

Despite success of Project Tiger, national animal fights for survival

SAVE FOREST, SAVE TIGERS

Do you know India once had 1,00,000 tigers? Over the years, this number kept dwindling as Britishers and the erstwhile maharajas took up hunting. Meanwhile, no comprehensive law was in place to look after the wildlife till the 1960s even as widespread hunting of tigers was reported all over India. Queen Elizabeth II of Britain along with her consort, Prince Phillip, who visited Ranthambore in the early 60s reportedly to hunt tigers, was hosted royally by the then government, says wildlife expert Harshwardhan.

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

Then came Project Tiger (PT) in 1973 where the WWF-International assumed a lead role and clueless forest officers adopted a fudging tactic to show increasing tiger numbers. Even now, things have not changed and the tiger faces yet another challenge -- its forest cover is shrinking thereby increasing man-animal conflict. Almost 10-15 tigers and tigresses are roaming outside almost all the best breeding reserves in India as dominant males do not allow newly-born, young and sub-adult males to remain inside the park, he added. These vagrant tigers face tough challenges in their newly adopted 'homes' which are people by villagers and their livestock. The additional population of tigers inside the reserves therefore is getting rehabilitated outside the reserves. Further, tiger corridors are missing. The outcome: many tigers are killed by the villagers, or get knocked down in road accidents and mishaps. In fact, Rajasthan famous for its tigers and jungle safaris, is in the news these days for the skewed gender ratio, tigers' fight for survival and missing tigers reports. The Rajasthan Assembly recently discussed the issue of 13 missing tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR). The state forest department said that it has no evidence of 13 tigers in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the past



three years -- January 2019 to January 2022 -- while answering a question related to missing tigers which was raised by state BJP president Satish Poonia. The forest department stated that among these 13 tigers, no evidence has been found of two tigers (T-20 and T-23) since 2019, seven tigers (T-47, T-42, T-64, T-73, T-95, T-97 and T-92) since 2020 and four tigers (T-72, T-62, T-126 and T-100) since 2021. While four out of these 13 tigers were old, it is possible that the others may have died naturally, fled from their territory due to high density of tigers or died in territorial clashes with other tigers, it said. Among the 13 tigers, nine were from

the Ranthambore core area and two were from the Ranthambore buffer area. The other two lived in the Kailadevi reserve forest outside the RTR, the data showed. In its reply, the government said that due to the increase in their population and density around Ranthambore, more cases relating to missing tigers, territorial fights between tigers and deaths have surfaced. The ratio between male and female tigers in RTR is 1:1.3, which is unnatural. Most of the tigers, out of the 32 females, at present in the breeding age have also contributed to an increased population, the data said. "The tiger population has increased in Ranthambore and we have already passed the carrying capacity. There are around 55 mature tigers while as per our carrying capacity, we have space for around 40-45 mature tigers only. As a result of this overpopulation, tigers migrate or end up fighting with other tigers in territorial battles," said a senior forest official. PS Somashekar, a retired forest officer from Rajasthan said, "We might see the big cat numbers growing, but in reality, we are losing the battle." "There was a time when the stories of man-animal coexistence sounded real. This was in the 70s and 80s but now it is a thing of the past. The development of areas around jungles, four-lane highways, electricity, sound of bikes and jeeps many a times prompt these animals to come out of their peripheries." As the tiger is a carnivore, it needs regular movement from one area to another, however, we have created obstructions in its movement area, he said.

AIR POLLUTION AMPLIFYING NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: INDIAN-ORIGIN RESEARCHER

New York | Agencies

Air pollution can amplify negative effects of climate change and in some cases, pollution co-emitted with CO2 can increase the social cost of carbon by as much as 66 per cent, a new study co-led by an Indian-origin researcher has revealed. It is the first such study to simulate how aerosol pollution affects both climate and air quality for locations around the globe. Aerosols are tiny solid particles and liquid droplets that contribute to smog and are emitted from industrial factories. The researchers, led by The University of Texas at Austin and the University of California San Diego in the US, found that, depending on where they are emitted, aerosols can worsen the social costs of carbon - an estimate of the economic costs greenhouse gases have on society - by as much as 66 per cent. The scientists looked at eight key regions: Brazil, China, East Africa, Western Europe, India, Indonesia, the US and South Africa. The findings showed that some emerging economies, like East African nations and India, might be motivated to



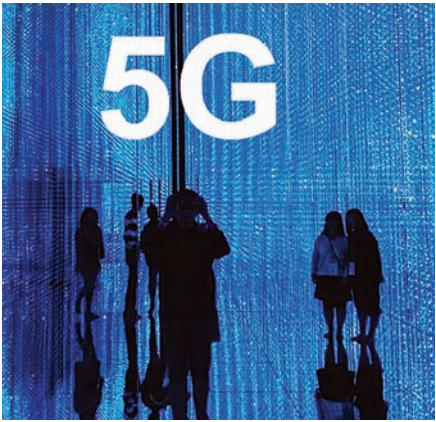
collaborate on emission cuts since they are strongly impacted by each other's emissions. "Carbon dioxide has the same impact on climate no matter who emits it," said co-lead author Geeta Persad, assistant professor at the UT Austin Jackson School of Geosciences. But for these aerosol pollutants, they tend to stay

concentrated near where they're emitted, "so the effect that they have on the climate system is very patchy and very dependent on where they're coming from," she noted in the study published in the journal Science Advances. Aerosols can directly affect human health and the climate independently of CO2.

Prime Minister set to launch 5G services to India on Oct 1

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Broadband Mission (NBM) under the Ministry of Communications on Saturday tweeted (and later deleted) that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will officially roll out the 5G services in India on October 1 -- the same day when the India Mobile Congress (IMC) kicks off which will heavily focus on 5G and related domains. All the top telecom honchos -- including Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani and Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Sunil Bharti Mittal -- are scheduled to join the keynote address at the sixth edition of the IMC that will take place at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from October 1-4. The event will see participation from telecom gear manufacturers and other industry stakeholders, in the presence of IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. According to sources, the government may showcase some successful 5G testbeds being run in the country by Reliance Jio, Airtel and



Vodafone Idea at the IMC 2022, jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). During his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister had said that the 5G services will be launched in India soon.

ICC congratulates Jhulan Goswami on an excellent career

Goswami finished with 44 wickets in 12 Tests, 255 wickets in 204 ODIs and 56 wickets in 68 T20Is.

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Saturday congratulated veteran India, fast bowler, Jhulan Goswami for an exceptional international career that saw her finish as the world's most successful bowler in Women's ODIs. The 39-year-old pacer, who retired from international cricket on Saturday after the Women's Championship series against England, played in five ICC Women's Cricket World Cups including in 2005 and 2017, when India made the finals. Goswami also turned out in five ICC Women's T20 World Cups. ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice



praised Goswami's longevity and said she would be remembered as one of the greats of the game. "Jhulan has had an incredible career over two decades, enjoying

great success across formats. For a fast bowler to continue for so long is amazing and it is no wonder that she leads the list of wicket-takers in Women's ODIs," said Allardice.

INSTAGRAM ROLLS OUT LONGER UNINTERRUPTED STORIES FOR USERS

New Delhi: Meta-owned Instagram has rolled out a new feature globally that will allow users to upload longer uninterrupted Stories. Currently, if an Instagram user uploads a Story that's under 60 seconds, it is broken up into 15-second clips. "Now, you'll be able to play and create Stories continuously for up to 60 seconds, instead of being automatically cut into 15 second clips," a Meta spokesperson told TechCrunch. "We are always working on ways to improve the Stories experience," the spokesperson added. The viewers will also no longer have to continually tap to get through a long video that they may not actually want to see. In addition, the ability to post longer uninterrupted Stories somewhat blurs the lines between Stories and Reels, as you now have two options when it comes to posting a 60-second video. In June, Instagram added support for longer Reels of up to 90 seconds, up from the previous 60 second-limit. Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram is also testing a new Stories layout that hides excessive posts.

Neha Kakkar overwhelmed by singing reality show contestant

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Neha Kakkar got impressed with the singing talent of 'Indian Idol 13' contestants Senjuti Das and Sanchari Sen Gupta, who performed the tracks 'Mohabbat Buri bimari' from the 2015 film 'Bombay Velvet' and 'Badmash Dil' from the 2011 movie 'Singham'. Moreover, Neha was also overwhelmed by the gesture of Senjuti as she gave her shagun of Durga Puja including laal sindoor (red vermilion) and sweets. The 'London Thumakda' singer said: "I am touched by the surprise, and it is very overwhelming for me. Senjuti, you have an unconventional voice, I am highly impressed by your performance today. I wanna take a picture with you, I am grateful for this gesture of yours. It is a new thing for me to celebrate



this festival." She also praised the contestant Sanchari and added: "You nailed it Sanchari, it was a rocking performance." Quite obliged by the compliments of the judge and singer on the show, Senjuti responded: "It's a dream come true for me to celebrate this festival with Neha ma'am. I am so happy today, and thankful to everyone who gave me this opportunity to celebrate and showcase my talent. I hope to give my best and win this."

Tribal girls puncture stereotypes, set up own repair shops in Madhya Pradesh

Mohammad Asif Siddiqui | Khandwa Delhi

Hitherto known for the migration of its residents, Khalwa is witnessing a turnaround with young girls entering male-dominated vocations. Recounting how they embarked on such unique journeys, the girls told 101Reporters that they realised there was little to do in Khalwa other than sowing and harvesting crops. At the same time, the block had a whole lot of two-wheeler and mobile phone users. Whenever something needed repair, the villagers had to travel to the nearest urban centres such as Khalwa, Patanj, Roshni and Ashapur. Some of these places were located over 20 km away, and that too with negligible public transport. In search of fruitful employment, they approached NGO Spandan, which has been actively involved in stemming migration in Khalwa for many years. Initially, the girls were sent to local mechanics to acquire basic knowledge of repairing. Then came some financial assistance to open small shops adjoining their homes. Further training happened in Khandwa, followed by a five-day workshop in the first week of August to educate them about the finer points of repair. Incidentally, the families wholeheartedly supported the girls right from the beginning. Other girls chime in saying their families never stopped them. "We enjoy doing this work. It is true that many people doubt our skills, but we feel proud to earn our daily bread through hard work." The girls now read brochures and manuals that help them repair motorcycles of any brand available in the market. They are also adept at dealing with all kinds of



two-wheeler punctures. As and when the demand arises, they repair mobile phones too. A few others work at beauty parlours, handling foundations and makeup. According to Seema Prakash Michael of NGO, when they were looking at ways to stem migration, some girls suggested measures to generate local employment in Khalwa. They said they felt unsafe when family members went to other cities/towns in search of work. Opening a tyre to repair a puncture seemed a daunting task to many at the outset, but everything came easy once they mastered the technique. NGO Spandan also provided them with the necessary tools to set up businesses. In the next couple of years, the organisation intends to train 1,000 girls. (The author is a freelance journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots reporters)

Breaking the glass ceiling

Mantu Kasde of Balrampur works on the shock absorber and clutch plates of motorcycles at a garage in Khalwa, after having completed a three-month course in repairing. "I shall open my own garage soon," she beams with pride. Satiwardha of Jamdhad has launched a puncture repair service, a beauty parlour and a cutlery shop just outside her home. She completed training for these jobs almost six months ago, after her higher secondary education, to make around Rs 5,000 every month. Her seven-member family used to migrate every year in search of work. Thanks to her enterprise, the family makes enough money now to give up the idea of migration altogether. Six months ago, Gayatri Kasde of Sawali Kheda was trained as a mechanic under Babubhai, a mechanic in Khalwa town. Now she works from both Babubhai's garage and her home. Radha Yadav of Bagda repairs motorcycles, besides running a grocery shop. She has managed to save Rs 15,000 over the last six months. Her brother, who was earlier working at a factory in Khandwa, has returned home to help run her business. Sakiya Vardhaya belongs to a landless family from Jamdhad, comprising her parents, three sisters and two brothers, which migrated annually for work. She now repairs two-wheelers, assisted by her two sisters. The money she earns not only helps run the family but also takes care of her studies. Sakiya, a BA final year student, commutes daily to her college in Khandwa. Most of these girls fall in the 18-24 age group and belong to the Gond and Korku tribes, which do not practise gender discrimination.

HEAVY RAINFALL CRIPPLES GURUGRAM; DISRUPTS NORMAL LIFE

Gurugram | Agencies

Heavy rainfall has caused severe water logging here, apart from largely disrupting normal life and routine work in the Millennium City.

More than 50 places in the city including major key points on the expressway was submerged in rain triggered flood-water on Saturday. A road near Iffco Chowk also caved in due to heavy rains.

Videos and images of the caved-in road were widely spread on the social media.

Police have barricaded the area to avoid any incident.

Meanwhile, as per the data on rainfall shared by the district administration, Gurugram tehsil on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

received 59 mm rainfall, Kadipur 58 mm, Harsaru 58 mm, Wazirabad 66 mm, Badshahpur 62 mm, Sohna 24 mm, Manesar 55 mm,



Pataudi 105 mm and Farrukhnagar 30 mm.

Due to heavy rainfall, the Gurugram administration has closed all underpasses and subways for non-motorised transport (NMT), and pedestrians for public use.

Meanwhile, some Aam Admi Party leaders and workers along with bath tubs protested against the Municipal Corporation of

Gurugram and the BJP-led Haryana government at Subhash Chowk for failing to provide a better drainage system in Gurugram and held responsible the state government for water logging across in the district.

A car was seen submerged on the Narsingpur Chowk service lane on the Delhi-Jaipur expressway where the rainwater accumulated. A passenger of the car was

seated on its top.

Reportedly, a boy was swimming in the water-logged Narsingpur Chowk service lane on the expressway. Rainwater at the spot also hampered the traffic movement on the main expressway. The traffic junction at this major movement of the expressway was slow, especially two-wheelers face huge inconvenience due to rainwater.

BJP WILL NOT COME TO POWER IN 2024: LALU PRASAD

Patna: RJD national president Lalu Prasad on Saturday said that BJP will be wiped out from Bihar in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

While speaking to media at the Patna airport, Lalu Prasad said: "We will wipe out BJP in 2024."

An ailing Lalu Prasad, who was in the national capital for his treatment, had returned to Patna last month. He is scheduled to go to Singapore for a kidney transplant on Monday.

While in Delhi, he is set to meet Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Sunday. He will be accompanied by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The two leaders will brief the Congress chief about the initiatives being taken to unite the opposition parties against the BJP in 2024.

They are scheduled to meet Sonia Gandhi at her residence at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

PFI created several dummy organisations to fool agencies: Sources

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The investigation that followed the major crackdown on the Popular Front of India by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has revealed that a number of dummy organisations were floated by the radical outfit to fool the agencies and to evade arrest.

Sources claimed that PFI members knew that the government will take action against them due to their suspicious activities and hence they created a number of dummy organisations to mislead the intelligence agencies. "The Campus Front of India, Rehab India Foundation, National Women's Front, All India



Legal Council, SDPI -- these are all dummy organisations created by the PFI," the sources said.

The sources also claimed that the PFI members were allegedly trying to carry out attacks on BJP and RSS lead-

ers. Both the ED and the NIA have claimed that PFI was collecting funds from abroad, which were to be used to impart terror training and carry out anti-national activities.

Amit Shah was instrumental in removing Article 370: BJP leader

Patna | Agencies

At a time when the leaders of the ruling Mahagathbandhan in Bihar are training their guns at Union Home Minister Amit Shah following his visit to Seemanchal on Friday, Nikhil Anand, state BJP spokesperson and national general secretary of the party's OBC wing, lauded Shah for playing an instrumental role in removing Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir.

"After Amit Shah's visit to Seemanchal, many of grand alliance leaders are having headache and stomach ache. After seeing the way scores of people turned out for his rally in Purnea, the leaders of the Mahagathbandhan are feeling uneasy due to the popularity of Amit Shah," Anand said.

Reacting to the statement of RJD's Lalan Singh, who had said that when he was involved in the JP movement in 1974, Amit Shah was just 10 years old, Anand said: "Amit Shah is the young generation leader of the country and his fame is acknowledged across the world ever since he removed Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir, which granted special status to the erstwhile state of



J&K.

"Similarly, during the JP movement, some small stature leaders were following the big leaders and entertaining them. At present, some of the self-declared 'Chutbhaiye Neta's' (small time leaders) are claiming to be JP commanders." "It is unfortunate that the real heroes of the JP movement are deprived of JP pension scheme and the self-declared fake leaders of the movement are enjoying power being part of the government. The soul of Jay Prakash Narayan must be in deep pain after seeing the selfishness of the leaders of the ruling government," Anand said.

Army man held over 'leaked objectionable videos' of students in Punjab

Chandigarh | Agencies

Making fourth arrest in the allegations by Chandigarh University hostellers over their alleged 'leaked objectionable videos', Punjab Police on Saturday arrested an Indian Army personnel posted in Arunachal Pradesh.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said here the arrested accused, Sanjeev Singh, is suspected of blackmailing the accused girl student.

The development came days after Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ordered a high-level probe into the matter for which a three-member all-woman Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the overall supervision of ADGP Gurpreet Kaur Deo was constituted.

DGP Yadav apprised that based on forensic and digital evidence, the police team from Mohali was dis-



patched to Arunachal Pradesh to arrest the accused. He said the army man was arrested

from Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh with the support of Arunachal Pradesh Police, Assam Police and

Indian Army.

The Mohali Police have obtained a two-day transit remand of the accused from the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Bomdila to produce him before the magistrate in Mohali, he added.

The Mohali Police have already arrested three people, including the girl student and two others from Himachal Pradesh, and some electronic devices were seized from their possession.

Huge protests broke out on the university campus in Mohali district after a girl allegedly leaked private videos of her hostel mates online.

A day after daylong protest, silence returned to the campus as the local administration and the university agreed to investigate the demand of the students over objectionable videos of several girl students were recorded by a hosteller and shared with her friend in Shimla.

INDIA'S FIRST AVALANCHE MONITORING RADAR INSTALLED IN SIKKIM

The Indian Army and the Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment (DGRE) have jointly installed the Avalanche Monitoring Radar, first of its kind in India, in north Sikkim, defence officials said on Friday.

Gangtok | Agencies

Besides being used for detection of avalanches, this radar can also be employed to detect landslides.

Defence spokesman Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said that the radar was inaugurated by Tri Shakti Corps commander, Lt Gen Tarn Kumar Aich, at one of the forward posts of the army at an altitude of 15,000 feet in north Sikkim.

This radar has the capability to detect avalanches within three seconds of their triggering and will assist in saving valuable life of troops and civilians as also vehicles in super high altitude areas, he said.

Lt. Col Rawat said that the avalanche radar was made operational by Defence Research and Development Organisation's wing DGRE, which is involved in forecast-



ing and mitigation of avalanche hazards faced by Indian Army in the Himalayan region.

He said that this radar uses a series

of short micro wave pulses which are scattered at the target and can detect an avalanche in less than three seconds. The radar, which can perma-

nently scan the targeted slope for avalanche release and track its path and its size in case it is triggered, can "see" through snow, fog as well as in the night, making it an all weather solution and covers an area of two sq/km obviating the requirement to place additional instruments in dangerous avalanche prone areas.

The radar is also linked to an alarm system enabling automatic control and warning measures in case an avalanche is triggered. Images and videos of the event are automatically recorded for future analysis by the experts.

In an area where frequencies of avalanches are high, the radar will go a long way in safeguarding the life of troops deployed in hostile terrain and sub-zero temperatures while at the same time limiting damage to vehicles and equipment at such snow-bound high-altitudes area.

PayCM posters: NCR complaint lodged against Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar

Bengaluru | Agencies

Karnataka police on Saturday registered a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR) against Opposition leader K. Siddaramaiah and State Congress President D.K. Shivakumar in connection with the grand-old party's 'PayCM' poster campaign.

Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar had on Friday pasted the 'PayCM' posters with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's picture on it challenging the state government's order.

The police had detained Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar, Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala and others for pasting 'PayCM' posters and released them later near the Race Course Road in

Bengaluru.

Police said that the said Congress leaders had not taken permission to protest and pasted PayCM posters on the road.

The Congress has intensified 'PayCM' posters campaign targeting the ruling BJP on "corruption" charges.

Bommai had on Wednesday ordered an inquiry after "PayCM" posters with the photo of him surfaced in several parts of Bengaluru, and said it is an insult to him and the state.

The Contractors' Association has alleged that ruling BJP leaders have to be paid 40 per cent commission for getting contracts of all government projects. The Association has also written letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice seeking action.

Telangana's 16 municipalities bag Swachh Survekshan-2022 awards

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana has once again bagged a huge number of Swachh Survekshan awards.

This year, 16 Urban Local Bodies (ULB), in the state have bagged Swachh Survekshan awards 2022 which will be presented in Delhi on October 1.

Selection for the awards was conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs which gave star ratings for the resolution of issues related to sanitation, and garbage free city, for the period of July 2021 to January 2022.

A total of 90 topics were considered in selection of the awards.

The awards have been announced in the categories of solid Waste Management, community level composting, public toilets, liquid waste



management, awareness levels among people, management of community toilets, citizen engagement, innovation, and others. Adibatla, Badangpet, Boothpur, Chandur, Chitayal, Gajwel, Ghatkesar, Husnabad, Kompally, AKoratla, Kothapalli, Neredchera, Siricilla, Turkayamjal and Vemulawada municipalities and Secunderabad Cantonment have bagged the awards.

Minister for municipal administra-

tion and urban development, K.T. Rama Rao has congratulated all officials and employees of the ULBs.

He said that several programmes were taken up for improvement of cities under the direction of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Rama Rao said the achievement was possible because of CM KCR's vision for the all round development of urban local bodies in the state.

A lot of development is witnessed in towns and cities because of the state government's pioneering Pattana Pragathi programme and new Municipal Act.KTR said that the awards bagged over consecutive years is a testament of Telangana's commitment towards all round development of cities. He claimed that the state is already a role model to the country with its pioneering policies and programmes.

India logs 4,912 fresh Covid cases, 37 deaths

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Saturday reported 4,912 fresh Covid infections in the past 24 hours against the previous day's 5,383 count, as per the Union Health Ministry data.

In the same period, 38 more Covid-related deaths took the toll figure to 5,28,487.

Meanwhile, the active caseload of the country presently stands at 44,436 cases, accounting for 0.10 per cent of the total positive cases.

The recovery of 5,719 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,39,90,414. Consequently, the recovery rate stands at 98.71 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has been reported to be 1.62 per cent



and the Weekly Positivity Rate also stands at 1.69 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 3,03,888 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 89.33 crore.

As of this morning, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 217.41 crore.

Over 4.09 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

TWO ELECTIONS, THREE GOVERNMENTS, BUT HARDLY A DENT ON THE SYSTEM

THE 'VYAPAM SCAM'

The scam broke out during the second tenure of the BJP-led Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, the party managed to win 2013 Assembly polls. The Congress formed its government in 2018, but it collapsed within 15 months paving the way for the BJP to storm back into power in 2020. Shivraj Singh Chouhan became the chief minister for the fourth time.

- A laptop seized by the Special Task Force (STF) of the Madhya Pradesh police back in 2013 is going to play a crucial role in the Vyapam scam. However, the concern is whether the damaged laptop will be functional when it would be produced in the court.
- All the accused persons in the Vyapam scam, who were either arrested by Madhya Pradesh police or by the CBI, and were charge-sheeted, are now out on bail. Most of them were granted interim bail by the Madhya Pradesh High Court, including nine who were granted conditional bail in March 2022.
- The nexus between politicians and government machinery has also been a major reason that investigation in Vyapam scam was done at many levels but influential people were not brought to book.
- The special court of the Bhopal district court, handling the Vyavsayik Pariksha Mandal, or "Vyapam" scam, has disposed of around 55 per cent of the cases so far, said a senior CBI public prosecutor. There are around 160 cases, which are being heard in two special courts designated for CBI cases.

Praveen Dwivedi | Mumbai

Around nine years have passed since the 'Vyapam Scam' was unearthed in Madhya Pradesh by a group of whistleblowers using the Right To Information (RTI) Act, that exposed a strong nexus between politicians, government officials and mid-dlemen in 2013, but nothing seems to have changed in the political realm of the state.

Over a dozen teams of CBI which were probing the case for three years simultaneously investigated the long trail of mysterious deaths.

Since the scam came to the fore, the state has witnessed two Assembly elections -- in 2015 and 2018 --, while the third is scheduled for November 2023, just 14 months away.

The only thing that has changed since the massive irregularities and forgery in conducting exams and recruitments of state government employees



were exposed, is the name of the organisation 'Vyapam' - it was renamed in 2015 as Professional Examination Board (PEB), which was rechristened in 2022 and now it is known as the Staff Selection Board.

Chronology of Vyapam Scam :

While the complaints alleging irregularities in conducting the exams first surfaced in 2001, audit report findings in 2007 pointed to a nexus, and the scam blew over in 2013.

2007 : Audit office found financial and administrative irregularities in Vyapam.

2009 : Activist and doctor from Indore Anand Rai filed a public interest litigation (PIL) with the MP High Court, alleging foul play in the recruitments and admissions. 2011 : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan set up an inquiry committee to look into the matter.

2013 : Anand Rai made startling revelations that led to a series of arrests. State Police arrested 20 persons who were to impersonate candidates scheduled for the Vyapam exam. The kingpin of the racket, Jagdish Sagar, was arrested. Exam controller Pankaj Trivedi was arrested and removed from his post. 2014 : The MP High Court rejected the demand for a CBI probe by the Congress and other parties. In April, 27, students from MGM

Institute of Health Sciences were expelled for fraudulently clearing the medical test back in 2012. 2015 : Matter reached the Supreme Court and the case was transferred to CBI for further investigation. CBI's investigation revealed how the nexus worked. Satish Dinkar, a senior Public Prosecutor, who represents the Central agency, told IANS about the modus-operandi of well planned corruption by a long nexus. Impersonation : During the exams, all the information of the candidate remained the same, except for the photograph. The candidate's photograph was replaced by that of the impersonator and after the exam, it was changed back to the original.

Engine and bogie system : A person was strategically made to sit in front of the candidate in question. The person let them copy from his sheet or exchanged the sheet with them at the end of the exam. OMR sheets : The candidates in question were asked to leave their answer sheets blank and were given high marks in the exam.

"Bent On Making Me Prostitute": Murdered Uttarakhand Teen On WhatsApp

Screenshots of text messages from the victim are doing the rounds, where she describes how she was being forced into providing "special services" to clients for ? 10,000. Cops have said initial investigations indicate the messages are indeed from the victim, but a more rigorous forensic investigation is also being conducted. Screenshots of text messages from the victim are doing the rounds, where she describes how she was being forced into providing "special services" to clients for ? 10,000. Cops have said initial investigations indicate the messages are indeed from the victim, but a more rigorous forensic investigation is also being conducted.

DEHRADUN | Agencies

Pulkit Arya, the son of now expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya, had pressurised Ankita Bhandari to provide 'special service' to the guests at his resort, DGP Ashok Kumar said on Saturday.

Ankita (19), who worked as a receptionist at a resort in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, was reported missing a few days ago. On Saturday morning, her body was recovered. On Friday, the police had arrested Pulkit and his two employees in connection with Ankita's death.

While giving information about the case, Kumar said the police have got some important evidence from the screenshots found from the deceased's mobile phone.

According to the information received, the owner of the resort, Pulkit, and other accused persons used to pressurise Ankita to have physical relationship with the guests. The deceased had told this to some of her friends. There was a dispute between Ankita and the accused on September 18 on this issue after which the accused took her out



on a two-wheeler.

On the way, Ankita again had an argument with the three men following which she was pushed into a canal. The accused then returned to the resort and told everyone a new story. When trio was questioned by the police, they confessed to the crime.

PM MODI WAS ON PFI RADAR IN JULY 2020, SAY ED SOURCES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that members of Popular Front of India (PFI) had allegedly collected a large amount of cash to the tune of Rs 120 crore to carry out attacks on important personalities.

ED sources claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also on the radar of PFI, which had planned to attack the Prime Minister during a rally in July 2020. However, due to some reason, PFI didn't go ahead with the plan. The sources claimed that the PFI members had even planned to organise a ter-



ror camp to execute an attack on Modi.

The sources said that around Rs 120 crore were collected by the PFI to carry out attacks and create unrest and riot-like situation in the country.

Several states score poor on coverage of Covid pre-

Kumar Vikram | New Delhi

States including Haryana, Punjab, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Goa and Nagaland are poor performers so far as coverage of Covid-19 precaution doses is concerned. Less than 12 per cent of the eligible populations of these States have been administered with the precaution doses as on September 24.

The special 75-day campaign for administering free precaution doses will complete its duration in less than two weeks on September 30. As per the government data (as on September 24), Haryana, Punjab and Jharkhand recorded a coverage of 11 per cent, 10 per cent and 10 per cent respectively of the eligible population for the precaution doses.

Bigger states like Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and many others recorded less than national average of 26 per cent of the coverage. States including Kerala,



Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka recorded precaution dose coverage of 13 per cent, 13 per cent, 16 per cent, 19 per cent and 20 per cent of their eligible population, respectively. Eligible populations are the persons who have completed 6 months from the date of administration of the second dose.

As per the government data, total 20.20 crore (26 per cent) have been covered as of September 24 out of the total eligible population of 79.07 crore in the country.

MILITANTS SHOOT AT NON-LOCAL LABOURER IN PULWAMA

Srinagar: Militants shot and injured a non-local labourer in J&K's Pulwama district on Saturday.

The police said that militants fired at a non-local labourer identified as Shamshad in Ratnipora area of Pulwama district on Saturday evening.

"The victim has been shifted to the hospital in an injured condition. The area has been surrounded for searches," the police said.

CBI SEIZES 50 LAPTOPS IN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a painstaking and meticulous 'Operation Megh Chakra', the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted national wide searches at around 59 locations in 21 states including union territories in two cases related to downloading/circulation of CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) which led to the recovery of 50 laptops having pornographic materials.

The CBI has registered two cases under relevant provisions of IT Act based on an information received from Crime Against Children (CAC), unit of Interpol, Singapore which had received the same from New Zealand police for sharing with relevant country.

A number of Indian citizens were involved in circulation, downloading, transmission of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) using cloud-based storage.

The said information received in



Interpol from Law enforcement authorities of New Zealand was analysed and developed by the CBI, and suspected persons were identified to locate and disrupt further distribution.

During searches, electronic devices including mobiles, laptops belonging to more than 50 suspects were recovered by the CBI. Preliminary scrutiny of these electronic devices using cyber forensic tools has revealed the presence of huge quantity of CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) in a number of electronic devices.

CENTRE TO LAUNCH SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN RANKING OF CITIES

New Delhi: With a view to reduce the level of air pollution in cities, the Central government will launch Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan that promotes ranking of 131 cities in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The aim of the exercise is to reduce air pollution up to 40 per cent by 2025-26.

Total 131 cities are categorised into three groups based on population. While 47 cities are in the first group having a population of more than 10 lakh, 44 cities are in the second group having a population between 3 to 10 lakh. The third group consists of 40 cities having a population less than 3 lakh. As per the Ministry of Environment and Forest, cities are required to do the self-assessment as per the framework provided on PRANA online portal. This assessment is carried out annually. Cities have to report implementation of activities and measures taken in respect of solid waste management, road dust management, management of construction and demolition waste, control of vehicular emissions and industrial pollution. Based on the self-assessment and third-party assessment, three best-performing cities in each group will be given a cash award in the spirit of competitive federalism.

'SIGNIFICANT RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE IN FERTILITY RATE IN INDIA'

- ▶ ESTIMATES OF GENERAL FERTILITY RATE (GFR), A REFINED MEASURE OF FERTILITY, HAS BEEN DEFINED AS THE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS PER THOUSAND WOMEN IN THE REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP 15-49 YEARS, IS A USEFUL TOOL FOR MEASURING FERTILITY
- ▶ AT THE ALL INDIA LEVEL, A DECLINE OF 20.2 PERCENT IN GFR HAS BEEN REGISTERED DURING THE DECADE AND IT VARIES FROM 20.2 PERCENT IN RURAL TO 15.6 PERCENT IN URBAN AREAS. AMONG THE BIGGER STATES/UTS, THE PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN GFR VARIES FROM 29.2 IN JAMMU & KASHMIR TO 12.3 IN KERALA.
- ▶ AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE IS A SHIFT IN TREND OF FERTILITY WITH AN INCREASE IN FERTILITY IN THE LATER AGES 30-44, WHILE A DECREASE IN FERTILITY IN THE LOWER AGE-GROUPS 15-29.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A significant rural-urban divide in the fertility rate could be seen in the country in a latest data that says the fertility rate varies from 53.7 in urban areas to 73.7 in rural areas while at the national level, 67 children were born to every thousand women aged 15-49 years.

As per the data of the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020, general fertility rate (GFR) varies from 45.3 in Kerala to 93.9 in Bihar among the bigger states/UTs.

The data reveals that fertility in all the age groups is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The fertility reaches the peak in the age group 25-29 and declines thereafter, irrespective of the place of residence.

Except for Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal where fertility



reached its peak in the age group 20-24 and Jammu & Kashmir where fertility reached its peak in the age group 30-34, the highest fertility in all the other bigger States/UTs has been attained in the age group

25-29. Fertility, however, declined from age 30 in all the bigger states/UTs, except Jammu & Kashmir where it declined from age 35.

The ASFR (Age Specific Fertility Rates) in the younger

age group 15-19 varies from 2.6 in Delhi to 22.3 in West Bengal. In the age group 30-34, the variation in the level of ASFR is from 41.9 in West Bengal to 147.0 in Bihar.



SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN SUSPENDS GOVT OFFICIAL ON STAGE OVER FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT UJJWALA SCHEME

Team Absolute | Dindori (Mandal)

A government employee on Friday drew the ire of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan after he failed to achieve his targets of issuing cards under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala scheme. Criticising the official on the stage at a programme in Dindori, Chouhan suspended him after he was unable to give proper explanation over his failure to issue adequate cards.

In the video which has gone viral, a government employee is seen telling CM Chouhan that due to departmental inadequacies the work was not completed on time. "We will look into it and achieve the target, sir," says the official. "No, call everyone on stage. I want a proper explanation on why you all were not able to fulfil your targets - call the DSO," says Chouhan. The official, then makes an announcement, DSO please come on the stage. After a brief pause, Chouhan asks, Haven't you invited everyone for the program? Following which, the DSO, identified as Tikaram Ahirwar, steps on the stage and tries to explain that they have set up



camps and the current status of the implementation plan. Dismissing his arguments, CM Chouhan announced his suspension on stage, while the

crowd is heard cheering. "Go, you're suspended," says Chouhan. Addressing CM Chouhan, the DSO agreed that the district fell behind its

target. Under the Ujjwala yojana, women belonging to Below Poverty Line families are provided LPG connections.

People don't have to come to offices, they must be benefited in their village : CM Chouhan

I get happiness and joy only when doing excellent works for the public. CM attended the Jan Seva Abhiyan camp of village Dawalikhurd

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that now people will not have to make rounds of government offices. Officers and employees will organise camps in the villages itself and give the benefit of the schemes to the eligible persons. Chief Minister was addressing the Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan camp at village Dawalikhurd in Burhanpur district. The Chief Minister flagged off the vaccination team for the prevention and control of lumpi virus. He also honoured the vaccine donor Lumpi Warriors.

Chouhan appreciated the collector of Burhanpur district for better implementation of the schemes. He said that excellent work has been done in the construction of Amrit Sarovars in the district and supply of water in every



household of rural areas. Such works give me joy and happiness. He also congratulated and extended best wishes to the team of officers-employees who did a good job.

Chief Minister e-dedicated 1284 works of Jal-Samvardhan and Amrit Sarovar Yojana costing more than Rs. 31 crore 18 lakh by pressing the remote button. He gave certificates to the Ladli Laxmis of Ladli Laxmi Yojana and provided a loan of Rs. one crore 12 lakh to 108

self-help groups under the Aajeevika Mission. He also distributed the benefits of other beneficiary oriented schemes to the eligible persons. Collector Praveen Singh presented to the Chief Minister the idol of Ganesh ji made from the holy soil of the newly constructed 75 Amrit Sarovars in the district. Former Minister Archana Chitnis, Nepanagar MLA Sumitra Kasdekar and public representatives and officials were present.

Bhopal MMS case

One accused arrested, search for other two continues

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After Mohali in Chandigarh, now a case of blackmailing a student of ITI College of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal by making obscene video has come to the fore. While changing clothes in the washroom of the college, 3 students were blackmailing her by making a video of the girl student. After which the police started searching for the accused.

At the same time, one accused has been arrested in the student MMS case. The police have arrested Khushboo Thakur. At present, two accused are still away from the grip of the police. Investigation

revealed that blackmailing money was transferred to Khushboo Thakur's mobile. However, the arrested accused told that they are not aware of MMS. Police suspect that the video may be with the absconding accused. A police team has been formed to nab these two accused. According to the information, on September 17, a cultural program was organized at ITI College on Vishwakarma Jayanti, where former students Ayan, Khushboo Thakur and Rahul Yadav made a video of the student while changing clothes. After which he started blackmailing him. But the girl lodged a complaint in the police station. Police have registered a case

against the three students under the Blackmailing and IT Act. The girl told that the three accused were demanding money from me. And were threatening to make the video viral if the money was not paid. After which my friend also gave 500 rupees to Khushboo Thakur. However, all three were demanding more money. Every time he was threatening that if the money is not received, the video will go viral on social media. Your parents will be defamed and your career will be ruined. It is being told that her boyfriend named Raj informed the students about making her MMS by three students. But the police is not digesting the boyfriend's story.

MINOR GIRL STABBED TO DEATH IN INDORE, NEIGHBOUR ARRESTED

Indore: A man in his thirties allegedly stabbed a seven-year-old girl to death in Azad Nagar area in the Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on Friday, police said.

The accused's house was demolished following his arrest as it had been constructed illegally, said an official.

Azad Nagar police station in-charge Indresh Tripathi told media that police were informed after the body of Mahenoor (7) was allegedly found in a pool of blood in her neighbour Saddam's house on Friday morning. It had multiple stab wounds.

Saddam was arrested on suspicion and he admitted to killing her but the motive behind the crime was not clear, the official said. There was tension in the area with local people demanding strict action against the accused, he said. "On the directions from senior officials, Saddam's house, which had been illegally constructed, was demolished in the evening," Tripathi said.

BJP making all-out efforts to dent Kamal Nath's bastion Chhindwara: Sources

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh BJP is making all-out efforts to dent MPCC chief Kamal Nath's bastion Chhindwara by campaigning vigorously for the upcoming nagariya nikay (urban body) elections.

As part of the campaigning, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a road show besides addressing rallies to woo the voters.

While addressing a poll gathering in Damuha town in Chhindwara on Thursday, Shivraj urged people of the area to support BJP supported candidates contesting for councillors post in urban polls. "You neither gave an MLA nor MP for BJP, despite our government doing such of development works in Chhindwara district. I would urge you to elect at least BJP's



councillors in nagariya nikay elections," Shivraj had said.

Notably, Chhindwara has eight Assembly seats, all of which were won by the Congress in the 2018 polls. This was the only district in Madhya Pradesh, where the grand-old-party had won all

the Assembly and Lok Sabha seats. Kamal Nath's son Nakul Nath is MP (Member of Parliament) from Chhindwara.

In a back to back setback, the ruling BJP has also lost its mayoral post in Chhindwara Municipal Corporation, held

a couple of months ago. Of total 48 municipal wards, the BJP could managed to bag only 18 seats, while the Congress won 26, while four wards were won by independent candidates.

After Shivraj Singh Chouhan, now BJP's state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma would be visiting to Chhindwara to strengthen the saffron cadre in the district. During a day-long campaign on Saturday, Sharma would be participating in several poll gatherings.

He will be meeting with BJP's district party workers to review to poll preparations and will give necessary instructions to register win in nagariya nikay elections. "A massive road show will be held in Junnardev area. He will also meet BJP's candidates and will address the gathering," said a BJP leader.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings with blind cricket players

29 players from 15 states in Bhopal for team selection of Blind Cricket World Cup plant saplings. Blind World Cup match between India and Australia will be held in Indore on 7th December

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings in Smart City Park along with the President of MP Blind Cricket Association Dr. Raghavendra Sharma and 29 players of the Blind World Cup. Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings of Kachnar, Badam and Maulshree.

President Dr. Sharma told that the Blind Cricket World Cup is going to be held in the coming December. Selection trial is going on for this. 29 players from 15 states have



come to Bhopal for team selection. The Blind World Cup match between India and Australia will be held in

Indore on December 7th. Chief Minister was invited by the Association for the inauguration of the match.

Chief Minister Chouhan got introduced with all the players. The players presented a special blind cricket ball to Chouhan. Chief Minister encouraged the players and wished them good luck for the upcoming world cup.

Importance of plants
The Kachnar planted today is a beautiful flowering tree. Nature has endowed many plants and trees with medicinal properties, among them Kachnar is one. Almond is a fruit. Its tree bears fragrant flowers of pink and white color. Maulshree is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries.

GRANT OF RS1 CRORE EACH APPROVED TO 13 URBAN BODIES TO ENHANCE TOURIST FACILITIES

Bhopal : Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that 13 urban bodies with major tourist centers have been sanctioned a special grant of Rs.1 crore each for enhancing tourist facilities and for infrastructure development. The grant will be given in three installments. Each body will get Rs 44 lakh as the first installment.

Minister Singh has informed that the Nagar Palik Nigam Burhanpur, Nagar Palika Maihar, Chanderi, Panna and Nagar Parushad Orchha, Omkareshwar, Amarkantak, Chitrakoot, Sanchi, Khajuraho, Mandu, Maheshwar and Bhedaghat will get the special grant.

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Team Absolute | Bhopal

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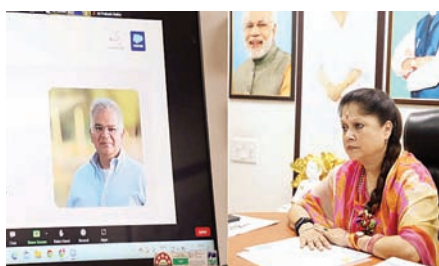
Data of about 65 thousand students uploaded by Sales force company

Technical education department will prepare students for campus placement

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The technical education department will train the engineering and polytechnic students of the state as per the requirement of the companies coming for the recruitment. Minister for Technical Education and Skill Development, Yashodhara Raje Scindia launched the Elevate-2022 program in a webinar. During the webinar Sanket Atal, Senior Vice President, Salesforce India informed that the data of about 65 thousand students has been uploaded by the company on the platform of Salesforce. He told that the Elevate-2022 program was conducted by Salesforce to learn how to access direct and indirect jobs.

Campus Placement Training from 1st year To strengthen the placement and skilling of students of engineering and polytechnic colleges of the state, training will be conducted at different levels by the technical education



department. In the first year, communication skills will be developed in the students. Quantitative Aptitude in the second year and Logic Reasoning and Digital Fluency in the third year. In the final year, training in subjects like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cyber Security, Data Analysis, Cloud Computing, Digital Marketing will be provided. All engineering and polytechnic colleges have been asked by the technical education department to prepare training programs.

The country will get a glimpse of Madhya Pradesh on Garba Express: Culture Minister Thakur

Madhya Pradesh branding unveiled on Garba Express at Gandhidham Junction

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Tourism, Culture and Religious Trust and Endowment Minister Usha Thakur said that Madhya Pradesh preserves the cultural and historical heritage of the entire country. Now a glimpse of the cultural, historical, natural and mind-blowing tourist places of Madhya Pradesh will be visible to the whole country on Garba Express. Minister Thakur was addressing a program unveiling the branding of Madhya Pradesh on Garba Express (Train No. 12937/38) at Gandhidham Junction in Gujarat. Minister Thakur said that if all of you have not seen Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India, then you have not seen anything. In Madhya Pradesh, 33 crore years old world's oldest river, Mother Narmada, two Jyotirlingas, Treta Yuga temple Rajeshwar, Satyuga city Janapav along with ancient Buddhist monuments are also present. Garba Express showing the important tourist places of the state including all these places will invite tourists from all over the country to Madhya Pradesh.



Additional Managing Director Tourism Board i Vivek Shrotriya said that the tourist places and natural beauty of Madhya Pradesh have been displayed through vinyl wrapping on Garba Express. This is an initiative to take the tourist places of the state to the people of India. Madhya Pradesh is called the heart of India. Just as all the blood of the body reaches the heart, similarly Madhya Pradesh

has a wonderful confluence of culture and heritage of all the states. Therefore tourists must visit Madhya Pradesh at least once. Shrotriya also invited all the tourists from Gujarat and the country to visit Madhya Pradesh. Minister Thakur along with Gandhidham MLA Malti Ben Maheshwari, AMD Shrotriya and ARM of Western Railway Adish Pathania flagged off the Garba Express. Branding of tourism destinations, events, fairs has been done by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board in collaboration with Western Railway on Garba Express (Train No. 12937/38) running between Gandhidham in Gujarat and Howrah in West Bengal.

Garba Express will depart Gandhidham at 6:10 pm and will reach Howrah station at 12:55 pm on the third day passing through various cities of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal. During this train will pass through 6 states including Madhya Pradesh. Activities like Jal Mahotsav, Mandu Festival, Sky Diving, Hot Air Balloon will also be promoted in these states including major tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh.

JHULAN GOSWAMI GETS GUARD OF HONOUR WHILE COMING OUT TO BAT IN FINAL INTERNATIONAL MATCH

London | Agencies

Legendary fast bowler Jhulan Goswami on Saturday received a guard of honour from the players while walking out to bat for the final time in international cricket during India's third ODI against England at Lord's on Saturday.

Stepping on the field for her last international game, Jhulan had the honour of doing the toss for India against England and also gave a speech in the team huddle. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who had debuted under Jhulan's captaincy in 2009, broke down in tears when Jhulan addressed the side.

She was even provided with a memento before the start of the match at Lord's. England head coach Lisa Keightley, whose term ends after Saturday's match, presented Goswami with a shirt signed by the England players along with interim ECB CEO Clare Connor.

Jhulan walked in to bat at number nine for India after an ordinary batting display from the visitors in the 39th over, and received a heartfelt



guard of honor on the field as she made her way out one final time in international cricket. Playing in her 204th ODI, Jhulan was unfortunately dismissed for a golden duck in her final international innings as young left-arm pacer Freya Kemp castled

her. Earlier, put in to batting first, India lost wickets in quick succession to be reduced to 29/4 in 8.4 overs, before Smriti Mandhana (50) and Deepti Sharma (68 not out) resurrected the innings. However, India continued to

lose wickets at quick intervals after the 58-run partnership between Smriti and Deepti was broken.

It wasn't long before Goswami came out to bat and eventually, India were bowled out for 169 in 45.4 overs. Incidentally, the last time she was dismissed for a golden duck in ODIs was during the 2017 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup final against England at the very same iconic venue. The tournament, one of the high points of Jhulan's cricketing career, ended with India losing the final by nine runs.

Six years later, though, in her final international series, Jhulan had the honour of being a member of the Indian team that beat England in an ODI series in England for the first time in 23 years.

For England, pacer Kate Cross was the star performer with the ball, ripping through the Indian top order with her unplayable swing bowling and tailor-made conditions. India will be hoping that Jhulan adds to her tally of 353 international wickets when they come out in defence of 169.

Roger Federer bids adieu to tennis after Laver Cup loss

London | Agencies

Tennis ace and one of the most revered sportspersons in the modern era, Roger Federer finally bid adieu to his tennis career and fans after losing a doubles match in the Laver Cup to Jack Sock and Frances Tiafoe of the United States.

The 41-year-old Swiss great, the winner of 20 Grand Slam singles titles, teamed up with his long-time friend and rival, Spanish stalwart Rafael Nadal in his last contest on Friday, losing a doubles match to the American duo 4-6, 7-6(2), 11-9.

"It's been a perfect journey," Federer said. "I would do it all over again," in his farewell address.

The former world No. 1 looked sharp around the net and fired his seemingly effortless groundstrokes through the court throughout the two-hour, 16-minute



clash, according to atptour.com. However, he was ultimately unable to earn his 1,382nd career win in singles and doubles, falling to the Team World pair of Sock and Tiafoe.

"We'll get through this somehow, will we? Right?" Federer said. "I'm happy, I'm not sad. It feels great to be here and I enjoyed tying my shoes one more time. Everything was the last time. The match was great, I couldn't be happier. It's been wonderful."

Federer, who has not played since the 2021 Wimbledon quarterfinals,

had announced last Thursday that he would retire from Grand Slams and the ATP Tour after the Laver Cup here in London. Federer had decided before the start of the tournament that he would only play one doubles match at the Laver Cup held in London's O2 Arena.

The defeat meant Team Europe were locked at 2-2 with Team World at the end of the opening day of the event. Team Europe has earlier won two singles match while Team World claimed one singles victory.

The Swiss is leaving the sport 19 years after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003. Nadal (22) and Novak Djokovic (21) have both surpassed Federer's tally of Grand Slam titles. Team Europe have won all four previous editions of the Laver Cup. Italian Matteo Berrettini will take Federer's spot over the weekend as an alternate in this year's edition.

Brazil, Argentina claim victories in international friendlies

Beijing | Agencies

Winger Richarlison scored twice in 12 minutes as Brazil breezed past Ghana 3-0 while another South American powerhouse Argentina also grabbed a 3-0 victory over Honduras in pre-World Cup international friendlies on Friday.

Brazil opened the scoring by Marquinhos's bullet header in the ninth minute from a corner by Raphinha. Richarlison extended the advantage just before the half-hour mark with a pin-point strike from the edge of the penalty area into the bottom left corner.

Assisted by Neymar, the Tottenham Hotspur forward added the third for the team on the stroke of halftime with a clever first-time header from a freekick to seal a comfortable 3-0 victory, reports



Xinhua. Since losing the final of the Copa America last year, the five-time world champions have been accumulating a 14-game unbeaten streak -- 11 wins and three draws, with 33 goals for and just four goals against. Elsewhere, in the duel between Argentina and Honduras, Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez scored the opener with a right-footed shot from very close range. Argentina dominated the whole game with offensive attack as captain Lionel Messi

doubled the lead by converting a penalty before the half-time break. In the 69th minute, Messi scored his second by unleashing a shot outside the box.

The 2022 World Cup host Qatar lost to Canada 2-0 at Generali Arena in Vienna, Austria. In other matches held on the day, Mehdi Taremi's lone goal in the 79th minute helped Iran stun Uruguay 1-0, Morocco took down Chile 2-0, and Saudi Arabia held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw.

Italy demote England, Hungary stun Germany in Nations League

Rome | Agencies

England dropped into the League B of UEFA Nations League after a 1-0 away defeat to Italy while Germany were stunned by Hungary with a 1-0 setback on home soil.

England sat bottom with two points in Group 3 of League A before Friday's game, while Italy ranked third with five points. The two finalists of Euro 2020 played out a goalless tie in the first leg.

It was a tedious first half as both sides failed to create too many opportunities, and the most promising chance emerged in the fourth minute when Scamacca saw his header hit the woodwork. The pace accelerated



after the break and the Azzurri went ahead in the 67th minute when Leonardo Bonucci's trademark long pass found Raspadori who took a few touches to release a curler into the net. Elsewhere in the same group, Germany were surprised by Hungary despite over 70 per cent of ball possession. Adam Szalai's smart back-heel flick in the first half killed the game while Thomas Mueller had the ball into the net, but it was wiped out as Jonas Hofmann was offside in the build-up. Italy catapulted themselves into the second place of Group 3 and will take on front-runners Hungary for the top place and the semifinal spot Monday while winless England will host third-placed Germany.

Rohit becomes leading six-hitter in T20Is, surpasses Guptill

Nagpur | Agencies

India skipper Rohit Sharma on Friday blasted a 20-ball 46 not out and became the leading six-hitter in T20I cricket during his team's second T20I truncated to eight-over-a-side due to wet outfield against Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, here.

Rohit, the leading run-scorer in T20Is, went past New Zealand opener Martin Guptill's tally of sixes to go to the top of the six hitters' chart in T20Is. The India captain, who smashed two sixes in the first over from Josh Hazlewood in a run chase of 91 in eight overs, now has 176 sixes to his name in this format.

Guptill with 172 sixes and Chris Gayle with 124 sixes follow him. Virat Kohli is the only other Indian batter with more than 100 T20I sixes, currently sitting on 104 sixes in the format.

Rohit, who has played 138 matches, had gone past Guptill's run tally in the format last month, later going on to become the only men's player with more than 3500 T20I runs.



Suzie Bates is the only other batter with more than 3500 runs in the format at the international level. Deandra Dottin and Sophie Devine are the only women cricketers with more than 100 recorded T20I sixes.

Pan Pacific Open

Zheng Qinwen beats Kudermetova, to face Samsonova in final

Tokyo | Agencies

Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen extended her rapid rise up the rankings by claiming a spot in her first WTA Tour singles final at the Pan Pacific Open with a 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(3) win over 13th-ranked Veronika Kudermetova in a 3 hours and 4 minutes long semi-final, here on Saturday.

The victory over No 4 seed Kudermetova marks Zheng's fifth win over a Top 20 player in her career, all coming this season.

In Sunday's final, Zheng will meet Liudmila Samsonova, whose surge through the second half of the season continues unabated with a trip to her third WTA singles final of the year.

World No.30 Samsonova defeated 28th-ranked Zhang



Shuai 7-6(4), 6-2 in a hard-hitting semifinal to reach Sunday's championship match in Tokyo. Samsonova is currently undefeated 3-0 in WTA singles finals in her career. This time last year, Zheng was ranked outside of the Top 150, but the 19-year-old has repeatedly proven over the last 12 months that she can contend with the elite players on tour. This week has been no exception, as she ousted No.1 seed Paula Badosa in straight sets in the second round.

3rd T20I: India look to reap the gains from Nagpur in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | Agencies

An eight-over-a-side is too short a game to analyze and gain anything from. The action takes place too fast and the teams go into it with only one plan -- to score as many runs as possible or restrict the opposition within the target.

However, India can still take some positives from Friday's 8-over slugfest against Australia at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium in Nagpur.

Top-most on that list would be the impactful and scintillating innings by skipper Rohit Sharma that set India on course to victory. Then there was the bowling of spinner Axar Patel, the left-arm spinner allrounder who came in as a like-for-like substitute for Ravindra Jadeja, who is out with an injury, who claimed 2-13 from his two overs.

Skipper Rohit Sharma has been batting well at the top of the order, he has not been domineering and at his authoritative best in the last few matches. On Friday, he played an impactful inning, hitting the ball cleanly and to a big distance, attacking the Australian bowlers from the start.



While Rohit Sharma and Karthik took the limelight for the way they batted, Bumrah got his first wicket on return from injury. The pacer Jasprit Bumrah bowled his first two overs on return from injury and thus provided some solace to the team management that was under pressure after the Indian bowlers, with the exception of Axar Patel, were taken tot the cleaners in the opening T20I of the three-match series at Mohali on Tuesday. Bumrah is currently India's best pacer bowler by a yard and with Mohammed Shami out with Covid-19 and Bhuvneshwar Kumar struggling to maintain his position as the team's death overs bowler, Bumrah's return is manna from heaven for India. While Bumrah was returning to the squad, Axar Patel was simply superb in the first two matches against Australia.

With the series now locked 1-1, Sunday's third match of the series has turned into a winner-take-all decider and the Indian team management and fans will be hoping that Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Axar Patel will continue in the same vein in Hyderabad and beyond. If they continue to do that, things will be a bit easy for India at next month's T20 World Cup in Australia.



RASHMIKA MANDANNA DANCES WITH GOVINDA ON 'Saami Saami'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Southern sensation Rashmika Mandanna shook a leg with actor Govinda on her raging number 'Saami Saami', from the blockbuster film 'Pushpa: The Rise' starring Allu

Arjun. The actress recently marked her presence in 'DID Super Moms' where she danced on her now trending number. She was on the show to promote her maiden Bollywood movie 'Goodbye' starring Amitabh Bachchan and Neena Gupta.

'Goodbye' is a story that touches every emotional chord in your heart and makes you realise the importance of your loved ones along with the downturns of life.

Rashmika will also be sharing screen space with Neena Gupta, Sunil

Grover, Pavail Gulati, Ashish Vidyarthi, and Elli AvrRam in the film, which will release on October 7.

Rashmika will also soon commence work on the second part of the Pushpa franchise. The film will see her reuniting with Allu Arjun.

Madhuri Dixit : Women are more mature than men



Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Actress Madhuri Dixit is all set to get our hearts racing with her upcoming family entertainer Maja Ma. The actress will be seen performing Garba for the first time in the film which is all set to stream on an OTT platform on 6 October 2022.

In a freewheeling chat with the media, the actress opened up about the surge of OTT, staying relevant and much more. Excerpts:

► On doing more projects due to OTT

After Fame Game, Maja Ma is Madhuri's second OTT outing. Talking about how much she is enjoying this phase the actress said, "I have been working throughout. But when I got The Fame Game, I felt I got a very good role to play as it had depth. I think I am fortunate that I am getting these roles and I am enjoying them."

► On doing women empowering roles

The actress opened up about her love for doing roles that empower women. "I love playing roles that focus on empowering women. If you see Raja, Mrityudand, Anjaam, it has always been that way."

► On female actors getting good work in '40s

Earlier women in their forties were type-casted and offered to play the role of a mother. Madhuri went on to say that the rise of OTT has resulted in female actors getting good work in their forties. "It's not so. I've portrayed a mother previously as well. I believe earlier they were

unsure what to do with women in this age group. Because of OTT and the kind of stories that are being told, there are no commercial constraints. People are consuming better content and maturing."

► On managing to stay relevant

The actress also revealed that doing something different and being consistent in it is important to stay relevant. "I'm always thinking of new things I can do. I used to strive for something progressive when choosing roles in the past. Furthermore, doing something different extends your life. However, being consistent is essential for this", said Madhuri Dixit.

► On accepting the fact that she is going to age

The men she has worked with in the past, are still the 'lover boys'. Talking about how difficult or easy was it for her to accept that her roles and she is going to age, she said, "That's always the case na. Women mature more than men. You have to go to your higher intelligence and think about it. I can't blame the heroes, either, because the type of commercial films that are made require them to sing, dance, and all. As a result, they are constantly looking for something to keep them young, which is not bad."

"As a woman, I believe that what I, Juhi, Raveena, or anyone of us is doing is wonderful because we are moving forward in life while remaining true to ourselves on screen", she concluded.

Karishma Tanna showcases trauma after being accused of murder

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Streaming platform Netflix on Saturday announced the slate of upcoming Indian content in its Tudum event which includes filmmaker Hansal Mehta's directorial 'Scoop' starring Karishma Tanna as the crime reporter Jigna Vora, who was accused in journalist J. Dey's murder. Tudum India was hosted by comedian Zakir Khan and actor Prajakta Koli, where the teaser of 'Scoop' was shown. The film also stars Harman Baweja, Ravi Mahashabde and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub. 'Scoop' is inspired by the biographical book from journalist and crime reporter Jigna Vora, 'Behind The Bars In Byculla: My Days in Prison', which chronicles her experiences after being accused in the murder of another reporter. The 58 second teaser shows, Karishma, who is known for TV shows such as 'Kiyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', 'Qayamat Ki Raat' and 'Naagin', essaying the role of a reporter who is accused of murder.



HUMA QURESHI DOES A HELEN IN 'MONICA, O MY DARLING' TEASER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

She impressed you with her portrayal of a strong-headed politician Rani Bharti, but wait till you have seen the latest teaser of Huma Qureshi's upcoming movie 'Monica, O My Darling' as she nails it once again.

The teaser starts with Huma looking every inch gorgeous dressed in red as she dances to the tune of saxophones. She then slowly breaks into cabaret, reminding of the yesteryear's actress Helen. The over-a-minute of the film by Vasant Bala, only focuses on the retro dance number titled 'Ek Zindagi' with glimpses of Rajkumar Rao and Sikander Kher.

The movie, a neo-noir that is an ode to movies about the perfect plan that led to the perfect mayhem of the lives of the people who laid it out, also stars Radhika Apte, Bagavathi Perumal, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, Sukant Goel, and Zayn Marie Khan.



Salman Khan BRINGS OUT HIS INNER GABBAR SINGH



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan channeled his inner Gabbar Singh from the iconic film 'Sholay' to showcase an interesting new promo of the controversial reality show 'Bigg Boss' Season 16. Mouthing Gabbar's dialogues from the film with a twist, Salman is heard saying: "Pachas pachas kos jab bacha royega maa kahegi soja warna Bigg Boss aa jaayega." The original lines are: "Pachas pachas kos door gaon mein jab bachcha raat ko rota hai to maa kahti hai beta soja nahi to Gabbar Singh aa jaayega".

Like Gabbar was introduced in the 1975 action-thriller film, similarly, Salman in the dressed like a dacoit enters the scene with the same background score that was used in the 1975 film for the iconic villain, originally played by Amjad Khan.

He added that this time the game is going to change as Bigg Boss will himself play the game. Bigg Boss which used to be the voice of every season will be playing the game and become part of it. The first promo unveiled by the makers of the show had given a glimpse of the new season. Salman introduced it saying that "For the past 15 years, Bigg Boss has witnessed everyone's game, but now it's his time to play the game. It will be morning, but the moon will be seen in the sky, gravity no longer exists, and the horse will also walk straight and even the shadow will leave you and play the game." And at last, Salman asserted: "Because this time Bigg Boss will play the game."

Dulquer, Rajkummar bring 90's style romance

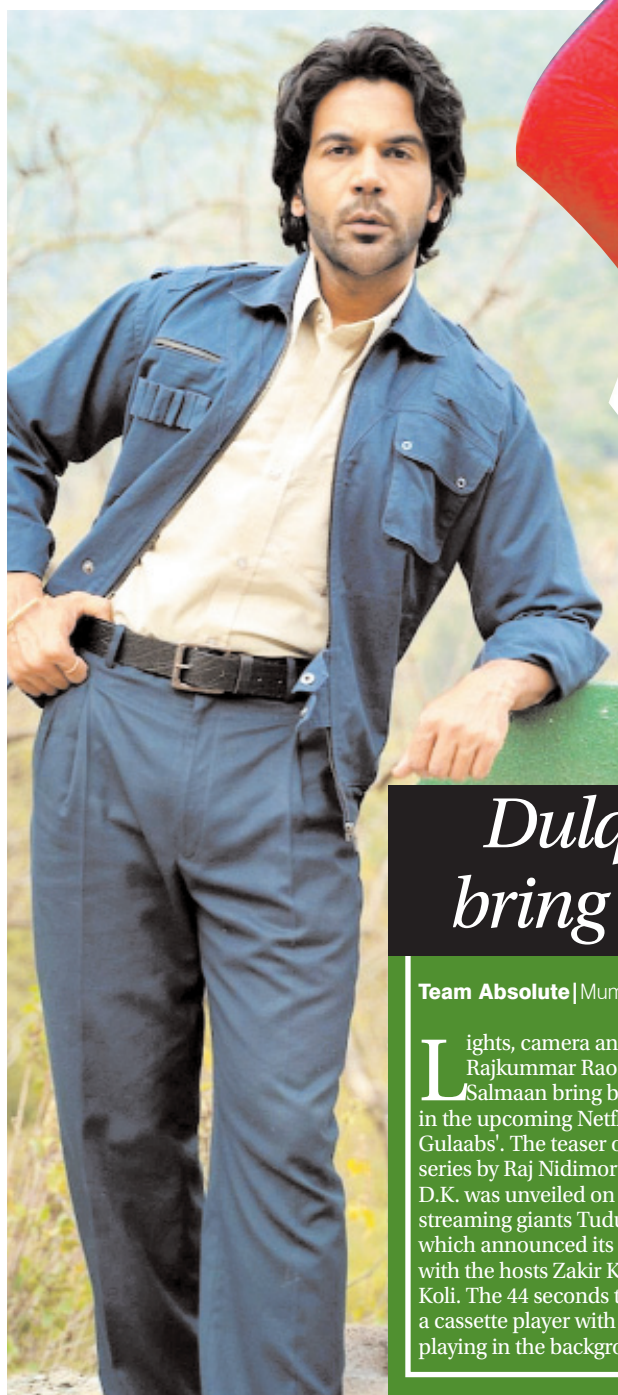
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Lights, camera and action! Actors Rajkummar Rao and Dulquer Salmaan bring back the 90's style in the upcoming Netflix series 'Guns & Gulaabs'. The teaser of the upcoming series by Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. was unveiled on Saturday at the streaming giants Tudum 2022 event, which announced its Indian content with the hosts Zakir Khan and Prajakta Koli. The 44 seconds trailer starts with a cassette player with music of the 90's playing in the background. It also

showcases Rajkummar, Dulquer and actor Adarsh Gourav rocking the 90's style fashion.

Soon, Rajkummar is heard saying: "Duniya mein do kisam ke log hote hai, ek jo aap ho aur ek woh a jo apke andar hota hai. Aur kasam paida karne wale ki.. Usko andar hi hona chahiye."

Inspired by the misfits of the world, 'Guns & Gulaabs' is a story that depicts love and innocence, set in a world of crime. The series is set to uniquely blend the romance of the 90s with a crime thriller while effortlessly lacing it in humour.



Ankita Malik