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BANKRUPTCY BOARD AMENDS REGULATIONS TO REDUCE DELAYS IN INSOLVENCY PROCESS

Aiming to reduce delays and realise better value, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has notified the IBBI (Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations 2022 (Amendment Liquidation Regulations), and IBBI (Voluntary Liquidation Process) (Second Amendment) Regulations 2022 (Amendment Voluntary Liquidation Regulations). These were notified on September 16, official sources said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The amendments would ensure better participation of stakeholders and streamline the liquidation process to reduce delays, they added.

Post the modifications, the Committee of Creditors (CoC) constituted during the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) would function as Stakeholders Consultation Committee (SCC) during the first 60 days.

After adjudication of claims and within 60 days of initiation of process, the SCC shall be reconstituted based upon the admitted claims.

Also, as per the modifications, the liquidator has been mandated to conduct meetings of SCC in a structured and time-bound manner with better participation of

भारतीय दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

stakeholders.

The scope of mandatory consultation by the liquidator with SCC has been enhanced. Now, SCC may even propose replacement of liquidator to the Adjudicating Authority (AA) and fix the fees of the liquidator, in case the CoC has not fixed it during the CIRP.

If any claim is not filed during the liquidation process, the amount of claim collated during CIRP shall be verified by the liquidator.

Wherever the CoC decides that the process of compromise or arrangement may be explored during the liquidation

process, the liquidator shall file application only in such cases before the Adjudicating Authority, for considering the proposal of compromise or arrangement, if any, within thirty days of the order of liquidation.

Also, specific event-based timelines have been stipulated for the auction process. In addition to this, before filing of an application for dissolution or closure of the process, SCC shall advise the liquidator about the manner in which proceedings in respect of avoidance transactions or fraudulent or wrongful trading, shall be pursued after

For NPOs wanting to get listed, there should be no I-T notice or scrutiny

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Markets regulator SEBI has said that any non-profit organisation (NPO), which wants to get listed, should be registered as a non-profit entity and the registration certificate should be valid for 12 months. Also, there should not be any ongoing scrutiny or notice by the Income Tax Department.

The firm should be registered in India as a "charitable trust registered under the public trust statute of the relevant state" or under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, or incorporated as a company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. The minimum age of the NPO should be three years, Angel One said in a note.

The NPO should declare whether it is government or privately owned. Any NPO entity that wishes to get listed should have

80G registration under the Income Tax Act. Each entity should have a minimum spending of Rs 50 lakh in the last fiscal year and minimum funding of Rs 10 lakh in the past financial year.

The primary goal of the NPOs that want to get listed should be social intent and impact. These intents should be focused on various social objectives for unattended and underprivileged populations or regions.

The NPO should be engaged in 16 broad social activities listed by the board. The eligible activities include eradicating hunger; poverty, malnutrition and inequality, promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability and livelihoods, gender equality empowerment of women and LGBTQIA communities, and supporting incubators of social enterprise.

Our world is in big trouble: UN chief Guterres



Arul Louis | United Nations

With those explosive words, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on Tuesday listing the crisis upon crisis piled upon the world.

He listed them: war, conflicts, climate change, hunger, financial crises, challenges of runaway technology developments, hate speech, global divisions and inequalities, and massive human rights violations.

"The United Nations Charter and the ideals it represents are in jeopardy," he said. "And yet we are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction".

In the midst of the gloomy prognosis, Guterres projected on the giant screens at the

General Assembly chamber the image of a ship navigating the troubled waters of the Black Sea.

It was the ship, Brave Commander, carrying food grains from Ukraine to Africa and he called it "an image of promise and hope" in "the hell of war".

"At its essence, this ship is a symbol of what the world can accomplish when we act together," he said, mentioning the diplomatic efforts of the UN, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey for ships with food-grains to break through the stalemate at the UN in dealing with Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"In truth, it is multilateral diplomacy in action", he said. Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi echoed Guterres's alarm at the global situation and also the hope.

'People sell daughters to pay bribes to police in MP villages': Pragya Thakur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur has said that people in the two villages that she has adopted were forced to sell their daughters to give bribes to the police.

A video of her speech went viral on Tuesday and the Congress was quick to raise questions on the BJP-led Shivraj Singh Chouhan government.

During a programme on Monday, Thakur said that the people in villages, which she has adopted, have no resources to earn for their livelihood. "They (villagers) make desi sharab (country-made liquor) and sell it to earn for their livelihood. Police arrest them and these poor people sell their daughters to pay bribes to police," Thakur was heard saying in a video that went viral on social media.

The Congress attacked the BJP raising questions on



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Beti Padhao-Beti Bachao' scheme. The opposition said that the BJP government was exposed by its own MP, who claimed that "daughters are being sold to pay bribes to the police."

Sangeeta Sharma, a senior Congress spokesperson said, "She (Thakur) has levelled a serious allegation against her own party's government. But, the question is, why did she

not raise this issue in the Parliament? She has exposed the BJP government and it proved that the Beti Padhao-Beti Bachao scheme is just a slogan for the BJP".

Pragya Singh Thakur, who is a BJP MP from Bhopal had defeated Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh in the last Lok Sabha elections. However, for the last few months, BJP MP has been sidelined by the party.

PUTIN WILLING TO END WAR IN UKRAINE, CLAIMS ERDOGAN

London: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that he believes the Russian President is seeking an end to the war he began in Ukraine, and that a "significant step" will be made, media reports said.

Erdogan said his impression from his recent talks with Vladimir Putin is that the Russian leader wants to "end this as soon as possible", BBC reported.

With Ukraine recapturing swathes of its territory this month, the Turkish leader indicated that things are "quite problematic" for Russia. Erdogan spoke of having "very extensive discussions" with Putin at a summit in Uzbekistan last week.

In an interview, the Turkish leader said he gained the impression that the Russian President wants a speedy end to the war.

"He is actually showing me that he's willing to end this as soon as possible," Erdogan said, adding, "That was my impression, because the way things are going right now are quite problematic," BBC reported.

Congress Prez poll Gehlot calls MLAs for unscheduled meeting before trip to Delhi

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Finally, it's official that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will visit Delhi on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

He will leave Jaipur via a special plane at 10 a.m. and will reach Delhi at 11 a.m. on the same day. In fact, Gehlot has called a late night meeting of party MLAs, which is being described as a move proving that he is under pressure from the top leadership to contest elections for party Chief.

However, Gehlot reportedly remains reluctant as he may have to cede the post of chief minister to his political rival Sachin Pilot. Sources said that Gehlot shall meet Congress President Sonia Gandhi during this visit.

Those close to him are anticipating his visit in the wake of filing nominations for Congress Presidential post which will start from September 24.

The process for electing President in the Congress party is scheduled in October, and the nomination process for the same will start on September 24.

Meanwhile, sources confirmed that the Gandhi family wants Gehlot to take the responsibility of the party President, as Rahul Gandhi has been denying showing interest in the top post.

Party workers said that Gehlot has done his homework well in wake of his Delhi visit to file his nomination papers. He has made back to back visits to different con-



stituencies and met MLAs to ensure he enjoys a strong support if there comes any need to show the strength in wake of change of leadership.

In fact, his invitation to MLAs for meeting on Tuesday night is an extension of the same exercise.

Meanwhile, another leader confirmed that Gehlot seems to be in no mood to take the new position, however if Gandhi has decided the same, then there is no escape.

KASHMIR'S FIRST MULTIPLEX INAUGURATED, BRINGS BACK CINEMA AFTER THREE DECADES

Srinagar: J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated Kashmir's first multiplex cinema marking the revival of the silver screen in the Valley.

Aamir Khan's 'Lal Singh Chaddha' was screened on the inaugural day where entry was free as the multiplex will start commercially functioning on September 23.

Food courts and stalls served free food to those who came to attend the inauguration. About 150 people attended the inaugural screening at the multiplex on Tuesday. Big screen has returned to Srinagar city after a gap of 33 years since militant violence started here in early 1990s when radical militant group, 'Allah Tigers' banned cinema halls, beauty parlours, video parlours, etc.

The first multiplex in Kashmir has three movie theatres with a total capacity of 520 seats. The premises has food courts aimed at promoting local cuisine.

Bhopal gas tragedy SC SEEKS CENTRE'S RESPONSE ON PLEA TO ENHANCE COMPENSATION

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Centre's counsel to get instructions whether it wants to pursue its curative petition seeking enhancement of compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims - over the \$470 million, which has already been paid by Union Carbide.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A five-judge bench, headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to get instructions in the matter by October 11.

Advocate Karuna Nundy, representing the victims, submitted that the court should hear the victims regardless of the government's decision. Senior advocate Sanjay Parikh, also representing the victims, said they will oppose Centre's decision to withdraw the curative petition tooth and nail.

The Centre, in its curative plea, submitted that the compensation, which was determined in 1989, was calculated on assumptions of truth unrelated to realities.

The bench -- which also comprises Justices Sanjiv Khanna, A.S. Oka, Vikram Nath, and J.K.



Maheshwari -- told the Centre's counsel that the government will have to take a stand whether it is going to press the curative petition or not, and added that it would wait for government to clarify its position in connection with the curative plea. It told

counsel, representing the victims, if the government presses the curative petition, then their task will be simpler.

Parikh said over the years, the tragedy's intensity has increased fivefold -- deaths, the number of victims, and the extent of injuries.

The top court observed whether the compensation could keep changing over time like that and the system must provide certainty. "There cannot be perpetual uncertainty. There is no ideal situation for anything," it noted. Counsel, representing victims, said the tragedy was a rare case.

The top court was informed that a curative petition was filed 19 years after the review petition was decided, and there should be a finality to the litigation, and asked counsel, representing the victims that "until the government's curative petition, you did not see the need to file any curative?" In 2011, a five-judge bench of the top court had issued notice to the Union Carbide Corporation, now a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow Chemicals Co., US.

Nitish Kumar denies plans to contest 2024 LS poll

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday denied speculations that he may contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Uttar Pradesh's Pulpur, saying he only has ambition to unite opposition parties in the country.

He also said that promoting the new generation is his motive, while indicating his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, who was standing just behind him.

"I have no personal ambition to become MP or any other post in the country. My supporters may promote my name but I am looking to contest the election.

"The way some people (BJP leaders) are dividing the society through communal agenda of Hindu-Muslim to take advantage in election, I am against it and hence I am working for the unity of maximum opposition parties in the country to get success in 2024 Lok Sabha election and



my efforts will continue," Nitish Kumar said.

"The present government in the centre is dividing the country. They are trying to take control over every organisation including the media. You people better know about it. There is no work in the country done by the Central government. The strong opposition is in the interest of the country to teach lessons to the people working on divisive politics," he said.



EWS QUOTA NOT ERODING RESERVATION FOR SCS, STS AND OBCS, CENTRE TO SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the economically weaker sections (EWS) have been given 10 per cent quota in admissions and jobs out of 50 per cent general category seats without eroding the reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, representing the Centre, submitted before a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit that SCs and STs have been given benefits by way of affirmative actions -- reservation in promotion in government jobs, legislature, panchayat and municipalities -- and the EWS quota does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution, as he defended the 103rd constitutional amendment which provides for 10 per cent quota to the EWS.

He added that the EWS quota has been given without disturbing the 50 per cent quota, which is meant for the



socially and economically backward classes (SEBC). The bench -- also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S. Ravindra Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi and J.B. Pardiwala -- was hearing on the cases challenging the constitutional validity of the EWS quota.

The AG added that backward classes

including the SCs, STs, and OBCs each contained economically weaker sections within themselves, and also the general category consisted of economically weaker sections, which were grossly poor. He contended that SCs, STs and OBCs quota is self-contained sections of backwardness and

the EWS quota is separate.

Therefore, through the amendment, the state provided affirmative actions to such economically weaker sections which did not get benefits under the existing reservations, he said.

Venugopal argued that among the general category there is a section which is grossly poor, that is, the economically weaker section.

He said EWS quota has been given this for the first time, while SCs and STs are concerned, they have been loaded with the benefits through affirmative actions. Venugopal further added that the general category, having a large population, and perhaps more meritorious, would be disadvantaged of the opportunities in educational institutions and jobs.

The bench queried him on data on EWS in the general category.

Venugopal replied that 18.2 per cent in the general category belonged to EWS, and as far as numbers are concerned, it would be about 350 million of the population.

'Peeping Tom' canteen boy held for recording video of IIT Bombay girls' hostel bathroom

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A canteen worker at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT Bombay) was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly recording a video of the girls' hostel bathroom.

The incident occurred late on Sunday when a female student noticed a mobile phone on a window outside the bathroom of Hostel 10 on the IIT Bombay campus, and alerted the authorities.

The Powai police station was informed and a team rushed there, and after conducting preliminary investigations, including questioning at least five canteen workers, identified as a 22-year-old canteen worker as the prime suspect and arrested him.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone X, Maheshwar Reddy told media persons that the mobile phone of the accused is with the police,



further investigations are on, and the accused shall be produced before the court on Wednesday.

The IIT Bombay issued a statement saying that "there was an attempt to violate the personal space of women residents of a hostel", by an employee of the night canteen, who was caught red-handed by the alertness of the women residents and handed over to the police. "The investigation, includ-

ing cyber investigation, is being carried out by the Mumbai Police. The IIT Bombay, as per the initial report, is not aware of any footage being shared from the phones confiscated from the culprit," said the statement.

As a precaution, the night canteen has been shut down immediately and will be reopened only if it can be staffed exclusively by women, the IIT Bombay said.

EOW summons fashion designer Leepakshi in Rs 200 cr extortion case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a latest development in the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekhar and Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has summoned fashion designer Leepakshi to join the probe at 11 am on Wednesday. The police said that Leepakshi's statements may prove to be crucial for the case, adding that after recording her statements, they will decide whether to summon Jacqueline again for questioning.

Chandrashekhar was arrested for allegedly cheating and extorting money from some high-profile people, including former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh. Many Bollywood actors and models have been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for their alleged links to Chandrashekhar, including Nora Fatehi.

According to the ED chargesheet, Jacqueline knew about Chandrashekhar's involvement in criminal activities but she chose to overlook them and indulged in financial transactions with the conman.

TRIPLE MURDER IN AMETHI: WOMEN, TWO KIDS FOUND DEAD



Amethi: The bodies of a woman and her two minor children were found inside a house in Amethi on Tuesday under mysterious circumstances.

The woman's body was found hanging while the children, aged four and two, had their throats slit. The incident took place in Kukaha Rampur village under the Shivratnangaj police circle.

The police have sent the bodies for post-mortem. The Amethi police tweeted that investigations are being carried out from various angles and questioning of the village local was underway.

Three of inter-state gang who robbed ATMs nation-wide, held in Delhi



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested three active members of an inter-state gang of Mewat-based robbers who were involved in more than three dozen robbery cases indulging

ATM-breaking. The accused were identified as Mustkeem, Samma Khan and Mohammed Hasreen.

DCP of Sepcial Cell, Southern Range, Jasmeem Singh said that the members of this gang have siphoned off money amounting more than Rs 2.25

crores from cases of 25 ATMs breaking. "ACP Attar Singh, Inspector Shiv Kumar and Karamvir Singh were working on the information to nab the accused. The team got a tip-off about arrival of the accused by a Verna near Lajwanti Chowk, Haringagar to meet one of their associates on September 17. A trap was laid to arrest them. The police finally nabbed them from the said area. They had tried to run away but were overpowered," said Singh.

The official said that three single shot pistols of .315, seven live cartridges and a Hyundai Verna car were recovered from them. Police learnt that Mustkeem, with the members of his gang, had succeeded in taking away the cash amounting Rs 2.25 crores from various ATMs in 7 states including Delhi, Bihar, Maharashtra, Assam, Haryana, Rajasthan and Mizoram.

SIX-TIME CONGRESS MLA MOHAMMED ALI DIES

Thiruvananthapuram: Six-time Congress legislator K. Mohammed Ali passed away at a hospital near Aluva on Tuesday, party sources said. 76-year-old Ali was a staunch supporter of A.K. Antony and Oommen Chandy and had represented the Aluva assembly constituency for a record six times starting from 1980 till 2006. At the 2006 assembly polls, Ali suffered a reversal and lost the polls and after which he quit parliamentary politics. But in 2021, his son's wife created a jolt, contesting on a CPI-M ticket lost to sitting Congress legislator Anwar Sadath at Ali's home constituency.

Four dead as boundary wall collapses in Noida

Noida | Agencies

As many as four people were killed after a boundary wall collapsed here in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday morning, officials said. All the four people were labourers who were working there at the time of incident and repairing the drains.

"A boundary wall at Jalvayu Vihar in Sector-21 has collapsed. As soon as the information was received, all senior police officials rushed to the spot and a rescue operation was initiated on war-footing," an official said.

The official confirmed to reporter that as many as six labourers were rescued in an injured state from the debris and were rushed to district hospital and Kailash hospital. "Four among them have succumbed to their injuries while two are still admitted," the official said.

Meanwhile, Noida DM Suhas LY, who also reached the spot to assess the situation, told reporters that the Noida Authority had given the repair work of drains to some contractor whose labourers were working at the spot. "When they were repairing the drains and remov-



ing some bricks, the whole boundary wall collapsed over them. Till now two people have died at the district hospital and two more have succumbed at the Kailash hospital," the senior official said. The DM assured that the matter will be thoroughly investigated.

As per latest reports, the rescue operation was still underway and a JCB-crane was being used to clear the debris.

TWO YOUTHS LABELLED ROBBERS, THRASHED BY MOB IN BIHAR'S SAHARSA

Patna: Two youths were seriously injured after they were beaten by a mob, instigated by their enemy, in Bihar's Saharsa district, police said on Tuesday. Jay Ballabh Yadav has a personal enmity with Khushilal Yadav and his relatives over property dispute, and his father Sikandar Yadav was also lynched on August 29. The same group intercepted Jay Ballabh Yadav and his friend Bhelwa village under Sadar police station on Sunday evening and provoked local villagers by telling them that the two were criminals going for a robbery. The youths were taken to Madhepura Medical college and later referred to Patna Medical College and Hospital and their condition is said to be serious. Jay Ballabh Yadav has a piece of land in Bashdih village in Saharsa district and Khushilal Yadav and his relatives were eyeing it. They brutally assaulted Jay Ballabh Yadav and his father Sikandar Yadav on August 29, and the latter succumbed to his injuries in hospital. On Sunday, Jay Ballabh Yadav, accompanied by his friend, were on the way to former's in-law house in Dharaail village, when Khushilal Yadav learnt about their movement.

ANOTHER CASE OF FOOD POISONING IN T'GANA SCHOOLS, 31 FALL ILL

Hyderabad | Agencies

In yet another case of food poisoning in government-run schools in Telangana, 31 students of a minority residential school in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district have taken ill. The students of the residential school for boys in Kagaznagar town complained of stomach ache and vomiting after the dinner on Monday.

As word spread about the incident, local media persons reached the school but the staff did not allow them to enter the premises. The staff tried to shift the students from the rear door. Police reached there and shifted the affected students to the hospital in their vehicles.

District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Prabhakar Reddy said the condition of the students was stable. He ordered an inquiry into the incident. Officials said it appeared that due to the shortage of staff, rice was not washed before cooking. Students said that they had com-

plained to the principal about insects found in the food which was served to them, but no action was taken.

This is the latest in a series of incidents of food poisoning at the government-run residential educational institutions in the state. A recent study by an NGO revealed that 1,100 students in the government-run school suffered food poisoning during 2022.

According to Kota Neelima, director, Institute of Perception Studies, lizards, frogs, earthworms and insects were found in the food served to students. Anti-corruption activist Vijay Gopal suspects a conspiracy behind the series of incidents.

"Hard to believe that all these are accidents anymore, with so many instances, occurrences and what not? Are we giving c grade quality food/services at Govt schools, so 100% of citizens can be moved to Pvt.? Is this some kind of a strategy?," tweeted Vijay Gopal, who tagged education minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy.

Three suspected ISIS terrorists arrested in K'taka

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka police have taken three suspected terrorists with links to ISIS into custody from different locations in Shivamogga and Dakshina Kannada districts on Tuesday, sources said. Police sources said that two terror suspects were arrested from Shivamogga, while the third was nabbed from Dakshina Kannada district.

The arrested persons have been identified as Syed Yasin aka Bailu and Maazh, both from Shivamogga, and Ansar from Mangaluru. A court in Shivamogga has remanded the trio to nine-day police custody.

The authorities have launched a hunt for Mohammed Shariq, another terror suspect who managed to escape, in Shivamogga.

Yasin, a qualified engineer, is an expert in making improvised explosives. The accused had made plans to carry out a series of terror attacks across the state, police sources said. Meanwhile, the parents of both Yasin and Maazh have claimed that their sons are innocent. Yasin's father Ayub Khan said that his son would never indulge in any kind of anti-national or terrorist activities. Maazh's parents have filed a habeas corpus case in the court stating that their son has gone missing.

Qutub Minar row: Delhi court dismisses plea by 'Agra royal family member'

New Delhi | Agencies

Delhi court on Tuesday dismissed the intervention application moved by a man claiming to be heir of a royal family in Agra and seeking ownership of Qutub Minar.

Additional District Judge Dinesh Kumar dismissed the plea moved by Kunwar Mahendra Dhvaj Prasad Singh, who claims to be heir of the united province of Agra and sought the right over territories from Meerut to Agra. His plea was a twist amidst the temple restoration row.

During the course of the hearing, advocate Amita Sachdeva, appearing for the original applicant, argued that Singh's plea should be dismissed with severe penalties because it is nothing more than a "publicity gimmick".

The main suit in the matter alleged that 27 Hindu and Jain temples were desecrated and



damaged in 1198 under the Slave Dynasty Emperor Qutub ud din Aibak who constructed the said mosque in place of those temples. The temples were dismantled, desecrated, and damaged under the command of the Slave Dynasty Emperor, who raised some con-

struction at the same very place and named it the Quwwat-UL-Islam Mosque, as per the plea.

Singh's plea contended that the applicant belongs to the Beswan Family and heir of Raja Rohini Raman Dhawaj Prasad Singh and descendants of Raja Nand Ram who had died in

1695. "When Aurangzeb became firmly established on the throne, Nand Ram submitted to the Emperor and was rewarded with the Khidmat zamindari, revenue management of Joar and Tochigarh," read the plea.

In 1947, during the time of Raja Rohini Raman Dhawaj Prasad Singh, British India and its provinces became free and independent, the plea stated.

However, after the independence of India in 1947, the Indian government neither entered into any treaty, nor there was any accession, nor there was an agreement with the ruling family, the applicant argued.

"The Central government, state government of Delhi and state government of Uttar Pradesh without due process of law encroached upon the legal rights of the applicant and misused the power, allotted, allocated and death with the property of the applicant," it said further.

DALIT FAMILY FINED RS 60K AFTER BOY TOUCHES HINDU GOD'S IDOL

Kolar (Karnataka): A Dalit family in Karnataka's Koppal district has been fined Rs 60,000 after its boy entered the temple and touched Hindu god's idol.

According to local sources, the Dalit boy had touched the idol ready to be taken out for the procession at the Hullerhalli village in Malur taluk.

Local residents said that a temple was constructed and the villagers decided to celebrate it.

During the celebrations three days ago, Chetan touched the idol and attempted to carry it on his head.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Shad mohammad S/o deen mohammad M.No.1293 Arjun Ward, Gandhinagar Bhopal (Aadhar no.466311552559) my name in my passport in error Mohammad shaad S/o mohammad deen was registered which is wrong. In Aadhar card, PAN card, my name is Shad Mohammad S/o Deen Mohammed, which is true and correct, I want to get my correct name (which is on Aadhar card) on my passport also.



FARM PANEL CHIEF SACKED FOR INVITING PM TO MEET DEAD FARMER'S KIN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a stunning move, the Maharashtra government has sacked Shiv Sena leader Kishore Tiwari as Chairman of the Vasantao Naik Sheti Swavlamban Mission (VNSSM), ostensibly for inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the family of a farmer who committed suicide last Saturday.

Hitting back, Tiwari pointed an accusing finger at Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the "lightning speed" in which he was relieved of responsibilities as the VNSSM chief.

Tiwari, ironically, was appointed to the crucial post in August 2015 by Fadnavis when he was the Chief Minister in the previous Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena coalition government (2014-2019).

The deceased farmer was Dashrath L. Kedari, 42, from Pune who penned a mentioned the Prime Minister in a suicide note - narrating his plight due to debts and other issues - before ending his life on Saturday.

The government's decision to sack Tiwari - accorded a MoS rank - came barely hours after he drew Modi's attention to how the Pune peasant had wished the PM, consumed some pesticides and then jumped to his death into a pond on September 17.

"Top government officials privately inform that they were ordered by DyCM Fadnavis to remove me immediately from the VNSSM Chairman's post. The official orders came late in the evening to me. I



wonder if Fadnavis even consulted the PM and the CM, or acted independently," Tiwari claimed.

Slamming the government, Sena spokesperson Manisha Kayande said Tiwari was stripped of the VNSSM post in just two hours after he raised the issue of the deceased farmer with the PM and agri-

culture-related problems.

Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe said that the state government's act shows the "total insensitivity of the BJP, Fadnavis and other top leaders" to the misery of the farmers in Maharashtra and elsewhere.

Nationalist Congress Party's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase felt Tiwari did "the right thing by speaking about the farmers' distress directly with the PM" and urging Modi to witness first-hand their sufferings in the state where he had launched his 'Chai Pe Charcha' (March 2014).

In his letter, Tiwari had urged the PM to meet the farmer's family, or direct Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to go there during her upcoming visit to Pune soon.

The government retaliated with a terse notification issued by a Deputy Secretary Sanjay A. Dharurkar late on Monday, saying that the appointment of Tiwari - who was heading the VNSSM since August 2015 (when Fadnavis was the CM) - has been cancelled.

No reasons were assigned for the abrupt step in Dharurkar's order, and the Divisional Commissioner, Amravati, has been handed over the additional charge of VNSSM till further orders.

Unfazed, Tiwari vowed that he will continue to raise the farmers' voice without let-up as he has been doing for the past over 30 years, raise their demands and seek solutions from the state and Centre.

Bombay HC orders BMC to raze illegal portions of Narayan Rane's bungalow in 15 days

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocker for Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane, the Bombay High Court ordered the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation to demolish '300 per cent illegal portions' in a bungalow belonging to his family's company within two weeks, here on Tuesday.

A division bench of Justice R.D. Dhanuka and Justice Kamal Khata also imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on the company while dismissing a plea seeking directions to the BMC to consider a second application for regularisation of the unauthorised constructions in its Juhu bungalow. The court also declined a plea by the petitioner company - Kaalka Real Estates Pvt. Ltd's lawyer Shardul Singh for a 6-week stay on the demolition order to enable them to approach the Supreme Court.

In March this year, when the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi was in power, the BMC had served a notice to KREPL ordering it to remove the alleged illegal works of around 300 per cent on its premises within 15 days or face demolition and recovery of charges.

The KREPL had challenged the notice and after the MVA government was toppled, filed a fresh application to the BMC for regularisation on various grounds, which has been rejected. Making strong observations, the court said that the BMC cannot be allowed to take steps inconsistent with the SC judgments and statutory provisions.



"If application for retention is allowed irrespective, then that would lead to encouragement of wholesale construction over reaching the idea of allowing retention. Admittedly the petitioners have construction three times above the permissible limit," said the judges. Justice Dhanuka and Justice Khata while rejecting the KREPL's second application for regularisation, said it would amount to encouraging of "large-scale violation within the city of Mumbai without any concern for the statutory provisions".

After a series of legal developments, the court had queried whether such a second application would be maintainable under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, though the BMC -- which had earlier refused to regularise the illegal portions -- later appeared 'hell-bent' on considering it.

Mumbai airport handles 1,30,374 passengers, highest single-day figure since Covid

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Breaking its own single-day record, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), one of the world's busiest single runway airports, handled the movement of 1,30,374 passengers on September 17, the highest since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The growth is a result of new destinations, rising flight movements and an increase in airline capacity at the airport.

On September 17, close to 95,000 passengers travelled through Terminal 2 (T2) and 35,294 were witnessed travel-



ling through Terminal 1 (T1) with 839 total flight movements on this day.

On domestic routes, IndiGo, Vistara, and Go First catered to the highest passenger traffic. As for international, IndiGo, Air India, and

Emirates stood among the top three airlines.

Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai were the top three domestic destinations, while Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Singapore remained the top three international routes

with maximum air traffic.

Adding to the weekend rush on September 18, the Mumbai airport again witnessed over 1.3 lakh passengers of which approximately 98,000 passengers travelled domestically while around 32,000 others were seen travelling on international routes.

According to rating agency Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (ICRA), domestic traffic rose to 5 per cent to 1.02 crore in August 2022, indicating that the aviation industry is set on the road to recovery with normalcy in flight operations.

YOUTH KILLED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS

Thane: A 20-year-old man was killed by unidentified persons in Mumbra town of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Tuesday.

The body of Mohammad Itehad Mohammad Abdul Vashid, a native of Malda in West Bengal, was found in a house in Kausa area of the town on Monday morning, an official said.

An offence under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered against unidentified persons, the station house officer of Mumbra police station said.

The victim's throat had been slit with a sharp weapon, he said, adding that the body has been sent for post-mortem to a government hospital.

Chandrakant Patil to head panel on Maratha quota

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday reconstituted the sub-committee for Maratha reservation in education and government jobs and appointed Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil as its head.

The committee, under Patil's leadership, will continue to follow up on the legal and technical aspects to ensure that the Maratha community gets its due quota, the Chief Minister's Office said in a statement.

State ministers Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Girish Mahajan, Dada Bhuse, Shambhuraj Desai and Uday Samant are other members of the committee.

The sub-committee was previously headed by former minister Ashok Chavan under the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. In May 2021, the Supreme Court had



struck down the Maharashtra law granting quota to Marathas in admissions and government jobs, terming it as "unconstitutional", and held that there were no exceptional circumstances to breach the 50 per cent reservation cap set by the 1992 Mandal verdict.

Amid Vedanta deal row, Maharashtra clears pre-sanctioned industrial plots

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amid a row over a Vedanta-Foxconn multi-billion project going to Gujarat, the Maharashtra government has after a review cleared 181 plots sanctioned by the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government for industrial projects.

The Eknath Shinde-led state government had asked the industry department to review 191 plots of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) which were sanctioned by the previous Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government after June 1 this year.

Out of these, 181 plots have been cleared and the remaining 10 are under review and a decision will be taken soon, a senior official said on Tuesday.



The Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government has been facing flak after Vedanta-Foxconn chose Gujarat to set up its multi-billion semiconductor plant.

Shinde, who led a revolt against the Shiv Sena leadership in August this year, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on June 30 after the MVA government collapsed.

The Chief Minister on Saturday said the government has not given a stay on the allotment of industrial plots in the state.

"No such decision about a stay on the allotment of plots to industry has been taken. A review has been taken. The government is committed to take maximum service to the investors coming here," he had said in Aurangabad.

WOMAN KILLS INFANT DAUGHTER, DUMPS BODY IN GARBAGE

Palghar: A woman allegedly killed her three-year-old daughter, packed her body in a plastic bag and dumped it in a pile of garbage in Jawhar of Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Tuesday.

The Palghar district rural police have arrested Aisana alias Tara Sulemani (37) for killing her daughter Sana on Monday afternoon, inspector Appasaheb Lengre of Jawhar police station said.

The accused killed the child, packed her body in a plastic bag, which she threw in a pile of garbage near a bakery close to her house, he said.

The accused later pretended that her daughter had gotten lost, he said.

When neighbours and relatives searched for the child, they found the body in the garbage pile and beat up the woman, the official said.

The local police soon found out about the incident and intervened, he said. The body of the child bearing injury marks has been sent for post-mortem, the official said, adding that the motive behind the killing is yet to be ascertained.

Indices end higher; Sensex up over 550 points

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Benchmark indices ended higher on Tuesday with Sensex rising over 550 points and Nifty over 190 points due to support from Pharma, Auto and Financial stocks, dealers said.

At close, Sensex ended 578.51 points or 0.98 per cent at 59,719.74, and Nifty ended 194.00 points or 1.10 per cent up at 17,816.25. About 2,109 shares have advanced, 1,362 shares have declined and 131 shares have remained unchanged.

Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's Labs, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Titan Company were major gainers on the Sensex today. Nifty Pharma rose 3.08 per cent, Nifty Auto inched up 1.66 per cent, and BSE Commodities rose 1.29 per cent.

"Bulls charged on D-Street today with the help of Autos & Financials with strong support coming from



the laggard - Pharma Sector today. The surprise element to many of course was the Nifty Infrastructure sector which saw smart gains led by Cement yet again. Consumer Durable stocks too displayed good momentum ahead of the festive season on the back of a bountiful monsoon," said S. Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP securities. Asian shares went up despite the

assumption that the US Federal Reserve will hike 75 basis points rate. The Nikkei Index ended 0.44 per cent higher. The blue-chip CSI 300 Index edged up 0.1 per cent, while the Shanghai Composite Index added 0.2 per cent. The Hang Seng Index gained 1.2 per cent. European shares rose at the open on Tuesday as banks gained. The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose.

MVA and BJP both claims big win in Maharashtra rural body elections

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's rival coalitions, the ruling Eknath Shinde-BJP alliance and the ousted Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) have both claimed victory in Gram Panchayat or rural body elections held two days ago.

The Maharashtra BJP has claimed that 259 candidates backed by the party and 40 nominees backed by the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena have been elected as sarpanchs in the polls held on Sunday.

Devendra Fadnavis, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, said the BJP has become the "number 1 party" in Maharashtra again.

Voting was held for 557 gram panchayats, or village governing bodies, spread across 16 districts of the state. The polls are important as they are seen as a barometer of any political party's grip on voters at the grass-roots. The elections were not contested on party symbols, so claims about seats won have been flying between



the two main coalitions, who are locked in a bitter legal battle. For the ruling alliance, less than three months in power, the results are crucial to establish its support in the state. The votes were counted on Monday. Polls were also held for village sarpanchs or chiefs.

Speaking to the media with the Chief Minister by his side, Devendra Fadnavis said the Shinde faction is the "real Shiv Sena" and follows the legacy of its founder Balasaheb

Thackeray. "Shiv Sena led by BJP and Chief Minister Eknathrao Shinde got resounding success in Gram Panchayat elections. BJP has become the number 1 party again," Fadnavis tweeted. The opposition MVA of the Shiv Sena, Sharda Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, presented different figures.

Until late last night, leaders of the alliance said the results of 494 Gram Panchayat elections were out. According to them, the BJP has

won 144 seats, NCP has won 126 seats, the Congress has won 62 seats, the Shiv Sena has won 41 and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena has won 37. By the MVA's count, therefore, it has won 225 of 494 seats while the Eknath Shinde-BJP alliance has won 185 seats. "Some are saying they are on number one, number two... reality is, these elections are not fought on political symbols. If a sarpanch writes and says that I support this party, then it's a different thing. As per the numbers you are showing, MVA has the highest seats. But I will repeat that these elections are not fought on political party symbols," senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar said. Asked about Fadnavis' claim that the BJP-Shinde camp alliance has won 300 seats, Pawar said, "If he is saying they have won 300 seats, I will claim I have won 400." Eknath Shinde became Maharashtra Chief Minister in June after staging a coup against Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and walking out with 39 MLAs.

Food delivery agent molested lone girl at home in Pune

Pune | Agencies

A food delivery agent in Pune forcibly kissed a 19-year-old woman after finding her alone at home, police said today. The agent, 39-year-old Raees Sheikh, was arrested on September 17, the night of the incident, and has since got bail.

"The young woman, a student, placed an order on Zomato. But Zomato apparently interchanged the delivery with Dunzo app. The man who went with the order, around 9.30pm, asked for water and got inside the house. When she returned, he grabbed her by the arm and kissed her twice," said Jagannath Jankar, the area police in-charge. He left as she resisted and later sent her messages saying he was "like her uncle".

"The woman came to us with a friend, and we man-



aged to arrest the accused the same night. The court next day granted him bail. He had no previous criminal record," he added. The accused is charged with sexual harassment under sections 354 and 354A of the Indian Penal Code.

But Zomato has said the delivery agent did not work for them, and that the company would cooperate in the probe as needed. Dunzo has not issued a statement yet. A probe is on to determine how the order chain from one app to another came about.

The police officer said there are young men and women living alone in several areas of Pune, which has many educational institutions. "They should be careful while trusting anyone, especially when they are alone and at night. They should have their friends' or police's phone numbers saved in their mobiles for emergency situations," he said. "These apps need to carry out proper character verification and background check before working with anyone," he added.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Russia-China: An unequal relationship

In the Russia-China relationship, it feels more and more that Russia is the junior partner. This is an increasingly unequal relationship. Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, which has not gone according to plan, has weakened Russia, BBC reported. The Kremlin admits that the Russian army has suffered "significant losses", while Western sanctions are putting the economy under intense pressure. In the meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Samarkand on the sidelines of the SCO summit, Putin conceded that China has "questions and concerns" about the situation in Ukraine. It was an unexpected admission, by the Kremlin, that Russia's so-called special military operation is causing some anxiety in Beijing. Having burned bridges with the West and sparked an energy war with Europe, Putin is attempting a pivot east. He's hoping to reorient the Russian economy and find new markets for Russian oil and gas, BBC reported. "The hope is that this pivot will work and will have credible dividends for Russia. But I don't see this happening," said Sergey Radchenko, professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. "What Russia needs ultimately in the West: Its technology, its markets. It's very difficult to change the direction of gas flows. The Soviet Union and Russia spent decades building networks of pipelines to Europe and that's where the physical infrastructure is. It's very difficult to reorient Russian energy markets towards Asia." With Vladimir Putin, the Russian pendulum has firmly swung to the east, BBC reported. That's hardly surprising: His decision to invade Ukraine has left Russia a pariah in the West and his country battered by Western sanctions.

SCO SUMMIT: CONFLICT BETWEEN NEED AND GREED

The Economist magazine has termed the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO) a 'Talking Shop' and perhaps rightly so. Once again vital regional challenges such as cooperation, connectivity and economy that the region faces have been ignored at the 22nd SCO Summit held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, between September 15-16.

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

The Economist magazine has termed the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO) a 'Talking Shop' and perhaps rightly so. Once again vital regional challenges such as cooperation, connectivity and economy that the region faces have been ignored at the 22nd SCO Summit held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, between September 15-16. At least four of the permanent members of SCO are a loggerhead with each other or with their immediate neighbours. The Russian war in Ukraine has created uncertainty about the global supply of gas and oil. Pakistan is grappling with terrorism in its northern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhawa as well as wrestling with armed separatists in southwestern province of Balochistan. Diplomatic tensions run high with Afghanistan after Pakistan accused the former of providing the UN designated terrorist Masood Azhar with sanctuary. India is busy tackling terrorist infiltration from Pakistan as well as serious border tensions with China. It was obvious from the start that this summit will not be a collective consultative conference but will end up becoming an opportunity for SCO member states to hold one-to-one meetings on the side lines. On September 15, Chinese President Xi Jinping held a meeting with the president of Uzbekistan signing a \$16 billion investment deal. Another deal sealed at the SCO summit sideline meetings was that between Russian and Uzbekistan which amounts to \$4.6 billion. According to the deal signed with China it will construct a China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. The deal signed with Russia were in machinery, chemicals, petrochemicals and geology sectors of Uzbekistan's economy. Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in which Russia promised to support Turkey becoming a permanent member of the SCO in return for Turkey not to object the gas pipeline of which 750 km has already been laid down via Iran and needs to be build a further 250 km into Pakistani territory. During a half-an-hour closed door meeting held at the Summer Palace residence of the president of Uzbekistan between Xi Jinping and Erdogan it is believed that a billion-dollar grain deal was struck which will enable China



to earn billions of dollars from Turkey. The Prime Minister of Pakistan choked several times during his speech to the summit describing that his country had turned into "a sea of water", but no collective relief package was offered, leaving him high and dry. Moreover, the SCO summit failed to persuade Putin to end the devastating war in Ukraine or for that matter the China's illegal economic expansion into the disputed territories of Gilgit-Baltistan under the guise of the so-called CPEC, which is part of her larger Belt and Road Initiative program. The Russian president and Chinese head of state both seemed to have come to a trade fair. Both were cutting trade deals left, right and centre. Putin was negotiating the price of gas and oil sale to pauper Pakistan and Xi was expanding Belt and Road Initiative into central Asia via Uzbekistan. The purpose of the summit should have been to collectively find solutions to the menace of terrorist, slack connectivity and solving the energy crisis. Instead it ludicrously became an exercise of collective inaction. Tensions among SCO member states run so high that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unable to hold a one-to-one meeting with his Pakistan and Chinese counterparts. One of the main reason for SCO summit to fail to come up with a joint declaration seems to be the lack of will of both China and Russia to withdraw from their desire to expand their hegemonic influence among their economic and political spheres. None of the above countries initiated a debate in their home countries for peace and reconciliation. The war jingoism which has become the benchmark of Xi's politics has antagonized the wider Chinese population to an extent that to reverse that could become a cause for Xi's downfall. Therefore, there was no collectively agreed agenda for the summit to discuss. No pre-summit discussion was held among the leaders of the member countries which would have been a precursor for any productive road map. The only country that stood its ground was India as Modi moved among the world leader like a sage advising Putin to consider peaceful means to forward his diplomatic ambitions. India has become the fifth largest economy of the world surpassing the UK. As India moves forward to become the new manufacturing hub of the world, it is most unlikely that SCO will be able to become a forum for regional peace and economic cooperation. China, it seems, will use all means available to sabotage India. India's economic growth is led by the desire to meet the needs of both its population and wider world. China's economic growth, on the other hand, is driven by imperialistic economic expansionism driven by greed. Modi's advice to Putin that this was the era of peace is the key approach to achieve regional peace which in turn is vital for the region. However, for this to happen the member countries of the SCO will have to strike a balance between need and greed. For now, it seems it will take quite some time before the current conflict between need and greed will resolve itself. (Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lies in exile in the UK.)

international

VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN LEICESTER BEING FUELLED BY GANGS FROM BIRMINGHAM

Leicester (UK) | Agencies

Violent clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Leicester were the result of outsiders coming to the city and inflaming existing tensions, community leaders have said, Daily Mail reported. Over the weekend, police made 47 arrests after clashes between large groups of mostly young men in the east part of the city, as tensions boiled over following a recent cricket match between India and Pakistan. But the people of Leicester say the relationship between the two communities has been strained for months and has been inflamed by misinformation being spread online and outsiders who have travelled to the city from nearby areas such as Birmingham, Daily Mail reported. Police officers were diverted from the Queen's funeral preparations in London to deal with most recent unrest which erupted on Saturday night and continued into Sunday.



So far, one man from Leicester has been jailed for his role in the incident but police have confirmed that a number of those arrested were from outside the city. Amos Noronha, 20, was sentenced to 10 months in prison after pleading guilty to possession of an offensive weapon in connection with the violence but no further details of his crime were released. Noronha was one of 47 people

arrested across the weekend after the clashes which resulted in 16 officers being injured, Daily Mail reported. Those arrested stand accused of an array of offences including affray, assault, possession of weapons and violent disorder. Dharmesh Lakhani, who has lived in the city for more than 50 years and works with local mosques, says he feels it was outside influences that inflamed the situation. He told BBC R4's Today programme: "It's been brewing slowly, slowly, and what happened at cricket acted as a trigger. "Now my personal feeling is that it was just people from Leicester, things would have calmed down. "I feel there's outside influences here and they're not welcome. We really need just the people of Leicester, the Hindu organisations, the Muslim organisations, our authorities, the police and our local council and we could sort this out straight away."

Massive 7.7 magnitude quake hits Mexico, 1 dead

Mexico City | Agencies

A massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake jolted west-central Mexico on a day when the country marked the anniversary of two major temblors that struck in 1985 and 2017. One person was killed when a wall collapsed at a shopping centre in Manzanillo, a beach resort in western Colima state, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Monday evening, after receiving a report from the Naval Ministry. The President was in contact with governors of states most affected by the quake that hit at 1.05 p.m. on Monday, notably Colima and Michoacan, though parts of the capital Mexico City also felt the tremor, reports Xinhua news agency. According to the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), 1.2 million people were left without power in Mexico City, the neighbouring State of Mexico, Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco. But electricity had already been restored to 68 per cent of those affected since. The National Seismological Service (SSN) originally reported the quake with a



preliminary magnitude of 7.4, but two hours later it was updated to 7.7. According to the SSN, the epicentre was located 63 km south of Coalcoman, in Michoacan, with a depth of 15 km. By 3.20 p.m., the seismological service had registered 168 aftershocks with the largest magnitude of 5.3. The earthquake occurred shortly after an annual nationwide earthquake drill commemorating the devastating 1985 earthquake that claimed some 5,000 lives and toppled buildings throughout downtown Mexico City. It was also a repeat of the temblor in 2017, when a strong quake hit just minutes after a scheduled drill, killing more than 350 people.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT KILLS 6 IN ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa: A traffic accident in Ethiopia's Oromia regional state has left six people dead, local officials said. The traffic accident happened in Adaba district, located in the West Arsi zone of the Oromia region, on Monday when a midibus traveling on the road plunged into a gorge, leaving six people dead, state-affiliated Pana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) quoted local officials as saying. Police further said some 15 others sustained serious and light physical injuries from the accident. The injured are currently receiving medical treatment in nearby healthcare institutions, Xinhua news agency reported. Police attributed the main cause of the incident to overload, in which the midibus with a capacity of transporting 28 people was carrying 40 people during the time of the accident. Although Ethiopia has one of the lowest per capita car ownership rates in the world, deadly traffic accidents are fairly common, with the blame often put on bad roads, reckless driving, a flawed driving license issuance system, and lax enforcement of safety rules.

Russia ready to supply petrol to Pakistan on deferred payments

Russia is ready to provide Pakistan with gasoline on a delayed payment basis, media reports said on Tuesday.

Islamabad: | Agencies

This major development comes after last week's meetings between Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Daily Jang reported. Matters regarding oil, gas and wheat supplies to Pakistan from Moscow were discussed during the three meetings. The report added that the US has also not opposed the proposed deal openly amid Pakistan's severe economic crisis caused by deadly floods, Geo News reported. Addressing a press conference



on Sunday, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif had revealed that Russia proposed that its gas pipeline infrastructure, which was in place till Central Asian states, could be extended to Pakistan through Afghanistan. The two leaders also expressed

commitment to expand bilateral cooperation between their countries in all areas of mutual benefit, Asif said. On September 15, Putin had told Sharif that the installation of a pipeline for the supply of gas to Pakistan from Moscow is possible. Putin had also expressed solidarity and support for the flood-hit population in Pakistan after he was informed about the devastating impact of the climate-induced calamity. Sharif had reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work closely with Russia to expand and strengthen cooperation across all areas, including food security, trade and investment, energy, defence and security.

Nigeria's anti-drug agency seizes 1,855 kg cocaine in economic hub



Lagos | Agencies

Nigeria's anti-drug agency has said that it has arrested four drug barons in Lagos, the country's economic hub, and made a record seizure of 1,855 kg of cocaine over the weekend. In a press statement on Monday, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) said its operatives raided on Sunday a warehouse in the Ikorodu area of Lagos and seized 1,855 kilograms of cocaine worth more than \$278 million in street value, Xinhua news agency reported. The statement described the seizure as "the biggest singular cocaine seizure" in the history of the NDLEA, noting the class-A drugs, stored in 10 travel bags and 13 drums, were meant for buyers in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. Four drug barons and the warehouse manager were arrested in the coordinated and intelligence-led operation in Lagos, said the NDLEA, adding that they are all members of an international drug syndicate that the agency has been trailing since 2018.



DAY AFTER JHABUA SP SUSPENDED, CM ORDERS TO TRANSFER DISTRICT COLLECTOR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Day after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan ordered to suspend Jhabua district SP (Superintendent of Police) for allegedly using abusive words against a polytechnic student on phone call, collector of the same district was also transferred on Tuesday.

Transfer order issued by the state administration on Tuesday, stated that Jhabua district collector Somesh Mishra, a 2013 batch IAS officer, has been shifted to Bhopal as Under Secretary in Madhya Pradesh Government.

Rajni Singh, a 2013 batch IAS officer, who was posted as Upper Commissioner (Revenue) in Indore division, will replace Mishra as new collector of tribal dominated Jhabua



district. The development came a day after Chouhan visited Jhabua, during which he received several complaints from local people regarding delay in execution of government

schemes, according to the state government.

Notably, the transfer order has been issued on the direction of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. On Monday,

Jhabua SP Arvind Tiwari was first transferred to the police headquarters in Bhopal and later suspended by the evening. He was suspended for allegedly using abusive words during a telephonic conversation with a polytechnic student in the district, the government claimed.

The opposition Congress has raised question on back to back action - first suspension of SP and then transfer of the district collector. As both officers belong to upper cast community (Brahmin), Congress called the development as politically motivated.

K.K. Mishra, who is media in-charge in Madhya Pradesh Congress, called the development as "Power struggle between two factions of top BJP leaders. These officers were appointed on the direction of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia."

BJP takes jibe at Kamal Nath for 'will lend my car if anybody wants to join BJP' remark

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath's statement "I will offer my car to those (from Congress) who are willing to join the BJP" has created a war of words between the ruling BJP and opposition Congress in the state.

The former Chief Minister made the remark while replying to questions on the recent exodus from Congress, saying: "What are you thinking? Congress will be finished? You are saying some people want to join the BJP. Whoever wants to join the BJP can go. We don't want to stop anyone. I would even lend them my car to go and join the BJP."

To begin with, senior Congress leader Ajay Singh (Rahul) disagreed with his party chief's statement. Singh, who is the son of former MP Chief Minister late Arjun Singh and is considered, opposed to Kamal Nath, said, "Yah Samay Jodne Ka Hai, Chhondne Ka Nahin. (This is the time for uniting, not deserting)."

Meanwhile, BJP leaders took a jibe at Congress, saying Kamal Nath would need so many cars to drop his partymen to the BJP



office.

Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayavargiya, who was in Jabalpur on Monday, told media-persons, "Kamal Nath would need so many cars to drop his MLAs at the BJP office. There are several Congress leaders who are not happy with Kamal Nath's leadership."

Another senior BJP leader and state Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who hardly misses any opportunity to attack the opposition, said, "Rahul Gandhi is uniting the Congress and at the same time Kamal Nath is dropping party leader."

CM Chouhan releases the brochure of Laghu Udyog Bharti



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was called on by a delegation of Laghu Udyog Bharati in Mantralaya. CM Chouhan released the brochure of Laghu Udyog Bharati's trade fair to be held in Katni from December 16 to 18. The delegation included State President of Laghu Udyog Bharati Madhya Pradesh Mahesh Gupta, State General Secretary Arun Kumar Soni along with

Jitendra Gupta, Sameer Mundra and Rajesh Mishra.

CM Chouhan was informed by the delegation of Laghu Udyog Bharati about Swayam Siddha Swavalambi Bharat Trade Fair to be held in Katni and requested to inaugurate it.

CM Chouhan assured to attend the trade fair and also discussed various topics. The delegation expressed its gratitude for the industry-friendly decisions of Chief Minister Chouhan.

CABINET APPROVES AMENDMENT IN THE MERITORIOUS STUDENT SCHEME

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A meeting of the Cabinet was held in Mantralaya today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The cabinet approved amendments to the Mukhya Mantri Medhavi Vidarthi Yojana (Chief Minister Meritorious Student Scheme). According to the amendment, such students who have got the benefit of the scheme once and even if the income limit is more than Rs. 6 lakh, they will be eligible for the benefit of the scheme till the completion of the course. Also, students who have secured place in first 15 percent the centralised common merit list of the state in the second year of engineering and pharmacy courses through "lateral entry" and the students who pass in 10th and 12th examination of the Board of Secondary Education with 70 percent or CBSE / ICSE with 85 percent and if they take admission in the engineering and pharmacy courses of the institutions included in the order, then such students will be eligible for the scheme. Such students will not be bound by JEE Mains rank for admission to engineering courses.

Approval for asphaltized road with an amount of over 178 crores

The Cabinet decided to get constructed two lane asphalt road with paved shoulder (length 36 km and estimated construction cost amounting to Rs. 178 crore 62 lakh) from



Bharatpur (Bhairsaha) to Govindgarh via Jigna by MP Road Development Corporation.

Approval for Motor Driving Training and Research Institute

The Cabinet gave its approval for the establishment and operation of Motor Driving Training and Research Institute (MDTRI) in Datia district. As non-recurring expenditure of the institute Rs. 30 crore will be given for establishment and operation and Rs. 22 lakh

one Subedar-A/Steno, one Accountant-A, one Sub-Inspector-A thus total 13 posts have been approved for the institute. Also, for the recurring expenditure in the institute administrative expenditure of Rs. 50 lakh 7 thousand, Rs. 50 lakh for hiring vehicles and Rs. 1 crore for outsourcing (total Rs. 2 crore) per annum will be given by the state government in the form of Block Grant for the next 4 years.

Approval to consumer charges collection The Cabinet has given approval to collect the consumer charges in the pre-constructed 3 routes Satna Maihar-Umaria road and Ghansaur Mandla road under the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation after the completion date of the concession agreement and the Sehore Ichhawar Kosmi Nasrullaganj road after completion of construction in the consumer fee scheme.

Approval to take contract/outsource services

For speedy implementation of the schemes run by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation, it has been decided by the Council of Ministers to speed up the recruitment process of human resource and easy availability of IT experts skilled in new technologies (COE, PeMTS, MPSSDI, CPCT, Email-PMU, TCU, SDC, Security Audit Lab) services can be taken from contract or outsource by converting the sanctioned posts in the projects.

ITI BEST FOR HONING SKILLS OF YOUTHS: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that education has three objectives. To impart knowledge, to Skill and to impart the values of citizenship. Skill is the soul of education, without it any education is incomplete. Knowledge tells us what to do and skill teaches us how to do it. Chief Minister Chouhan said that if youths acquire skill, then employment will also be easily available. He said that if we have to beautify Madhya Pradesh, it can be done through skill.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the State Level ITI Convocation of Technical Education, Skill Development and Employment Department at Kushabhau Thakre Auditorium today. He said that till now we have seen convocations on completion of graduation in colleges and universities, but today Madhya Pradesh is probably the first state in the country where convocation is being held on completion of courses of ITI students.

CM Chouhan said that today in the whole world, if anything is in greatest demand, it is skill. There are thousands of such services, which people need every day and special skills are required for them.



CM Chouhan said that the kinds of skills required in the country are supplied by our ITIs. The Global Skill Park in Bhopal is the result of inspiration from visiting the Skill Park in Singapore. Today, if children have skills in their hands, they will not remain unemployed. We have given continuous focus on skill development. Industrial training institutions have an important role in skill training. We are running our ITIs with quality education.

The Chief Minister said that the Minister for Technical Education and Skill Development Yashodhara Raj Scindia and the officers of the department deserve congratulations for the convo-

cation. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that there is an effort to connect industries and industrial training institutions. For the youths to start their own venture, necessary support is being given to them from the Mukhya Mantri Udyam Kranti Yojana. Under the scheme, there is a provision to give loans up to Rs. 50 lakh to the youths for setting up their enterprise. Gramin Engineer Yojana Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Gramin Engineer Yojana' (Rural Engineer Scheme) under the Sankalp Yojana of the Central Government by pressing the remote button at the state level ITI convocation. He said that we will work on the vision of rural engineer. There will be at least 4 rural engineers in every gram panchayat, who will contribute to the facilities like electricity, water, construction works etc.

Distribution of certificates and prize money

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan distributed certificates and prize money to the participants of the World Skill Competition in the programme. He also distributed certificates to 10 trainees who obtained merit at the state level and 5 trainees each who started their own business and who got placements.

CM CHOUHAN GREETS ON RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE FOUNDATION DAY

Bhopal| Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has greeted and extended best wishes to the Railway Protection Force on Railway Protection Force Foundation Day. CM Chouhan said that Railway Protection Force personnel are always ready to make Indian rail travel smooth and safe. He said that the dedication and devotion to duty of the Railway Protection Force in the safety of railway property and passengers is commendable.

CM to perform bhoomi-pujan and dedicate 22 industrial structures

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will perform bhoomi-pujan and dedicate 22 industrial structures with an investment of Rs 4828 crores on September 29. In these industrial institutions, 42 thousand youth will get direct employment. Along with this important event to be held at Budni in Sehore district, there will also be a state level Employment Day program. CM Chouhan will also interact with the youth.

Secretary MSME P. Narhari reviewed the preparations for these programs on Tuesday and gave instructions to the district officials. He said that the CM would perform bhoo-

mi-pujan of 13 industrial clusters and 2 industrial areas in 9 districts. During this, the Chief Minister will also dedicate 3 industrial clusters in 4 districts, an industrial area, 2 incubation centers and a startup. Loan sanction and disbursement letters will also be provided to the beneficiaries in the programme. Chief Minister Chouhan will virtually interact with the cluster developer entrepreneurs of Indore, Neemuch, Bhopal and Burhanpur. Secretary Narhari informed that minister in-charge and public representatives will be present in these events. The state level program will also be telecast live in the districts.

CM Chouhan plants Badam, Tikoma and Gulmohar saplings



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Badam, Tikoma and Gulmohar along with the office bearers of Aahan Shiksha, Sanskriti aur Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Bhopal

in Smart Park Bhopal today. The plantation was attended by Alok Chatterjee, Prateek Sancheti, Mamta Chandrashekar and Balveer Singh Rajput. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, two little girls Saanvi and Shreya Baghel also planted saplings.

Dr. Mamta presented the book "Swadesh" to CM Chouhan. Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes Welfare Commission Chairman and MLA Balaghat Gaurishankar Bisen also participated in the plantation.

Political slugfest in MP over non-distribution of mid-day meal in 100 schools

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Non-distribution of mid-day meal in 100 schools of Panna district has sparked a political slugfest in Madhya Pradesh.

State Mineral Minister Brijendra Pratap Singh wrote to School Education Minister Inder Singh Parmar, complaining that mid-day meals were non distributed in 100 schools of Panna district for the last six months. The Congress lashed out at the government, while Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also took the matter on serious note.

In a recent report of the state's Accountant General, the government was criticised for the scam of more than Rs 100 crore in nutritional diet. The Congress continued to attack the BJP-led government; as a result the latter had to explain the matter many times.

Now a new case of non-distribution of mid-day meal has come to the fore.

"During a visit to my Assembly



constituency in Panna, local people and public representatives told me that mid-day meals have not been distributed in more than 100 schools in Ajaygarh block for the last six months. Due to this, there is dissatisfaction among the local people," Brijendra Pratap Singh wrote in the letter.

"Such a situation is a matter of concern. Take action against the

officials who are negligent in the distribution of mid-day meals, issue orders regarding the smooth distribution of the same," he added.

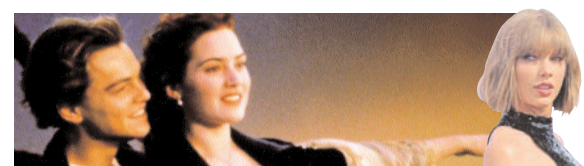
After the matter came to light, CM Chouhan held a virtual meeting with the concerned officials.

Chouhan first obtained information from the Panna Collector regarding the complaints received

with regard to distribution of mid-day meals.

Chouhan said that other districts should also make arrangements for distribution of mid-day meal. There should be no obstacles in the implementation of the plan and the complaints received should be resolved immediately, he noted. The Collector informed that the work of distributing mid-day meal is going on regularly in 1,800 schools of the district. However, mapping error and some technical issue at some centres caused temporary disruptions, which have been rectified.

Taking a jibe at the state government, MP Congress President's media coordinator Narendra Saluja tweeted, "Cases are now coming to light against Mamaji (Chouhan). Minister's attack on government involving CS, Home Minister's attack on egg-chicken decision, another minister exposing the mid-day meal scheme, everyone's silence on the sloganeering of the opposition in the House on the nutrition diet scam."



Kendall Jenner models an eye-catching tan mini dress and leather boots

New York | Agencies

Kendall Jenner showed off her long legs as her fans greeted her while out in New York City. The 26-year-old model and socialite strutted her stuff when she left a brick building in a tan mini dress and tall black boots paired with earrings and sunglasses.

The Keeping up with the Kardashians alum had her brunette hair flowing down while carrying her purse as she walked past the crowd outside the hotel.

The reality TV star is all about self-love and personal growth and the supermodel has been working hand in hand with her therapist for a while now in order to 'heal her inner child.'

During a recent interview with Jay Shetty, Kendall opened up a lot more about the work that she and her therapist do to highlight to her fans the importance of self-love.

Kendall took to Instagram to make a post about her interview, and she showed us the picture of her younger self that she keeps in her bathroom and uses every day for her positive affirmations.

During the interview, she went on to explain how a trend on TikTok encouraged her to start using the picture to help heal her inner child when she has any negative thoughts about herself.

'I guess that was like a girl being like, anytime you're being mean to yourself, just think this is who you're talking about and it flashes to like a photo of her as a kid.'



I AM MORE THAN JUST BEING EMINEM'S DAUGHTER: HAILIE JADE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Popular rapper Eminem's 26-year-old daughter Hailie Jade is speaking out on the attention surrounding her relationship with her father.

Hailie Jade recently hosted a 'Ask Me Anything' episode of her podcast, but that doesn't mean she should only be asked the famous rapper.

Addressing the questions she received about the 'Slim Shady' artiste, Hailie spoke on how it feels receiving questions about only her dad, reports online.com.

"Does it bother me when I get asked about my dad?" Hailie said on her 'Just a Little Shady' podcast "Because a lot of questions were about my dad."

As she put it, "The best way to say this is yes and no... Honestly, it's to a point. I obviously expect it. And there's certain things I can understand why people are just genuinely curious about, as anyone would be when you're kind of grown up half in the spotlight."

The 26-year-old noted that she has more to offer than just being Eminem's daughter.

"So, it becomes tricky because I get it," Hailie added. "But then, after a certain extent, I'm not going to speak on behalf of anyone. I'm not going to answer stuff that I don't specifically have the answers to."

Hailie detailed how her life was impacted by all the curiosity surrounding her father.

"I feel like growing up, when it would happen, I would get more bothered by it because I was like, 'Why do people care?'" Hailie said.

"I was young and I didn't totally understand the situation so I was like, that's my dad. I don't ask you about your dad."

"Some stuff it's just like, that's weird. Let's move on."

My downfalls and low moments, really drive me forward: Jason Derulo

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Jason Derulo is opening up about his key to success. The 'Swalla' hitmaker said that he has taken inspiration from his "low moments" as well as his "downfalls".

Derulo admits that self-improvement has been his drive "for a very long time" and he's used his setbacks to fuel his ambitions.

The singer, who has a 16-month-old son named Jason with ex-girlfriend Jena Frumes, shared, "My downfalls and when I have low moments, those moments really drive me. At my lowest lows, it's like, 'Dang, I gotta really sink my teeth in and just go for gold!'"

He explained that working out has been key to escaping his personal woes.

"The gym is a perfect place to let off the steam because you can go as hard as you need to go. When you just wanna scream inside and you wanna just, like, 'Ahh, I can't believe this is happening,' you can put all of that energy into the weight. And I think, for me, the gym has been a lifesaver."

Earlier this year, Frumes claimed that she was "disrespected" and "cheated on" by Derulo. The actress accused her ex-boyfriend of being unfaithful during an exchange with a social media follower.



Lil Nas X jokes about falling in love with 'homophobic' religious protester

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Lil Nas X sent pizza to a group of "homophobic" religious protesters outside his concert, and now he says he's falling in love with one of them.

The 23-year-old rapper, whose real name is Montero Lamar Hill, performed at the MGM Music Hall at Fenway recently. Across the street from the venue's entrance, a small group of Christian protesters convened to spout their bigoted messaging at those lined up for the show. Retweeting a video taken by one of his fans, Lil Nas X joked that the protesters offered "really good promo," noting that he'd "just told my team to send them pizza".

He later updated fans with a video of what appears to be the group's leader rejecting his gracious offering as saying, "We thank you, we appreciate it, but no thank you."

The camera's focus quickly shifted to one particular protester, a man wearing a black shirt advertising Christ's Forgiveness Ministries that Lil Nas X was smitten by.

"Update: they didn't want the pizza but I accidentally fell in love with one of the homophobic protesters," the "Montero" hitmaker tweeted.

A few minutes later, Lil Nas X quipped that he "can't stop thinking about the cute homophobic guy that was protesting my concert last night".

Indeed, Lil Nas X has become a master of upsetting homophobic conservatives over the past few years, whether it be via diss tracks, his music videos or openly gay acts on national television.

In a 2021 interview with GQ, he said that rap will have more gay rappers and that it's only a matter of time.



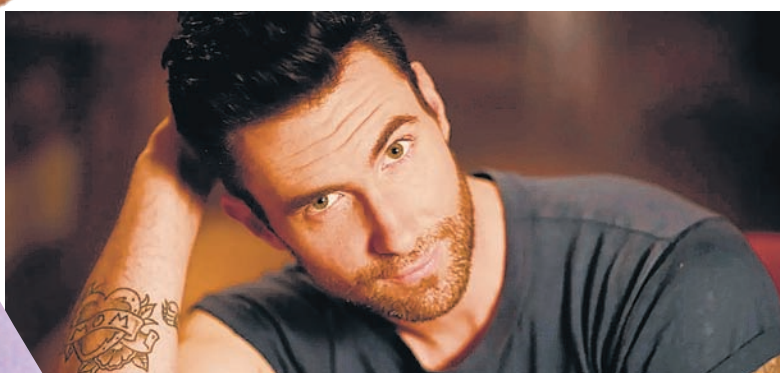
ADAM LEVINE REPORTEDLY CHEATS ON PREGNANT WIFE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Maroon 5 front man Adam Levine has reportedly been accused of cheating on his wife Behati Prinsloo. A woman named Sumner Stroh spilled the tea on TikTok about her alleged affair with the pop star more than a week after it was reported that the couple is expecting their third child together.

She claimed, "At the time I was young, I was naive. And I mean, quite frankly, I feel exploited. I wasn't in the scene like I am now. So I was definitely very easily manipulated."

"I'm sure you know who Adam Levine is. Adam and I were seeing each other for about a year, after I stopped talking to him over a period of months, this is how he came back into my life," she continued. The Instagram model showed an alleged DM that she received from Levine in which he asked if it's okay with her if he names his unborn baby after her. "Ok serious question. I'm having another baby and if it's a boy I really wanna name it Sumner (sic). You ok with that? DEAD serious," read the message, with a shrugging emoji. After reading his DM, Sumner said she feels "like I have to be in hell at this point. My morals were unknowingly being compromised." As to why she came forward with it now, she said she "sent some screenshots recklessly to a few friends I thought I trusted, and one of them had attempted to sell to a tabloid-so here I am." Sumner also shared a message on her Instagram Story. Levine has not responded to the woman's affair claim. He and Behati have been married since July 19, 2014 after dating for two years. They welcomed their first child, Dusty Rose, in 2016, and their second child, another daughter named Gio Grace, was born in 2018.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Olivia-Cooke



1st T20I

AUSTRALIA BEAT INDIA BY 4 WICKETS, TAKE 1-0 LEAD IN 3-MATCH SERIES

Mohali | Agencies

Australia produced a dominating performance to beat India by four wickets in the first T20I, to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series at the Punjab Cricket Association IS Bindra Stadium, here on Tuesday.

Brilliant fifties by Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul and a vital knock by Suryakumar Yadav powered India to 208/6 in 20 overs. While India lost the wickets of Rohit and Kohli inside the first six overs, there was a great show of intent by Hardik (71 not out off 30), KL Rahul (55 off 35) and Suryakumar (46 off 25). For Australia, medium pacer Nathan Ellis 3/30 was the pick of the bowlers. Chasing a big target, opener Cameron Green played a sensational knock (61) and gave Australia a flying start. However, India made a comeback by picking four wickets between the 11th and 15th over. Eventually, Australia needed 40 runs more off the last 18 balls and Matthew Wade (45 not out off



21) played an attacking knock. He remained not out to take Australia over the victory line in 19.2 Overs with four wickets in hand.

Axar Patel was the most successful bowler for India with 3/17 while others were ordinary.

Brief scores

India 208/6 in 20 overs (Hardik Pandya 71 not out, KL Rahul 55; Nathan Ellis 3/30, Josh Hazlewood 2/39) lost to Australia 211/6 in 19.2 overs (Cameron Green 61, Matthew Wade 45 not out; Axar Patel 3/17 by 4 wickets)

Mandhana No.2 in latest ICC T20 ranking for batters

Dubai | Agencies

India opener Smriti Mandhana, following her recent performance in the three-match series against England, has taken the No. 2 spot in the ICC T20I rankings for batters, pushing Australian stalwart Meg Lanning to the third spot while also having the top spot -- currently held by another Australian Beth Mooney -- in her sights.

Mooney is leading the T20I batters' table with 743 points, while Mandhana is second with 731 and Lanning third with 725 points in the latest ICC rankings released on Tuesday. Mandhana scored 111 runs during the three-match series and that helped the 26-year-old rise two spots to second overall on the latest list for T20I batters.

New Zealand counterpart Sophie Devine (715) also lost a place to the in-form India batter. India's young opener Shafali Verma is sixth with 666 points.

Mandhana also made an eye-catching move up the rankings for ODI batters, following her impressive start to the ongoing three-game series against England. The left-hander smashed a superb 91 during India's seven-wicket triumph in the opening match of the series in Hove and was rewarded by rising three places to seventh overall on the list for batters.

Several of Mandhana's team-mates also made big strides, with skipper Harmanpreet



Kaur (up four places to ninth) and Yastika Bhatia (up eight spots to 37th) big movers following half-centuries in that match.

England pacer Kate Cross picked up two wickets in that same game and jumped three spots to 10th overall on the list for ODI bowlers, while team-mate Charlotte Dean moves up four spots to 20th.

India spinner Deepti Sharma collected her own two-wicket haul during that same game she jumps six spots to 12th on the rankings for ODI bowlers as a result.

National Games TT

Maharashtra, West Bengal win two rounds each, virtually through to semis

Surat | Agencies

Top seeds Maharashtra and West Bengal breezed through their opening two rounds in women's table tennis to virtually assure their semifinal berths in the 36th National Games here on Tuesday.

Maharashtra opened their Group A campaign by beating hosts Gujarat while West Bengal got started with a win against Tamil Nadu in Group B.

Diya Chitale got the better of Gujarat's Frenaz Chipia 11-9, 11-6, 12-10 in the opening match to lead Maharashtra's charge. Swastika Ghosh and Reeth Rishya Tennison then overcame Kritika Sinha Roy and Filzahfatema Kadri to wind up their Round 1 win with big smiles. In the second



round, Diya, Swastika and Reeth again emerged victorious against Telangana to help their team to the top position in Group A. In Group B, West Bengal rode on Sutirtha Mukherjee's two wins to sail past Tamil Nadu, the first hurdle. Ayhika Mukherjee scored the other win but Prapti Sen lost in between, triggering mild alarm bells in the camp. In Round 2 too, West Bengal had to dig deep to subdue Karnataka 3-2. Sutirtha won

her first match but suffered a surprise defeat in her second. Ayhika won but Mouma Das lost to make it 2-2. Akhiya, however, put up a brave and calm display to down Kushi V as Bengal came out unscathed. In the men's competition, hosts and favourites Gujarat (Group A) started off on a winning note. They beat Haryana 3-0, with local boy Harmeet Desai, buoyed by adoring crowds, leading from the front.

THOMAS LEADS 7-MAN INDIAN TEAM TO PRESTIGIOUS ASIA-PACIFIC GOLF

Thailand: Rayhan Thomas still has vivid memories of how close he came to creating history at the 2018 Asia Pacific Amateur Championships.

He shot 4-over on the first day but fought back over the next three days to get within a whisker of the title that would have given him a tee time at the 2019 Masters. He ended Tied-second alongside Keita Nakajima, who went on to become World No. 1 amateur, and behind winner Takumi Kanaya, who is now making waves on the pro Tour. This will be Thomas' fifth appearance at the AAC, where his best is second place and he has made the cut each time. Thomas, looking forward to the 2022 edition in Chonburi, Thailand said, "I'm playing a lot better. The game is feeling pretty good. The Eisenhower Cup (World Amateur Team Championship) was a lot of fun."

Thomas finished 11-under 269 at the Sentosa Golf Club in Singapore and was tied-second as Takumi Kanaya won the title. Thomas tied for second with Keita Nakajima, who went on to become the World No. 1 amateur, and recently turned professional.



Contreras Gomez ousts Kenin; Pliskova eases through Tokyo opener

Tokyo | Agencies

Mexican qualifier Fernanda Contreras Gomez defeated 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin 7-6(7), 6-4 in the first round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open here on Tuesday.

The victory was Contreras Gomez's first career win in a Hologic WTA Tour main draw match. Ranked No.131, Contreras Gomez will face No.4 seed Veronika Kudermetova in the next round.

Despite her position as a qualifier, Contreras Gomez was the higher-ranked player in her Tokyo opener. Kenin, who reached a career-high No.4 in 2020, has seen her ranking slip to No.315 as she works her way back from injury.

After saving a set point late in the first-set tiebreak, Contreras Gomez dominated the second set to build a 5-1 lead. Kenin fought valiantly to put the set back on serve, but Contreras Gomez broke the American one last time to seal the win after 1 hour and 46 minutes. Contreras Gomez, 24, made her tour-level debut at Roland Garros in May. After qualifying for her first Slam main draw, the three-time All-American from Vanderbilt beat Panna Udvardy to earn her first



tour-level win. While she continued to successfully qualify at the Slams, it was not until Tokyo that Contreras Gomez earned a spot in the main draw of a WTA tournament.

No.6 seed Karolina Pliskova and No.28 Zhang Shuai needed just 57 minutes each to advance to the second round. Pliskova defeated Bulgarian qualifier Isabella Shinikova 6-2, 6-1 and will face Petra Martic.

Zhang ousted Japanese wildcard Mai Hontama 6-0, 6-3. She will face No.2 seed Caroline Garcia.

PARTHIV PATEL POWERS GUJARAT GIANTS TO SECOND WIN IN LLC

Lucknow | Agencies

Parthiv Patel proved he still retains his reputation of being a pocket-sized powerhouse as he smashed a 17-ball 34 on Monday to help the Virender Sehwag-led Gujarat Giants clinch a two-wicket win against Harbhajan Singh's Manipal Tigers in the fourth match of the Legends League Cricket (LLC).

The Giants have won two-out-of-two matches and occupy the top spot on the points table.

Chasing Manipal Tigers' 120/8, Parthiv's blitzkrieg, which included six boundaries and a six, helped the Giants finish off the match with 16 balls to spare, but they lost eight wickets in the chase, giving Sehwag some anxious moments.

On a challenging pitch at the Ekana Stadium here, the former India wicketkeeper-batter, who boasts a T20 strike rate of 123.84, changed the complexion of the



match after the Giants struggled at the start.

Former Zimbabwe pacer Chris Mpofu dismissed Sehwag and Tillakaratne Dilshan in the second over of the Giants' chase. But Parthiv took the attack to the opposition camp by hitting three consecutive boundaries in the third over, bowled by English pace bowler Ryan Sidebottom.

Parthiv followed that up with a six and three more fours in the next over, bowled by Mpofu. The left-handed batter was finally out for 34, but by then he had made the Tigers bowlers shaky. The Tigers tried to claw their way back late in the match with Harbhajan (2/23) and Muttiah Muralitharan (2/10) picking up four wickets between them.

The Giants were pegged back, but Graeme Swann hit two fours in the 17th over to release the pressure. The Giants finally won in 17.2 overs when Murali bowled a wide.

Mohali | Agencies

As India battled Australia in the first T20I of the three-match series, opener KL Rahul made it to the record books as the third fastest to reach the 2000-run milestone in the shortest format of the game.

Rahul struck a 35-ball 55, hitting four boundaries and three sixes after Australia skipper Aaron Finch won the toss and elected to field.

In the process, the 30-year-old from Karnataka completed his 2000 runs in T20I cricket in his 58th innings.

He thus became the third fastest to reach the 2000-run mark behind Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who took 52 innings to reach the mark, and India's former skipper



Virat Kohli, who did it in 56 innings.

Before this match, Rahul had scored 1963 runs from 57 innings of 61 matches in T20Is. During the innings

break, Rahul said he used his experience of playing here at Mohali during the Indian Premier League (IPL) as it takes some time to get used to the bounce of the pitch.

ICC MAKES SEVERAL MAJOR CHANGES TO PLAYING CONDITIONS

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday made the ban on the use of saliva to polish the ball a permanent affair, while also introducing a clause whereby any "unfair" and "deliberate movement" while the bowler is running in to bowl could now result in the umpire awarding five penalty runs to the batting side, in addition to a call of 'dead ball'.

The ICC has announced several changes to its 'playing conditions' after the Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) ratified the recommendations from the Sourav Ganguly-led Men's Cricket Committee.

The main changes to the playing conditions come into effect from October 1, 2022, which means they will be applicable in the ICC T20 World Cup in Australia from October 16.

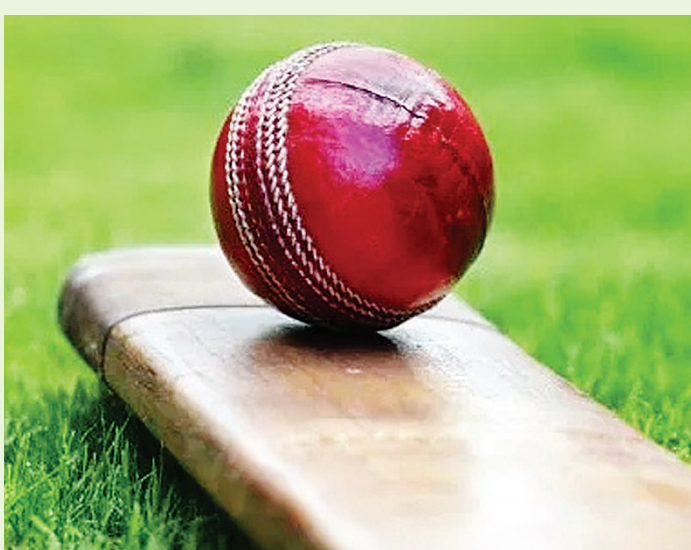
In a statement on the use of saliva to polish the ball, ICC said, "This prohibition has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a Covid-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent."

On the issue of unfair movement by the fielding side, the

new ICC rule says, "Any unfair and deliberate movement while the bowler is running in to bowl could now result in the umpire awarding five penalty runs to the batting side, in addition to a call of 'dead ball'."

The other rule changes that will come into effect from October 1, 2022 are:

Batters returning when caught: When a batter is out caught, the new batter will come in at the end the striker was, regardless of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being



taken. Incoming batter ready to face the ball: An incoming batter will now be required to be ready to take strike within two minutes in Tests and ODIs, while the current threshold of ninety seconds in T20Is remains unchanged.

Striker's right to play the ball: This is restricted so as to require some part of their bat or person to remain within the pitch. Should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead ball. Any ball which would force the batter to leave the pitch

will also be called No ball.

Running out of the non-striker: The playing conditions follow the Laws in moving this method of effecting a Run out from the 'Unfair Play' section to the 'Run out' section.

Bowler throwing towards striker's end before delivery: Previously, a bowler who saw the batter advancing down the wicket before entering their delivery stride, could throw the ball to attempt to Run out the striker. This practice will now be called a dead ball. Other major decisions: The in-match penalty introduced in T20Is in January 2022, (whereby the failure of a fielding team to bowl their overs by the scheduled cessation time leads to an additional fielder having to be brought inside the fielding circle for the remaining overs of the innings), will now also be adopted in ODI matches after the completion of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League in 2023.

It was also decided that the playing conditions for all men's and women's ODI and T20I matches will be amended to allow hybrid pitches to be used, if agreed by both teams. Currently, hybrid pitches can only be used in women's T20I matches.



Alia Bhatt Thanks Priyadarshni Academy

The actress is conferred with prestigious Smita Patil Memorial Award

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ministers of the Government of India at the Academy's Awards presentation ceremony via a webinar on September 19, 2022.

Speaking on this Occasion Alia thanked Priyadarshni Academy and said "It's a tremendous honour to be here today, one I'll cherish for the years to come. India has the most incredible legacy of the arts, and I'm eternally grateful that our work is a part of it. Cinema teaches us the importance of believing in the beauty of dreams, to follow them with dedication and humility, and never quit."

On the work front, Alia's recent release *Brahmastra* is receiving rave reviews. The actress will next be seen in *Rocky aur Rani ki Prem Kahani* alongside Ranveer Singh.

At the 38th anniversary celebrations of the premier non-profit, socio-cultural, and educational organisation, Priyadarshni Academy, Alia Bhatt was awarded the prestigious Priyadarshni Academy Smita Patil Memorial Award for her commendable contribution to Indian cinema. This prestigious award is given to outstanding national and international participants each year, and it recognises their incredible excellence and tremendous contribution to their respective fields. This year, excellent achievers were honoured virtually by Union

I would like to direct a movie: Pankaj

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Pankaj Tripathi loves to tell stories, and he wants to try his hands at directing movies. Pankaj said: "I came in because I love the process and how the actor becomes a part of the story telling. Coming from a small village in Bihar, I grew up listening to stories. Now I have developed a liking for telling stories too." "So, apart from acting, I would like to

direct a movie. A producer also plays an important part, but it is the director who has the vision of the story." The actor has been part of many movies, but it was Anurag Kashyap's 'Gangs of Wasseypur' in 2012 that turned out to be his breakthrough performance. The actor was last seen in the film 'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga'. He is now gearing up for 'Fukrey 3' and 'OMG 2 - Oh My God!'.



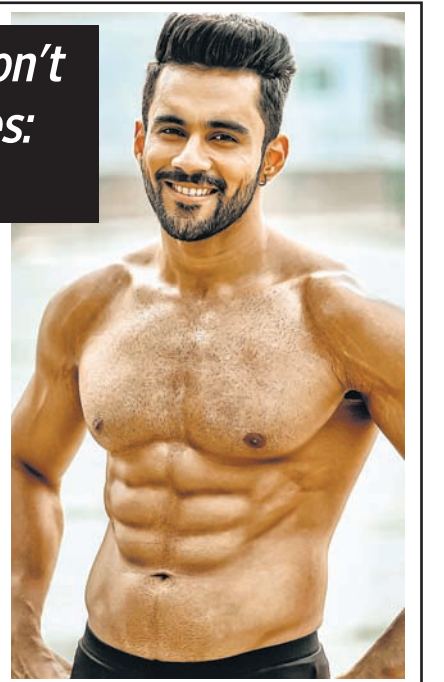
Actors like us, often don't get many opportunities: Abhishek Bajaj

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

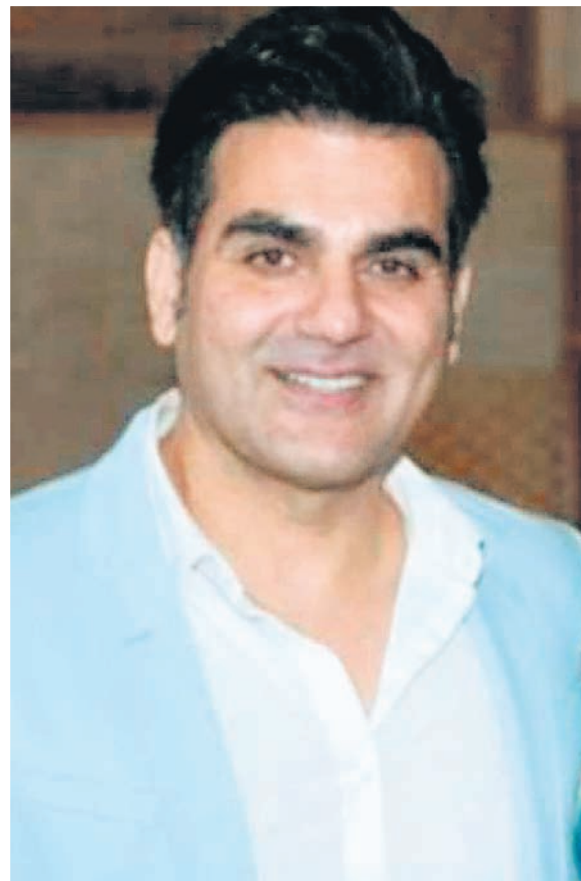
Abhishek Bajaj, who transitioned from modelling to acting on television, has now established himself in Bollywood. The actor is currently gearing up for his third Bollywood film *Babli Bouncer*. The film is helmed by Madhur Bhandarkar and also stars Tamannah Bhatia.

On being a part of *Babli Bouncer* Talking about how excited he was to do this film, Abhishek Bajaj said, "I really wanted to do this film because before this movie and after Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui I rejected 4-5 big films. Initially, you don't have a choice. When we say no to such projects it takes courage as you don't get these opportunities often." On being choosy about projects On

asking, why he is being careful about choosing projects, the actor said, "I believe that talent is in the choices you make. Because if you make a wrong choice you might land somewhere else. At this stage, I can refuse to do a project but I am not in a position to choose it. To land the role I want to play, I have to work hard for it and show my potential. I feel these visionaries saw that in me." (sic) On his journey from TV to films The actor marked his debut in Bollywood with *SOTY 2*. He went on to work with Abhishek Kapoor in *Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui* and now Madhur Bhandarkar. Talking about his journey, the actor averred, "Mai yeh kehta hu ki Heere ki parakh Johari ko hoti hai. My first film was with Dharma and what better start can I get? These all directors choose me. With me, it happened gradually. All you have to do is keep giving your best. Because actors like us don't get many opportunities. One mistake and everything goes haywire." On OTT release being safe due to boycott trend Talking about OTT being a safe space of release as films are getting boycotted at the drop of a hat, the actor quipped, "I feel in OTT numbers may not matter but reputation is at stake. Basically, the audience is yearning to see good content. You really have to deliver that otherwise, people won't forgive you. All I urge people is to support new talents."



This movie is a perfect example of pure cinema meets entertainment: Arbaaz Khan



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Arbaaz Khan, who turned producer with Salman Khan-starrer 'Dabangg', has roped in ace actress Raveena Tandon for his next production 'Patna Shukla' which is a social drama.

He reveals: "It's a social drama but since we as a production house

believe in entertaining our audience, the film was written like that. 'Patna Shukla' has all the ingredients that an Indian audience wants to watch."

While talking about the film he says that audiences will see Raveena in a completely distinct look: "Wait to see Raveena in a never seen before avatar. Even when she was at the peak of her career while doing hardcore masala

movies, Raveena never turned her back on meaningful cinema. 'Patna Shukla' is the perfect example of pure cinema meets entertainment," he adds. The film also stars Satish Kaushik, Manav Vij, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Jatin Goswami and Anushka Kaushik. 'Patna Shukla' is all set to release next year.

Radhika Apte is 'very comfortable' working with Saif Ali Khan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Radhika Apte, who will be seen sharing screen space with Saif Ali Khan for the third time in the upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', says she is very comfortable working with the actor, with whom she has previously worked in 'Sacred Games' and 'Baazaar'.

'Vikram Vedha', which also stars Hrithik Roshan, is directed by Pushkar-Gayatri. Speaking about her collaboration and why she decided to do this film, Radhika said: "I chose 'Vikram Vedha' because I really enjoyed the subject, I saw the original one, the south one. Also of course the directors are so wonderful, and the cast that I wanted the opportunity to work. Working with Saif is great, it's my third project with him."

"I feel very comfortable working with him, and I really like him as a person, he's very funny and whenever I've met him had interesting conversations."

She then spoke about working with Hrithik Roshan.

"And I met Hrithik for the first time and I had a scene with him and it was really lovely so yeah. I do like what the directors are trying to say in the film, I like their style, I like them as people, and our collaboration was a really really lovely experience."



Priyanka Mohan to play female lead in Dhanush-starrer

Team Absolute | Chennai

After getting Telugu actor Sundeep Kishen on board, the makers of director Arun Matheswaran's much-awaited Dhanush-starrer 'Captain Miller' have announced that actress Priyanka Mohan would be playing the female lead of the film.

Sathya Jyothi Films, which is producing the film, tweeted: "We are glad to welcome the gorgeous and talented Priyanka Mohan on board for 'Captain Miller'."

Actress Priyanka Mohan, for her part, tweeted: "Elated to be part of this huge project and happy to be paired opposite Dhanush K. Raja sir, thanks to Arun Matheswaran sir and Sathya Jyothi Films. Looking forward for the shoot to start."

Captain Miller is a Period film set in the 1930s-1940s and will be released simultaneously in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi. Captain Miller is presented by Sathya Jyothi Films' T.G. Thyagarajan and is produced by Senthil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan.

The film is co-produced by G. Saravanan and Sai Siddharth and is being directed by Arun Matheswaran, who shot to fame for his critically acclaimed movies like 'Rocky' and 'Saani Kaayidham'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Jannat Zubair