

absolute india

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INDIA SET TO BECOME 3RD LARGEST ECONOMY BY 2029

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India is expected to become world's third largest economy by 2029 due to the path taken by the country since 2014, SBI Ecwrap report said. The share of India's GDP is now at 3.5 per cent, as against 2.6 per cent in 2014 and is likely to cross 4 per cent in 2027, the current share of Germany in global GDP.

India has undergone a large structural shift since 2014 and is now the 5th largest economy.

Interestingly, India had surpassed UK as the 5th largest economy as early as December 2021 itself and not recently as is being claimed.

"The path taken by India since 2014 reveals India is likely to get the tag of 3rd largest economy in 2029, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked 10th.

India should surpass Germany in 2027 and most likely Japan by 2029 at the current rate of growth," the report said.

"In coming days India is likely to be the beneficiary as China slows down in terms of new investment intentions," the report added.

India's GDP growth in Q1FY23 was 13.5 per cent. At this rate, India is likely to be the fastest growing economy in the current fiscal.

Interestingly, even as estimates of India's GDP growth rate for FY23 currently range from 6.7 per cent to 7.7 per cent, we firmly believe that it is immaterial.

"In a world that is ravaged by uncertainties, we believe 6 to 6.5 per cent growth is the new normal. Nevertheless, we make a passionate urge to update the IIP basket that is composed of a 2012 set of products and is hopelessly outdated."

THOSE 72 HRS WERE A MAKE-OR-BREAK FOR INDIA'S INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

The nation cheered as India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) INS Vikrant was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy. Save for a few, none were aware of the 72 nail-biting hours that were a make or break for the project during its initial days. The decision to build the carrier would have had to be scrapped altogether had engineers and metallurgists not sorted out an issue concerning steel for the flight deck.

Kolkata | Agencies

Indigenisation, that too to an extent of nearly 76 per cent wasn't the prime focus when designers began work on the 45,000-tonne behemoth around 2002. It was estimated that nearly 27,000 tonnes of high-grade steel (of three different kinds) would be required for the project. Indian shipyards did build warships at that time but the steel was imported.

"When India went in search of steel for the IAC, there were no sellers. There could be several reasons for this. One of these could be that nobody could supply that huge quantity. It could also be that nobody wanted to sell steel to India for an aircraft carrier as foreign powers wanted us to keep up importing such specialised vessels. Our first two aircraft carriers were second hand ones after all. On realising that the steel could not be imported, Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) came up with specifications. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)



Ltd, Ranchi, succeeded in manufacturing some ingots but mass production was required. Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) took up this challenge," a source revealed. Three types of steel were required for the aircraft carrier. DMR 249 Grade-A was required for the hull and superstructure of the aircraft carrier. The Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants started to produce this.

The second variety, DMR 249 Grade-B, was more special. This steel would be used for the flight deck and needed to be extremely strong (to withstand the pressure as aircraft took off) but flexible (to spring back to its original position after every take off). This steel was produced at Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) in Durgapur, West Bengal.

The third type required in small quantities was the Z-25. This was to

be used for the flooring of the machine rooms to withstand 25 per cent compression due to the pressure. The steel plates made at ASP didn't travel straight to Kochi though. They were first taken to the Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) for special treatment to make them both hard and tough. At RSP, the plates first went through 'water quenching' to make them hard. A round of tempering followed to make them tough. Finally, there was another round of 'water quenching' before the DMR 249 Grade-B plates achieved their unique qualities.

"Everything seemed to be going well till a batch of DMR 249 Grade-B plates developed internal stress six months after delivery. We had barely three days (72 hours) to come up with a solution. DMRL had nothing on this subject. There could be no aircraft carrier without a flight deck after all.

"In those three days, our engineers and metallurgists came up with two processes to prevent internal stress. We adopted one of these and supply resumed," the source added.

GRP to continue initiative to teach poor kids



Team Absolute | Unnao

The Government Railway Police (GRP), Lucknow Division, has named the Unnao police station as the nodal office for the 'open school' of Korari Kalan, 'Har Haath Mein Kalam Pathshaala' that was initiated by head constable Rohit Kumar Yadav for underprivileged children. Two constables, Ankit Verma and Shikha Tomar, have volunteered for the job. Verma, the 2011 batch constable and who has appeared twice in UPSC mains, said: "Rohit's effort

is commendable and I wish to contribute to his endeavour. Since I have a clerical job at GRP Unnao station, I would be able to take out time to teach the kids." At least one constable is expected to teach students. SP GRP, Lucknow Division, Mohammad Mushtaq, said: "We have made Unnao GRP the nodal office for the school and have instructed that at least one constable should always visit school voluntarily to teach the underprivileged children." Three civilians, Pradeep, a private tutor, Sonu and Ranjeet, also regularly visit the school to teach chil-

dren. Rohit had hired two teachers for Rs 2,000 monthly each to teach 125 students. Pooja Devi, 24, one of the teteachers, said: "I have been associated with the school since 2019. Almost all the students in our open sky schools come from extremely poor families. Some of the students are even orphans. Rohit wants that we all put our energies into educating these children, so that they do not have to beg to survive." When Rohit was recently transferred to Jhansi, his students wept uncontrollably.

CHENNAI HOSPITAL EXPLORING WAYS TO USE DRONES FOR TRANSPORTING HUMAN ORGANS



Chennai | Agencies

Chennai-based private hospital MGM Healthcare is exploring ways to use drones for transporting organs for transplantation, said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari. The Union Transport Minister was speaking via video conferencing during a function organised to mark over 500 successful heart and lung transplant operations at the MGM Healthcare. Gadkari said that the construction of highways is reducing the travel time between various cities like Chennai-Bengaluru which will be of help for organ transportation. Meanwhile, Prashanth

Rajagopalan, Director MGM Healthcare said that the hospital is looking at using drones to transport organs from the Chennai Airport to the hospital.

According to him, currently the organs for transplant operations are transported by road from the Chennai Airport by creating a green corridor with the help of the city police. He said that this put the public at some inconvenience and hence the hospital is looking at drones as alternative for carrying human organs from other cities. According to Rajagopalan, the hospital has tied up with a city-based drone company while declining to mention the latter's name, citing a non-disclosure agreement with that player.



During her 27-year career after professional debut in Quebec City in 1995, she topped the world singles rankings for 319 weeks, including 186 consecutive weeks. She finished as WTA Year-End world No.1 for five times and became the oldest world No.1 at the age of 35 years and 230 days in May 2017.

WTA honours Serena's inspirational career

NEW YORK | Agencies

3-time Grand Slam singles winner Serena Williams bowed out after the third round loss at the US Open on Friday as she was honoured by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) as one of "the greatest champions in the history of sports".

"The WTA today celebrates the extraordinary Serena Williams, who

retires from professional tennis having secured her place among the greatest champions in the history of sports".

Williams thanked fans and family for support in an emotional post-match interview after she lost to Ajla Tomljanovic on Friday, reports Xinhua. "It's been the most incredible ride and journey I've ever been on in my life," she said.

"Thank you daddy, I know you're watching. Thanks mum. I want to

thank everyone who's here, who has been on my side for so many years, literally decades. I wouldn't be Serena if there wasn't Venus, so thank you Venus. She's the only reason Serena Williams ever existed."

Turning 41 later this month, the record Grand Slam title holder in Open Era has 73 tournament wins, including 23 singles, 14 doubles and two mixed doubles Grand Slam titles as well as four Olympic gold medals representing the United States.

WOMEN AT GREATER RISK FROM AIR POLLUTION THAN MEN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A team of Indian-origin researchers has found that the impact of breathing diesel exhaust fumes may be more severe for women than men.

Dr Hemshekhar Mahadevappa and Professor Neelofar Mookherjee from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada looked for changes in people's blood brought about by exposure to diesel exhaust. In both females and males, they found changes in components of the blood related to inflammation, infection and cardiovascular disease, but they found more changes in females than males.

The research by Mahadevappa, Mookherjee and



Chris Carlsten at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada will be presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, next week.

"We already know that there

are sex differences in lung diseases such as asthma and respiratory infections. Our previous research showed that breathing diesel exhaust creates inflammation in the lungs and has an impact on how the body deals

with respiratory infections," said Mahadevappa.

"These are preliminary findings, however they show that exposure to diesel exhaust has different effects in female bodies compared to male and that could indicate that air pollution is more dangerous for females than males," said Mookherjee. This is important as respiratory diseases such as asthma are known to affect females and males differently, with females more likely to suffer severe asthma that does not respond to treatments.

"Therefore, we need to know a lot more about how females and males respond to air pollution and what this means for preventing, diagnosing and treating their respiratory disease," said Mookherjee.



AROUND 25L DOMESTIC CONSUMERS IN PUNJAB GOT 'ZERO' ELECTRICITY BILL

Chandigarh | Agencies

Around 25 lakh domestic consumers in Punjab have got 'zero' electricity bill, state Power Minister Harbhajan Singh said on Saturday.

The minister told the media in Amritsar that this is the first time the government is fulfilling its election promises in the initial year itself, "otherwise governments have been fulfilling election promises only in the last year of their tenure".

He said due to the relief given by the Punjab government of 300 units per month, the electricity bills of 25 lakh domestic consumers of the state have been 'zero'.

He said no caste or religion has been made a basis under this electricity amnesty scheme, but every household consumer who consumes up to 600 units of electricity in two months will get 'zero'



electricity bill. If one uses more electricity than this, he will have to pay the entire electricity bill.

The Power Minister also said due to the two-month bill circle with electricity waiver, consumers are getting 600 units of free electricity, which is more than the requirement of every normal household.

He said due to the electricity waiver given from July 1,

out of the bills that have come in August, 25 lakh consumers will not have to pay the bill.

The minister said that out of the total 72 lakh domestic consumers, bills were sent to 42 lakh consumers, out of which 25 lakh families have received zero bills.

Apart from this, 34 lakh families have got the benefit of subsidised electricity at Rs 3 per unit.

Amid controversy, TMC RS member Sircar reinstated in WhatsApp group

Kolkata | Agencies

Amid controversy over the removal of Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member and bureaucrat-turned-politician Jawhar Sircar from the internal WhatsApp group of the party's members in the Upper House, Sircar got reinstated in the group just hours after his removal.

However, the reinstatement process was carried out in an indirect manner, as confirmed by a member of the said WhatsApp group, on strict condition of anonymity.

First the original WhatsApp group from where Sircar was removed on Saturday afternoon was deactivated soon after the news became viral.

After that a new internal WhatsApp group of the party's Rajya Sabha members was created wherein Sircar's number was included along with his other party colleagues.



While Sircar, a retired IAS officer and ex-CEO of Prasar Bharati, maintained his "no comments" stand in the matter, Trinamool leaders too

refused to comment on the development till filing of this report.

However, opposition leaders have ridiculed the entire development.

"If Jawhar Sircar resigns from the Rajya Sabha, Trinamool Congress will sell the seat vacated by him for crores of rupees," said Suwendu Adhikari, leader of opposition in the West Bengal Assembly. Recently, while speaking to a vernacular news channel, Sircar had said that he was shocked by the huge cash recovered from the two residences of Arpita Mukherjee, a close aide of former state Education Minister and the prime accused in the teacher recruitment scam, Partha Chatterjee.

He had also said that after the recovery of cash was flashed in the media, there was immense pressure on him from his family members, friends and well-wishers.

Following Sircar's remarks, senior Trinamool leaders such as Saugata Roy and Tapas Roy had said that his comments were unwarranted and caused embarrassment to the party leadership.

About 9K voters to elect Cong Prez; row over electoral list deepens

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Over 9,000 Congress members would vote to elect the next party President, election for which would be held after a long gap of 22 years on October 17.

In the last such election that was held in 2000, current interim President Sonia Gandhi had defeated Jitendra Prasad, who managed just 94 out of 7,542 votes.

Prior to that, Sitaram Kesri had defeated Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot by securing 6,224 votes. Pawar had secured 882 votes, while Pilot got 354 votes. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi has, however, declined to run for the party chief's post this time even as efforts are on to persuade him. Senior leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge and Salman Khurshid have said that they will try



to convince Rahul Gandhi on the matter. Ahead of the notification on the election, some Congress leaders have raised the issue of electoral rolls, saying it should be made public.

Party leaders such as Anand Sharma, Manish Tewari, Karti

Chidambaram and Shashi Tharoor have already expressed their opinion on the issue of electoral rolls.

They have urged the party's Central Election Authority (CEA), headed by senior Congress leader Madhusudan Mistry, to make the electoral rolls public by making them

available on the Congress website.

However, the CEA has said that these rolls would be made available only to the candidates contesting the poll. Congress General Secretary (Organisation), K.C. Venugopal, said that it (the list) is an internal matter and hence, it cannot be made public.

Woman sets herself ablaze at police station in MP's Shahdol

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 26-year-old woman has set herself on fire at a police station in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh, officials said on Saturday, adding she has been admitted to the hospital in a critical condition with severe burn injuries.

The incident occurred on Friday. She went to a police station at Budhar area in Shahdol district to lodge a rape case against a revenue officer (Patwari).

The accused Patwari was also present at the police station when the woman set herself ablaze, according to the police.

In her complaint, the woman alleged that the revenue officer had established physical relation with her in the pretext of marriage a few months ago but later refused to marry her, and also started avoiding her phone calls.

The woman also alleged that she had come to lodge FIR against the revenue officer but the police did not accept her complaint. Instead, she was advised to "settle the matter outside". She visited the police station again on Friday to lodge complaint.



Subsequently, the police also called the revenue officer at the police station.

"Both were engaged in an argument and after a while, the woman suddenly poured petrol and set herself on fire. The staff at police station doused the flames but she received burn injuries. Later, she was rushed to a nearby hospital," said a police officer.

The revenue official was eventually arrested. Superintendent of Police Kumar Prateek has ordered a probe into the matter.

Changing name of AIIMS will lead to loss of identity: Faculty association

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Expressing concern over a discussion on changing the name of AIIMS, the Faculty Association of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (FAIMS) said that any such move will lead to impending loss of identity of AIIMS.

In a letter to its members seeking opinion over the speculation, FAIMS said, "You must have seen/heard news about changing name of AIIMS with that of some famous sonality/leader/freedom fighter or place. FAIMS believes that this will lead to impending loss of identity of AIIMS." "Identity is linked with the name. If identity is



lost, institutional recognition will be lost, both within the country and outside. That is why famous and established institutes have with the same name for centuries - be it Oxford, Cambridge or Harvard. In India, IITs have a name which gives the institution an identity, and there is no proposal to change them.

The same is true for AIIMS," the letter read. Also, the sense of identity is so strong that Calcutta, Bombay and Madras Universities continue with the same name even though the cities they are located in have changed names to Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai, the letter added.

JOB RACKET BUSTED AT IGI AIRPORT, ONE HELD

New Delhi: A man who was involved in running a fake job racket at the IGI Airport here and had cheated more than 20 people was held by the police, an official said on Saturday.

DCP of IGI unit of Delhi Police, Tanu Sharma said that the accused was identified as Hemant Kumar, a resident of Najafgarh.

The police said that 10 blank Aerodrome Entry Permit (AEP) Application Forms were recovered from his possession.

The official said that on September 2, one Praveen, a resident of Sonpat along with 10 other complainants filed a complaint that they were cheated by Kumar on the pretext of providing them job at IGI Airport. The accused had promised that they would get a salary of Rs 25,000 per month and charged Rs 10,000 from each of them.

Nitish Kumar slams BJP over five JD-U MLAs joining saffron camp in Manipur

Patna | Agencies

A day after five of the six Janata Dal-United (JD-U) MLAs in Manipur merged with the ruling BJP, Bihar Chief Minister and senior JD-U leader Nitish Kumar on Saturday slammed the BJP, saying that this is the reason why he snapped ties with the saffron party.

"Till Thursday, the JD-U MLAs in Manipur were ready to come to Patna for the national executive committee meeting. They were happy about coming to Patna. But the BJP snatched them from us. They do not believe in democracy," Nitish Kumar said after the national executive committee meeting on Saturday.

"The game begins here, and you would see what happens in the future," Kumar added.

"I am going to Delhi to meet the opposition leaders. The opposition parties are getting united to challenge the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. We will defeat the saffron party in the 2024 polls," the Chief Minister said.

JD-U has 6 MLAs in Manipur and BJP snatched 5 of them on Friday.



The five JD-U legislators in Manipur who joined the BJP are Khumukcham Joykisan Singh (Thangmeiband), Ngursanglur Sanate (Tipaimukh), Md. Achab Uddin (Jiribam), Thangjam Arunkumar (Wangkhei) and L.M. Khaute (Churachandpur).

TELANGANA TO CELEBRATE SEP 17 AS NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY

Hyderabad: The government of Telangana on Saturday decided to celebrate September 17, which marks accession of erstwhile Hyderabad State to the Indian Union, as 'Telangana National Integration Day'.

The decision was taken by the State Cabinet at its meeting presided over by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

It decided to organise year-long celebrations to mark the diamond jubilee of Hyderabad State's accession to India.

There will be three-day long celebrations across the state from September 16. Students, youth and women will participate in huge rallies to be held in all constituency headquarters on September 16.

The next day Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao will hoist the national flag at the Public Garden in Hyderabad and address the people. The same day, ministers will unfurl the national flags in all district headquarters.

Flag hoisting will also be organised at all municipalities, panchayats and government offices. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced that Chief Minister KCR will inaugurate Banjara Adivasi Bhavan the same day. A massive procession will also be organised from Necklace Road to NTR Stadium via Ambedkar Statue. A public meeting will be held at NTR Stadium, which will be addressed by the chief minister.

'PIL against Places of Worship Act, devious design to keep alive communal issues': plea in SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

An application has been moved in the Supreme Court to become party to a petition challenging the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The application has been filed by Lucknow-based MPLBI Trust, seeking to be impleaded as a party in the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay challenging the provisions of the Act. Upadhyay's petition is tentatively listed for hearing on September 9.

The application said the petitioner has suppressed that he has affiliation to a political party that in fact has the largest party holding majority in Parliament and can well take the legislative route. "Such frivolous petitions are purely political and part of a larger design to keep the communal and sensitive issues alive in the country to serve the political interests of certain individuals and organisations", said the application for impleadment.

It added that Upadhyay's petition has been filed for an oblique motive, which is mala fide and purely political and is part of a larger and devious design to keep alive the communal and religiously sensitive issues in the country to serve the political interest of certain individuals and organisations.

The application argues that the petition is a serious abuse of process of law and misuse of public interest litigation and is a serious matter of concern for the judicial process. "Frivolous or



motivated petitions, ostensibly invoking the public interests, detract from time and attention which courts must devote to genuine causes. It is stated that the petitioner has an oblique motive and motive for personal-political gains", said the application.

Defending the Act, the application said the very purpose of the Act is to enable citizens to exercise their right to freedom of religion as

enshrined in Article 25-28 in a peaceful manner. "The Act does so equally for all the religions by providing for equal protection to places of worship of all the religions. Thus, it is in consonance with the secular character of the Constitution which is a basic feature of the Constitution", it added. The application said the Act contributes towards equal treatment of all religions and enables free practice and profession of religion; thus, the Act enforces non-retrogression of one of the foundational features of constitutionalism i.e. secularism.

"That the plea of the Petitioner to invalidate Places of Worship Act and allow conversion (or re-conversion) of certain places through suits, petitions or otherwise is thus not only antithetical to the fundamental values and express provisions of the Constitution but undoes the civilisational gains of humanity in terms of secularism being a sine qua non of peaceful and progressive society", said the application.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has also moved the Supreme Court to become party to a petition challenging the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. In March last year, the apex court had issued a notice to the Centre on Upadhyay's petition alleging that the law violated Article 25 (right to practice and propagate religion) and Article 26 (right to manage religious affairs) of the Constitution, besides being discriminatory by barring religious communities from approaching courts to restore their places of worship.

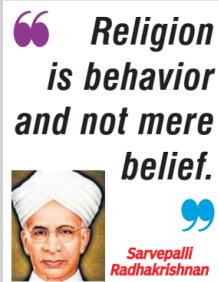
No decision on what will replace Twin Towers till debris is removed: Supertech



Noida: After the demolition of the Twin Towers, now a war of words has erupted between the Supertech builder and the Emerald Court RWA on what will be built in place of the Towers. The basis on which the RWA won the case and the Supreme Court had ordered that the towers should be demolished was that the land was marked for a park.

RK Arora, owner of Supertech Group, told IANS that "It has not been decided yet what will be built there. Until the debris is completely removed, it is difficult to say what will be built there. Many people are writing anything, I don't care about all those things, when the debris is removed, then Supertech will clear the situation as to what will be built there."

As of now, Supertech still owns the Twin Tower land. But if it constructs anything there, it will have to take permission from two-thirds of the residents of Emerald Court. According to the RWA, what was marked on the map will be built there.



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Mumbai-Ahmedabad ticket at Rs 1.4K, Mumbai-Bengaluru at Rs 2K

PRICE WAR IN THE SKY

Kumar Vikram | New Delhi

Have you ever thought of flying from Mumbai to Ahmedabad for just Rs 1,400, or between Mumbai and Bengaluru for around Rs 2,000 or even less?

This has now become possible as cut-throat competition in the aviation sector has led to a price war among the airlines to attract fliers.

A close look at air fare disclosed that a ticket from Mumbai to Ahmedabad is costing Rs 1,399 on Go First and Rs 1,497 on new entrant Akasa Air for a journey on September 9. IndiGo, the largest domestic airline, is offering ticket on the same route for Rs 1,609.

Similar is the case on the Mumbai-Bengaluru route with tickets available in the range of Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,200. While Akasa Air is offering a ticket for Rs 1,997 for a journey on September 9, a ticket on IndiGo is available for Rs 2,208.



The price war among the Indian airlines was expected following the removal of air fare cap by the Ministry of Civil Aviation from August 31 onwards.

Industry experts said that high competition among the airlines may

lead to benefits for the fliers and many airlines may offer discounts as per demand.

Interestingly, the prices have slipped mostly on the routes on which the newly-launched Akasa Air has started its operations.

An expert said the Aviation Ministry's move has given flexibility to the airlines in deciding air fares as they can now charge as per their policies.

The entry of Akasa Air has increased competition in the aviation sector. To attract fliers, some airlines have already started offering tickets at lower rates.

Earlier, the Civil Aviation Ministry had said that after a review of the current status of scheduled domestic operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel, it has been decided to remove the fare bands notified from time to time regarding air fares with effect from August 31.

The ministry had imposed lower and upper limits on air fares after the resumption of services in May, 2020 following the initial two-month nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19. Thereafter, the limits were relaxed in a phased manner according to the improvement in air traffic in the country.

ED RAIDS PAYTM, RAZORPAY AND CASHFREE IN CHINESE LOAN APPS CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Saturday that it has carried out search operations at six different locations in Bengaluru in connection with its probe into the Chinese loan apps fraud case. According to sources, the financial probe agency raided the premises associated with PayTM, Razorpay and Cashfree, all payment gateways which allegedly facilitated transactions on loan apps unauthorisedly run by Chinese-owned firms.

"During the search operation, it was noticed that the said entities were generating proceeds of crime through various merchant IDs/accounts held with payment gateways/banks. They were also not operating from the addresses given on the MCA website/registered address. An amount of Rs 17 crore has been seized in merchant IDs and bank accounts of these Chinese-owned entities," said an ED official.

The official added that it has come to the ED's notice that the said entities were doing business through various merchant IDs/accounts held with payment gateways/banks. Meanwhile, a Razorpay



spokesperson said, "Some of our merchants were being investigated by the law enforcement about a year-and-a-half back. As part of the ongoing investigation, the authorities requested additional information to help with the investigation. We have fully cooperated and shared KYC and other details. The authorities were satisfied by our due diligence process."

The case is based on 18 FIRs registered by the cyber crime police station in Bengaluru against numerous persons in connection with their involvement in extortion and harassment of the public who had availed small amount of loans through the mobile apps being run by those entities.

Schoolkids in Bengal fall sick after eating detergent-mixed midday meal

Kolkata | Agencies

At least 12 schoolchildren fell sick at a state-run primary school in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district after consuming midday meal.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the cook by mistake mixed detergent powder instead of salt in the food, which resulted in 12 students falling sick.

The incident took place on Saturday afternoon after the students of Chhillimpur Primary School at Itahar village consumed 'khichuri' (a popular dish made out of rice and pulses) that was served as a midday meal. They started vomiting and were immediately shifted to the Itahar rural hospital.

As per the latest informa-



tion available, all the 12 students are out of danger now. While 11 children have been discharged from the hospital, one is still under observation. The incident created ruckus in the area, as the parents and the local people started protesting in front of the school. They even locked the main gate of the school. The joint block devel-

opment officer of Itahar block, Ankur Biswas, and the in-charge of the local police station, Manebendra Saha, had to rush to the spot to bring the situation under control. Preliminary investigation revealed that the cook by mistake mixed detergent powder in the food instead of salt, which resulted in the students falling sick.

MAN ARRESTED FOR PROVIDING INFO TO PAK-BASED HANDLER

Srinagar | Agencies

A person who was providing secret information of various police establishments and security forces to a Pakistan-based handler through various social media platforms has been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir, the police said on Saturday.

"On a joint input generated by Kishtwar Police, one person namely Abdul Wahid working as agent for a Pakistan-based intelligence agency was arrested," police said.

Police have registered an FIR and investigation has been taken up.

"The said person taken into the custody and has confessed his involvement. Some more arrests expected in near future," police said.

Training for govt officials to make 'Cyber Safe India'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aiming to build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments, the Ministry of Information Technology organised a cyber training programme, 'Cyber Surakshit Bharat'.

The initiative has been conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace, and for organisations to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks. Operating on the principles of awareness, education and enablement, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its capacity building scheme, organised the 30th CISO Deep-Dive Training programme from August

22-26. Held at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi, the intensive 5-day training programme was designed for designated CISOs from Central and State/UT Governments, subordinate agencies/PSUs, including public sector banks and insurance companies, technical wings of police and security forces, CTOs and members of technical/PMU teams; as well as officers responsible to observe security of IT systems in their respective organisations.

The Deep-Dive Training specifically aimed at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks comprehensively and thoroughly, get necessary exposure in latest technologies of safeguard, and translate the benefits of a resilient e-infrastructure to individual organisations and citizens at large.

The training also focussed on providing a holistic view of legal provisions, enabling CISOs to formulate policies in the domain of cyber security and build concrete cyber crisis management plans.

STOLEN US PLANE CRASH-LANDS AFTER PILOT THREATENS TO HIT WALMART STORE

New York | Agencies

A pilot who threatened to "intentionally crash into Walmart" on West Main in Tupelo, a city in northeast Mississippi in the United States, crash landed his plane and has been taken into custody, say reports.

Police were in talks with the pilot but gave no information on the person's identity or motive. The pilot is reported to have stolen the small aircraft, a Beechcraft King Air 90, from Tupelo Airport. It is a nine-seater with two engines. Earlier, the Tupelo Police Department asked the citizens to avoid that area until all clear is given. "With the mobility of an airplane of that type the danger zone is much larger than Tupelo," the police said in a statement. All emergency services were put on alert, it said.

TRS HITS BACK AT FM WITH PM'S PICTURES ON LPG CYLINDERS

Hyderabad | Agencies

A day after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman pulled up a district collector in Telangana on not finding Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo at a PDS shop, supporters of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) on Saturday pasted Modi's posters on LPG cylinders. The posters put up on cooking gas cylinders carried Modi's photographs along with price of each cylinder Rs 1,105. The TRS took the jibe at the Prime Minister over the massive hike in the price of cooking gas during the last eight years. The TRS leaders pointed out that the price of LPG was only Rs 410 in 2014 when Modi became the Prime Minister.

"You wanted pictures of Modi ji, Here you are @nitharaman ji," tweeted TRS leader Krishank Manne with a video clip of Modi's posters on LPG cylinders.



The TRS's protest came a day after Nirmala Sitharaman hauled up Kamareddy district Collector Jitesh V. Patil as Prime Minister's photos were not displayed at a fair price shop.

She publicly expressed her anger saying that Centre is supplying free rice to poor under the Prime

Minister's Garib Kalyan Yojana and yet Prime Minister Modi's photos did not find place in fair price shops of Telangana.

Sitharaman was on a visit to Zaheerabad Lok Sabha constituency since September 1 as part of BJP's Lok Sabha Pravass Yojana.

The Central minister's action came under criticism from various quarters.

TRS working president K. T. Rama Rao stated that he was appalled by the unruly conduct of the union finance minister with the District Magistrate/Collector of Kamareddy. "These political histrionics on the street will only demoralise hard-working All India Services officers," he said.

Continuing his attacks on the central minister, Rama Rao on Saturday told Sitharaman that it's time to put up banners 'Thanks to Telangana' at PDS shops in all BJP ruled states.

"Since our FM is going around lecturing how 'Modi Sarkar' is the Giver. Here are the facts and figures. For every Rupee that Telangana contributes to the Nation, we only get back 46 paisa! Madam, time to put up a banner: 'Thanks to Telangana in all BJP states' PDS shops," KTR tweeted.

Rs 200 crore extortion case: Nora grilled, Jacqueline summoned

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actress Nora Fatehi was questioned by Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekar.

Fatehi appeared before EOW office at Mandir Marg on Friday where she was grilled for about six hours. "Fatehi reached EOW's Mandir Marg branch at around 11 a.m. and was questioned till 6 p.m. She can be summoned again if need arises. We have sent summons to Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez to join the investigation in the same matter on December 12," an official said. Chandrashekar was



arrested for allegedly cheating and extorting money from some high-profile people, including former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh.

Many Bollywood actors and models have been questioned by the Enforcement

Directorate for their alleged links with Chandrashekar.

In April last year, Chandrashekar was arrested in another money laundering case linked to the 2017 Election Commission bribery case, which allegedly involved a former AIADMK leader, among others.

India logs 7,219 new Covid cases, 33 deaths

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In the last 24 hours, India logged 7,219 new Covid-19 cases and 33 deaths, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

The new fatalities increased the nationwide Covid death toll to 5,27,965.

The active caseload has dipped to 56,745, accounting for 0.13 per cent of the country's total positive cases.

Also in the same period, the recovery of 9,651 patients took the cumulative tally to 4,38,65,016. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.68 per cent.

The daily and weekly positivity rates stood at 1.94 per cent and 2.51 per cent, respectively.

A total of 3,64,886 tests were conducted across the country in the last 24 hours, increasing the overall tally to over 88.68 crore.

As of Saturday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 213.01 crore.

So far, over 4.04 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.



Ladakh to have India's first-ever 'Night Sky Sanctuary'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a unique and first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has undertaken to set up India's first-ever "Night Sky Sanctuary" in Ladakh which will be completed within the next three months.

The proposed Dark Sky Reserve will be located at Hanle in Ladakh as a part of Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. It will boost astro tourism in India and will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh said that all the stakeholders will jointly work towards the preser-



vation of the night sky from unwanted light pollution and illumination, which is a serious threat to the scientific observations and natural sky conditions.

It may be noted that Hanle is best suited for the project as it is located in Ladakh's cold desert region, away from any form of human disturbance and clear sky conditions and dry weather conditions exist throughout the year, the Minister added.

The Minister informed that a tripartite MoU was signed recently among the UT administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for launching the Dark Space Reserve. He said the site will have activities to help in boosting local tourism and

economy through interventions of Science and Technology.

Jitendra Singh said, a high-level delegation of scientists and officials from Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI, as the Union Territory has a very rich and wide variety of animals for leather research and industry and to promote bio-economy of animal skin-derived products.

He added that Charthang in Ladakh has over 4 lakh animals, mainly pashmina goats, besides sheep and yak.

He also complimented the CSIR for organising four training workshops, two each at Leh and Kargil for treatment of diseases of famous pashmina goats.



Thackeray-Shinde groups' tug-of-war for Shiv Sena Dassehra Rally

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The historic Shivaji Park ground here has become the new bone of contention between the two rival Shiv Sena factions, both clamouring to hold the annual calendar event, the Dassehra Rally.

The Shiv Sena President and ex-Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is facing competition from the rebel faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and even the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena is toying with the idea of a rally at the Shivaji Park. The annual mega-rally held on Vijaya Dashami or Dassehra Day each year is expected to be a litmus test on the Shiv Sena and the Shinde Group's claims that it is the 'real Shiv Sena'. Both the factions have applied to the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for permission to hold the public rally there on October 5.

Rajya Sabha MP Anil Desai, close to Thackeray has sought permission on behalf of the Shiv Sena, while Dadar MLA Sada Sarvankar has submitted an application on behalf of the Shinde Group. When asked about it, CM Shinde skirted a direct reply and said: "There is still time now... We are now celebrating Ganeshotsav and Anant Chaturdash, then Navratri and Dassehra will come... How can I predict everything now? You will come to know in some more time."



Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar said while anybody has the right to hold their rally at Shivaji Park, he urged Shinde "to avoid a confrontational approach" with the Opposition. Shiv Sena's former mayor Kishori Pednekar slammed the turn-coats, claiming they are apparently suffering from a 'Ghajini-syndrome' - referring to the 2008 blockbuster starring

Aamir Khan in which he suffers a rare type of amnesia. "They are trying to erase history. They have forgotten it is the Shiv Sena which started the tradition and has been holding the annual Dassehra rallies at Shivaji Park from 1966. They are attempting to fuel a law-and-order situation," said Pednekar agitatedly. Hoping to cash in on the sentiments, MNS Spokesperson Sandip Deshpande said on Saturday that many party activists want Raj Thackeray to address the rally this year, but said the final call would

come only from the party chieftain. NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar said since they (Shinde Group) have power, they will try everything to get the Shivaji Park for their rally, and it is possible both (Thackeray and Shinde) may be allotted the venue for back-to-back rallies. Shiv Sena's Spokesperson Dr. Manisha Kayande, senior leader Ambadas Danve and others have slammed the Shinde Group for attempting to hijack the traditions initiated by the late Balasaheb Thackeray.

Covishield vax death case

Bombay HC issues notices to Centre, Bill Gates, SII

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has issued notices to the Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and the Centre in a case filed by an Aurangabad man alleging that his medico daughter died due to the side-effects of the Covishield vaccine and sought Rs 1,00,00,00,000 as compensation. The petitioner is Dilip Lunawat, who has contended that his daughter Snehal Lunawat, 33, who was also a Senior Lecturer at the SMTB Dental College & Hospital in Nashik, was compelled to take the vaccine along with all other healthworkers there.

Dilip Lunawat said that his daughter was assured that the vaccine was completely safe and posed no risks/threats to her body, and attached his daughter vaccine certificate (January 28, 2021), and how she died on March 1, 2021, due to the alleged side-effects of the Covishield vaccine. A



few days later, she suffered severe headaches and vomiting and was rushed to a hospital where doctors detected bleeding in her brain and she later succumbed owing to the purported side-effects of the vaccine', as per Lunawat's plea. He also cited the views and interviews of experts like the Drug Controller-General of India, Dr. V.G. Somani, and AIIMS Director Dr. Randeep Guleria, making them respondents along with the Union Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, and how the incident figured in the Centre's own Adverse Events Following Immunisation Report of October 2, 2021. In his petition filed in February 2022, Dilip Lunawat said that in 2020, the SII, Pune entered into a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to speed up the process of manufacture and delivery of upto 100 million doses of Covishield vaccines in India and for other third world countries.

Two from Bengal held in Mumbai for terror links

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal police, in coordination with the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Maharashtra Police, arrested two residents of Bengal with alleged terror links from Mumbai on Saturday. According to STF sources, the arrested persons -- Samir Hossain and Saddam Hossain -- are original residents of Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas district.

"They are being brought to Kolkata through transit remand," an STF official said. He also said that both were wanted by the STF and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for a long time.

"However, they frequently changed their hideouts and moved from one state to the other. Finally, our sleuths, by tracking the tower locations of their mobile phones, came to know that they were hiding in Mumbai. We immediately contacted the Maharashtra ATS, which assured us of total cooperation. Finally, they were nabbed after a joint operation by STF and ATS on Saturday," the official said.



Cash, laptops, multiple mobile phones and SIM cards were seized from their possession. It is learnt that after being brought to Kolkata, the STF will present the arrested duo in the court and seek their custody. "There is a need for their thorough interrogation," the STF official said.

Nora Fatehi denies knowing about Conman Sukeshe's criminal history

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nora Fatehi was questioned by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing in connection with the money laundering case involving jailed conman Sukeshe Chandrashekhar. In response to approximately 50 questions, Nora stated that she was unaware of Sukeshe's criminal history and had no relationship with an industry colleague and accused in the case, Jacqueline Fernandez.

She was said to be cooperating with the investigators, according to a leading news portal. Nora was asked over 50 questions, including what gifts she received, who she spoke with, where she met them, and so on. She stated that she and Jacqueline spoke to him (Sukeshe Chandrashekhar) separately. According to the agency, Nora stated



that his (Sukeshe) wife spoke to her for a nail art function and then frequently called her. They presented her with a BMW. She also stated that

she was unaware of Sukeshe's criminal history and that he had conversations with her manager and cousin but very few with her.

On October 14, Nora went to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office to join the investigation into the same criminal case. Previously, Jacqueline stated in a plea before the PMLA Appellate Authority that it is surprising that some other celebrities, most notably Norah, were also duped by main accused Sukeshe in the 200 crore extortion case.

Sukeshe Chandrashekhar and actor Leena Maria Paul were sentenced to three days in ED custody in connection with a Rs 200 crore extortion case by a Delhi Court.

They were arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with an extortion racket operating out of a Delhi jail.

Shinde-Fadnavis wants Guv to spike MVA's list of MLC nominees

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an anticipated development, the Maharashtra government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has decided to spike the names of 12 MLCs nominated by the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi regime headed by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray. Shinde has written to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari seeking withdrawal of the 12 names recommended by the Thackeray government in November 2020 for Members of Legislative Council from the Governor's quota. Though 23 months elapsed, the Raj Bhavan took no decision on the MVA nominations and even the Bombay High Court had commented on the delays. However, Shinde declined to comment saying he would inform the media on this soon. The MVA -- comprising Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress -- had agreed on a '4-4-4' formula for the 12 vacant seats, and the Shinde-Fadnavis coalition is reportedly working on a 8-4 ratio to fill up the dozen seats.



The term of 12 MLCs nominated for six years to the Upper House from the Governor's quota expired in June 2020 and since then they remain unfilled. Despite repeated pleas by MVA since November 2020 to clear the MLCs list of prominent personalities, there was no response from Raj

Bhavan. State Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant and NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase commented strongly on upcoming developments over the contentious issue. "The BJP is blatantly trying to undermine the Constitution and subvert the democracy in the country by nominating BJP-RSS political persons who misuse positions like the Raj Bhavan. This is sad and regretful," said Sawant.

Tapase called upon the Governor to exercise his 'raj dharma' and immediately clear the original list duly submitted by the MVA government to avoid politicising the issue. As per the rules, while the Governor has to abide by the recommendations of the state cabinet, there is no deadline within which he has to clear the nominations. The delays had resulted in several letters being sent by the MVA and its constituents and delegations to Raj Bhavan to get the list cleared but the efforts proved to be futile. On June 29, 2022, the MVA collapsed with the Shinde-Fadnavis duo taking over the following day and now the latter will send its own list of MLCs to Raj Bhavan for clearance.

Twitter team to fight online extremism 'vanishes'

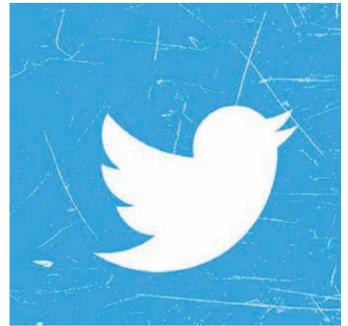
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Twitter's ambitious plan to tackle extremism on its platform went for a toss when Tesla CEO Elon Musk announced to buy it, and in months after that, the health research team has disappeared, from 15 employees to just two, the media reported.

Twitter had partnered with Moonshot, a company that analyses violent extremists, to begin a project called 'Redirect' to curb the spread of harmful content on its platform. According to The Verge, "the goal was to move the company from simply reacting to bad accounts and posts to proactively guiding users toward better behaviour".

However, before the project could see the light of the day, Musk in April announced to buy the company for \$44 billion, and all hell broke loose.

"Shortly afterward, employees who'd been leading the Moonshot partnership left. And in the months since Musk signed the deal, the health research team has all but evaporated, going from 15 staffers to just two," the report said late on Friday. The project sought to understand and address user behaviours. "Instead of focusing on designating bad accounts or content, we seek to understand how users find harmful group content in accounts and then to redirect those efforts," read an internal document.



INDIA'S ECONOMY UP FOR GRABS IN BATTLE BETWEEN ADANI AND AMBANI

Mumbai: Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani, both billionaires, have in recent years become the best-known faces of Indian business. To supporters, they are patriotic nation-builders, using their sway and resources to further India's economic progress. To critics, they are only in it for themselves. The Economist reported. Their motivation seems to lie somewhere in between, the report said.

"The duo's rising influence over Indian business is undisputed. Many observers now talk of the 'aa economy'. That is an exaggeration, but the combined revenues of the companies controlled by Messrs Adani and Ambani are equivalent to 4 per cent of India's GDP," The Economist reported. They are also responsible for 25 per cent of the capital spending of listed non-financial firms at a time when overall investment has been subdued.

Hackers exploit NASA's famous deep space image to attack computers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Cyber-security researchers have identified a unique attack where hackers are exploiting a hugely popular deep space image taken from NASA's James Webb telescope to infiltrate computers with malware.

A newly-discovered hacking campaign is exploiting an image from the James Webb Telescope to infect targets with malware.

In July, James Webb produced the deepest and sharpest infrared image of the distant universe to date, known as the 'First Deep Field'. Now, Securonix Threat research team has identified a persistent Golang-based attack campaign, that incorporates an equally interesting strategy by leveraging the deep field image taken from the



James Webb and obfuscated Golang (or Go) programming language payloads to infect the target system with the malware.

Golang-based malware is on the rise gaining popularity with APT hacking groups such as Mustang Panda. Go is an open-source programming language developed in 2007 by Robert Griesemer, Rob Pike, and Ken Thompson at Google.

"Initial infection begins with a phishing email containing a Microsoft Office attachment. The document includes an external reference hidden inside the document's metadata which downloads a malicious template file," said the researchers. When the document is opened, the malicious template file is downloaded and saved on the system.

India's forex reserves fall by \$3 bn to \$561.046 bn



Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$3,007 billion to \$561.046 billion in the week ending August 26, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The fall in the reserves was mainly attributed to fall in foreign currency assets (FCA). FCA fell by \$2,571 bil-

lion to \$498.645 billion during the reporting week. Gold reserves decreased by \$271 million to \$39.643 billion, the data revealed. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) dropped by \$155 million to \$17,832 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also dipped by \$10 million to \$4,926 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.



MISSION MODE A MUST FOR BRANDING AND MARKETING OF HORTICULTURAL CROPS:CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

363 Crop Based Food Processing Units Established in 'Ek Zila -Ek Utpad'. 25 thousand metric ton cold storage capacity will increase in the state this year. Bhopal among the ten districts to build Green house clusters. Incentives being given to farmers for betel cultivation too

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the activities of branding and marketing of horticulture crops and products in the districts should be done on mission mode under the 'Ek Zila -Ek Utpad' scheme. As many as 363 food processing units have been established in the state. Also, 212 units have been established under Pradhan Mantri Khadya Udyam Unnayan Yojna and 151 units under the Rajya Yojana, which is commendable. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the Horticulture Department should increase efforts to complete the works of setting up potato tissue culture and aeroponic labs, hi-tech floriculture nurseries and setting up 1500 micro food processing units in the long run. Chief Minister Chouhan reviewed the works of Horticulture and Food Processing Department at his residence today. Chouhan said that the



work of developing 14 lakh 28 thousand metric ton cold storage capacity has been done in the state. This year, the focus should be set for capacity addition of 25 thousand metric tonnes.

Chief Minister said that the short-term goals of the Horticulture Department including increasing

the divisional and block level and starting the Center of Excellence at Morena should also be completed. Green house clusters will be made in ten districts In the review meeting, Chief Minister Chouhan instructed to accelerate the work of increasing productivity and diversification of crops, efforts for agricultural infrastructure, increase in certified organic production, value addition of agriculture and horticulture products and additional employment for fisheries, sericulture development and beekeeping. It was informed that this year bhoomi-pujan of incubation centers has been done at Sehore, Gwalior and Morena. A cluster of shade net manufacturing has been developed in Betul district. Green house clusters will be developed in ten districts of the state including Bhopal, Sehore, Ujjain, Ratlam, Neemuch, Barwani, Khandwa, Khargone, Jabalpur and Chhindwara.

BJP chief on Vindhya region tour ahead of Assembly polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh BJP president and Khajuraho MP Vishnu Dutt Sharma is on a Vindhya region tour to strengthen the booth-level cadre of the party ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Sharma visited Rewa and met party leaders, including Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam and former cabinet minister and MLA Rajendra Shukla besides others. On his arrival, he was accorded a warm welcome by party workers and a roadshow was carried out in Sidhi district.

Slogans raised by his supporters during his Sidhi visit projected him as the Brahmin face for the chief minister's post.

Notably, in Vidhya region, which comprises Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Singrauli, Umaria and few others, the BJP had bagged 24 out of 30 Assembly seats in 2018. Also, this area is considered upper caste dominated, especially Rewa, Satna and Singrauli and the area is closely connected with Khajuraho, the Assembly constituency of Sharma.

Besides, Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Sharma is considered a prominent Brahmin face in BJP, who is one of the contestants for chief ministerial post, political observers said.

Sharma is visiting the Vindhya region where the panchayat and urban body elections concluded last month and the BJP has lost two crucial mayoral posts in Rewa and Singrauli. While it lost Singrauli mayoral post against debutant AAP, the party lost Rewa mayoral post after 25 years, which was a major setback specially when the BJP has all



eight assembly seats and Lok Sabha MP from the district.

In 2018, along with all eight Assembly seats in Rewa, the BJP has also managed to win Sidhi's Churhat seat, which had been a Congress dominated since the time of former HRD minister late Arjun Singh and then carried by his son Ajay Singh (Rahul). However, recently many BJP backed candidates lost elections in urban and district panchayat polls, including speaker Girish Gautam's son Vivek Gautam and ex-BJP MLA Panna Bai.

The reason behind defeat was internal conflict and factionalism within the senior BJP leaders and it was accepted by the top party leaders in the state. Now, the party's state president Sharma is touring these districts to re-strengthen the party's local level cadres in view of asset elections.

Addressing a gathering of party cadres in Sidhi district on Friday, Sharma said: "Vindhya is the strength of the BJP. We got massive support in the last Assembly polls and will win more seats this time."

Home Minister calls Shabana Azmi agent of Tukde-Tukde gang

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior BJP leader and Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra, who is known for making controversial comments, on Friday termed Bollywood personality Shabana Azmi as 'agents and sleeper cell of Tukde-Tukde gang'.

Mishra made the controversial remark while reacting to Shabana Azmi's comment questioning the release of 11 members convicted for the gang-rape of Bilkis Bano during the Gujarat riots in 2002.

Talking to mediapersons here, Mishra said these people don't utter even a single word when crimes are committed in a non-BJP state.

"Why these people were silent when a minor girl was killed in Jharkhand, why did not they say a single word on the Udaipur murder? Because they see crime in only in BJP-ruled states. These people are agents and sleeper cell of Tukde-Tukde gang," Mishra said. "These are the same people who had initiated award-wapsi," Mishra added.

Talking to a private news channel on Thursday, Shabana Azmi had said, "Bilkis



Bano didn't lose courage. She fought all the way. She got these people convicted and, like her husband says, just when she was about to bring her life together, this great travesty of justice happened." The 11 men, who were sentenced to life in connection with the gang-rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of seven members of her family, walked out of the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy.

CM will give training to newly appointed teachers

Training will be held on Sunday at Dussehra Ground BHEL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will give training to newly appointed teachers at Dussehra Maidan BHEL on September 4 at 12:30 pm. Tribal Affairs Minister Sushri Meena Singh Mandve and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for School Education Inder Singh Parmar will be present. Chief Minister Chouhan will also release departmental training policy and guide for maintenance of departmental assets. Chief Minister Chouhan will apprise about 15 thousand teachers about the direction of school education and future aspirations in the state. During this, TG Niyogi will guide the teachers on the topic "New education policy in the context of teacher", Dr. SB Ojha on "School Etiquette" and KK Parashar on "Evaluation".

CM Chouhan plants Kachnar, Neem and Saptaparni saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings with the members of Shri Kamtashil Jan Yuva Kalyan Samiti, Bhopal in Smart City Park.

Importance of plants The Kachnar planted today is a beautiful flowering tree. Nature has made many plants and trees that abound in medicinal properties, among them Kachnar is one. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Saptaparni plant is an ever-green medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. It is used in the manufacture of various medicines.



Celebrate birthdays with children in Anganwadi centres: CM Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh tops in the country for the fourth time in Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. Chief Minister Chouhan greets for success in efforts to end malnutrition. Review of schemes of Women and Child Development Department held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh tops the country by registering more than 30 lakh beneficiaries, distributing amount of 1294 crores and benefiting 2 lakh 26 thousand 306 beneficiaries till August in the current



financial year under the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. CM Chouhan has congratulated the Women and Child Development Department for the successful implementation of the scheme. Madhya Pradesh is at the first place at the national level for

the year 2021-22 in this scheme for the fourth consecutive year. CM Chouhan said that the Women and Child Development Department should convey the message of these works to the public by branding the innovations and achievements. Chief Minister Chouhan said that

just as a call has been given to plant saplings on birthdays and marriage anniversaries, in the same way, citizens can do the work of distribution of sweets and having meals with children by visiting Anganwadi centres. Efforts should also be made by the department for this. During the review of 'Adopt An Anganwadi' in the meeting, it was informed that on the initiative of Chief Minister Chouhan, public cooperation of 25 crores has been received for Anganwadi centres in the state including toys, other materials. Initiatives have been taken for infrastructure works.

For Anganwadi centres, outdoor sports material, swings and slides etc. have been supplied. More than one and a half thousand centres have been upgraded as Adarsh Anganwadi centres. Footwear and hygiene kits have also been supplied for the children.

Tribal youth dies in police custody in Indore, five cops suspended

Five police personnel, including a sub-inspector (SI), were suspended after a 19-year-old tribal youth, who was arrested as a suspect in a robbery case, died in police custody in Indore on Saturday, the police said.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The deceased has been identified as Arjun Singare, a resident of Gittiphoda in Indore's Manpur area.

Singare was arrested late on Friday night in connection with a case of dacoity and illegal arms possession from Manpur.

The police claimed that besides dacoity, Singare was also an accused in two other cases.

"He was detained from his home in Manpur for interrogation. However, his health

deteriorated after which he was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died during treatment," the police said.

However, the kin of the deceased refuted police's claims and accused them of assaulting the youth at the police station, leading to his death. Enraged by Singare's death, his family members along with scores of tribals staged a protest and blocked the Agra-Mumbai highway in front of the police station, demanding compensation and government job for a family member. Later, SP (Rural) Bhagwat

Singh Virde ordered suspension of five cops who were handling the case and also recommended judicial probe into the matter.

"The body has been sent for post-mortem and the district sessions court has been requested for a judicial probe into the matter," read an order issued by Virde.

The order said that SI Kamal Uike, ASIs Devesh Verma and Nirbhay Singh and constables Gajraj and Sonbir have been suspended and attached to the Mhow police lines pending the probe.

LIGHTNING STRIKE: 3 DEAD, 5 INJURED IN SINGRAULI

Singrauli: Three persons were killed and five were injured on Saturday in a lightning strike in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, police said. Three persons died on the spot and of the five injured, the condition of two women was critical, an official said. "The incident took place in Karhiya, some 100 kilometres from the district headquarters. The victims were working in a field. The deceased have been identified as Shyam Lal Kol (55), Meru Prasad Saket (52) and Laxman Prasad Kol (40)." Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the untimely demise of many citizens due to lightning strike in Karhiya village of Singrauli district. Chief Minister has prayed for the peace of the departed souls and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this loss. He prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

To-be mothers wilt as water crisis worsens in Ratlam

S.R. PAREEK | Ratlam

Parvati Parmar goes out to fetch water three times a day - and it is just enough to meet the daily needs of her family of six. In total, she walks around 3km every day, carrying two pots of water from a nearby hand pump every time.

Parmar (26) lives in Mangrol village, located 7km from Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh, and is expecting her third child. She has to do the chore regularly, and her two children are always in tow.

"If I do not fetch water, work at the household will come to a standstill. Both my in-laws are aged, and my children are three and two years old. After their birth, water consumption in our household increased, and so did my trips to the hand pump," says Parmar.

She wakes up at 6 am and rushes to the pump, located 400m from her house. The two pots of water that she brings back are used for activities related to making breakfast and lunch. In the afternoon, she is back at the pump to fetch more for washing clothes. Another trip ensues in the evening for cleaning utensils. If the family needs more water, she takes more trips.

Parmar is anxious about the child in her belly. "I get tired easily, and my body is weak. There were no complications when the first two were born. But this time, I was told during a check-up at the



Anganwadi centre that I am anaemic." Sometimes, she has to stop to catch a breath midway; sometimes, she takes a break at the hand pump to gain her strength before starting her walk back home.

Bearing the brunt

Not only Mangrol, other villages and development blocks - Dharad, Sailana, Bodina, Bajna and Dhabaipada, to name a few - in Ratlam district have the same story to tell.

According to Urmila Pal, an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM), around 200 women go through pregnancy annually in Dharad. Of them, 80% are anaemic.

In Mangrol, for example, 20 anaemic women walk to hand pumps,

and queue up for two to three hours to fetch water. This, when pregnant women, especially in the first trimester, are advised against carrying heavy loads. Satyendra Rajavat, the medical officer at Dharad's primary health centre, however, does not see it as a problem. He says a pregnant woman may find it difficult to fetch water, but it still serves as an exercise. "If she has to carry around five litres of water every day, it is not that much of a problem. Pregnant women need to be cautious during the first trimester, but they are also advised to exercise regularly," says Rajavat, while warning that lifting more than 50kg elevates the risk of a miscarriage. ANM Pal, however, says carrying heavy pails of water every day, while not getting enough rest and nutrition, exposes women to an array of pregnancy-related complications.

Ranu (25) from Bodina had to walk to a nearby tube well every day to get water, while also taking care of her family and performing daily chores. She suffered a miscarriage, according to accredited social health activist (ASHA) worker Madhu Goyal.

Another pregnant woman in the village, Kajal Nat's haemoglobin has never gone beyond 9 gm/dL, despite taking iron tablets and injections. Her doctor has advised rest, but she still walks to the hand pump, though takes multiple breaks. But neither Nat nor others have the luxury of rest. It is more important to quench the thirst of the families than to worry about probabilities.



Los Angeles | Agencies

BLACK GOLD

Beyonce puts on a sexy display in black and gold as she tantalizes fans in new Instagram posts promoting Tiffany's partnership

Beyonce's fans were treated to a string of new posts on Friday as the songstress appeared on Instagram. The almost 41-year-old music artist donned various black and gold outfit combinations in photos and videos in partnership with Tiffany's. The Houston-bred musician was seen in multiple diamond pieces, as well as gold jewelry as her song *SUMMER RENAISSANCE* played in the clips. Her honey-blond hair was styled in a side part as she wore a chunky, chainlink necklace and matching bracelet. The mother-of-three's visage was highlighted with smokey and golden eyeshadow in addition to blushed cheeks and glossy lips. n another attention-grabbing portrait she posed on a lush green carpet wearing an asymmetrical bodysuit. It had sharp shoulder pads, a cleavage-baring cutout and featured only one clinging pant-leg.

Kate Moss

in 'not very high maintenance' when it comes to make-up

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Kate Moss insists her make-up routine is "not very high maintenance." The 48-year-old supermodel keeps her day-to-day make-up natural and "basic" unless she's getting dolled up for a night out, reports *aceshowbiz.com*. "I'd have to say I'm not very high maintenance when it comes to doing my own makeup. If I go out on a night ... I'll put

more on obviously, do an eye. During the day, I keep it pretty basic," she said. The catwalk beauty also said that she has been doing yoga and meditation to keep her "grounded and balanced." She told *Vogue* in a Beauty Secrets video, "I've been meditating, doing yoga, just being much healthier a all of this stuff that can make you feel more grounded and balanced."

Moss said that her daughter Lila - also a model - is always telling her off for not wearing sun protection. "My daughter tells me off all the time. I do know it's important." Kate - who has 19-year-old daughter Lila with former partner Jefferson Hack - loves to retreat to her garden when she's feeling tired. She explained: "I come here and lie on the grass and burn frankincense. I listen to music and have a moment of peace. It's so peaceful. This is where I come to get grounded."



TIMOTHEE CHALAMET

BLASTS SOCIAL MEDIA NEGATIVITY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Timothée Chalamet blasted the social media world at the Venice press conference for Luca Guadagnino's *Bones and All* in which he and co-star Taylor Russell play cannibal lovers on a road trip across America.

Taking his cue from the fact that the story is set in the '80s, when social media did not exist, Chalamet went on an anti-social media tirade, reports *Variety*.

"To be young now, and to be young whenever, I can only speak for my generation, is to be intensely judged," said Chalamet.

"I can't imagine what it is to grow up with the onslaught of social media, and it was a relief to play characters who are wrestling with an internal dilemma absent the ability to go on Reddit, or Twitter, Instagram or TikTok and figure out where they fit in."

"I'm not casting judgement," he added. "You can find your tribe there. But I think it's hard to be alive now. I think societal collapse is in the air. That's why hopefully this movie will matter."

Based on the book by Camille DeAngelis and adapted by David Kajganich, with whom Guadagnino collaborated on *A Bigger Splash* and *Suspria*, *Bones & All* is the story of Maren (Taylor Russell), a young woman learning how to survive on the margins of society, and Lee (Chalamet), an intense and disenfranchised drifter, as they meet and join together for an trip that takes them across the backroads of Ronald Reagan's America.

JANE FONDA

DIAGNOSED WITH NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA



Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran Hollywood star Jane Fonda has announced that she has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and has started chemotherapy treatments.

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma is a cancer that starts in the lymphatic system. It occurs when the body produces too many abnormal lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell.

"This is a very treatable cancer," Fonda wrote in the post on Instagram. "80 per cent of people survive, so I feel very lucky. I'm also lucky because I have health insurance and access to the best doctors and treatments. I realise, and it's painful, that I am privileged in this."

"Almost every family in America has had to deal with cancer at one time or another and far too many don't have access to the quality health care I am receiving and this is not right."

Fonda said that she will be "doing chemo for 6 months, adding: "I am handling the treatments quite well and, believe me, I will not let any of this interfere with my climate activism."

"Cancer is a teacher and I'm paying attention to the lessons it holds for me," Fonda added.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Ozzy Osbourne and his wife Sharon Osbourne are returning to reality TV. The reigning couple of metal have signed on to a new docuseries titled *'Home to Roost'*, which will document their journey back to Britain as they restart their lives in the countryside.

"The series will follow the Osbournes as they celebrate one of their most important years yet - with everything from Sharon's 70th birthday to Kelly's soon-to-be-born baby, Ozzy's tour, and of course the big move itself," reads the logline, reports *Variety*.

The docuseries, which is announced exactly 20 years after their original show *'The Osbournes'* first launched on MTV, will also follow the couple as they deal with health challenges as well as ageing.

It will air on BBC One and iPlayer in the UK International sales, including in the US, have not yet been announced. Banijay Rights are handling international distribution.

Ozzy recently revealed that

increase in gun crime was one of the reasons he planned to return to the UK. "Everything's fucking ridiculous there," he told the U.K.'s *Observer* magazine. "I'm fed up with people getting killed every day. God knows how many people have been shot in school shootings. And there was that mass shooting in Vegas at that concert. It's fucking crazy."

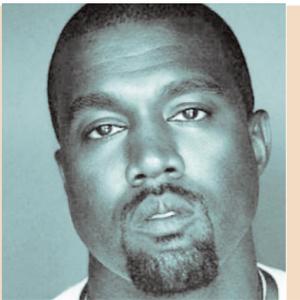
The Osbournes' ran for four seasons and turned the Black Sabbath frontman's family - wife Sharon, daughter Kelly and son Jack - into household names.

The new series will be made by *Expectation* and was commissioned for BBC One and iPlayer by Clare Sillery, head of commissioning, documentaries. *Expectation's* creative directors are Ben Wicks (for comedy and entertainment) and Colin Barr (for factual and factual drama). The BBC's commissioning editor is Hamish Fergusson.

I HAVE 'ADDICTION' TO PORN: KANYE WEST

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West has admitted that he is addicted to porn and said that it "destroyed" his family. "Don't let Kris make you do playboy like she made (Kylie) and Kim do," he began in an Instagram post on Thursday, addressing Victoria Villarreal, Kylie Jenner's former assistant, reports *pagesix.com*. "Hollywood is a giant brothel Pornography destroyed my family I deal with the addiction Instagram promotes it Not gonna let it happen to Northy and Chicago," he continued. The 'Donda' rapper was talking about Kris Jenner, who manages Kylie and his ex-wife, Kim Kardashian, supporting her daughters as they shot for *Playboy* magazine in September 2019 and 2007 respectively.

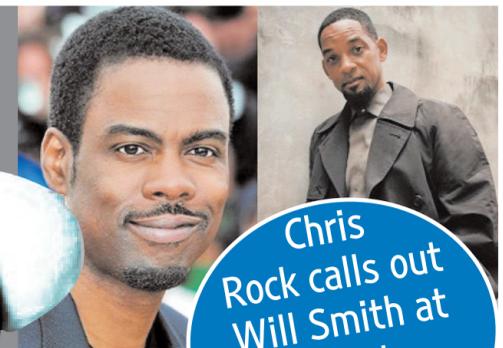


ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maria Berigova

Chris Rock calls out Will Smith at latest stand-up gig



Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian Chris Rock claims Will Smith managed to pretend to be a "perfect man for 30 years" before revealing he is "just as ugly as the rest of us". During a gig with fellow stand-up Dave Chappelle at Liverpool's M and S Arena on the first night of their joint multi-date tour, the comic, 57, finally shared his extensive feelings about being slapped by the 53-year-old actor at this year's Oscars, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

"Did that **** hurt?" Chappelle, asked Rock in front of the crowd, prompting Chris to exclaim, "Goddam right... the mother-er**** hit me over a bulls**** joke - the

nicest joke I ever told.

Will did the impression of a perfect person for 30 years, and he ripped his mask off and showed us he was as ugly as the rest of us."

"Whatever the consequences are... I hope he doesn't put his mask back on again, and lets his real face breathe. I see myself in both men." Rock also took aim at Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, during the show by mocking her complaints about life and the royal family. He said: "I just don't get it," as he spoke about today's obsession with "victimhood," which the comic labelled a way of getting famous. Smith stormed the stage at the Academy Awards in March and whacked Chris after the comic compared the 'Seven Pounds' actor's wife's shaven head to actress Demi Moore's buzzcut in the 1997 film *'G.I. Jane'*.

The actor then twice howled at Chris from his seat in front of stunned A-listers and while watched by millions of film fans around the world, "Keep my wife's name out your f***** mouth."



Asia Cup 2022

SRI LANKA BEAT AFGHANISTAN BY FOUR WICKETS IN SUPER 4



Brief scores
Afghanistan 175/6 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 84, Ibrahim Zadran 40, Dilshan Madushanka 2/37) lost to Sri Lanka 179/6 in 19.1 overs (Kusal Mendis 36, Pathum Nissanka 35; Mujeeb Ur Rahman 2/30) by 4 wickets

Sharjah | Agencies

Sri Lanka produced a commanding performance to beat Afghanistan by four wickets in a Super Four match of the Asia Cup 2022 at the Sharjah International Stadium, here on Saturday.

An excellent attacking knock by Rahmanullah Gurbaz (84 off 45) powered Afghanistan to a challenging 175/6 in 20 overs. Apart from Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran also played an impactful knock (40 off 38) for Afghanistan, who would

have hoped for a blistering finish but they lost wickets in a cluster in the last few overs. Despite losing wickets at regular intervals, Sri Lankan batters didn't allow the required run rate to rise high and eventually chased the target in 19.1 overs with four wickets in hand. Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/30), Naveen-ul-Haq (2/40), Mohammad Nabi (1/34), and Rashid Khan (1/39), were the wicket-takers for Afghanistan.

Earlier, put into bat first, Afghanistan were off to a good start, scoring 49/1 in the powerplay. While Gurbaz was in an

attacking mode and did the bulk of the scoring, Hazratullah Zazai was not able to find any fluency right through his innings. Eventually, Zazai played across to a length delivery and was clean bowled for 13 off 16 in the 5th over.

Both Gurbaz and Zadran put on a stand of 93 runs for the second wicket. When Gurbaz got out in the 16th over, Afghanistan were 139-2 and looked set for a strong finish.

Rashid Khan (9) managed to hit a six in the last over and took Afghanistan to 175-6.



Home Minister Amit Shah to launch 36th National Games anthem and mascot on Sunday

Ahmedabad: The 36th National Games, Gujarat 2022 will be officially launched at the EKA Arena TransStadia here on Sunday (September 4) in the presence of eminent dignitaries from the world of politics and sport. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will grace the mega event along with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur. Over 9,000 guests from across the state are expected to attend the ceremony. The National Games will take place from September 29 to October 12. The curtain-raiser event on September 4 will witness the unveiling of the Games anthem and mascot, as well as a custom-curated website and mobile application, marking the beginning of the biggest sporting extravaganza in the country. "We are delighted and proud to host the National Games," Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel said. "We are eagerly waiting for India's top athletes and officials and are leaving no stone unturned to make this the best Games ever," he added. The 36th National Games, whose theme is 'Celebrating Unity Through Sports', are being held after a gap of seven years.

RYAN BURL TAKES FIVE AS ZIMBABWE RECORD HISTORIC ODI WIN AGAINST AUSTRALIA

Townsville | Agencies

Zimbabwe scored a historic three-wicket victory against the Aaron Finch-led Australia, with leg-spinner Ryan Burl grabbing five wickets for just 10 runs as he brought the hosts to their knees in the third and final One-day International here on Saturday.

Though Australia clinched the series 2-1, it was the manner in which the hosts capitulated which stood out, with nine of their batters scoring in single digit. Opener David Warner, with his patient 96-ball 94, helped the hosts to 141 before they were bundled out in 31 overs. In reply, Zimbabwe notched up the required runs for the loss of seven wickets in 39 overs to record a memorable win. Australia had a forgettable start with the bat, as they were reduced to 72/5 after only 18 overs. Put in to bat first, Zimbabwe made full use of the conditions on offer here. Richard Ngarava and Victor Nyauchi sent Finch and Steve Smith packing for 5 and 1 respectively. Brad Evans then inflicted a double-strike, sending Alex Carey (4) and Marcus Stoinis (3) back into the dressing room. Cameron Green departed soon to Sean Williams for 3 as half the Australian side was back in the hut before the 20th over. David Warner



could only watch from the other end, as wickets fell at regular intervals and the Burl show started. Warner brought up his 26th ODI half-century, mixing caution with aggression. But he was hapless as Burl cleaned up the Australia lineup from the other end.

Glenn Maxwell (19) and Ashton Agar (0) were his first two victims. Warner finally ran out of patience, as Burl accounted for his wicket after a workman-like 94. Burl then dismissed the remainder of the tail including Mitchell Starc (2) and Josh Hazlewood (0) as Australia were bowled out for 141. Burl ended his spell with figures of 5/10, according to ICC. Zimbabwe had a decent partnership at the top, with Takudzwanashe Kaitano and Tadiwanashe Marumani giving them a 38-run opening stand. But after Kaitano was dismissed on 19 by Hazlewood, the visitors would have to endure some jitters.

US OPEN:

Ons Jabeur needs three sets to advance; Kudermetova beats Dalma Galfi



New York | Agencies

Ons Jabeur, the fifth seed, ended her first week in the US Open with a three sets victory against American Shelby Rogers to reach the pre-quarterfinals for the third consecutive time here on Friday.

The victory pushed Jabeur's record against Americans to 11-1 this season and put her into the fourth round of the US Open for the first time in her career. The Tunisian is the first player from her country to do well in the Grand Slams. It was a disappointing loss for Rogers, who for the past two years has dethroned several

top seeds here in Flushing Meadows, including last year's victory over No. 1 Ash Barty.

On Friday, the American put together a solid two sets of tennis that had the No. 5 seed scrambling across every inch of the court, and on a few occasions even had her diving onto the court to try to stay in the point. Looked back, taking seven of the last 10 games to seal the win. Veronika Kudermetova produced a quality performance on Day 5 at the 2022 US Open, fitting her status as the No. 18 seed as she dispatched No. 91 Dalma Galfi, 6-2, 6-0, in a 47-minute serving masterclass in the Grandstand.

Asia Cup 2022:

Rahul's knock will be key to India's chances for Pakistan - Aakash Chopra

Dubai | Agencies

Star batter KL Rahul might have not scored big runs in the ongoing Asia Cup but former India cricketer Aakash Chopra feels the opener's knock will be a key for India's chances of winning the match against Pakistan on Sunday.

India and Pakistan will meet for the second time on Sunday in the ongoing Asia Cup in the Super Four stage. India defeated Pakistan on August 28 when the two sides met for their respective opening game in the Asia Cup. Opening batter KL Rahul who is coming after an injury has not been able to live up to expectations. In the match against Pakistan, he scored a golden duck and played a sluggish knock against Hong Kong. However, Aakash Chopra hopes Rahul will have a good game and the



batter will play important role in taking India over the line against Pakistan on Sunday. "People tend to confuse Rahul's IPL numbers with his numbers for Team India. While playing for India, his strike-rate is really high. And I feel that Rahul's knock will be key to India's chances for the game against Pakistan on Sunday. Hope he has a good game. Fingers crossed," said Aakash Chopra exclusively on homegrown social media. Meanwhile, the All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Axar Patel as the replacement for Ravindra Jadeja in the ongoing Asia Cup.

Jadeja has sustained a right knee injury and is ruled out of the tournament. He is currently under the supervision of the BCCI medical team. His replacement, Axar Patel was earlier named as one of the standbys in the squad and will join the team in Dubai.

Shaji Prabhakaran appointed new secretary-general of AIFF

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) Executive Committee came into being, with former player Kalyan Chaubey as its president, it took its first major decision, appointing Shaji Prabhakaran as the new secretary-general on Saturday.

Chaubey chaired his first AIFF Executive Committee meeting at its headquarters, the Football House, and welcomed all the new members, including six eminent footballers who were co-opted in the body.

All the executive committee members, including vice-president NA Harris, treasurer Ajay Kipa and the six eminent footballers co-opted in the panel, except Bhaichung Bhutia, were present in the meeting. Welcoming the members, the Chaubey said, "This is the first



time that six former eminent players are part of the committee as per the order of the Honourable Supreme Court. We need to work together, and at no time should any personal ego come as a roadblock on our endeavour to take Indian football forward together. Discipline is the key to success, and we need to be accountable as per the deadlines set." He proposed Prabhakaran's name as the new secretary-general of the AIFF, which was unanimously approved by all the members.

Durand Cup: Hyderabad FC fall to first defeat of 2022 campaign against Army Red



Imphal (Manipur) | Agencies

After three back-to-back victories in the group stage of the Durand Cup 2022 campaign, Manolo Marquez's Hyderabad FC tasted their first defeat, as they lost 1-0 to Army Red FC, in their final group game at the Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Saturday. Suresh Methei, the skipper of the Services' side scored with a glancing header in the 33rd minute, which turned out to be the only goal on a tough evening in Imphal.

Manolo Marquez made plenty of changes to the Starting XI but Hyderabad managed to create plen-

ty of chances throughout the game. The likes of Halicharan Narzary, Lalchungnunga Chhangte, Borja Herrera, Aaren D'Silva and Javi Siverio, coming off the bench, all came close on fair few occasions, but HFC failed to find the back of the net for the first time in this campaign. Bhabindra Sureshi, the shot-stopper for Army Red was at the top of his game, as he made five superb saves to deny HFC throughout the evening. His contribution to helping Army Red to their first win of the campaign, saw him named the 'Player of the Match' on the evening, the club informed in a release on Saturday.

India jr international GP: Darshan scripts history, enters singles final

Pune | Agencies

Unseeded Darshan Pujari stormed into the men's singles final and likewise earned the distinction of being the first-ever Puneite to make the singles (men or women) final in the eleven-year history of the India Junior International Grand Prix 2022 and played in memory of the Late Sushant Chipalkatti. The 18-year-old Darshan defeated qualifier Dhruv Negi 21-12, 21-17 victory that took 39 minutes at the P. E. Society's Modern PD MBA Sports Complex, on Saturday. The clash between India No. 10 Darshan and Uttarakhand's Dhruv was the first ever. For Darshan, a Khelo India winner, the title clash on Sunday will be his second in an international tourney having played the Indian Junior International Series

at Hyderabad where he exits early losing to Malaysian world No. 1 Justin Ho. "It was a learning experience. I learnt a lot from that game and this time around I was determined to do well," said the Pune lad. In the final, Darshan takes on No. 7 seed Muhammad Halim As Sidiq (Indonesia), who defeated No. 8 Ayush Shetty 21-15, 21-15. While Darshan basked in glory, it was not the same for local lass and No. 7 seed Tara Shah who went down tamely to No. 3 seed Haryana-lass Unnati Hooda in the first semifinal of the women's singles. Unnati all through was in the driver's seat which eventually ended in her favour in straight games 21-9, 21-17.

The first game was a breeze for World No. 23 Unnati, who won seven points in a row and lead 7-0. Local favourite, Tara, ranked 64

ranks below her rival, found the gap too hard to narrow as Unnati thereafter upped the tempo to win three points in a row and swelled the lead to 14-6, which eventually led to the end of the first 'ame in Unnati's favour.

In the second Unnati led 2-0, which Tara cut to 2-1, but then again like the first game the Haryana shuttler pulled away winning six points in a row to take an 8-1 lead. Tara, thereafter, got as close as 6-10 and then 17-19 but eventually it was a day out for the in-form player Unnati who was consistent all through the 27 minutes they were on the court.

RESULTS (All Indians unless mentioned otherwise):

Men's Singles (semis): Darshan Pujari bt Q- Dhruv Negi 21-12, 21-17; 7-Muhammad Halim As Sidiq (Indonesia) Bt 8-Ayush Shetty 21-

15, 21-15.

Men's Doubles (semis): 4-Choi Jian Sheng/Bryan Jeremy Gooning (Malaysia) Bt Nicholas Raj/Tushar Suveer 21-14, 21-19 Women's Singles (semis): 9-Sarunrak Vitidsarn (Thailand) bt 1-Anupama Upadhya 21-17, 21-16; 3-Unnati Hooda Bt 7-Tara Shah 21-9, 21-17 - 27 mins Women's Doubles (semis): Vennala Kalagotla/Shriyanshi Valishetty bt Navya Kanderi/Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj 22-20, 21-12; Nardhana Ravishankar/Ridhi Kaur Toor Bt Neysa Cariappa. A/Taneesha Singh Mixed Doubles (semis): Prem Kumar Prabhuraj Mohan/Kanishka Ganesan Bt Sathwik Reddy Kanapuram/Vaishnavi Khadkekar 21-15, 21-12; Divyam Arora/Ridhi Kaur Toor bt Samarveer/Radhika Sharma 22-20, 24-22.

U-17 WOMEN'S WC:

India 2022 will turn country into a hotspot for women's football: Ashalata

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India is focussed on the growth of women's football and the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 will expedite its progress as the nation prepares for its biggest football carnival in October this year, said India women's football team captain Ashalata Devi on Saturday.

With the best players in the U-17 category from around the world making their way to India for the event which will be held from October 11 and October 30, and the event being broadcast on television, the people of this nation will have a chance to witness a very high level of competitive football, she said.

"India is going to be the hotspot for women's football due to the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022. Many people in India don't know about women's



football but with this tournament being telecast on television, the people in many parts of our country will get to know how far women's football can go. This FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 is a great opportunity for the future of Indian women's football," Ashalata Devi was quoted as saying in a release by the organising committee on Saturday.



'HOPE I DIDN'T SUCK AT IT', JONITA GANDHI ON ACTING DEBUT

Team Absolute | Chennai

Popular playback singer Jonita Gandhi, who has turned an actress with director Vinayak V's film, 'Walking Talking Strawberry Icecream', has called working on the film a 'fun experience'.

Taking to Instagram to share her thoughts on acting in a film, the singer turned actress said, "So I did a thing... Say hello to Piku! Watch out for my appearance in 'Walking Talking Strawberry Icecream'."

"It's a small but fun role and I hope I didn't suck at it. Such a fun experience with a lovely team. Happy to add a checkmark beside 'act in a film' on my bucket list!"

The film, which features four other women in the lead roles, is being produced by director Vignesh Shivan's Rowdy Pictures.

Only recently, the director had announced the names of all the actresses who were part of the project.

Vignesh Shivan had, in his announcement, said, "Glad to have Riya Suman as Ketika in our 'Walking Talking Strawberry IceCream. With the very beautiful Chahar Malti playing Anamika, Vaishnavi as Sangamithra and Rachael as Tejon Maya. Bringing to you all of these talents together from Rowdy Pictures."



KJo and Rajamouli united our film industry: Jr NTR

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor starrer magnum-opus Brahmastra is inching close to its release. Ahead of the release, a new-release event was held in Hyderabad with Jr NTR as the Chief Guest. Apart from him, SS Rajamouli, Mouni Roy, Naga Chaitanya, Karan Johar, and Apoorva Mehta graced the event with their presence.

At the event, Jr NTR heaped praises on the cast and makers of

Brahmastra.

He started by adulating megastar Amitabh Bachchan's intensity. Talking about the same, he said, "I've liked many actors in the Indian film industry, but only a few have left an impression on me as actors. I am a big fan of Amitabh Bachchan's intensity and have lived it in all of his films. He has really left a lasting impression on me as an actor."

He even praised Ranbir Kapoor for his intensity and revealed a film of him which is his favourite. Soeaking about it, Jr NTR quipped, "If there is an actor I really connect with after Amitabh Bachchan, it would be Ranbir Kapoor. Even his intensity appeals to me. I've been influenced as an actor by each of his movies. Rockstar is by far my favourite."

He went on to call his RRR co-star Alia Bhatt as one of the finest actors of our generation. Recalling the conversations they had during RRR's Shoot, Jr NTR averred, "She is truly adorable and one of the people with whom I have an emotional connection. After our conversations during the RRR shoot, all I can say is that she is a true gem of a person. I am confident that Brahmastra will add another feather to her cap."

Lastly, expressing the mightiest respect for Karan Johar, the RRR star said, "I have always said, and will continue to say, that Karan Sir and SS Rajamouli have united our film industry as one Indian film industry. I will always respect him for that."

'A LOT OF NEGATIVE HYSTERIA HAS BEEN GENERATED AROUND BOLLYWOOD AND A LOT OF IT IS LIES'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Swara Bhasker is known for her outspoken nature and has never minced her words. She has always expressed her views about issues that plague society and stood up for women empowerment and equal rights. The actress who debuted with the film Madholal Keep Walking is well known for her roles in films. Meanwhile, talking about the trend of 'Boycott Bollywood', the actor recently said that the trend is being promoted to harm the film industry which, she believes, promotes secularism. In an interview with a leading news portal, when asked about the social media trend of 'Boycott Bollywood', the actor said, "A lot of negative hysteria has been generated around Bollywood and a lot of it is lies. I like to

say that the 'bring down Bollywood' brigade is actually running a small industry of their own. They are profiting from it. All these Twitter handles. It's like an industry on its own." Swara explained the agenda behind social media trends, "It is driven by an agenda for sure. The larger part of it has been that in 109 years, Bollywood has been one of the most popular vehicles of Indian secularism. Look at the kind of films we have made, we have always given the message that everyone is equal, love is greater than societal divide. Look at the credit at the end of the Bollywood film, every regional and linguistic identity of India is always represented there." She further said that the film industry in its early days was spearheaded by the Parsi and Muslim communities.



Swara Bhasker on 'Boycott Bollywood' trend



URMILA'S 'RANGEELA RE' INSPIRED ANKITA LOKHANDE TO BECOME AN ACTRESS

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Ankita Lokhande calls herself a huge fan of Urmila Matondkar's song 'Rangeela Re' from the 1995 film 'Rangeela' and shared that it was this track which inspired her to become an actress.

She says: "I remember when I was in 3rd standard, I wrote in my diary that I want to become an actress and my mother read it. Since then, my mother has become a constant support system for me. In fact, I danced

a lot to Urmila Ji's song 'Rangeela Re'."

During the dance reality show while referring to the Bollywood actress and judge Urmila, she shares that she is the inspiration behind her acting career. "Just because of that particular song I dreamed of becoming an actress. I must say, it was her song that became a lucky charm for me because it helped me to win multiple dance competitions in my childhood. I would love to add that I have the best parents in my life as they are the biggest support for me," added Ankita.

Female gaze is kinder and sensitive: Nawazuddin

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Acclaimed actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, started working on 'Haddi', where he'll be seen playing a transgender, talked about his experience of working with female directors. Nawaz then went on to point out some differences between male and female filmmakers.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui rose to fame with 'Peepli Live' with director Anusha Rizvi. He has worked with Director Debamitra Biswal for 'Motichoor Chaknachoor', Nawazuddin has taken on a very challenging role of prolific



writer 'Manto' in Nandita Das's directorial venture.

He has also worked with Zoya Akhtar in 'Bombay Talkies', an anthology of four short stories that describe how films have an influence on the lives of people from various strata of society.

He also worked on 'Talaash' with Reema Kagti. Nawaz stated: "I have worked with many renowned female directors and that helped me a great deal. I realised that women look at the world differently, They are far more compassionate and they see beauty in everything."



Instagram Pic of the Day: Mrunal Thakur



AMITABH BACHCHAN & RASHMIKA MANDANNA REVEAL THE FIRST LOOK OF THEIR UPCOMING FLICK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prepare to be moved by a touching story about life, family and relationships, and a celebration of life. Goodbye, directed by Vikas Bahl, is a heartwarming story about every Indian family ever. The film's first poster depicts Mr. Bachchan and Rashmika in a beautiful father-daughter moment in which they are seen celebrating life while flying a kite.

The film, which stars Amitabh Bachchan, Neena Gupta, Rashmika Mandanna, and Pavail Gulati in pivotal roles, will take audiences on an emotional roller coaster filled with laughter, warmth, and tears. Elli AvrRam, Sunil Grover, Sahil Mehta, and Abhishek Khan also play important roles in the film. For the unversed, Goodbye is set to be released worldwide in cinemas on 7th October, 2022.