



जनजातीय गौरव दिवस



मंगुभाई पटेल, राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश



जनजातीय समुदाय का सर्वांगीण विकास



- सुविधा और आजीविका के लिये "राशन आपके ग्राम" योजना
- आय वृद्धि के लिये सामुदायिक वन प्रबंधन का अधिकार
- राज्य औषधीय पादप बोर्ड का गठन
- वनोत्पाद एवं वन औषधि को बढ़ावा देने "देवारण्य योजना"
- बेहतर स्वास्थ्य के लिये सिकल सेल मिशन
- व्यावसायिक शिक्षा के अवसरों में वृद्धि हेतु तैयारी के लिये "आकांक्षा योजना"
- रोजगार के लिये युवाओं को इंजीनियरिंग, पुलिस और फौज में भर्ती के लिये प्रशिक्षण
- बैकलॉग पदों पर शीघ्र भर्ती कर रोजगार
- जनजातीय नायकों को सम्मान - बिरसा मुंडा जयंती पर जनजातीय गौरव दिवस का आयोजन, छिंदवाड़ा विश्वविद्यालय का नाम राजा शंकर शाह विश्वविद्यालय
- साहूकारों के शोषण से मुक्ति के लिये कानून
- कुपोषण से मुक्ति के लिये आहार अनुदान योजना
- स्वरोजगार के लिये भगवान बिरसा मुंडा, टंट्या मामा आर्थिक कल्याण एवं मुख्यमंत्री अनुसूचित जनजाति विशेष परियोजना वित्त पोषण योजना
- जनजातीय वर्ग को सभी सुविधायें देने 827 वन ग्रामों का राजस्व गांवों में परिवर्तन



पेसा नियम



अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों में जनजातियों को मिलेंगे पंचायती राज के संवर्धित अधिकार

ग्राम सभाओं का होगा आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण

जनजातीय समुदाय को जल, जंगल और जमीन के प्रबंधन के मिलेंगे अधिकार



absolute india



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Rajouri killings: Muslims stand with Hindus, condemn Pak & terrorists; join protests



► After August 5, 2019 -- when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate J&K's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories -- terrorists have made multiple attempts to divide Hindus and Muslims by carrying out selective killings.

► In Kashmir terrorists carried out the target killings of Kashmiri Pandits and non-local Hindus. In the Jammu region they are trying to do the same.

► When the terrorists attacked Kashmiri Pandits and non-locals in Kashmir in 2021, local Muslims came out in large numbers to express solidarity with Hindus and Pandits. Muslims deplored the actions of the terrorists and castigated them for spilling the blood of innocents.

► In Jammu region they have once again been given a befitting reply as the people have understood that Pakistan and the terror bosses sitting across the Line of Control (LoC) want to pit two communities against each other to vitiate peace.

Srinagar | Agencies

Pakistan sponsored terrorists killing six persons, including two minors, at Dhangri village in Jammu's Rajouri district triggered outrage across Jammu and Kashmir.

On January 1, terrorists fired upon three houses of the members of Hindu community killing four people on the spot and injuring nine others. On January 2, two minors lost their lives when an IED planted by the terrorists in one of the houses attacked by them went off.

The gruesome murders left everyone shell shocked. Muslims condemned the tar-

get killings of the members of Hindu community and joined the anti-Pakistan protests in Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts.

The shutdown call given by the Santan Dharam Sabha Kishtwar and other Hindu organisations against the cold-blooded murder of the civilians was supported by Majles-e-Shoura, an amalgam of various Muslim organisations in Kishtwar and Doda districts.

In response to the shutdown call, business establishments of both the communities remained closed in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Rajouri districts.

Muslims, including Imam

Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, Farooq Ahmed Kichloo, univocally condemned the barbaric murders of innocent Hindus by the terrorists. They sent a clear message to Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it that people of J&K won't allow them to succeed in their design to create a wedge between the two communities by carrying out selective killings.

Muslim scholars in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts reminded the terrorists that Islam is a religion of peace and it doesn't preach killing innocents. They demanded exemplary punishment for the murderers.

'IT'S A HUMAN ISSUE'

SC stays Uttarakhand HC's order for eviction of over 4k families

The petitioners have claimed that they are in possession of valid documents that clearly establish title and valid occupation. Also, the names of the local residents have been recorded in the municipal records in the house tax register and they are paying the house tax regularly. They said there are five government schools, one hospital, and two overhead water tanks in the area.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Uttarakhand High Court direction for eviction of over 4,000 families from the railway land in Haldwani in the state's Nainital district. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Abhay S. Oka said: "There is a human angle to it", and added there cannot be uprooting of several thousand people in seven days.

The bench also noted that it may not be correct to say that paramilitary forces have to be deployed to remove people, who have been living there for many decades. The top court stayed the high court's direction for eviction of families within a week and that their houses be demolished. It observed that a large number of people cannot be uprooted by using force without examining their occupancy rights, and emphasised that alternate arrangements would have to be made before uprooting people.

The petitioners claimed they are poor people who have been lawful residents of Mohalla Nai Basti and Line No 17 &



18, Banbhulpura (Azad Nagar), Haldwani for more than 70 years.

The top court issued notice to the Uttarakhand government and the railways on a batch of petitions filed against the judgment passed by a division bench of the high court on December 20, 2022. During the hearing, the top court asked the railways to find a practical solution to the issue and stressed that many of the occupants have been residing there for decades, claiming rights on the basis of leases and auction purchases. After staying the high court direction, the top court scheduled the matter for further hearing on February 7, and asked the state government and

the railways to find a "practical solution".

CJI RECUSES FROM HEARING CONTEMPT PLEA AGAINST COMEDIAN KUNAL KAMRA

New Delhi: Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday recused himself from hearing a clutch of petitions seeking initiation of contempt action against comedian Kunal Kamra for publishing tweets making undignified and derogatory comments against the top court.

As a bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha took up the petitions seeking contempt action against Kamra, the Chief Justice said the matter will be placed before a bench, where he is not a part, because the comments (tweets) were made on the order, which he had passed.

QUAKE OF 5.98 MAGNITUDE HITS AFGHANISTAN, TREMORS FELT IN DELHI-NCR

New Delhi: Tremors were felt in Delhi and its surrounding areas after an earthquake of magnitude 5.9 struck Afghanistan on Thursday.

The National Center for Seismology, in a tweet, said that an earthquake of magnitude 5.9 occurred at 7.55 p.m. (IST) at latitude 36.39 degrees and longitude 70.66 degrees, at a depth of 200 km, at a point 79km south of Afghanistan's Fayzabad town.

This was the second time this week when tremors were felt in the national capital. On January 1, an earthquake of magnitude 3.8 hit in Haryana's Jhajjar and it also jolted Delhi-NCR at 1.19 a.m.

No work, no pay on strike days for govt employees, rules Kerala HC

Kochi | Agencies

The Kerala High Court has come down heavily on government employees going on strike and directed the government to see that no salary is paid on those days of the strikes called by them.

Its order came while disposing of a petition seeking its intervention to prevent the state government employees from participating in the nationwide strike called by the joint trade unions in November last year. The court pointed out that paying salaries on protest days of the employees is one which will act as an incentive to them to strike and the



state government should see that it takes strong action on this issue. The common practise followed by successive governments in the state is the day the government employees announce a strike, soon comes the directive that dies-non will be applicable to striking employees. But once the protests ends and with the passing of time, that order gets revoked and all get paid also. Now with the court coming down heavily on this, it remains to be seen, if the government will act.

AI conduct unprofessional, led to systemic failure, notes DGCA in urination case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's aviation regulator DGCA has said that the conduct of Air India in the case related to Mumbai businessman urinating on a female co-passenger on board an international AI flight on November 26 last year was unprofessional and has led to a systemic failure.

Observing that provisions related to handling of an unruly passenger onboard have not been complied with, it asked why enforcement action should not be taken against the airline executives concerned for dereliction of their regulatory obligations in the matter.

The aviation regulator has noted that the incident of passenger misbehaviour with a female co-passenger was reported to it only on January 4.

Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Ministry has taken a strong note of the

matter and has asked the airline to conduct a detailed internal probe into the matter and submit the report.

The DGCA on Thursday issued show

cause notices to senior Air India executives and pilots and cabin crew of the flight following receiving a report from the airline on the incident.

Another same incident

New Delhi: Another incident of a drunk air passenger allegedly urinating on a blanket of a female passenger on an Air India flight has come out.

The incident was reported on Air India flight 142 on the Paris-Delhi sector last month but penal action was not initiated, following an apology and mutual compromise. Sources said that the matter was reported to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport and subsequently, the male passenger was apprehended. The flight landed at nearly 9.40 a.m. at Delhi and the airport security was informed about the issue that the male passenger was under the influence of alcohol and he was not following the instructions of the cabin crew, and he later urinated on a blanket of an onboard woman passenger. Sources said that the woman passenger had initially made a written complaint, however, she refused to file a police case and the passenger was allowed to go by the airport security after he cleared immigration and customs formalities.

RAM MANDIR TO BE READY BY JAN 1, 2024: AMIT SHAH

Agartala: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Ram Mandir would be ready by January 1, 2024. The Minister said this while flagging off BJP's 8-day-long "Rath Yatra" in Tripura. He also claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would come to power after the Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held next year with two-third majority.

Shah also urged the people to book their tickets to go to Ayodhya where Ram Mandir would be ready by January 1 next year. Referring to Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, Shah said that the Prime Minister has promised HIRA (Highway, I-way, Railway and Airway) to Tripura, but people of the state also got "Manik" (ruby/gem).

Weeks before the announcement of Assembly elections in Tripura, the ruling BJP initiated the 'Rath Yatra' across Tripura.

If I can, I will cut hair of rapists, gangsters and parade them in public: Raj CM

Udaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday expressed his strong resentment against rapists and gangsters.

"If I can, I will cut the hair of rapists and gangsters and parade them in public at a market place. When such people feel ashamed, others will be scared to commit similar acts," Gehlot said. The Chief Minister said this after he was asked about the increasing cases of gang wars in Rajasthan at a programme here. On Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) cancelling its second grade teacher



recruitment exam due to paper leak in December last year, Gehlot said, "If question papers are leaked, we take prompt action. The government employees and officials involved in the paper leak have been dismissed. We took action immediately." The Chief Minister also said that similar cases of paper leaks have been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar as well, but no arrests were made there. "We reached to the bottom of the paper leak case to find out how it happened. Such gangs are active all over the country," Gehlot said.

Centre stays all tourism and eco-tourism activities at Sammed Shikharji

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Thursday stayed all tourism and eco-tourism activities at the Parasnath Hill in Jharkhand's Giridih district, where Sammed Shikharji, one of the holiest pilgrimage sites for Jains, is located.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has directed the Jharkhand government to strictly enforce the relevant provisions of the management plan for the Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary that specifically prohibit damage to flora or fauna; coming with pets; playing loud music or use of loudspeakers; defiling religious and

cultural significance such as sacred monuments, lakes, rocks, caves, and shrines; sale of liquor, drugs, and other intoxicants etc.; and unauthorised camping and trekking, among others. The move came after the ministry over the last few days received several representations from different organisations representing the Jain Samaj about the issues related to certain activities taking place in the Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary, which adversely affected the sentiments of the followers of Jainism. The grievances included faulty implementation of the provisions of the notification declaring Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary as an Eco Sensitive Zone by the Jharkhand government.

124 INT'L TRAVELERS TEST COVID POSITIVE, 11 TYPES OF VARIANTS FOUND IN INDIA

Avinash Prabhakar | New Delhi

After the Union Health Ministry made it mandatory for foreign arrivals to undergo RT-PCR tests upon their arrival in the country, a total of 124 international passengers have been found to be Covid-19 positive, a source said on Thursday, adding that 11 types of variants have been found so far in India.

The Health Ministry source said that a total of 19,227 international passengers have been screened across all ports in the country from December 24, 2022 to January 3.

Of the 124 positive samples, genome sequencing results of 40 were received in



which the XBB variant, including XBB.1, was found in 14 samples. The other XBB variants are XBB.2, XBB.3, XBB.4, XBB.5.

The BF.7.4.1 variant has been found in one sample so far, the source said.

The source however, said none of the 11 variants seem to causing much problem as of now and no visible impact have been observed so far.

The other variant found in the country include BA.5, BQ.1.1 and BQ.1.122, BQ.1.1.5, CH.1.1, CH.1.1.1, BF.7.4.1 and BB.3.A. However, the source said that no visible impact have been observed of these variants in the country so far.

China under-representing true impact of Covid: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that China is "under-representing the true impact" of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, especially the exact number of deaths.

In a statement on Wednesday, Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said: "We believe that definition (of a Covid death) is too narrow," the BBC reported. China's figures "under-represent the true impact of the disease in terms of hospital admissions, in terms of ICU admissions, and particularly in terms of deaths", he added. Amidst the ongoing outbreak, China has stopped publishing the single-day tallies for Covid-19 cases and deaths.



'False!!! But also slay'

Ellie Goulding denies cheating on Ed Sheeran with Niall Horan

London | Agencies

Singer Ellie Goulding has dismissed rumour that she once cheated on Ed Sheeran with 'One Direction' member Niall Horan. Before heading out for her New Year's Eve plans, the singer posted a casual TikTok video dancing to Harry Styles' 'As It Was', captioning it, "Quick boob checks then we're birthday groovin'," reports 'Billboard'.

However, a follower tried to stir up trouble in the comments section of the breezy post by writing, "can't believe u cheated on ed with niall but slay fr." Goulding

promptly responded, "False!!! But also slay."

The accusation dates back nearly a decade, when the 'Halcyon Days' singer was spotted holding hands with Sheeran in the audience of the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards just one week after a UK tabloid claimed she was packing on the PDA with Horan during an outing to England's V Festival.

At the time, Goulding insisted she and Sheeran were just friends by tweeting: "I love that holding hands with my friends means we're an item. In that case I am in many relationships. Lover not a hater. Whatthef-"

But the 'Shape of You' crooner said otherwise in a radio interview one month after the VMAs. "I mean, normal people don't hold

hands if they're just friends," he said. "It was going on. And now it's not."

The fire of gossip was further stoked the next year when Sheeran released "Don't" as the second single from his 2014 album X. On the track, he details an on-and-off relationship with a fellow singer that ends in infidelity, and another British outlet printed that the song was about Goulding.

In a 2015 profile for Elle UK, Goulding maintained she and Sheeran were never an item, saying, "I did go on a few dates with Niall, but I was never in a relationship with Ed. I have absolutely no idea where that came from and why it was turned into such a big thing."



Madonna 'secretly planning' greatest hits tour to celebrate 40 years in music

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Queen of pop, Madonna, is "secretly planning" her first ever "greatest hits" tour to celebrate the 40th anniversary of her music career. On Wednesday, January 4, 'The Sun' reported that the 'Material Girl' hitmaker is expected to announce new dates in the next few weeks, reports aceshowbiz.com.

A source close to the situation also confirmed to the outlet that the 64-year-old star has booked out London's O2 Arena for multiple events.

"Madonna is trying something completely new and really giving fans, young and old, what they want," the so-called insider shared. "She wants to capitalise on tracks like 'Frozen' and 'Material Girl' popping off on TikTok, and introduce her back catalogue to an entirely new generation."

The informant further explained, "Previously she has always wanted to be forward-facing and focus on whatever new album she's plugging. But now, in her mid-sixties, she is going back to basics and once again reinventing herself." "That being said, it is sure to be no holds barred and suitably risqué," the source added. "Her last 'Madame X' tour was in small theatres, but this one will be in stadiums, with the O2 already confirmed. It's massively exciting."

Her 'Madame X' tour in 2019 and 2020 saw her playing 75 intimate shows at theatres around the world.

Last July, Madonna hinted in an interview with 'Variety' that she's keen to get on the road again. "I'm just looking for interesting, fun ways to re-release my catalogue and introduce my music to a new generation," the "Like a Virgin" singer told the outlet.

"I'm focused on that and I've been writing a screenplay for my film for the last couple of years. The whole thing with 'Frozen' was so fun, but I woke up one day and went, 'I'm sick of living in the past! I want to go on tour again, I'm a creature of the stage. That is my happy place.'"

'First of all it's a JOKE'

Padma Lakshmi hits back at a follower, who criticised her fun video

Los Angeles | Agencies

Indian-American model, TV host, author and activist Padma Lakshmi hits back at a follower, who criticised her fun video, which was shared on her Instagram account, of her and daughter Krishna.

The clip saw the celebrity chef cooking, with her daughter filming her. Her daughter, meanwhile, tried to cover her mom's chest from the camera's view as she put one of her hands in front of it, reports aceshowbiz.com.

When Padma asked her daughter what she was doing, the little girl said that she was "censoring". To that, Padma jokingly replied, "Censoring my boobs? You ate off those boobs for a good year-and-a-half." Further poking fun at the situation, the 52-year-old star wrote in the caption: "Littlehands: 'cover your boobs'. Also Littlehands: 'zooms in on boobs'". Fans in the comments section mostly praised Padma for the witty remarks to Krishna.

However, some others apparently took issue with her response. "As a mom of four daughters, there's a time and a place and when it starts making our daughters uncomfortable because we are being objectified, time to take notice," one person said.

Catching wind of the comment, Padma immediately replied to the individual. "First of all it's a JOKE," she defended herself.

"And my daughter isn't uncomfortable with me or my boobs or my posts, nor does she read these comments unless I show her because she isn't on social media." "It's really not that serious folks," the Bravo star stressed. The food writer later told the person that her daughter is not on social media because "she has her studies to attend to".

'I'm not very good at talking'

Los Angeles | Agencies



Simon Cowell doesn't believe he's talk show host material

Television personality Simon Cowell does not believe he's talk show host material. In a recent interview with E! News, the 'America's Got Talent' judge revealed that he has no plans to host his own daytime talk show - and even backed out of a previous offer to do so, reports people.com. "I got to the point where they built the set and I started to get anxious and then really stressed out, and I just walked out the meeting," Cowell told the outlet after being asked if he would consider hosting a daytime talk show like his American Idol discoveries Kelly Clarkson and Jennifer Hudson. He continued, "I just said I literally couldn't do this. I just couldn't talk to people all day long. I'm not very good at talking." While he may not be the right person for the gig, Cowell continues to be great at identifying talents and is resuming his role judging alongside Howie Mandel and Heidi Klum on AGT: All-Stars, a new extension of the beloved series on NBC, which premiered on Monday. Speaking previously to 'PEOPLE' about the show, Cowell said, "It was terrific and it was really fascinating to see people who've competed on the American show and done really well, competing with people who won the show in other countries."

"The dynamic was fascinating ... and what really was great and cool about the show was that so many people decided to come back and compete," he added.

James Wan is contemplating a "M3GAN" sequel'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker James Wan is already contemplating a 'M3GAN' sequel. The filmmaker is a producer for the new sci-fi horror flick about a robotic doll that becomes extremely protective of a child and he explained how the flick could develop into a franchise, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"What I will say to that is, whether it's The Conjuring Universe, or 'Saw', or 'Malignant', or 'M3GAN' here, we like to think of a bigger world," James told Collider.

"For me, it's about creating the world, and knowing who the characters are, where the story could potentially go, and then building this bigger world, and then going into that and going, 'Okay, I'm telling this particular story, but I know other stuff that's going on.'"

The director added, "So if we're fortunate enough to have sequels, then we have an idea of where we want to go."

'M3GAN' helmer Gerard Johnstone recently revealed how the movie, which stars Allison Williams and Violet McGraw, had to have reshoots to get a PG-13 age rating.

The director told Total Film magazine, "Making it PG-13 was something that hap-



pened after the fact, but it was always close to PG-13 anyway."

"It seemed kind of a mistake not to embrace it. I even remember thinking early on, 'This could be PG-13, and some of my

favourite films like 'Drag Me to Hell' are PG-13.' So we made the decision to go PG-13 and actually reshot a couple of things."

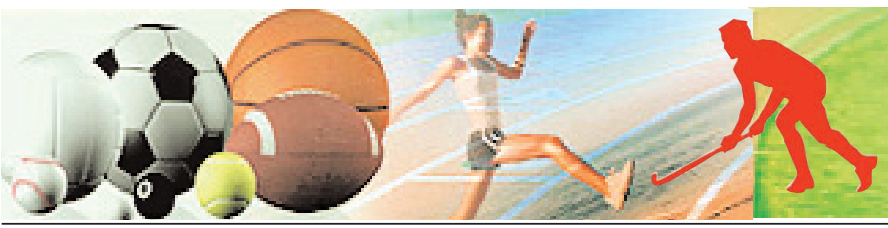
Johnstone claimed that the reshoots actually enhanced the quality of the picture. He

said, "What I was really stoked about is that when we reshot those scenes, they were more effective. It's like, 'Yes, you do have to cut away at certain times', but it's fun having to rely on sound and suggestion so much."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Coco Lodge



IND v SL 2nd T20I

SHANAKA'S BLASTING 56 HELPED SRI LANKA RACE TO 206/6

Pune | Agencies

Opener Kusal Mendis and skipper Dasun Shanaka blasted quick-fire half-centuries as Sri Lanka powered to 206/6 off 20 overs against India in the second T20I at Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium. Mendis hammered a 31-ball 52 and Shanaka raced to an unbeaten 56 off 22 balls, hitting the fastest fifty on this ground off 20 deliveries as Sri Lanka made merry against an Indian attack that struggled to make a mark. After Mendis had given the visitors a good start by racing to his fifty off 27 deliveries on being asked to bat first, Shanaka went better as he blazed to a half-century off 20 balls -- both of them feasting on some ineffective medium-pace bowling. Shanaka was totally dominant in the death overs and with Charith Asalanka hammering a 19-ball 37, Sri Lanka blasted 77 runs for loss of two wickets in the last five overs, thus reaching the second-highest score on



this ground. For India, Umran Malik claimed 3-48 while Axar Patel took 2-24. Shivam Mavi, the hero of India's 2-run victory in the first match, conceded 53 runs without success in four overs while Arshdeep, who was brought in place of Harshal Patel, gave away 37 runs off two overs, sending down five no-balls in the process. It was a poor performance by the Indians with the ball and barring

Umran and Axar, other bowlers were quite ineffective. Earlier, after a quiet first over sent down by Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep bowled a wild one, with three no-balls, and was carted around by Kusal Mendis for a four and six, conceding 19 runs in the over. But India pulled back things a bit and Yuzvendra Chahal gave them the much-needed breakthrough when he caught Mendis (52, 31b, 3x4,

4x6) LBW with a slider that cramped the batter for space. The field umpire was unmoved but the DRS ruled in favour of the bowler. Umran Malik castled Bhanuka Rajapaksa (2) with a 147-kph thunderbolt and when debutant Rahul Tripathi brilliantly caught Nissanka near the boundary rope off Axar Patel, Sri Lanka were 96/3 in the 12th over. Malik was on fire and uprooted the stumps with a 140kph delivery to send Wanindu Hasaranga back for wickets off successive balls. Dasun Shanaka, who was caught by Suryakumar Yadav off an Arshdeep no-ball, then hammered a few big ones to help Sri Lanka to a defendable total. He struck two fours and 6 sixes in all to lead his team from the front.

Brief scores

Sri Lanka: 206/6 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 52, Dasun Shanaka 56 not out, Charith Asalanka 37, Pathum Nissanka 33; Umran Malik 3-48, Axar Patel 2-24) v India.

Premier League

Tottenham bounce back with 4-0 win against Crystal Palace

London | Agencies

Harry Kane scored twice as Tottenham Hotspur returned to form with a 4-0 win away to Crystal Palace and revived their chances of a top-four finish. Palace were the better side in the first 45 minutes on Wednesday night, but failed to take their chances and were made to suffer when Kane netted in the 48th and 53rd minute to take the game almost out of reach. Matt Doherty and Son Heung-min added further goals in the 68th and 72nd minutes to take some pressure off Coach Antonio Conte, who had been criticized after recent poor results. It was honours even in the game between two Spanish coaches, as Unai Emery's Aston Villa came back from a goal down to draw 1-1 with Julien Lopetegui's Wolverhampton Wanderers. Daniel Podence put



Wolves ahead in the 12th minute, but Danny Ings showed his poacher's instinct to level the game 12 minutes from time, reports Xinhua. Nottingham Forest climbed out of the bottom three with a 1-0 win away to Southampton. Taiwo Awoniyi swept home the only goal of

the match in the 27th minute, leaving Southampton with six consecutive defeats and also dropping Everton into the bottom three as a consequence. Wednesday night's final match saw Leeds United and West Ham draw 2-2.

India, Pakistan in same group for Asia Cup 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India and Pakistan have been included in the same group for Asia Cup 2023 to be held in September, confirmed Asian Cricket Council President (ACC) Jay Shah while releasing the cricket calendar for 2023/24. Also joining India and Pakistan for the tournament will be Bangladesh, defending champions Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and a team from the qualifiers. But in the calendar, there is no mention of the host venue for Asia Cup 2023. Shah, who is also the Honorary Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), posted through his social media accounts the "pathway structure and cricket calendars" for cricket in Asia. As per the calendar, ACC will organize 145 games in both ODIs and T20Is during its two-year cycle. On the further breakdown of the cycle, 75 games will be played in 2023 while 70 matches are set to happen in 2024. The men's emerging (U23) Asia Cup is also back again.



As per the new calendar, 2023 will kick off with Men's Challengers Cup, a ten-team 50-over tournament, featuring Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Maldives, Thailand, Iran and two yet-to-be-named teams. Teams will be divided into two groups of five teams each. 2024 will start off with Men's and Women's T20 Challenger Cup in February and March respectively. It will be followed by Men's and Women's T20 Premier Cup in April and May respectively.

Third-tier Intercity push Barcelona all the way in Copa del Rey

Alicante (Spain) | Agencies

Spanish giants FC Barcelona were given a huge fright by third-tier CF Intercity but ultimately prevailed 4-3 in their third-round Copa del Rey tie. The side from Alicante fell behind Barca on three separate occasions on Wednesday night, but each time they fought back to force extra time, only for Barca to win the game with a deflected shot from Ansu Fati. Things looked to be going to plan for Barca in the fourth minute, when Ronald Araujo, back after injury, powered home a header from a corner. Intercity defended in depth in the first half, but switched to a 4-4-2 formation after the break and took the game to their rivals. Oriol Soldevilla took advantage of



some poor defending in the 59th minute to level following a corner, and although Ousmane Dembele put

Barca back in front six minutes later, Soldevilla again equalized with a smart header.

Atletico Madrid are also into the last 16 with a 2-0 win away to Oviedo, thanks to Marcos Llorente's first-half goal and an 83rd-minute effort from 19-year-old Pablo Barros, reports Xinhua. Sevilla put their poor league form behind them with a 5-0 win away to Linares. Morocco international Youssef En-Nesyri scored a hat-trick, with Erik Lamela and an own goal helping to complete the rout. Robert Navarro's 33rd-minute goal was enough to give Real Sociedad a 1-0 win away to third-tier Logrones and book the 2020 winners a place in the last 16. Mallorca needed extra time to win away to Pontevedra, with Abdou Prats putting them ahead in the 97th minute and Vedat Muriqi sealing the win soon afterwards. Elsewhere, Alaves won 1-0 against Real Valladolid.

Adelaide International 1

Djokovic survives Halys test to sail into quarterfinals

Adelaide | Agencies

Novak Djokovic faced a stern test by Frenchman Quentin Halys as he battled into the Adelaide International 1 quarterfinals with a 7-6(3), 7-6(5) win. Djokovic will next play Canadian Denis Shapovalov, who registered a comfortable win over Roman Safiullin 6-4, 6-3, the second straight qualifier he has subdued following his first-round win over Australian Rinky Hijikata. "It was a great performance from my opponent today. I want to con-



gratulate him for great quality and a great fight," Adelaide International quoted Djokovic as saying. "Tough luck but he played like a top-10 player today no doubt. As far as my game goes, I feel good on the court. I didn't have such a great start; I lost my serve early. He was serving really well, fast, big serves, hitting

his spots in the box very well. "Just difficult to play in this kind of court that is really fast. It kind of favours the server. If you're serving well, it's tough to break the serve of a big server like him, so two tiebreaks were probably the most realistic score of today's match. Just glad to overcome the tough challenge. "Playing his second singles match of 2023, the Serb was trailing 5-2 in the first set as world No.64 Halys broke the top seed in the opening game. But the world No. 7 fought back at the crunch point in time to force the tiebreak.

Tata Open Maharashtra

MARIN CILIC PULLS OUT OF QUARTERFINAL AFTER KNEE INJURY

Pune | Agencies

Top seed Marin Cilic of Croatia withdrew from his quarterfinal match of the Tata Open Maharashtra on Thursday due to a knee injury. Cilic, who was scheduled to play Dutch player Tallon Griekspoor in the last-eight match, sustained an injury during the warm-up. "Very sorry that I couldn't come out again today to compete. Today during the warm-up I injured my knee and unfortunately it didn't get better until I was about to go out on the court," Cilic said in a statement released by the organizers on Twitter. "Thanks to the fans for the great support this week, it was



fantastic. I'm looking forward to return to India in the future to compete over here again," he added. Griekspoor will play Aslan Karatsev in the semifinals, who has defeated Pedro Martinez 6-1, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Rani returns to action as India name women squad for South Africa tour

Bengaluru | Agencies

Veteran star and former captain Rani Rampal returns to international hockey as Hockey India on Thursday announced the Indian women's hockey team squad for the upcoming tour of South Africa, set to begin on January 16, 2023, in Cape Town. The veteran forward will be back in the squad for the first time since FIH Women's Hockey Pro League 2021/22 match against Belgium. Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, who led the Indian women's junior team at the Uniphair U23 5 Nations Tournament 2022 in May, has received her maiden call for the senior team. On the tour, India, who recently won the inaugural edition of the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022 in Valencia, will play four matches against South Africa, and three matches against the Netherlands between January 16 to 29, 2023. Goalkeeper Savita continues to be the captain for the tour with experienced campaigner Navneet Kaur as the Vice-Captain of the team.



Speaking on the tour, Indian women's hockey team chief coach Janneke Schopman said. "The South Africa tour is a brilliant opportunity for us to build on our performance of the Nations Cup. Playing both South Africa as well as The Netherlands on this tour provides us with everything we need to learn about ourselves come the Asian Games. "Playing the World number 1 Netherlands will most likely expose our vulnerabilities and will also show where we are with our performance and growth. Playing South Africa, where we most likely will have more of the ball, will give us the opportunity to improve in ball possession areas," she added.

Serie A

Juve, Milan win as action resumes after World Cup break

Rome (Italy) | Agencies

Italy's Serie A restarted with leaders Napoli seeing their unbeaten run ended as Inter Milan inflicted the season's first defeat on the Partenopei with a 1-0 victory. Serie A had been on a World Cup-enforced hiatus since November 14. Napoli were flying high before Wednesday's game as they led the table with 41 points and were the only unbeaten side in Europe's top five leagues, while Inter Milan had picked up 30 points after 15 rounds. Napoli dominated possession at San Siro, but it was the home side that scored the only goal in the 55th minute, as Federico Dimarco crossed from the left and Edin Dzeko steered a header into the net. Napoli's defeat allowed second-placed AC Milan to cut the gap to five points as the Rossoneri won 2-1 away at Salernitana thanks to goals from Rafael Leao and Sandro Tonali. Juventus registered their seventh consecutive win as the Bianconeri edged past Cremonese 1-0 with Arkadiusz Milik's free-kick in stoppage time, reports



Xinhua. The two capital clubs were locked on 30 points after Wednesday as Roma beat Bologna 1-0 thanks to Lorenzo Pellegrini's penalty, while Lazio fumbled a 1-0 lead to lose 2-1 to Lecce. Elsewhere, Atalanta came from 2-0 down to hold Spezia 2-2, while Sampdoria beat Sassuolo 2-1 away. The matches between Torino and Hellas Verona, Fiorentina and Monza, and Udinese against Empoli all finished 1-1.

Everyone should know that they have a fighting chance to play in the World Cup: Kumar Sangakkara

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Legendary Sri Lanka cricketer Kumar Sangakkara believes that every player in the Indian team has to be made aware that they have a good chance of playing in the ODI World Cup, to be held in October and November this year in India. "Your best players have to play a lot of ODI cricket, the rest that are in support can be rotated around them, but everyone should know that they stand a fighting chance to be in that 15." "They must play enough ODI cricket, get enough cricket in their legs and bodies, to make sure they are fit, that they know how to play the ODI game in this year, and they are fluent and they play together as a team." "And that their ODI skill levels are at peak so they can go ahead and win the world cup, so that's



got to be their main target, irrespective of what happens around them," said Sangakkara on 'Road to World Cup Glory' show on Star

Sports. "I think T20 has impacted all formats including test cricket positively, but the real key is having

your best players available to play for you in the World Cup. And you can't sustain all your best players playing back-to-back cricket in every format and expect all of them to be fit and ready." "You have to really manage the workload, you can have squads of 20, 30 whatever you want but at the end of the day you got to identify very early what your core side is, what the core is going to be around which you build all the other players to add on." "Because if you take the Indian side, everyone knows what the core is, everyone knows who the most important players are and you have a strenuous season ahead. So, you got to be really smart about how you control the workload. And you have the IPL, you have the entire cricket. But if it's a one-day world cup year, that's got to be the main focus."

THE CRUSH OF MILLIONS OF HEARTS:

DEEPIKA'S
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The crush of millions of hearts, Deepika Padukone celebrated her birthday yesterday. She has been synonymous with versatility with the choices she has made in her 15-year-long career.

Ever since her debut in 2007 with Om Shanti Om, the actress has been constantly emerging and evolving as a powerhouse of talent. Deepika has never ceased to leave a lasting impression everytime with the characters she portrays on the big screen.

Many celebrities like SRK, Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma, Prabhas, Sara Ali Khan and many more wished the actress on their social media accounts.

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan took to Instagram on Thursday to wish his friend and Pathaan co-star Deepika Padukone a very happy birthday. Khan shared a new poster of Deepika from the upcoming Yash Raj Films actioner with a caption that read, "To my dearest Deepika Padukone - how you have evolved to own the screen in every avatar possible! Always proud and always wishing for you to scale new heights... happy birthday... lots of love..."

Katrina Kaif shared a picture and extended her wishes. Sharing the image, Katrina wrote: "Happy birthday to u Deepika Padukone. May this year be only full of only health, peace and happiness."

Anushka Sharma also shared a photo of Deepika and wrote: "Happy birthday Deepika Padukone. Wishing you love and light always."

Deepika Padukone's Project K co-star Prabhas also wished the actress. "Happy birthday to you girl with a gorgeous smile, the one who lights up the Project on sets with her energy and talent. Wish you the best, always!" wrote Prabhas in his Instagram story.

Sara Ali Khan also wished Deepika Padukone and wrote: "Happy Birthday Deepika Padukone, hope you have the best day and a wonderful year ahead, wishing you all the luck, love, laughter, joy and abundance. Continue shining, dazzling and ruling," along with many emojis.



'The character is like me in a lot of ways'

Saavir Omana finds a connection between her real and reel personality

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Saavir Omana is a part of the ongoing show 'Rabb Se Hai Dua'. She plays the role of Kaynaat in the show and the actress shares how much she connects with her character.

Saavir shares: "Kaynaat is like me in a lot of ways. She is a simple next door sort of a girl, which I really like about her. The way she looks at things, her positivity, are things that we have in common. It is not at all difficult to get into the skin of my character because she feels real. Kaynaat is a humble person who just wants to help everyone and is very emotional about her loved ones."

On the challenges she faced while playing her character: "No it's not difficult or I would say I'm loving it as I'm learning new things being Kaynaat Akhtar on the show. The best thing is that I am doing something that I have done before," adds the 'Dharm Yodha Garud' actress. The actress says she prefers keeping her personal and professional lives separate, as she says: "There are few things that are there in Kaynaat which are very different from mine. As far as dissociation is concerned, I always leave my character on the set right after my pack-up because that is the job as an artist to keep things separate or else it will get difficult. The difference between Kaynaat and Saavir helps this process."

SRK'S NICKNAME FOR ALIA BHATT IS 'AMMA BHATT KAPOOR'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

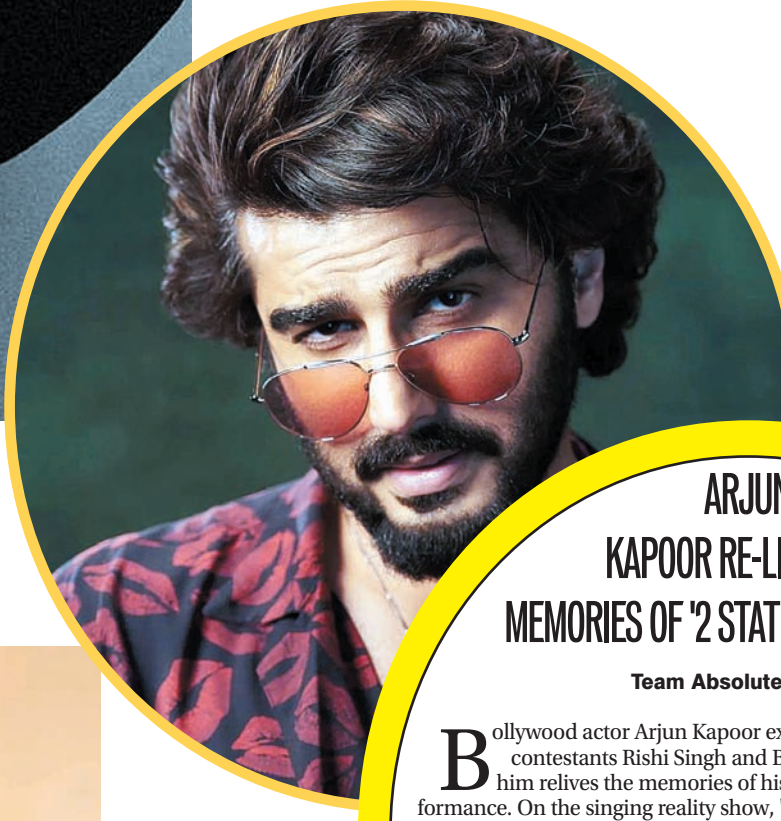
Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has shared a nickname for actress Alia Bhatt after she said she will call him 'Pathaan' after the film's release. Alia had a banter filled exchange with SRK on Twitter, where the actor treated his fans with an 'Ask SRK' session on Twitter. Alia joined the question and answer session, as she responded to a fan, who had asked Shah Rukh, "Why does Alia call you just SR?"

Responding to why Alia called Shah Rukh only 'SR', the actor tweeted He wrote, "Could mean sweet and romantic or maybe senior and respected or maybe just Shah Rukh."

Alia revealed what 'SR' stood for, and tweeted, "More like sweet and respected :) But from 25th January I'm going to switch to calling you Pathaan. See I'm so creative na."

After Alia announced her new name for Shah Rukh, he too, came up with a name for Alia.

In reference to Alia's daughter Raha Kapoor, he tweeted, "Done little one. And I am now going to call you little Amma (mother) Bhatt Kapoor!"



ARJUN KAPOOR RE-LIVES THE MEMORIES OF '2 STATES' MOVIE AGAIN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor expressed his gratitude towards contestants Rishi Singh and Bidipta Chakraborty for making him relives the memories of his film '2 States' through their performance. On the singing reality show, 'Indian Idol 13', Rishi along with Bidipta Chakraborty performed on the track 'Mast Magan', originally sung by Arijit Singh for the 2014 film '2 States'. After looking at their performance, Arjun, who acted in the film opposite Alia Bhatt, praised Rishi and Bidipta for singing the duet that took him down memory lane and he recalled his shooting days. He shared: "I finally saw your face Rishi, you sang the entire song facing her! I could sense another vibe and emotion while you were performing. I feel both of you did justice to this song and thank you for making me relive '2 States' again."

Arjun Kapoor, Tabu, Aasmaan Bhardwaj, Rekha Bhardwaj and Vishal Bhardwaj are coming on the sets of the singing reality show to promote their film 'Kuttye' Vishal Dadlani, Neha Kakkar, and Himesh Reshammiya are seen as judges on 'Indian Idol 13'.



Major fight breaks out after Shalin pushes Priyanka

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an upcoming episode of 'Bigg Boss 16', a major fight will be seen taking place between Shalin Bhanot and Priyanka Chahar Choudhary amid a task. In the task, the voice of Bigg Boss will be heard saying that it has been 14 weeks and who according to the contestants still needs a clear vision.

A contestant has to name another housemate who is confused and unclear about his/her thoughts; post taking a name they have to give explanation and apply foam on them. Sumbul calls Shalin and says he is very unpredictable by nature. Nimrit too names Shalin and says that reality show mein real side kidhar hai samaj nahi aaya. Sajid calls Sreejita



because he finds her confusing. "I am not able to understand her character who is she exactly," says Sajid. Sreejita names Archana and says she is very unpredictable. "Samaj nahi aata next move kya hoga."

She then calls Sumbul and says initially she was quite a bubbly and chirpy girl, the vibrance that she had is lost. Priyanka calls Shalin and says is very confused. "Samaj hi nahi aata ki chal raha hai. Oversmart bhi banne ki koshish karte hai. Inki baatein bahut zyada contradict hoti hai." A huge fight between Priyanka and Shalin as he jerks away her hand while she was trying to put foam on him. As shocking as it sounds, but Tina calls Shalin and says he fights and disrespects a lot. "False promises karta hai. It's always about mein mein mein", she said.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Tara Sutaria