

absolute india



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OECD SEES GLOBAL GROWTH SLOWING AS INFLATION, MONETARY TIGHTENING BITE

Global Recession Ahead

The global economic slowdown is beginning to dampen demand for the region's exports of commodities and manufactured goods, a report noted.

“Now we have to weather what looks like an oncoming recession. I think a global recession. That's what I think we are edging into. But at the same time, we have to start thinking of the recovery. We have to restore growth. We have security shocks, we have climate shocks, we have energy shocks, we have food price shocks, and all of this hitting countries at the same time, so we cannot afford to do business as usual.”

Nguzi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, WTO



ECB EXPECTS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY TO SLOW, INTEREST RATES TO INCREASE FURTHER

Brussels: The European Central Bank (ECB) expects economic activity in Europe to slow down substantially in the coming months, due to skyrocketing prices, decreased spending power and overall uncertainty, ECB President Christine Lagarde said. The euro area economy grew by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter of 2022, Lagarde explained, mainly owing to strong consumer spending on services as the economy reopened. Xinhua news agency reported. However, growth is expected to slow substantially. This is mainly due to high inflation, slower demand for services, a weakening global demand and worsening terms of trade. Falling household and business confidence due to a high level of uncertainty are also contributing factors. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has "cast a shadow over Europe" with economic consequences, she said.

PARIS | Agencies

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said that global economic growth is projected to remain subdued in the second half of 2022, before slowing further in 2023 to an annual growth of just 2.2 per cent.

"A key factor slowing global growth is the generalised tightening of monetary policy, driven by the greater-than-expected overshoot of inflation targets," the OECD added on Monday in its latest Economic Outlook.

Annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to slow sharply to 0.5 per cent in the US in 2023, and to 0.25 per cent in the eurozone, with risks of output declines in several European economies during the winter months.

The organisation noted that inflation has become broad-based in many economies. Xinhua news agency reported.

The OECD acknowledged that

WORLD BANK DOWNGRADES GROWTH FOR EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Washington: The World Bank has downgraded growth for developing East Asia and Pacific to 3.2 per cent in 2022. The region's growth is projected to slow this year from 7.2 per cent in 2021, before accelerating to 4.6 per cent next year, according to the World Bank's newly released East Asia and Pacific Economic Update. In April, the developing East Asia and Pacific countries is projected to grow by 5 per cent in 2022, reports Xinhua news agency. Rising inflation abroad has provoked interest rate increases, which in turn have caused capital outflows and currency depreciations in some East Asia and Pacific countries, the report noted. These developments have increased the burden of servicing debt and shrunk fiscal space, hurting countries that entered the pandemic with a high debt burden, according to the report.

with the global economic cycle turning, energy price inflation subsiding and monetary tightening by most of the major central banks increasingly taking effect, consumer price inflation is expected to moderate gradually.

However, it still predicted that "annual inflation in 2023 will remain well above target almost everywhere".

BANK OF ENGLAND 'WILL NOT HESITATE' TO RAISE RATES AS POUND FALLS

London: The Bank of England (BoE) said that it "will not hesitate to change interest rates as necessary" after the British pound plunged to its lowest level against the US dollar since decimalisation in 1971.

It will make a full assessment at its next scheduled meeting of the impact on demand and inflation from the government's announcements, and the fall in sterling, and act accordingly, the central bank said in a statement on Monday while dampening the prospects of an emergency rate rise to shore up the pound. On Monday, the pound tumbled more than 4 per cent to trade as low as \$1.035 in early Asia trading, taking it closer to parity with the dollar, though the British currency later rose above \$1.08, reports Xinhua news agency. In the wake of the BoE statement, the pound slid again below \$1.07.

Ex-employees of Pulkit Arya's resort say girls were asked to 'please' guests

The former staff said that Pulkit's wife was fully aware of his wrongdoings. She also constantly opposed it. "Pulkit Arya's wife had told both of us that we should not work here. She used to say that the atmosphere here is not good. Good people don't come here," they said.

Team Absolute | **Rishikesh/Dehradun**

Days after Ankit Bhandari was allegedly killed by Pulkit Arya, the son of now expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya, two former staffers of the resort have alleged that girls were brought here from outside and asked to 'please' the guests.

Both the former employees, who are husband and wife, fled the resort to save their lives after being tortured like Ankit.

The couple, presently living in Meerut, used to do the same work till June. In just two months, they got so upset that they had to escape from the resort overnight to save their lives. Both the husband and wife revealed the wrongdoings of Pulkit Arya and Ankit alias Ankit Gupta.

These two former employees had done hotel management courses. After that they were looking for jobs. Meanwhile, they got information about the staff requirement at the resort of Pulkit Arya. They then came here and contacted Pulkit Arya and got the jobs.

Ishita, a former employee of Vanantra Resort, told the probe team that Pulkit Arya was harassing her so much that many a times she tried to escape from here, but every time she failed. Pulkit Arya used to keep the staff here trapped in his clutches, due to which it was very difficult to get out. Ishita said that Pulkit Arya had accused



her of theft as well. After being accused of theft, she apologized in writing even though she had not committed any theft. Both the husband and wife finally managed to come out from the resort.

They said the Patwari often used to come here. Pulkit Arya had good relations with the Patwari and the people associated with him. Here, many times employees were beaten and Patwari was informed, but no action was ever taken. On the contrary, Patwari always used to threaten the employees. Patwari was always given special treatment in the resort.

SC Constitution bench to hear petitions against demonetisation

Team Absolute | **New Delhi**

A five-judge Constitution bench will on Wednesday hear petitions challenging Centre's decision to demonetise currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 in November 2016.

A bench of Justices S. Abdul Nazeer, B.R. Gavai, A.S. Bopanna, V. Ramasubramanian, and B.V. Nagarathna, will hear the petitions against demonetisation. This is the fourth Constitution bench which has been constituted in the apex court. In November 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation of all Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes, as a



measure to curb the circulation of black money in the economy. The bench will also hear a matter in connection with issues relating to freedom of speech of public/state functionaries. It will hear another matter raising an issue, whether the immunity to legislative Assembly

members, under Article 194(2), in connection with any vote given by them in the legislature includes immunity against prosecution for bribery. The top court will also hear a matter in connection with questions under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

ABU SALEM GETS THREE-YEAR TERM IN FAKE PASSPORT CASE

Team Absolute | **New Delhi**

Lucknow: Former underworld don Abu Salem has been sentenced to three years in prison in a fake passport case. CBI's special judicial magistrate Samridhi Mishra pronounced the sentence here on Tuesday.

Apart from Abu Salem, another convict Parvez Alam has also been sentenced in the fake passport case. Abu Salem a.k.a Abdul Qayoom Ansari, along with his associates Parvez Alam and Sameera Jumani, had applied for a passport in the name of Aqeel Ahmed Azmi at the Lucknow passport office in 1993. Salem affixed forged documents of fake name and address with the application and obtained passport, which he later used.



NIA conducts pan-India raids against PFI, several detained

Team Absolute | **New Delhi**

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was conducting raids in over eight states and at multiple locations linked to the Popular Front of India (PFI) members on Tuesday. Sources said that several people have been detained and the arrests will depend on their questioning. Raids were going on in Aurangabad, Jalana, Parbhani districts of Maharashtra; Simoga, Bidar, Ballari, Hubli, Kalburgi districts of Karnataka; Nagarbera of Assam; Bulandshahr's Kasba Syana, Sarupur and Lisari Gate area of Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh; and at several places in Delhi.

The raids started early Tuesday morning and were going on. NIA sources said that in a few states the local police were con-



ducting raids at their instruction. Hiren Nath, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Special Branch), Assam said that they have detained five PFI members from the Nagarbera area. The DGP said that the raids were going on in many districts of Assam.

As many as 11 persons were held by the NIA in its recent raid. In Western Uttar Pradesh, four

persons have been taken into custody. In Maharashtra the Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and the local police were conducting the raids in Aurangabad, Jalana and Parbhani districts. In Delhi, raids were on in Nizamuddin, Rohini, Jamia and in Shahin Bagh. Raids were being conducted after the NIA got fresh information during the questioning of the arrested PFI members.

ASHA PAREKH TO BE CONFERRED DADASAHEB PHALKE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Team Absolute | **Mumbai**

Veteran Hindi film actress-director-producer Asha Parekh will soon be feted with the Lifetime Achievement honour for her contribution to cinema at this year's Dadasaheb Phalke Awards by President Droupadi Murmu. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur took to his Twitter to announce the honour for the actress. In a career spanning almost 5 decades, Asha Parekh started her journey as a child artist at the age of 10 with the film 'Maa' under the screen name Baby Asha Parekh. At the age of sixteen, she again tried her hand at acting. She tried to make her



debut as a heroine, but she was rejected from Vijay Bhatt's 'Goonj Uthi Shehna' because the filmmaker claimed she was not star material.

Later, film producer Subodh Mukherjee and writer-director Nasir Hussain (Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's uncle) cast her as the heroine in 'Dil Deke Dekho', opposite Shammi Kapoor, which made her a huge star. In 1992, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to cinema. Three years later, Asha Parekh featured in 'Andolan' and subsequently hung up her boots after her cameo appearance in the 1999 film 'Sar Aankhon Par'.

DRDO conducts successful test flight of short-range air defence missile

Team Absolute | **New Delhi**

The DRDO on Tuesday conducted two successful test flights of the very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missile from a ground portable launcher at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Odisha coast, a statement said. Both the flight tests have completely met the mission objectives, the Defence Ministry statement said.

VSHORADS is a man-portable air defence system (MANPAD) designed



and developed ingeniously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO

laboratories and Indian industry partners. The missile incorporates many novel technologies including miniaturised reaction control system (RCS) and integrated avionics, which have been

successfully proven during the tests. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented and appreciated the efforts of the DRDO and industry partners, saying that this new missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the armed forces.

The missile, meant for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges, is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor. The design of the missile and its launcher has been highly optimised to ensure easy portability.

Terrorist killed in encounter in J&K's Kulgam

Srinagar: One terrorist was killed in an ongoing encounter - the second in two days - between terrorists and security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday, police said.

"One terrorist killed. Operation in progress," police said. Earlier Jammu and Kashmir Police in a tweet, quoting Additional Director General Police Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar, said that two local terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM were trapped in the ongoing encounter in Ahwatoa area of Kulgam. Both the trapped terrorists are involved in several terror crime cases.

A Pakistani terrorist belonging to terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Muhammed was killed in an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Batpora area in Kulgam on Monday.

Tuesday's firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area, and cordoned it off. At this, terrorists hiding there started firing, and security forces retaliated.

There have been a series of encounters between terrorists and security forces across Kashmir in the recent past in which many terrorists have been eliminated.



RAJASTHAN CRISIS

Maken recommends disciplinary action against Dhariwal, two others

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress Rajasthan in-charge Ajay Maken has recommended disciplinary action against three MLAs including Shanti Dhariwal, Mahesh Joshi and Dharmendra Rathore whom he blamed for holding a parallel meet.

Maken, in his report to the party president Sonia Gandhi, has reported "grave indiscipline" on part of the three MLAs. The party on Tuesday also issued show cause notices to all the three legislators.

Dhariwal, the Urban Development and Housing Minister and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, had called a meeting of MLAs from the Ashok Gehlot camp at his residence and reportedly strategised ways to ensure that Gehlot stays the Chief Minister.

The official meeting of the Congress Legislature Party was to be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday at the Chief Minister's residence in Jaipur, but before that Gehlot's loyalists gathered at Dhariwal's residence. From where, they went to Speaker C.P. Joshi's residence and collectively submitted their resignation to him. The show cause notice addressed to Dhariwal reads: "...you have committed grave



indiscipline by hosting a parallel MLAs meeting at your residence pressuring them not to attend the official meeting. As Parliamentary Affairs Minister, hosting the unofficial meeting confused the Congress MLAs as to which one was convened officially."

The notice that has sought response within 10 days also noted that Dhariwal's action came even when senior party leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Maken repeatedly clarify that they have come to speak to each MLA individually and impartially report to the Congress President.

Sitharaman directs banks to enhance coverage of SCs in all schemes

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday called upon public sector banks to enhance coverage of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in all schemes and advised them to also look into their needs for capacity building and entrepreneurship development, as the community constitutes about 18 per cent of the total workforce of in banks and financial institutions.

Sitharaman gave these directions during a review meeting of various Central financial schemes being implemented by state-owned banks and their coverage towards the SCs.

During the meeting, which was attended by chiefs of all public sector banks and officials of the department of financial services as well as chairperson of the National Commission for SCs, the Finance Minister directed them to make proper digital records for jobs being outsourced, especially for posts like safai karamcharis, from October 1, 2022.

She emphasised on redressal of all pending grievances pertaining to the SC community and asked them to



take these up on priority through special drives from October 2 onwards.

The minister also asked banks to fill up all backlog vacancies at the earliest and in a time-bound manner.

Banks were also directed to ensure forward and backward linkages through convergence of various schemes of different government departments for SCs while giving them financial assistance.

The Finance Minister said that the

objective of the meeting was to bring all stakeholders on a common platform to work together in the fulfilment of the rights enshrined in the Constitution for the upliftment and betterment of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes.

ONE HELD IN AHMEDABAD FOR HELPING ISI OPERATIVES

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Crime Branch has arrested a person for providing access to new Indian cellular numbers to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), which the Pakistani spy agency was using to fetch sensitive defence information from retired personnel. Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Prem Vir Singh told media persons on Tuesday that Abdul Wahab Pathan of Ahmedabad is arrested for conspiring against the nation.

Pathan used to get local sim cards activated in his or his relatives' names and share the cellular numbers with Shafiq Jatoi, a former officer of Pakistani High Commission to India.

Jatoi was using these numbers to make fake profiles on Whatsapp and sharing them with ISI operatives.

Singh further said that ISI operatives using the fake Whatsapp profile reach out to retired defence officers and jawans and seek information from them illegally.

During primary investigation, police have found that ISI operatives have created fake websites in the name of www.kbroad.in, www.desw.in and www.kavach-apps.in, which was used to mislead retired officers and jawans to seek information from them.

Police have registered case against Pathan and others under various sections of Information and Technology act.

Delhi Liquor Scam: CBI makes first arrest, nabs businessman Vijay Nair

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a latest development in the alleged excise policy scam in Delhi, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) made its first arrest on Tuesday by nabbing businessman Vijay Nair.

Sources told that Nair was arrested from Delhi and now the CBI will seek his custodial remand.

Nair, the former CEO of Only Much Louder, an entertainment and event management firm, and one of the prime suspects in the liquor scam, had gone to London. He returned to join the probe and was placed under arrest.

The CBI has alleged that Nair was actively involved in the irregularities in framing and implementing the excise policy for the year 2021-22.

Nair was reportedly a volunteer of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and allegedly helped party leaders by organising events and also managed their social media handles.



On behalf of Nair, Sameer Mahendru, Director of Indospirits, allegedly paid around Rs 2-4 crore to Arjun Pandey, an associate of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

There are allegations that

Arun Ramchandra Pillai, a resident of Kokapet in Hyderabad, used to collect undue pecuniary advantages from Mahendru for onward transmission of money to accused public servants through Nair.

Sexual harassment allegations surface against K'taka varsity Vice-Chancellor

Mysuru | Agencies

Sexual harassment charges surfaced against the Vice-Chancellor of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) on Tuesday with a former syndicate member of Mysuru University, K Mahadevu releasing an audio clip.

Mahadevu has alleged that KSOU Vice-Chancellor Vidyashankar S has misused his position to exploit a woman employee of the varsity. "After the release of this audio clip, if Vidyashankar continues in the position, we must think that there is not an iota of respect. The Chief Minister, the Higher Education Minister and the Governor should initiate action against the VC immediately," he urged.

The audio clip allegedly contains a conversation between the husband of the victim and Vidyashankar. The husband rebukes the VC for asking his wife to send selfies, asking her to come to Bengaluru to collect a diamond set. The husband also questions why the VC transferred Rs 15,000 to his wife.

As Vidyashankar sounds apologetic, the husband says that if his wife had approached him, it was his duty to pull her up, instead he had taken advantage of his position to exploit her.

There was high drama in the Mysuru Press Club as Vidyashankar's followers including the regional director barged into the club and prevented Mahadevu and others from holding a press conference there. Later, Vidyashankar's supporters were pushed out.



Mahadevu has lodged a police complaint about the incident with the K R police station.

Sudhakar Hosalli, the regional director who attempted to stop the press conference, stated that private matters are being dragged into the open for vested interests. Mahadevu is angry that his people were not recruited at the KSOU. The victims in this case have not come forward, he added.

Meanwhile, sources said that the allegation surfaced after the search committee shortlisted three vice-chancellor candidates including KSOU VC Vidyashankar on September 24 for the prestigious Visvesvaraya Technological University.

NGT slaps Rs 100 cr fine on Hry govt over improper legacy waste management

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of Rs 100 crore on Haryana government with regard to unremediated legacy waste, which is damaging the environment and public health.

The principal bench of NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, in a recent order, noted that a meeting held by the Chief Minister on December 7, 2020 and the appointment of a senior IAS officer to coordinate the work have not produced tangible result, as it took one year to hand-over 10 acres of land to set up the Waste To Energy Plant.

The original plea in the issue contended that the Bandhwari landfill site in Gurugram is being dumped by about 33 lakh metric tonnes of solid waste since years.

As per the plea, the waste is being



burnt, causing air pollution which has the potential to affect not only the inhabitants, but also the Asola Bhati

Wildlife Sanctuary having 193 species of birds, large number of medicinal plants and more than 80 species of

butterflies, black buck, golder jackal, leopards etc.

"Out of 2,20,082 tonnes of RDF, only 76,226 tonnes were uptaken. As may as 1,43,856 tonnes still remain with no solution in sight. There is no operating agreement for RDF use with cement plants at Neemach or power plant at Murthal, Sonapat," the order noted, pointing out the waste disposal.

The tribunal also formed a nine-member committee, headed by Chairman, HSPCB, and comprising senior officials from Gurugram and Faridabad administration to take stock of the situation and plan further course of action.

Ten acres of land of the Bandhwari site which has been already cleared may be utilised for setting up of waste processing facilities to manage waste disposal, the tribunal said in the order.

Telangana Police officers paid over Rs 28 lakh in traffic fines

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Police officials have paid a penalty of over Rs 28 lakh for violation of various traffic rules since 2018, a senior official said on Tuesday. The police officers have cleared 11,601 pending challans and paid a fine amount of Rs 28,85,640 to the traffic police, said Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Hyderabad, A. V. Ranganath.

He revealed the information while responding to a post on Twitter which went viral on Tuesday. A Twitter user wrote that DGP Telangana's police vehicle (No TS09PA 1234) is having challans of Rs 7,000 pending for the last two years. He also posted that while traffic police are levying challans against citizens and collecting fines, the challans on DGP's vehicle remained pending.

At this, the Joint Commissioner clarified that all the vehicles in Telangana Police are registered in the name of the DGP.

On the vehicle mentioned in the tweet, he said it had seven pending challans the fine amount of Rs 6,945 and it has already been



paid by the police officer concerned.

He pointed out that even the TSRTC is being regularly fined and they had cleared off all the pending challans in April 2022 by paying Rs 15 lakh.

"Hyderabad Traffic Police is enforcing traffic rules/fines without any exception by strictly following the rule of law. The fact that we are imposing Challans on police and other government vehicles clearly demonstrates that we are fining/enforcing against all categories of vehicles," said the official.

CALCUTTA HC CAUTIONS BENGAL HOME SECY OF CONTEMPT IN FORENSIC LAB RECRUITMENT

Kolkata | The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday cautioned West Bengal's Additional Chief Secretary, Home, B.P. Gopalika of contempt of court proceedings in case the process of recruitment for 10 posts in the state forensic science laboratory is not started before the forthcoming festive season of Durga Puja starting from October 1.

Gopalika on Tuesday morning informed the division bench of Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice and Justice Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee that a few months back, the state government had directed the state public service commission to arrange for the recruitment. Accordingly, the official told that the state public service commission has assured the process of appointment to start before the festive season. After that, the division bench directed the state government to initiate the recruitment process by September 30, failing which the contempt of court proceedings will be initiated. It directed Gopalika to submit a report on how the recruitment process has been initiated by that date.

BJP rally to Nabanna: HC asks Bengal govt to refrain from unnecessary arrests

Kolkata | Agencies

A division bench of Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed the West Bengal government to refrain from further unnecessary arrests and harassments of any individual in connection with the BJP's march to the state secretariat of Nabanna against corruption issues on September 13.

In a petition filed against the state government accusing it of continuing harassment of the BJP workers in the matter at the division bench of Calcutta High



Court's Chief Justice Rajasekhar Mantha and Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj, BJP's counsel Subir Sanyal alleged that that the police

have continued arresting people even days after that day of the agitation. Till now a total of 550 persons have been arrested in this connection,

Sanyal informed the division bench.

Countering his argument, state's Advocate General (AG), S.N. Mukhopadhyay informed the bench that most of the people detained in the matter have been released at a later stage. "None has been arrested without any reason. Let the petitioner provide the names of those arrested and the state government will examine when and under what circumstances they were arrested," the AG argued. He also said that arrests were made on the basis of specific complaints and the law had

taken its own course in those cases.

However, the BJP counsel informed the bench that the police have harassed a number of BJP supporters in the Bowbazar and Burrabazar areas in central Kolkata. "They were not arrested on grounds of disturbing the law & order. Being a part of any protest rally is the constitutional right of the citizens of the country. At least the harassment should stop on the occasion of the forthcoming Durga Puja festival," the BJP counsel argued.

After hearing both sides,

the division bench directed the state government to ensure that there are no further unnecessary arrests or harassments in the matter. The same bench will hear the matter again on October 31.

CHANGE OF NAME
The general public is informed that in my 10th, 12th and B.Sc (CS) marksheet my name is marked as MOHIT S/o DEVIRAM. Whereas my correct name is MOHIT JATAV S/o DEVIRAM JATAV. Which is recorded in all my official documents. So let me be known and recognized by MOHIT JATAV S/o DEVIRAM JATAV.
Address : Ward - 01, Azad colony, near Saraswati School, Sultanpur, Raisin (M.P.) - 464986



'Real Shiv Sena' Case: Thackeray camp faces setback in Supreme Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After a day-long hearing, the Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to stop the Election Commission from deciding the claim of Eknath Shinde group to be the real Shiv Sena.

A five-judge constitution bench, headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, said there will be no stay on proceedings before the EC to decide intra-party dispute in Shiv Sena between Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde faction, on which one is the original party and also on getting the party symbol. The bench -- also comprising Justices M.R. Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli, and P.S. Narasimha -- declined to entertain a plea by the Thackeray faction that EC should not be allowed to



proceed in the matter till the apex court decides the plea pertaining to disqualification of Shiv Sena MLAs.

"We direct that there would be no stay of the proceedings before the Election Commission of India," it said. Senior advocate Kapil

Sibal, representing the Thackeray faction, submitted before the bench that Shinde cannot move the EC, once he has incurred disqualification. Justice Chandrachud noted that mere fact a reference has been made does not stall a constitutional body from

deciding if it has power to decide under the law.

The bench noted that Thackeray's faction contended that the proceedings before the EC is the offshoot of the petitions before it and so it should not go on. Sibal argued that Shinde

wants to go to the EC and say that his faction is the political party, but much before that his membership to the party is in question in these proceedings, which have to be decided first.

The Thackeray faction moved the apex court seeking stay on EC's proceedings on Eknath Shinde-faction's plea for recognition as areal Shiv Sena.

During the hearing, the bench noted that the political party is a much wider configuration than the legislative unit of that party which consists of the elected members. It further queried if the dispute in relation to the former in the legislative unit affect the authority of the EC.

The apex court heard arguments from the lawyers of both factions, and also the submission of counsel of the EC.



Maha to swap tigers for Asiatic lions from Gujarat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major initiative, Maharashtra will exchange a pair of tigers from Mumbai with a pair of Asiatic lions from Gujarat's Junagadh, Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said here. The decision was arrived at during Mungantiwar's visit to the neighbouring state and discussions with his Gujarat counterpart Jagdish Vishwakarma on Monday. The lion pair - a male and female - are currently housed at the Sakkarbaug Zoological Gardens in Junagadh, while the tiger pair is presently resident in the Sanjay

Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Mumbai.

After the meeting, the two states' ministers have decided to jointly seek the approval of the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for the project. The initial discussions for the project were conducted by Maharashtra's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Sunil Limaye with the Sakkarbaug Zoological Garden Director Abhishek Kumar and others.

Similarly, the state's Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and SGNP Director Dr G. Mallikarjun also held meetings with Gujarat officials to hammer out the nitty-gritties.

27 ARRESTED IN MAHARASHTRA IN NIA CRACKDOWN AGAINST PFI

Mumbai: As many as 27 members of Popular Front of India (PFI) have so far been arrested in Maharashtra during the NIA raids on Tuesday, sources said.

Those who were arrested include district presidents, secretaries, treasures among several other members.

The NIA crackdown against suspected members of the PFI began early on Tuesday in eight states of the country.

Sources said that raids were conducted in Aurangabad, Jalana, Parbhani districts of Maharashtra; Simoga, Bidar, Ballari, Hubli, Kalburgi districts of Karnataka; Nagarbera of Assam; Bulandshahr's Kasba Syana, Sarurpur and Lisari Gate area of Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh; and at several places in Delhi.

8 arrested in attack on K'taka cop by ganja mafia in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Bengaluru/ Mumbai

The Karnataka Police have arrested eight persons in connection with the case of attack on the Circle Police Inspector Srimanth Illal in Maharashtra during a raid on ganja fields, state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra stated here on Tuesday.

"We have also recovered the service revolver which the miscreant gang had snatched during the attack," he underlined. Jnanendra further stated that the inspector was yet to regain consciousness and treatment was continuing. The arrested persons have been grilled to dig out the complete nexus. The Karnataka Police had airlifted the Circle Inspector on Monday to the Bengaluru Manipal Hospital. Inspector Srimanth was attacked by a gang of 40 ganja (marijuana) growers in Maharashtra.

The special arrangement of the air ambulance was made following the Inspector's failing health condition. The incident had taken place on September 23 in the Taruri vil-



lage of Umarga taluka in Manthala police station limits of Maharashtra. The police had arrested Naveen from Kalaburagi and Santosh from Bhosaga in Basavakalyan taluk on charges of selling ganja.

Based on their information, Kamalapur police inspector Srimanth and a 10-member police team had raided an agriculture field in Maharashtra close to the Karnataka border, 80 kilometers away from Kalaburagi. A gang of 40 persons, who surfaced suddenly with wooden logs and stones, attacked the police team.

Though Srimanth tried to open fire, the attackers overpowered him. He sustained injuries on his face, chest and stomach. His condition is said to be critical.

Poor maintenance, inadequate signages & missing markings on road where Cyrus Mistry's car crashed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Poor maintenance, inadequate signages to guide drivers, over two dozen median openings and missing road markings -- these are some of the findings of the road safety audit of the 70-km stretch between Mandor in Maharashtra and Achhad in Gujarat of NH-48, where industrialist Cyrus Mistry died in a car crash.

The audit was carried out by a team of the International Road Federation (IRF).

The fatal car accident, which led to the death of industrialist Cyrus Mistry and another co-occupant, occurred on this stretch on September 4.

The audit by the team, set up by the India chapter of the International Road Federation (IRF), has recommended immediate low-cost counter measures to prevent crashes. These include installation of speed limit signs specifying reduction in speed limit before diversions and bridges, warnings of "reduced carriageway" and against "overtaking", quick maintenance, closure of median opening and proper markings to guide the



drivers. "The audit was carried out barely a week after the fatal crash at Palghar that shook the country. IRF said the audit was conducted after consent from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The report has been submitted to MoRTH and ANHAI for action," said K.K. Kapila, President, Emeritus, International Road Federation (IRF). "The 70-km long section of NH-48 is a six-lane highway with divided carriageway, with the exception of the Surya River bridge on the left hand side (LHS) where Mistry's car met with the

accident. "At this location, there is a two-lane carriageway on the bridge (on LHS carriageway), and there is a separate carriageway through an existing narrow bridge, which is accessed on the old alignment, which is provided through an "unassuming divergence" from the running three-lane LHS carriageway a short distance of 75-100 metres before the bridge on the LHS carriageway of the new alignment," said Satish Parakh, President, IRF-India chapter. "The audit found that there are many major and minor structures

located on this stretch, including flyovers, vehicular under passes, pedestrian under passes, major and bridges, and culverts. It found that the site where the latest fatal crash happened there is an "unassuming diversion" for the third lane, which has been created in an "unscientific and non-standard manner without proper signs and markings," Parakh added.

"The audit experts have recommended installation of warning signs of 'narrow bridge ahead' sign at 500 metre and 250 metre before the bridge, 'reduced carriageway-left lane reduced' sign at 400 metre and 200 metre and 'right-hand curve warning' sign at 600 meter and again at 400 metre before the bridge.

The report has recommended that 'reduce speed limit' signs must be put one-km from the bridge. It has recommended providing new jersey-type concrete barriers in the media to avoid crashes," said Biju Muthu, CEO, IRF-India chapter. It said as per the standard design there should be no median openings on any six-lane highway. It has recommended closing of all the medians quickly.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Centre has decided to set up a centre of excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic (AVGC) in collaboration with private sector.

"I am happy to inform you that we have taken the in-principle decision to set up an AVGC centre of excellence in collaboration with the private sector. We are proposing a 48 per

cent stake for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 26 per cent for FICCI and 26 per cent for CII, so that it is the private industry and not the government which leads the AVGC transformation.

"We hope that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting functions as a catalyst for the upsurge in the media and entertainment industry," said Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, Apurva Chandra,

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR AVGC TO BE SET UP IN PPP MODE

while addressing the inaugural session of FICCI Frames Fast Track 2022 here on Tuesday.

Chandra also announced that Invest India is going to be leveraged in order to bring in higher foreign investment into India in the film sector. "The ministry has merged various film units; NFDC based in Mumbai is going to be the hub of the cinematic arm of the government. With this, we want to revamp the film facilitation office. We are going to hand this over to Invest India, the main investment arm created by the government," he said.

Chandra said the government will work with the states and formulate a model theatre policy.

"Over the past five-six years, the number of theatres has been on a decline. We need to reverse this trend. We will assign the film facilitation

office to work with Invest India to come up with a single-window portal for opening theatres, so that more and more theatres can come up and the public gets more avenues to watch the magic of films in theatres. We will also work with the states to create a model theatre policy, so that the states can adopt and work on the same," he said. Chandra told the industry members that he had a meeting with some stalwarts of the film industry on the proposed amendments to the Cinematograph Act.

"All the stakeholders present supported the proposed amendments for introduction of anti-piracy provisions and age classification with UA category. With the support of the film industry, we hope to table the amended Bill in the winter session of the parliament," he added.

Dawood Ibrahim's aide Riyaz Bhati arrested for extortion

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police's Anti Extortion Cell on Monday arrested businessman Riyaz Bhati in connection with an extortion case, officials said.

Riyaz Bhati, who is a close aide of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, was wanted in the extortion case registered at the Versova Police Station, they said.

According to the officials, a businessman from Versova was threatened and a car valued at ₹ 30 lakh and cash worth ₹ 7.5 lakh were demanded from him.

Dawood Ibrahim's close aide Chhota Shakeel and Shakeel's relative Salim Fruit have also been named in the FIR, they said.

The Anti Extortion Cell (AEC) of the Mumbai crime branch held the accused from



Andheri west.

Riyaz Bhati will be produced before the court on Tuesday.

In the past, Bhati had been arrested in multiple cases, including extortion, land grabbing and firing.

He had also tried to flee the country by using fake passports in 2015 and 2020, officials added.

MVA GOVT'S STEMI SCHEME SAVES 6,000 RURAL FOLKS FROM HEART ATTACKS, DEATHS

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Unique artificial-intelligence powered diagnosis and cardiac care initiative of the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government screened over 2.50 lakh people and detected at least 6,000 heart attacks with a turnaround time of just 6 minutes, compared with the 'golden hour' of 90 minutes, officials said here on Tuesday.

First of its kind in India, the STEMI Maharashtra Programme is endorsed by the Centre's National Health Mission, and implemented in 12 districts since February 2021, in collaboration with Tricog Health Services Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru.

"In India, the average wait time for patients with ongoing heart attacks is 360 minutes (six hours), a far cry from the golden hour of 90 minutes (one-and-half hour), resulting in high mortality rates. This programme detected

more than 6,000 heart attacks with a turnaround time of barely six minutes, allowing the victims to get timely treatment and saved lives," Tricog CEO Dr. Charit Bhograj told correspondent.

Since implementation, it has screened more than 250,000 people in rural areas, to detect heart ailments and other complications to enable timely medical attention and prevent them from becoming victims of cardiac problems, said Dr Bhograj.

Under the programme, the number of heart cases detected and treated are: Pune (998), Nashik (860), Ratnagiri (683), Thane (663), Nanded (615), Kolhapur (500), Nagpur (404), Aurangabad (373), Wardha (346), Solapur (343), Jalna (219), and Akola (140).

As per latest data, Maharashtra has witnessed an increase in cardiovascular diseases among men in 30-40 years and women in the 40-60 age group, while the WHO has estimated



that of the 15-30 lakh deaths per year in India, 35 per cent of victims are young adults.

The STEMI Maharashtra Programme was intended to combat this epidemic through an AI-powered advanced diagnosis and care programme which would gradually cover all the 36 districts in the state, to arrest premature deaths and disabilities due to heart problems, said a health department officer, requesting anonymity.

"A total of 145 primary health facilities, including rural Hospitals, sub-District hospitals, district hospitals were upgraded as spokes for STEMI detection and thrombolysis, and are linked with 38 hubs - as the nearest tertiary care facility equipped with a CATH LAB facility for treatment," said Dr Bhograj.

This helps rapid diagnosis of heart disease in all government centres in the state along with timely treatment by teams of cardiologists at the tertiary care facilities and help save valu-

able lives, he said.

The strategy adopted by Tricog was to spread awareness among patients with heart disease symptoms of chest pains, breathlessness, palpitations, among others, and approach the nearest government facility without delays.

Then followed a rapid detection using a cloud-connected 12 Lead ECG with 24-hour interpretation of the cases within a few minutes by medical experts, supported by AI and a digital platform for care coordination and analytics. The system of STEMI management and protocols created by the state Steering Committee comprising top cardiologists, administrators and experts with other agencies ensured the timely transfer and treatment of the patients.

The STEMI Maharashtra Program covers citizens with all types of heart problems, including diagnosis and treatment, under the



EDITOR'S SPECS

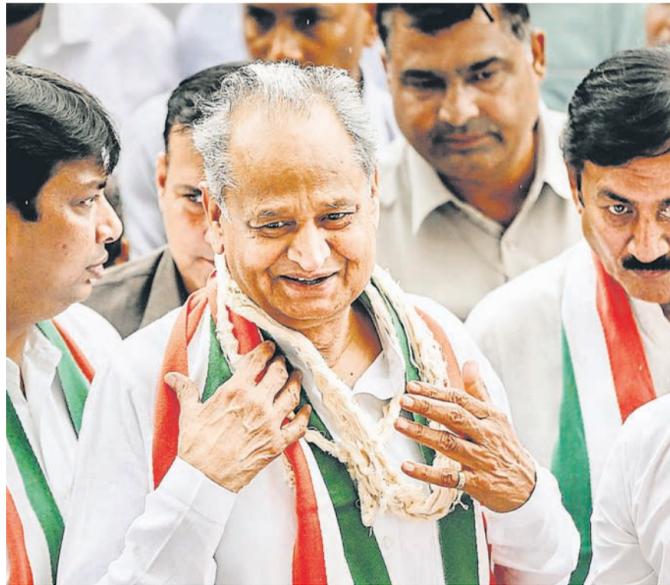
Selja, KC Venugopal front-runners for Cong Prez post after Gehlot snub

Congress sources on Tuesday said that Ashok Gehlot is being ruled out from the Congress' president post and it is likely that Kumari Selja could be considered for the top post while Rahul Gandhi's choice is said to be K.C. Venugopal. However, no final decision has been made yet and Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath who met Sonia Gandhi on Monday said that he doesn't want to become the party president and wants to continue to work for the party in Madhya Pradesh. "I want to remain in MP," Kamal Nath, a former Chief Minister of the state, said. The escalating drama in Rajasthan has made the Congress leadership think about a plan B for the top party post, for which Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot was being seen as a contender. Kamal Nath, who was one of the probables, has ruled out himself and now the party has limited options with Mukul Wasnik and Mallikarjun Kharge, but the time is running out as the election process has started and September 30 is the last day of nomination. The party was left red-faced as the Congress Legislature Party in Jaipur on Sunday to decide Gehlot's successor had to be called off after his supporting MLAs came out strongly against Sachin Pilot succeeding him. Congress interim President Sonia Gandhi has sought a detailed report from state in-charge Ajay Maken, following a meeting held at her residence on Monday with Maken, senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal.

HAS GEHLOT DEFIED GANDHIES OR THE MOVE ORCHESTRATED?

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Contrary to the perception that Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot is working on the commands of the Gandhi family, it turned out to be a complete defiance of Gandhies by the Rajasthan chief minister. The person who has been taking vows in the name of Gandhies is embarrassing them like never before by any leader of the party. The way drama was played out in Rajasthan is unprecedented and would have its bearing in the future as well. However, various theories are doing rounds that Gandhies are still in command and Gehlot is dancing to their tunes which will reflect when dust is settled. But there are some contradictions in it as well. Proposal to make Gehlot party president came from Sonia Gandhi herself after Rahul Gandhi declined to take up the responsibility and even after long persuasive attempts, he did not relent. The way Gehlot was posturing for Gandhis, he seems to have foxed them just to remain in the saddle in Rajasthan firmly as Rahul wanted Sachin to replace him. He was playing pro-Muslim politics to confuse them. But the moment Gandhies decided to replace him with Sachin Pilot, he somersaulted. However, there are various theories about the development in the Congress. The first theory that is discussed in the Congress circle and also in media is that the Congress wants to send a perception in the public that despite every attempt made by the top brass of the Congress, no name could have been zeroes in on. So a drama is being enacted in Rajasthan with one of the most trusted lieutenants of Gandhies Ashok Gehlot taking care of every move. With this, the message will be that the only option remains with the Congress that a Gandhi, however unwilling he/she is, must take over reins of the party once again as infighting in the Congress started. And if Rahul Gandhi is unwilling then Priyanka Gandhi should take up the responsibility. Second story that is being discussed is that by bringing Gehlot to Delhi as party president and anointing Sachin Pilot as chief minister of the state, the long pending commitment of Rahul Gandhi with Pilot is fulfilled and Gehlot is also cut to size. But Gehlot is not ready to let



go CM's post at any cost and even by defying the venerable Gandhies. Over 90 MLAs of the Congress threatened to resign in support of Gehlot who refused to meet central observers. They put forth conditions before observers to meet them. This comes under indiscipline but no disciplinary actions were initiated. Because this was not possible without Gehlot asking them to do so, he used to say that his (Gehlot's) resignation letter is always with Sonia Gandhi. Actually Gehlot was ready to become party president but was not ready to relinquish the post of chief minister of Rajasthan and certainly not for Sachin Pilot. But it is interesting to note that moves of Ashok Gehlot made every Hulk in the Congress a pigmy, so the Congress seems to have options of accepting his offers or be ready for further embarrassments. Now, the Congress leadership has started saying that Gehlot is not in the reckoning. Moreover, most of the leaders trying to salvage the situation are either junior to him

except a few or electorally irrelevant anywhere in the country. Gehlot knows the facts very well, so he did not hesitate to challenge their authorities. The other thing that makes Congress leadership and Gandhies vulnerable and Gehlot in the commanding situation is that of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. It needs financial support and cadre support. If the crowd doesn't turn up well, the Gandhies and the Congress will be embarrassed furthermore. So it is very important for the Congress to not only keep Gehlot in good humor but also stop pricking him. This was the reason that Gehlot was dictating terms and the Congress conceded to his wishes. This is a really very rare occasion when any Congress leader defies the Gandhies and sustains it as well. Gehlot is well aware that Gandhies failed to deliver in their home turf that is Uttar Pradesh. Vote share of the Congress has come down to 2.5

per cent in 2022 Assembly elections from an average 10 per cent in the previous elections despite Priyanka Gandhi leading the campaign in the state. Rahul Gandhi lost his pocket borough Amethi in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress base is shrinking with Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh being two states where the Congress is in power on its own and destabilizing party in these state is suicidal. The entire Congress of Punjab has joined the BJP and most of its important leaders too have either joined the party or are hobnobbing in Gujarat. After the demise of Ahmed Patel, the Gujarat Congress too is in tatters. No attempt is being made to wrest power in the state and if the infighting in the party continues, the anti-incumbency votes will shift to AAP in these two states. The Rajasthan chief minister knows very well that the Congress president will have a bumpy ride ahead not only during Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections but also in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan elections next year. So he has around a year as CM of Rajasthan where he is solidly in the saddle. Who will buy Ashok Gehlot's answers to the Central leadership that he is not in control of the behaviors of MLAs of Rajasthan who threatened to resign if Gehlot doesn't remain their CM. A well-played drama scripted by Gehlot is successful and he is out of Congress President's race. Now with Gehlot ruled out as party president, the Congress is considering candidates like Mallikarjun Kharge and Digvijaya Singh. Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath's name has also come up but he met with Sonia Gandhi and requested her that he would prefer to focus on Madhya Pradesh where Assembly elections are next year. But amid all these developments, if the name of Priyanka Gandhi pops up which means Gandhies prevailed and Gehlot is still their man and move was orchestrated by them else Congress is heading towards hitting a rock.

(Vinod Kumar Shukla is a freelance journalist based in Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

international

UN CHIEF CALLS FOR ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR THREAT

United Nations | New York

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for the use of every means to eliminate the nuclear threat.

Guterres made the appeal at a UN General Assembly high-level meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which falls on September 26.

"We come together on this international day to speak with one voice. To stand in defence of our world -- and our future. And to reject the claim that nuclear disarmament is some impossible utopian dream," he said on Monday.

He noted that the elimination of nuclear weapons would be the greatest gift "we



could bestow on future generations". In late August, the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons failed to result in the adoption of an outcome document. Expressing disappointment about the conference's failure to reach a substantive outcome, Guterres vowed that "we will not give up". "I urge all states to use every avenue of dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation to ease tensions, reduce risk and eliminate the nuclear threat," he said.

Guterres also called for a new vision for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Xinhua news agency reported.

He highlighted the need to take into account the evolving nuclear order, including all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, as well as the need to address the blurring lines between strategic and conventional weapons, and the nexus with new domains of cyber and outer space.

The UN chief urged General Assembly delegates to seize the opportunity and make new commitment to work toward a peaceful future. "Without eliminating nuclear weapons, there can be no peace. There can be no trust. And there can be no sustainable future," he added.

15 KILLED IN RUSSIAN SCHOOL SHOOTING

Moscow: At least 15 people were killed, including 11 children, in a shooting at a school in the Russian city of Izhevsk, TASS news agency reported, citing the Russian Investigative Committee.

According to the committee, 22 children and two adults were injured in the attack at the No. 88 school located near the city administration building of Izhevsk, the capital city of western Russia's Udmurt Republic on Monday.

It was reported earlier that 13 people were killed and nearly 20 others wounded in the shooting, Xinhua news agency reported. Investigators identified the shooter as Artem Kazantsev, born in 1988, a native of Izhevsk and a graduate of the school. Kazantsev brought two pistols and a large number of cartridges with him and committed suicide after the attack, the committee said. The school has 982 students and 80 teachers, and they have been evacuated. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed deep condolences for the tragedy, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Governor of the Udmurt Republic declared three days of mourning beginning on Monday.

Russia expels Japanese consul for espionage

Moscow | Agencies

A Japanese diplomat based in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok is being expelled after being detained for espionage, the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) announced.

A consul of the Consulate General of Japan in Vladivostok was "detained red-handed while receiving, for a money reward, information of limited distribution about the current aspects of Russia's cooperation with one of the Asia-Pacific countries, including the impact of Western sanctions, on the economic situation in (Russia's) Primorsky territory," an FSB statement said on Monday.

The Minister Counselor of the Japanese Embassy in Moscow was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday and was



informed that the consul in question must leave Russia within 48 hours for activities incompatible with the status of a consular officer and detrimental to Russia's security interests, the Ministry said in a statement.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has lodged a strong protest over the incident to the Japanese side, Xinhua news agency reported.

DEATH TOLL FROM B'DESH BOAT CAPSIZE REACHES 61

Dhaka: The number of deaths due to a boat capsizing in Bangladesh's Karatoya river increased to 61 on Tuesday, after 10 more bodies were recovered, a senior police official said.

The official told Xinhua news agency said the bodies were recovered from several parts of the Karatoya river in the Panchagarh district, 468 km away from the capital Dhaka.

The search operation is still underway for the five to six people still missing, he said, adding the vessel has been dragged to the bank.

SM Sirajul Huda, superintendent of Panchagarh District Police, earlier said the jam-packed boat, carrying some 100 passengers, overturned due to overloading and sank on Sunday afternoon.

Ferry and boat disasters are common in Bangladesh. Ferries are still a key means of transport in the South Asian country and most of them are often overcrowded.



TYPHOON NORU KILLS 8 IN PHILIPPINES

Manila | Agencies

Super typhoon Noru slammed Luzon island in the Philippines with heavy rainfall and winds over the weekend, leaving eight people dead and three others missing, a government agency said on Tuesday.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council confirmed the deaths of five rescuers swept by a flash flood in Bulacan, a province north of Manila, a few hours after Noru made landfall on Sunday afternoon, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Council said it received reports of additional three typhoon-related deaths, one in Quezon province and two in Zambales province.

It did not provide details on how the three died.

The Council added that three more people remained missing in the Bicol region, southeast of Manila.

Noru exited the Philippines on Monday night after crossing the central Luzon region.

It is the 11th and the most powerful



cyclone hitting the Philippines this year. It destroyed crops, damaged houses, knocked down power transmission lines, and flooded several areas on central Luzon island.

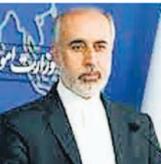
The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries globally, mainly due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and Pacific typhoon belt.

On average, the archipelagic country experiences 20 typhoons yearly, some of which are intense and destructive.

Iran slams West's 'interventionist' policy against it

Tehran | Agencies

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has slammed the "interventionist" remarks of American and other Western politicians against Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported. "The enemies' approach against the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation has always been accompanied by hypocrisy and double standards," Nasser Kanaani, the Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, said on Monday in reference to the remarks made by Western officials over the protests that followed the death of a young girl in the police



custody in Iran. Political leaders of the US and some European countries, their media, and the West-backed hostile Persian-language media "misused a tragic incident under investigation" and spared no efforts in supporting disruption of Iran's security, the spokesman was quoted as saying as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

He also noted that "those who claim to be advocating the Iranian nation's rights should put their false, threadbare slogans and put an end to decades of tyrannical and anti-human sanctions against the Iranian people".



Government will start 'Mahakal Police Band' in Ujjain



Team Absolute | Ujjain

The first phase of beautification of Mahakal complex in Ujjain, the religious city of Madhya Pradesh has been completed, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to inaugurate on October 11. The government has decided that the Mahakal complex will be known as 'Mahakal Lok'. With this, the Mahakal Police Band will start here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first phase on October 11, Chief Minister Shivraj

Singh Chouhan told his cabinet members ahead of the Council of Ministers meeting called here on Tuesday. Attractive beautification of the entire area of Mahakal complex has been done. Rudra Sagar has revived. In the year 2017, the campus expansion was planned with all the sections together. In the first phase of campus expansion, works worth Rs 351 crore have been completed. 310 crore 22 lakh works will be done for the second phase. The Mahakal complex will be known as 'Mahakal Lok'. Chief Minister Chouhan said that in Ujjain, the ride of Mahakal Maharaj goes out with a police

band. We will start Mahakal Police Band, which will be used on various festivals and festivals. For this 36 new posts will be created.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that we have decided two phases for the expansion of Mahakal campus, the first phase was of Rs 351 crore, then we approved Rs 310 crore for the second phase. Many houses were displaced in the work of expansion of the campus. We did the displacement work at a cost of Rs 150 crore. There is a long series of development works. Due to the revival of Rudrasagar, the water of Kshipra river will remain in it. Mahakal path was constructed in the temple with lighting and sound.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that many works are to be completed in the second phase also. Mahakal Maharaj is getting all these works done. He said that along with the progress and development of Madhya Pradesh, for the welfare of the people, we got the idea that meeting of Mahakal Maharaj should be held in the city. Chief Minister Chouhan said that for the first time after nearly 200 years, such an opportunity has come that the government is holding a meeting in Ujjain as a servant. Today we take a principled decision that the water of Narmada ji will always come in Kshipra ji. Work is going on to divert the contaminated water from the factories. River front will also be developed on the banks of river Kshipra, which will give a different look to Ujjain.

No entry into Garba dance venues without I-Card, says MP minister



Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the festival of Navratri having begun from Monday and a large number of devotees visiting the Goddess Durga pandals, the Madhya Pradesh authorities have geared up to ensure the safety of women during the festivities.

To this end, the state government has instructed the Garba dance organisers to allow the entry of visitors only after checking their identity cards. A directive in this regard was issued by

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Tuesday. "Navratri, the festival of worship of Maa Durga, is the centre of our faith. In a bid to maintain peace and harmony on such a holy occasion, the organisers have been instructed to allow entry in the Garba events only after checking the ID cards," Mishra told reporters on Tuesday.

On September 8, Culture Minister Usha Thakur had suggested that the entry into Garba dance venues during the Navratri festival should be allowed only after check-

ing ID cards to prevent "Love Jihad".

The Garba organisers should be watchful. Those who come to the Garba events should bring identity cards. No one (should be allowed) without identity cards. This is the advice to all. Garbas have become a means of Love Jihad, she had said. Hindu right wing leaders have claimed in the past that a 'Love Jihad' conspiracy was afoot in the country where Hindu girls were lured by men from the minority community and forced to convert upon marriage.

MP ATS detain 21 over PFI links

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh ATS on Tuesday detained 21 members from eight districts of the state over links with Popular Front of India (PFI).

An official said that raids were carried out in the wee hours in eight districts, including three big cities - Bhopal, Indore and Ujjain. "Among those detained are workers associated with PFI. Further operation is underway," a senior police official said.

In Bhopal, the ATS conducted raids at SDPI's (Social Democratic Party of India) office located at Shahjahanabad area late on Monday and detained one suspect for interrogation. Persons associated with SDPI are suspected to have been funding PFI, and the ATS claimed to have recovered some documents related with the same.

In the second round, the ATS' operation began on the basis of inputs of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Notably, last Thursday, the ATS had conducted raids in Indore and Ujjain during which four PFI members were arrested.

MoU with NCNF to promote natural farming in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

To further promote natural farming in Madhya Pradesh, an agreement was signed between the Department of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development and the National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF). Director of Agriculture Department Preeti Maithil has told that MoU will prove to be effective in making farmers aware of natural farming and increasing their income by reducing the cost of farming. NCNF President Mir Shah said that Madhya Pradesh is a leading state in the country in the field of natural farming. 40 thousand farmers of the



state have been trained to adopt natural farming, organic production, to get fair price, Jeevamrut, Beejamrut, cow dung manure, vermi compost and to prepare organic insecticides for the prevention of diseases and pests.

Natural farming will help in improving the health of the people and maintain the fertility of the land. Efforts are being made to work better in the field of natural farming in the state to prevent the fertility of the land which is getting depleted due to continuous

use of chemical fertilizers, earthworms being destroyed and human-borne diseases being born.

By increasing the area of natural farming, the government is working continuously to increase the income of farmers by reducing the cost of cultivation.

NCNF along with 23 like-minded partner organizations will play an important role in promoting natural farming in the state and benefiting the farmers. For natural farming, NCNF will cooperate in Nature Positive Agriculture and Nature Based Solution. Apart from this, strong partnership will also be done with the government at the policy and implementation level.



Madhya Pradesh Acing the National Tourism Awards by bagging 8 Honours

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the Announcement of the National Tourism Awards 2018-19, Honourable Tourism Minister Usha Thakur received numerous awards on the behalf of the state. The National Tourism Awards 2018-19 was organized by the Union Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi on the occasion of World Tourism Day, and once again the flag of Madhya Pradesh is flying high after receiving 8 National Awards.

The 'Heart of India' Madhya Pradesh received national awards in 8 different categories creating history in itself. The ceremony commenced in the auspicious presence of The honorary Vice President of the country, Jagdeep Dhankhar where Union Tourism Minister G.K. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt presented the honours to Usha Thakur-Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture, Spirituality Department, Government of MP. Mayor Indore Pushyamitra Bhargava, Mayor Ujjain Mukesh Tatwal, Principal Secretary Tourism

and Culture and Managing Director Tourism Board Sheo Shekhar Shukla and Additional Managing Director Tourism Board Vivek Shrotriya were especially present.

A proud moment to receive National Award-Minister Thakur Minister Thakur said that it is a proud moment for Madhya Pradesh to receive the award from the Ministry of Tourism. She said, under the guidance of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the state has made innovations in tourism which will continue in the future also. This award is the result of the hard work of all the officers and employees of the tourism department.

Tourism award will act as inspiration - Shukla Principal Secretary Shukla said that the National Tourism Award will act as an inspiration for all of us. Work has already been started in the state on the theme of World Tourism Day 2022 'Re-thinking tourism'. Tourism facilities and services are being expanded in the state with the concept of Sabka Sahyog aur Sabka Vikas by strengthening the local community.

CM Chouhan participates in Chunri Yatra in Dewas city on "Gaurav Diwas"

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday attended the "Gaurav Diwas" programme and the grand Chunri Yatra taken out in Dewas city. Chunri Yatra was accorded a grand welcome at various places. The city of Dewas appeared full of devotion during the yatra. CM Chouhan dedicated, performed bhoomi-poojan and laid the foundation stone of development works costing more than Rs. 350 crore in the "Gaurav Diwas" programme held in Kushabhau Thakre Stadium Complex. Chief Minister Chouhan released Maa Chamunda Mahatmya booklet, Dewas Vikas Gatha booklet and also launched the concept video of Constitution Park and Dewas song. CM Chouhan said that Dewas means abode of goddesses, there is infinite grace of Mata here. The "Gaurav Diwas" of Dewas being celebrated in Navratri is welcome. Dewas will be among the major cities of the country in the coming 10 years. Very few cities have developed like the city of Dewas. No shortfall of development will be allowed here. Tree plantation should be done to



protect the environment. Water has to be saved, children's health, education along with all round development will have to be done. The wheel of development should not stop. Let everyone be determined for this. Minister in charge of Dewas district Yashodhara Raje Scindia said that today we all are celebrating "Gaurav Diwas" of Dewas. Development works are going on rapidly in Dewas. Dewas is soon going to be the new Indore. Dewas will become the pride of the state.

Student killed as school bus overturns in MP's Sagar

Team Absolute | Bhopal

One student died while around 10 reportedly got injured after a private bus carrying around 40-45 school children overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Tuesday.

The student, who died on spot, has been identified as Shailendra Kimar, a Class 9 student of Lakshya Public School in Sagar district. The condition of three other students was reported to be critical and they are being treated at a hospital in the district, police said. "School bus carrying nearly 40-45 students, met with the accident around 8 a.m. near Chandrakar village on Rahatgarh-Khurai road. A 14-year-old child died on spot, while three were critically injured," Superintendent of Police (SP) Sagar, Tarun Nayak said. Anand Raj, SHO of Rahatgarh police



station said during the preliminary investigation it has learnt that the incident occurred due to over-speeding. "Children said the driver was talking on phone while he was driving the bus at high speed, due to which he lost control and the bus overturned. All children have been rushed to nearby hospitals," Raj said. The incident was first noticed by locals, who jumped into action to rescue children in the bus. Meanwhile, local police were informed and all were taken to the nearby hospitals. Later, district collector and SP also reached the spot. "FIR has been registered against the bus owner and the driver. Action would be taken on the basis of outcome of further investigation," Sagar SP further said. Meanwhile, transport minister in Madhya Pradesh, Govind Singh Rajput directed the administration to the investigate matter and take strict action against bus operator.

Chief Minister Chouhan called on by DICCI functionaries

Bhopal: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan was called on by the Founder Chairman of Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce (DICCI) Padma Shri Milind Kamble, National President Padma Shri Ravi Kumar Narra, Mentor and Advisor DICCI Dr. Manoj Arya and Dr. Anil Sirvaia at the residence office. Chief Minister Chouhan was informed by the officials regarding the SC-ST Business Conclave to be organised on October 9 on



Valmiki Jayanti. About 1800 entrepreneurs and startups of the state, more than 200 women entrepreneurs and 200 prominent industrialists from outside the state will

participate in the conclave. The conclave will also have 6 technical sessions on the schemes of the Government of India and the State Government.

CM CHOUHAN CONGRATULATES MADHYA PRADESH ON GETTING THE TOP STATE'S AYUSHMAN EXCELLENCE AWARD

Bhopal: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulates people of the state for Madhya Pradesh's achievement for getting the top state's position in the Ayushman Excellence Award-2022. CM Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has achieved the top state position by adopting innovation and best means of treatment. This award is the result of the collective efforts of the entire team and especially the frontline staff, public representatives and citizens of the Health Department. Extending his best wishes, Chief Minister Chouhan said that this honour has been received due to everyone's efforts and hard work. The award was presented by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on the occasion of Arogya Manthan- 2022.

'Load the Box' Book Fair from September 28 to October 2

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kitab lovers of Bhopal have a reason to rejoice, as the 'Load the Box Book' Fair is going to be held at the Manas Bhawan, Shymala Hills, Bhopal from September 28 to October 2 under the aegis of Kitab Lovers, a books start up. More than one million books of different genres, from romance to fantasy, non-fiction, crime and children, will be on display at the exhibition. The 4-day book fair will be open for public from 10 am to 9 pm every day.

Harpreet Singh, co-founder of Kitab Lovers, said, "We are really excited to be in Bhopal. At Kitab Lovers, we are on a mission to encourage and improve the reading habits of people. We believe that everyone should have access to the best books at the most affordable prices, and this has been the main motivator behind the 'Load the Box' concept." He further added, "We have carefully arranged the range of books available at the book fair to ensure that there is something for everyone out there. Whether you prefer a romance novel or crime fiction or historical novel, or even self-help books, we have it all available at



our fair. Through our 'Load the Box' campaign, we want to change the way India reads, one book box at a time; we want to encourage more youth to spend time away from their gadgets and instead immerse themselves in the wealth of knowledge that a book can offer. The fair will have a free reading area and authors signed copies will also be available." Kitab Lovers, a startup specialising in selling

new and pre-owned books at affordable price, offers an innovative 'Load the Box' concept wherein visitors can make a one-time payment for a box and fill the box with as many books as it can hold as long it is able to close flat. The boxes will be available in three different sizes: the Money saver at Rs 1100 (fits in 10-13books); the Wealth box at Rs 1650 (fits in 17-20 books); and the Treasure box at Rs 2750 (fits in 30-33 books).



Amy Jackson expresses solidarity with Iranian women

London | Agencies

Actress Amy Jackson has expressed her support for the women of Iran, who have been protesting the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini. Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the "morality police" of Iran for showing a bit of her hair, not adhering to the strict dress code laws.

Mahsa Amini's killing has sparked nationwide protests. Protesters are standing against the totalitarian regime, chanting slogans such as 'Let women live their freedom' and 'I will kill whoever killed my sister.'

The actress took to Instagram to express her solidarity with the women of Iran who are now cutting their hair short and burning their hijabs in protest.

Sharing a series of pictures and text passages explaining what was happening in Iran, the actress wrote, "We

see you, we hear you and we are with you #MahsaAmini".

The actress seemed to take exception in particular to the US government's decision to roll out the red carpet for Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi at the United Nations General Assembly session and the fact that the western media was staying relatively quiet about what

was happening in Iran.

I & COLIN JUST THREW A BUNCH OF LETTERS TOGETHER & NAMED SON: SCARLETT

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Scarlett Johansson and her husband Colin Jost have revealed the naming technique for their son. They told Entertainment Tonight they thought the naming technique had led to a "charming" moniker that met with the approval of all their friends - but not her mother-in-law.

She said: "We just threw a bunch of letters together. I just really thought it was charming and our friends liked it."

Admitting her mum-in-law was not so fond of the name, she said: "Colin's mom had a little bit of a harder time with it. She kept suggesting other versions of it for a while. I was like, 'He's already here. He's out. Like, it's past that time!'"

Colin has also told how his mum "didn't quite understand" their choice for their son's name.

He said: "After three or four days, she would be like, 'Cosmo? Is it final? Did you submit the birth certificate?'"

"We were like, 'Oh yeah, we did that at the hospital'. She's like, 'OK. Interesting. Because I was reading that there's also a name, Cosimo, with an 'I'. So that could also be an option."

Maybe you call him Cosimo, that's his real name, and then you could call him still Cosmo?"

The comic added it was only after his mum consulted

ed others she gave the name her approval.



I didn't feel exploited, while filming nude scenes: Ana De Armas

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Ana de Armas felt "safe and protected" when filming the nude scenes in 'Blonde'. Flashing the flesh in her portrayal of Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe in Andrew Dominik's film, the actress suggested viewers will find it more uncomfortable than she did.

"It's harder for people to watch (those scenes) than for me to make them, because I understood what I was doing and I felt very protected and safe," Ana said when speaking to Entertainment Weekly.

"I didn't feel exploited because I was in control. I made that decision. I knew the movie I was doing. I trusted my director. I felt like I was in a safe environment."

She added, "We had hundreds of conversations about these scenes. Everyone felt a deep respect

for the movie we were making. And in that sense, I had no fear. I didn't feel uncomfortable at all, even though they were really hard scenes."

The actress was full of praise for the intimacy coordinators on set and claimed that shooting sexual scenes felt no different from the rest of the movie.

She explained, "We had an intimacy coordinator with us all the time, and she was very helpful."

"But I wouldn't even say these scenes were more difficult than any other scene. It was just a part of a whole story. I knew exactly what the shot was going to be." Ana had recently expressed disappointment that intimate scenes from the movie are likely to be posted online and be taken out of context.

She said, "I know what's going to go viral, and it's disgusting. It's upsetting just to think about it. I can't control it; you can't really control what they do and how they take things out of context."

Simu Liu is going through a breakup

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings' star Simu Liu shared that he is going through a breakup, just two months after making his red carpet debut with Jade Bender. Simu Liu made his red carpet debut with 'Senior Year' star Jade Bender just two months ago at the ESPY Awards, but now it appears they have split after making a handful of public appearances together.

As reported by SFGate.com, Liu was speaking at the Dreamforce 2022 conference in San Francisco last week when he

was asked about mental health following a social media post addressing the need to "prioritise" his health.

He replied: "I'm OK, I'm OK. I'm learning to prioritise myself, I'm becoming more and more comfortable with the idea of therapy and support systems. It really just hit me recently just how burnt out I was. I experienced moments where I'm living my dream and it didn't quite feel like I was where I needed to be with myself."

"I'm also going through a breakup. That's probably also contributing to it but that's OK, I'll be OK." His comments come after he recently opened up about the impact

'Shang-Chi' has had on his life as he learns to deal with fame.

Earlier this month, he explained on Instagram: "Exactly one year ago, this little movie came out and completely changed my life. It's been nothing short of the absolute best ride... but after having some time to reflect I know that this life also comes at a massive cost. "So today on the anniversary of the release of 'Shang-Chi', I'm especially excited because I'm in therapy and prioritising my health. I'm healing and well on my way to becoming something more than a superhero; I'm on my way to becoming a good and decent man."

Alec Baldwin could face charges for 'Rust' fatal shooting

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor Alec Baldwin may well potentially face charges in the fatal shooting that occurred last year on the sets of Spaghetti-western movie 'Rust', according to Santa Fe County District Attorney Mary Carmack-Altwhies. During a New Mexico Board of Finance meeting held on September 20, Carmack-Altwhies requested emergency funding in excess of \$635,000, reports a local magazine. The request for funding was to continue the investigation into the tragedy that took place on October 21 - when Baldwin, was holding the gun that discharged and killed 42-year-old cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injured director Joel Souza. Baldwin has maintained that he did not pull the trigger. As per a video recording of their meeting seen by 'People', Carmack-Altwhies shared, "We are within weeks, if not days, of receiving the final report from the sheriff's office." Carmack-Altwhies further said that, while awaiting the final report, "it's become apparent that we will be potentially charging between one and four people with criminal charges, and each of those charges will probably include some variation of our homicide statute." In a letter to the New Mexico Board of Finance, obtained and published by 'Deadline', the district attorney's office stated, "One of the possible defendants is well-known movie actor Alec Baldwin," adding that the case "could require up to 4 separate jury trials." 'People' further states that on Monday, Baldwin's lawyer, Luke Nikas of Quinn Emanuel, said in a statement: "Some media reports today draw false conclusions based on a letter from the Santa Fe Dist. Attorney." "The DA has made clear that she has not received the sheriff's report or made any decisions about who, if anyone, might be charged in this case," the statement continued.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Megan Fox



Germany and England draw in six-goal thriller, Italy beat Hungary to win group



Paris | Agencies

England's three-goal fight-back from two goals down didn't earn them a home victory against Germany on Monday, as Kai Havertz's late goal, also his second in the game, saw the rollercoaster clash end in a 3-3 draw.

Thus, England finished their Nations League group matches with a six-game winless run, sitting at the bottom of the group, which also featured Italy and Hungary.

European champions Italy, who have failed to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, regained some pride as they won 2-0 in the battle for top spot in Budapest against Hungary, securing a place in the semifinals of the tournament, reports Xinhua. Giacomo Raspadori and Federico Dimarco scored for the Azzurri.

Unlike Italy, both England and Germany will head to the World

Cup in less than two months, but both are still struggling to find their best form.

Germany's home defeat to Hungary on Friday buried their hopes of advancing as they only took one win from the six group matches -- a 5-2 victory over Italy in June.

The four-time World Cup winners looked on course for victory at Wembley Stadium after goals from Ilkay Gundogan and Havertz had put them 2-0 in front after 67 minutes.

Manchester United defender Harry Maguire, who has been criticised for poor performances in recent club matches, has had full support from head coach Gareth Southgate and started for the Three Lions again, but his latest mistake may threaten his place in the team.

The 29-year-old centre-back lost the ball to Jamal Musiala, then brought down the teenager in the box to hand the visitors a

penalty, which was converted by Gundogan.

Maguire then lost his position in midfield 15 minutes later and allowed Chelsea forward Havertz to curl in a superb effort from the edge of the area.

Facing a possible third successive defeat, England showed great resilience, scoring three goals in 12 minutes to turn the game around.

Luke Shaw pulled one back in the 71st minute before substitute Mason Mount hit the equalizer five minutes later. Harry Kane then converted a penalty awarded by VAR in the 83rd minute to finish the incredible comeback.

But it was not the end -- Havertz pounced on a fumble by England goalkeeper Nick Pope to equalise in the 87th minute. Bukayo Saka could have killed the match in stoppage time but his close-range attempt was saved by Germany keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

WOMEN'S ODI RANKINGS

GOSWAMI 5TH-RANKED BOWLER, HARMANPREET ALSO FIFTH IN BATTING

Dubai | Agencies

The legendary Jhulan Goswami, who recently retired from international cricket, finished her 50-over career as the fifth-ranked bowler in the world while India captain Harmanpreet Kaur reached the fifth position in the latest ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings, released on Tuesday.

Playing her last series, the 39-year-old Goswami picked three in three games including two in the last one and played her part in India's 3-0 series sweep over England by being the most economical bowler across the two sides, with an economy rate of 3.00 over 27 overs.

On the other hand, Harmanpreet, who smashed a match-winning 143 not out off 111 deliveries in the second match in Canterbury, has gained four slots to reach the fifth position while opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have also moved up in the latest ranking that considers performances in the



last two matches of that series as well as the IWC series between the West Indies and New Zealand.

Mandhana, a former top-ranked batter, who scored 40 and 50 in the two matches, has inched up one place to take the sixth position while Sharma's unbeaten 68 not out in the third match at Lord's has lifted her eight places to 24th position.

Pooja Vastrakar (up four places to 49th) and Harleen Deol (up 46 places to 81st) are other Indian players to move up the batters' list while new-ball bowler Renuka

Singh has galloped 35 places to take 35th position after grabbing four wickets each in the two matches.

Meanwhile, England's Danny Wyatt, who scored 65 in the second match, has gained two slots to reach 21st position among batters while Amy Jones is up four places to 30th. Charlie Dean has progressed 24 places to get to 62nd among batters and one slot to 19th among bowlers.

Matthew Wade could be new T20 captain for Australia: Report

Melbourne | Agencies

Australia wicket-keeper and middle-order batter Matthew Wade could be their choice for skipper for the ICC T20 World Cup at home next month, should regular skipper Aaron Finch suffer an injury or his string of poor scores continues, said a report in Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday.

Wade, who is currently not in Cricket Australia's contracted list, was first tipped to lead the Kangaroos when Finch missed a T20 game against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 2020, but his reported disciplinary record went against him



at that time, despite him being a "seasoned state captain" and "one of the most critical members of the side".

Wade's name has cropped up at a time when another seasoned cricketer, David Warner is being talked about as someone who can fill up the captaincy slot in the Australian One-day International side left vacant by Finch's recent retirement.

However, Wade, who has made the No. 7 T20 spot his own, will also be a leading candidate for white-ball captaincy should Cricket Australia look for an alternative to Finch post the T20 World Cup in October-November, the report added.

Men's hockey World Cup

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Clubbed with European giants England, Spain and Wales in Pool D, hosts India will open their campaign against Spain in the 2023 FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup at Rourkela on January 13, the opening day of the competition.

While India, the 1975 winner, will take on Spain in a prime-time match at 7pm in the newly-constructed Birsu Munda International Hockey Stadium, the action on the first day will start with a 1pm match between 2016 Olympic Gold medalists Argentina and Africa's highest-ranked nation South Africa at the Kalinga Stadium here.

The second match of the day will also be played at Bhubaneswar with see world No. 1 Australia taking on Paris 2023 host France, in a repeat of the 2018 World Cup quarterfinal.

The inaugural match at Birsu Munda Hockey Stadium, Rourkela will be a "derby" between

INDIA TO OPEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST SPAIN AT ROURKELA ON JAN 13



England and Wales, and India and Spain will windup the action for the day.

While Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist India, England, Spain and Wales comprise Pool D, as per the draw conducted on September 8, the 16 teams have been divided into four groups. Pool A will have Australia, Argentina, France, and South Africa;

Pool B comprises Belgium, Germany, Korea, and Japan while Pool C has Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia and Chile.

Defending champion Belgium will open their campaign against South Korea at 5pm on January 14 while former champions the Netherlands will get into the act in the 3pm match on the same day.

All teams will play matches in both venues. In total, 44 matches will be played, with the Final scheduled on January 29 (7pm local time) in Bhubaneswar.

India, ranked fifth in the World, will meet the eighth-ranked Spain, who have made a lot of progress in the last year or so under former Dutch coach Max Caldes, will take on World No.6 England in their second match on January 15 at the same venue in Rourkela.

The Graham Reid-coached team will complete its Pool D campaign on January 19 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar against Wales.

Gayle storm arrives, to be in action for Gujarat Giants in Legends League Cricket

Cuttack | Agencies

In a major boost to Adani Sportslines-owned Gujarat Giants, the explosive batter Chris Gayle will be available for their Legends League Cricket match at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.

It will also be an opportunity for fans to watch Gayle and Virender Sehwag, two destructive batters who used to dominate the bowlers, destroying the opposition bowling attack once again.

One of the greatest T20 batsmen in the world, Gayle has the record of most T20 sixes to his name. The swashbuckling West Indian has struck 1056 sixes in 463 matches. The Legends League Cricket, hosted in India for the first time ever, continues to astonish the fans with awe-inspiring cricketing action in the presence of legendary cricketers from across the world.

Sehwag-led Gujarat Giants are currently placed second on the points table with five points from four matches. However, they will have a chance to regain the No. 1 spot if they beat Irfan Pathan-led LNJ Bhillwara Kings.



VIRAT KOHLI ONE OF THE BEST CHASE MASTERS IN THE WORLD: AJAY JADEJA

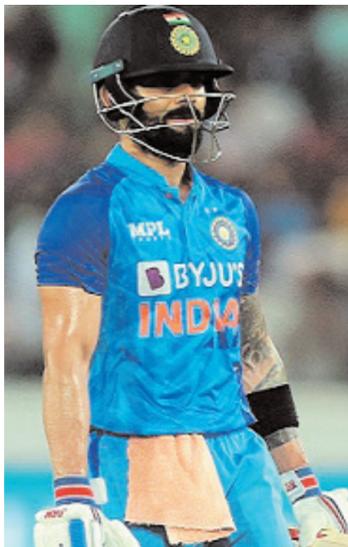
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former India cricketer Ajay Jadeja has called Virat Kohli as one of the best chase masters in the world of cricket, adding that the solidity the former skipper provides to the team is just unrivalled.

Virat played a pivotal role in helping India win the three-match T20I series against Australia in the last game at Hyderabad, scoring a 48-ball 63 that helped the hosts chase down the Kangaroos' competitive target of 187 to seal the series 2-1.

With his 104-run stand with charismatic batter Suryakumar Yadav (69), it was a treat to watch the two batters go about their task of punishing the visitors' bowling that had the likes of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Cameron Green among others.

Ever during the Asia Cup in the UAE recently, Kohli, returning to the side after taking a month-long break



of striking ability and hitting massive sixes, but his consistency is priceless.

from the game to recharge his batteries, was in peak batting form. "I mean that's the key to Indian cricket. I mean it's been that for a while, for a long time. I mean there was a period where Virat Kohli would score runs and if there was anything, MS Dhoni would finish it off at the end," said Jadeja on Cricbuzz.

"But now with the personnel changing around Virat Kohli, it's made it easier for him and it's made it easier for everyone else around him to play at a whole different ball game and the solidity that Virat Kohli provides and for me it's always been the solidity of Virat Kohli, not the striking ability. That's why he was a chase master. He is a chase master. He understands the pace of the game."

Jadeja conceded Kohli might not be the best in terms

BWF RANKINGS PRANNOY JUMPS ONE SPOT TO ENTER TOP 15, LAKSHYA REMAINS AT 9TH

Kuala Lumpur | Agencies

Ace Indian shuttler H.S Prannoy jumped one spot to enter the enter top-15 in the latest BWF World Rankings, released on Tuesday. Prannoy, who recently produced some good performances -- reaching back-to-back quarterfinals at the World Championships and Japan Open Super 750 -- has returned to the top-15 almost after 4 years. Last time, he was World No 15, in October, 2018. On the other hand, Lakshya Sen continued to be the top-ranked Indian at the ninth position in the men's rankings, while Kidambi Srikanth rose one position to 11th. Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, who had skipped the World Championships and Japan Open due to an injury, remained static at the sixth spot while London Olympics bronze medalist Saina Nehwal moved one place ahead to 31st in the women's list. The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who won their maiden gold at the Commonwealth Games, remained static at the eighth spot. Another Indian men's doubles pair MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila jumped three spots to reach the 23rd place. On the other hand, Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy climbed a couple spots to be 23rd in the women's doubles.



ISL 2022-23 Hyderabad FC to play their first home match in Pune

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Defending champions Hyderabad FC will be forced to play their opening home match of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2022-23 season at Pune because of ongoing renovation work at their home stadium, the GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium in Gachibowli, Hyderabad.

The ISL champions will be playing their opening home match against Mumbai City FC at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune on October 9. Keeping the safety of play-



ers as a priority, the club, in consultation with the league, has decided to shift the first game to an alternate venue. Hyderabad FC will be back

in action at the Gachibowli Stadium for their second home match, slated against Bengaluru FC on October 22 in Matchweek 3.

National Games

Team Absolute | Ahmedabad

Despite having brought along a largely developmental squad for the 36th National Games, Kerala are confident about winning 10-15 medals in athletics, a discipline in which the southern state is a veritable powerhouse.

Speaking just before the squad boarded the train for Gujarat from the Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station, Kerala's chief athletics coach C Vinayachandran said that they were unable to field all their top athletes for a plethora of reasons.

Yet, he reckoned, there was enough star power potential in the squad to shine on the IIT Gandhinagar track and field stadium where Athletics competition will commence from

Depleted Kerala confident of bagging 10-15 medals in Athletics



September 30. Vinayachandran, who has mentored Kerala's upcoming athletes for a while, offhand cited the names of CWG 2022 silver medalist Murali Sreesankar, Nayana James, Anur Sojan (all long jump), Arun AB, Sandra Babu (both triple jump),

quarter-miler Arathi R, Angel P Devasia (high jump), Mareena George (heptathlon), both women's relay teams, men's 4x100 relay team etc, among those who could end up on the podium. The coach however did not specify

the colour of the medals his wards could bring back to 'God's own country'. He also revealed that there would be some major absences despite the athletes' names figuring in the Kerala entry list. "There are ups and downs but we have to take it in our stride," he opined.

The athletes underwent a ten-day training camp at the Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education in the Kerala capital about which the coach expressed satisfaction. A listed elite coach in the Kerala State Sports Council who imparts training at a college in Changanassery, Vinayachandran lamented the fact that due to official compulsions, many of Kerala star athletes will be competing in Services colours at the National Games.



Aishwarya is picture perfect: Vikram

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chiyaan Vikram, who was in the national capital to promote his film 'Ponniyan Selvan I', talked about sharing screen space with Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan again after 'Raavanan' and said that the actress is picture perfect.

Vikram said: "There have been many beauty queens but I must say Aish has something that has stolen everyone's heart. She is picture perfect and I have seen her films, so it is not just about beauty but everything. She is always under a microscope and constantly being watched. So, she needs to be perfect all the time and I have seen how she does it in her own style."

He also said that he is often told by fans about how they both look fantastic on screen. "All our fans keep saying you both look so nice together but the thing is I don't get her in movies so easily."

Vikram also praised her dancing skills and added: "She dances so beautifully that during a shot, I just forgot myself and was lost watching her dance moves. It is music in motion. She is just perfect."

He called his role of Aditha Karikalan (Chola emperor in 10th century) in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponniyan Selvan I' a 'dream role' as he always wanted to play a prince or a character of a warrior on-screen.

He said: "We all are playing very interesting characters in this film and I must say I am playing my dream role as I always wanted to play a character which is regal and beautiful. Every movie Mani Ratnam sir has done is so enthralling and very different and I am glad to be part of his film. You know we call him Steven Spielberg of India."



Navratri 2022 Special

Sayantani Ghosh: The festival is about vanquishing the 'Asuras' or 'Demons' within us

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Navratri has begun, and today is the third day of the celebration. Maa Chandraghanta, the third manifestation of Devi Durga, is worshipped today. Sayantani Ghosh opened up about her excitement, cultural diversity observed during nine days, the radiance of triumph of good over evil, and much more.

The actress tied the knot with her beau Anugrah Tiwari on December 6, 2021. Sharing her excitement about the first Durga Puja post-wedding, the actress said, "I am super-excited for Durga Puja as being a Bengali it is a big festival for us. The two reasons that make it even more special this year are it's my first Durga puja with my hubby after our wedding. Also, I will be visiting Kolkata after many years and celebrating it with my family."

Later talking about the cultural diversity Sayantani quipped, "I think one of the most beautiful aspects of India is its cultural diversity. While a particular festival, celebration, ritual, or worship of a particular deity may belong to one particular section, these 9 auspicious days are observed by everyone in their own way. We do have different forms of God, but I believe there is one higher force. Everybody believing in this force during the festive season gets a sense of unity."

On a parting note, the actress wished everyone a happy Navratri and said, "I genuinely believe that such festival instils hope or faith in us. As humans, we have good as well as bad sides. So it's not only about vanquishing the 'asuras' or 'demons' residing in society but also within us."



Keep chasing your dreams: Kaniha

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Kaniha, who is known to be someone who chooses to live life on her own terms, disclosed that she had realised another dream of hers, to learn to ride a bike a

year ago despite people discouraging her by asking her why she was doing it.

Talking to Instagram, Kaniha said: "Dreams know no age, dreams



know no fear. Keep chasing your dreams!! A year ago, I taught myself to ride bikes. When many said, 'Why? Why NOW?', I smiled..." Only recently, the actress had shared a video in which she was seen learning the musical instrument Ukulele all by herself. The actress, who has been a part of some critically acclaimed hits in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, had then said, "Why should everything be perfect? Why should I showcase everything perfect? 'Here's me being goofy and self-teaching myself from YouTube tutorials and taking baby steps with my new found love 'Uke'. When I got the weekend free... Why waste it? Learning something new. Feel good factor! This might seem super elementary for music professionals (please excuse moi) but what if this motivates and pushes someone like me to learn something new?!"

We need to relook Indian mythology, folklore: Hrithik

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan, who is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', feels that India as a country is culturally very rich and has a treasure of folk tales and mythology that can act as a fodder to tell stories on the celluloid.

The basic idea of 'Vikram Vedha' is based on the Indian mythological story of Vikram and Betaal.

Elaborating on the same, Hrithik said in an interview, "To take something like this that we have all heard in our childhood and create this entire story of 'Vikram Vedha' and to use it as a device, it's so sharp."

He further mentioned, "We have so many of such stories in our mythology and folklore. I think we need to relook at this treasure, there's so much fodder in there from a storytelling point of view."

Director Pushkar of the film's director duo, Pushkar-Gayatri, added, "What intrigues us as directors is that our mythology or folklore majorly have no demarcation about who is wrong or right. As creators, it's refreshing to install the stories that are in the grey zone."

"I'm probably a bit left-wing, but 'shouldn't say such things anymore today': Saif



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan has said that he is "left wing" and a "liberal" but he followed it up by saying that he knows he "shouldn't say such things anymore today". While promoting his upcoming film 'Vikram Vedha', Saif in an interview talked about how he doesn't agree with the thoughts and principles of his character in the film, where he plays an encounter specialist Vikram while Hrithik Roshan is Vedha, a gangster.

Saif said, "When the mafia problem was getting so out of control, there was this urban legend that we won't show whether the 'criminal' was shot genuinely trying to escape, or executed, and later on, do the paperwork to show that he was trying to escape and we had to shoot him."

"That's called an 'encounter', a 'fake encounter'. It's kind of a horrific judicial... I'm sure it's completely illegal. But it's cinematically quite disturbing as well, and that's kind of what my character does. But he's convinced he's a good guy, because (he thinks) it's required."

He added: "I'm much more... probably a bit left-wing, I suppose... I don't know, I probably shouldn't say these things anymore today."

The actor, who is married to Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan, called himself "liberal".

"But yes, I'm really liberal and easygoing, and I think everyone is entitled to a fair trial before judgement. I'm certainly not for executing suspected criminals, which my character seems to love to do," Saif said.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Surveen Chawla