

absolute india

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Twitter to be delisted from New York Stock Exchange on November 8

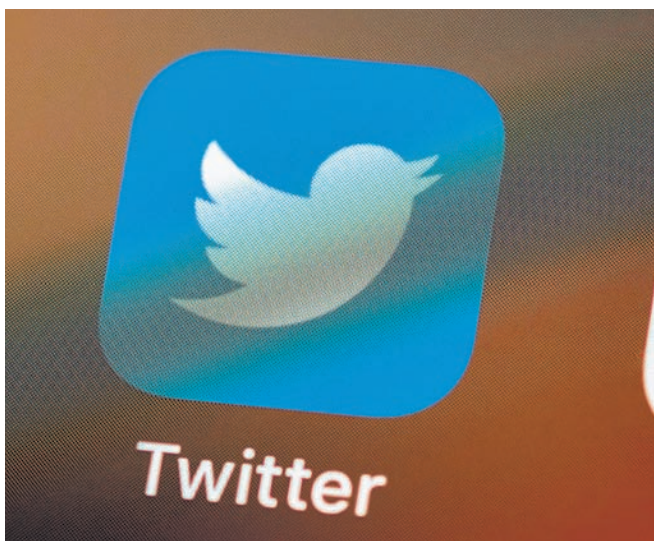
SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

Twitter's new owner Elon Musk has taken the micro-blogging website private and the company's stock will be delisted from the New York Stock Exchange on November 8, a new filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has revealed.

This came after Musk completed Twitter's \$44 billion takeover and fired its Indian-origin CEO Parag Agrawal, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal, and the company's policy chief Vijaya Gadde.

Twitter delisting will take place on the same day as the US midterm elections.

"The New York Stock Exchange hereby notifies the



SEC of its intention to remove the entire class of the stated securities from listing and registration on the Exchange

at the opening of business on November 08, 2022," read the SEC filing. The filing further said that "the merger between

Twitter and X Holdings II, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of X Holdings I, Inc., wholly owned by Elon R. Musk became effective on October 27, 2022". Each share of Twitter was exchanged for \$54.20 in cash, without interest and less any applicable withholding taxes.

Making Twitter a private company gives Musk some advantages.

According to reports, privately held firms do not have to make quarterly public disclosures about their performance and are subject to less regulatory scrutiny.

Musk will also have a tighter control over Twitter.

Twitter will likely form a new board after the current members dissolve. Musk is likely to take over as Twitter CEO for the time being.

BATHINDA CIVIC BODY CONSTRUCTS ROADS USING PLASTIC WASTE

Chandigarh: To scientifically utilise the plastic material which otherwise is not recycled, Punjab's Bathinda Municipal Corporation has started constructing roads from it.

Punjab Local Government Minister Inderbir Singh Nijjar on Friday said the introduction of the use of plastic in road construction, an effective solution to the waste has been found with reduced cost.

In Juhar Singh Nagar, the road from Bajwa House to the Main Street and street number 3-A and 3-B roads have been constructed by using plastic waste.

He said 1,000-running-foot-long road has been constructed by using eight per cent plastic waste in bitumen. The minister said the use of plastic for the road construction will help solving problem of its menace. He said by using plastic for the construction of roads, the roads will be made of better quality than before. Along with this, the cost of road construction will also reduce.

He said soon in other municipal committees and corporations the use of plastic for road construction will start.

Flipkart losses widens to Rs 4,362 cr in FY22, up 51%



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Walmart-owned Flipkart's losses widened to Rs 4,362 crore in FY22, a 51 per cent increase from the last financial year.

The e-commerce platform reported Rs 10,659 crore as revenues in FY22, an increase of 31 per cent (-on-year), according to data accessed by business intelligence platform Tofler.

The company's total expenses for FY22 were Rs 15,020 crore.

Flipkart recently achieved more than 1 billion customer visits on its platform during the The Big Billion Days (TBBD) festive sales. According to Walmart's filings with the US Securities and

Exchange Commission (SEC), Flipkart spent \$1.1 billion from February 1 to July 31.

In comparison, Amazon India posted a 32.5 per cent growth (YoY) by reporting Rs 21,462 crore in revenue for its marketplace vertical called Amazon Seller Services. The e-commerce giant also narrowed its losses by 23 per cent to Rs 3,649 crore in FY22.

Meanwhile, retail giant Walmart is reportedly raising up to \$3 billion for its e-commerce giant Flipkart to further expand its operations in the country.

With new funds, Flipkart's valuation is set to soar to more than \$40 billion, giving a fillip to the Indian funding scene which is going through a harsh winter. Flipkart Group in July last year raised \$3.6 billion to grow and advance the digital commerce ecosystem in India. The investment valued the group at \$37.6 billion post the money then.

According to media reports, Walmart may bring strategic investors into Flipkart via this fundraising.

For first time, Chhath Puja declared as Dry Day in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

For the first time, Chhath Puja has been declared as Dry Day in the capital city. This year, the Puja falls on October 30 (Evening) and October 31 (Morning).

Delhi Lt Governor V.K. Saxena has declared Chhath Puja that falls on Sunday on October 30 as Dry Day in the Capital. The LG, in his capacity as "Government" as per Section 2 (35) of Delhi Excise Act, 2009, has declared the Dry Day.

Meanwhile, the LG has also written to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to ensure that sufficient manpower and logistics must be put in place well before time at all designated sites.

"It has been brought to my notice that more than 840 sites have been identified and designated for this purpose by the departments concerned. Anticipating large gatherings this year and keeping in mind the zeal and fervour with which the festival is celebrated, it becomes imperative on part of the administration to leave no stone unturned in the unfettered organization the festival at all designated Chhath Puja Ghats, with utmost professionalism," LG Saxena has said in the letter.

The LG has said that the



responsibility on part of the government to ensure cleanliness at the Chhath Puja Ghats before, during and after the religious ceremony, is also of paramount importance.

"In this regard, it is felt necessary that sufficient manpower and logistics must be put in place well before time at all sites. Simultaneously, relevant information in this regard along with messages creating awareness and urging people regarding the same must be put in public domain," reads the letter.

Along with the requisite safety measures like marking of danger zone, barricading of deep waters to avoid any untoward incident, adequate lighting, deploying divers and rescue boats, the LG has also asked to address the issues of foam and pollution in the

Yamuna Ghat that may prove injurious to devotees.

"On some of the designated Ghats like Bhalswa lake, Wazirabad-Sonia Vihar, Badli, Bawana Industrial Area, Maidan Garhi, Kalindi Kunj, Budh Bazar-Uttam Nagar amongst others, large congregation of devotees ranging from 10,000 to 4,00,00 is expected to be present. Proper planning for crowd management and securing law and order at all sites has already been discussed with Delhi Police," he said.

The New Delhi Municipal Council, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Development Authority have also been directed to ensure cleanliness and make arrangements for other civic amenities under their jurisdiction in mission mode, reads the letter.

GOVT TO SET UP PANELS TO HEAR APPEALS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

New Delhi:

Grievance redressal panels would soon be set up by government to hear users' appeals against content moderation decisions taken by social media entities like Meta and Twitter.

In a gazette notification issued on Friday, the government has amended the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, to facilitate setting up of such grievance committees.

Under the new Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022: "The Central Government shall, by notification, establish one or more Grievance Appellate Committees within three months from the date of commencement of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2022." According to the Gazette notification: "Each Grievance Appellate Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two whole time members appointed by the Central Government, of which one shall be a member ex-officio and two shall be independent members".

As per the new rules, any user aggrieved by a decision of an intermediary's own grievance officer can appeal to the government-appointed Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) within a period of 30 days. The GACs will have to resolve the issue within 30 days. The committees will adopt an online dispute resolution mechanism to ensure that the entire process can be completed digitally.

The amended law makes it mandatory for intermediaries to upload a report after complying with each GAC order.



PM MODI PITCHES FOR 'ONE NATION, ONE UNIFORM' FOR POLICE

New Delhi | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday pitched for 'One Nation, One Uniform' for police, saying that the states should also think about bringing changes in the laws made before Independence.

During MHA's Chintan Shivir, which is being held at Surajkund, Haryana to discuss problems related to internal security, through video conferencing on Friday, he said that all states should consider doing something to the police uniforms on the lines of One Nation, One Ration Card.

"This would ensure quality product and easy recognition of policemen. Even though it could take time, the idea should be discussed," he added.

Addressing the Chief Ministers and Home Ministers of the states, Modi said that there have been many law reforms in recent years, which have helped in creating peace and order in the country.

"At the same time, many provisions related to trade and business have been removed from the criminal category. The government has also reduced the burden of the future by abolishing more than 1,500 old laws," Modi stated.



He added that laws like UAPA have given strength to systems against terrorism. Modi said that next 25 years will be for creating an 'amrit peedhi' in the country by imbuing the resolutions of 'Panch Pran', which include creation of a developed India, freedom from all colonial mindset, pride in heritage, unity and citizen duty. These can be accomplished only with the efforts of everyone. He added that this should be the motive behind governance.

The decisions and policies of the people related to law and

order are very important to create a favorable environment in the states. The entire system of law and order has to be credible, he said.

He gave the example of National Disaster Response Force's (NDRF) image that has been created at the time of natural calamities. "When the police reach the spot, people feel that the government has arrived. In the pandemic too, policemen worked while risking their lives. Policemen are dutiful, there is just a need to create perception among the citizens," he said.

EU gives green signal to ban new combustion engine cars from 2035

LONDON | Agencies

European Union lawmakers have reached a political agreement on stricter CO2 emission performance standards for new cars and vans to move towards a zero-emission mobility. The legislation will effectively ban the production of new combustion engine cars and vans from 2035, pushing the countries towards a fully electric future.

The key requirements are that, by 2030, new cars reduce their CO2 emissions by 55 per cent and new vans by 50 per cent (in both cases these emissions are compared to 2021 levels).

Then, by 2035, both new cars and vans must reduce CO2 emissions by 100 per cent.

"This agreement will pave the way for the modern and competitive automotive industry in the EU. The world is changing, and we must remain at the forefront of innovation. I believe we can take advantage of this technological transition. The envisaged timeline also makes



the goals achievable for car manufacturers," said Jozef Sikela, Czech minister of industry and trade. The regulatory incen-

tive mechanism will be kept for zero- and low-emission vehicles (ZLEV) until 2030.

As part of this mechanism, if a manufacturer meets certain benchmarks for the sales of zero- and low-emission vehicles it can be rewarded with less strict CO2 targets. The co-legislators agreed to increase the benchmark to 25 per cent for cars and 17 per cent for vans until 2030, the European Council said in a statement.

The agreement includes wording on CO2 neutral fuels whereby following consultation with stakeholders, the Commission will make a proposal for registering vehicles running exclusively on CO2-neutral fuels after 2035 in conformity with EU law, outside the scope of the fleet standards, and in conformity with the EU's climate neutrality objective. Based on this methodology, manufacturers may, on a voluntary basis, report to the Commission on the life cycle emissions of the new vehicles they place on the market. The proposal to revise the CO2 emissions performance standards for cars and vans is part of the 'Fit for 55' package.

Audio clip surfaces in 'MLAs poaching' case

Hyderabad | Agencies

In another twist in 'MLAs poaching' case, an audio of telephonic conversation between the main accused and a TRS MLA surfaced on Friday. The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaked the audio of purported conversation between Ramachandra Bharati, alias Satish Sharma alias Swamiji, and Pilot Rohit Reddy, the MLA who tipped-off the Cyberabad police about the attempt to buy him and three other MLAs resulting in the arrest of three alleged agents of BJP.

The names of BJP general secretary B. L. Santhosh and 'Number two' figured in the telephonic conversation about the deal to buy the MLAs. The conversation, which was also joined by second accused Nanda Kumar alias Nandu, took place before the accused met four TRS MLAs at a farmhouse near Hyderabad on Wednesday. During the conversation, Swamiji is heard telling Rohit Reddy that once the bulk is ready, Santhosh can come to Hyderabad to finalize it. Swamiji also informed Rohit that Santhosh had gone to Ahmedabad with 'Number two'. "Can you share the names with number two," asked Swamiji when Rohit Reddy was reluctant to share the names of other MLAs ready to switch

loyalties. Swamiji also assured the MLA that we will give complete protection from the Centre. "It is our responsibility to take care of you. When you are under our scanner, you don't have to worry, including from ED to the income tax. We have good experience in Bengal," the MLA was told. Ramachandra Bharati of Delhi, Nanda Kumar of Hyderabad and Simhayaji Swamy were arrested by the police during a raid on a farmhouse at Moinabad near Hyderabad on Wednesday night. The police produced the accused before a judge at his residence on Thursday night with a petition to remand them to judicial custody. The judge, however, rejected the police petition for sending the accused to judicial custody, citing lack of evidence. He observed that the Prevention of Corruption Act does not apply to the case as there is no evidence of bribe money.

The judge told police to issue notices to the accused under Section 41 of Criminal Procedure Code for questioning. On the judge's orders, police released all the three accused. They were subsequently issued notices directing them to appear before police within 24 hours. The police also moved the Telangana High Court challenging the order of the lower court.



INDIA ACCUSES UNSC OF 'POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS' FOR FAILURE TO TACKLE TERROR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Raising many eyebrows, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday directly accused the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) of 'political considerations' which prevents the global body from acting against terror.

"When it comes to proscribing some of these terrorists, the Security Council has regrettably been unable to act in some cases because of political considerations. This undermines our collective credibility and our collective interests," Jaishankar said here without mincing words.

He was speaking at an informal briefing of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the UNSC in Mumbai -- exactly a month ahead of the upcoming 14th anniversary of the 26/11, 2008 Mumbai terror strikes.

Jaishankar said that while one of the (10) terrorists in that attack was captured alive, prosecuted and convicted by the highest court in India, the key conspirators and planners of the 26/11 terror mayhem remain protected and unpunished.

Without naming any country, the EAM said



that "our real tribute to the victims will be to rededicate ourselves to combating and eliminating the menace of terrorism... and this by

stronger determination and joint action", as terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security and to the entire human-

ity. "We must rise above our political differences to address this scourge. The battle against terrorism must be fought on all fronts, all situations and all places. We cannot be found wanting in our efforts. As the UN Secretary-General stated, 'Terrorism is pure evil one with which we can never compromise'," said Jaishankar.

Jaishankar said together "we should send out the message that the international community will never give up on holding terrorists accountable and delivering justice... 26/11 will never be forgotten". On his part, Jaishankar presented a five-point formula to grapple terror by the horns, with the UN's coordination with other bodies. Jaishankar sought international cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, by dismantling their safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds, financial and ideological plus political support structures to weed out the terror plague. He also said terrorism's well-established nexus with 'transnational organised crime, illicit drugs and arms trafficking' must be recognised and multilateral efforts must be made to break them.

COIMBATORE BLAST: TN GOV SLAMS DELAY IN RECOMMENDING NIA PROBE

Chennai | Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Friday wondered why it took four days for the M.K. Stalin-led state government to recommend an NIA investigation into the October 23 Coimbatore car blast case.



Speaking at a programme in Coimbatore, Ravi, a former IPS officer, also questioned how the monitoring agencies failed to pick up on the blast even as the perpetrators of the crime were on the radar for long.

He also said that the car blast was an attempt to unleash a major terror act and this was proved after a huge quantity of raw materials required for making IEDs was seized.

The Governor said that these were ample evidence that the terrorists were about to strike in Coimbatore.

"We know that terrorists are enemies of everyone and friends of none and we know that terrorists do not work in isolation and are part of a larger network. What they were doing was part of a larger conspiracy. Coimbatore is a known place for harbouring terrorists for a long time. They have been trained and taken to Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan," R.N. Ravi said.

Stating that India was on the cusp of development and moving forward, he said the adversaries of the country do not like the progress the country was making.

"These adversaries do not have the capacity to take on India upfront, hence they were resorting to tactics like terrorism," Ravi said, adding, "They are trying to create problems in the country and using terrorism as a tool to achieve their goals." "It's a proxy war, the most sinister and secret war... We need to be very alert."

The Tamil Nadu Governor also called upon the authorities not to "go soft" on terrorists, and take decisions at a faster pace.

NOT GIVEN ANY CALL FOR OCT 31 BANDH, BJP'S ANNAMALAI TELLS MADRAS HC

Chennai | BJP's Tamil Nadu unit President K. Annamalai on Friday told the Madras High Court that his party had not given any call for a bandh on October 31 in Coimbatore.

Advocate R.C. Paul Kanagaraj, appearing for Annamalai told a division bench of Justices Paresh Upadhyay and D. Bharatha Chakravarthy said that the party was yet to decide on the form of protest.

While responding to a public interest litigation petition filed against the statements made with respect to the bandh, the lawyer said that the issue was premature as the party was yet to take a decision.

Coimbatore-based businessman, Vengadesh had filed a PIL, telling the court that BJP leaders had called the bandh to condemn the state government for its alleged negligence in investigating the October 23 car blast in Coimbatore.

PUDUCHERRY LG BACKS BANDH CALLED TO CONDEMN COIMBATORE BLAST

Chennai | Puducherry Lt Governor Tamilisai Sounderarajan on Friday said that a bandh is a democratic means of peaceful protest, as she referred to the protest announced by the BJP on October 31 against "rising terrorism" in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore and to crush it.



Addressing media persons at the Coimbatore International airport, she noted that Jameesha Mubin, who was killed in the car blast was questioned by NIA in 2019 and was monitored by the agency, and the Tamil Nadu Police could have watched his day to day activities closely. She called upon the Tamil Nadu government to take steps to build confidence among people that they were living in a safe environment. Sounderarajan said that with the NIA taking over, the investigation would be totally impartial.

She also called upon the politicians not to use tough language against one another and to felicitate an impartial investigation of the Coimbatore blast case.

NIA arrests PFI's former Kerala secretary C.A. Rauf

Team Absolute | New Delhi

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday night arrested C.A. Rauf, former Kerala state secretary of banned PFI, from his residence at Pattambi in Palakkad district, in connection with terror-related case.



force resulting in alarm and fear amongst the people, encouraging vulnerable youth to join terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)/Daesh and Al-Qaida and the conspiracy to establish Islamic rule in India by committing terrorist acts as a part of violent jihad," an official said.

The arrested accused was the PFI State Secretary and was handling its media and PR wings in Kerala and is one of the main conspirators in the instant case.

"They have also been found propagating alternative justice delivery systems justifying the use of criminal

'Bhakti' in politics is road to dictatorship, says Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday drew a distinction in "Bhakti" in religion and politics and how it was dangerous in the latter.

"Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship", he said in a tweet after visiting the B.R. Ambedkar Memorial here to pay tribute.

He also visited the mazaar of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pay tribute.

Kharge, who took charge as the new Congress chief on Wednesday, said that the BJP and the RSS are "attempting to replace the Baba Saheb's Constitution with Sangh Constitution" but his Congress will not let this happen.



PEOPLE OF GUJARAT WILL END 27-YEAR OF CORRUPT REGIME: PUNJAB CM

Panchmahal (Gujarat) | Agencies

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday asserted that people of Gujarat will usher a new era of politics by collapsing the political fortress of the BJP, which has been in power for the past 27 years, and ensuing a landslide victory of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) party in the upcoming assembly elections.

Addressing to a gathering here, Mann said it is crystal clear that the people of Gujarat have made up their mind to give mandate in favour of AAP by ousting the BJP from the power.

He said the Opposition is trying to malign AAP by dubbing it 'B' team of others but AAP is party of Gujarat's people and 130 crore of Indians.

"AAP is spearheading to make India number one by cleaning the decade-old filth in the system with their honest and pro-people approach."

Slamming the BJP for the miserable condition of common man in the state, Mann said the saffron party is responsible for plundering the wealth of the people.

"The people were deprived of basic facilities like education and health. But now people are ready to teach a lesson to the BJP in the upcoming assembly elections," he said.

Referring to the massive wave of change in favour of AAP



in Gujarat, the Punjab Chief Minister said repeating the history of Delhi and Punjab, the common people of Gujarat will form the government of AAP with a landslide margin.

The Chief Minister said the huge crowd in rallies was a testimony to fact that AAP will form government in Gujarat.

He said the BJP has been baffled by massive response to the party in the state. Reiterating that AAP will eliminate corruption from the system after forming the government in the state, Mann said foreigners ruled Indian for over 200 years but they would have also felt ashamed to witness that they could not match the loot what the ruling leaders are doing currently in the country. Taking potshots at the Congress for its MLAs shifting loyalty to the BJP, Mann said the Congress is not change but they are for exchange only. Their MLAs are ready to join other parties as they know ship of the Congress is sinking in the country.

The Chief Minister said at present the country is on the brink of political change and people are looking beyond traditional the Congress and the BJP parties. Earlier, there was no alternative to people but now they have an honest AAP party led by its soldier Arvind Kejriwal.

He said that just like Delhi and Punjab, the wind of change is prevailing in this state too.

Talking about the pro-people policies initiated by the Punjab government, the Chief Minister said that the state has restored the old pension scheme for its employees, which was discontinued in 2004.

Apart from this, six per cent dearness allowance has been given to the employees so that they can be protected from the incessantly rising inflation.

THREE MINOR GIRLS RAPED IN ASSAM, THREE ACCUSED ARRESTED

Guwahati | Three persons were arrested in Assam's Goalpara district on Friday for allegedly raping three minor girls, officials said.

The arrested persons were identified as Hasan Paramanik, Debasish Das, and Hafizul Ali.

The incident happened last week in the Dudhnoi area of the district.

Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Reddy said that on October 22, the trio convinced the minors to go with them to a party. "The three accused then took the girls to a dhaba near Assam-Meghalaya interstate border and allegedly mixed some substance in their drinks. After that the trio took the girls to a nearby brick kiln where the minors were allegedly raped for several hours," he added.

The girls were left at a place near Dudhnoi market on the next day.

The family of the minors later filed a police complaint after they came to know about the incident. Police launched an operation to catch the accused persons. Reddy said that all three accused were booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

Pollution: 24 grossly violating industrial units ordered to close

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As per the forecast, the average Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi is likely to be in

'Poor' and 'Very Poor' categories given the unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions that generally prevail in the NCR during winters and the occurrence of farm fires.

Taking note of this, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas has intensified its efforts to ensure enforcement and compliance of its directions.

The Commission stated that since invoking the GRAP Stage-I with effect from October 6, 2022, a total of 472 incognito inspections have been carried out in industrial areas and construction projects across NCR, and 52 grossly violating units/projects have been issued closure orders. Closure orders have been issued to 24 grossly violating industrial



units. Of these, (5) industrial units were still found using coal and other unapproved polluting fuels. The Commission has also issued closure directions to 45 coal-based industrial units in

Rajasthan. Thirty-two coal-based units (9 in Haryana and 23 in UP) have been closed down permanently. Forty-eight units (8 in Haryana and 40 in UP) have temporarily suspended their

operations till these units are converted to approved fuels.

The standard approved fuel list for NCR bans use of heavily polluting fuels like coal, furnace oil etc. Biomass fuels with stricter emission norms have however been permitted in NCR, outside the territorial jurisdiction of GNCTD considering the huge availability and need to promote environmentally sustainable use of biomass. The Commission in association with the state governments has launched a drive for shifting all industries in NCR to cleaner fuels as per approved list.

With the prime objective to abate the air pollution levels in the NCR, the Commission has intensified incognito field inspections through Flying Squads towards better enforcement and monitoring of compliance of all relevant air pollution-related statutes and guidelines.

Four shooters of Bambiha gang arrested in Punjab

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Police have arrested four shooters of the Davinder Bambiha gang, including two assailants of Uttarakhand Mining Trader from Mohali, said Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav here on Friday.



Mining trader Mehal Singh (70) was shot dead outside his house on October 13.

The operation was jointly carried out by the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), Counter Intelligence (CI) Punjab, the District Police of Udhampur Singh Nagar Uttarakhand, the Special Cell Delhi and the District Police of Mohali.

The arrested persons are Sadhu Singh, Jagdish Singh, alias Disha, Manpreet Singh, alias Mani, Jaspreet Singh, all resident of Mansa district.

The police have also recovered one .30 caliber pistol along with two magazines and seven cartridges; one 9 mm pistol along with one magazine; and one Turkey-made 9 mm machine-pistol along with three magazines, including one magazine of 31 cartridges capacity and 19 cartridges and one Apache motorcycle from their possession. DGP Yadav said during investigations it has come

to light that accused Sadhu Singh and Manpreet Singh along with their associates killed trader Mehal Singh on the directions of gangsters-turned-terrorists Arshdeep Singh, a.k.a. Arsh Dalla, and Sukhdoo Singh, a.k.a. Sukha Duneke.

The two arrested persons have provided them weapons, logistics support and conducted recce of deceased's house. He said the arrested persons were further hatching conspiracy to commit crimes in Punjab and neighbouring states.

नाम सुधार

मेरा सही नाम AVNEESH KUMAR SHUKLA है, मेरे बेटे ASHWIN KUMAR SHUKLA के Birth Certificate में मेरा नाम गलती से AVNEESH SHUKLA अंकित हो गया था, जिसे ठीक करा लिया गया है। इसलिये मेरा सही नाम AVNEESH KUMAR SHUKLA है।



THOSE GUILTY OF IRREGULARITIES WILL BE PUNISHED IMMEDIATELY- CM CHOUHAN

► CHIEF MINISTER SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN HAS SAID THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY TOWARDS CORRUPTION. PROMPT ACTION IS BEING TAKEN IN CORRUPTION CASES. THOSE GUILTY OF COMMITTING IRREGULARITIES WILL BE PUNISHED IMMEDIATELY.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Action has been taken against 104 people in the Women and Child Development Department and 26 have been fired. It is our responsibility to ensure the implementation of clean administrative system to give relief to the public. Preference will be given to hardworking and sensitive officers-employees in field postings. CM Chouhan was interacting virtually with ministers

and MLA colleagues from the residence office in connection with developmental activities and public welfare schemes.

Extending Diwali greetings, CM Chouhan wished everyone good luck and prosperity. He said that the ministers and MLAs should be active in the maintenance of the roads of their

respective areas. He told to have continuous dialogue with the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and women of self-help groups. It should be ensured that the schemes and development activities are conducted with complete transparency. He said that programmes would be organized to communicate with the

eligible beneficiaries involved in the Mukhya Mantri Janseva Abhiyan. The sequence of morning meetings of the development activities and implementation of public welfare schemes will continue in the districts. MLAs should actively participate in these meetings. He also discussed about CM Rise School.

CM planted saplings in Smart City Garden

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Ashok, Kachnar and Harsingar saplings in the Smart City Garden. Team Ashray of Prashray Welfare Foundation Ashray and Bhopal's Clinical Nutritionist Sonali Malhotra participated in the plantation. Nandita Malhotra and child Krishav also planted saplings with them. Social worker Ganesh Malviya along with CM Chouhan planted saplings on his birthday.

Team Ashray conducts awareness programmes through street plays and other activities for environment, medicine, women empowerment and education. A campaign is being carried out by the team members to plant saplings in the number of years of their age.

Sonali Malhotra is conducting activities to educate



school children on the importance of nutrition and motivate them to adopt nutritious food and healthy lifestyle. Nandita Malhotra is active in sensitizing the youth about the precautions

to be followed in the online banking system. Krishav, who engaged in tree plantation, along with his colony residents constantly, participates in cleanliness and plantation activities.

23-year-old woman gang-raped six arrested

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 23-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped in Tikamgarh district, and six accused have been arrested in this connection, police said on Friday.

In her complaint, the victim told the police that she had come to Tikamgarh around one month back and she got familiar with one of the accused, who helped her find a flat on rent.

The complaint further alleged that on October 26, one of the accused came to her rented flat and asked her to accompany her to a party venue in the district.

The victim claimed that as she was familiar to the man, she agreed to go for the party, however, when she reached the venue, five more persons were also present there. After partying, they started molesting her under the influence of alcohol. The victim said that she



resisted and decided to leave for her home but the accused took her to an isolated place and gang-raped her.

Later, the victim lodged a complaint at the police station. "The incident occurred on October 26 and all the accused were arrested. The woman had come to Tikamgarh a month ago," said Sub-Inspector Raghuraj.

Police have registered a case under sections 342 (wrongful confinement), 294 (obscene acts and songs), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 376 (rape), 377 (Unnatural offence), and 506 (criminal intimidation).

Reliable and sufficient power will be available from the resource adequacy plan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Resource Adequacy Plan will help in providing reliable and adequate power 24 hours a day at affordable rates to the power consumers. In September and October last year, there was difficulty in power supply across the country. It is hoped that after the implementation of this plan, such difficulties will not be faced in future. Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar said this in the workshop of Western Region States on 'Resource Adequacy-Need and Way Forward' by Central Electricity Authority at Courtyard Marriott.

Energy Minister Tomar said that this plan will enable better assessment of power requirements. Madhya Pradesh will implement it on priority. He informed that at present 24 hours electricity is being provided to domestic consumers and 10 hours for agriculture in the state.

He also said that I am confident that the workshop of the states of the western region organized in Bhopal will yield fruitful results. Along with this, proper use of conventional and non-conventional energy resources will be ensured.

Pilot Project in Madhya Pradesh Chairman Central Electricity Authority and ex-officio Secretary to the Central Government Ghanshyam Prasad said that after the implementation of Resource Adequacy Plan, it can be given where there will be shortage of electricity wherever there is power surplus in the country. Its guidelines have been prepared. He said that work is being done in the form of pilot project in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. It will be completed by March 2023.

Principal Secretary Energy Sanjay Dubey gave information about power banking implemented in Madhya Pradesh. He said that the

power requirement is assessed every 15 minutes. Now efforts are being made to provide adequate electricity even in peak hours by matching all the resources like solar, wind, gas, thermal, hydro. He said that there is more variability in solar and wind energy. It will be available enough during the day but will decrease at night. To meet out this shortcoming, work is being done on a plan to provide electricity from other resources. In relation to these objectives, a workshop has been organized for discussion and policy making.

Managing Director MP Power Management Company Vivek Porwal, while taking part in the discussion, spoke on various aspects including resource adequacy plan and availability of power during peak hours. Apart from Madhya Pradesh, officers of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa and Daman Diu also gave important suggestions in the workshop.

Three held in Bhopal for attack on Portuguese national



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days after a Portuguese tourist was attacked and robbed in broad daylight at a busy market in Bhopal, the police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three accused involved in the case.

District Collector Avinash Lavania along with a couple of senior police officers met the Portuguese national Nuno Rodricks at a city hotel where he has been staying for the last one week.

As per the police, the Portuguese national, who is said to be manager at a KFC restaurants in his country, was targeted by a group of people at Bharat Talkies area in Bhopal on the afternoon

of October 23 while he was heading back to the hotel. The miscreants had not only robbed the victim but had also pelted stone on him. The victim was then admitted to Hamidia hospital, from where he was discharged after treatment. The police have arrested three miscreants who executed the crime after Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan intervened in the matter and asked the police to take prompt action.

The arrested accuseds have been identified as Mohd. Faizal, Sharvar Ali and Afzal Khan - all are residents of Bhopal. "Accused has been arrested and they are being interrogated. CCTV footage helped in identifying the criminals," a police official said.

GAU POOJAN PROGRAMS WILL BE HELD IN GAUSHALAS ON GOPASHTAMI

Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh Gau-Samvardhan Board Karya Parishad chairperson Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri has instructed all the gaushala operators of the state to conduct Gau Poojan (cow-worship) programmes in gaushalas on the upcoming Gopashtami-November 1. He said that gau-bhaktas and animal lovers should be invited to the program and participate in cow worship. After the worship, seminars should be held on the importance of the cow. Invite experienced gau-sevaks, cow-keepers and scholars to the seminars.

Mahamandaleshwar Swami Akhileshwaranand Giri has appealed to the cow-keepers, gau-bhaktas and cow-lovers of the state to reach their nearest gaushala on Gopashtami in maximum numbers and participate in cow worship. Offer gau-grass to cows and calves.

He urged the gau-bhaktas that if there are small boys and girls in their house, then they should also take them along to the Gau-shala and instill the culture of cow protection in them. Feed green grass, jaggery-roti, soaked gram dal etc to cows. Donate money for the purpose of gau-grass in gaushalas.

Junior National Equestrian Competition from December 12 to 25

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The residents of Bhopal will be able to see the best horse riders of the country competing with each other in the month of December. Junior National Equestrian Competition-2022 will be organised from December 12 to 25 at Madhya Pradesh State Equestrian Academy of Excellence, Bhopal.

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia reviewed the preparations for the competition at the Equestrian Academy, Bishankhedhi on Thursday. She informed that 200 sportspersons and 200 horses from across the country will participate in the Junior National Equestrian Competition. The thirteen-day long competition will have team and individual events in show jumping, cross country, dressage, tent pegging. Scindia inquired about the arrangements being made for the players



and their horses during the review. She instructed to make temporary stables for the horses in view of the competition. The Sports Minister took information from the officials regarding the help desk, medical, security of the premises, arrangement of fire brigade and

cleanliness of Equestrian Academy and sending garbage carts daily and arrangement of water during the competition.

Chief Coach of Madhya Pradesh State Equestrian Academy of Excellence Captain Bhagirath Prasad informed that equestrians

from 16 states will participate in this competition. The competition will be judged by a jury and official judge on behalf of the Equestrian Federation of India. Director Sports and Youth Welfare Ravi Kumar Gupta and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Uma Bharti's stance on prohibition, 'Whatever happens in Orchha will become an example'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and BJP's firebrand leader Uma Bharti, who has taken an aggressive stand on prohibition of liquor in Madhya Pradesh, has remained strong and she is ready to go to any extent to make her campaign a success. On one hand, where she is remembering the Ayodhya movement, she is saying that whatever happens in Orchha will become an example for the whole of Madhya Pradesh.

Former CM Uma Bharti had thrown cow dung at a liquor shop in Ayodhya Orchha in Bundelkhand in the past, then this shop was closed, but when she reached here on the day of Bhai Dooj, she got furious after seeing the shop open. At the same time, he remembered the Ayodhya movement and tweeted, "I miss Ayodhya a lot, from two Lok Sabha seats, Ayodhya has given us the ability to form the government with its majority at the center twice." When the structure collapsed, it was considered an illegal act, we were all considered criminals and in the end, on our crime, a grand Ram temple is being built today. Not only this, she also gave indications



of a violent movement in gestures and taking forward his point, said, this country-foreign liquor

shop of Orchha inspires me that what happens here will be an example for the whole of Madhya Pradesh, let's see what happens.

It is to be known that former Chief Minister Uma Bharti has announced in the past that she will leave the house from November 7. She will not be in the building from November 7 to January 14, during which she will set up a chapel and stay in a tent.

She had announced that from November 7, till the target is achieved, till the things that have been decided, I do not see the new liquor policy, till then I will not stay at home, will live in the forests, will stay in the open, will stay in tents and will stay in religious places.

I will put up a small chaupal on the banks of the river or under a tree or in an inappropriate or prohibited place by putting up a tent in front of the liquor shop or the compound.

Uma Bharti was in the discussion about throwing stones at the liquor shop in the past, after that cow dung was also thrown at the liquor shop in Orchha. She has earlier expressed satisfaction over the attitude of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, but she has once again issued a warning.

Divyang got motorized tricycle in Gwalior

Team Absolute | Gwalior

To make the life of the differently-abled easier in Gwalior, motor price cycles have been provided to them.

Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar gave the gift of Diwali by presenting motorized tricycles to 19 Divyangs in his office number 38 in Gwalior. He said that every needy is being provided the benefits of state government schemes.

These motorized tricycles have been distributed from MLA fund in collaboration with Social Justice Department. Along with this, by feeding sweets to all the differently-abled, he also



wished Diwali. Energy Minister Tomar said that the state government will always work for the people of all sections. The Central and State Governments have also implemented the scheme for

the handicapped by giving them equal status like common person. This small gift will make their life easier.

He said that earlier also tricycles were distributed to the needy. This cycle will continue.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Pollution: Tough job for traffic cops

With the national capital's air quality deteriorating, Delhi Traffic Police have come up with creative ways to alert people through social media and campaigns being organised across the city. In a fun way of sharing memes on Twitter, cops have urged people to help reduce air pollution by using public transport and carpooling rather than going out in private vehicles in large numbers. Traffic police also advised people of the Capital to use bicycles, avoid use of personal vehicles for short distance travel, and travellers to get pollution under control certificate for Rs 60 rather than getting a challan of Rs 10,000. Though cops have pulled up their socks to deal and spread awareness about the rising pollution levels in the city, they, while performing their duties on ground in managing traffic, are themselves the victims of hazardous gases. Experts said that a primary cause of lung ailment among the traffic police personnel is due to prolonged exposure to high levels of nitrogen oxide and sulphur oxide which are the toxic gases released through vehicular fumes. Though the traffic cops use safety gears, experts suggested that regular transfers of officials are needed from high traffic zones to avoid exposure to hazardous conditions. A senior police official said that they regularly organise health camps for the traffic officials. "If any cop complains of poor health, transfer is also considered," the official added. In the past three decades, the number of motor vehicles on Delhi roads has increased by approximately 21 times contributing to more vehicular pollution. According to an annual report prepared by the Delhi Traffic Police, there were over 1.22 crore registered vehicles of all categories in Delhi in 2021. Thus, the vehicle density per square km has increased manifold. Theoretically, there are 371 vehicles per square km in Delhi.

POJK LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS ARE AN EYEWASH

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

After a lapse of 31 years, Pakistan occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK) seems all set for the local bodies (LB) elections on November 27. So far a total of 13,637 candidates have submitted their nomination papers in 10 districts. From each district the nomination papers submitted by the aspiring candidates is as follows: Bhimber 1347, Neelum 735, Mirpur 1387, Jhelum Valley 699, Kotli 2570, Sadhnuti 991, Bagh 1506, Haveli Kathua 460, Poonch 1800 and Muzaffarabad 2142. Total number of people in PoJK who are eligible to cast their vote is 29,48,200 among which 15,64,902 are male and 13,83,102 are female voters. Those who get elected will join Dehi (village), Union and District Councils respectively. A total of 2080 Village and Union Council councillors will be elected in addition to 280 district councillors. Five municipal corporations, 133 municipal wards and 4 municipal committees will be set up. Candidates have already begun to vigorously campaign and attract voters. However, the question is what kind of a local body government system is going to emerge as a result of these elections. Will it be something similar to the District Development Councils (DDC) elections of Indian Jammu Kashmir that devolved decision making powers to the grassroots level? Or is it going to be a controlled and manipulated exercise? A close look at the process of the election, from start to end, should supply us with some clues. First and foremost, the nomination forms that are handed out to the aspiring candidates has a section in which it says that the candidate believes in the finality of the prophet Muhammad. Secondly, it demands



the candidate to pledge its allegiance to the ideology of Pakistan and finally it makes it mandatory for the candidate to agree to PoJK's accession to Pakistan. Let us examine this compulsory oath. By allowing only those who believe in the finality of prophet Mohamed, all other religious groups have been excluded from the election process. Secondly, to force the candidate to pledge allegiance to the ideology of Pakistan, imposes on the candidate the obligation to accept the politico-religious fascist ideology of Two-Nation Theory of the founding father of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, which in itself is a communal ideology based on Hindu phobia. And finally, to demand of the candidate to show, promise and succumb to their choice of making an informed and independent decision regarding the future of PoJK by accepting PoJK's accession to Pakistan is a form of colonial tyranny of the worst kind. The United Nations resolutions have classed PoJK as a disputed territory. How can it be demanded of my people to sign an oath of allegiance to Pakistan? Therefore, these local body elections, which are due on November 27, do not represent the broad political, religious or even cultural spectrum of PoJK. Adnan Rahman, a faculty member of the department of Law at the

university in Muzaffarabad in PoJK observes that current LB elections are being held under the 1990 Act. This Act is draconian and is designed to obstruct any attempt that might lead to the wider participation of the broader masses in the grassroots level decision making process. In other words, it hampers participatory democracy instead of enhancing it. For example, Rahman notes that the local councils will be controlled by an army of unelected officials and directors, the Prime Minister of PoJK has the powers to disqualify a single or more elected councillors at will and even wrap up the whole LB government system and call for a new election. This gives full power to the unelected officials and directors to control the development

The only way forward would be to free PoJK from the colonial rule of Pakistan and form a people's representative and democratic government that would ensure devolution of power to the grassroots level of decision making. Until that happens the role of both the government of PoJK as well as that of the local bodies will be no more than a legal cover for the ongoing plunder of my land. (Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK. The views are personal)

international

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE TO VISIT PAKISTAN SOON: SHEHBAZ SHARIF

Islamabad | Agencies
Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud would soon visit Pakistan, adding that the Crown Prince has expressed his willingness to support development projects in the country, media reports said. The premier's remarks came days after he concluded a three-day trip to Saudi Arabia during which the two leaders resolved to upgrade bilateral ties and fraternal bonds, Dawn reported. Speaking at the passing out parade of the Specialised Training Programme (STP) batch of the National Police Academy in Islamabad, Sharif talked about his meeting with the Saudi Prime Minister earlier this week. "Earlier this year, a team from the



Saudi Development Fund visited Pakistan. During a meeting with me, they complained about delays in projects in Pakistan caused by the previous government," he recalled. "Trust me, it was very embarrassing. But I asked for some time and got approvals for all the delayed projects within 48 hours," Sharif

said, Dawn reported. The Prime Minister said that during his meeting with Prince Salman, he had apologised for these delays. "He (Prince Salman) said that the people of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are closely bound together in a relationship. 'We are like one family and I am ready to do everything'... These were his words. "The Saudi prince also told us to work on projects and to facilitate them without any worries," Sharif said, elaborating that the projects included an oil refinery which is worth \$10 billion. Hence, he added, when Prince Salman visits Pakistan, "I want all of you to welcome him warmly because he comes from a brotherly country". Sharif also said that in the last few years, Pakistan's relations with friendly countries had suffered and promised that he is making all-out efforts to mend ties.

31 DEAD IN PHILIPPINES FLOODS

Manila | At least 31 people died on Friday and several others were reported missing after a strong overnight downpour flooded a number of towns in the Philippines' Maguindanao province, an official said. The disaster management official said 16 people were killed in Datu Odin Sinsuat, 10 in Datu Blah Sinsuat, and five in Upi, reports Xinhua news agency. The casualties may rise further as the rescue operation was ongoing, he added. Nasrullah Imam, head of the Maguindanao provincial disaster risk reduction and management office, said troops and police were deployed in place to help rescue and evacuate local residents. Local media reported that the heavy rain was related to the tropical storm Nalgae which is expected to make a landfall on Sunday on the main Luzon island. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, Nalgae is expected to strengthen into a severe tropical storm on Friday and into a typhoon by Saturday. The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries globally, mainly due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and Pacific typhoon belt. On average, the archipelagic country experiences 20 typhoons yearly, some of which are intense and destructive. In April, the tropical storm Megi dumped rains in central and southern parts of the Philippines, inundating many areas and causing landslides, resulting in over 220 deaths.

World faces most dangerous decade since WWII: Putin

Moscow | Agencies
The world faces "probably the most dangerous" decade since the end of World War Two, Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned. He made the remarks on Thursday while addressing the annual Valdai forum after a series of recent military defeats in Ukraine and growing public anger at home over a drive to mobilise some 300,000 Russians for the war effort, reports the BBC. In a wide-ranging speech, he sought to justify Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a move that has left his country internationally isolated. Putin also accused the West of nuclear blackmail against Russia to force allies to turn away from Moscow. The day before his address in Moscow, Putin had overseen routine nuclear exercises that involved a supposed nuclear strike in retaliation for an enemy's massive nuclear attack. "We've never proactively said anything about Russia's possible use of nuclear weapons. We've only responded with hints to comments voiced by the leaders of Western countries," the BBC quoted the

President as saying. Putin singled out former UK Prime Minister Liz Truss for suggesting during an August campaign event that she would be ready to press the nuclear button if circumstances required her to do so. The President said he was surprised the UK's allies did not object: "What were we supposed to do? Keep silent? Pretend that we didn't hear it?" He also repeated his recent attacks on the West, and what he called its "dangerous, bloody and dirty game" of denying countries their sovereignty and uniqueness, the BBC reported. The West's "undivided dominance" over world affairs was now coming to an end, Putin asserted. "We're at a historical frontier. Ahead is probably the most dangerous, unpredictable and at the same time important decade since the end of World War two." The West was no more able to be in charge, but was "desperately trying" to do so, the President said, adding that the "future world order is being formed before our eyes", and accused the West, led by the US, of trying to destroy Russia.

Gateway Tower of largest Hindu temple in North Carolina unveiled

New York | Agencies
Adding on to the Diwali cheer among Hindu-Americans, a new 87-foot tower at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Cary was inaugurated by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper in presence of hundreds of devotees. The completion of the tower, which is named "Tower of Unity and Prosperity", comes 13 years after the temple construction started in 2009, and is now the tallest of its kind in North America, according to temple leaders. "What a wonderful day this is, especially in times of trouble... walking into this temple with reverence and leaving your worries on the outside for just a while... That's something we all need to do, but then we can always leave the temple with even more determination than ever to address those worries, and to make sure we're doing

something about it," Governor Cooper said addressing the community, CBS17 reported. Approval for the tower was granted in 2019, and construction began in April 2020, "right at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic", Lakshminarayanan Srinivasan, general secretary of the temple's board of trustees, told Raleigh News & Observer. According to Srinivasan, the "donate a brick" program, which invited Indian-Americans from across the country to donate whatever they could to help see through the tower's completion, around \$2.5 million from more than 5,000 donors. The temple is modeled after the famous Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, and is known to be the largest Hindu temple in North America. Fourteen artisans were brought in from India to hand-carve the temple's decorative Hindu idols out of cement.

Iraqi lawmakers approve PM-designate's new cabinet lineup

Baghdad | Agencies
The Iraqi Parliament has approved the new cabinet lineup presented by Prime Minister-designate Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani. Up to 253 lawmakers attending Thursday's session raised their hands to show approval of the new ministers when Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi read out their names one by one, reports Xinhua news agency. Parliament voted with an absolute majority to grant confidence to 21 ministers out of 23, as the voting for the ministers of environment and housing was postponed due to political disputes. It also voted in favour of Fuad Hussein as Deputy Prime Minister while keeping his position as minister



of foreign affairs. They also voted for Hayyan Abdul Ghani Abdul Zahra as Deputy Prime Minister and minister of oil, and Mohammed Ali Tamim as another Deputy Prime Minister and minister of planning. Al-Sudani read out his government program, which includes com-

bating administrative and financial corruption, addressing the unemployment problem, supporting the poor, vulnerable and low-income people, as well as improving public services. It also includes economic reforms, especially in the agricultural, industrial and banking sectors, in addition to supporting the private sector. The program also focuses on addressing the outstanding issues between Baghdad and the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan. Al-Sudani promised to exert every effort to succeed in ending their suffering, while pledging to build a strong economy capable of achieving qualitative change in services. President Abdul Latif Rashid congratulated al-Sudani and expressed confidence in the latter's ability to face the challenges in the country.





SHIV SENA PLEA TO ECI: BAN & PROBE BJP'S 'ILLEGAL, UNETHICAL ROZGAR MELAS'

As Maha loses mega-projects, MVA calls Shinde-Fadnavis 'agents' of Gujarat

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide 'Rozgar Melas' to hand over appointment letters to some 75,000 youth, the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) has registered a strong protest with the Election Commission of India (ECI), here on Friday.

The Sena (UBT) National Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari has filed a petition with the ECI, seeking for an urgent ban and a probe into the entire "planted" Rozgar Melas which he said are "illegal and unethical as they violate the All India Services (Conduct) Rules and other regulations".

The petition contends that the Rozgar Melas were grant events organised for sheer political gains by the BJP at the Centre and contrary to all the civil services, army rules, BJP banks and other public sector undertakings which took part in the jamboree organised simultaneously all over India, sponsored by government funds.

In Maharashtra, the Rozgar Melas were spearheaded by Union Ministers Piyush Goyal (Mumbai), Narayan Rane (Pune) and Ramdas Athawale (Nagpur) in the presence of various party leaders on October 22, when 800 youth were given their job letters amid much fanfare.

At that time, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders like Congress' Atul Londhe,



NCP's Mahesh Tapase and Sena (UBT)'s Tiwari had slammed the BJP for giving only 75,000 jobs against Modi's promise in 2014 to create two crore jobs every year. Tiwari pointed out that the service rules of all these organisations "do not

recognise" or allow such events for political mileage, that too, only for the ruling BJP as no representatives of any other political parties were present. "Any such event with eyes to benefit the ruling party politically is not only illegal but also contrary to several judgements of the Supreme Court and the ECI's own guidelines and Model Code of Conduct for free and fair polls without any inducements to benefit only the ruling party without giving equal opportunity to other recognises/registered parties," Tiwari said.

His petition cites apex court rulings under Article 32, the ECI's directions/orders, and how all Central/state government departments and other public sector undertakings are duty-bound to follow.

Despite this, Tiwari said all government organisations were compelled to organise the Rozgar Melas spending public funds and violating all rules, regulations, norms and SC orders.

In the petition, Tiwari urged the ECI to immediately ban all future Rozgar Melas, adhere to the SC orders, and probe who actually authorised such programs at public expense for the politically-motivated job fairs intended to give an edge to the BJP. The Sena (UBT) leader added that the manner in which the job events were carried out conveyed an impression that the candidates were getting government jobs not on their own merits, but courtesy the BJP.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With several mega-projects deserting Maharashtra for Gujarat, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Friday called the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis 'agents' of Gujarat.

Continuing to target the ruling alliance of Balasaheb Shinde Shiv Sena (BSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) continued to target Shinde-Fadnavis for allegedly working in the interests of Gujarat at the cost of Maharashtra.

"Since past over 8 years, the BJP at the Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been scuttling the state's interests by shifting major industries, investments and institutions to his home state, and now the treacherous Shinde-Fadnavis regime here is acting like 'agents' of Gujarat," Congress' Maharashtra unit president Nana Patole said here.

Attacking Shinde-Fadnavis, SS (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray said the manner in which so many big deals are slipping out of the state proves that "industrialists have lost faith in the 'Khokha' (slang for crores of rupees) regime".

"The CM is busy with festivals and cele-

brations... after this government of traitors came to power, the 'engine' has failed," said Thackeray Jr.

NCP national spokesperson Clyde Crasto accused Industry Minister Uday Samant of 'either lying or suffering from amnesia' by blaming the erstwhile MVA government for the loss of the Rs 22,000-crore Tata-Airbus to Gujarat.

"He promises that much bigger projects will come here to compensate for the losses of other deals, but its clear his excuses and creating deliberate confusion to hide his failures which are hitting the people of the state now," Crasto said. Maharashtra Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant reiterated that the Shinde-Fadnavis duo is working all-out to make Gujarat prosperous at Maharashtra's expense, and they have no guts to raise their voice before Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Now, Samant is claiming that the Tata-Airbus MoU was signed one year ago, but it was signed with the Centre and not Gujarat government. Now, even Arcelor-Mittal, which has a plant in Pune (Maharashtra), has announced a Rs 60,000-crore project in Gujarat," said Sawant.

On Thursday, NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase had slammed CM Shinde for being 'ineffective' as the state keeps losing one huge project after another.

Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra pumps up 'Wakanda Forever' fever

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian Olympic gold sensation, track and field athlete Neeraj Chopra has joined the fight for Wakanda as he personifies the essence of being a warrior and fighting for one's country.

His journey from humble beginnings to achieving the coveted Olympic gold medal and becoming the reigning champion has truly been inspiring and extraordinary in equal measures.

Marvel Studios released a new promotional video asset featuring Chopra on Friday on their social media handles. In the video, he can be seen wearing a dark athletic attire and throwing javelin as the visuals from the upcoming superhero movie 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' slowly take over the frame.

Speaking about the association, Neeraj said in a statement: "Black Panther" is



about a fierce warrior, a hero who is willing to give everything to fight for his people and his country. As an athlete, representing India is our biggest opportunity and we give our best shot and fight till the end. Expressing his happiness, he mentioned that he is glad to be a part of the jour-

ney. "I'm truly overjoyed that I can be a part of this journey and just like Black Panther, I hope to inspire people around the globe to never give up on their dreams. Being a huge Marvel fan, I just can't wait to watch the film and discover the new journey of Wakanda."

Police nab film producer who tried to run over actress wife

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Amboli Police have tracked and nabbed film producer Kamal Kishore Mishra following a complaint by his actress wife that he attempted to run her over with his car, officials said here on Friday.

Mishra, in his early 40s, and now also slapped with attempt-to-murder charges - was arrested late on Thursday and will be produced before a magistrate court later in the day.

His wife and Bhojpuri films actress, Yasmin, who had accused him of extra-marital liaisons - alleged to have caught him with a woman in a vehicle in the parking lot of their residential building in Andheri west on October 19.

The Amboli Police Station lodged a case against Mishra who allegedly drove his white car with tinted glasses



into her, injuring her legs and head, but her condition is now stable. Senior Police Inspector Bandopant Bansode had cited Yasmin's plaint

that her husband Mishra was reportedly having an adulterous relationship and deliberately attempted to crush her under his car before speed-

ing off from there.

A viral video (dated October 19) shows her running towards the vehicle, purportedly driven by her husband with another woman in the car, and as she tried to stop him, he kept on driving ahead until she fell under the front right wheel.

A building security personnel rushes to help her, he is seen trying to talk to the driver, but is ignored and he continues to drive ahead, at one point dragging her on the bonnet, and as the woman fell on the ground, he sped off from the location.

The shocking incident and the security video clip evoked strong reactions on the social media with many slamming Mishra for his alleged deeds, and demanding stringent action against him.

Mishra has been booked under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicles Act.

Kangana Ranaut hopes to regain her social media account as Musk takes over as new owner

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Elon Musk's firing of Twitter CEO Parag Agarwal was welcomed by actor Kangana Ranaut on Instagram. Twitter suspended Kangana's account in May of last year for "repeated violations of Twitter Rules specifically the Hateful Conduct policy and Abusive Behaviour policy". She also shared a fan's post in which she expressed hope that the actor would return to the microblogging platform soon.

Musk took over as the new owner of Twitter Inc on Thursday, firing top executives such as CEO Parag Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal, and legal affairs and policy chief Vijaya Gadde. He had previously accused them of misleading him and



providing little clarity about how he intends to achieve the goals he has set for the social media platform.

An alleged statement by former US President Donald Trump indicating that his Twitter account would be

reinstated by Monday began to circulate online shortly after the restructuring was announced. Twitter also suspended Trump's account for multiple violations. The statement, however, was later proven to be false.

Kangana's Twitter account was 'permanently suspended for repeated violations of Twitter rules' in May 2021. The actor had violated Twitter's Hateful Conduct and Abusive Behaviour policies. She had claimed racism and told a leading portal, "Twitter has only proved my point they're Americans and by birth, a white person feels entitled to enslave a brown person, they want to tell you what to think, speak or do. I have many platforms I can use to raise my voice, including my own art in the form of cinema."

Before his controversial takeover, Musk had earlier written on Twitter, "A beautiful thing about Twitter is how it empowers citizen journalism - people are able to disseminate news without an establishment bias."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by an auto-rickshaw driver in Goregaon during a fight over the victim teasing and taunting the latter.

The incident took place on Tuesday night in the Hanuman Tekdi area and the deceased was identified as Mukesh Zanjare. An official said that the deceased used to tease and taunt the auto-rickshaw driver, who limps due to some disability.

The official said during a fight over the taunting issue, the accused pulled out a knife



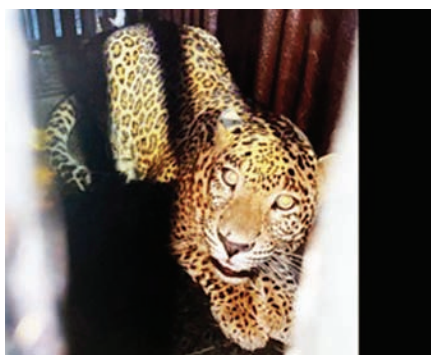
and stabbed Zanjare in chest and stomach. Zanjare was rushed to a civic-run hospital in suburban Jogeshwari where he was declared dead in the early

hours of Wednesday. An offence under IPC section 302 (murder) was registered at the Vanrai police station and the accused was arrested by the police, he further added.

One suspect leopard trapped, search on for other big cat in Aarey Colony

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of the two male leopards suspected to be behind the fatal attack on a toddler on Diwali and a few more animal conflicts at Aarey Milk Colony has been trapped and authorities have stepped up the efforts to catch the other. The captured leopard has been identified as C-55, while forest officials and volunteers have increased night patrols in the green zone. G Mallikarjun, Sanjay Gandhi National Park's field director and conservator of forest, said, "In the wee hours of Wednesday, we captured one male leopard [C-55] which was later brought to the rescue centre at SGNP. The medical examination of the animal was done by our vet Dr Shailesh Petha. The animal is around three years old and it has been kept under observation by our vet." Mallikarjun said that the forest department teams would continue monitoring the other male leopard C-56 in the field. "We have installed a total of 30 camera traps around unit No. 15 and at other locations in Aarey Milk Colony to monitor the leopard's activities," said Mallikarjun. In the early hours of Monday, a leopard killed 16-month-old Etika Lot inside Aarey when her mother went to light a diya at a temple less than 20 feet away from their home. The baby was found grievously wounded after about 40



minutes and later died of her injuries at SevenHills Hospital, Marol. Earlier this month, a four-year-old boy from Aarey was injured in a leopard attack.

Volunteers from the Aarey Camera Trapping Team and NGO WWA are assisting the forest department to trap C-56. On Monday night, one trap cage was set up in the green zone, while two more were installed on Tuesday night. Leopard C-55 walked into a cage in the early hours of Wednesday, said officials. Sources said the forest department and officials from Thane and Sanjay Gandhi National Park have increased night patrolling in the area. They are also visiting tribal hamlets to spread awareness.

'Married woman asked to do housework is not like maid': Bombay HC

Team Absolute | Aurangabad

The Bombay High Court's Aurangabad bench has observed that a married woman being asked to do housework would not amount to cruelty towards her under Indian Penal Code section 498A, and quashed a domestic violence case.

"If a married lady is asked to do household work definitely for the purpose of the family, it cannot be said that it is like a maid servant. If she had no wish to do her household activities, then she ought to have told it either prior to the marriage so that the bridegroom can rethink about the marriage itself or if it is after marriage, then such a problem ought to have been sorted out earlier. Her FIR is also silent on the point as to whether there was a maid servant at her matrimonial home for doing the work of washing utensils, washing clothes, sweeping etc, which is generally given to the maid servant," a bench of Justice Vibha V Kankanwadi and Justice Rajesh S Patil observed on October 21.

The woman alleged that since about one month after her marriage in December 2019, she had been treated like a maid by her husband and in-laws. She said they had demanded Rs 4 lakh from her for buying a four-wheeler. When told that her



father did not have the money, her husband physically and mentally harassed her, she alleged. The woman further said that she was taken to a doctor so that "she could give birth to a son. Thereafter, the woman alleged, they told her father that she would be allowed to live with her husband and in-laws only if she brought Rs 4 lakh with her. She was allegedly assaulted on June 27, 2020, after which the complaint was lodged with the Nanded police. Charges under IPC sections 323 (voluntary

ly causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult) and 506 (criminal intimidation) were also added in the domestic violence case. The husband along with his mother and elder sister approached the court seeking the quashing of the FIR. He claimed the woman had lodged similar complaints against her former husband and in-laws and that they had been acquitted by court.

However, the bench noted that earlier complaints or litigation did not mean she was in the habit of leveling such allegations. The husband will have to prove such claims, it said. The bench, nonetheless, rejected the woman's allegations against her husband and in-laws. "Mere uses of the word harassment 'mentally and physically' are not sufficient to attract ingredients of Section 498 A of the IPC. Unless those acts are described, it cannot be concluded whether those acts amounted to harassment or subjecting a person to cruelty," it said. "The allegations that have been made and the collection of evidence are not sufficient even at this prima facie stage to attract the ingredients of offence punishable under Section 498 A of the IPC." The bench also held that "it would be futile to ask the petitioner (husband) to face trial" in connection with the other offences and thus quashed the FIR and set aside the criminal proceedings pending before a magistrate court.



Indian American actor Ravi Patel to star in comedy 'Animal Control'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actor of Indian descent Ravi Patel is the latest addition to the cast of Fox's upcoming comedy series 'Animal Control'. Ravi joins previously announced series leads Joel McHale and Vella Lovell. Per the single-camera show's official logline, it is a "workplace comedy following a group of Animal Control workers whose lives are complicated by the fact that animals are simple, but humans are not," reports Variety. Patel will star in the role of Amit Patel, said to be "an Animal Control officer and overwhelmed family man with more family responsibilities than he bargained for. His partner Victoria has a lifestyle that is so different from his own, they could be from different planets."

The 43-year-old actor, who was born in Freeport, Illinois to Indian American parents, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001 with double majors in Economics and International Studies. His sister, Geeta Patel, is a writer and director. Ravi has recently been seen in the hit comedy 'Ghosts' as well as the English-language remake of the French film 'The Valet'. His other recent credits include 'Wonder Woman 1984', the docuseries 'Ravi Patel's Pursuit of Happiness' for HBO Max and 'Bhaag Beanie Bhaag' for Netflix, both of which he created. He has also been featured in shows like 'It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia', 'Grey's Anatomy', 'Master of None', and 'Grandfathered'.



Rihanna drops 'Lift Me Up' from 'Wakanda Forever'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rihanna dropped her first single in six years on Thursday night: 'Lift Me Up', the first track to emerge from Marvel's blockbuster sequel 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'. A tribute to the life and legacy of Chadwick Boseman, the song was written by Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems, Rihanna, top film composer Ludwig Goransson and director Ryan Coogler. It is one of two songs from the film, which premieres in theatres on November 11.

Few other details have been released about the song, or the soundtrack album that Rihanna is said to be curating in a manner similar to the way Kendrick Lamar helmed the first film's album.

"After speaking with Ryan and hearing his direction for the film and the song, I wanted to write something that portrays a warm embrace from all the people that I've lost in my life," Tems said in a statement. "I tried to imagine what it would feel like if I could sing to them now and express how much I miss them." She added: "Rihanna has been an inspiration to me so hearing her convey this song is a great honour." Rihanna has made just a handful of featured appearances in the years since her last album, 2016's 'Anti' -- most notably features on N.E.R.D.'s 'Lemon', which she briefly performed with Pharrell at her Diamond Ball in New York in 2019; Kendrick Lamar's 'Loyalty' and Future's 'Selfish' -- yet in February she will be the halftime performer on the world's largest stage for a musician, the Super Bowl. There has been talk for years about her working on two different albums, one a dancehall-leaning set, but she has provided virtually no details and no music has materialised or leaked.

Weinstein witness says he masturbated on her: 'Was thankful I wasn't raped'

Los Angeles | Agencies

A supporting witness testified on Thursday that Harvey Weinstein masturbated on her at his hotel room in 2003.

Former actress Ashley Matthau, a "prior bad acts" witness whose claims aren't among the 11 counts of sexual assault that Weinstein faces, was visibly rattled while taking the stand.

When Martinez asked how she was feeling, Matthau said: "I'm really upset." Judge Lisa B. Lench encouraged Matthau to take a break and she was escorted out of the courtroom.

When she came back, Matthau testified that Weinstein masturbated and ejaculated on her at his hotel in 2003 in Puerto Rico, where she was shooting a small role in Miramax's 'Dirty Dancing' sequel, 'Havana Nights'.

Matthau didn't seem to want to look directly at Weinstein when asked to describe the defendant,



jacket as blue before correcting herself.

Matthau, who used to be a dancer with the American Ballet Theatre, was 22 at the time of the alleged incident. She said Weinstein came up to her on set and asked to walk outside to talk. After commenting that she was pretty, he said he wanted a "naked massage" from her, Matthau testified. When she said, "No, I'm engaged," he asked for her fiancé's name - director Charlie Matthau, son of actor Walter Matthau - and claimed to know him.

Matthau said he then suggested that it would be a "naked massage" between friends. "He said he did it with Gwyneth Paltrow, 'look what I did to her career,'" Matthau recalled.

Matthau said she later called her mom and fiancé, who advised her to ask for help. But neither the choreographer nor producer Matthau confided in offered any assistance. When she returned after a meal break, she said

Weinstein was waiting in front of the set with his assistant, Bonnie Hung.

"At that point, I felt better knowing that I wasn't alone," she said, recalling that Hung told her not to worry. "I'll be with you the entire time. He just wants to talk about future projects," Matthau remembered her saying.

According to Matthau, the three entered a limo and drove to Weinstein's hotel, where Hung abandoned her when they stepped into his room.

Matthau started crying on the stand again and recalled Weinstein getting aggressive as he "shoved" her on the bed and took off her clothes. "It's not like we're having sex, it's just naked cuddling," he told her as she became hysterical and started crying, Matthau said. She said he then straddled her, fondled her breasts and masturbated.

"I had no idea what to do. I was scared," she said. He ejaculated on her breasts and face, Matthau testified. "I was just really thankful that I wasn't raped. I remember thinking and I remember wiping off, just getting dressed really fast and leaving really fast," she said. Matthau will be cross-examined by the defense on Friday, and

at least one more Jane Doe and uncharged victim will take the stand next week.



Jennifer Coolidge was once 'locked up' by border control

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Coolidge was once "locked up" by border control after her passport refused to scan properly at customs. The actress was travelling from the U.S. to London when she had issues with her passport and found herself detained by customs in the airport only to be offered a choice of noodles or crisps after waiting for several hours.

She said: "For some reason, [my passport], it wouldn't scan right, and next thing you know customs is calling me over. Next thing you know, they've locked me up for nine hours in this little room. Hour seven, they came in and said: 'Would you like noodles or chips?' I did opt for the potato chips over the noodles. It didn't go well after that."

Meanwhile, the 'Legally Blonde' actress starred as Tanya McQuoid on the series 'The White Lotus' - which follows a group of vacationers at a resort chain - since 2021 and recently revealed that she would "absolutely" love Meghan, Duchess of Sussex to join the cast for a guest appearance.

Asked if she would like to see the Duchess - who was an actress known as Meghan Markle prior to marrying Prince Harry in 2018 - she said: "I would absolutely (love) to see her! Absolutely! Meghan Markle? Yes, yes come on down!"

The 'American Pie' star won an Emmy for her portrayal of the eccentric socialite in 'The White Lotus' and said she was still "speechless" about her win as she teased that her character will have "some more problems" as the show moves from Hawaii to Italy for season two.



Anti-Semitic remarks may just leave Kanye without a music label

Los Angeles | Agencies

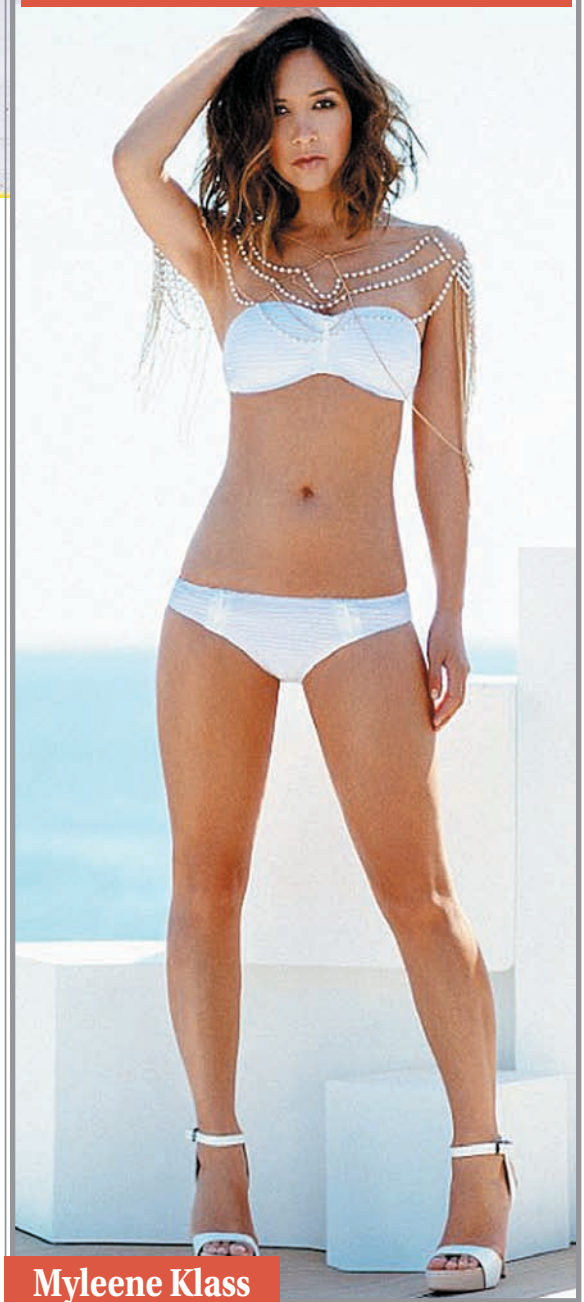
Kanye West, one of the most popular, influential and commercially successful musicians of the past 20 years -- who has effectively set his businesses and career on fire with a series of indefensible anti-Semitic comments -- is now without a record label or music publisher.

Universal Music's Def Jam Recordings and Sony Music Publishing are both out of contract with him, and many of his other business partners have broken ties in the wake of his recent behaviour. On purely music-business terms, the situation is unprecedented. Def Jam, which owns the copyright to his recordings up to sometime in the mid-2010s and has distributed his subsequent releases up to last year's 'Donda' album, has confirmed his deal with the company ended last year. (The copyright credits on some albums have changed in recent weeks; it now appears that West owns his masters from the 2013 'Yeezy' album onward.) As with RCA Records and R. Kelly, the company will continue to own and/or distribute his catalogue, and profit from it, per the terms of their contract.

Def Jam presumably owns the recorded-music rights to his earlier recordings for decades to come, although it is unclear when the post-2013 releases will be up for a new distribution deal. Sony Publishing confirmed that his administration deal with the company ended earlier this year, although it will continue to administer his work, per the terms of the deal, for an unspecified time. So what happens when Kanye wants to release new music? He has released three songs in collaboration with other artists this year (all before his anti-Semitic comments), but all were on his collaborators' labels -- a scenario that is less easy to imagine now.

Presumably, based on his recent comments about launching his own apparel lines, the rapper will put the music out himself. But releasing music at Kanye West's level requires major business partners -- who will work with him?

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Myleene Klass



SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP HOCKEY:

INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN PLAY OUT ENTERTAINING 5-5 DRAW

The Indian junior men's hockey team remains in contention for a berth in the Final, playing their hearts out during a 5-5 draw with Great Britain in the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup here on Friday.

Johor (Malaysia) | Agencies

For India, Poovanna CB (7'), Amandeep (50'), Arajjeet Singh Hundal (53') and Sharda Nand Tiwari (56', 58') were the scorers, while for Great Britain, Max Anderson (1', 40'), Harrison Stone (42') and Jami Golden (54', 56') were on target.

With this draw, India moved to eight points from five matches (2 wins, 2 draws, 1 loss), behind Australia who have 10 from four (3 wins and 1 draw). Great Britain are third with seven points (2 wins, 1 draw, 2 losses). South Africa and Japan have six points each from four matches while Malaysia have zero points from four games in this six-team competition. On Friday, defending champions Great Britain were out of the blocks faster than India, with Max Anderson (1') scoring the first goal of the game, early on. A few minutes later, India got on the score-sheet too, with midfielder Poovanna CB (7') finding the back of the net. The pace and evenly contested first quarter ended with the teams tied 1-1. The second quarter saw both the teams continue to match each other play for play, with neither allowing the other a way through. The match, which is a repeat of the Final from the 2018 and 2019 editions, went into the half-time break



with Great Britain and India all square at 1-1.

With both teams chasing a win, it was India who had an early look at goal in the second half, when they won a penalty corner in the 32nd minute but weren't able to convert. Nonetheless, it was Great Britain who edged ahead, five minutes before the end of the quarter, as Max Anderson (40') scored his second goal of the match. A couple of minutes later, Harrison Stone (42') added another for Great Britain as they took control of the game, ending the quarter 3-1 ahead. India needed a strong final quarter and began the final phase on the front foot. Five minutes in, India halved the deficit as Amandeep (50') got himself on the scoresheet. Shortly after, the contest was back on level terms

with Arajjeet Singh Hundal (53') scoring India's third. Great Britain, however, went through gears in the next few minutes with Jami Golden (54', 56') restoring the two-goal advantage. Sharda Nand Tiwari's (56') penalty corner brought India right back into the game. A couple of minutes later, Sharda Nand Tiwari converted another penalty corner, levelling the scores at 5-5. Neither side could find a winner and walked away with a point each. India's chances of playing the Final of the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup depend on the outcome of the matches between Malaysia-Japan and Australia-South Africa. Both Japan and South Africa are on six points and winning Friday's match will take them to nine and deny India.

French Open badminton: Satwik-Chirag beat Takuro-Kobayashi to reach semis

India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat former world champions Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan to reach the semifinals of French Open 2022 BWF Super 750 tournament, here on Friday.

Paris | Agencies

The seventh-seeded men's doubles pairing beat world No.1 Takuro Hoki-Yugo Kobayashi of Japan 23-21, 21-18 here at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin on Friday.

Up against Japanese top seeds Takuro and Yugo, the 2021 men's doubles world champions and the seventh-seeded Chirag and Satwiksairaj put up a masterful display to win 23-21, 21-18 in 49 minutes.

The Indian duo will be up against the South Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho in the semifinals on Saturday. The world No.8 pair of Chirag and Satwiksairaj began strong and raced to a 20-16 lead but Takuro and Yugo saved four game points to draw level at 20-all. However, the Commonwealth Games 2022 champions held their nerves to take the all-important lead. The second game proved equally engaging as Hoki and Kobayashi, currently, t'e top men's dou-



bles pair in the world badminton rankings, looked primed to draw level with an 18-16 lead but the Indian pair won five points on the

trot to close out the contest. It was Chirag and Satwiksairaj's third win against the Japanese pair in four meetings.

National Racing Championship: Top races in action in the second round at Coimbatore

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Over a hundred seasoned and rookie racers battle for top honours in the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship that returns for the second round of its silver jubilee season over the weekend at Coimbatore Kari Motor Speedway.

The country's top talent will race around the challenging 2.1-km long layout this Saturday and Sunday as they compete in four categories that make up India's most coveted racing championship.

In the LGB Formula 4 category, all eyes will be on Arya Singh (26 points), Ashwin Datta (18 points), Tijil Rao (18 points), and Sandeep Kumar (15 points) who dominated last month's season-opening round, also held at Kari, for Dark Don Racing.

But, despite their imperious showing, they can expect to face stiff competition from Ahura Racing's seasoned campaigners Amir Sayed and Diljit T.S, and their teammate Visvas Vijayaraj, with the latter the only driver to break Dark Don's stranglehold on the podium with a second-place finish in the second race of the season-opening round, the organisers informed in a release on Friday.

The LGB Formula 4 field will also feature a slightly different look this weekend with MSport racer Ruhaan Alva, the reigning Novice Cup champion, set to miss the weekend as he is competing in the World Motorsport Games in Marseille.

The JK Tyre Novice Cup will see some of the country's most promising rookie racers renew their battle. Early championship leader Kyle Kumaran (38 points), DTS Racing team-mate Vinith Kumar (19 points) Hasten Performance racer Aadithya Parasuram (27 points) and MSport's Dhruv Goswami (21



points) are the favourites heading into the weekend. The JK Tyre presents Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup could throw up some surprises if last month's opening round is anything to go by. The category, which runs to the Pro-Am format, features a field of 25 riders. Last year's defending champions Anish Damodara Shetty (20 points) and Allwin Xavier made a strong start to their campaign at last month's season-opening round and are among the favourites this weekend.

But they could face a challenger in the form of amateur racer Soorya PM, with Navaneeth Kumar, Ullas S Nanda, and Sudheer Sudhakar, also expected to up the ante this weekend.

The season-opening round of the 2022 season, also saw the introduction of the all-new JK Tyre Endurance League Cup powered by CRA. The category features 20 teams of two riders each racing on 250cc bikes non-stop for 60 minutes with a rider change is a true test of endurance.

This is another category that could be full of surprises with 12-year-old FIM Mini GP champion Shreyas Hareesh in contention and the all-girls team of Rakshitha and Czmikhy set to give a tough fight to the boys in the grid.

Asia Pacific Amateur Golf: Krishnav, Shaurya, Aryan make cut; China's Jin leads

Chonburi (Thailand) | Agencies

Three of the seven Indians made the cut at the 13th Asian Pacific Amateur Championship with Krishnav Nikhil Chopra, Shaurya Bhattacharya and Aryan Roopa Anand making the cut at the halfway stage of the region's biggest amateur event, from where the winner gets a berth into the 2023 Masters and the 2023 Open.

Shaurya shot 4-under 68, while Aryan carded 3-under 69 despite a double bogey at the finish and Krishnav just could not get the putts to fall in his 1-over 73.

Chopra (70-73) continued to be the top Indian at T-42nd with a 1-under total while Shaurya (76-68) and Aryan (75-69) are at even par were T-47th.

The cut fell at 1-over with Top-50 and ties making the cut. The four Indians missing out were Milind Soni (74-72), Rayhan Thomas (74-73), Shat Mishra (73-75), and Arjun Gupta (74-78).

China's Bo Jin (65-69), whose brother Cheng won in 2015, stayed on course to adding to the family silverware. He led by one at the midway stage and was chased hard by the teen Thai star, Ratchanon Chantananuwat (67-68).

Aryan, hoping to get into the Nomura Cup team following the pull-out of Rayhan Thomas, who is unable



to get time off from college in the US, said, "I played great for 17 holes, but a lapse led to a double on the last hole. Still, I was happy to pull back with a 69. I hope I can make more ground over the weekend."

Shaurya, whose coach, Rahul Bajaj, a team silver medalist from the 2010 Asian Games, was his caddie, said, "I am proud of the fightback after the



first day 76. Especially, the three birdies from 15th to 17th and the way I hung in for the first 13 holes with two birdies and no bogeys. It was great to have my coach, Rahul Sir, on the bag. It helped." Krishnav had a good start from the tenth with birdies on 15 and 16. After that many putts did not fall and had just one more birdie on but dropped four bogeys for

73. Bo Jin closed with a bogey on the ninth, while Chantananuwat, who is called 'TK', birdied the sixth and eagled the eighth from 66 feet plus for a stunning finish.

A year ago, Bo had a similar 36-hole lead but finished tied third. He said, "I am in a great position and am obviously reminded of Dubai. I have played some great golf so far, and I hope to do the same over the weekend and finish the job."

TK said he felt some tightness in his body right from the morning. Yet, he held out well and closed superbly. TK said, "I was worried because I could not get a full rotation of my body. The way I hit the ball at the range and started my round, I honestly was preparing myself for an 80. And because of that, I am so happy with my 68. I am just one behind right now, and hopefully, will be in a better condition to battle it out over the weekend." Korea's Wooyung Cho is tied second at 9-under with 'TK' after rounds of 68-67 at the Amata course. There were four players tied fourth at 8-under and another four at 7-under and tied eighth. Two countries, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal had their golfers make the cut for the first time at the AAC. Jantai Malatev (73-69), whose country Kyrgyzstan has just one 9-hole golf course, was tied for 33rd while Subhash Tamang (74-70) became the first player from Nepal to make the cut.

PKL 9: Feels great to defeat Dabang Delhi, says Bengal Warriors coach Baskaran

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Bengal Warriors registered a crucial 35-30 victory over table-toppers Dabang Delhi K.C. in their last match of the Bengaluru leg on Wednesday.

The Warriors are currently at the fifth place with 4 wins under their belt. Ahead of the start of the Pune leg, Bengal Warriors' Head Coach K Baskaran said, "It feels great to defeat Dabang Delhi K.C. before the next leg in Pune. We are really happy and our team has gained confidence as well. Our main target has been to play well and play with unity. Naveen has been performing really well, but our defenders were determined to play well against him." Baskaran added that the team will continue their rhythm in Pune. "We were successful in raiding and defending departments in our match against Delhi. We will look to continue our rhythm and the understanding we have on the mat in our

upcoming matches in Pune."

Matches on Saturday: The Dabang Delhi K.C. will look to get back into winning ways when they face off against Bengaluru Bulls in Pune on Saturday. However, they will receive a strong challenge from Bulls' raider Bharat, who has been in terrific form this season.

The Telugu Titans and Gujarat Giants will be desperate for a victory after facing heart-breaking losses in their previous matches. While the Titans will hope for their raider Siddharth Desai to take them over the line, the Giants will be banking on their prime raider - Rakesh.

The last match of the day will be a cracker of a contest as Bengal Warriors and U Mumba are high on confidence after recording comprehensive victories in their previous games. While raider Maninder Singh will lead the charge for the Warriors, raider Guman Singh will hope to make an impact for U Mumba.

Ronaldo scores on return as Manchester United qualify for Europa League knockout stage

London | Agencies

Manchester United qualified for the knockout stage of the Europa League as Cristiano Ronaldo marked his return to the side by scoring in a 3-0 win over Sheriff Tiraspol at Old Trafford here on Thursday.

In a match dominated by the Manchester United, headed goals from Diogo Dalot and Marcus Rashford in each half were added to by a late Cristiano Ronaldo strike to settle the victory. The result, our fourth win of the group stage, means there will be a showdown at Real Sociedad next week to decide who takes top spot and avoids having to play off against a third-placed side from the Champions League.

United must win by two goals to top the San Sebastian outfit on the head-to-head, after their 1-0 victory at Old Trafford.

After being dropped for Saturday's Premier League draw with Chelsea due to his behaviour in last week's win over Tottenham, Ronaldo was brought into charge for the Warriors, raider ten Hag and scored the third goal of the game from close range after his initial effort had been saved (81).



Despite Manchester United's 3-0 win over Sheriff Tiraspol on Thursday night, Marcus Rashford is urging the Reds to be even more ruthless in future fixtures.

The 24-year-old was a second-half substitute in our penultimate group game against the visitors, and occupied a central role alongside fellow forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

Just after the hour mark, Rashford got on the end of Luke Shaw's cross to score an instinctive header, extending United's lead to two. Erik ten Hag's side put the match beyond any doubt in the

second period, with Marcus praising the Reds for not panicking. "I think it's a mix between frustration and just calmness," Rashford told BT Sport, when asked about United only having a one-goal lead at the break.

"You have to be calm and keep creating the chances and then be clinical in taking the chances that you create. I think that (the fact) we scored before half time is a big help. We came out in the second half looking for more goals, more spaces, and we found them in the end."

Akanksha Vyavahare creates Weightlifting National records in 40kg category at Khelo India tournament

Ghaziabad (UP) | Agencies

Maharashtra-based weightlifter Akanksha Vyavahare has created new national records in the 40kg weight category at the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting tournament Phase 2 here on Friday.

The weightlifter, also a part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, has created the NRs in all 3 scores - Snatch, Clean & Jerk and Total.

Akanksha bettered her existing Snatch national record, by lifting 60kg. She recorded 71kg in the Clean & Jerk, and on the process, registering a total lift of 131kg. She competed in the 40kg Youth Girls' category.

Meanwhile, Tokyo 2020 Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu was present during the opening ceremony earlier in the day.

Speaking about the importance of the Khelo India women's leagues, Mirabai mentioned, "The leagues are very important as many girls



are coming across and representing different States and UTs of India. The exposure being provided will be very beneficial for all girls in the coming future.

"This is a big platform, especially for the young generation and the new crop of weightlifters who have just started. Many of the girls are doing very well. This will show up in the coming years for India as to who will be doing the nation proud in weightlifting," the National Games 2022 gold medalist added.

Mirabai won the gold medal in Phase 1 of the Khelo India Weightlifting tournament in Himachal Pradesh earlier this year.



Kolkata always had a very special place in my heart:

Anushka Sharma

Team Absolute | Kolkata

Actress Anushka Sharma is currently shooting for 'Chakda Xpress' in Kolkata and several parts of West Bengal that is significant in Jhulan Goswami's journey to reach the summit of global glory. She reveals how the City of Joy has always had a significant place in her heart.

"Kolkata has always had a very special place in my heart. The warmth of the city and the people, the delicious food, the beautiful architecture - I love everything about Kolkata and it is a pleasure to be back in the city of joy for Chakda Xpress," she says.

"The last time I shot a film here was for Pari and I have several fond memories from shooting that project here. I had also shot the announcement video of 'Chakda Xpress' at the Eden Gardens and Jhulan had dropped by for the same. It was amazing to have her on the set and interact with her."

"She is such a positive soul. So, coming back here is like life coming to a full circle for me and the team."

The hugely-mounted Netflix Film, which is tracing the glorious journey of one of the fastest female pacers in the history of world cricket, Jhulan, will showcase how the pacer moves up the ladder despite countless hindrances to fulfill her only dream to play cricket.

Anushka says, "We had a great shooting experience and made memories that will last a lifetime. Jhulan is an icon of India, as well as of West Bengal, and shooting the film in Kolkata and various parts of the state, is a fitting tribute to her legacy and her journey that started here."

Jhulan went on to captain the Indian women's national cricket team and is a role model for aspiring cricketers in the country. In 2018, an Indian postage stamp was issued in her honour. Jhulan holds the world record for the highest number of wickets taken by a woman in an international career.

Anoushka Shankar to return to India after 2 years for a three-city tour



"I'm beyond excited to finally return to India to perform after such a long gap. I feel I'm in a different place musically and creatively now, and I can't wait to share this new and exciting show with my audiences in India

- Anoushka

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Acclaimed sitar player, composer and Grammy-nominee Anoushka Shankar, who is the daughter of sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar, is returning to India after 2 years for a three-city tour in support of her new music releases in December.

The tour will start on December 11 at Good Shepherd Auditorium in Bengaluru, followed by Shanmukhananda Auditorium in Mumbai on December 16 and culminating at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi on December 18. It will see the 7-time Grammy-nominated artiste presenting 'The Anoushka Shankar Project' which she has been performing live since 2007.

Anoushka will be seen navigating through experimental and exciting new sonic vistas throughout her performance and presenting an invigorating perspective on

Indian classical music.

Elaborating on the India tour and her new music releases, Anoushka Shankar shared, "In the first half of the evening, I will be joined by British electronic musician Gold Panda (aka Derwin Decker) in interpreting the legacy of the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar. The duo will form a collaborative bridge between the electronic and classical instrumental worlds inspired by and referencing several of the late maestro's compositions. In the second half of the evening, a quintet of musicians comprising clarinetist Arun Ghosh, Carnatic percussionist Pirashanna Thevarajah, drummer Sarathy Korwar and upright bassist Tom Farmer will accompany Anoushka for an inventive exploration of selected works from her own repertoire including her recently released digital album 'Between Us'. As a mark of respect and as a reflection of her outrage, on December 16 - the 10th anniversary of the horrific Nirbhaya gang rape, Anoushka will be releasing a reimagined version of her 2013 track 'In Jyoti's Name' from her album 'Traces Of You'. Titled 'In Her Name', she will be performing the world premiere of this new song on its release day at the Mumbai show. This extended arrangement will include other, powerful female voices and has a specially written poem by acclaimed poet Nikita Gill.



Varun on Shraddha cameo: We all are very grateful to Shraddha for taking out her precious time

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The thrilling trailer of Varun Dhawan and Kriti Sanon's Bhediya has been the talk of the town ever since it is out. And now the makers have unveiled the first track of the film 'Thumkeshwari' which is choreographed by Ganesh Acharya. The song was launched at a grand event in Mumbai amidst the presence of cast, makers, fans, and media in Mumbai. Talking about featuring in Param Sundari and now Thumkeshwari, the actress said, "Param Sundari was the biggest track of my career. When it came to Thumkeshwari, Ganesh Acharya told that it will be bigger than Param Sundari and I am hoping that. Varun and I thoroughly enjoyed shooting for it." The song also features Shraddha Kapoor in a

teeny-weeny cameo. Actor Varun who has earlier shared screen space with her in ABCD 2 and Street dancer, spoke about collaborating and grooving for the third time. He said, "In this (Thumkeshwari), I was not dancing with Shraddha, it was with Stree. Shraddha's demeanour was very different as she got into the skin of the character effortlessly. We all are very grateful to Shraddha for taking out her precious time and doing this song. Dinesh Vijan wishes to create a successful horror-comedy universe but that is only possible when the audience loves us. Our only main is to entertain the audience." Bhediya is produced by Dinesh Vijan and directed by Amar Kaushik. It is all set to hit the big screen on November 25, 2022.

Tanya to perform a dance number in Aayush Sharma starrer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

South Indian actress Tanya Hope is set to make her Hindi debut with an appearance in a dance number for the recently announced yet-to-be-titled fourth film of Bollywood actor Aayush Sharma. The action thriller film is tentatively titled 'AS04' and was announced by Aayush, with a teaser of the film on his social media.

Talking about the dance number in the Aayush Sharma-starrer, the actress said, "The song we danced to is a banger and I can't wait for the audiences to hear it. The great Jani master has choreographed this track, and we all really enjoyed shooting it and performing it. Without a doubt this will be the next banger at all the weddings." The actress also spoke about the pattern of Bollywood remaking content from South India. She said that it helps reach local stories to a wider set of audience. She said, "There are some great stories being made in different languages too and they are reaching a bigger audience. I have also done a remake of a Bollywood film in Tamil. It was a remake of 'Vicky Donor', which was titled 'Dharla Prabhu' where I played the character that was played by Yami Gautam in the Hindi version."

Tanya Hope



Rubina bounces back after neck injury on reality show

you can't tell. I'm nervous as we are now entering the final leg of the competition.'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Television star Rubina Dilaik has recovered from her neck injury and will be seen performing on the dance based reality show 'Jhalak Dikhla Jaa', said her choreographer Sanam Johar.

Bringing interesting themes every passing week, this week marked the war between two teams, Madhuri ki Rockstars & Karan Ke Johars.

Previously, Rubina took to her social media to share a video of sustaining serious neck injury during her dance rehearsals with choreographer-actor Sanam Johar.

But as per sources the power duo stole everyone's heart with their performance this week. This week's theme is international dance styles. Rubina and Sanam were a part of Madhuri ke Rockstars.

Sanam shared: "Rubina had been injured but she's a thorough sport & bounced back in no time and you'll see for yourself in our performance. This was the best so far and also the fastest we've practiced and performed." "We were one of the last one's to perform so we did our act somewhere close to midnight but

Rakul Preet Singh's vacay pics from Maldives have set mercury soaring

Mumbai | Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who has had back-to-back releases this year with 'Thank God' being her latest, has jetted off to Maldives for a brief vacation after a busy schedule of promotions, shoots, and juggling multiple projects. Taking to her social media, the actress dropped a super hot photo from her vacation in the Maldives. She can be seen rocking an orange swimsuit, with her hair tied up in a high bun while sitting by the beach. She captioned the picture as, "#thankgod for a holiday" A source close to the actor also revealed that this is Rakul's first vacation in the last 8 to 10 months as she has been continuously shooting, promoting and working on her films and brands. So, this time around she squeezed in time for a 4-day vacation for herself. After having impressed everyone with her role as a pilot, robotics engineer, teacher, Rakul is garnering positive response for her work in 'Thank God'.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Kritika Kamra