

absolute india



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SC questions Centre on appointment of Election Commissioner

'TEARING URGENCY, LIGHTNING SPEED'

The Supreme Court on Thursday grilled the Attorney General R. Venkataramani, representing the Centre, on the appointment of Arun Goel as the Election Commissioner, saying what was the "tearing urgency, haste", and why was the appointment made at a "lightning speed". The bench told the AG: "Even the Prime Minister recommends the name on the same day. We don't want any confrontation..."

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph after examining the file on Goel's appointment, also questioned on the criteria adopted by the Law Minister in short-listing four names from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) database. The bench shot a volley of questions at the AG to which he contended that court should not hold a mini-trial on the appointment, however the bench asked him to explain why the appointment was made with such haste. "Same day process, same day clearance, same day appointment, lightening speed, what kind of evaluation?" the bench asked. Justice Joseph specifically questioned the AG on the criteria adopted by the Law Minister in picking four names from the DoPT's database. The bench noted that the Minister picked the names and the file was put up on November 18



and moved the same day. It further pointed out that the post was vacant since May 15, and asked the AG to show what prevailed the government to do things at this

lightning speed. Justice Joseph reiterated that the court is concerned about a 'yes man' being appointed and asked what is the basis of the Law Minister shortlisting four names from data of hundreds of people following the age criteria. Questioning Goel's appointment in a super-fast manner, the bench remarked that not even in 24 hours, the process was completed and notified. The top court is hearing a batch of pleas seeking a collegium-like system for the appointment of the Election Commissioners and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). The hearing is in progress now.

'2016 demonetisation was deeply flawed'

New Delhi: Senior advocate and Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Thursday told the Supreme Court that demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes was "deeply flawed". Chidambaram, representing one of the petitioners, submitted that demonetisation impacted every citizen of the country and questioned Centre's power to invoke Section 26 of the Reserve Bank of India Act to demonetise currency notes. He said the Centre cannot, on its own, initiate any proposal relating to legal tender, which can only be done on the RBI's central board recommendation and further argued that the decision-making process should be struck down for being "deeply flawed". The top court will continue to hear next week the batch of petitions challenging the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to demonetise the currency notes of two denominations.

India's growth could slow down next year: Moody's

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Global ratings agency Moody's Analytics in a report titled "Asia Pacific (APAC) Outlook: A Coming Downshift", which released on Thursday, has said that India is looking at a slower growth next year. However, at the same time, it has noted that investments and productivity gains in technology and agriculture could push its growth. "Risks to this outlook are largely balanced. On the upside, inward investment and productivity gains in technology, as well as in agriculture could accelerate growth," the report said. Moody's projected India's growth rate to slow down to 8 per cent in 2022 and then to 5 per cent in 2023. The agency pertinently noted that if inflation in India continues to rise, then the RBI may continue with its repo rate hikes. In such a scenario, India's growth may be



impacted, Moody's noted further. In the APAC region as a whole, the report noted that economic growth is slowing down. The report added that despite growth being witnessed in India and other APAC nations, the expected slowdowns in Europe and North America as well as China may impact economic growth in 2023, which could be slower than 2022. However, Moody's ruled out any recession in the APAC region.

Rupee weakening due to dollar strengthening, economy can't be blamed: Goyal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the Indian economy was not to be blamed for weakening of rupee, as this was mainly due to the strengthening of the dollar. Addressing the Times Now summit, the minister, despite rising inflation, sounded an optimistic note, noting that compared to sky rocketing inflation in many countries, where it is ranging between 8 to 10 per cent, India has maintained a fair balance between inflation and interest rates and price rise in the coun-



try is much lower than compared to others. Goyal also said that even as the prevailing geopolitical situation remains fluid

owing to the global headwinds and signs of recession in many nations, India is on a path of rapid recovery and its growth rate is 7 per cent, which is a positive sign. At the same time though, he added that the situation arising out of the Coronavirus pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war could not be ignored. Commenting on job losses in the IT and technology sectors and rising unemployment, an issue being raised by the opposition, the Commerce Minister said that on the contrary India's job market is seeing an upward trajectory, as there is a growth in jobs according to the EPFO data.

UIDAI asks states, entities to verify IDs before accepting it

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Unique Identification Authority of India has asked state governments and entities to verify Aadhaar before accepting it either in the physical or electronic form to check its misuse, an official statement said on Thursday. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) said it maintains that verification of the Aadhaar number following the consent of the Aadhaar holder is the right step to establish the genuineness of any form of Aadhaar -- Aadhaar letter, e-Aadhaar, Aadhaar PVC card, and m-Aadhaar, presented by an individual.

"UIDAI has requested the state governments by emphasising the need for verification before usage and has urged the states to give necessary direction so that whenever Aadhaar is submitted as a proof of identity - authentication/verification of the residents performed by the concerned entity using Aadhaar as an identity document," the statement said. UIDAI has also issued circulars to emphasise the necessity of verification and specify the protocol to be followed. Any Aadhaar can be verified using the QR code available on all forms of Aadhaar using mAadhaarApp or Aadhaar QR code scanner.

'GADDAR' CAN'T BE MADE CM: GEHLOT TEARS INTO EX-DEPUTY PILOT

Jaipur | Agencies

Ahead of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entering Rajasthan, factionalism has once again come to the fore in the state Congress. In an interview with news channel, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched a scathing attack on his former deputy Sachin Pilot, saying "a gaddar (traitor) cannot be the Chief Minister". "How can people accept a man who does not have even 10 MLAs... Someone who rebelled against the party and has been named a traitor," Gehlot said in a no-holds-barred attack. Gehlot holding Pilot responsible said that "We sat in hotels for 34 days as this government was being toppled. Amit Shah was also involved. Dharmendra Pradhan was also involved." When told that Pilot was denying the allegations that he was hand-in-gloves with the BJP, Gehlot said, "I have proof. He cannot deny it. Rs 10 cr to each was



distributed." Asked why the Gehlot camp was not accepting Pilot, Gehlot said, "How will they accept the man who has committed betrayal, our MLAs and I myself suffered, staying in hotels for 34 days?" On the question of retaining the CM's chair, Gehlot said: Today I am the only one here.

'Baseless allegations', says Pilot

Bhopal: Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Thursday termed his senior party colleague and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's 'gaddar' (traitor) remarks against him "baseless allegations", adding they are "false and fabricated". "Ashok Gehlot had earlier called me 'incompetent', 'traitor' and also made lot of allegations. These are completely false, unfounded and unnecessary," Pilot said while reacting to the remarks made by Gehlot during an interview with a news channel. Talking about the Rajasthan Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year, Pilot said: "We formed the government twice in Rajasthan under the leadership of Ashok Gehlot. But later we lost both elections... despite that, we accepted (the decision) when the party high command wanted him to head the government. This time our focus needs to be on winning the upcoming election. In such circumstances, it does not look decent for a senior leader to talk about such issues."

167 candidates in phase 1 of Guj polls facing criminal cases: ADR

Ahmedabad | Agencies

A total of 167 candidates contesting the first phase of the upcoming Gujarat Assembly elections are facing criminal cases, a data has revealed. "In the first phase, 167 candidates have declared that they are facing criminal cases. It is 13 per cent of the total candidates but higher than the number of 2017 when 78 candidates had disclosed that they are facing criminal cases," said Maj Gen (retd) Anil Verma, head of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). ADR and Gujarat Election Watch have scanned details of candidates contesting Gujarat assembly elections, from which they have found that



out of 799 candidates (in first phase), 167 are facing criminal cases. The Aam Aadmi Party that claims to be the most honest and transparent has nominated 30 per cent candidates facing serious criminal cases, BJP (12 per cent),

Congress (20 per cent) and BTP (7 per cent), Verma said. The Gujarat Assembly elections would be held in two phases -- December 1 and December 5. The votes would be counted on December 8.

US INCREASINGLY FEARFUL PUTIN WILL USE UNCONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN UKRAINE

London | Agencies

London: Russian President Vladimir Putin could resort to using Novichok in mass chemical weapon attacks in Ukraine if his troops continue to lose ground, US officials fear, according to a media report. As the progress of the war has gone increasingly in Kiev's favour, fears that Russia could take extreme measures to force Ukraine to surrender - such as launching a nuclear strike or a dirty bomb attack - have been rising, Daily Mail reported. But according to six people with knowledge of the matter, Putin is prepared to use chemical weapons in a mass-casualty event before resorting to a nuclear confrontation with NATO. According to the sources, cited by Politico, President Joe Biden's administration is working to ensure its western allies are prepared for such an attack. The sources said that Washington predicts Russia will use chemical weapons in the event of further losses on the battlefield, or a total collapse of Putin's army.



Jama Masjid Imam revokes order banning women's entry

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The administration of Delhi's historic Jama Masjid has agreed to revoke the controversial order banning the entry of women into the mosque. A source at Raj Niwas said that Imam Bukhari agreed to revoke the order after Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena spoke to him. Earlier in the day, the Jama Masjid administration placed sign boards outside the mosque that read in Hindi, "Entering into the mosque for one girl or girls alone is prohibited". The sign boards were installed outside each of the mosque's three entrances. The source at the Raj Niwas said that Delhi LG Saxena spoke to Imam Bukhari and requested



him to rescind the order. Imam Bukhari agreed to withdraw the order with the request that visitors respect and maintain the sanctity of the mosque. Meanwhile, taking a strict view of this gender discrimination, Delhi Commission for Women Chief Swati Maliwal said that this is a shameful decision and against the

Constitution. Terming this as Talibani behaviour, Maliwal said that she has issued a notice to the Imam. The decision to stop the entry of women into Jama Masjid is absolutely wrong. No one has the right to ban the entry of women like this. In any case, the ban will be removed, she added.



CONGRESS LEADERS "NEVER CARED TO FOLLOW GANDHIAN VALUES", SAYS PM MODI

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday alleged that villages in Gujarat remained neglected as the previous Congress governments did not follow Mahatma Gandhi's values.



Prime Minister Modi was speaking at a campaign rally for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates at Bavla village in poll-bound Gujarat's Ahmedabad district.

"Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the soul of India resides in its villages. But Congress leaders never cared to follow such Gandhian values. They actually crushed that soul. Villages remained neglected and their true potential was never realised," he said.

The rift between villages and cities only widened under the Congress governments which even "enjoyed the conflict

between the two", the Prime Minister said. "Today, everyone appreciates the Panchayati Raj system of Gujarat. But during Congress rule, the budget of that department was just Rs 100 crore," he claimed.

The BJP, after coming to power, concentrated on providing amenities like electricity and tap water in villages so that people need not migrate to the cities for want of such facilities, the Prime Minister said.

AMIT SHAH ON "SADDAM HUSSEIN" COMMENT ON RAHUL GANDHI

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday sought to downplay the Saddam Hussein remark made against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by a BJP leader, saying such things should not be stretched. The Home Minister was speaking at the Times Now Summit in New Delhi.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had on Tuesday claimed that Rahul Gandhi was looking like the former Iraqi dictator, drawing a sharp rebuke from the Congress which dubbed the remarks as "obnoxious and totally unacceptable". Speaking at the Times Now Summit here, Shah said, "Such things should not be stretched. Whenever elections happen, then such things are spoken and people listen to it as well. People enjoy. After believing in this, voting doesn't change. In elections, such types of talks are done."

During a public rally in Ahmedabad, Sarma had said, "I just saw that his looks have also changed. I said in a TV interview a few days back that there is nothing wrong with his new look. But if you have to change the looks, at least make it like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel or even Jawaharlal Nehru will do. It is better if it looks like Gandhiji. But why is your face turning into Saddam Hussein?"

DELHI HC REFUSES TO QUASH MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES AGAINST TAHIR HUSSAIN

New Delhi | Agencies

The Delhi High Court on Thursday turned down former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Tahir Hussain's petition that challenged a trial court's order on framing of charges in a money laundering case against him in connection with the 2020 north-east Delhi riots.



The High Court refused to dismiss the trial court order framing charges against Hussain, a former AAP councillor, saying "there is no infirmity in the trial court order". Justice Anu Malhotra of Delhi High Court, hearing the plea, said: "The petition and the accompanying applications are declined."

"... Hussain, prima facie, acted in conspiracy and engaged in money laundering with proceeds of crime having been put to use for riots," the High Court said.

Justice Anu Malhotra also did not find any merit in the argument that "what Hussain was allegedly involved in can,

at most, be considered a case of GST violation and therefore, punishable under enactment dealing with GST violation". Hussain is in the eye of storm for his role in money laundering and funding the anti-CAA protests and organising riots in northeast Delhi in February 2020.

An ED official had earlier said that the case was registered based on multiple FIRs under several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which are scheduled offences under the PMLA.

The official had said that during the probe it was found that companies owned or controlled by Hussain and his relatives transferred huge amounts of money to dubi-

ous entities, which were returned by them in cash.

"The cash received by Hussain was used to fuel the anti-CAA protests and Delhi riots. The probe also revealed the involvement of Hussain and his companies in the illegal laundering of money in the past too," the ED said in its chargesheet filed in October 2020.

The ED had conducted searches at Hussain's and his family members' residential and business premises in Delhi, Noida and Greater Noida on June 23 which led to the recovery of incriminating documents and evidence, including fake invoices which were used for fraudulent transfer of money.

Tejashwi has no personal identity except Lalu Yadav's son: PK

Patna | Agencies

Political strategist Prashant Kishor on Thursday contended that Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav has only one personal identity and that is of being the son of RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav.



His statement came a day after Shiv Sena-UBT leader Aditya Thackeray met Tejashwi Yadav and Nitish Kumar in Patna.

"Tejashwi Yadav has not achieved any exemplary work in the field of education, sports, social work, or any other work that I would take notice of him. He has no personal identity except that he is a son of Lalu Prasad Yadav," Kishor said while interacting with media persons in Areraj block of East Champaran district.

Training his guns of Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad, he said: "I firmly believe that Nitish Kumar (Chote Bhai) and Lalu Prasad Yadav (Bade Bhai) are fulfilling the needs of each other. Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad have been ruling the state for 30 years and they believe that development of Bihar would not extend more than the present situation."

"Nitish Kumar, who created fear of Jungle Raj, is now trying to let Jungle Raj enter from the back door. Nitish Kumar, in 2015, said

'Mitti mein mil jaunga par BJP ke saath nahi jaunga (I will die but not go with BJP)', went back to the saffron party in 2017. He is not a trusty person. If the circumstances arise, Nitish Kumar will go with the BJP in one minute," he alleged.

Reacting to Kishor's statement, BJP state spokesperson Arvind Singh said that he had "rightly pointed out that Tejashwi Yadav is not a leader but an example of dynasty politics". He also said that Nitish Kumar is not trustworthy and the BJP has shut the door forever for him.

DRI arrests Trinamool Congress leader's son in gold smuggling case

Kolkata | Agencies

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Thursday arrested the son of a leading Trinamool Congress leader in connection with the agency's investigation relating to a gold smuggling case.

The arrested person was identified as Subho Adhya, whose mother Jyotsna Adhya is currently the Vice Chairman of the Trinamool-controlled Bongaon Municipality in North 24 Parganas district, while his father Shankar Adhya is the former Chairman of the same board.

The DRI sleuths have also arrested Amit Ghosh, who is the maternal uncle of Subho Adhya.

On October, the DRI sleuths arrested two persons - Anupam Mitra and Alik Mondal - and seized 26 gold biscuits. In face of interrogation, Mitra and Mondal named



Amit Ghosh and accordingly, the DRI issued summons to him.

On Thursday afternoon, Ghosh arrived at the DRI office along with Subho Adhya. Interrogating them, the DRI sleuths tracked clues about

their involvement in the gold smuggling case and arrested them.

On Thursday during the course of interrogation, Ghosh and Adhya denied acquaintance with Mitra and Mondal, who were arrested

with gold biscuits in October while boarding Rajdhani Express at Sealdah station. However, copies of the train tickets of Mitra and Mondal were recovered from the mobile phones of the two being questioned on Thursday. Thereafter, the DRI sleuths arrested them.

DRI sleuths informed that in July this also there was similar gold recovery by DRI sleuths when Ghosh's name also surfaced. At that point of time, Ghosh ducked repeated summons from DRI sleuths for questioning.

"After coal and cattle smuggling, names of Trinamool Congress leaders are surfacing over involvement in gold smuggling. What else is left?" questioned senior state BJP leader, Rahul Sinha. Till the report was filed there was no reaction from any Trinamool Congress leader on this count.

AAP TRADE WING SECRETARY COMMITS SUICIDE AT DELHI HOUSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi's ruling AAP Trade Wing Secretary Sandeep Bhardwaj was found dead in his house in west Delhi on Thursday, having allegedly committed suicide, police said.

Police said that no suicide note was found from the spot and further investigation has been initiated.

Bhardwaj was a resident of Rajouri Garden.

According to deputy Commissioner of Police, West, Ghanshyam Bansal, a police control room (PCR) call was



received from Kukreja Hospital at 4.40 p.m. that one person, identified as Sandeep Bhardwaj, had been brought dead after

hanging himself at his residence. "Acting on the call, a police team rushed to the hospital while the

crime team was dispatched to the place of the incident," said the official. "Inquest proceedings

under section 174 Code of Criminal Procedure (Crpc) are being conducted as per law," the official added.

"Bhardwaj was taken to Kukreja hospital by his friend. He was also the owner of Bhardwaj Marbles. He was divorced while his two unmarried sisters and son lived with him at his house in Rajouri Garden," said the official.

Sources said that he was also trying to get an MCD election ticket from Ramesh Nagar through the AAP but when he did not get it, he had decided to contest the election independently.

Mehrauli Murder: Five sharp-edged knives recovered from Aaftab's house

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have recovered five sharp-edged knives from the rented accommodation of Aaftab Amin Poonawalla, who is accused of killing his live-in partner Shraddha Walker and chopping her body into 35 pieces, sources said.

Teams of Delhi Police had visited Aaftab's house in Chattarpur on Wednesday.

"Five knives were recovered during the search on Wednesday... It is not yet clear if they were used in dismembering Shraddha's body. The knives have been sent for forensic examination," the sources



said. Meanwhile, a polygraph test on Aaftab is presently underway at the forensic science laboratory (FSL) in Rohini.

Official sources said that a pre-medical session to gain some preliminary information which will be later used to develop diagnostic questions, as well as a scientific session was conducted on Aaftab at the FSL office on Tuesday evening.

The sources said that the polygraph and a narco test is imperative in this case, as Aaftab, during interrogation, was deceptive in nature and tried to mislead the interrogators.

NO INVITATION EXTENDED TO ZAKIR NAIK TO ATTEND WC, QATAR TELLS INDIA

New Delhi:

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday said Qatar has informed India that the controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik was not extended any invitation to attend the ongoing FIFA World Cup.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said that India had taken up the matter of Naik's extradition with Qatar, after reports that the fugitive preacher, who is now a Malaysian national, was invited to Qatar, where he is expected to deliver religious lectures.

Bagchi said that the issue of Naik being a "wanted" criminal in India, was raised with Qatar.

Naik had fled to Malaysia in 2016, just before the National Investigation Agency started a probe against him.

On Tuesday, reacting to the controversial Islamic preacher's presence at the FIFA World Cup, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had said that India will raise this issue and decisive action will be taken as well.

Naik faces charges of money laundering and delivering hate speeches in India.



Radiation emitted from mobile towers has no ill effects on human health: Experts

Shillong | Agencies

After conducting in-depth tests on 1532 mobile towers, experts on Thursday said that low powered, non-ionizing radiation emitted from the cell towers have no ill effects on human health.

Officials said that the North East Licensed Service Area (NE-LSA) of the Department of Telecommunications has tested 1532 Base Transceiver Station (BTS) from April to November this year and all the mobile towers have been found compliant as per DoT norms on electric and magnetic fields radiation.

While addressing a webinar on electromagnetic radiations from mobile towers, Dr Tushar Kant Joshi, Advisor, Ministry of Health and Director, OEM Programme, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, assured that "it has been found that low powered, non-ionizing radiation emitted from cell towers have no ill effects on human health" Referring to the scientific



research, Joshi said that it becomes extremely essential to address the spread of misinformation and provide an authentic view of health concerns related to mobile towers. It is also important to be informed that no scientific or medical evidence is available to corroborate the argument used against mobile towers, he pointed out. Shillong based Senior Deputy Director General of the North-East LSA Ravi Goel high-

lighted the need for telecom services in India and pressed on the challenges faced by the stakeholders of the industry.

"We are venturing into an age of hyper-connectivity where the government is making every effort to densify telecom infrastructure and telecom towers as these are the backbone of Indian mobile communications. "In order to magnify the efforts, it

is important that the fear surrounding the theories about ill effects of EMF radiations from mobile towers are addressed factually to dispel such misconceptions," Goel stated.

Deputy Director General of North-East LSA (Compliance) A.K.Jain said that the government has adopted one of the most stringent emission standards for mobile towers in the world. He said: "We follow norms that are 10 times stricter than what has been prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO globally. DoT continuously monitors the EMF emission levels from towers across India and ensures compliance with the stipulated emission norms throughout the country."

The experts in the awareness event also mentioned that unscrupulous companies, agencies and individuals cheat the public by promising them hefty monthly rental payments for installation of mobile towers. Such fraudsters ask the public to deposit money in their personal, companies account under various names against security

deposit, application fee, registration charges, stamp duty, government tax under Telecom Act among others. Further, it was also highlighted that use of telecom services through SIM cards and signals of foreign service providers in Indian Territory violates the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and persons involved in such types of acts are liable to punishment as per the act and other acts and rules.

An official statement said that India holds the potential to lead the telecommunications technology sector across the globe. Misconceptions among a section of the population about the health hazards of EMF radiation should not override the factual information made available through scientific research.

Eight High Courts of India have also upheld the same view and have delivered judgments that disprove all such unfounded fears and misguided activism that is posing a severe challenge to the overall growth and connectivity of the country, the statement said.



ADEQUATE POSSIBILITIES FOR INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT IN ALL SECTORS IN MP: CM SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Adequate land bank-electricity-water-road connectivity and better law and order are the strengths of the state. Chief Minister Chouhan, committed to the development of the state, interacted with industrialists and investors on "Investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh" in Bengaluru

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that sufficient land bank is available for industries in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is a power surplus state, Delhi's metro train is also running from Madhya Pradesh's solar plant. There is sufficient availability of water in the state. Law and order situation is better with skilled manpower, people of the state believe in working peacefully, our bureaucracy is also pro-active. All these points are our strength for industrial development and investment. The State Government agrees to make necessary changes in its various policies as per the requirement of the industries. There are ample possibilities for industry and investment in all sectors in the state. Industrialists and investors should come, hold talks and participate in the progress of the industry and the state. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a dialogue session on "Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh" in Bengaluru.

Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Minister Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Science and Technology Om Prakash Sakhalchra, various industrialists and investors participated in the dialogue session at Hotel Taj Yeshwantpur, Bangalore. Chief Minister Chouhan said that this dialogue with the investors is not just a



ritual, but it is a feeling generated by yearning, stubbornness, passion and passion for the development of the state, which I am committed to give a practical form.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Global Investors Summit is being held in Indore on 11 and 12 January 2023. Prior to this, there will be a Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan from January 8 to 10, in which NRIs living in more than 80 countries will participate. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the conference and President Smt. Draupadi Murmu will attend the closing ceremony of the conference. Chief Minister Chouhan invited industrialists and investors to participate

in the Global Investors Summit. Chief Minister Chouhan said that after discussing the possibilities of investment and setting up industries in Madhya Pradesh, I am inviting you with the belief that industrialists and investors will give a decisive shape to their future plans in the summit. A wonderful creation of Shri Mahakal Lok has taken place in Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh, State Tiger State, There is also Leopard State and Cheetah State. You come to the state, move forward decisively towards investment and get acquainted with the diversity of the state, this is the request. Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest state in

the country. The state has become the leader of the country by achieving achievements in cleanliness for the sixth consecutive time. 3 lakh kilometers of roads have been built in the state. Atal Expressway, Narmada Expressway, where inter-state connectivity will increase, on the other hand, traffic from Delhi and Gujarat will also be easy and in less time. Green field airport is being developed between Indore and Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh, once known as Bimaru State, has left Punjab behind in food production in the field of agriculture. Basmati rice of the state is making a splash in America and Canada. We are continuously moving forward in food processing. Our contribution to the country's GSDP has increased from 3.6 to 4.6 per cent and the growth rate at current prices is 19.36 percent. Madhya Pradesh has made its own roadmap to achieve the target of making a five trillion dollar economy by the year 2026 by the Prime Minister Modi. The state is also systematically moving towards creating new employment opportunities, IT sector and startups. Chief Minister Chouhan said that with the innovation of CM Rise School, Global Skill Park is being developed in the state with the cooperation of Singapore to ensure availability of skilled manpower. ITI institutions of the state have been given a modern look. There is a system to provide training in the trade as per the requirement of the industries. Chief Minister Chouhan also held one-to-one talks with various industrialists.

Priyanka joins Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra



Team Absolute | Khandwa

Yesterday is the second day of former Congress National President Rahul Gandhi's India Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, this Yatra is in Khandwa district and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi and her family have also joined this Yatra. India Jodo Yatra started on the second day from Bargaon Buzurg in Khandwa, Rahul, Priyanka, Robert Vadra are also in this Yatra. This journey today will cover a distance of about 25 km. Priyanka Gandhi reached Indore by air on Wednesday night and from there by road to the destination.

It has been reported that Priyanka Gandhi is going to accompany this trip for four days. Rahul and Priyanka walked together, sometimes shaking hands and some-

times joining hands to greet the crowd. Congress workers are also showing enthusiasm for the trip. It is known that Rahul Gandhi's journey in the state entered Bordali village of Burhanpur on Wednesday. This journey is going to pass through Khargone, Khandwa, Indore, Ujjain and Agar. Different themes have been created for this trip. His one-day Sacrifice Samman Yatra, Food Donor Samman Yatra, Shram Shakti Samman Yatra, Diyaang Samman Yatra, Senior People Samman Yatra, Enlightened Jan Samman Yatra, Business World Samman Yatra, Women Samman Yatra, Jai Jawan Yatra, Sportsman Samman Yatra Art Samman Yatra, Sarvadharm Sarva Samaj Samman Yatra and Corona Tribute Yatra will be celebrated.

CM Chouhan plants mango sapling in Bengaluru



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a mango sapling in the premises of Hotel Taj Yeshwantpur in Bengaluru.

Chief Minister Chouhan is on a visit to Bengaluru to interact with industrialists and investors on the subject of "Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh" and invite them to

the Global Investors Summit to be held in Indore in January 2023. CM Chouhan is continuously planting saplings in fulfillment his resolve to plant saplings every day.

The sale of liquor will remain banned in the MP districts bordering Gujarat

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Assembly elections are being held in Gujarat. The sale of liquor will be completely banned in the districts bordering Alirajpur and Jhabua districts of Madhya Pradesh 48 hours before the day of polling and on the day of counting. Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said that in the border areas of the state bordering the state of Gujarat, compliance of the instructions related to prohibition will be ensured step by step. 48 hours before the close of polling in a polling area, no spirituous, liquor or other substance of similar nature shall be sold or given in any hotel, eating house, bar or any other public or private place within that polling area. Will go and will not be distributed. Any person who contravenes the provisions shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six



months, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both. Liquor shops in the area up to a distance of three kilometers from the border districts of Gujarat State will be closed 48 hours before the scheduled time for the end of polling and on the date of counting of votes and the ban on sale of liquor will be strictly enforced. Along with this, such efforts will be made that there is no possibility of transporting liquor in the polling area. Apart from this, no one will be allowed to sell and serve liquor in liquor shops, hotels, restaurants, clubs and other selling points, service points etc. as per the dry day orders. It is noteworthy that the General Election 2022 program has been released in two phases for a total of 182 seats in the state of Gujarat. Another polling is to be held on December 5 and counting of votes on December 8.

TRIBAL CELL SHOULD CONTINUOUSLY MONITOR THE COMPLIANCE OF PESA ACT: GOVERNOR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the tribal cell should continuously monitor the progress and compliance of the PESA Act. Proper utilization of the budget should be ensured for the development of tribal areas and people. In the meeting of Tribal Cell, Governor Patel discussed PESA Act, Sickle Cell Anemia Eradication Campaign, distribution of milch cattle for special backward tribes, T.B. Reviewed the works of the Free Madhya Pradesh campaign, pardon, case withdrawal and sensational crime, scholarship and student housing assistance scheme and Tribal Affairs Department.

Governor Patel said that the PESA Act is applicable in all the 89 Scheduled Tribe development blocks in the state. Make sure to follow its provisions completely. Monitoring should be done to ensure that the Gram Sabha is formed in time and the Gram Sabha takes action as per the rules. Moneylenders should not be able to exploit the tribals under any circum-



stances. Records of migrant laborers should be maintained. Like the central government, the state government should also develop a portal to keep information about migrant laborers. The Governor said that all the victims should be treated on priority by cross-verification of the survey data of sickle cell anemia in Jhabua and Alirajpur. Proper arrangements for medicines and blood transfusion should be made to all the victims on time. Appropriate action should be taken to get the sickle cell anemia victim a disabled certificate. Appropriate steps should also be taken for the treatment of sickle cell anemia with Ayurveda and Homeopathy. Governor Patel said that every year new villages should be added to the villages adopted by the universities. Along with this, private universities should also be encouraged to voluntarily adopt villages. The data of all the schemes should be uploaded on the portal on time, so that appropriate action can be taken on time. Governor Shri Patel said that the appointment of selected teachers should be done on time.

THIRD INSTALLMENT OF 4 CRORE RELEASED FOR 852 URBAN HOUSES

Bhopal: Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the third installment of Rs 4 crore 13 lakh 40 thousand has been released to complete the houses under construction. This amount has been released for 852 houses under construction in various urban bodies. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhopendra Singh has said that special attention should be paid to the quality of the houses under construction. He has also given instructions to complete the work on time as per the set target.

Make special efforts to receive applications from all new voters of 18 and 19 years of age: Chief Electoral Officer

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan today reviewed the activities going on in the districts regarding special summary revision of voter list 2023. He discussed about converting black and white photos into color including EP ratio, gender ratio. Deputy District Election Officers of all the districts participated in the review meeting through video conference.

Chief Electoral Officer Rajan said that special efforts should be made in the districts where applications of new voters in the age group of 18-19 years are less. He said

that the help of Anganwadi and ASHA workers should be taken to increase the gender ratio in districts where the number of women voters is less than that of men. If the applications for adding the names of new voters to the list are not coming as per the target, then in such a situation BLOs should go door-to-door and take applications. Upload the received forms through the Garuda app on the same day. Along with this, he instructed the Deputy District Election Officers to conduct continuous inspections. Camps should be organized in colleges to enroll the names of all young voters in the age group of 18-19 years.

MADHYA PRADESH IS THE MOST FRIENDLY STATE FOR FILM PRODUCTION: ANUPAM KHER

Permission will be given for film production in Madhya Pradesh in 15 days: Principal Secretary Shukla invites Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board participating film industry for film shooting in the state at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For film production in Madhya Pradesh, the environment is very friendly for the film industry. I have shot 5 films in Madhya Pradesh and have found Madhya Pradesh to be the friendliest state in the country. Actor Anupam Kher said this at the ongoing 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board is participating in the film festival organized in Goa. Principal Secretary Tourism and Culture and Managing Director Tourism Board Shiv Shekhar Shukla

said that the government will give permission to filmmakers in the state within 15 days to make films. He also invited the stakeholders associated with the film industry for shooting in the state. Principal Secretary Shukla was giving information in a conference organized to make people associated with the film industry aware of the facilities being provided in the state, in this Stayed. Famous actor Anupam Kher said that Madhya Pradesh really deserves the Film Friendly State Award. All possible necessary help is provided by the state government for film production in the state. He said that 5

films have been shot in the state. Very few have seen such film friendly states, where there is a lot of help even at the government level. The film policy of the state is quite simple. I hope that Madhya Pradesh gets this honor every year. Principal Secretary Shukla gave detailed information on the possibilities of film shooting in the state, attractive locations and key points of film tourism policy. He informed about grant to producers, permission under Public Service Guarantee Act within 15 days, natural beauty of the state as well as online single window system for shooting permission.

Highlights of Madhya Pradesh Film Policy

Madhya Pradesh is the only state in the country which has included project permissions in the Public Service Guarantee Act. There is a provision under the Act to allow shooting of a film in 15 working days. To implement the film tourism policy at the district level, an ADM level officer has been appointed as the nodal officer for permission in each district. The grants given under the film policy include web series, OTT original content, TV serials and documentaries. Single window clearance facility is available for all filming permissions in the state. Under the film policy, there is a provision of additional financial grant for the local artistes of the state as well as exemption for the film crew staying in hotels and resorts of the tourism department. There is a provision of reserved land for promoting private investment for the development of film industry in the state and setting up film cities, film studios, skill development centers etc. To make Madhya Pradesh a hub of filmmakers.



EDITOR'S SPECS

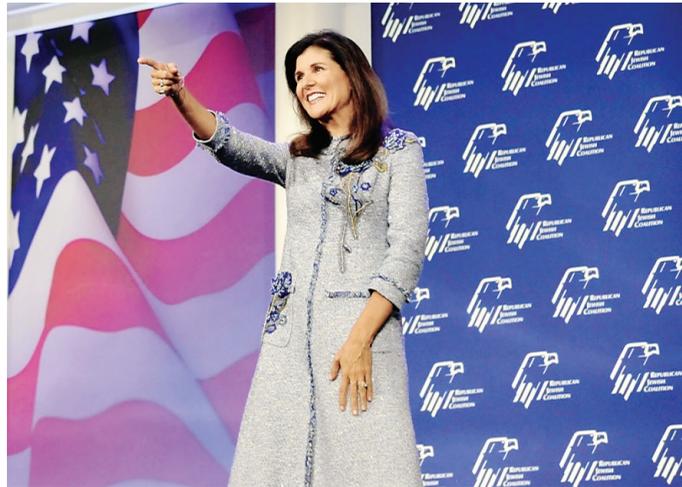
WOMEN IN GAMING CAREER

As gaming gets mainstream, 56 per cent of women gamers now consider gaming as a full-time or part-time career option, said a study on Thursday. Women gamers are eyeing a career in gaming, turning their hobby into a profession (50 per cent) and providing good earnings prospects (45 per cent). While becoming a gamer remains the most preferred, other options like becoming an influencer or a gaming software developer also interest them, according to the second edition of 'HP India Gaming Landscape Study 2022'. Gaming is also considered as a source of entertainment and relaxation (92 per cent), improving mental agility (58 per cent), and socialising (52 per cent). PCs remained the most preferred device for gaming as 68 per cent of gamers voted for PCs, as it offers better processors, design, and graphics with immersive displays, the study said. "The PC gaming landscape in India offers a tremendous opportunity for the youth and we, at HP, are committed to support gamers in their journey by providing knowledge, tools, and opportunities to upskill and help them become better at their game through OMEN community initiatives," said Vickram Bedi, Senior Director, Personal Systems, HP India market. The benefits of PC gaming are also persuading mobile gamers to switch as 39 per cent of mobile gamers are looking to migrate to a PC for gaming. According to the study, only 2 per cent of respondents have received formal training in gaming. While most gamers rely on personal skill enhancement to upgrade their gaming performance, 32 per cent follow a gaming star to enhance their skills. "The strong preference for PC gaming represents a massive business opportunity for us. We remain focused to engineer the best experiences based on user insights to enable a holistic and advanced gaming ecosystem in India," said Bedi.

CAN THERE BE 2 INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMEN RUNNING FOR US PREZ? HALEY HINTS SHE MAY CONTEST

Arul Louis

Can there be two women of Indian origin vying for the US presidential nominations from two opposing parties? That's in the realm of possibility, distant as it may seem, with Nikki Haley, the daughter of a turban-wearing Sikh immigrant from India, dropping a hint that she may seek the Republican nomination, but it also depends on the 80-year-old President Joe Biden deciding not to seek a second term opening a path for Vice President Kamala Harris to run for the Democratic Party nomination. So far Biden has said that he is in for another term and will make a final decision with his family early next year. The first person of Indian-American descent to serve on the US cabinet, Haley said on Sunday that she will look at a run for the presidency "in a serious way" and "will have more say soon". With a touch of bravado, she added: "For now, I'll say this. I've won tough primaries and tough general elections. I've been the underdog every single time. When people underestimate me, it's always fun. But I've never lost an election and I'm not going to start now. I'm ready for the road ahead." She spoke at a meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was the first major Republican political gathering after former President Donald Trump had announced his run for the presidency. Trump also addressed the meeting as did others who may run against him like Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Texas Senator Ted Cruz and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. After resigning from the cabinet position as Permanent Representative to the UN with only two years on the job, Haley set about building her base in the party. She set up a political action committee, Stand for America, which endorsed 60 candidates in the November 8 midterm elections and spent \$10 million promoting them. Haley who spoke proudly of her rise from "a brown girl growing up in a small rural southern town", with a stark racial divide and her family's immigration from India, took a dig at Harris, whose primary identification in politics is African-American from her father's roots and has often focused on racism.



She accused Harris of being with those who promoted "self-loathing" among Americans and citing her own family's experience said: "They have the gall to tell us, America is racist." Before joining Trump's cabinet, Haley had been the Governor of South Carolina, the second person of Indian origin to assume the post after fellow-Republican Bobby Jindal. "A lot of people have asked if I'm going to run for President. Now that the midterms are over, I'll look at it in a serious way. And I'll have more to say soon," she said. "If my family and I decide to continue our life of service, we will put 1,000 per cent into it and we'll finish it." She dropped a subtle hint while criticising Biden's effort to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal that was broken by Trump. "The next President will shred it on her first day in office," she said with an emphasis on "her" as the audience cheered. Harris sought the Democratic Party nomination for the 2020 election before dropping out in the initial stages of the campaign and ultimately was selected by Biden for vice president. Her fortunes are tied to Biden in many ways, starting with whether he will run again. A CNN poll showed that 67 per cent of all

voters surveyed did not want him to run again, although 83 per cent of Democrats were for a second term. The oldest president 80, Biden who has sometimes stumbled while speaking in public, referring to Harris as President or mixing up Fallujah in Iraq with Kherson in Ukraine, faces questions about his capacity to handle another term. Giving voice to doubters in his party, Democratic Representative Dean Phillips said: "I think the country would be well served by a new generation of compelling, well-prepared, dynamic Democrats to step up." Should Biden decide not to run, the focus will be on Harris. Her performance as Vice President has been mediocre, notably having failed to stem illegal immigration, a task entrusted to her by Biden. But her stock has risen with Biden's within the party after the Democrats' surprisingly strong showing in the midterm elections which was seen as a referendum on him and Trump. While being Vice President gives her an edge should Biden decide not to run, she will still face strong challenges for the party nomination. Haley will have an even more daunting task ahead if she decides to take on the race.

RealClear Politics aggregation of polls about the Republican nomination for the 2024 election showed that Haley had only a 2 per cent backing, compared to 47.3 per cent for Trump and 29 per cent for DeSantis. Haley is only 50 years old and even if she doesn't make it in 2024, the run would have raised her profile for several opportunities ahead. She may even have a shot at the Vice Presidential nomination. While indirectly criticising Trump at the RJC meeting for the party's expected red wave turning into a trickle, she also tried to make amends saying, "I disagree that our losses were due to one person". She has had a tenuous relationship with Trump. She first endorsed his rival Florida Senator Marco Rubio for the party nomination but got behind Trump when he became the candidate and he picked her for the cabinet. Her criticism of Trump has, on the other hand, made her a viable choice for Republicans opposed to the former President. In what could be seen as a dig against Trump many of whose handpicked candidates gave the party a costly defeat, she said on Sunday: "We have to choose candidates that can win not just a primary but also a general election. We don't need more politicians who love to go on TV and talk about our problems." After the January 6, 2021, physical attack on Congress by Trump's rioting supporters, she told a party meeting the next day: "He was badly wrong with his words yesterday. And it wasn't just his words. His actions since Election Day will be judged harshly by history." In his Sunday speech, Haley repeatedly emphasised status as a racial minority in a party associated with whiteness and said it should reach out to minorities - Hispanics, Asians, African Americans and Jews. Her parents came to the US "from India with \$8 in their pocket" and successfully -- and proudly -- navigated the American South, she said. Her father Ajit Singh Randhawa became a professor, while her mother Raj Kaur Randhawa became a businesswoman.

international

LT GEN ASIM MUNIR NAMED PAKISTAN'S NEW ARMY CHIEF

Islamabad | Agencies

The Pakistan government on Thursday announced that Lieutenant General Asim Munir will replace General Qamar Javed Bajwa as the country's new Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, using his Constitutional right, has also appointed Lt Gen Sahir Shamsad Mirza as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC), reports Geo News. Aurangzeb added that the summary of the appointments has been sent to President Arif Alvi for ratification. The decision was announced after the Prime Minister held a federal cabinet meeting to mull over the appointments after the allied parties authorised him to pick the officers for the top slots, Geo News reported. Both the officers picked for the slots were the senior-most military officials. Although the summary has been sent to the president, who belongs to the PTI, the coalition allies had warned him beforehand that he should avoid being loyal to his party and work in the interests of the state. In his conversation with reporters after the meeting of the federal cabinet, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif also confirmed that the



summary has been sent to the president. "All the matters have been settled in line with the Constitution of Pakistan and hopefully the president will not create a controversy," Asif said. The minister added that he expects President Alvi to approve the premier's advice. He also expressed hope that the said appointments would not be viewed politically. The minister refused to comment on PTI Chairman Imran Khan's consultation with President Alvi over the matter. He said that the Pakistan Air Force, navy, and army shouldn't be made controversial. Asif said that a detailed press release regarding the development will be issued.

Vaccinated people now make majority of Covid deaths in US: Report

New York | Agencies

In a startling revelation, a Washington Post analysis has found that more vaccinated people are now dying of the Covid disease and 58 per cent of coronavirus deaths in August in the US "were people who were vaccinated or boosted". For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, a majority of Americans dying from Covid were at least partially vaccinated, according to the new analysis of federal and state data. "In September 2021, vaccinated people made up just 23 per cent of coronavirus fatalities. In January and February this year, it was up to 42 per cent," the report mentioned. The death among vaccinated people is increasing due to waning efficacy of Covid vaccines and "increasingly contagious strains of the virus being spread to elderly and immunocompromised people" among those who have taken at least one vaccine dose. "We can no longer say this is a pan-



dem of the unvaccinated," said Kaiser Family Foundation vice president Cynthia Cox, who conducted the analysis on behalf of the Washington Post. Outgoing White House Chief Medical Adviser, Anthony Fauci has emphasised the safety and efficacy of the approved Covid vaccines in preventing severe illness and deaths, encouraging people to get vaccinated and boosted as soon as possible.

He said that coronavirus vaccine effectiveness wanes over time and the disease shouldn't be compared to other vaccine-treatable illnesses because of new emerging variants. "My message, and my final message, maybe the final message I give you from this podium, is that please, for your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated Covid-19 shot as soon as you're eligible to pro-

tect yourself, your family and your community," Fauci said. "I urge you to visit vaccine.gov to find a location where you can easily get an updated vaccine, and please do it as soon as possible." Older people were always especially vulnerable and now make up a higher proportion of Covid fatalities than ever before in the pandemic, reports Scientific American. Today in the US, about 335 people will die from Covid -- a disease for which there are highly effective vaccines, treatments and precautions, it added. "Covid deaths among people age 65 and older more than doubled between April and July this year, rising by 125 per cent," according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. The World Health Organization reported a nearly 90 per cent drop in recent Covid-19 deaths globally compared to nine months ago, but still urged vigilance against the pandemic as new variants continue to rise. Overall, the WHO has reported 629 million cases and 6.5 million deaths linked to the pandemic.

ANWAR IBRAHIM NAMED AS NEW MALAYSIAN PM

Kuala Lumpur: Anwar Ibrahim, the leader of Malaysia's Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition, has been named as the 10th Prime Minister of the country, the National Palace said on Thursday in a statement.



The swearing-in ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. (local time) at the Palace, Xinhua news agency quoted the statement as saying. King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah said in the statement that Anwar's appointment was in line with the constitution, under which the king may appoint at his discretion any MP whom he believes to have majority support as a Prime Minister. Members of the public are also reminded to remain calm and the king also advised the new prime minister not to inflict further political calamity on the people and to build a stable government. All MPs are also reminded to stand in solidarity and give their commitment and make it a priority to serve the people. Malaysia had been in a political stalemate following the indecisive results of a snap national polls on November 19, with no political coalition or party securing enough seats in the lower house of parliament to form a government on its own.

Zelensky accuses Russia of 'crimes against humanity' in UN speech

Kiev | Agencies

In his address to the UN Security Council, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has accused Russia of committing "crimes against humanity" after a new barrage of missile strikes have caused widespread power outages across the war-torn nation. "Russia has long been trying to turn the UN Security Council into a platform for rhetoric. But it was created as the world's most powerful platform for decisions and actions. Therefore, the Security Council must give a clear assessment of the actions of the terrorist state," he told the UN body in a video address on Wednesday. "Ukraine proposes that the Security Council adopt such a resolution condemning all forms



of energy terror. I confirm the invitation from Ukraine regarding the mission of UN experts to critical infrastructure facilities of our country that have been or may be hit by Russian missiles. "It is necessary to give a proper assessment of damage and destruction. It should be stated that these are strikes against the very infrastructure that ensures the lives of tens of millions of people." The world should not be

held hostage by one international terrorist," the President added. The recent Russian attacks have damaged almost half of Ukraine's energy system and millions of people are without power as temperatures drop for winter. Blackouts, both scheduled and unscheduled, have become common in many parts of Ukraine, as Russia aims regular waves of missile attacks at parts of the energy infrastructure.

Erdogan doesn't rule out meeting with Syria's Assad

Ankara | Agencies

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that he did not rule out a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad following a decade of ruptured ties. "A meeting with Assad can take place. There is no resentment in politics. Sooner or later, we can take steps," Erdogan told reporters when asked if he could meet with his Syrian counterpart as he did with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi in Qatar over the weekend. Erdogan and Assad have not met since the outbreak of Syria's civil war in 2011, reports Xinhua news agency. The two leaders had close ties before Turkey-backed Syrian rebels when the civil war erupted. Since the beginning of the war in Syria, the Turkish leader had been calling for the removal of the Syrian President. Erdogan and Assad had traded harsh blame till the past two years when Ankara stepped up to mend



its bilateral ties with regional rivals. Erdogan's remarks on Wednesday came at a time when Turkey carried out an aerial campaign into northern Syria and vowed to further launch a ground offensive against the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in the neighbouring country. In August, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu confirmed that he briefly met with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad in October last year in Serbia's capital Belgrade, the first such high-level contact since 2011. The Turkish top diplomat said that his country does not have any precondition for dialogue with the Syrian government if the talks are "goal-oriented".



MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR "PARCEL SENT VIA AMAZON BY CENTRE": UDDHAV THACKERAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Uddhav Thackeray today demanded Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's immediate recall, describing him as a "parcel sent via Amazon to Maharashtra" in an escalating row over comments on Shivaji. The former Chief Minister threatened a cross-party protest if Koshyari was not removed.

"This governor who is a parcel sent via Amazon to Maharashtra by central government, if they don't take him back within two to five days, a statewide protest or bandh will be organized," Thackeray told reporters.

"We would request the central government to take away the sample that you sent here. If required put him in old age home, we don't need him in the state."

Governor Koshyari's comments on Maratha icon Chhatrapati Shivaji have triggered anger across the political spectrum, with leaders of the ruling Eknath Shinde Sena and its ally BJP, too, speaking up.

The Governor made the comments at a function to honour Union Minister and BJP leader Nitin Gadkari and NCP leader Sharad Pawar.

"Earlier, when you were asked who your icon is, the answers would be



Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi. In Maharashtra, you need not look elsewhere (as) there are so many icons here. While Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is icon of the olden days, now there are BR Ambedkar and Nitin Gadkari," Koshyari had said last Saturday.

Gadkari later said: "Shivaji Maharaj is our god...We revere him even more than our parents," Mr Gadkari said.

In a trenchant attack on the Governor, Thackeray said he belongs to an old-age home and his words could be no means be construed as a slip of tongue.

"The President elects the Governor

and the governor should be unbiased, this is what we all feel. But now, the agenda of the central government is being spread by the Governor and that's why his statement should be taken with all seriousness. I have stopped calling him Governor," he said.

"The central government decides who will be the Governor. Don't mind my words but people who won't be even allowed in old age homes are made governor now."

Mr Thackeray also spoke about the last time he slammed the Governor, over his remarks that Mumbai would not be the financial capital without Gujaratis and Rajasthanis.

"A few months ago when we met

here, the governor insulted Mumbai and Thane people. That time I said that we need to show him the Kolhapuri chappal. Now the governor has insulted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. We should know who is behind this," Thackerays said.

"If the governor isn't removed in the next three-four days, we will wait for three-four days, if nothing happens, everyone who loves the state, must come together and show them what happens if someone insults us. I would appeal to people from all parties to come together. In the next few days, I will meet like-minded people. If all parties come together, I believe we should do something statewide, nothing violent," he said.

Thackeray also questioned what he called the "silence" of the state government, led by his rival Eknath Shinde, and the BJP, on the Governor's comments.

"Those who insult Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj shouldn't tell us about Savarkar issue. Even at that time, we opposed Rahul Gandhi. But those who were protesting against Savarkar are silent now. Why is that?" he asked.

Thackeray had, earlier this week, criticized Rahul Gandhi for saying that Hindu ideology Veer Savarkar had sought mercy from the British while in jail during the freedom movement.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has refused to grant divorce to a 44-year-old man from Pune who falsely claimed his wife was HIV positive due to which he suffered mental agony.

A division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sharmila Deshmukh in its order of November 16 dismissed the appeal filed by the man in 2011, challenging an order passed by a family court in Pune the same year refusing his petition for divorce.

The man has not produced any evidence that his wife had tested positive for HIV, which caused him mental agony, the high court said, adding that his prayer for grant of divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage is liable to be rejected outright.

The couple got married in March 2003 and the man claimed his wife was of whimsical nature, stubborn, short-tempered and did not behave properly with him or his family members.

She had also suffered from



tuberculosis and later with herpes, the man further claimed.

As per his plea, a test later conducted on his wife in 2005 revealed she was HIV positive.

The man subsequently sought divorce.

The wife, however, refuted the claims and said her HIV test had come out negative, but still her husband spread rumours about this among her family members, thus causing mental agony to her.

The high court bench in its order said the man failed to produce the medical report of his wife showing she was HIV positive.

"There is not an iota of evidence produced by the peti-

tioner husband that the respondent wife had tested positive for HIV, which caused him mental agony or that the wife has treated him with cruelty," the high court said.

"In spite of the medical report which shows the test result as HIV DNA "not detected", the petitioner has refused to co-habit with the respondent and defamed the respondent in the society by informing relatives and friends that the respondent has tested positive," it said.

Hence, the husband's prayer for grant of divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown of marriage is liable to be rejected outright, the bench said in its order.

"Such People...": Sharad Pawar on Maha Governor's Shivaji comment

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday criticised Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari over his recent statement on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and said he has "crossed all the limits".

The former Union minister also said that "such people" should not be given crucial posts. Koshyari had said last week during an event in Aurangabad that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was an icon of "olden days". His statement had drawn flak from NCP and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction.

Speaking to reporters here, Pawar said, "When I heard his comments about Shiv



Chhatrapati...now he has crossed all the limits. He did praise Shivaji Maharaj yesterday, but it is a late realisation." "I think the President and the Prime Minister should take a decision (about Koshyari). Such people should not be given crucial

posts," he said. The post of governor represents an institution and in order to maintain the dignity of that post, we did not comment against Koshyari earlier, the NCP supremo added. Koshyari is on a two-day Delhi tour starting Thursday.

MAN DIES AFTER FALLING INTO OPEN SEWER

Palghar: A 26-year-old man died after falling into an open sewer in Nala Sopara area in Palghar district of Maharashtra on Wednesday.

According to police, the man left home on Wednesday night and fell into an open sewer. A case has been registered at Achole police station under Alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Police sent the victim's body for post-mortem.

Actor Vikram Gokhale 'critical' with multiple organ failure: Family friend

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood, Marathi films, stage and television actor Vikram Gokhale's health remains 'critical' and medicos are making all efforts to save his life, a family friend said here on Thursday.

He also scoffed at rumours of the veteran actor's death, which circulated like a wildfire late last night, though it was known that he was serious Wednesday evening.

"Vikram Gokhale has been fighting for life since the past 24 hours. He has suffered multiple organ failures. The doctors' team is trying its best. That's what we have been informed," said the friend, talking briefly to the media.

Gokhale was admitted to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital around a fortnight ago but his health deteriorated since Tuesday.

Son of the prominent Marathi theatre and cinema actor, Chandrakant Gokhale, Gokhale has acted in major



Bollywood films like Sanjay Leela Bhansali's romantic 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' (1999), where he was Aishwarya Rai's music maestro father; Kamal Haasan's 'Hey Ram' (2001); as Acharya Yagyaprakash Bharti in 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' (2007); and in Priyadarshan's rib-tickler 'De Dana Dan' (2009) as a

diplomat, and many others. He donned the director's hat in 2010 with Marathi film 'Aaghaat' and bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor category for his Marathi film 'Anumati', and has been conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2011 for his Acting in Theatre.

PANIC AS LEOPARD ATTACKS 3 IN RESIDENTIAL AREA NEAR MUMBAI

Mumbai | Agencies

Three people were on Thursday injured in attacks by a leopard in a residential area of Kalyan, near Mumbai. Videos showed people terrified at the sight of the big cat as it jumped across a window of a building.

Forest officials are at the spot and efforts are on to capture it. "I saw the leopard on the first floor. People were screaming for help. A man went inside the building despite warning and was attacked by the leopard. Some of us with sticks in hand scared it away," said a local.

In one of the videos, a victim was seen with bandages on his head and an arm.

Yesterday, a leopard was spotted in a densely-populated area of Nashik in Maharashtra. It was tranquilised and caged shortly after midnight, officials said.



Government sets up panel for roadmap to publish MBBS books in Marathi

Mumbai | Agencies

The Maharashtra government has set up a seven-member committee to chalk out a roadmap for publishing MBBS course books in Marathi language, an official from the state medical education and research department said on Thursday.

Notably, the Madhya Pradesh government recently launched books for the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) course in Hindi.

The seven-member panel formed in Maharashtra is



headed by the medical education and research department's joint director Ajay Chandanwale, the official said.

"We spoke with officials in Madhya Pradesh which published the MBBS course books in Hindi. The next step is to hold the first meeting of the committee members in Maharashtra and discuss the road map for the course publication in Marathi. The meeting is likely to be held in Mumbai next week, a senior official from the medical education and research said.

TEACHER SUSPENDED FOR BEING DRUNK AT SCHOOL, MISBEHAVING

Palghar: A teacher with a Zilla Parishad school in Maharashtra's Palghar district has been suspended for allegedly being under the influence of liquor in the educational institution and beating up a ZP office-bearer, authorities said on Thursday. The teacher, working at the primary school at Dhamangaon in Dahanu taluka, had also been found sleeping and abusing others in the school, the Zilla Parishad said in a release.

Following complaints against the teacher, the Zilla Parishad CEO placed him under suspension with effect from November 22, it said. The suspension order, issued in keeping with provisions of the service rules, also said the teacher will not leave the headquarters during the period of suspension and not take up any other job.

After Shraddha Walkar's 2020 letter, BJP's "Appeasement" charge in Maharashtra

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The shocking murder of Shraddha Walkar allegedly by her boyfriend Aaftab Poonawala in Delhi has triggered politics of blame in their home state Maharashtra, with the ruling BJP pressing on the charge that the previous government led by Uddhav Thackeray "could have saved her, if it acted on her letter of 2020".

"The government was busy appeasing a community for politics and in vasooli (bribe or extortion)," BJP MLA Ram Kadam said, alluding to an alleged communal angle.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has already said, "I have seen the letter... We will thoroughly investigate the matter. We have to

ascertain why no action was taken after the police received the letter."

Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar has demanded a probe specifically into whether the complaint was "deliberately suppressed". He, too, targeted the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government of the Shiv Sena, NCP, and Congress - a government that was unseated after Eknath Shinde divided the Shiv Sena in June this year.

"Did the police not take any action because Shraddha's last name was 'Walkar' or because he is 'Aaftab'?" Ashish Shelar said, also alleging a communal angle.

In the letter of November 23, 2020, which came to light yesterday, Shraddha Walkar had told police in their hometown Vasai in

Maharashtra that Aaftab had been threatening to "kill me, cut me up in pieces and throw me away" - exactly what he allegedly did this May and was arrested for earlier this month.

Police in Vasai, however, have said they did not act as she gave another written statement three weeks later that "we no longer have any quarrel", and asked for no action to be taken.

Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena faction has been demanding that Aaftab be hanged in public. "Our girls should be alert while trusting any person. People might call it 'love jihad'. The fact is: our girls are dying," Sanjay Raut, a top leader of the party, said last week.

Shraddha's father, who had not been in touch with her since last

year over her inter-faith live-in relationship, has also spoken of "love jihad", a term used by right-wing groups to allege a concerted effort by Muslim men to convert Hindu women to Islam through marriage.

Police so far have not spoken of any such angle. In her November 2020 complaint, Shraddha had told the cops that Aaftab beat her up over petty quarrels at a flat they shared, and said that his family knew about his violent behaviour, sources in the Delhi police said.

On December 12, she gave a follow-up written statement that she wanted no action, police in Vasai said.

For investigation, the complaint of November 23, 2020, ties to what

she had told her co-worker Karan over WhatsApp around the same time, when she had also shared a photo of her bruised face with him.

She had also been admitted to a hospital a week later with "internal injuries".

But the relationship apparently continued. Both call centre employees, they moved to Delhi's Mehrauli in May this year, and Aaftab is alleged to have killed her after another fight, over household expenses.

On the evidence list, police so far have an alleged confession, which is not admissible on its own, hence are looking for material clues, such as a forensic test to confirm that some body parts found in the Mehrauli jungle are hers.





Kourtney Kardashian confesses her desire to breastfeed her nephew

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian has the desire to nurse her sister Khloe Kardashian's baby boy. She made the bizarre confession to sister Khloe Kardashian, who has her unnamed son with cheating ex Tristan Thompson on the finale episode of season two of Hulu's 'The Kardashians'.

Khloe reacts: "Oh, my God, Kourt, let's calm down."

The cameras are yet to film the youngest member of the family, but he's said to look like the pair's 35-year-old brother Rob, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Kris Jenner, 67, even suggests her grandchild, who was born via surrogate, be named after her son.

She says: "How about Rob? How about Rob Kardashian Thompson, and then just call him Rob Kardashian."

Khloe, 38, also has daughter True, four, with basketball player Tristan. Kourtney's desire to breastfeed comes after her IVF treatment.

While she is keen to have a baby with her husband Travis Barker, the 43-year-old reality star felt "pushed" into having fertility treatment and is now more philosophical about the situation than she once was.

She said: "I got to a place where I just felt, like, exactly how timing was everything with me and Travis. I feel - truly - like if it's meant to be, it'll happen."

Ludacris urged to make music comeback after debuting freestyle rap

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper-actor Ludacris is proving that he still has rapping skills despite focusing on TV and film in recent years. He is urged by his fans to stop acting and make a music comeback after he released an impressive freestyle over Armani White's "Billie Eilish" beat. Making use of his Instagram account on Tuesday (November 22), the 45-year-old star posted a video of him spitting his bars, reports aceshowbiz.com. In the caption, he wrote, "Just A Friendly Reminder (microphone emoji) (Remix Coming Soon)," teasing fans that an official remix would be coming soon. "Pilot, yeah pilot of my own plane/ Million dollar talk every time the phone ring," he spits as he kicks the freestyle off. "Luda never put in work in the dope game/ But I did to rap what Escobar did to cocaine!"

Later in the verse, he notes the many successful endeavours he's had in his more than 20-year career. It's been over seven years since Luda's last studio album, "Ludaversal", but the multi-hyphenate certainly hasn't been resting on his laurels.



Johnny Depp not returning as 'Pirates Of The Caribbean'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Johnny Depp is not on board a new 'Pirates of the Caribbean' movie despite report stating otherwise. Sources debunk an earlier report which said that the actor is set to reprise his role as Captain Jack Sparrow for the upcoming sixth instalment of the Disney film series, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The Sun floated the rumour of Depp's alleged return to the franchise, claiming that his name has been spotted on a call sheet for a supposed new 'Pirates of the

Caribbean' movie.

According to the U.K. news outlet, the 59-year-old actor is scheduled for a test shoot in the U.K. in February 2023.

Insiders told the site that the movie's current working title is 'A Day at Sea'. One of the sources dished, "Johnny is set to return as Captain Jack Sparrow and is scheduled to start filming at the beginning of February at a top secret location in the U.K."

"Everything is in the early stages and there is still no director attached to the project, which is being called 'A Day at the Sea,'" the source further spilled.

"Johnny is expected to do a test shoot in early February before the production gets fully underway."

"A call sheet has been distributed among those in the know," it additionally claimed. "Bruce Hendricks, who worked on the first three films, is named as the Executive Producer on the new project."

The source added, "All the other details are being kept under lock and key. The whole project is shrouded in secrecy and Disney wants to keep everything under wraps as best they can."



Eva Mendes was once fired from a hotdog stand

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Eva Mendes was once fired from a hotdog stand after giving an "inappropriate" gift to a co-worker. The 48-year-old actress worked as a hotdog vendor before finding fame in Hollywood and revealed that she was dismissed from her position after giving a colleague an "inappropriate gift" during the holiday season, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Without revealing exactly what the gift was, she told Will McMahon and Woody Whitelaw on KIIS FM: "I got fired from one place only, but it was a hotdog on a stick place. Oh god, this is bad too... I was a Secret Santa and I gave an inappropriate gift. I'm giving you guys way too much right now. You're like, literally this is the end of my day. But the good thing about getting fired is you get to collect unemployment (benefits)!"

Meanwhile, 'Hitch' actress has been in a relationship with fellow Hollywood star Ryan Gosling since 2011 but has repeatedly fuelled speculation over the last week that they have in fact tied the knot and the revelation comes just days after she referred to him as her husband.

She said: "Everyone is so welcoming here and my husband Ryan is here and we are having the best time."

Later, Mendes was asked about marriage gossip in an interview on Australian radio's 'The Kyle and Jackie O Show' on Friday (November 18) with stand-in co-host Brittany Hockley.

Many fans are convinced the tattoo confirms the couple are husband and wife.

STRANGE WORLD: DISNEY'S TRIP TO A COLOURFUL-DARK WORLD



FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Director:- Don Hall
Voice Cast:- Jake Gyllenhaal, Dennis Quaid, Jaboukie Young-White, Gabrielle Union and ensemble

Duration:- 101 minutes
Rating:- 3/5

Synopsis : The Clades, a renowned family of explorers, seek to cross an unexplored, dangerous land alongside a strange company that includes a mischievous blob Splat, a three-legged dog Legend, and a host of other voracious monsters in Disney's Strange World.
Review : Strange World revolves

around the life of Searcher Clade, a member of the Clade family whose epic adventures seal them as the greatest explorers to ever live. Searcher, on the other hand, does not appear to be interested in following in his family's footsteps, preferring instead to live a calm life as a farmer rather than the overly noisy, unpredictable, and deadly life of an adventurer.

That might all change for Searcher when he and his family come to a planet that defies explanation and almost refuses to follow the simplest accepted principles of existence.

The Strange World appears to be a children's picture since it is animated, but the film has a lot of hidden meanings that hit you quite differently when it comes from an animated creature. The film depicts a dog's devotion, the power of love, and, most significantly, the message that it is not required for the next generation to live up to what their family desires

Strange World's primary lure is undoubtedly its immense underground region of living woods, flaming oceans, and massive cave networks. Rivers of jelly-like animals float in the air at this location. Cliffs walk by themselves. Bioluminescence illuminates forests.

The picture, which begins as a hilarious animated movie reveals so many things that by the end, you realise it was a suspenseful movie. The movie has a mystery that will blow your mind in the most beautiful way imaginable. Although the movie centrally revolves around the Clades the real hero of the movie is the strange world.

When it comes to animation and visual effects, Disney is unrivalled. The use of a beautiful colour palette in the weird realms is really stunning.

Conclusion : The Strange World is a light-hearted film that deals with daddy issues in a humorous yet serious manner. The film is a thrilling trip that is a joy to witness.

Leonardo DiCaprio almost lost 'Titanic' role due to diva behaviour: James Cameron

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio was almost turned down for his now-iconic role in 'Titanic' due to his diva behaviour. Having led several movies and scored an Oscar nomination for 1993's 'What's Eating Gilbert Grape' at the time, the actor acted snobbish during a meeting with James Cameron, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The filmmaker revealed in an interview with GQ that DiCaprio refused to read during a screen test with Kate Winslet. The 'Avatar' helmer said the actor had already come for a meeting before during which he "charmed everyone."

"There was a meeting with Leo and then there was a screen test with Leo," Cameron detailed the casting process for the 1997 movie. "The meeting was funny because I am sitting in my conference room, waiting to meet an actor. And I look around, and all the women in the entire office are in the meeting. They all wanted to meet Leo. It was hysterical."

DiCaprio left a different impression during the screen test. "He came back a couple of days later, and I had the camera set up to record the video," Cameron said. "He didn't know he was going to test. He thought it was another meeting to meet Kate. So I said, 'Okay, we'll just go in the next room, and we'll run some lines and I'll video it.' And he said, 'You mean, I'm reading?' I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Oh, I don't read.' I shook his hand and said, 'Thanks for coming by,'" the director recalled.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sarah Heyland



FIFA WORLD CUP 2022

URUGUAY, SOUTH KOREA PLAY OUT GOALLESS DRAW IN GROUP H OPENER

Al Rayyan (Qatar) | Agencies

Uruguay and South Korea played out a goalless draw in their Group H opener in the FIFA World Cup 2022 at the Education City Stadium here on Thursday.

The South American side started with Darwin Nunez lined up alongside prolific forward Luis Suarez, while Heung-Min Son was fit enough to start for South Korea after his recently fractured eye socket. But none of them could find the breakthrough despite a lively encounter in Qatar.

The draw leaves both sides' chances of reaching the last 16 wide open, as Uruguay prepare to face Portugal next, while South Korea meet Ghana.

The first half ended without a score with Uruguay guilty of wasting many opportunities. However, South Korea got the best chance in



the 34th minute as Moon-Hwan Kim found Ui-Jo Hwang in space in the box, but he could only fire over the crossbar.

And Uruguay went close towards the end as Federico

Valverde's fierce drive, from just outside the box, was wide. In the first match of the day, Switzerland opened their 2022 World Cup campaign in Group G with a 1-0 win over.

BATSHUAYI'S STRIKE FIRES BELGIUM TO WIN OVER CANADA

Doha: Michy Batshuayi struck a first-half goal as Belgium opened their FIFA World Cup campaign with a 1-0 victory over Canada here late on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old Fenerbahce striker gave the European side the lead on the stroke of halftime when he thumped a first-time effort into the far corner following a counter-attack.

Canada were denied an early lead by Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who dived low to his right to keep out an Alphonso Davies' penalty, reports Xinhua.

The result extended Belgium's unbeaten record in the World Cup group stage to 13 matches, a run that dates back to 1998. Canada, playing on football's biggest stage for the first time since 1986, continue their search for a first World Cup goal. On Wednesday's form, they will be odds-on to break their duck against Croatia or Morocco in their remaining group matches.

I-League 2022-23

Sreenidi Deccan register 1-0 win against TRAU

Hyderabad | Agencies

Sreenidi Deccan FC registered a 1-0 win against TRAU FC in an I-League 2022-23 season match at the newly-inaugurated Deccan Arena, here on Thursday.

Playing their first-ever match at their new home venue, the hosts took the lead in the 41st minute through David Castaneda Munoz, which ultimately proved to be the difference between the teams. The first half began slowly, with chances few and far between. Both sides worked hard to create scoring opportunities, but the defensive lines on either side were compact and solid.

At the half-hour mark, Gabriel had a great chance to put his team in the lead. The pacy forward beat his marker and only had the keeper to beat in a 1-v-1 scenario but lost his composure and shot waywardly.

Just as the half looked to be ending goalless, the hosts found the net in the 41st minute through Castaneda. Sreenidi earned a free-kick 25 yards from goal and the Colombian placed it right into the bottom corner to give Bishorjit Singh no chance. The home outfit almost doubled their lead two minutes after the restart, with Gabriel in the thick of the



action once more. Cutting in from the right side, he entered the penalty area and blazed his shot narrowly over the crossbar. Minutes later, Faysal Shayesteh had a shot on goal from a free-kick but it lacked power and was easily collected. TRAU looked to push forward but were unable to make any serious inroads into the opposition's defense. As time wore on, the desperation levels grew for the Manipuri side, which was on display in the 77th minute. The away side threw the kitchen sink at Sreenidi towards the end as they continued their search for the equaliser. However, they could not find the breakthrough, as the match drew to a close with the score at 1-0. With this result, Sreenidi Deccan FC made it two wins on the bounce after their loss in the first round. On the other hand, TRAU FC suffered their first defeat of the season.

Davis Cup

Marin Cilic seals 2-0 win over hosts Spain to send Croatia into semifinals

Malaga (Spain) | Agencies

Former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic led Croatia into the Davis Cup semifinals after defeating 13th-ranked Pablo Carreno Busta 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(5) here on Wednesday.

Earlier, Borna Coric had set the 2005 and 2018 champions on their way, defeating Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 7-6(4).

Cilic was two points from defeat at 5-6, 0-30 in the deciding set and then 1-4 down in the final set tiebreak, only to find his very best tennis at the crucial moment, silencing the near-capacity vocal crowd inside the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena.

This was the first time that Croatia had been able to field both Coric and Cilic in the same Davis Cup line-up since they won the event back in 2018. With the team at full



strength, they took advantage of the hosts being without Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal, and the victory marks the first time in four attempts that Croatia have beaten Spain in the Davis Cup. More than 9,000 fans created a lively atmosphere in support of the hosts throughout the tie. But Croatia are familiar with such surroundings -- they won the Davis Cup in Lille against France back in 2018 -- and with their own brass band, they were well supported here too. It made for an

enthralling contest between the only two nations at this year's finals with players who have won this competition before. In the opening match, Coric went unbroken against Bautista and he credited his serve for laying the foundation of such a strong performance. Cilic has claimed that things would have been different if Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz had appeared in Spain's Davis Cup Finals squad after the Croats defeated the Spanish team on home soil.

Youth World Boxing

Seven Indians roar into finals; four settle for bronze medals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Young Indian boxers continued their dominance at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 as seven of them stormed into the finals with stunning victories in La Nucia, Spain.

Youth Asian champions Vanshaj and Vishwanath Suresh marched ahead along with Ashish to maintain their all-win record in the men's semifinals whereas Kirti (+81kg), Bhawna Sharma (48kg), Devika Ghorpade (52kg) and Ravina (63kg) progressed in the women's section.

While Chennai boy Vishwanath claimed a 4-1 win over Juanma Lopez of Puerto Rico; Vanshaj (63.5kg) and Ashish (54kg), who hail from Haryana, posted close 3-2 and 4-3 triumphs against USA's Deshawn Crocklem and Uzbekistan's



Khujanazar Nortojev respectively in their thrilling last four stage encounters. The women's boxers, on the other hand, recorded comfortable wins apart from Kirti's 3-2 victory against Kazakhstan's Assel Toktaassyn. Ravina and Bhawna outpunched their Kazakh opponents, Assem

(70kg) - signed off with bronze medals after defeats in their respective semifinals.

The Indian boxers have reasserted their supremacy at the prestigious championships as 11 out of 17 quarterfinalists went on to confirm medals -- highest for any country at the ongoing edition, wherein close to 600 boxers from 73 countries were in the fray.

Uzbekistan are second with 10 confirmed medals while Ireland and Kazakhstan are placed jointly in the third position with seven medals each. India's dominance in the women's section is another highlight of the tournament as eight pugilists have secured medals which is the most for any country followed by Kazakhstan (5) and Uzbekistan (4).

Bhawna, and Devika will fight for gold on Friday along with all three male boxers while others will play their finals on Saturday.

SHAKIB RETURNS TO B'DESH ODI SQUAD FOR SERIES AGAINST INDIA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Left-arm spin all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Thursday returned to the Bangladesh ODI squad for three-match home series against India in December along with fast bowler Ebadot Hossain and off-spin all-rounder Yasir Ali.

Shakib had skipped Bangladesh's last ODI series when the side toured Zimbabwe and lost 2-1 in August in his absence. Now with a full-strength India, led by Rohit Sharma, touring the country for the first time since 2015, Shakib is back to play under Tamim Iqbal's captaincy.

Bangladesh have also left out spin all-rounder Mosaddek Hossain, spinner Taijul Islam and pacer Shoriful Islam, as well as batter Mohammad Naim, who was included in the squad for the second and third ODI against Zimbabwe alongside Ebadot as Nurul Hasan and



Liton Das, suffered injuries.

The first two ODI matches between Bangladesh and India will

take place on December 4 and 7 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNSC) in Mirpur, Dhaka.

The third ODI, which was previously scheduled to be held at Dhaka, will now take place at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chattogram on December 10.

Currently, India are ranked third in ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings while Bangladesh are in seventh place. All the ODI matches, which are not a part of the ODI World Cup Super League, will be day-night affairs starting from 12 pm local time. India are scheduled to depart for Bangladesh on December 1 and will leave the country on December 27 after the tour ends.

The tour will also have two Tests under the ICC World Test Championship cycle, at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium (ZACS) in Chattogram from December 14 to 18, and then at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNSC), Mirpur, Dhaka from December 22-26.

India to have its own Supercross Racing League

Pune | Agencies

Supercross India Pvt Ltd under the aegis of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India on Thursday announced the handing over of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the commercial rights to launch the world's first of its kind Supercross racing league, titled 'Indian Supercross Racing League'. The MoU was handed over by Gautam Shantappa, Vice-President, and Sujith Kumar - Chairman of Supercross Racing Commission of the FMSCI to the promoters of the league in a press conference held in Pune. "The federation fully backs the SXI team and firmly believes that they would take the sport forward and elevate it to a new level. As the vice-president, I am confident that SXI and the FMSCI will work as a team and would make the league a huge success," said Gautam. Whereas, Sujith said, "I believe that with younger organisers coming into the sport the future looks bright. I would



like to state that it's a matter of great happiness to see X-Racers coming back to the sport playing different roles. The federation fully backs the SXI team and firmly believes that they would take the sport forward and elevate it to a new level. I am proud to say that we in India have the first franchise-based Supercross league in the world." The league will look at the development of the sport at a grassroots level and shall endeavor to bring India to the global forefront of motorsports.

This bloke is batting on a different planet: Glenn Maxwell on Suryakumar Yadav

Team Absolute | New Delhi

2022 has been a year in which the Suryakumar Yadav fan club has seen many additions, thanks to the 360-degree stroke-play and astonishing knocks produced by the right-handed batter to be the leading run-getter in T20Is this year.

Australia's all-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who broke his leg in a freak accident recently, is the latest addition to the list of Suryakumar's admirers, terming him as "batting on a different planet".

Maxwell was expressing his admiration for Suryakumar citing his knock of 111 not out off 51 balls, which gave India a 65-run win over New Zealand, in an innings during which the rest of the visitors' batters made 69 runs off as many balls, and was called by Virat Kohli as a "video-game innings."

"I saw the (Mount Maunganui T20I) scorecard from the first innings. I screenshot it and sent it straight to Finchy [Aaron Finchy] and I said, 'What is going on here?' This bloke is batting on a different planet. I said, 'Look at



everyone else's scores and look at this bloke, that's 111 off 50! What is going on?'" "So, the next day, I watched the full replay on Kayo [a video streaming app] and watched the whole innings and the embarrassing thing is that he is so much better than everyone else. It's almost hard to watch. No one we've got is close to that; no one anyone else has got is close to that," said Maxwell on The Grade Cricketer Podcast.

INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND ODI SERIES INDIA, NEW ZEALAND TURN ATTENTION TOWARDS 2023 WORLD CUP

Auckland | Agencies

With the international cricket schedule having one ICC event in almost every year, there is less time for the teams to brush off the mistakes from the past events and prepare for upcoming competition with renewed approach.

In this cycle of non-stop cricket at the international level, India and New Zealand will realise that they need to move on from their respective semifinal exits in the T20 World Cup and build-up to the ODI World Cup which is now less than 12 months away.

India, ranked third in the Men's ODI rankings, but such has been the riches of Indian cricket in recent years that despite missing the main players since middle of the year in 50-over matches, they have managed to win series in West



Indies (3-0), Zimbabwe (3-0) and more recently, against a full-strength South Africa at home (2-1) in October. Left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan will be taking over the captaincy mantle yet again and, in all probability, will open the innings with Shubman Gill.

Suryakumar Yadav would be aiming to carry his superlative T20I form and 360-degree strokeplay into ODIs while Rishabh Pant,

Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson and Deepak Hooda would form the middle-order. In the pace bowling department, Deepak Chahar, Mohammed Siraj, and Shardul Thakur could be tipped to form the bowling attack. But there is a chance for Arshdeep Singh, India's find in T20Is this year, to be given a debut ODI cap, and the same goes for Umran Malik too.

New Zealand, on the other hand, will be hoping that their talismanic skipper Kane Williamson comes into his best self in ODIs.

Squads

India: Shikhar Dhawan (captain), Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (vice-captain & wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahar and Umran Malik.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Michael Bracewell, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Finn Allen, Devon Conway, Tom Latham, Glenn Phillips, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Adam Milne and Tim Southee.



Randeep Hooda and Ileana D'Cruz's upcoming film to have its world premiere at IFFI Goa

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tera Kya Hoga Lovely, a one-of-a-kind social comedy, will have its world premiere on November 25th, 2022, at IFFI Goa. IFFI will host a gala premiere of 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely,' starring Randeep Hooda and Ileana D'Cruz. The film is set against the backdrop of Haryana and sheds light on India's obsession with fair skin. While talking about this film Ileana D'Cruz said, "I believe movies that can make you laugh while also leaving a strong message are rare and such is our film, 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely.'" She later continued, "We are grateful to IFFI for giving this film a gala premiere and an opportunity for us to be there." Speaking about the gala premiere at IFFI 53, 2022, Randeep Hooda said, "I am pleased to have 'Tera Kya Hoga Lovely' screened at IFFI and it is for the first time audiences will get to experience this special film. It deals with an important subject but in a very light-hearted way. Ileana and I are working together for the first time and hoping we are able to match the audience's expectations." Randeep and Ileana will attend the gala premiere of the 53rd edition of the International Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa for the first time.

IT TAKES A LOT OF COURAGE AND GUTS: ISHITA DUTTA ON SISTER TANUSHREE DUTTA

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Actor Ishita Dutta became a household name with her stint in show like Bepannah Pyaar, Ek Ghar Banaunga, among others. Her sister and actor Tanushree Dutta became the face of the MeToo movement in India four year ago and has

been vocal about her ordeal.

The actor divulged with Absolute India News for an exclusive chat. While speaking on various things, she also spoke about her sister Tanushree Dutta and how she is proud of her.

She said, "Every time I go out and meet people, they say that we are so proud that she has taken a stand. Somethings had happened but I am very proud that she is someone who doesn't care about all of that. If something is wrong, she won't shy away to talk about it. Just because she feels that people are going to perceive it or maybe it will hamper her work or anything. That way I mean she has no fear. It takes a lot of courage and guts to be like that."

She shared that she feels Tanushree

entered the industry quite early and how times are different now. She shared, "I honestly personally always feel that she had come little later in the industry. I think the era that she came in, it was very different. The transition had not started. Right now if we see in terms of the project, representation of women, power of social media, it's quite different."

She also shared that she was fortunate to not witness the ugly side of the industry. "In my time when I came in industry I was fortunate enough to not experience any of the ugly side of what people talk about," concluded Ishita. For the unversed, Ishita recently appeared in Drishyam 2.



DONAL BISHT ON CHALLENGES SHE FACED WHILE DOING UNDERWATER STUNTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ex-'Bigg Boss 15' contestant Donal Bisht talks about how she prepared for her role and braved several injuries while shooting for the show 'Tu Zakhm Hai' starring Gashmeer Mahajani. She shares how she held her breath underwater despite the fact that she has water phobia.

In the web series, 'Tu Zakhm Hai' she is playing the character of Kavya Grewal, who is a clinical psychologist. "She's very soft from the outside but from inside she is like a hard nut. She's very strong mentally and she helps out people through her mental abilities. She understands people and how she helps them to get out from the pain which these people are facing."

Donal recalls doing a sequence under water and says: "I needed to be within the water and maintain my breath. Since I am not a swimmer, I didn't know how to hold my breath for this long. That was very tough for me and that too for many angles and many shots. However I am an actor and I really love my job. That zeal possibly makes me able to do all that."

The 28-year-old actress, who is known for her roles in 'Ek Deewana Tha', and 'Roop - Mard Ka Naya Swaroop' shares how she performed all the stunts on her own without the body double.

My first acting stint was a disaster: Anupam Kher

Team Absolute | Panaji

Recalling his acting stints in school plays, renowned actor Anupam Kher has said that his first acting stint was a disaster, but his father encouraged him for at least trying his best. Kher was guiding budding actors in a Masterclass that he conducted on Wednesday on 'Performing for Screen and Theatre' during 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

"Actors are not born. My first acting stint in a school play was a disaster. But my father gave me flowers in the evening for trying my best," he said. "I look up to my father and grandfather. My father used to say, 'failure is an event, never a person'. Till I accept defeat, I cannot be a failure," Anupam Kher narrated his life-story of how he became a successful actor.

His childhood was in Shimla where he lived in a joint-family, which he called as a blessing, as there were people around to speak with.

"Till blunders are done, one cannot be an actor. One should not be worried about goof-ups," he said encouraging budding actors.

He said that training in acting is as important as any other field or profession. "Training gives you confidence, it's like a motor driving school. It takes away the fear," he said.

He said that acting has no syllabus. It's about human nature.



'I like to approach a role with a clean slate'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sharing about his inspiration to play Freddy, Kartik said: "As an actor, I like to approach a role with a clean slate and a fresh perspective. I really soak in the vision my director has for the character; so I didn't have to model my role in Freddy on any other fictional character."

"However, I did watch a lot of thrillers and I did study and observe dentists at work, the rest was me bringing the character Shashanka Ghosh had in mind, to life." 'Freddy' is about the journey of Dr. Freddy Ginwala, a shy, lonely and socially awkward person who loves playing with his miniature planes and the only friend he has is his pet turtle 'Hardy'.

Disney+ Hotstar recently announced their upcoming spine chilling romantic thriller 'Freddy'. Produced by Balaji Telefilms Ltd, NH Studioz and Northern Lights Films, directed by Shashanka Ghosh and starring Kartik Aaryan and Alaya F, the film will release on December 2 exclusively on Disney+ Hotstar.

Kartik Aaryan has shared how he takes up a role when he starts working on a new film. He says soak in the vision his director has for the character.



Rakshanda Khan: I've lost out on roles to people not necessarily on basis of talent but also budget

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Rakshanda Khan, who is currently seen in the TV show 'Janam Janam Ka Sathi', opens up about the competition in the industry and how certain times many opportunities slipped from her hand because of the budget.

"Competition is great as long as it's healthy. Yes, sometimes I've felt I've lost out on roles to people not necessarily on the basis of talent but also budget. But I've also realised what was meant for me has always come to me, in every sphere of life. Therefore, all I can show in life is gratitude, even for the competition," she says.

Talking about her current show, she says that she loves her role. "The title 'Janam Janam Ka Saathi' reflects the story in an instant. It's a love story spanning almost a century. A

love that could not be fulfilled in one birth, the lovers had to be reborn to fulfil their love story."

"I play a character called Dr. Karuna Tomar, she is the hero. The kind of mother whose whole world revolves around her son. She can do anything for him. And the same goes for the son too."

She adds: "What instantly attracted me to the character was the mother-son bond. She is willing to go to any extent for the well-being of her child and that is one quality that every mother watching the show will identify with." The actress says that it is very important for a show to have strong content. "In every show, people work hard, but despite that some succeed and some don't. What sets one apart from the other is the content. People will lap up something if you make it look believable and relatable," she says.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Shailini Kapoor