80.00 mark strongly and faced resistance near 79.50, which is the 50 dma mark, if prices start trading higher above 79.50 on rupee then further rise in rupee can be seen which can take price of rupee towards 79.00 levels," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities. Brent crude oil prices were at \$93.78 a barrel by the closing of Indian market hours. Meanwhile, Benchmark indices ended sharply up on Monday following firm global cues. Sensex ends up 321.99 points, or 0.54 per cent, at 60,115.13, and Nifty closed 103.00 points, or 0.58 per cent, up at 17,936.35. As many as 2,189 shares advanced, 1,394 shares declined, and 176 share remained unchanged. Titan, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Infosys were major gainers on the Sensex. BSE LargeCap was 0.64 per cent up, and BSE SmallCap and MidCap closed 1 per cent and 0.89 per cent up.

Pune's MIT World Peace University signs deal with power utility for knowledge exchange

Team Absolute | Pune

A private university in Kothrud, Pune, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL). The MoU envisions a range of activities in areas such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, smart grids, electrical safety, energy conservation, substation visits, automation and real-time projects based on industry problems, according to a media release. The MoU was signed by Prasad Khandekar, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology; Bharat Chaudhari, head of the School of Electrical Engineering and dean of aca-



demics; MSEDCL superintendent engineer Satish Rajdeep; and executive engineer Avinash Kaldhane. Khandekar said, "This mutually beneficial initiative will lead to a rich exchange of knowledge and will allow students and faculty to align with the latest industry practices and carry collaborative

research. It will help us develop a talent pool that would have an edge, be equipped with advanced knowledge, and narrow the skills gap. There is focus on research, innovation and entrepreneurship and robust tie-ups with the industry required for bridging industry-institute gaps."

Power generation rises marginally in July-Aug on heavy rain: Emkay Global

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The power generation in first two months of the second quarter of current financial year rose marginally by 1.5 per cent on-year due to heavy rainfall during these months, Emkay Global Financial Services said in a report. This was sharply lower than 16 per cent growth in the first quarter of the current financial year, which had the impact of low base due to Covid-19. August generation has been less than 1 per cent. On a 3-year CAGR basis, growth for the two months has been 3.5-5 per cent. "A closer look into the electricity demand pattern suggests that heavy rains during July-August 2022 might be the main reason for the same. Both residential and agricultural demand has high correlation to weather conditions. As the rainy season recedes, we



believe growth in power demand will normalize to the medium-term figure of ~5 per cent," the report said. Hydro growth has been strong at 10 per cent, while Thermal and RE growth stood flat to moderate at 2 per cent. While, coal production reported 11.4 per cent and 8.3 per cent YoY growth for July and August, respectively. Coal dispatch is up 8.5 per cent/5.4 per cent YoY for the two months, although

there was some tapering in growth. As per report, overall coal dispatch has been ~7 per cent for these two months, the power sector has received ~14 per cent higher coal in August 2023 as against August 2022 - YTD numbers stand at 20 per cent. This is good compared to last year, when India faced good demand upsurge during Sep-Oct and many thermal units did not have enough inventory.

Italian technology for two bridges among 16 coming up on J&K rail link

QUAID NAJMI, SHEIKH QAYOUM | Mumbai & Srinagar

A network of 16 big and small bridges, including two with Italian technology with a total length of 2.3 kms are coming up at a quick pace on the upcoming Udhampur-Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), officials here on Monday. The bridges are being constructed by engineering giant Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. Mumbai for the USBRL on the 66-km long alignment being executed by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL) to transform the lives of the people of the valley and link Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of the country. For the first time in India, a series of 16 Pre-loaded Spring Dampers (PSDs) are being installed on Bridges No. 39 and 43 to counter seismic load and enhance safety, ushering a new era in bridge building in such geologically complex



terrain, said Alimilla Sagar, Afcons Project Manager for the 16 bridges. Imported from Italy, the PSDs installation will start in October and be completed by December, on these bridges coming in the Reasi, Bakkal,

Kouri and Sangaldan sector with 90 percent works completed, he added. The PSDs shall be installed in the main span and two platform spans of the two bridges, and the Italian carpentry teams for implementing them

have reached the site. "Additionally, a tie-down mechanism is being used on Bridge 39 which is facing the Chenab Valley, to counter the high wind velocity that will hit the structure and ensure its safety," Sagar said. The PSDs are particularly necessary for bridges 39 & 43 because they are continuous composite steel girders with spans of 490m and 777m respectively, and could be vulnerable to any seismic wave might as they are located in the Reasi district, which falls under most-active seismic region of Zone-V, and the Reasi fault lines pass through the region, he said. The PSDs are designed to counter the seismic load in the structures, limiting and damping the movements that arise between parts of a structure during earthquakes, help resist the seismic forces and enhance the bridge's strength and are installed directly between the bridge and piers, according to Sagar.



EDITOR'S SPECS

PM from UP; OPPN parties in dilemma

The opposition parties are ready to prop up any leader against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, if the leader is willing to take on the BJP. With some opposition parties being decidedly reticent about West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as the Prime Ministerial candidate, the mantle is likely to fall on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to challenge the BJP in 2024. Incidentally, Mamata Banerjee has already announced that Nitish Kumar, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav would be allies in the 2024 contest. The Samajwadi Party, in any case, has little choice left in the matter. Its allies have deserted the party in Uttar Pradesh and there is a silent revolt brewing in the party ranks. Sources in the SP camp said that the party would always prefer Nitish as the prime ministerial candidate than Mamata or Rao because with Nitish Kumar, the SP can tap into the Kurmi votes. After the demise of former Union Minister Beni Prasad Varma, the SP does not have a Kurmi leader who can attract votes for the party. The SP is hopeful of an alliance with the JD(U) that would go beyond the 2024 elections if it supports Nitish Kumar as the prime ministerial candidate. The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), which is an ally of the Samajwadi Party and has eight MLAs in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, is also set to toe the SP line. According to an RLD insider, Jayant Chaudhary is in no mood to disturb the alliance because his priority is to consolidate his party's base in state politics. Her partymen admit, albeit on condition of anonymity, that 'Behenji' -- as she is known in party circles -- will end up supporting the BJP.

HOW NOT TO PROMOTE A FILM

Vinod Mirani

What exactly is happening in the Mumbai film industry? A sense of uncertainty prevails. There is an all-round nervousness and lack of confidence. The bigger the film due for release, the more the confusion between the makers, the exhibitors and the others concerned.

This situation has prevailed since before the pandemic and has only amplified after the industry reopened post lockdown. The films are failing to draw audience. The films of the biggest of stars are being rejected. What's worrisome is that these films are being rejected wholesale, not even being given the privilege of the initial audience that used to throng the cinemas for any film with big stars.

It would be understandable if a film failed because of bad word of mouth. A lot of filmgoers decide whether to watch a film or not after getting audience reports. But that has not been happening recently.

The film critics (if such a tribe exists in India) have become the line of first defence for films that have failed. Not only do they not accept the fact, they try to find excuses on behalf of the filmmakers and stars. Some of them said that 'Laal Singh Chaddha' and 'Raksha Bandhan' failed because they were bad films. And, to think that most of these so-called critics had rated both the films with four stars each!

What is happening recently is that rather than have fun watching a film at the cinemas, people, the netizens, are having fun at the cost of films and filmmakers. They are being trolled mercilessly.

The latest subject of ridicule in social media is the film 'Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva'. The film stars Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Like with many other Hindi films, social media groups have taken a strong stand against the

film. And there are many takers for such groups and the stand they take! Those connected with films would keep quiet for some time. Instead, they come out with statements that get the trolls started.

The example is the PVR multiplex chain's social media post on Monday before the release of 'Brahmastra' that it had already sold 1,00,000 tickets in advance. This claim was followed by the chain saying that they were offering one ticket free against three bought for 'Brahmastra'. Wasn't the chain's management contradicting its own claim on the demand for the film?

The responses that followed this announcement were anything but complimentary. They were humiliating, if one may say so. For a film claiming to have been made at a budget of Rs 400+ crore, the multiplex chain was claiming a sale of 1,00,000 tickets on Day One. This was a contradiction. And why the discount even before the film opened to the public?

'Brahmastra', between its announcement and hitting the screens, has taken a long time, say, seven years. When you take such a long time, you need to be careful about the information you release. Especially in this era of social networks.

That the film's production was either not planned with foresight, or that things were going out of hand, was first noticed when the special effects costs started ballooning. As a solution, the provider was roped in as a partner.

Later came this Rs 400+ crore cost appeal to raise the admission rates. What it means is that the film has cost Rs 400+ crore, so please bear with us and pay extra. What is this? An exercise in crowd funding? Further, a claim is made that the film will give you your money's worth! Now, who guarantees that, the filmmaker or the cinema management, which wants to raise the admission rates?



Money's worth is a phrase used in Hindi as 'paisa vasool' and it was always the audience that decided it. The more reasonable the admission rates, the better the chances of that happening. The 1975 film, 'Sholay', had gone heavily over budget, so should the producers or the cinemas have raised the admission rates? No, they remained the same at Rs 2 to Rs 5 even after it became an all-time blockbuster after a slow start! There have been many films that went over budget, but there was no system of increasing the admission rates at whim!

The word was out that there is not going to be much provision for the pre-release promotion of the film, the budget for it having been cut down drastically. Such news has the tendency of trending on social media and proves to be detrimental. The film promotions got weirder by the day. Earlier, the filmmaker and stars launched a film's promotion in Mumbai with all the television, web and print media present. The media networks being what they are today, your message

reaches all corners of the world within hours. It is covered all over, be it any media.

Next, you travel to Delhi, followed by some other place, such as Ahmedabad or Pune. Follow the same routine; address the media. What purpose does it serve? None. It has all been covered. And, they used the expression Road Show for this silly exercise.

A couple of weeks back, the unit of 'Raksha Bandhan' travelled to London and Dubai to promote the film! If a film does well in India, it works well in these countries, too. If you promote your film in Indian media, it is covered all over the world. So what was the idea? Such ideas come only from the stars for whatever the reason. A producer knows there is no benefit in this for him or the film, but he has to comply. Finally, what is this new fashion of temple runs by stars on the eve of a release? The stars never did this, though a film's producer and director did go to seek divine blessings. It was very personal for them and a matter of beliefs. Now, it is more a part of a promotional strategy. The visit is well-publicised in advance with the media following closely! It backfired on the stars of 'Brahmastra' on their visit to Ujjain's Mahakal temple.

Now that the film, 'Brahmastra' has hit the screens, the final stage of promotion will start now. Trade experts will be convinced to praise the film with half-a-dozen posts. Of course, they have their rates, but, sadly, no credibility. Then there will be critics gifting four-to-five stars to the film.

Looks like the best minds in the film industry have stopped working. The way the release strategy of the film has been handled shows total lack of confidence. The people concerned come across as a confused lot. Why, in the first place, release this cost-heavy film now, during a dull period? Why not wait for the more opportune Diwali release?

international

IMRAN KHAN MEETING WITH FORMER CIA ANALYST RAISES EYEBROWS

Islamabad | Agencies

Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan has claimed repeatedly that the reason behind his ouster from power through a no-confidence motion by opposition alliance in the parliament was part of a US-led conspiracy of regime change. Since his ouster, Imran Khan has carried this claim and built up an anti-US narrative, which he has repeatedly slammed for ousting him off power because of his extension of better relations and trade with Moscow during the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Today, Imran Khan stands as by far the most popular leader in the country's political arena as hundreds of thousands of his supporters take to the



streets every time he calls upon them to stand with him against what he terms as the current 'imported government', brought into power at the behest of the United States regime change conspiracy with an agenda to be "slaves of the US and the West." It is also a known fact that PTI's social media team has slammed the military establishment and the current Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for becoming party

to the regime change conspiracy. Social media, most of which is run by PTI's social media team has made various trends against the Pakistan military establishment, which have ridiculed the army chief, the military establishment and even the judiciary for trying to push Imran Khan against the wall in his struggle for what he terms as 'haqueqi azadi', which means true freedom. With all of the narrative reaching to all

corners of the country and abroad, Imran Khan has met with the former American diplomat, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) analyst and lobbyist Robin Raphael at his residence in Bani Gala in Islamabad. The meeting comes after PTI's US team decided to hire the services of Robin Raphael's company to lobby in favour of PTI and create in-rows into the Biden administration to fix its image and relations with Washington, a step taken parallel to the ongoing slamming of the US administration for conspiring against Imran Khan in public rallies and gatherings across Pakistan. As per sources, Robin Raphael met with Imran Khan at his residence in Bani Gala on Sunday afternoon. It was also revealed that head of PTI USA chapter accompanied Robin Raphael.

CHINA LAUNCHES EMERGENCY RESPONSE AS TYPHOON MUIFA APPROACHES

Beijing: China has activated a level-IV emergency response as Muifa, the 12th typhoon this year, is moving closer to the country's eastern coastal areas and is forecast to move into the East China Sea on Monday. From Monday to Friday, heavy rainfalls and rainstorms are likely to hit areas including parts of Zhejiang, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Shandong, news agency quoted the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) as saying. The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has dispatched two working teams to Jiangsu and Zhejiang to assist and guide typhoon prevention and response work, according to the MEM. Efforts should be made to strengthen monitoring and guard against the typhoon-triggered disasters, the headquarters said, while suggesting that ships should take shelter in harbours and offshore workers come ashore. The level-IV response is the lowest in China's four-tier emergency response system.



Jordan warns against decline in int'l support for refugees in region

Amman | Agencies

Jordan has warned against the noticeable decline in international support extended to refugees in the Middle East and the related UN institutions. Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi made the remarks at a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi in Amman, where he stressed the need for mobilizing joint action to provide a decent life for refugees and help host countries shoulder the burden of hosting them, reports news agency. Safadi praised the solid partnership between Jordan and UNHCR to present necessary services to about 1.3 million Syrians residing in Jordan, of which only 10 percent live in refugee camps, according to a Foreign Ministry statement. He also underlined the role of UNHCR in supporting refugees and maintaining their cause on the international agenda. The two sides agreed to intensify efforts to rally international support for refugees. For his part, the UN official commended Jordan's role in hosting and providing Syrian refugees with needed health and education services. Also on Sunday, Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh discussed with Grandi the



prospects of cooperation between Jordan and UN agencies providing humanitarian and relief services to Syrian refugees, the news agency reported. King Abdullah II of Jordan received Grandi on Sunday and underlined the need for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards host countries, especially in light of challenges related to global food security, according to a statement by the Royal Hashemite Court. According to the UN, Jordan now hosts some 675,000 registered refugees from Syria, who began fleeing in 2011 when the crisis in their country brought unimaginable suffering on its citizens. Most Syrian refugees in Jordan live in its towns and villages, among local communities. Only 17 per cent live in the two main refugee camps, Za'atari and Azraq.

6.3 mn people in SL facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity

Rome | Agencies

An estimated 6.3 million people in Sri Lanka are facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity and their situation is expected to worsen if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support is not provided, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned in a new report on Monday. Two consecutive seasons of poor harvests led to a nearly 50 per cent drop in production coupled with reduced imports of food grains due to foreign exchange constraints, according to the joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) report. The report notes that immediate food assistance and livelihood programmes, including through existing social assistance mechanisms, are critical to enable households to



access nutritious food, particularly moderately and severely acute food insecure ones. Without assistance, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate further, particularly during the October 2022 to February 2023 lean season, driven by poor harvests of staple foods, in particular paddy rice, and the ongoing economic crisis. "In order to avert a further deterioration of food security conditions and to support restoration of agricultural production, livelihood assistance targeting smallholder farmers should remain a priority," said FAO Representative in Sri Lanka Vimlendra Sharan. "With around 30 per cent of the population depending on agriculture, improving the production capacity of farmers will ultimately boost the resilience of the agricultural sector, reduce import requirements amid shortages of foreign currency reserves and avert the rise in hunger."

Controversial Trump aide lashes out at 'hypocrisy' of fellow Indian Americans

Washington | Agencies

Kashyap "Kash" Patel, the controversial top aide to former President Donald Trump and also a close associate, said he feels "forsaken and vilified" by the Indian American community at a time when he has been "unfairly targeted by the US justice department for the colour of his skin". "I think it's the height of hypocrisy that they won't support people who are first generation Indian Americans, who have made it to somewhat the highest levels of the United States government just because they disagree with you politically," Patel said in an exclusive interview to IANS, which is his first to an Indian news publication. He added: "I will help any Indian American and everyone look-



ing to advance in government service or in other ways, in law enforcement, national defence, wherever I can. But they take the opposite position because they have the fake news media to back them. All they care about is publicity and media. The only thing I care about is the mission. I put the mission first every time." Patel said that he has been getting hateful messages from the Indian American community on "email, or messages on

social media, hateful messages, spiteful messages, disgusting messages, which is sad because these are supposed to be our brothers and sisters". Patel is an Indian American who was born in New York to Gujarati parents who came to the US via East Africa. He is an attorney by training and rose to become the chief of staff to the acting secretary of defence in the dying days of the Trump administration and almost came to head the CIA as acting director. He is now a leading member of a small group of Republican Indian Americans disliked intensely by the rest of the community, which remain overwhelmingly Democratic. This so-called rogues' gallery of Desis includes former Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal, who earned the community's wrath for not wanting to be called an

Indian American because he was opposed to the concept of hyphenated Americans; and Dinesh D'Souza, a Ronald Reagan White House staffer who went on to reinvent himself as a documentary filmmaker and was jailed for election funding fraud and became the first Indian American to receive a Presidential pardon, from Trump. He remains a close associate of the former President. "The President and I talk all the time. I'm not going to reveal our private conversations, but he's been pretty public about what his intentions are and how much he wants to fix the country," Patel said, when asked if Trump is planning to run again. "So I think you'll see that an announcement will be coming in the next couple of months and then we'll follow behind it."



OUR PRIORITY IS TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE WELFARE OF THE POOR: CM CHOUHAN

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that everyone has a right on the resources available on earth. Our priority is to provide all facilities for the welfare of the poor. While working with commitment, the state government is running many schemes in the interest of the poor.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Chouhan said this after transferring Rs 23 crore 35 lakh 70 thousand as nutritional allowance under the Food Grant Scheme with a single click, to the accounts of women heads of 2 lakh 33 thousand 570 families of special backward tribes Sahariya, Baiga and Bharia. An amount of Rs one thousand each was transferred in the personal accounts of these women for the month of September. Tribal Welfare Affairs Minister Meena Singh took part virtually. Principal Secretary of the department Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil was present. CM Chouhan said that food grant scheme was started from the year 2017 to maintain the health and nutrition of the women from the special backward tribes of Sahariya, Baiga and Bharia. Since then, the state government is transferring an amount of Rs one thousand every month to the accounts of these women for nutritional food. He said that I am the brother of these women and mama for the daughters, so it is my duty to take full care of you. Free education, ration, housing and health facilities are being provided to the children of poor families. 260 tribal children passed JEE, NEET and CLAT exams Chief Minister Chouhan said that 260 tribal children have been successfully cleared JEE, NEET and CLAT examination in the state. These children will definitely acquire big positions one day. Hard work and guidance of the department



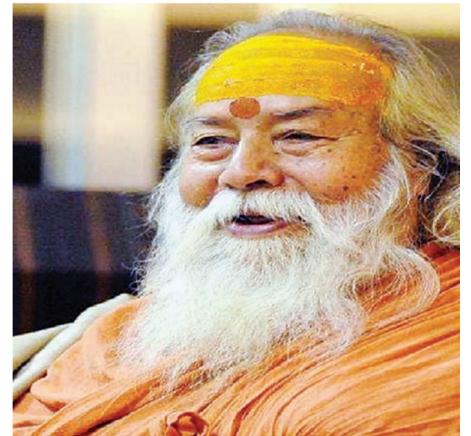
are the main reasons behind the success of these children. He told the children not to worry as he being their Mama will pay their fees. Chief Minister Chouhan said that free text books, cycles, uniforms, scholarships etc. facilities are being provided by the state government for the education of children. A lot of help is also being provided for pursuing higher education. He said that skill and cultural centers are being opened at various places in the state, which will enhance the talent of the children. Chief Minister Chouhan said that there is a system of free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme in case of illness. Eligible beneficiaries are being provided free of cost treatment up to Rs 5 lakh on Ayushman card. He said that the poor are being given ownership of land by giving them pattas under the Mukhya Mantri Bhau-Adhikar Awas Yojana. A law has been

made against usurers. Chief Minister Chouhan said that on September 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Kuno Palpur and Karahal in Sheopur district. He will interact with the women of the Self Help Group in Karahal. Self-help groups are the means to change the lives of women. Women who are not included in these groups, should join the group and make their lives successful.

CM interacts with tribal women
Chief Minister Chouhan held a virtual dialogue with the women of Sahariya, Baiga and Bharia tribes. He spoke to Neelu Bharti of Chhindwara district, Janki Bai of Dindori district and Geeta Bai of Guna district. Chief Minister Chouhan enquired whether they were receiving Rs.1,000 each for nutritional food regularly or not. On this, all the women said that they are getting this amount regularly and there is no problem in withdrawing the amount from the bank. Chief Minister Chouhan told them to buy fruits, vegetables, milk etc. from this amount and take good care of their health. Chief Minister Chouhan also asked about benefits from other schemes. On this the women told him that they also get ration every month without any problem. The education of the children is also in progress and they do not have to pay any fees. Geeta Bai of Guna district said that she has not got accommodation yet. On this, Chief Minister Chouhan said that she would be provided accommodation soon.

Chief Minister Chouhan has last Sight of Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati

► CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN REACHED PARAMHANSI GANGA ASHRAM JHOTESHWAR IN NARSINGHPUR DISTRICT THIS AFTERNOON AND PAID HIS LAST RESPECTS TO SHANKARACHARYA OF DWARKA SHARDAPEETH, PARAM PUJYA SWAMI SWAROOPANAND SARASWATI JI. SWAMI SWAROOPANAND SARASWATI JI PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY.



Team Absolute | Narsinghpur

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Swami ji was the flag bearer of Sanatan Dharma and the

nurturer of our culture and values, besides being a warrior and ascetic. He also fought for the freedom of the country. He inspired the people to walk on the right path and initiated many projects for the poor, tribals and dalits. He was an outstanding scholar and a remarkable saint. Chief Minister Chouhan, while bowing at the feet of Swami ji said that he was the Sun of Sanatan Dharma. With his departure a vacuum created in the

state. Chief Minister Chouhan instructed the officers of the district administration to perform the last rites of Bramhalin Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand ji with full state honours. Chief Minister Chouhan said that we will all make humble efforts to follow the path shown by Swamiji. Many public representatives, officials, citizens and devotees were present on the arrival of Chief Minister Chouhan.

CRPF launches bike-ambulances for tribals in Maoist-hit Balaghat

Team Absolute | Balaghat

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has launched a bike-ambulances for tribals living in remote jungles of Maoist-hit Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh. In an official communication, the CRPF team of Balaghat said that medical teams accompanied by well-armed security personnel will reach the people living in remote areas. Medical team will visit the sick and injured in the remotest places of the district that shares its border with the worst Maoist violence-hit districts in neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. Commandant of the 123th CRPF battalion Sudhir Kumar-- who launched bike-ambulance services in Bastar region, said that bikes were initially given a few years back for anti-Naxal patrols as four-wheelers were easy for the ultras to target. "As we know that people living in remote and dense jungle areas struggle to receive medical services, therefore, we decided to utilise these bikes to provide medical aid to them,"



Kumar added. He further informed that a field surgical team, comprising a doctor, a paramedic and an assistant, are part of the bike ambulance team. "They would visit the villages either as part of a patrol or called by the villagers in need. If needed, these bike ambulances would rush the patients to hospitals," said the officer. The initiative has also come a step towards widening the CRPF's civic action work that is traditionally conducted to befriend the locals by providing household items to them using government funds.

MONSOON SESSION OF MP ASSEMBLY FROM TUESDAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The monsoon session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly is scheduled to get underway on Tuesday with the Opposition gearing up to corner the ruling BJP on several issues, including corruption, unemployment, rising crime against women. According to officials, though the five-day session is scheduled to conclude on September 17, it might be trimmed by a day in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kuno National Park. Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam has called for an all-party meeting later in the evening. The ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have also called a separate meeting of their MLAs. As per sources, the BJP's legislatures will assemble at Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's official residence, while the leader of opposition in the



state Assembly Dr Govind Singh will chair a meeting of party MLAs at MPCC head Kamal Nath's residence. "I would ensure that the session runs uninterrupted with healthy discus-

sions on subjects put before the House. We can not afford to waste time as already the session is very brief. Therefore, any kind of disturbance or needless approach from

MLAs from across the party line would not be tolerated," Speaker Girish Gautam told. Meanwhile, the leader of opposition said the Congress MLAs would co-operating in ensuring a fruitful session. Talking to news agency, Singh pointed out: "We are prepared to corner the ruling BJP on several public issues, especially on scams, corruption, unemployment, increasing crime against women and tribals, inflation and many more. We will also demand answers from the Chief Minister as to why one after another scams were reported in the state." The opposition cadre has prepared to corner the ruling BJP on many fronts. "A meeting will be held later in the evening, wherein all Congress MLAs will be given a specific role or subject to be raised. We will also plan our detailed strategy for the session," Dr Singh stated.

Village displaced from Kuno National Park will get the status of revenue village

Team Absolute | Bhopal

September 17 is going to be an important day for the Kuno National Park in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh as a team of cheetahs from Namibia is coming here on this day. Some villages will also be displaced from this park, the government will give the status of revenue villages to these villages. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that such villages displaced from Kuno National Park, which are still Majre Tolas, will be given the status of full revenue villages. This proceeding has been started. He said that five skill development centers would be set up in this area. In these, employment will be made available by imparting training to the regional youth. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming to Kuno



National Park on September 17 to give the gift of cheetahs. Kuno National Park will make its mark at the international level. The task of shifting cheetahs from one continent to another is a marvelous task. Cheetahs from the African country Namibia are being settled in the Kuno National Park. Prime Minister Modi will release the cheetahs in the Kuno Palpur enclosure on his birthday. Overwhelmed by the natural beauty of Koon, Chief Minister Chouhan said that the natural environment of Kuno National Park and other beautiful views including the river Kuno flowing here make this place beautiful like heaven. In the Cheetah Mitra conference, Union Forest and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that the educational level of the children here is commendable. Children also have environmental awareness.

CM Chouhan planted saplings with Parivartan Sahyog Samiti

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Banyan, Karanj and Gulmohar saplings in the Smart City Park at Shyamla Hills. Social worker Jaideep Patel planted saplings on his birthday. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Niles Shrivastava, Devanshu Pandey, Amit Singh, Nikhil Verma and Gaurav Kushwaha of Parivartan Sahyog Samiti participated in plantation. The Samiti is active in environmental-conservation activities as well as supporting education to needy children, organising health camps and sanitation related activities. Importance of plants The banyan planted today has religious, medicinal and environmental importance. Karanj plant is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. It is also used in religious works. Flowers blooming in large clusters among the well-arranged leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree.



Successful treatment of unrelenting facial pain at AIIMS Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Patient suffering with peculiar disease in which he was severe pain in the face for past 2 years. The pain was so severe that he was unable to brush his teeth, eat meals or even wash his face, even a gush of breeze on the face lead to severe electric shock like pain the face. He had visited many renowned doctors in central India. He losing hope when his son got information about Pain Clinic being run at AIIMS Bhopal. At AIIMS Pain Clinic is run by faculty of Anesthesiology Department. Upon examination, Pain Physician at AIIMS Dr. Anuj Jain an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology diagnosed the patient to have a disease called as Trigeminal



Neuralgia and it can be treated successfully as AIIMS. Dr.Anuj Jain told that he treated Bishan with a technique called as Percutaneous Balloon Compression This

treatment is incision less and stich less. Dr.Anuj Jain took almost one hour to complete the procedure after which the patient got complete relief in his facial pain.

EOW detains accused bishop at Nagpur airport as he returns from Germany

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Economic Offences Wing sleuths in Madhya Pradesh on Monday detained P. C. Singh, bishop of the Church of North India's Jabalpur Diocese, at Nagpur Airport in Maharashtra for questioning in a cheating case registered against him. As per the official sources, Singh was picked up from the airport on Sunday night and brought to Jabalpur. He is now being quizzed in a Rs 2.70-crore cheating case. On Thursday, the EOW personnel had raided the bishop's residence in Jabalpur and had recovered Rs 1.60 crore in Indian and foreign currencies. The EOW with the help of other central agencies including the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was monitoring the movements of Singh, EOW's Superintendent of Police Devendra Singh Rajput told the press on



Monday. "Singh was taken into custody from Nagpur Airport for interrogation in connection with the cheating case registered against him," he said. The EOW last month registered

the case against Bishop Singh after a complaint alleged that he indulged in financial misconduct in running an educational society, of which he was the chairman, the official said. A pre-

liminary investigation had revealed that Rs 2.70 crore collected as students' fees by the society's various institutions between 2004-05 and 2011-12 were allegedly transferred to religious institutions, misused and spent by the bishop for personal needs, an EOW official had said earlier. A case was then registered against Singh and former assistant registrar of Firms and Societies B S Solanki under Indian Penal Code Sections 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using a forged document or electronic record) and 120 B (punishment for criminal conspiracy), the official had said. Following the EOW's searches, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday had ordered a probe to check whether the money was being used for religious conversions or any other illegal activity.



I AM NOT SURE IF I WILL PLAY CAPTAIN MARVEL: BRIE LARSON

Los Angeles | Agencies

Brie Larson isn't sure if she's still wanted to play Captain Marvel. The Academy Award-winning actress has given a wry response when asked if she would play the superheroine again as she acknowledged the hate for her portrayal of the character.

Larson was on hand at the D23 Expo on September 10 to promote 'The Marvels', "How long will you play Captain Marvel?" she responded sarcastically. "I don't know. Does anyone want me to do it again?" When Variety senior editor Marc Malkin jokingly pleaded, "Don't be so mad at us", the 'Room' star repeated herself: "I don't know. I really don't know. I don't have the answer to that." After Variety posted a clip of the interview on its official Twitter account, Brie received supportive messages from fans. "Love how the Marvel cast rushed to Chris Pratt's aid when ppl were clowning on him for possibly being homophobic but can't lift one finger to support Brie through years of online scrutiny and harassment," one person sarcastically wrote.

Another defended Brie's portrayal of Captain Marvel, saying: "I want one person in the comments to explain to me what's so bad about Brie's portrayal of Captain Marvel without complaining about her having short hair and being a woman."

Despite the backlash she's received, Larson will reprise her role as Captain Marvel in the upcoming sequel, 'The Marvels'.

Leonardo hits the bar with Jared Leto

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio continues to enjoy his single life. The 'Titanic' actor has been spotted hanging out with fellow actor Jared Leto at a night party a few weeks after breaking up with Camila Morrone.

The 47-year-old actor was partying in Manhattan with Jared. While hanging out at the bar by himself, the star could be seen pulling down his cap, seemingly trying to go incognito.

In the meantime, Jared seemed more social at the party, which was held during New York Fashion Week. The actor, clad in an all-black outfit and his signature long black hair, was seen chatting with a bunch of folks. Leo's outing arrived after his recent split with Camila. The now-exes reportedly broke up "over the summer" after dating since 2017. Despite their breakup, there are reportedly "no bad feelings" between the exes. As Leo is no longer dating Camila, it's reported that the 'Don't Look Up' star has been quietly seeing Gigi Hadid.

He allegedly even "hooked up" with the model, who is "exactly his type", "a few times" since his breakup. "Leo and Gigi have hooked up a few times this summer," a so-called insider told the site. "They have known each other for several years. They're super attracted to each other," the insider further dished, before adding: "She is exactly his type: gorgeous, sexy but low-key with a one-of-the-guys attitude."



How I lost virginity 'twice': Jack Harlow

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Jack Harlow shared information about his private life during a recent gig in Tennessee. When taking the stage, the 'Industry Baby' hitmaker detailed how he lost his virginity "twice." "I lost my virginity when I was 16," the 24-year-old first divulged.

"I always tell people I lost it twice because when I was 18 and I graduated high school, somehow, some way, I landed this dime piece who was five or six years older than me. She was like 23, 24 - it blew my mind because Nashville, you have to understand, at that point, I'd only f**k with girls I've seen in the halls," he recalled. "It was like welcome to the big leagues, like it was huge."

Harlow went on to note: "I remember I used to take this girl to my indoor soccer games and she would pick me up and take me home to my home-boys."

He added: "She was sitting there watching the game and they'd be like, 'Yo, who is that?' I'd be like, 'Oh her? Yeah, we have sex, you know, like I was feeling myself and it's true, we did.'"

"But something that really impacted me was the first couple times we did it, she would say to me, 'You know, you don't have to go so fast,'" the hip-hop artist recounted. "And when she said that, I was like, 'Damn, I guess I don't have to go so fast.'"

Harlow previously opened up about prioritising female pleasure. When speaking to a magazine in June last year, he said: "I'll say this... I'm getting more selfless by the day." "I'd tell them I'm very open to the way they're thinking," the Louisville-born emcee further emphasised. "I'd love to keep learning more."

Tom Hanks is the greatest living actor: Pinocchio's director

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Tom Hanks, who plays Geppetto the woodcarver who builds and treats Pinocchio, was praised by 'Pinocchio' director Robert Zemeckis.

Talking about his experience and love for actor Hanks, Zemeckis says "Tom is the greatest living actor in the movie business, and it's always fun to see Tom bring a character to life. His portrayal of Geppetto is spot on, wonderful and very warm. Tom can do anything. He brought more to the role than I ever could have imagined."

The live-action film retells the tale of a wooden puppet who embarks on a thrilling adventure to become a real boy.

The film stars Tom Hanks, Benjamin Evan Ainsworth, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Keegan-Michael Key, Lorraine Bracco, with Cynthia Erivo and Luke Evans.

The screenplay for 'Pinocchio' is by Robert Zemeckis and Chris Weitz.



'Traumatised for life' Britney may never perform again

Los Angeles | Agencies Vegas literally the worst ever...and me excited for the pictures for five months on tour... they never showed me any."

Singer Britney Spears has claimed that she "probably won't perform again" because she's "pretty traumatised for life". The "Toxic" hitmaker went on about the "worst" experience ever working with "offensive people" on her live shows in the past, and she suggested that she wouldn't return to the stage again because she's "stubborn" and wants to prove her "point". In a since-deleted Instagram post, she had said: "The most offensive SO CALLED professional pictures on every tour. I mean they could have at least cheated and retouched them for me... just saying... two day shoots for new show in



for the pictures for five months on tour... they never showed me any."

"I'd rather quit s*** in my pool and shoot photos of myself in studios over working with the most offensive people in my life."

She added: "I'm pretty traumatised for life and yes I'm p**** as f*** and no I won't probably perform again just because I'm stubborn and I will make my point."

The singer's last tour was 'The Piece of Me Tour' in 2018. She previously said that she has "no idea" if she'll ever perform again.



SPIELBERG: MINING PERSONAL HISTORY WAS VERY HARD

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg has said that mining his family history to make 'The Fabelmans' was a "very daunting experience" that was at times "very, very hard to get through".

The iconic filmmaker's latest project world premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on Saturday night to raves from critics and largely favourable reviews.

The semi-autobiographical movie, which is already being tipped as an Oscar contender, tells the story of Sam Fabelman, a young boy who falls in love with cinema, but finds himself fighting family turmoil to keep his dream alive. In a so-called press conference, that was effectively a Q&A with TIFF CEO Cameron Bailey, the 'Jaws' director said he thought making the movie "would be a lot easier than it turned out to be because I know the material and I've known the

characters for my entire life".

"And yet I found this for me a very daunting experience because I was attempting in a semi-autobiographical way to recreate huge recollections not only in my life but in the lives of my three sisters, my mother and father who are no longer with us," said Spielberg.

"The responsibility of that began to build."

"As we started working on this, I realized there was no aesthetic distance between me and this experience; I wasn't able to put a camera between myself and reality to protect myself and I couldn't do it telling this story. As the cast knows, it was emotionally a very difficult experience. Not all of it. But some of it was very, very hard to get through."

Kushner added that he "didn't feel like it was therapy".

Spielberg and Kushner were joined on stage in a TIFF Bell Lightbox cinema by cast members Seth Rogen, Paul Dano, Gabriel LaBelle and Judd Hirsch.

Michelle Williams, who was at the Saturday evening premiere, was not in attendance, Bailey explained, as she's nine months pregnant and opted not to take part.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Nina Agdal



SAFF U-17 Championship:

INDIA DEFEAT BANGLADESH 2-1, BOOK SPOT IN FINAL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India defeated Bangladesh 2-1 in the SAFF U-17 Championship semifinal to book their spot in the summit clash at the Racecourse International Stadium in Colombo on Monday. Striker Thanglalsoun Gangete netted a second-half brace, to win the match for India, as Bangladesh later pulled one back via a Mirajul Islam penalty. Both teams looked to size each other up throughout the first half while creating several chances, which went to waste in the end. The only real chance of the half fell India's way, but the team failed to make it count. In the 16th minute, Korou Singh sent in a cross from the right for Gangete who managed to shoulder his marker in the box. As the clock wound down, both the sides headed to the dressing room with the scorers yet to be troubled. However, India came out after the change of ends with all the impetus and soon took the lead. The Indian team surged into the lead five



minutes after the resumption, as striker Thanglalsoun Gangete, who was lurking around the opposition box, received it just outside the area, and even as the jungle of legs tried to close him down, the striker delectably finished it to the right of the goalkeeper in a flash -- a dream finish for any striker. The lead was dou-

bled some seven minutes later off a brilliant counter-attack. The Indian defenders thwarted a rival attack inside the box, and the counter-attack down the right caught Bangladesh unaware. Eventually, Vanlalpeka Guite sent it into the box and Gangete made no mistake to tap it in. However, Bangladesh pulled one

back in just a few minutes, after they were awarded a penalty for a soft foul. Striker Mirajul Islam stepped up to the spot and sent Indian keeper Sahil the wrong way, to score his side's first goal of the match. That goal provided a lot of impetus to the Bangladesh attack, as they kept searching for the equaliser. Meanwhile, India played it smart, exploiting the gaps left behind in the Bangladesh back line, to formulate their counter-attacks. Substitute Lalpekhlu had a couple of chances with around 15 minutes of regulation time left on the clock, but could not extend the lead.

At the other end, Indian defender Mukul Panwar made many crucial blocks, to keep the opposition at bay. The Indian team will now proceed to the final, where it will face the winner of the second semifinal between Nepal and hosts Sri Lanka, which kicks off later on Monday. The final will be played on September 14, with the match kicking off at the same venue at 8 PM.

India name squad for Men's T20 World Cup, T20Is against S Africa and Australia; Bumrah, Harshal return

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India on Monday announced their 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, with fit-again Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel, making their comeback. India's squad for the World Cup in Australia is largely along expected lines and have only few changes from the fifteen, who took part in the recently concluded Asia Cup 2022. Both Bumrah and Harshal had missed the multi-nation tournament in the UAE due to respective injuries and their return for the marquee event will bolster the team's fast bowling ranks. Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are the other two pacers in the squad, along with the all-rounder Hardik Pandya. However, the squad led by Rohit Sharma will miss the services of all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who sustained a right knee injury during the Asia Cup and recently underwent a surgery. Left-hander Axar Patel will step in as a like-for-like replacement for Jadeja. Apart from Axar, R Ashwin and



Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel are the other two specialist spinners. From the Asia Cup squad, the likes of Ravi Bishnoi and Avesh Khan have made way for Bumrah and Harshal while Deepak Hooda holds on to his spot. Avesh, conceded at an economy of 12 runs per over in the two games that he played before being ruled out with an illness. On the other hand, wrist-spinner Ravi Bishnoi played a solitary game against Pakistan but was dropped for the next game despite doing well. The batting unit is identical to the one that played the Asia Cup with captain Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik all included.

Mohammed Shami, the pacer, has been named as a standby player, along with fellow pacer Deepak Chahar, Ravi Bishnoi and batter Shreyas Iyer. Along with the T20 World Cup, the All-India Senior Selection Committee also picked India's squads for the upcoming home T20I series against Australia and South Africa at home. World Cup standbys Mohammed Shami and Deepak Chahar have been picked in the squads that will play Australia and South Africa in the build-up to the marquee event. While Shami hasn't played T20Is since last year's World Cup, Chahar made his international T20I comeback against Afghanistan in India's last Asia Cup games.

Wasim Akram and Shahid Afridi say Sri Lanka played like champions

Dubai | Agencies

Several top cricketers from across the world, including former greats from Pakistan, congratulated Sri Lanka for their amazing victory in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday night. Former Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram said Sri Lanka came into the final with the mind-set that they had to clinch the trophy. A collective impressive performance by Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Wanindu Hasaranga and Pramod Madushan led Sri Lanka to the title with a clinical 23-run win. This is Sri Lanka's sixth Asia Cup title -- 1986, 1997, 2004, 2008, 2014 and 2022. After losing their opening game against Afghanistan, Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and then again Pakistan to clinch the 2022 Asia Cup. "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing. That was the mantra of this amazing Sri Lankan team so congratulations... better team won (the trophy) in the



end," wrote Akram. Shahid Afridi "appreciated" the way the Sri Lankan cricketers played the entire tournament with a positive mind-set. "When I was watching the start of the match it looked like that Pakistan will make the match one-sided, and at the end Sri Lanka made it one-sided. Have to appreciate the @OfficialSLC played the entire tournament sp today's final, you deserve #AsiaCup2022, congrats and well played." Several other Pakistani cricketers lauded Sri Lanka for their efforts on Sunday with Saeed Ajmal too saying the islanders were deserving winners.

India drawn in an interesting pool for 2023 Hockey World Cup, feels Sreejesh

Bengaluru | Agencies

Veteran India hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh feels his side has been drawn in an "interesting pool" for the FIH Odisha World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, scheduled to be played from January 13-29, with the likes of England and Wales adding to the excitement. The Indian team has been drawn in Pool D with England, Spain and Wales in the showpiece event. "It is an interesting pool. England, Spain and Wales all three are really good teams. Having played England and Wales at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games recently, I feel it will be a tough competition. But, we don't need to think about it right now. At present, it's all about us. We are going step-by-step and working on our game at the national camp. We are very excited and looking forward to playing the World Cup at home for the second consecutive time," said 34-year-old Sreejesh, who played a big role in India returning from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics with a bronze medal after four decades.



About the team's prospects in the Pro League 2022-23 matches, Sreejesh said the matches in Odisha will be like a mock test for the 2023 World Cup.

"The Pro League is the best platform for us because we get to play against some of the top teams. The upcoming matches at home will be like a mock test for us, it will help us for the real challenge which we will face in January 2023. It will also help us in providing young players the experience of playing high-level hockey. So, it's a great opportunity for us as it will sort of help us set the tempo for the World Cup," said Sreejesh a veteran of 266 international matches. Sreejesh, who has been nominated for the FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year Award 2021-22, credited team effort for his nomination for the award which he won last year. "It is an honour for me to be nominated for the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year award category. Even though I have been nominated as an individual, it wouldn't have been possible without my teammates, who have been giving their best each and every day for the team. I am privileged to have such amazing teammates and coaching staff which has helped me bring out the best of my game and helped me to take it to another level.

U.S. Open :

CARLOS ALCARAZ BECOMES THE YOUNGEST NO. 1 MEN'S TENNIS PLAYER

New York | Agencies

Considered the next big thing in men's tennis, Carlos Alcaraz used his combination of determination and maturity to beat Casper Ruud 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-3 in the U.S. Open final on Sunday to earn his first Grand Slam title at age of 19 and become the youngest man to be ranked No. 1 in ATP rankings. The 19-year-old has become the youngest Grand Slam champion since countryman Rafael Nadal, 19, lifted the trophy at Roland Garros in 2005, while he is the youngest U.S. Open titlist since Pete Sampras, 19, in 1990. Alcaraz arrived at Flushing Meadows as the World No. 4. However, he leaves the hard-court major in the top spot, becoming the youngest player to rise to the top of the ATP Rankings (since 1973). Alcaraz has also equalled the biggest jump to No. 1, while he is the fourth Spaniard to climb to the top, joining coach



Ferrero, Carlos Moya and Nadal. "It is something I have dreamt of since I was a kid. To be No. 1 in the world, to be champion of a Grand Slam, is something I have worked really, really hard for," Alcaraz said during the trophy ceremony. "It is tough to talk right now, I have lots of emotions. This is something I have tried to achieve. All the hard work I have done with my team and my family. I am just 19 years old, all the tough decisions have been with my parents and my team as well. It is something that is really special for me." Alcaraz won three consecutive five-set matches to reach his first Grand Slam final, spending 20 hours and 19 minutes on court across six matches en route to the final. However, he showed little sign of tiredness to defeat Ruud. "There is no time to be tired in the final rounds of a Grand Slam... You have to be ready and give everything you have inside. It is something I work really hard for," Alcaraz was quoted as saying by ATP.

Rome | Agencies

Juventus came back from 2-0 down to settle for a 2-2 draw against Salernitana in a topsy-turvy Serie A game with four red cards, in which Arkadiusz Milik saw his last-gasp winner wiped out. Juve were coming off a 2-1 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League on Tuesday, and entered the Allianz Stadium on Sunday evening without Manuel Locatelli, Adrien Rabiot, Angel Di Maria, Paul Pogba, Wojciech Szczesny and Federico Chiesa. The away side took a shock lead in the

18th minute when Pasquale Mazzocchi's mazy run created a chance for Antonio Candreva to bundle over the line. Juve's Dusan Vlahovic had the ball into the net in the 39th minute, but the Serbian was flagged offside in the build-up. Salernitana increased their lead before the break as Krzysztof Piatek struck Gleison Bremer's hand in the box, and the Pole stepped up to convert the resultant penalty. The Bianconeri pulled one back straight after the break as Bremer atoned for his error by heading in Filip Kostic's cross. It was a dramatic end

as Juve won a penalty in stoppage time, and although Leonardo Bonucci saw his first attempt parried away, the veteran followed up to tap in the rebound. Milik thought he had scored the winner for Juve in the dying minutes and was sent off for over-celebrating. However, the referee ruled the goal out after a VAR check, as Bonucci was in an offside position and interfering with play. The controversy also sparked a conflict as Bonucci, Salernitana's Federico Fazio, and Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri saw red during the brawl.

Durand Cup 2022

Hyderabad beat Rajasthan United to qualify for semifinal

Kolkata | Agencies

Indian Super League (ISL) winner Hyderabad FC put in a strong performance against I-League side Rajasthan United to claim a 3-1 win in the Durand Cup 2022 quarterfinals here at the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata on Monday.

Bartholomew Ogbeche (6'), Akash Mishra (45') and Javi Siverio (68') found the back of the net for Manolo Marquez's team while Martin Chaves (29' pen) scored at the other end from a spot-kick in an entertaining 3-1 win for HFC.

This win knocks Rajasthan United out of the competition while Hyderabad are set to face Bengaluru FC in the second Semifinal in a few days. Under the lights, even as it was pouring down, Bart Ogbeche took just six minutes to get himself on the scoresheet as he thumped in a header from the edge of the box to convert a Borja Herrera cross and take Hyderabad into an early lead.

It was Hyderabad who then piled the pressure on for most of the game but against the run of play, Rajasthan were offered a way back



when Akash Mishra handed an awkward high ball and the referee pointed to the spot. Laxmikant Kattimani was beaten but HFC did not take long to restore their lead. Akash Mishra popped up with a stunning goal, as he drove a long-range effort from the left into the far corner to bring it back to 2-1 before the break. This win takes Hyderabad FC to their first ever Semifinal in the Durand Cup as they take on fellow ISL side Bengaluru FC at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on September 15.

National Games:

Harmeet Desai-led Gujarat aim for record medal haul in TT on home turf

Gandhinagar | Agencies

Led by India No. 3 Harmeet Desai and his wife Krititika Sinha Roy, host Gujarat is gunning for a record medal haul from table tennis in the 36th National Games. Table tennis competition would be held from September 20-24 at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium in Surat and the fans would be hoping that local boy Desai would come to the party just like the last edition of the Games in Kerala. Desai, a member of the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medal-winning men's teams, had bagged an individual and team silver along with men's doubles gold partnering Devesh Karia back in 2015. The men's team had also won the silver in the 2011 National Games in Ranchi. However, Gujarat would be gunning for team gold this time with former world No. 1 in U-18 and U-21 categories, Manav Thakkar and the up-and-coming Manush Shah lending support to the captain. All the three players would be eyeing glory in individual events as well while the authorities are confident of the women's team finishing on the podium. The



training camp for the National Games, organised by Gujarat State Table Tennis Association (GSTTA) and supported by the Sports Authority of Gujarat, is currently underway at Tapti Valley International School in Surat with Desai and Thakkar scheduled to join the team on September 15 after finishing their international commitments. "Our boys and girls have done well in the past. We have a very strong team this time too and playing in front of a home crowd will give us the advantage," said GSTTA president Vipul Mitra. M Team captain Desai was excited about the prospect of playing in his hometown and said team gold was a realistic target. "We really have a strong and balanced team. All teams will be wary of our strength, and we will also have the local crowd support. I feel we have a great chance of winning the gold at the national games." Women's team captain Krititika admitted that there were some formidable teams but insisted that the Gujarat women could spring a surprise. "On paper, we may not be the best team but this is TT. We are capable of upsetting better teams on our day. Our preparations are going on really well," she said.



Our attitude towards a problem is the real problem: Shilpa Shetty



Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress and yoga expert Shilpa Shetty said that the actual problem is the attitude that one has towards a problem. Taking to Instagram, the actress, who is now recovering from a leg fracture she suffered on the sets of Rohit Shetty's web series 'Indian Police Force', put out a video clip in which she did a few Yoga stretches, seated in her wheel chair. She also wrote: "Is the problem really the problem or is our attitude towards the problem the real problem?"

"This thought got me thinking this morning... why should an injury stop me from enjoying my routine? And so, I decided that I won't give it that power."

"On that note, Today's yoga session included the very simple and easy posture: Tiriyaka Tadasana (Swaying Palm Tree Pose). It stimulates bowel movements, provides a nice stretch sideways, and gives a good stretch to the oblique muscles improving the flexibility of the spine.

"This was followed by the Gomukhasana (Cow Face Pose). It not only improves body posture, but also stretches the shoulders and triceps. Moreover, it helps open up the chest and lungs. It's also helpful if you have a frozen shoulder. (Avoid the Tiriyaka Tadasana if you are suffering from cervical pain.)

"Don't limit your stretches and flexes to a Monday morning. Make sure these basics are a part of your daily routine too."

Its okay to love somebody but not in a functional relationship: Shriya Pilgaonkar



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Mrunal Thakur has opened up about how she wants to rise in love, what she is looking for in a partner and how she sometimes feels that she wants to have a baby. Debunking some of the outdated notions around dating in your 30s, actors Mrunal and Shriya Pilgaonkar will be seen getting candid about what dating in their 30s looks like in the second episode of Bumble's series 'Dating These Nights'.

In the episode, Mrunal shares what she is looking for in a partner.

"I think it's important for my partner to understand where I am coming from, what is going on in my mind and the profession we are in. There is so much insecurity around us, so all I need right now is a person who is secure enough to embrace this. It's very rare that you find this kind of people."

Shriya terms this as "Energy that is not draining" while Mrunal adds, "I call that energy vampire!" Shriya opens up about how we

are conditioned to adhere to society's gendered, outdated expectations of women, somehow, having a shelf life and challenges the notion, "Pop culture narrative has sold to us that these are our prime years and you need to have the meet-cute moment, the wind has to blow in your hair and you see them and there's a dramatic palat'."

"If this happens, it's great! But, it always does not have to be this way."

"Do you feel people in your life are making you feel aware of your ticking biological clock?" Shriya asks Mrunal to which she responds: "There are times when I feel I want to have a baby". Speaking on how supportive her mother is, Mrunal shares "She surprisingly said that even if I want to freeze my eggs or be a single mother, that's okay. And I thought wow mom, this is amazing."

On asking Shriya about what is that one piece of advice that she would want to give her younger self, she says "It's okay to love somebody but acknowledge that it's not a functional relationship."

Amit Trivedi talks about his latest composition



THIS ONE'S GONNA BE JOLLY: KALYANI PRIYADARSHAN ON UPCOMING MOVIE



Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Kalyani Priyadarshan, who has been delivering hits consistently in both the Tamil and Malayalam film industries, will next be seen playing the lead in director Manu C. Kumar's upcoming Malayalam film, 'Sesham Mike-il Fathima'.

Taking to Instagram to make the announcement about the film and to share her thoughts on it, actress Kalyani

Priyadarshan wrote: " 'Sesham Mike-il Fathima' - this one's gonna be jolly. Thanks to everyone who reached out to bless us. "And a giant thanks to Dulquer Salmaan for lending us his voice with zero hesitation for this announcement. Thanks D, for being such a pillar of support and enthusiasm." Hesham Abdul Wahab has been roped in as the music director for this film, which will have cinematography by Santhana Krishnan. Kiren Das is the editor of the film, and Nimesh Thanoor will be in-charge of Art direction.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer and music director Amit Trivedi opens up on composing music for the first song 'Gaya Gaya Gaya' from R. Balki's directorial venture 'Chup: Revenge Of The Artist'.

He shares how he tried to compliment the storyline with his tunes.

Amit explains: "Chup' is a versatile film and it comes from a one-of-a-kind storyline. We had to compose something that could fall in line with the film's essence and we found 'Gaya Gaya Gaya'. We necessarily focused on keeping the romantic element of the song alive without losing on the film's enigmatic hint in it."

The song is written by lyricist Swanand Kirkire and sung by Rupali Moghe and Shashwat Singh.

While talking about the latest track from his psychological thriller, he praises the music composer and adds: "Amit Trivedi has done a fabulous job. Music score becomes important for any film and most importantly its connection to the film." Elaborating about the concept of his film, he asserts that it is a blend of two emotions-romance and thrill and the music needs to reflect it properly.

"Chup' is an unusual fusion of romance and thrill, and its music had to involve the two. 'Gaya Gaya Gaya' aptly includes the enigmatic elements of the film and I am happy with the flow of it. The entire score is mesmerizing and we are looking forward to releasing them all soon."

The movie stars Sunny Deol, Dulquer Salmaan, Shreya Dhanwanthary, and Pooja Bhatt.

'It is a psychological thriller film'

Kriti Sanon starts acting workshop for her next action drama



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon has started prepping for her next, an action drama directed by Anurag Kashyap.

Under the guidance of ace director Kashyap, Kriti has already embarked upon acting workshops and dialogue and language coaching for her next.

According to close sources, it's one of

the fiercest female characters that's ever been written in Hindi Cinema by Kashyap.

The sources add that "it's an extremely emotional film and the vengeance unleashed by Kriti's character is like never seen before on screen. It is absolute brute raw power".

Nikhil Dwivedi, who had turned producer with another multi-women drama 'Veere Di Wedding' and had struck gold

with it at the Box Office, is producing the said film.

It was rumoured that the said film is a remake of the cult Hollywood film, 'Kill Bill' but Kashyap has always denied it.

"It is an original" was his cryptic reply when asked. The shooting of the film starts in November.

On the work front, Kriti also has 'Bhediya', 'Ganapath', 'Adipurush' and 'Shehzada'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shivangi Joshi