

absolute india

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SC REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN PLEA SEEKING GUIDELINES TO CONTROL POPULATION

NOT COURT'S JOB

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a plea seeking guidelines to control population explosion in the country, saying it will not touch the issue, as it is the government's job.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S. Oka queried the petitioner advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, if now the court will decide this? It told him that there has to be some reasonableness.

Upadhyay argued that while India only had 2 per cent of the world's land, it had 20 per cent of its population. The bench remarked that the plea was outside the purview of the court and was best left for the government to consider. Noting that Upadhyay was seeking for a two-child norm to be mandated, the bench said let the legislature do it and it is not the court's task. "What can the Law Commission do about this? It's a social issue and let the government take this into account," it added. The bench pointed out the prayers made in the pleas filed by Upadhyay and others, saying: "You have made all sorts of prayers like declaring Sunday as National Population Day. How can the Law Commission get into all this. Is this the Law Commission's task?"

Upadhyay said the matter was of grave importance and pointed to data relating to population growth.

But, the bench said: "We will not



GAUTAM NAVLAKHA WILL REMAIN HOUSE ARRESTED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to recall its order on house arrest of activist Gautam Navlakha, accused in Bhima Koregaon case, despite the NIA claiming that Navlakha had made a series of misleading statements and he wanted to stay at place which has a library of Communist Party of India (CPI). The top court orally told the NIA, that "with all the might of the state, you are not able to keep a 70-year-old ailing man in house confinement". A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said the impression given to the court is that it is difficult to control the activities of a 70-year-old ailing man. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, on his part, submitted before the bench that this court was misled when it was said where he would stay and he wants to stay at a place where there's a library of the CPI.

touch the issue. This is the government's job." Centre's counsel submitted that the government was doing everything within its capabilities to control the rise in population. The top court said it was not inclined to

entertain the plea and Upadhyay proceeded to withdraw it.

The plea sought directions from the Centre to ascertain the feasibility of enacting a stringent population control law in order to secure funda-

BHIMA-KOREGAON CASE: BAIL GRANTED TO ACCUSED ANAND TELTUMBDE

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday granted bail to Dalit scholar and ex-IIT professor Anand Teltumbde who was booked in the Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad cases.

However, the high court stayed the bail order for a week to allow the National Investigation Agency (NIA) appeal against it in the Supreme Court.

Granting him bail on Rs 1,00,000 plus two sureties, the division bench noted that prima facie, UAPA sections for offences of unlawful activities, terrorist acts and conspiracy were not made out, though membership and support to a terror group was made out.

The NIA had accused Teltumbde of being the Convenor of the Elgar Parishad of December 31, 2017, where fiery speeches were made which allegedly resulted in a caste violence at Bhima-Koregaon, Pune on January 1, 2018, in which one person was killed.

mental rights mainly rule of law, right to air, right to water, right to food, right to health, right to sleep, right to shelter, right to livelihood, right to justice and right to education guaranteed under Articles 14, 19, 21, 21A.

BHARAT JODO YATRA



Rahul Gandhi gets death threat on arrival in MP

"There will be bomb blasts at several places in Indore, Kamal Nath will be shot down and you will be sent where your father Rajiv Gandhi is," the letter read.

Team Absolute | Indore

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi received a death threat today when he arrived in Indore for his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra. A letter was found at a sweet shop in Juni Indore police station area. The letter threatened that there will be bomb blasts across the city, former MP Chief Minister Kamal Nath would be shot down and Rahul Gandhi will be killed. Police and crime branch are looking for the person who left the letter. According to sources, the police is closely examining the CCTV footage installed around the Juni Indore

police station area. According to police sources, it could be the handiwork of a mischievous element.

Speaking about the same, Kamal Nath said that he met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Couhan who assured that security arrangements are in place. "Police will handle the security. I met CM Shivraj Singh, he assured me that proper security arrangements will be done," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, Kargil war hero Nayak Deepchand and Bollywood actor Mona Ambegaonkar joined Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on Friday.

Nayak Deepchand, native of Hissar in Haryana, lost a hand and both legs at Tololing during the 1999 Kargil War.

Late Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat had hailed him as "Kargil Yoddha" during his visit to Drass on Kargil Vijay Diwas, a Congress release said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra, which began on September 7 from Kanyakumari, will cover a further distance of 2,355 km in its 3,570-km march. It will end in Kashmir next year. It is the longest march on foot by any Indian politician in the history of India, the Congress claimed earlier in a statement.

UK reaffirms support for India as permanent member in UNSC



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The UK has reaffirmed its support for a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council (UNSC).

It has called for an expansion of the UNSC in both permanent as well as non-permanent categories and has also supported permanent seats for Germany, Japan as well as Brazil. This was stated by the UK Ambassador to the UN, Barbara

Woodward.

She said that UK's position is well known as her country has long called for the expansion of UNSC in both the categories.

"We support the creation of new permanent seats for India, Germany, Japan and Brazil, as well as permanent African representation on the Council," she said in her address during the UNSC's annual debate on Security Council reform on Thursday.

NOVEMBER 19 BANK STRIKE DEFERRED: AIBEA

Chennai: The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has withdrawn its November 19 strike call after an understanding was reached with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the bank managements, said a top official.

"An understanding has been reached on all the issues. IBA and the banks have agreed to resolve the issue bilaterally. Hence our strike is deferred," AIBEA General Secretary C.H. Venkatachalam told reporter.

The strike call was earlier given to protest against targeted victimisation of bankers for being active in the union.

Venkatachalam had said in the recent period, the attacks are not only increasing but there is a common thread in all these attacks.

INDIA'S PVT SECTOR ROCKET MAKES SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING WITH SKYROOT'S VIKRAM-S



Venkatachari Jagannathan | Sriharikota (AP)

India's rocket startup Skyroot Aerospace on Friday successfully began its space journey with its rocket Vikram-S and wrote a new chapter in the country's space history pages. Weighing 545 kg, the six-

metre-long rocket on a sub-orbital mission carried three payloads from Space Kidz India, Bazoomq Armenia, and N-Space Tech India.

The rocket was made with carbon fibre and four 3D printed engines and its single stage was powered by solid fuel.

At about 11.30 a.m., Vikram-S

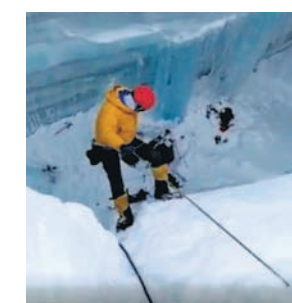
flew away from ISRO's sounding rocket launch pad at ISRO's rocket port in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The rocket reached an altitude of 89.5 km and then safely splashed down in the Bay of Bengal.

In about 300 seconds, a new space history was made in India. The mission will help validate the technologies that will be used in the subsequent Vikram-1 orbital vehicle of Skyroot Aerospace that is planned for launch next year.

The rocket reached an altitude of 89.5 km and a range of 121.2 km. With this a new chapter in the annals of Indian space history has begun and also the end of ISRO monopoly in the satellite launch segment.

Incidentally, it is ISRO that is actively assisting the private players in ending its own monopoly offering its facilities for testing as well as for launching the rockets and satellites.

3 SOLDIERS KILLED IN AVALANCHE IN KUPWARA



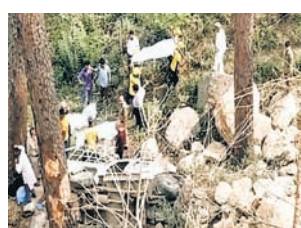
Srinagar: Three soldiers were killed in an avalanche in J&K's Kupwara district on Friday, police said.

Police said that three personnel of 56 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) died as the avalanche hit the Almorah post of Machil sector in Kupwara.

"The bodies have been brought to Military Hospital Drugmulla. Further details are awaited," a police official said.

11 KILLED, 3 INJURED AFTER VEHICLE FALLS INTO GORGE IN UTTARAKHAND

Dehradun: Eleven people were killed and three injured as a passenger vehicle fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday, police said.



A Tata Sumo carrying 16 passengers fell into a gorge at Urgan in Joshimath area of the district at around 4 pm, Chamoli SP Pramendra Dobhal said. The passengers were on their way to Palla Jakhol village from Joshimath when the accident occurred, the State Emergency Operation Centre in Dehradun said.

Two of the occupants jumped out of the vehicle in the nick of time, the SP said.

Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have rushed to the spot and rescue operations are underway.

The gorge is around 300 metres deep and reaching the spot where the remains of the vehicle are lying is difficult, an eyewitness said.

The vehicle is said to have been overloaded with some occupants also sitting on its roof.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief at the loss of lives in the accident and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of those killed.

He spoke to the District Magistrate of Chamoli, Himanshu Khurana, over the phone and asked him to expedite the rescue efforts. Dhami also asked the DM to ensure that free medical treatment is provided to the injured.

LATIN-ARAB FUSION IN FIFA WORLD CUP

Nicki Minaj, Maluma team up with Myriam Fares for anthem



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Global music stars Nicki Minaj, Maluma and Myriam Fares have joined forces for a new song titled 'Tukoh Taka'. It's the official single of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The cross-continental banger sees

the music stars rapping and singing about uniting fans all over the world and celebrating together.

Talking about the collaboration, Colombian singer-songwriter Juan Luis Londoño Arias, better known as Maluma, said, "I am so happy to be part of this FIFA World Cup anthem! I

always dreamt of an opportunity like this. Representing Latin music on this global track alongside amazing artists who sing in English and Arabic, takes our culture to another level."

The song was produced by Gordo, Play-N-Skillz, and Massari. On Saturday, November 19, Maluma and Myriam Fares, the well-known Lebanese singer and actress, will perform the song together live for the first time at the opening of Doha's FIFA Fan Festival. Fares said: "I am so happy to be chosen by FIFA and Universal Arabic Music to perform the song 'Tukoh Taka'. I was honoured to participate in its composition, arrangement, and choreography. It made me more passionate about it, in addition to working alongside two of my favourite international artists, Nicki Minaj and Maluma."

She added: "I truly wish that 'Tukoh Taka' will be transmitting Eastern culture and Arabian music to the entire world."

KCR's daughter claims BJP approached her with 'Shinde model'

Hyderabad: Telangana

Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao's daughter K. Kavitha claimed on Friday that the BJP sent her a proposal for the 'Shinde model' in Telangana but she rejected it.

Kavitha, a member of the Telangana Legislative Council, told reporters that "friends" of the BJP approached her with the proposal.

"The 'Shinde model' is a reference to the revolt in Shiv Sena in Maharashtra led by Eknath Shinde, who later became the Chief Minister.

"There have been proposals brought up to me by friends of BJP and friendly organizations of BJP asking me to join the party. The proposal is called Shinde-model. I said Telangana people do not betray their own parties and their own leaders. We will become leaders on our own strength not by backdoor," Kavitha said.

"We have rejected their proposal very politely. What they will do after that is a different story. We are in public life. We are always among people and we will face them," she added. Kavitha revealed this two days after KCR, as the Chief Minister is popularly known, told a meeting of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) leaders that the BJP lured her to switch loyalties.

BJP leaders have however, rejected the KCR's claim. BJP state president Bandi Sanjay said that even if KCR wants to join the BJP, the party will not accept him.





SOME COUNTRIES SUPPORT TERRORISTS AS PART OF THEIR FOREIGN POLICY, SAYS MODI



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third edition of the 'No Money for Terror' Ministerial Conference here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Modi said, "certain countries support terrorists as part of their foreign policy."

"They offer political, ideological and financial support to them, he added." The PM attacked Pakistan and China without naming them. Addressing the representatives of 78 countries, Modi said that a cost should be imposed on countries that support terrorism. He added that the world today needed to stand united against covert and overt support to terrorism in all its forms to end global terrorism.

ism. The PM stressed on 'proxy' wars being dangerous and said that organisations and people who sympathized with terrorists need to be isolated, adding that, "all terrorist attacks deserve equal outrage and action."

He said that India considered that, "even a single attack is one too many, even a single life lost is one too many." "Our country saw the dark face of terror long before the world took serious note of it," said Modi.

He added that India lost thousands of precious lives, but fought terrorism bravely. The PM said that, "we will not rest until terrorism is uprooted." Representatives of several countries and multi-lateral organisations will discuss ways to deal with terrorism and financing of terrorism at the conference.

ONE DEAD AS ROAD BRIDGE COLLAPSES IN BIHAR'S NALANDA



Patna: An under-construction road bridge in Bihar's Nalanda district collapsed on Friday evening, killing one person while some labourers are feared to be trapped under the debris, officials said.

The road bridge was under construction on the four-lane stretch in Vena block.

Block Development Officer Laxman Kumar said that one body was seen in the debris, and others may also be trapped under it. The rescue operation is currently on and numbers of deaths will be ascertained only after the removal of debris, he added. Local residents claimed that the bridge collapsed in the past too due to low quality construction materials used by the contractor.

Transformation of terrorism is a matter of concern: Amit Shah

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Addressing the first session of the 'No Money for Terror' ministerial conference on Friday, Home Minister Amit Shah said that the transformation of terrorism from 'dynamite to metaverse' and 'AK-47 to virtual assets' is definitely a matter of concern for different countries of the world.

Shah underlined the need for joint efforts of all countries to formulate a common strategy against it.

Representatives of 78 countries and organisations are attending the conference in Delhi to discuss ways to deal with terrorism and its financing. The Home Minister said: "Terrorism is undoubtedly the most serious threat to global peace and security. But I believe that terror financing is more



dangerous than terrorism itself, because the 'Means and Methods' of terrorism are nurtured from such funding.

"The financing of terrorism weakens the economy of countries of the world," Shah said. Shah added that India has recognised that terrorism cannot and should not be linked to any religion, nationality or group. Shah said the country has made substantial progress in strengthening the security infra-

structure, legal and financing systems to combat terrorism.

"Terrorists are constantly finding new ways to carry out violence, radicalise youth and raise financial resources," Shah said, adding that "the Darknet is being used by terrorists to spread radical content by concealing their identities".

Shah added that the use of virtual assets like crypto-currency has also seen an increase for which solutions should be found.

Shah emphasised on the fact that technological revolution has enabled different forms and manifestations of terrorism.

He said: "Today, terrorists and terrorist groups understand the nuances of modern weapons and information technology, and the dynamics of the cyber and financial space very well, and use them."

26 BJP leaders address 56 public rallies in Guj in a single day

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Friday launched an aggressive campaign for the Gujarat Assembly elections, with 56 public meetings addressed by 26 national leaders, including party national President J.P. Nadda, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his Madhya Pradesh counterpart Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Addressing a gathering in Abdasa constituency in Kutch district, Chouhan said: "The BJP has not left single stone unturned in the development of Kutch... Narmada water has reached in all corners of the district, because of which people of Kutch are always with BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

Seeking to warn people about AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister



Arvind Kejriwal, he said: "He is good at giving false promises and misleading, only Narendra Modi can deliver

the promises. If Modi is there every-thing is possible." Terming Kejriwal, and Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi as "trees that can't give fruits", Chouhan attacked Gandhi's statement on Veer Savarkar and claimed that India will never forgive him. "Congress knows only to talk and praise Jawaharlal Nehru, who had the least respect for other freedom fighters like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyamji Krishna Verma and others," he claimed.

Nadda, addressing a public gathering in Ankleshwar, said: "Only the BJP and Narendra Modi can give development... all other political parties believe only in vote bank politics. Only under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed development, as he believed in inclusive growth. The development work that the Gujarat and the Central government has done so far in the state, no other government has done in our country."

Woman's body found stuffed in trolley bag near Mathura

Team Absolute | Mathura

The body of a woman, believed to be in her late 20s, was found stuffed inside a trolley bag on the Yamuna Expressway near Mathura.

According to a senior UP police officer, an information was received at around 1 p.m. on Friday about a red-coloured bag lying unattended on the service lane adjacent to the Expressway near the Agricultural Research Centre in Raya, following which a police team was dispatched to the spot.

"When the police team opened the bag, a body of woman wrapped in plastic was found stuffed inside," said the officer.

Preliminary investigations



indicate that the woman was shot in her chest from point blank range.

"There are wounds on her body which suggest that she was also beaten up," said an official, adding that they are scanning CCTV footages to get some clues and to identify the accused.

The police said that two sarees were recovered from the bag.

The Mathura police have alerted all the police stations in the district regarding the recovery of the body to know if someone matching her description has been reported missing.

Mehrauli Murder: Aftab gives consent for 'Narco', test within 5 days

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aftab Ameen Poonawalla, who is in police custody for allegedly killing his live-in partner and chopping her body into 35 pieces in the Mehrauli area, has given his consent to undergo a Narco test.

Accordingly, a Saket court on Friday ordered Rohini Forensic Science Lab to conduct the test within five days, sources said.

Delhi Police had applied for the Narco test as Aftab was not cooperating with the investigation.

"The test will bring out the truth and it will help the investigators move their probe forward," said the sources.

On Wednesday, the court had given approval for Aftab's Narco test, but the test cannot be performed without the consent of the subject.



Sources said that when Aftab was first called for questioning, he had told the investigators that his live-in partner, Shraddha, had left the house on May 22.

"However, her belongings were at the house while Aftab told the police that she had only taken her phone. He also said that they did not

speak to each other since she left," sources said.

He was arrested on November 12. Police got technical and digital evidence which had led the investigators to doubt his version.

During interrogation, Aftab confessed to killing Shraddha and then chopping her body into 35 pieces.

OVER 30 STUDENTS AT HYDERABAD COLLEGE FALL ILL DUE TO SUSPECTED GAS LEAK

Hyderabad | Agencies

Hyderabad: Over 30 girl students of a college in Hyderabad fell ill after a suspected gas leak in the college lab on Friday.

The affected girl students of Kasturba Gandhi College in West Marredpally, Secunderabad were hospitalised with complaints of breathlessness and dizziness.

The college authorities denied that there was any gas leak from college lab. They said foul smell from garbage dump on the college boundary wall led to students falling ill. The school staff with the help of locals rushed the affected students to Geetha Nursing Home.

Police officials rushed to the college and began investigation.

After students complained of gas leak from lab, the college authorities surveyed the premises. They claimed that there was no gas leak.

TRS workers attack BJP MP Arvind's house in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) workers attacked residence of BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind in Hyderabad on Friday in protest against some personal remarks made by him against Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao and his daughter and party MLC K. Kavitha.

The ruling party workers barged into the Nizamabad MP's house in Banjara Hills, broke window panes and ransacked the furniture.

They raised slogans against Arvind and burnt his effigy. They vent their anger over Arvind's personal comments against KCR and Kavitha.

The police personnel tried to prevent the TRS workers who were carrying the TRS flags. Some of them managed to barge into the house and attacked window panes with stones and sticks. Arvind was not present at his house. One of the security personnel sustained a minor injury.



About 30 TRS workers were arrested by the police.

The ruling party workers were protesting against Arvind's remarks. The MP from Nizamabad also claimed that Kavitha telephoned Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to join the Congress party.

Meanwhile, the BJP MP alleged that TRS goons attacked his house on the direction of KCR, KTR and Kavitha. "TRS goons attacked my residence and vandalised the house. They terrorised my mother & created ruckus," tweeted Arvind, who tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AIADMK likely to part ways with BJP, talks on for new alliances in 2024 polls

Chennai | Agencies

The Opposition AIADMK which is in political crossroads after the drubbing in the 2019 Lok Sabha and 2021 Assembly polls is now working out strategies to stay relevant in Tamil Nadu politics.

In a recent statement, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, former Chief Minister and interim general secretary of AIADMK, has said that there was no need for him to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah when he was on a private visit to the state. However, he had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Tamil Nadu visit in the capacity of opposition leader.

The statement of Palaniswami is considered as a major political statement by the AIADMK which is peeved at the reported comments of Amit Shah during his recent visit to Chennai. At a meeting with the party office-bearers, Shah had said that the AIADMK was in deep crisis and the DMK had turned into a dynastic party and that BJP has all the possibilities in getting a major foothold in the state.

Taking an exception to the reported comments, the AIADMK leadership spoke tough about its alliance partner.



A senior leader of the AIADMK told reporter, "We are not considering 2024 Lok Sabha elections seriously and we are open to all alliances. The BJP should understand that we are out of power and we don't have any compulsions. Our timing is perfect and we are more interested in the 2026 Assembly elections."

He also said that of late BJP has been trying to sideline AIADMK and to occupy the space of the opposition and added that the AIADMK cadres are in a mood to disown the saffron party.

The AIADMK leader also said that the party does not wilt under threat when asked whether the BJP could use some agencies to bring AIADMK in line with the saffron

party. It is reliably learnt that the AIADMK is trying to rope in Congress party from the DMK alliance and to contest the 2024 general elections in alliance with the grand-old party.

The AIADMK leaders also said that with the party losing 38 out of the 39 seats from Tamil Nadu in the 2019 general elections, it is not focusing much on the 2024 general elections and its main aim is to garner power in Tamil Nadu in 2026.

A senior leader also said that the AIADMK is now a monolithic unit and that Palaniswami is the sole leader in charge of the party. He also said that the deposed leader, O. Panneerselvam does not have any role to play in the AIADMK affairs.

ED GRILLS JHARKHAND CM FOR OVER 9 HRS IN 'ILLEGAL' MINING CASE

Ranchi | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for over nine hours on Thursday in connection with an alleged illegal stone mining case.

On ED's summons, the Chief Minister had reached the ED's zonal office in Ranchi at 12:05 p.m., from where he left at 9:35 p.m. His wife Kalpana Soren reached the ED office to pick him up after the questioning.

According to sources, a team of three ED officials asked him about 100 questions on Thursday, and the Chief Minister can be again called for further questioning.

Hemant Soren's chequebooks, which had two signed cheques, were found in a raid at the house of his special representative Pankaj Mishra, already arrested in the case.

Hemant Soren, during the questioning, was asked why he had given the chequebooks to Mishra. According to sources, the Chief Minister told the officials that while being in politics, many times needy people are required to be helped financially. The chequebook was with his



representative for the same purpose.

He was also asked whether he was aware of an alleged illegal mining racket running under the "patronage" of Mishra. The Central agency sought the Chief Minister's response to "whether any complaint about this (racket) reached to him or not and if it did, did he take any action or not". Hemant Soren was also questioned about his relationship with power broker Prem Prakash and businessman Amit Agarwal, arrested in Rs 1,000 crore money laundering case linked with the alleged mining scam.

On the basis of the evidence collected by the ED during its raids, several details were sought from the Chief Minister. Sources said that Hemant

Soren did not respond to several of the ED's questions.

Earlier in the day, while addressing a press conference ahead of appearing before the ED, Hemant Soren claimed that the allegations levelled against him are baseless.

He also questioned the ED's statement on a scam of Rs 1,000 crore taking place in one district (of the state), saying that the "entire state does not earn this amount of money from stone chips in a whole year".

He attacked Governor Ramesh Bais, accusing the latter of protecting the parties engaged in conspiratorial politics and showed his disapproval about Bais' statement regarding his pending decision on the political crisis in the state.

Soren claimed that the ED

summon and raids by the Income Tax department and other Central agencies on the premises of the ruling party's MLAs started soon after Bais' statement.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shahnawaz Ansari S/o Abdul Razaq, Resident- H.No.-217, Kolar Colony, Opp. Guest House, Bhopal (M.P.)

My name is Shahnawaz Ansari mentioned in my Aadhaar card which is correct and true.

My name Shahnawaz is mentioned in the passport made earlier. I want to get my name Shahnawaz Ansari marked in place of Shahnawaz in my passport.

नाम परिवर्तन

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि पूर्व में मेरा नाम ARVIND KUMAR TIWARI था। जो कि परिवर्तित होकर ARVIND TIWARI हो गया है। अतः अब मुझे मेरे नए नाम ARVIND TIWARI से जाना व पहचाना जाए। पता : वार्ड नंबर 4, रोवा रोड, सोहागपुर, राहडोल (म.प्र.) - 484001



Rahul's remark on Savarkar THIS MAY AFFECT MVA: SENA (UBT) WARNS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction on Friday warned that its partnership with ideologically antithetical partner Congress could be at risk amid a disagreement over their views on right-wing ideologue VD Savarkar.



Uddhav [Thackeray] ji may make a statement. In the morning, Sanjay Raut made a statement saying we may not continue in the MVA (Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition). That's a serious reaction from the party. What more do you want? Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant told NDTV.

Questioned about continuing the alliance, he also reiterated the group's attack on the BJP for teaming up with Jammu and Kashmir's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) - an equally paradoxical partnership.

Earlier, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut told NDTV, "Savarkar's issue is important for us and we believe in his ideology. They (Congress) shouldn't have brought this issue up." Uddhav Thackeray's son and Shiv Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray said, "We made our point clear yesterday

itself. For now, whatever Uddhav Thackeray and Sanjay Raut said, that's our stand on this issue." In an apparent damage control effort, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said Rahul Gandhi had not "targetted" Savarkar but was stating a historical fact. "I spoke to Sanjay Raut today. We agree to disagree. He refuted the impression that it will weaken Maha Vikas Aghadi. It won't affect the MVA," he said.

The Shiv Sena had forged the MVA alliance with the Congress and Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress party (NCP) after the Maharashtra elections in 2019. The move followed a break-up with long-time partner BJP over sharing the Chief Minister's

seat.

The differences in virtues of the right-wing Shiv Sena and its centre-left ally came to the fore once again last week with comments by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticising Vinayak Damodar Savarkar for seeking mercy from the British while in jail.

Savarkar was a coward, Gandhi suggested, contrasting him with the Congress's icons Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Vallabhbhai Patel.

Fending off allegations of "ditching his father Bal Thackeray's Hindutva legacy", Uddhav Thackeray countered the comment, saying, his Shiv Sena faction has "immense respect" for Savarkar.

2 MINORS DROWN, 3 RESCUED FROM ARABIAN SEA OFF MUMBAI'S WORLI

Mumbai | Two minors drowned while three others were rescued from the Arabian Sea off Worli here on Friday evening, the BMC Disaster Control said.

The tragedy happened when the minors were reportedly playing near the sea at Vikas Gully in the Worli Koliwada area around 3.30 pm.

Following a hue and cry, the local fisherfolk mounted a rescue operation and managed to retrieve all the five children from the sea even as the Mumbai Fire Brigade team rushed there.

Two of the victims, Kartik Choudhary, 8, and Savita Pal, 12, were rushed to the KEM Hospital where they were declared brought dead, said the Disaster Control.

Two others, Aryan Choudhary, 10, and Omchandrajit Pal, 14 have been admitted to the ICU of the private Hinduja Hospital, while Kartiki Patil, 13, is under treatment at the civic-run KEM Hospital in Parel.

The local police are probing the causes behind the incident and how the minors met with the tragedy and whether they were accompanied by some adult or not.

BJY: Great-grandsons of Gandhi-Nehru join hands to 'unite' India

Buldhana | Agencies

For the first time, the great-grandsons of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru joined hands at a public event, marched together and pledged to "unite" India, during the ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress Party, here on Friday.

Activist Tushar A. Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi marched a distance of nearly 15 km while crossing the border from Akola to Buldhana from dawn.

When the Akola-born Tushar, 62, approached the march starting point, the 10-years younger Rahul, 52, smiled, received him warmly, greeted him with a hearty handshake and a hug, even as many of the excited marchers and onlookers witnessed the rare rendezvous, some clapping and cheering them. After the initial pleasantries, the duo bonded well and started their 'yatra' marching briskly.

"I have met Rahul earlier, but I thoroughly enjoyed meeting him here today first time in the BJI. We primarily chatted up on our family traditions, our shared history, and a little bit on the current scenario in the country, how to deal with it et al," Tushar said from the venue.

Quite curious as a cat, Rahul posed several sharp queries about Bapuji to the well-versed Tushar, wanting to know a lot on Gandhiji's younger days, his early role in history, why he became a Barrister and related aspects.

Already a familiar name in India for his anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, Gandhiji had first met the young barrister Nehru, 106 years ago, during the Lucknow Session of the Indian National Congress (December 26-27, 1916), along with other party leaders



and freedom fighters.

However, unlike their forefathers, Tushar said that he and Rahul did not engage in any political talks nor did the latter make any "offer" to him to re-enter electoral politics, though Tushar had made a vain bid for the Lok Sabha in 1998 from Mumbai on a Samajwadi Party ticket.

To a pointed query whether he would be open to take a second plunge into politics, an elated Tushar responded with a loud guffaw, and a mystery "let's see!" only.

INDIRA GANDHI'S BIRTH ANNIV - 90% MARCHERS TO BE WOMEN

Buldhana | On the occasion of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's 105th birth anniversary tomorrow (November 19), women will comprise 90 per cent of the marchers in Bharat Jodo Yatra, a top party leader said here on Friday.



Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said that the decision to give increased representation to women in politics and political offices was taken by Indira and the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Accordingly, women's participation has increased hugely at all levels, including the local self-government bodies. "Tomorrow, that grand vision of 'Nari Shakti' (Women Power) of the two leaders will be witnessed in the BJI... 90 per cent of the participants joining tomorrow shall be women," Ramesh added.

He reiterated that though there are misconceptions of the BJI among some, the people of Maharashtra have given an overwhelming response to the initiative.

5 killed as SUV crashed into moving trailer on Mumbai-Pune Expressway

Mumbai | Agencies

Five persons were killed and another 4 critically injured when their speeding SUV rammed into a trailer truck on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway just before midnight on Thursday, police said on Friday.

The nine persons, who were from Mumbai, were coming from Pune in their SUV which collided into a trailer truck from the rear, near Khopoli, 9 km from the Bhor Ghat area on the expressway.

The SUV driver is suspected to have lost control and



rammed into the unidentified trailer, which was on the left slow-lane for heavy vehicles. The truck driver did not stop after the disaster and sped off, and efforts are on by

the highway police to track him. The victims who were instantaneously killed, have been identified as Anil Sanap, 38, from Pune, Rahul Pande, 30, from Navi Mumbai,

Mumbaikars Wasim Kazi, 40, Abdul Khan, 32 from Kurla, and Ashutosh Gadkari, 24, from Andheri.

The injured are Bhanwarlal Khairal, 38 from Rajasthan, Amin Choudhary, 35 and Asiya Choudhary, 30, both from Kurla and SUV driver Mahindra Ambhore.

They have been admitted to the private MGM Hospital in Navi Mumbai and their condition is described as "stable but critical".

The police are probing the exact causes leading to the collision and also on the lookout for the missing truck driver.

Non-cognizable offence registered against Rahul Gandhi for remarks against Savarkar

Thane | Agencies

A complaint has been filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly making "derogatory remarks" against freedom fighter VD Savarkar during the Bharat Jodo Yatra by Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena leader Vandana Dongre.

The complaint was filed on Thursday in the Thane Nagar police station stating that the sentiments of the local citizens were hurt by Gandhi's remarks. A case of Non-Cognizable (NCR) Offense has been registered under section 500, 501 of IPC.

Rahul Gandhi, during a press conference in Maharashtra's Akola on Thursday, had alleged that Savarkar

betrayed leaders like M.K Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel by signing a letter of apology to the British before independence.

"Veer Savarkar, in a letter written to the British, said 'Sir, I beg to remain your most obedient servant' and signed on it. Savarkar helped the British. He betrayed leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel by signing the letter out of fear," he had said.

Filing a complaint against Gandhi for his remarks, the Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena leader, who is also the party's Mahila Aghadi head, said that she will not tolerate the "defamation of our great men". "Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra made a statement defam-

ing the freedom fighter Savarkar and due to this the sentiments of the local citizens have been hurt," Dongre said.

"We will not tolerate the defamation of our great men in the soil of Maharashtra," she added. Balasaheb's Shiv Sena party also took out a protest march on Thursday in Thane to protest against Rahul Gandhi's remarks.

The spokesperson of Balasaheb's Shiv Sena party and Maharashtra state coordinator Naresh Mhaske also demanded during the march yesterday that the police should file a case against Rahul Gandhi for his statement and arrest him.

After that, the case was registered in the evening.

MAN BEATEN, STABBED TO DEATH BY COLLEAGUES IN PALGHAR

Maharashtra: A 25-year-old man was allegedly beaten and stabbed to death by three of his colleagues over a petty dispute in Vasai of Maharashtra's Palghar district, police said on Friday. The incident took place in Kaman area of Vasai on Thursday evening, an official from Valiv police station said. The victim Jaynato Nimai Mandal, a resident of Malda in West Bengal, was employed as a construction worker, he said.

The victim and three of his colleagues had quarreled over a petty dispute. In a fit of rage, the trio beat up the victim and one of them stabbed him to death, the official said. The police were subsequently alerted and the body was sent for post-mortem, he said.

MACT awards Rs 16.74 lakh compensation to family of man killed in motorcycle accident

Thane | Agencies

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Maharashtra's Thane district has awarded a compensation of Rs 16.74 lakh to the family of a 21-year-old man killed in a motorcycle accident in 2017.

MACT member Dhananjay A Deshpande ordered the two opponents the owner of the offending vehicle and the insurer New India Assurance Company Ltd to make the payment jointly and severally to the claimants at the rate of 9 per cent per annum from the date of filing of the claim. The copy of the order, which was passed on November 10, was made available on Friday. The matter was decided ex parte against the owner



of the offending vehicle, while the insurance company and the other opponent, the victim's father, was represented and contested the claim.

On October 21, 2017, the victim was riding pillion on his friend's motorcycle when a vehicle dashed them on Saralgaon Murbad Road. The victim sustained injuries in the accident and died, the tribunal was told.

The deceased, who worked as a helper in a company,

was earning a salary of Rs 21,000 and supported his family, the claimants said.

The counsel for the claimants Sachin Mane, told the tribunal that the deceased was the sole bread winner of the family.

The tribunal accepted the submissions and awarded the compensation of Rs 16.74 lakh, which included Rs 7.56 lakh towards loss of dependency, Rs 70,000 towards loss of estate, loss of love and affection and funeral expenses, Rs 6.79 lakh towards hospitalisation expenses and Rs 1.68 lakh towards medical expenses.

The tribunal also directed that a sum of Rs 75,000 be paid to the brother of the deceased, Rs 1 lakh to his father and the remaining sum to his mother.

Elgar Parishad case: Bombay HC grants bail to accused Anand Teltumbde

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Friday granted bail to scholar-activist Anand Teltumbde, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. The high court, however, stayed its order for a week so that the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the prosecuting agency, can approach the Supreme Court. This means that Teltumbde will not be able to walk out of jail till then.

A division bench of Justices AS Gadkari and MN Jadhav allowed the bail plea filed by 73-year-old Teltumbde, who has been in jail since his arrest in the case in April 2020. The court granted him bail on a surety of Rs



one lakh.

The NIA sought the court to stay its order for one week so that it can appeal in Supreme Court. The bench accepted this and stayed its order for a week.

Teltumbde, who is presently lodged at the Taloja prison in Navi Mumbai, had moved the high court last year after a special court refused to grant him bail.

In his plea, Teltumbde had claimed that he was never present at the December 31, 2017 Elgar Parishad event held in Pune or made any provocative speeches.

The prosecution's case is that provocative and inflammatory speeches were made at the event that was allegedly backed by banned terror outfit CPI (Maoist), which later led to violence at Koregaon Bhima village near Pune. Teltumbde is the third accused in the case to be granted bail. Poet Varavara Rao is out on a medical bail and lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj is out on regular bail.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, 2nd Floor Bandhkam Bhavan Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Email: presidency.ee@mahapwd.com 22016975/77 22016973 E-TENDER NOTICE NO 64 of 2022-23 (2nd Call) Online E-Tender's in "B-1" Form for the following work are invited by Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, 2nd Floor, Bandhkam Bhavan, 25th Marzban Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 Telephone No. 22016975/77 Fax No. 22016973 from Experience contractors & Supplier's in the public works department of Maharashtra. Name of Work :- 1. Mechanised and manual cleaning of Nandanvan and Agradoot Govt Bunglow at Malbar Hill, Mumbai. (Est Cost Rs. 52,42,804/-) 2. Mechanised and Manual cleaning of Varsha and and Torna Bunglow and External office building malbar hill, Mumbai. (Est Cost Rs.61,56,179/-) E-Tender Available Date :- 18.11.2022 to 25.11.2022 at 15.00 hrs E-Tender Opening Date (If Possible) :- 28.11.2022 at 15.05 hrs All detail information is available on following websites. Visit Web Site for details: 1) http://mahapwd.com 2) http://mahatenders.gov.in No. EE/PD/Store/E-Tender Notice/ 11759 Office of the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, 2nd Floor, Bandhkam Bhavan, 25th Marzban Road, Fort, Mumbai. Date:- 15/11/2022 ROC-2022-23/No.-5/C 4199 (C. T. Naik) Executive Engineer Presidency Division Mumbai



EDITOR'S SPECS

China recruits retired UK, Aussie pilots

Wien reports of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force focussing on pilot training and high efficiency came in the Chinese media last year, nobody ever thought that Beijing may be involved in poaching foreign pilots. The concerns have grown now. In October, Australia and the UK had separately begun probe into reports that their fighter pilots were planning to take up jobs in China to provide training to the pilots of the communist nation's air force. The pilots being hired by China have experience flying across various branches of the military with varied jets, including Typhoons, Jaguars, Harriers, and Tornados. Poaching of foreign pilots has sent shockwaves to the global community as many saw it as just which has begun finding ways to prevent poaching. Australian Defence minister Richard Marles had initiated an inquiry into whether his country's pilots have been recruited by Chinese defence forces. Like Australia, the UK initiated the probe stating that it would take steps to prevent its retired and serving pilots from training Chinese forces. The UK took the decision after BBC reported that up to 30 former pilots had gone to train Chinese pilots. China has been luring the former British military pilots with "large sums of money" to pass on their expertise and relevant training to the Chinese military. Several reports from the UK confirmed that recruiting former military pilots were being recruited on a case-by-case basis by China. The first group of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) fighter jet pilot cadets were trained in mid 2021 with advanced trainer jets immediately after training with basic trainer aircraft. The Global Times had reported that it highlighted an innovative training approach that can accelerate combat capability generation. According to western media China has been recruiting retired British military pilots in a bid to understand Western tactics and defeat Western warplanes.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT TURNING INTO A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

D.C. Pathak

All viable concepts tend to extend their areas of application by bringing in the human society at large in their purview. Pareto's thesis that 'there are a significant few among the insignificant many', Einstein's precept that 'imagination is more important than knowledge', or Secretary of State Warren Christopher's stipulation that 'national security is inseparable from economic security' are some of the lasting ideas -- originating from a sociologist, a scientist and a politician in these cases -- that remain relevant because of their connectivity with life itself. American Society for Quality (ASQ), the non-governmental, non-profit organisation which has emerged as the thought leader in the area of quality management -- more specifically on the totality of features of a product or service that would give better satisfaction to the consumers -- has also focused on new organisational aspects of productivity such as the psychological dimension of employer-employee relationship and got drawn into some deeper questions of quality of life itself. It has, for instance, examined issues like 'parenting', 'sustainability' and 'welfare' and widened the scope of application of 'quality' in different spheres of human endeavour. Three developments of global importance have compelled this sublimation of the idea of quality. First is the fact of the transition of the world to the Age of Information consequent on the advent of the IT revolution in 1991 that made it mandatory for any person to be 'well-informed' to move forward in any walk of life. This is because knowledge-based decision making was the

anchor of success in any sphere. Information became a determinant of competitive advantage in putting out a product or service since the knowledge of what the business rival was offering and what the well-informed customer was expecting, was crucial. Study of the business environment, including the law and order situation, supply chain and social media trends influencing the demand, has become essential for planning -- this is part of the ongoing business intelligence that the enterprise has to have for its success. No doubt, data and data analytics are now a requirement of the process of decision-making with regard to product development and launch of a service. In ultimate analysis, information is at the base of quality control now. The Age of Information has also brought out the importance of the organisation garnering internally available information -- and not forgetting the dictum that 'nobody knows everything but everybody knows something' -- not only about the firm's own products and services, but also about the business environment outside as well. The second factor that again can be regarded as a new-age phenomenon is the realisation that all business is 'human activity' and that the individual is at the centre of all productivity, notwithstanding the induction of technology in all aspects of it -- from automation to social media marketing (SMM). Determination of quality is linked to human psychology and choices and it also shapes customer loyalty. The post-Covid scenario has given a new-found importance to quality -- people returning to the market are impatient on the question of quality and prone to rejecting permanently any product that seems

flawed. Businesses therefore would do well to try to be ahead of others in quality even if it means scaling down on profits a little. In the area of senior-subordinate relations, the corporate entity certainly requires 'bosses' to understand their men and show enough emotional intelligence to read the pressures working on the employee outside of the workplace. They have to become 'nurturing' guides. Both quality and quantum of 'productivity' have some proportionality with the 'concentration' that a stress-free member would be able to bear on his or her work. Human resource development functions in all enterprises and establishments have assumed a new-found importance and become a far more challenging assignment now. The third dimension of Quality Control Management is what should be regarded as work in progress -- the increasing assimilation of 'quality' in the lifestyle and thinking processes of people in the present times. The rich may remain preoccupied in opting for what was exclusive and niche for consumption, but it is also a fact that people with broader awareness are looking for quality in whatever they are mandated to do -- from the responsibility of bringing up children to seeking better mental and even spiritual satisfaction out of their work. Total Quality Control has, as a concept, expanded to encompass fulfilment of the needs of productivity, cost-effectiveness through the use of technology, interpersonal relations in hierarchical situations, social and environmental harmony and a continuous updating of information on both opportunities and risks that businesses, organisations and individuals have to reckon with in these

times of rapid changes. Quality control application can enrich personal lives and this is a thought catching up with all conscientious people. Five guiding principles that can be easily translated into practice come to mind. First, one should recognise time as a resource that has to be invested, not wasted. Remaining engaged in some meaningful work -- outside of the periods used for mental relaxation or sleep -- is a method of being productive with time. When one engages in work with full concentration without being distracted by any thought of incomplete success, it provides the individual concerned with a sense of deep satisfaction and a lot of self confidence. This makes for quality of life. Secondly, in this age, it is necessary to try to be a well-informed person in any work situation or context and for this, the power of observation comes in handy. Observation can be sharpened through exercises like 'pattern reading' and jigsaw puzzles. Being well-informed means having the right information in time for action and having information that makes a difference between a decision and a guess. Before setting out for any work, it is necessary to be aware of what all is needed by way of documents or equipment to attend to that task or interaction. Information is sought not just for storing it, but for helping knowledge-based decision making that is so essential for achieving success. The third guideline for leading a purposeful life is to develop the ability to see the relative importance of things in a situation -- Pareto's law referred to above comes to mind -- so that one can draw a line between one event and another and not get upset to the

same degree over every little matter. Distinguishing the long range from the short term, visualising the difference between a journey and the destination and sieving the macro from the micro do not come easy to everybody. The fourth paradigm for bringing in quality of life is farsightedness that can be developed by exercising the 'analytical' mind, piecing together relevant facts for examination and then interpreting the total available information for its possible implications for the future. To be able to see what lies ahead opens up opportunities that others have not seen and helps avoid risks too and this is important in life. And finally, it is necessary to measure up to the image of a 'good soul' at home and outside if the quality of life is to be sustained. Being trustworthy, sensitive to human nature and amiable -- none of this coming in the way of dealing adequately with a hostile situation -- facilitates easy relationships and frees life of avoidable tensions and misgivings. Success is often a collective effort and willingness to join with others in a shared mission does not detract from the leadership qualities that would show up on their own in any situation. A life well-lived in terms of 'quality' is a life that does not produce regrets, brings satisfaction about efforts made without fear of failure and puts a moral stamp of human values on what is essentially a 'principled' course of existence at the workplace, and at home.

(The writer is a former Director of Intelligence Bureau. The views expressed are personal)

international

N.Korea fires intercontinental ballistic missile

Seoul: North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) toward the East Sea on Friday, the South Korean military said. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launch from the Sunan area in Pyongyang at 10.15 a.m., and that the missile flew around 1,000 km at an apogee of some 6,100 km at a top speed of Mach 22, reports Yonhap News Agency. The launch is presumed to have involved the Hwasong-17 ICBM, according to a South Korean defence source. On November 3, the North test-fired the same ICBM, but the launch was seen as a failure. "North Korea's ICBM launch this time is a significant provocation and serious act of threat that undermines peace and stability not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the international community and a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions," the JCS said in a text message sent to reporters. The launch came just a day after North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui warned her country will take "fiercer" military actions if the US strengthens its security commitment to using a full range of military capabilities, including nuclear options, to defend the allies. Shortly after Choe's statement, the North launched a short-range ballistic missile into the East Sea.

10 MN IN UKRAINE WITHOUT POWER AFTER RUSSIA STRIKES: ZELENSKY

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that some 10 million people across the war-torn country have been left without electricity following a fresh wave of Russian missile strikes. In his night video address to the nation on Thursday, the President said: "Currently, more than 10 million Ukrainians are without electricity. Most of them are in the Vinnytsia, Odesa, Sumy and Kiev regions. We are doing everything to normalise the supply." Zelensky went on to say that dozens of people were injured as a result of a missile attack on Thursday in Dnipro, adding that "everyone is being provided with aid". "In Zaporizhzhia, the clearance of the rubble of a residential building, which was



destroyed by Russian shelling at night, continues... The list of the dead includes seven people. Unfortunately, this number may increase," he said. The President also said that

earlier in the day, Ukrainian forces managed to shoot down six Russian cruise missiles and five drones. In yet another appeal to allies and partners, Zelensky said that

"only full protection of the Ukrainian sky will protect both Ukraine and Europe from many possible escalations of Russian aggression and will definitely encourage Russia to truly end the war". Meanwhile, state-owned energy firm Naftogaz said its gas-producing facilities in the east of Ukraine had been subjected to a "massive attack", without giving additional details. Ukraine was subjected to another wide-ranging assault on Tuesday when dozens of long-range missiles pounded the country in what was believed to be the most intense barrage since the start of the war on February 24, reports the BBC. Many of the missiles fired by Russia on Tuesday were intercepted, but those that struck infrastructure targets managed to further deplete Ukraine's power reserves.

21 KILLED IN MASSIVE FIRE IN GAZA

Gaza: At least 21 Palestinians, including seven children, were killed and more than 30 others were injured in a massive fire inside a residential building in the northern Gaza Strip, said security and medical sources.



Some of the injured people were in serious conditions and the death toll was expected to rise in the fire that broke out in the area of Tal-Za'tar in the Jabalia refugee camp on Thursday, Xinhua news agency quoted Salah Abu Laila, director of the Indonesian Hospital that received the victims, as saying. The Palestinian Civil Defense announced in a statement that it had sent rescue teams and a number of security personnel to the scene. Palestinian eyewitnesses said ambulances and civil defense personnel had already worked for hours to control the fire. Preliminary investigations indicated that a large quantity of fuel stored inside the building might have led to the fire, the Ministry of Interior in Gaza said in a statement. Local sources and eyewitnesses said that the residential building belonged to the Abu Rayah family, which was celebrating a family member's long-awaited return from Egypt when the fire broke out.

2 Indian-origin community helpers in Australia win \$672,805 mn grant

Melbourne | Agencies

Two Indian-origin achievers are among 20 inspiring Australians who have won A\$1 million grant (\$672,805) for creating sustainable and innovative solutions to address community issues. New South Wales-based Amar Singh and Rishi Verma have won the grant under the Tomorrow Maker program by Sydney-based AMP Foundation. Singh, the 41 year-old founder and president of Turbans 4 Australia, has been awarded for community service, and promoting multiculturalism and religious tolerance. Singh, who experienced ethnic slurs because of his beard and turban, realised that there was no better way to teach others about the Sikh community and faith than connecting with the community through charity work. It was then that he founded his charity organisation in 2015 to assist people facing financial hardship, food insecurity, homelessness and those impacted by natural calamities. He also won the prestigious 2023 New South Wales Australian of the Year Award recently for supporting the community during floods, bushfires, drought and the pandemic.



Verma, an ophthalmologist, aerospace engineer and entrepreneur, has created an innovative portal ophthalmoscope to help solve diabetic retinopathy, which is the leading cause of blindness amongst indigenous and rural populations of Australia. Born and raised in Lidcombe, he is also the co-founder and CEO of Stethy, an AI assistant providing diagnostic tools to physicians. "Stethy started to create a world where everyone has access to instant, affordable and safe medical care at any time and place," Verma, currently a doc-

tor at NSW Health, said. Before studying medicine, he was a space engineering intern at NASA and completed his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Wollongong. "Current economic conditions are impacting everyone but are disproportionately impacting our First Nation people and disadvantaged communities across Australia. We know that climate change and environmental issues threaten our very existence; and the global pandemic has highlighted the fault lines in our society -- all very big issues," Nicola Stokes, General Manager of AMP Foundation, said. "I am pleased to let you know that our 2022 Tomorrow Makers are not afraid of taking up challenges or tackling what are dubbed awicked problems', those social issues thought too difficult and complex to solve," she added. In its ninth year, the Tomorrow Maker program supports Australians from all walks of life making a difference in their community. The program is supported by AMP Foundation, which has invested more than \$108 million since 1992 to help organisations and individuals bring about positive change.

JAPAN'S CONSUMER PRICES SPIKE TO HIGHEST LEVEL IN 40 YRS

Tokyo | Agencies

Japan's consumer prices increased 3.6 per cent in October from a year earlier, marking a 40-year high, owing to a weak yen further inflating soaring energy costs, the government said in a report on Friday. The nationwide core consumer price index, which excludes volatile fresh food items, rose for the 14th straight month, the data showed, beating a 3.5 per cent increase forecast by economists here, reports Xinhua news agency. The latest data showing inflation in Japan hit its highest level since February 1982, came on the heels of September's 3.0 per cent increase and again topped the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) 2 per cent target. The CPI has remained above the BOJ's 2 per cent target for seven straight months, but the Japanese central bank believes that the current global inflation crisis is temporary. The bank's commitment to its ultra-easy monetary policy is in contrast to other major central banks who have aggressively hiked



their interest rates to tame soaring inflation. The widening interest rate gap between the BOJ and its global peers, particularly the US Federal Reserve, has resulted in the Japanese currency dropping to a series of 32-year lows versus the dollar. The yen's persistent weakness of late has driven up import costs for energy products including liquified natural gas and coal, as well as food products, the downside effects of which are being felt by households in resource-poor Japan.



WOMAN CLAIMS SHE WAS OFFERED Rs 1.20 LAKH FOR CONVERSION

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A woman has accused a Bishop of a Church in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district of religious conversion and claimed she and her husband were forcibly converted to Christianity.

The woman said she had informed the police about the incident but no action has been taken so far. She claimed to have been paid Rs 1.20 lakh by a Bishop, but when they stopped visiting the Church, the couple was allegedly threatened with dire consequences.

"They paid us Rs 1.20 lakh for the conversion, of which we have returned Rs 90,000, but now they are demanding four times the amount." The woman added, "We were dipped in a water tank. At least four to five people had gathered and they were reciting something and asked us to bathe in the water."

The viral video prompted the National Commission of Women (NCW) chairperson Rekha Sharma to ask the police to take action in the matter. Sharma also shared the video on Twitter and said, "Not acceptable at all." Sharma said the NCW had



demanding action against the accused if the allegations are proven true.

The police said cognizance has been taken of the matter and it was under investigation.

This is not the first time allegations of religious conversion have emerged from Madhya Pradesh. On Monday, 10 members of a Christian organisation were booked on the charge of

converting children in Raisen district after Priyank Kanoongo, chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, raised the matter.

The issue of religious conversion was also raised by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan this week. Addressing a 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' programme in Shahdol district on

Tuesday, Chouhan said that he would not let the vicious cycle of religious conversions continue in the state.

"Many people create a vicious cycle of religious conversion. Brothers and sisters, we will not allow conversions to continue on this land of Madhya Pradesh. Tell me, should it be allowed to continue?" he said.



IT Raid on 40 Bansal Group locations in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Income Tax Department has raided 40 locations of the Bansal Group in MP's capital city Bhopal on Friday morning. The Income Tax Department also raided Indore, and Mandideep apart from Bhopal. To conduct the raids, the Income Tax teams arrived in vehicles bearing the stickers of Ring Ceremonies of Rashmi and Arvind. All the vehicles have Indore numbers. The raids are still going on.

Bansal Group has redeveloped Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15 last year. Bansal Group is working in various sectors like Media, Bansal Construction & Pathway, Bansal Group of Hospital, Bansal Group of Education, Bansal TMT Saria, and Bansal Soya Cooking Oil.

The Income Tax Department team had raided 18 locations of the Bansal Group a year ago as well. The



owners of the Bansal Group are Anil Bansal and Sunil Bansal. They bought Ayushman Hospital last year. At that time, the team also raided the residences of two doctors associated with them.

The IT team has sealed the second floor of Bansal Engineering College in Mandideep. The team reached here in two vehicles and started checking the documents in the accounts department. At Mhow's Sushila Devi Bansal College

of Institute, a team of about 10 officers arrived in two vehicles and started taking action in the accounts section.

Action is also going on in the TMT rebar factory in the industrial area, the gate of which is locked. The Income Tax team is also questioning the employees of the factory. A total of 4 places have been raided in Mandideep. Officers have arrived in about 120 vehicles in the raid operation which is going on in different cities of the state.

Subsidy of 150crores in a month to electricity consumers in Malwa-Nimar

Team Absolute | Indore

Under the Madhya Pradesh Grih Jyoti Yojana, electricity is being provided to electricity consumers at a cheaper rate. Under this scheme, a subsidy of Rs 143 crore 50 lakh has been given to eligible 32 lakh consumers in Malwa-Nimar region during one month. Managing Director of Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitran Company, Indore, Amit Tomar said that the first 100 units of electricity are being made available for just Rs.100. During the last one month, about 32 lakh consumers were given the benefit of the scheme in the compa-



ny sector, according to the government, a subsidy of Rs 143 crore 50 lakh has been given to them. A subsidy of up to Rs 554 has been given to each eligible consumer.

According to the Atal Griha Jyoti Yojana of Madhya Pradesh Government, those domestic consumers are eligible for this, whose average monthly consumption is 150 units or less. Eligibility is fixed

in that particular month only if the daily average consumption is five units or less, according to which subsidy is available. Up to the first 100 units, electricity is available for Rs.100. After this, 50 units of electricity is supplied at the normal rate. If more than 150 units are consumed in 30 days, the eligibility for Griha Jyoti Yojana ends in a particular month.

121 CRORE APPROVED FOR THE UP GRADATION OF 770 MUKHYA MANTRI SANJEEVANI CLINICS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Bhopal] Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has informed that with the aim of providing treatment facilities to citizens near their homes, Mukhya Mantri Sanjeevani Clinics are being constructed. He informed that 783 Mukhya Mantri Sanjeevani clinics have been approved in various urban bodies. Out of this, Rs. 121 crore 25 lakh has been allocated under the 15th Finance Commission for new construction and up gradation of 770 Sanjeevani clinics and up gradation of already operated Sanjeevani clinics and civil dispensaries. Of these, 611 are new and 172 are already-operating Sanjeevani clinics.

MoU will be signed with country's leading institutions to enable MSMEs and startups

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With the aim of making startups and MSMEs commercially and technically competent and strong along with providing new marketing opportunities, MoUs will be signed with reputed government/non-government organizations of the country. This programme will be held on November 22 at 2 pm at the Brilliant Convention Center in Indore in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. A workshop will also be organized by ONDC in the second-session of the programme.

MoUs will be signed with 10 institutions in the program. In this, a MoU will also be signed with the Open Network for Digital

Commerce (ONDC), an organization of the Government of India. It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ONDC is a network based on open protocols which provides a platform for local commerce in areas including mobility, grocery, food orders, delivery, hotel booking and travel. Its aim is to create new opportunities, curb digital monopolies, support micro, small and medium enterprises and small traders and help bring them on the online platform.

The MOU with ONDS will extend benefit and co-operation to MSMEs and startups. This will help in organizing workshops to train small scale industries, start-

ups and market participants. The ONDC network will facilitate onboarding of relevant market participants. The network will also have the facility to connect with other existing participants.

As a result of the policies of the state government, a favorable environment has been created to enable startups and MSMEs in the state. Taking advantage of this favorable environment, now a better eco-system has to be created in the state.

For this, it is necessary to take co-operation of startups and organizations associated with MSMEs or working for them, so that the state can get the benefit of everyone's cooperation, suggestions and expertise to ensure overall development.

UNICEF's MP Chief played a game with the children



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Various programs are being organized for children on the occasion of World Children's Day in Madhya Pradesh. In the same sequence, Margaret Gwada, the state head of UNICEF, an organization working for children in the world, also played a game with the children in an event organized in Diwadia vil-

lage of Sehore district under Child Rights Week. A rural sports event was organized in village Diwadia of Sehore district, in which games like Sitolia, touchdown handball, beach monkey, ball relay and dodgeball were included. Friendly matches were played between five different teams. These teams were named as Mango, Sitaphal, Imli etc. It was an activity-based event, organized to mark the upcoming

World Children's Day (which falls on 20 November). The theme of this year's World Children's Day is play and inclusion.

UNICEF Madhya Pradesh Chief Margaret Gwada played all the five games with the children in the field. He said, "It felt great to be a part of this sports event with the children, in their village. Sports foster a positive school environment, nurture life skills, and bring teachers and students together."

FA Jami, education specialist, UNICEF Madhya Pradesh, explained how sports help build self-confidence and nurture leadership in children. At the outset, Asha Mishra of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) said that the program is being organized on the occasion of World Children's Day and is based on this year's theme, involving children.

SEIZED ALCOHOL WORTH RS 85 LAKH DESTROYED IN INDORE



Madhya Pradesh: Seized illicit liquor worth Rs 85 lakh was destroyed in Madhya Pradesh's Indore. Country liquor, whisky and beer in 3,146 cartons were crushed under the wheels of a road-roller. Liquor was seized by authorities over a period of 31 years and was destroyed as per the rules.

HC gives interfaith couples interim relief from Religion Act

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

In an interim order, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to not prosecute under section 10 of the MP Freedom of Religion Act those adults who solemnise their marriage on their own volition.

A division bench of Justices Sujoy Paul and PC Gupta said Section 10, which makes it obligatory for a citizen desiring (religious) conversion to give a (prior) declaration in this regard to the district magistrate, is "in our opinion ex facie, unconstitutional in the teeth of aforesaid judgments of this court".

Thus, till further orders, the respondent shall not prosecute adult citizens if they solemnize marriage on their own volition and shall not take coercive action for violation of Section 10 of Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, the court order of November 14 said.

The court issued the interim direction on a bunch of seven petitions challenging the provisions of Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021. The petitioners sought interim relief to restrain the state from prose-



cuting anyone under the Act.

"Considering the Supreme Court judgement cited, in our considered opinion, a strong prima facie case is made out by the petitioners for grant of interim protection in relation to marriage of two adult citizens on their volition and against any coercive action for violation of Section 10," the court said.

The HC granted three weeks' time to the state to file its para-wise reply to the petitions. The court also said the petitioners may file rejoinder within 21 days thereafter.

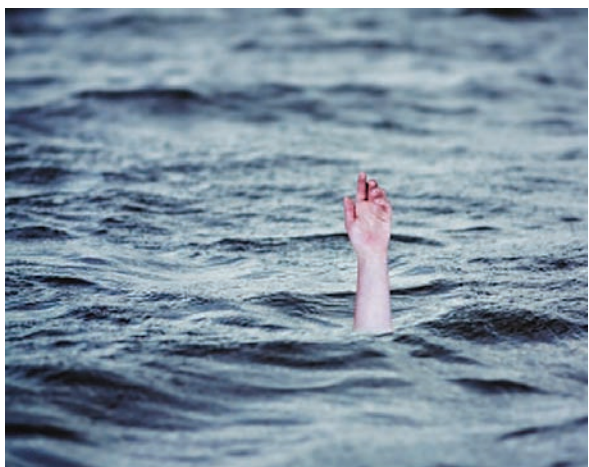
One from Kanpur drown in Narmada River, three others rescue by boatmen

Team Absolute | Omkareshwar

A 28-year-old person from Kanpur drowned in Narmada River and three other persons were rescued by boatmen while they were taking a holy dip on the ghat of Narmada River in Omkareshwar on Friday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Rahul Vishwakarma and accommodated with three other persons. Police informed that the incident took place at Chakratirth Ghat of Narmada River around 1:00 pm when Rahul and the other three are taking a holy dip.

While taking the bath, Rahul slipped into the deep water and starts drowning. Three other people who were with him jumped into the river and starts drowning too. They raised alarm seeking



help from other people and a timely response from some boatmen repairing their boats nearby rescued three persons, but for Rahul it was too late as he was already drowned. After getting the information, a police team from Mandhata police station

rushed to the spot and fished out Rahul's body and was sent for post-mortem to Omkareshwar primary health centre. The family of the deceased youth was informed. As the family will arrive the dead body of Rahul will be handed over to them.

Vishwarang 2022 DISCUSSIONS ON EDUCATION, CULTURE & SHANKARACHARYA FOCUS OF DAY 2

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Thought-provoking sessions remained the central focus of the second day of 'Vishwarang 2022'. The day began with a panel discussion on 'Philosophy of Advaitvaad: Shankaracharya and Rumi'. While keeping his views, writer PavanVerma said, "We need to understand the importance of our tradition of building thought processes. But today, we are getting disassociated from our core values and thoughts. Hindu Dharma is a lifestyle. Our aim should be to understand it and live accordingly. While discussing Shankaracharya's life journey, the writer said, "Even today's science cannot fathom his vision which he had years ago." He further said that apart from Advaitvaad, many don't know that we have six more ideologies.

The main auditorium of Minto Hall witnessed a riveting session on 'Rise Of India's Soft Power: Global Impact Of Indian Culture'. While Vishwarang director Santosh

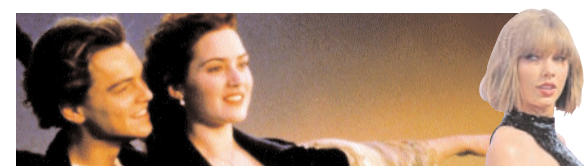


Choubey presided over the session, Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe, president of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, joined the discussion through the virtual medium. While addressing the audience, Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe said, "The understanding of Indian Culture, Art, & Language is echoing across the world today. India's non-aggression

policy, traditional knowledge science and the global influence of NRIs are the major factors. Today the world is looking at India as the 'Vishav Guru' because they see the solution to their problems in the ideological understanding of India. Meanwhile, in his presidential address, Santosh Choubey informed that they published a

book which shows the current status of Indian languages in 40 countries.

Earlier, the day began with the flute performance by the founder of Swar Venu Gurukul, Santosh Sant and his disciples. Santosh Sant added a divine quality to the program by giving a group performance of Raag 'Mangal Bhairav'.



HOW UKRAINE WAR AFFECTED THE SHOOTING: CHRISTINA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Christina Ricci, who stars as the mysterious new character Marilyn Thornhill in Netflix's 'Wednesday', explained how a global tragedy affected the filming of the series. After asked if Ricci had "any stories from set," the actress shared that the cast was filming in Romania when Russian president Vladimir Putin announced an invasion of Ukraine on February 24, reports.

"We were seven miles from that power plant that almost was the nuclear power plant that almost exploded," Ricci told.

"So it was a little tense. But we all bonded over how soon our government would get us out of there if anything crazy happened."

Filming of 'Wednesday' began in September 2021 in Bucharest, Romania, and wrapped up the next March.

Ricci famously played the role of Wednesday Addams in 1991's 'The Addams Family' and its 1993 sequel, 'Addams Family Values'. Now, she's handing the role over to Jenna Ortega, who will be portraying Wednesday as she transfers to Nevermore Academy, which is a "safe haven" for even the freakiest of supernatural children, according to the series' trailer.

According to Ricci, Ortega didn't need any coaching to get into the role. "She is such a competent adult actress," the star revealed. "She does not need me telling her how to do anything. She's so wonderful."



Russell Crowe gifted Liam a \$20k watch

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Russell Crowe has given actor Liam Hemsworth a \$20,000 plus Rolex watch. Appearing alongside and directing the actor in their new film 'Poker Face', the star who also wrote the screenplay gave him a plush present before the motion picture's premiere in Sydney, Australia, says reports.

"He bought me this Rolex. I went over to his house tonight. He gave me this. He's a great friend. I love him," Hemsworth told Australian radio show 'The Kyle and Jackie O Show'.

Hemsworth also walked the premiere's blue carpet with Gabriella Brooks, three months after speculation emerged that the couple had split. In August, it was claimed

that Hemsworth and the actress had gone their separate ways after three years of dating, with Gabriella said to be "heartbroken". However, the pair looked smitten as the 'Isn't It Romantic' star put his arms around Gabriella on the premiere of Liam's latest film. Speaking previously about their relationship, Gabriella said: "My personal relationship is very, very important and very sacred to me."

"And I feel like in an industry where so much is put out on show, there are some things you just want to keep to yourself. I completely understand (the interest in her relationship). But at the end of the day, I guess I just like having that for me. But he's great. They (the Hemsworths) are great. They are the most beautiful people and I'm very lucky to know them."

Ticketmaster Cancels Taylor Swift Tour's Public Tickets Sale

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ticketmaster has canceled the public ticket on-sale for Taylor Swift's "The Eras Tour" that was set to take place Friday, Nov. 18. The company cited both "extraordinarily high demands on ticketing systems" and "insufficient remaining ticket inventory" as the reasons it was pulling the plug on the general sale.

The company posted on social media: "Due to extraordinarily high demands on ticketing systems and insufficient remaining ticket inventory to meet that demand, tomorrow's public on-sale for Taylor Swift's 'The Eras Tour' has been canceled."

Because of the Nov. 15 fiasco, the tour's Capital One pre-sale originally scheduled for that day was delayed until Nov. 16. The general public sale was always set for Nov. 18 but has now been canceled.

A source close to the situation speculates that the tickets that were to go on sale Friday may end up going to people who experienced delays or problems ear-

lier in the week, although that information is not confirmed. It remains unclear whether the general sale will be rescheduled.

Ticketmaster issued a lengthy explanation in the aftermath of the backlash, attempting to explain why its website crashed. The company said that "the staggering number of bot attacks" as well as fan demand "drove unprecedented traffic on our site, resulting in 3.5 billion total system requests - 4x our previous peak."

"The Eras Tour" ended up breaking a Ticketmaster record as over two million tickets were sold on Nov. 15 for Swift's shows, the most tickets ever sold for an artist in a single day.

"Even when a high demand on sale goes flawlessly from a tech perspective, many fans are left empty handed," Ticketmaster said. "For example: based on the volume of traffic to our site, Taylor would need to perform over 900 stadium shows (almost 20x the number of shows she is doing)... that's a stadium show every single night for the next 2.5 years."



Chris Hemsworth fears of genetic disease

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth is genetically predisposed to Alzheimer's disease and has been told by medical experts that he is "between eight and ten times" likely to develop the condition than the general population. He explained: "It's not a pre-deterministic gene, but it is a strong indication. Ten years ago, I think it was more thought of as determinant." Hemsworth said that the health warning has been unsettling for him, reports.

The Hollywood star, who has India, ten, and eight-year-old twins Sasha and Tristan with Elsa Pataky, told: "Yeah, there was intensity to navigating it. Most of us, we like to avoid speaking about death in the hope that we'll somehow avoid it. We all have this belief that we'll figure it out." "Then all of a sudden he told some big indicators are actually pointing to this as the route which is going to happen, the reality of it sinks in. Your own mortality." Hemsworth is keen to not over-dramatise his health situation. But the movie star, who is best known for playing Thor in the Marvel films, is also determined to safeguard his health. He said: "If you look at Alzheimer's prevention, the benefit of preventative steps is that it affects the rest of your life. When you have preposition to cardiovascular heart disease, cancer, anything - it's all about sleep management, stress management, nutrition, movement, fitness. It's all kind of the same tools that need to be applied in a consistent way." Hemsworth also plans to discuss his health issues with his children. He shared: "One day I'm sure I'll bring it up. They probably want to test themselves and (find out) 'Are you in the category that's going to be sensitive to this or not?'"



High-powered girl group XG released a new rap video

Seoul | Agencies

High-powered girl group XG have come out with a new rap video featuring their four members. On Friday, a video entitled '[XG TAPE #2] GALZ XYPHER (Jurin, Harvey, Maya and Cocona)' was posted to YouTube. The video features individual performances from XG's rappers: Jurin, Harvey, Maya and Cocona, with each of their own different beats and original lyrics. The video will feature four samples, containing lyrics in English, Japanese and Korean - all in an unrivaled performance that is uniquely XG. XG are a seven-member HipHop/R&B girl group consisting of Jurin, Chisa, Harvey, Hinata, Juria, Maya and Cocona. They made waves worldwide with their second single 'MASCARA'. Last month, XG released solo vocal performances by Chisa, Juria and Hinata receiving huge acclaim worldwide.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Tinashe



Manika Batra, the first Indian to reach semifinals of the Asian Cup



Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

Ace Indian paddler Manika Batra on Friday became the first Indian woman to reach the semifinals of the Asian Cup Table Tennis tournament after she registered a hard-fought win over world No.23, Chen Szu Yu from Chinese Taipei. World number 44 Manika beat Chen 4-3 (6-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 9-11, 11-9) in the women's singles quarterfinals.

The Indian had earlier beaten world No.7 Chen Xingtong of China in a Round of 16 match on Thursday. In the semifinals, she will meet the winner of the match between

Jeon Jihee of Korea and Mima Ito of Japan. The recent results will do a world of good for Batra, who didn't have a great time in 2022 due to some off-the-field issues and her performance on the court as well. At the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, she failed to win a single medal after winning four of them in the 2018 edition.

Leading the side at the world team event in October, Manika lost both her matches in India's 2-3 loss to Germany in the opening tie. But she collected the wins in the remaining two group matches as the women's team qualified for the knockouts after finishing 17th in the previous edition. Earlier this month, Manika won the mixed doubles silver medal alongside partner G Sathiyar at the WTT Contender Nova Gorica in Slovenia which took them to the highest-ever world No. 5 spot in the mixed doubles charts.



Wellington | Agencies

The T20I series opener between New Zealand and India at Sky Stadium, Wellington has been washed out due to persistent rain on Friday, without a ball being bowled and the toss was not even held.

As per the weather forecast for Wellington, there was 90-100 per cent rain forecasted during the match time, which led to covers remaining on the pitch all the time. Though rain stopped for a few minutes, it came back again, heavier than it was, lead-

ing to players indulging in a session of football-volleyball indoors.

The latest cut-off time for the match to begin was 9:46pm local time, with a minimum of five over's per side needed to constitute an official T20I match. But heavy rain washed out that prospect as well, leading to Friday's match being abandoned.

India and New Zealand will now move towards the second match of the series, set to be played at a sold-out Bay Oval at Mount Maunganui on Sunday. After this, the third and final match of the series will be played at

IND V NZ:
RAIN WASHES
OFF T20I
SERIES' FIRST
MATCH

McLean Park in Napier on Tuesday, followed by a three-match ODI series.

With stand-in head coach VVS Laxman insisting that the Hardik Pandya-led side, without many regular stars, will be looking to play fearless and flexible cricket during the series. While regular captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul are missing from the tour along with Dinesh Karthik, Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel and Mohammed Shami in T20Is, New Zealand are also without Trent Boult and Martin Guppitt in the series.

Youth World Boxing: India's Rhythm eases into quarterfinals



New Delhi | Agencies

India's Rhythm produced a power-packed performance to enter the men's +92kg quarterfinals while the youth Asian champion Vanshaj and three more Indian male pugilists marched into the Last-16 stage on third day of the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain. Rhythm started off the match aggressively against Latvia's Miks Berzins. His relentless attack from the word go left no room for the opponent to recover as the referees intervened just after a few minutes in the first round before announcing Indian the winner of the round-of-16 match

with Referee Stops Contest verdict.

This came after Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (51kg) and Bharat Joon (92kg) began the day's proceedings for India with dominating wins in the men's Round-of-32. While Jadumani outpunched Azerbaijan's Amin Mammadzade 5-0, Bharat also thrashed Spanish boxer Ruben Ibanez by a similar margin.

Later, Vanshaj, who hails from Haryana, extended his winning run at the prestigious championships when he blanked Japan's Masatake Yoshizumi by unanimous decision in the 63.5kg Last-32 bout. Aman Rathore (67kg) too had an easy outing as he knocked out Puerto Rico Alexis Soto convincingly by 5-0 margin.

ISL 2022-23 Chennaiyin FC ready for Jamshedpur challenge

Chennai | Agencies

Chennaiyin FC will be keen to get back to winning ways when they host Jamshedpur FC in their sixth 2022-23 Hero Indian Super League fixture at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

Playing their fourth home game of the season, Chennaiyin will look to pick them up from last week's defeat to Mumbai City and look to get their first home win of the season. Addressing the media ahead of the Jamshedpur game, head coach Thomas Brdaric advised his players to learn from their mistakes and bounce back stronger.

"Last match (against Mumbai City) was pretty tough to analyse because the first 30 minutes went as we wanted to implement most of the time. But after



that, we conceded a quick first goal and lacked organisation in the back. We've analysed it and we know where the issues are," Brdaric said.

"It was just one game; it's not the end of the year (season). Every team has this kind of situation and we should learn from it."

Defender Ajith Kumar, who was also present at the press conference, echoed the coach's view. "Yes, there were some

mistakes (against Mumbai City). We missed the ball on some occasions where we could've had the possession. We have discussed how we can tackle the opponent and ensure that we're not giving any advantage to them. We have to back up the team strongly and make strategic moves," said Kumar, who has contributed with eight interceptions and six successful tackles from five games this season.

Digboi golf: Arjun Sharma's steady 70 give him lead

Digboi (Assam) | Agencies

Greater Noida's Arjun Sharma shot a steady two-under 70 to move up one spot and take the third-round lead at the SERVO Masters 2022 being played at the Digboi Golf Links, moving past overnight leader Yuvraj Singh Sandhu.

Pune-based Udayan Mane carded the day's best score of 66 to climb nine places to the second position at 11-under 205 at the Rs. 75 lakh event. Delhi's Kshitij Naveed Kaul posted a 69 to gain two spots and end day three in third place at 10-under 206.

Besides Udayan and Kshitij there are several other contenders giving chase to the leader on a packed leaderboard as five players including halfway leader Yuvraj Singh Sandhu (74), Pawan Kumar (67), Mithun Perera (68), M. Dharm (68) and Sunhit Bishnoi (69) are bunched in tied fourth just three shots behind the lead at nine-under 207.

Arjun Sharma (66-68-70), who registered a career-best runner-up finish on the PGTI in Coimbatore in August this year, has made a gradual progression during the week rising from fourth place in round one to the second position in round two and then into the



lead in round three thanks to his consistent display. Sharma said, "The front nine troubled me for the third day in succession. I'm one over for the front nine so far this week and 13-under for the back nine. I think the back nine is actually the tougher half of the course. So I feel that I need to play the front nine better in round four, especially the seventh, eighth and ninth holes. I've been playing well in the second half of the season starting from Coimbatore; however, I just haven't been consistent enough. But I know the game is there and I just need to keep at it and keep it going," Sharma added.

Indian F2 racer Jehan Daruvala aiming for a second win

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Indian F2 racer, Jehan Daruvala, will be aiming for a second win in a row when the Red Bull-backed driver heads into this weekend's Formula 2 finale in Abu Dhabi.

The Mumbai racer is just nine points off third in the overall standings and his sights are set firmly on chalking up a second successive win, as he bids to end his season on a high by becoming the first Indian to score a top-three championship finish.

The player raced to his fourth Formula 2 win in the Feature race during the last round in Monza, having also scored a third-place finish in the Saturday sprint.

The Italian double podium sets



him up for another strong weekend at the Yas Marina circuit, a venue Jehan likes and where he was also victorious last year.

"I can't wait to go racing again after our triumphant showing at Monza," said Jehan. "Yas Marina is

a track I like, we won here last year and there's no reason why we can't go for it again. The championship may have already been decided but the top three is still up for grabs and I'm going to be giving it everything this weekend to end the season on a high."

Jehan, who has finished on the podium eight times this season, is currently joint fourth in the overall standings with Jack Doohan. He is only nine points off third-placed Logan Sargeant and will become the first Indian to finish third in the Formula 2 championship if he overhauls the American racer this weekend.

The Abu Dhabi Formula 2 round will support this weekend's season-ending Formula One Grand Prix.

The best I've felt in about six years: Smith on his unbeaten 80

Adelaide | Agencies

Former Australian skipper and top-order batter Steve Smith is feeling in great space following his unbeaten 80 against England in the opening One-day International (ODI) at the Adelaide Oval, saying he has never felt so good in the last six years.

Smith looked in great touch, scoring his unbeaten 80 at nearly a run a ball.

"It was probably the best I've felt in about six years. I was just in really nice positions and I felt really good, I honestly haven't felt that way in six years or so. It was probably the best I've felt in about six years. I was just in really nice positions and I felt really good, I honestly haven't felt that way in six years or so."

"It's been nice to score some



runs in that time and we're always looking for perfection, and for me was close to perfection as I will get," added Smith.

Smith also said he had been working on making minor tweaks to his technique, in order to rediscover his best stance. The process has been ongoing for a year and has finally started to pay rewards, according to ICC.

"I've been working on a few things; it's almost been a six-month or 12-month process. The start of last summer, I tried to get my hands back to where they were in 2015. I feel like I'm staying a bit more side-on now and I've got my feet and hands in sync together," Smith said on his technique change.

IND V NZ T20 SERIES

World Cup is done, have left it behind now: Hardik Pandya

Wellington | Agencies

India's stand-in T20I captain Hardik Pandya stated that he is fully focused on India's T20I series against New Zealand, and added he has left behind the disappointment of semi-final exit in Men's T20 World Cup 2022.

"To be honest, the World Cup is done. I've left it behind now. I had said it earlier as well, the disappointment will be there, it will take some time to get off that. But at the same point of time, it's a new start, said Hardik.

"World Cup is done; we can't go back and change things. We're now looking forward to this series because the journey from here to two years down the line has started. So we are going to focus more on the future as something which has already gone, you can't control," said Hardik in a chat with broadcasters.

"Actually, it tests you and barring 1-2 guys who are fairly young, rest of them have played fair amount of international cricket.

They were not a part of the team as when the big boys come, they have to adjust to the system. Still, they have a lot of games behind their back." "When it comes to me and the more experienced players who have already been part of the team, we are quite clear about our role. What we have been doing, is being done for the last few years. If we have to change something, that will happen in the future."

"Right now, we will make sure the guys who are new, they get their ample opportunities and make sure that they are secure, comfortable and able to go out and express themselves."

Hardik signed off by expressing helplessness over rain having the final say in the T20I series opener. "Boys were quite excited to play here. New Zealand is a great country, great place to play. Unfortunately that we can't do anything. A lot of people came quite early as well, we were excited to play. But this is something we as professional cricketers need to accept as we can't do much about it."



IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO COME UP AGAINST INDIA: WILLIAMSON

Wellington: New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson believes that there will be plenty of chances for players in the side to shine during their white-ball series against India. In the absence of veterans Martin Guppitt and Trent Boult, New Zealand is aiming to give opportunities to young opener Finn Allen and pacer Adam Milne.

"I'm sure there will be plenty of opportunities for (New Zealand) guys to shine. The likes of Adam Milne were in the T20 World Cup squad but didn't get an opportunity, so this is a good time to get them some game time. Always nice for them to get some game time and keep developing as cricketers and test themselves against the best,"

said Williamson to broadcasters after the first T20I was abandoned due to rain at Wellington.

"We need to see what we are faced with in terms of surfaces. When all those things come in, you try to adjust well. Naturally, as a team, you are trying to improve and get better. Took a lot of learnings from the World Cup. T20 is fickle in nature. There's good cricket played and you lose a couple of small moments, which can be the difference in knockout matches. This is what happened to us, but a lot of positives to take from that tournament too."

Williamson signed off by feeling sad about T20I series opener being washed out and hopes that second



match in Mount Maunganui on Sunday will happen. "Quite quickly after a major event, we've had a whole heap of T20 cricket in the past and don't have much in closer to 18 months time. But it's always nice to come up against India; they are always a special team to play."

"Unfortunately, today wasn't meant to be. It is usually sunny out there, with a small of rain. Hopefully it will be sunny and we get a full house, which will be great."



I'm a very preparation-heavy actor: **Alaya F**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alaya F, who will be seen opposite Kartik Aaryan in the upcoming streaming movie 'Freddy', didn't get time to prepare for her role in the movie owing to a tight-roped schedule. The actress was shooting for a project in Chandigarh which got extended. Hence, she didn't have enough time at her disposal as she was on the sets of 'Freddy' the very next day after the shoot wrapping up in Chandigarh. Elaborating on the same, the actress said: "Usually, I'm a very preparation-heavy actor. I find a lot of comfort in preparation. But for 'Freddy', it was completely different. I was shooting for another film in Chandigarh at the time and that schedule got extended. So, as soon as I wrapped that shoot and came back to Bombay, I was on the sets of 'Freddy' the very next day. There was zero time in between."

'Freddy' is about the journey of titular character Dr. Freddy Givwala (Kartik), who is a dentist and is a shy, lonely and socially awkward person. For Alaya, the preparations happened on set in real time: "So, this time around, my prep happened on set, during our shoot, and after packing up when I would run to my acting coach to try and prep for the next day! Luckily I was surrounded by the most talented and skilled team so with their support and guidance, I figured Kainaaz (her character) out." Sharing a sneak peek about her character, the actor added: "Kainaaz is a very interesting one for sure. She has so many layers and so much complexity. It was such a joy playing her (for the screen), I learned a lot through the experience."



Badshah to embark his first India tour

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian rapper Badshah, who is set to embark on his first India tour, has shared that the tour will stick to his commitment of providing unadulterated entertainment with a dash of "paagal-panti" (madness) to the audience. The eight cities tour is planned between December 24 to March, starting from Mumbai on December 24.

Talking about his tour, the 'Jugnu' hitmaker said: "I am ecstatic and grateful to my fans for giving such an overwhelming response to the tour. The energy of performing to a live audience is unparalleled, and my commitment is to bring an experience filled with paagalpanti that will stay with you all for a long, long time." Recently, the rapper also shared a promo of the tour, which in a dramatised way covered Badshah's journey, where young Aditya's vision is larger than life and audacious, so much that it makes people laugh at him; however, he is determined to rule the world.

The multi-city tour, which will start from Mumbai on December 24, will move to Guwahati on January 7, followed by Ahmedabad on January 21, Hyderabad on January 28, Kolkata on February 5, Gurugram on February 18, Pune on March 4, and Bengaluru on March 18.



WORKING WITH Kareena WAS A PRIVILEGE: HANSAL MEHTA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Award-winning filmmaker Hansal Mehta has talked about his experience working with Kareena Kapoor Khan and said that it was a "privilege" directing her.

Hansal took to Instagram, where he shared a black and white picture. In the image, the two can be seen having a conversation.

The filmmaker captioned the image: "She is such a delight to work with. A privilege directing this powerhouse. Had as much fun and joy doing some very difficult scenes with her as I've had with Rajkumar, Manoj or Pratika this one has been special Kareena Kapoor Khan."

Ekta Kapoor, Mahana Films Thank you khamkha photo artist for these pictures."

The film marks the debut of Kareena as a producer.

The film will be produced by Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Motion Pictures and will mark Kareena's second collaboration with the production company, her first being the 2018 film 'Veere Di Wedding' where she co-starred with Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania.



Vicky Kaushal shared how he conquered his fears

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal has shared that he got to conquer his fears with the hybrid survival show 'Into the Wild with Bear Grylls'. The show featuring Vicky, which earlier dropped on OTT, is headed to its television premiere and will see the actor tread into the wilderness, traversing dangerous seas with the adventurer host, Bear Grylls while fighting to survive and return to civilisation unharmed.

Talking about the show, Vicky said: "Going on this survival journey with the well-known explorer Bear Grylls was a tremendous experience. Without him, I would not have been able to overcome my apprehension about swimming in this vast ocean."

The trip proved to be a watershed moment for the 'Uri' star as he came out a different person by the end of it.

The actor further mentioned: "This trip also represents a significant turning point in my life because it allowed me to face and overcome one of my many phobias. It is difficult to imagine yourself floating in the middle of the ocean without a solid surface underneath you, but Bear's constant inspiration and persistence encouraged me to win over this."

Their journey on the episode will begin in a cluster of mangroves dominated by crocodiles, sharks and snakes including the uncertain tides and weather. The duo will also navigate the ocean, engaging in an insightful yet revelatory chat where he

Randeep Hooda to bring an intense and authentic story

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Randeep Hooda, is set to bring an intense and authentic story from Punjab with his upcoming crime thriller series 'Cat'. This will be Randeep's second venture in the streaming space after 'Extraction', in which he shared the screen with Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth.

The trailer of the series was unveiled on Friday and it shows Randeep's character of Gurnam Singh, a simpleton, who is compelled to infiltrate the drug cartels of Punjab as he works for the police in a bid to save his brother.

While Gurnam is not new to this, the stakes are high, this time around. He finds himself plunged into the dark world of politics, corruption and crime. The trailer is laced with drama, gore, thrill and brings together the world of Punjab's underbelly, politics, police and drug lords. Commenting on the occasion of trailer release, Randeep said: "Gurnam Singh is fierce yet calm, he is strong yet fragile and while you will find a familiarity with this character, you will not be able to guess his next move. I am thoroughly excited with 'Cat' and that Balli (Balwinder Singh Janjua, the creator) has brought authenticity and genuineness to each and every scene." Created and helmed by filmmaker Balwinder Singh Janjua, the series goes beyond the romanticised version of Punjab and puts forth a story of a brother's love, remission and espionage. Speaking about his foray into direction, creator Balwinder Singh Janjua shares, "'Cat' is a very unique story and I am glad we could collaborate with Netflix to bring this story to life. As a writer and director, I will define 'Cat' as a story of relationships - be it family, friendship or deceit! It's a story set in Punjab and explores two timelines as well as the underbelly and its complexities through well defined characters." "We've shot in over 80 locations across Punjab to bring authenticity and flavour to the fore. Working on 'Cat' has been a rewarding journey and I can't wait for the audience to experience it," he added.



Ammy Virk's new song is for those with incomplete love stories

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Punjabi star Ammy Virk, who is known for his chartbuster song, 'Qismat', has released another song, titled 'Gal Ban Jae'. The track, sung by Ammy also features him as the lead going through heartbreak.

It delves into the sorrow that follows infidelity. It has an anthemic rhythm with the lyrics solidifying its mood of betrayal and heartbreak.

Talking about the song, Ammy, who stars in the video as an anguished lover, said: "'Gal Ban Jae' is a song for those with an incomplete love story. Romantic tracks have a certain connection with most people, the music and lyrics sort of hitting the most vulnerable spot."

He further shared his experience of working on the song and expressed gratitude towards the team for putting out such an amazing song.

"My experience while recording and shooting the song was great. We had a lot of fun shooting. I would like to thank the entire team for giving their best," he added. The music video of the song has been directed by Amanninder Singh.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Adah Sharma