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GURUGRAM: VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT; MEAT, SCRAP SHOPS & SHANTIES ATTACKED

Over 50 people have been arrested in connection with the communal violence while 18 FIRs have been registered across various police stations here, an official said on Wednesday, adding no fresh violence has been reported. The arrested people also include four individuals who were involved in the killing of an Imam in the Sector 57 area where a mosque was attacked. The suspects have been identified as Ankit, Rahul, Rakesh and Ravinder -- all aged between 23 to 32. They are residents of Tigra village in Gurugram. According to the police, a group of 100 people had attacked the mosque in Sector 57 and pelted stones and fired 15 to 20 gunshots on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

► Panic has gripped shopkeepers in Gurugram after several shops were attacked as a result of the communal violence in Haryana's Nuh district, with several migrants workers leaving the city in fear.
► Amid the violence, several meat shops, scrap shops and furniture repair shops at Gurugram's Pataudi Chowk, Khandasa Road, and Sector-70 were attacked on Tuesday.
► Some shopkeepers have posted notices outside their businesses, saying they belonged to a certain community in an effort to avoid any untoward acts of violence by agitated mobs.



"The role of absconding Bajrang Dal's Monu Manesar and a suspicious video that widely spread before the rally is being probed. 41 FIRs have been registered in Nuh. The overall situation in Gurugram and Nuh was normal. A huge police force have been stationed across the two districts to maintain law and order."



SIT to be formed, role of Monu Manesar being probed: Haryana DGP

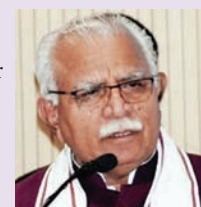
Gurugram | Agencies

Fresh violence was witnessed in Gurugram as several meat shops, scrap shops and furniture repairing shops were attacked at Pataudi Chowk in Khandasa Road, while multiple shanties were set on fire in Sector-70 on Tuesday. However, the fire officials claimed that no casualties were reported in any of the incidents. Earlier on Tuesday, at least four eateries and scrap shops were set ablaze by a group of people in the Badshahpur area. More than 200 men in different vehicles carrying petrol bottles set them on fire. Communal violence also spilled to Palwal and over 25-30 shanties were torched. In Gurugram's Sector 57 area, a 26-year-old man was killed and a religious place set ablaze as the violence spread from neigh-

bouring Nuh district, the police said. Following the fresh incident, the Gurugram police have appealed to the public not to disrupt the law and order situation in the city. "Amid violence reported in Gurugram, a number of police personnel have been deployed at key locations across Gurugram. People can inform the Gurugram police while dialling 112 about any violence," Varun Dahiya, ACP (crime) said.

We will help Rajasthan arresting Monu Manesar: Haryana CM

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Wednesday said the state government would provide help to Rajasthan arresting Bajrang Dal member Monu Manesar, who has been blamed by police as one of the triggering factors of violence in Muslim-dominated Nuh district. He said Rajasthan Police are free to act against him and his government will extend all needed help. On conspiracy angle in this week's violence that spread over to neighbouring Gurugram too, Khattar told the media here that "it is not correct to speak now, let probe find it out". Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister alleged "big conspiracy behind the Nuh violence".



Muslim cop with Hindu name dies combatting mob

Gurugram: When Neeraj, 37, joined his colleagues in Haryana Police to contain the communal violence that spilled over to Gurugram from Nuh on Monday, little did he or anyone in his family anticipate that it was going to be his last day of duty in uniform. Having served the Haryana Police with discipline and dedication for 15 years, Home Guard Neeraj, a Muslim man with a Hindu name, was the sole bread-earner of his family. As communal violence in the Nuh district of Haryana spread to the adjoining Gurugram district, the Kherki Daula police station, where Khan was posted, received frantic calls for help from panic-stricken citizens. Neeraj, a resident of Garhi Wajidpur village in Gurugram, joined his colleagues as they went out to confront a violent mob carrying weapons such as guns, swords, iron rods, sticks and stones. As his colleagues were attacked by a raging mob, Neeraj also sustained a number of grievous blows from sticks and rods all over his body. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Monday evening. Neeraj is survived by his wife Wakila, two children -- Nitin (10) and Nikita (6), and brothers, Sunil Khan and Sonu Khan.

Security beefed up in Manipur ahead of mass burial of killed Kukis



Imphal | Agencies

Security has been beefed up in Manipur's Churachandpur district, where tribal organisations have planned mass burial of slain Kukis on Thursday. Tribal leaders on Wednesday said that the burial of Kuki-Zo "martyrs" would be done on Thursday at Peace Ground, Tuibuong (Lamka) in Churachandpur. A large gathering of tribals expected to be held in Churachandpur on Thursday on the occasion. Police said that additional security forces have been deployed in the mass burial site and adjoining areas to prevent any untoward incident. Meanwhile, the Meitei organisations strongly opposed the tribal organisations' mass burial move. The leader of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of the Meitei community, said that the so-called Kuki leaders should not play politics over the dead bodies. "Every dead body of the Meitei community was being cremated at their native villages with due respect and recognition by their own near and dear ones. Likewise we expect the Kuki people to follow the same practice in performing the last rites of the dead persons," a COCOMI leader said. He said that encroaching of the government land is also a violation of laws and burying all together to newly create a mass grave at the abandoned Meitei villages would not only provoke the sentiments of the people in both sides but also remain as a symbol of permanent enmity among the villagers. Since May 3, when the ethnic violence broke out, so far Kuki groups had never done anything that is acceptable to the law of the land, the COCOMI leader alleged. The COCOMI requested the government to do something which would prove that the rule of law prevails in Manipur. "We also request to check the identity of all the dead bodies too before being cremated at their respective village as per the law and confirm their citizenship," the organisation said in a statement.

Bihar caste census

Ensure teaching in schools should not suffer: Additional Chief Secretary

Patna | Agencies
Following resumption of caste based census in Bihar, Education Department Additional Chief Secretary K.K Pathak issued fresh guidelines to all district magistrates asking them to ensure that the teaching in schools should not suffer. He has asked the district magistrates to include teachers only in survey work and no other administrative work should be assigned to the teachers. Pertinently, following Patna High Court verdict to lift the ban on caste based census, the district administrations are assigning physical surveys to the teaching staff of schools and colleges so that the census gets over in minimum time. Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar Singh, while



inspecting the survey in Phulwarisharif on Wednesday claimed to complete the physical survey within one week. Meanwhile, Bihar government has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court and requested it not to issue fresh directives before listening to the points of the Bihar government about the caste based census.

AIRBUS BELUGA LANDS AT HYDERABAD AIRPORT

Hyderabad: Airbus Beluga, one of the world's largest cargo aircraft, landed at the Hyderabad International Airport on Wednesday. The Beluga whale shaped plane is known for its ability to transport oversized air cargo. The Hyderabad airport is thrilled to host the whale of the sky once again, airport operator GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited said on Wednesday. The airport authorities made special arrangements for its landing, parking and take-off. This is the second time in eight months that the Airbus Beluga landed at the Hyderabad airport. The airport had hosted the aircraft in December last year. The world's biggest cargo aircraft Antonov An-225 had also landed in Hyderabad in 2016. The airport was chosen based on the infrastructure strength and technical parameters.



50K mines to be auctioned in Rajasthan as SC sets aside HC stay order

Jaiapur | Agencies
In a relief to the Ashok Gehlot-led Rajasthan government, the Supreme Court has stayed the Rajasthan High Court's order related to auctioning of mines. Following the decision, the Rajasthan government would now be able to action more than 50,000 mines in the state. The orders had been issued by Justices AS Bopanna and MM Sundresh of the Supreme Court. Senior lawyer Manish Singhvi appeared in the Supreme Court for the Rajasthan government. The Gehlot government in its



previous tenure had canceled the old allocation policy by bringing a new rule for mining auctions. Due to this, the applications that had come for the allotment of more than 50,000 small mines across the state were cancelled. The applicants challenged this decision of the government in the Rajasthan High Court. After hearing the matter, the High Court, while

giving its verdict in March 2013, canceled the decision of the Gehlot government and asked to allocate the mines under the old policy. This order by the High Court was challenged by the state government in the Supreme Court. Before 2013, the government used to allot mines on a first-come first-serve basis. After hearing the arguments of both sides, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled in favor of the Gehlot government. The Supreme Court, setting aside the March 2013 High Court decision, re-instated the Gehlot government's decision to auction the mines.

Congress seeks clarification on BJP MLA's demand to divide Manipur

Imphal | Agencies
Opposition Congress on Wednesday asked the Manipur government to clarify it stand about the demand of BJP MLA Paoli Lal Haokip to divide the state into three union territories to restore peace and normalcy in the violence hit state. Haokip, is one of the 10 MLAs (including seven belonging to BJP), who along with several other tribal organisations since May 12 have been demanding to create separate administrations (equivalent to separate state) for the tribals, who constitute 40 per cent of Manipur's three million populations. Manipur state Congress Vice-President Hareeshwor Goswami rejecting Haokip's demand disclosed that Kuki outfits -- United Peoples' Front (UPF) and Kuki National Organisation (KNO) -- recently held talks with the Union Home Ministry where-



in the demand of creating union territories was floated. Home Ministry's Advisor A. K Mishra was also present in the meeting, held in New Delhi. A total of 23 underground outfits under two conglomerates -- 8 under UPF and 15 under KNO -- are currently under Suspension of Operation (SoO) with the Government of India since August, 2008.

India's major banks remain unprepared to confront climate risks: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi
A report by Climate Risk Horizons on Wednesday said that India's major banks remain unprepared to confront climate risks. The report titled 'Still Unprepared' builds on a 2022 assessment and finds that despite the accelerating impacts of climate change, there remain significant gaps in the preparedness of the Indian banking sector to measure, manage and mitigate climate risks. The analysis finds little progress towards climate-preparedness among India's 34 largest banks that have a combined market cap of Rs 29.5 trillion. The analysis ranks banks on several criteria, including a Fossil Fuel Exclusion Policy, Emissions



Disclosure, Climate scenario analysis and Net Zero Targets. While Yes Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank have emerged as the top three performers in climate-risk preparedness, IndusInd Bank has slipped down four places since the last assessment. Suryoday Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank continue to be the only banks that have a policy against financing new coal projects, one of the leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Since the last assessment in March 2022, eight banks have started disclosing some Scope 3 emissions (emissions that are an indirect result of the bank's activities) in addition to Scope 1 and 2. Yes Bank remains the only bank to measure its financed emissions, but this too is only for the electricity sector. YES Bank is also the only bank to have explicitly identified climate risk as a Pillar 2 risk under its Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP). At a time when climate disruption in the form of extreme weather events has hit new extremes, not a single bank has yet undertaken climate-related scenario analyses to gauge the resiliency of their portfolios. The report also finds that public banks in particular are failing to adequately finance India's energy transition. For example, public sector banks have accounted for less than eight per cent of total financing for the renewable energy sector. Only 10 banks have disclosed their green financing activities. The Reserve Bank of India has accepted that the climate crisis could pose a systemic risk to the Indian economy.

Gold prices gain after US government's credit rating was downgraded by Fitch

Team Absolute | New Delhi
Gold prices gained slightly after the US government's credit rating was downgraded by Fitch, says Hareesh V, Head of Commodities at Geojit Financial Services. "Usually, economic uncertainties and dollar volatility can have significant impacts on the price and demand for gold as it is considered a safe-haven asset. The rating downgrade of the world's largest economy tends investors to park their money in relatively safer assets like bullion," he said. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities said gold prices have shown positive rally on safe-haven demand as Fitch downgrades the US Credit Rating, reflecting heightened concerns over the stability of global financial markets and investors seeking refuge in the timeless allure of gold. With many crises passed from the China-US trade war, pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war and now US debt crisis, gold will be on investors top list to keep funds allocated in times of uncertainty. Gold broadly looks likely to take support of 58000, as even if Spot gold underperforms due to dollar rise the rupee fall adds domestic Gold price to remain positive towards 60000-62000 in near term, he said.





TERMED 'ARROGANT' BECAUSE REFUSED TO APOLOGISE IN 'MODI SURNAME' DEFAMATION CASE: RAHUL TO SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi has filed a rejoinder affidavit before Supreme Court, saying that he was described as "arrogant" by the complainant BJP MLA Purnesh Modi because he has refused to apologise in the 'Modi surname' defamation case.

"The reply uses slanderous terms such as 'arrogant' to describe the petitioner (Rahul Gandhi) only because he has refused to apologise," said the latest affidavit filed in response to the reply filed by the respondent before the Supreme Court.

It said that Gandhi has always maintained that he is not guilty of offence and "if he had to apologise and compound the offence, he would have done it much earlier".

In legal proceedings, a rejoinder affidavit is the response by the petitioner to the reply or counter affidavit filed by the respondent. The counter-affidavit filed recently by the original



complainant in the matter said that Gandhi displayed "arrogance" and his petition before the Supreme Court "deserves to be dismissed with exemplary costs". It said that Gandhi had "disreputable antecedents" and referred to his criminal prosecution in the National Herald case, where he is on bail and the other case relating

to defamation of Veer Savarkar.

The rejoinder affidavit filed by Gandhi said: "The pending cases cannot be used against the accused as criminal antecedents unless he is convicted of an offence."

As per the counter-affidavit filed by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi before the top court opposing Gandhi's plea for

stay of conviction, "at the time of sentencing before the trial court, the petitioner (Rahul Gandhi) far from being repentant or contrite, displayed arrogance. He said he did not seek any mercy from the court and would not apologise for any harm to reputation of the persons he had defamed".

It said that Gandhi made the defamatory statement out of "personal hatred" towards an elected Prime Minister of the country, and "deserves no sympathy" on the question of the sentence imposed. On July 21, the Supreme Court agreed to examine the plea filed by Rahul Gandhi against the Gujarat High Court's verdict denying to put a stay on his conviction in the 'Modi surname' defamation case.

A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Prashant Kumar Mishra had issued a notice on the question as to whether the conviction should be suspended or not. It was, however, not inclined to pass any interim relief on Gandhi's plea praying for suspension of his sentence.

Nepali civil society members express concern over Manipur crisis

Kathmandu | Agencies

A group of Nepali civil society members on Wednesday expressed concern regarding the loss of life and property in Manipur, constituent state of the Indian Republic which is seeing rage between members of the majority Meitei and minority Kuki communities.

The violence has continued unabated for three months, with more than 180 dead, many more wounded, and enormous loss of property and infrastructure, they said.

Those issued the statement including prominent rights activists Meena Acharya, Renu Adhikari, Kundan Aryal, Raju Chapagain, Purnashova Chitrakar, Kanak Mani Dixit, Chandrakishore Jha, Sushil Pyakurel, and Dinesh Tripathi.

"We have concluded that the state as well as central governments of India have not lived up to their responsibility to protect human rights in Manipur, ensure law and order, and promote mediation efforts among the warring sides. There is an urgent need for democratic intervention," they said in a statement on Wednesday evening. The countries of South Asia are populated by multiple and cross-cutting identities, said the statement, the provinces and subunits are predominantly



multilingual and multi-ethnic, the result of historical movement of peoples and more recent demarcations and migrations. Under such circumstances, the first obligation of an elected government is to ensure human security and inclusion, mindful that protection of minority rights is key to democracy, they said. Above all, members of the executive and legislature are required to overcome political party interests and be protectors against loss of life and limb, against rape and plunder, they suggested. When those in authority abandon responsibilities resulting in escalation of violence in any part of South Asia, the duty of citizens everywhere is to speak up, including from neighbouring countries.

Incumbent Governor is worse than his predecessor: Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that the incumbent constitutional head of the state C.V. Ananda Bose is 'worse' than the last governor Jagdeep Dhankar.

"The current Governor is acting in a whimsical manner as regards to appointing vice chancellors of state universities. He is appointing vice chancellors from among people who are not connected to the academic world.

"We had differences of opinion with Jagdeep Dhankar also but he had never made arbitrary decisions like the incumbent Governor.

"As per norms the state government will recommend three names for the post of vice-chancellor and he will select one from among them. But the incumbent Governor does not care about such norms," the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister's remarks came when the Governor announced to open an anti-corruption cell within the Governor's House to get direct information from the public on the



issue of corruption. The Chief Minister also attacked Governor on the issue saying that he has no authority to open such a cell.

"He is unnecessarily interfering in the functioning of the state government. He is forming an experts committee on the state's higher education, inducting people from outside. This is not his task. This is the task of the state government," the Chief Minister said.

AFTER FILM, SEEMA-SACHIN NOW GET JOB OFFER LETTER FROM GUJARAT

Greater Noida | Agencies

After the news about Pakistani women Seema Haider and Sachin Meena facing financial crisis came to fore, the couple are now getting one after another work offers.

The couple first got an offer from film producer Amit Jani to work in his film, and now, Seema and Sachin have received a letter from Gujarat, in which a businessman has offered them an annual package of Rs 6 lakh each.

The letter stated that the couple can come and join the job anytime.

According to police sources, the couple received an envelope from Rabupura post office on Monday. The envelope had an address of Gujarat written over it.

The envelope, comprising an offer letter, was opened by the couple in presence of police on Tuesday.

In the offer letter, a Gujarat-based businessman has offered to pay a salary of Rs 50,000 per month to both Seema and Sachin. It was also writ-



ten in the offer letter that they can come and join the job whenever they want.

The identity of the businessman has not been disclosed yet.

Both Seema and Sachin are under the police surveillance, and Sachin is not doing any work right now. The stories of their plight and poverty are now going viral on social media.

A video of Seema has also surfaced online, in which she was seen expressing concerns about her husband's earnings and their financial condition.

Pak nationals employed in Indian Armed Forces cannot be ruled out: CBI to Calcutta HC

Kolkata | Agencies

The CBI on Wednesday informed the Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Jay Sengupta that the chances of Pakistani nationals being employed in the Indian Armed Forces by virtue of fake identity documents could not be ruled out though there was no definite proof yet.

On July 26, after the hearing on a PIL alleging that two purported Pakistani nationals, namely Jaikant Kumar and Pradyumna Kumar are currently posted at the defence cantonment at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, Justice Sengupta directed CBI to submit its progress report in the matter to court.

Accordingly on Wednesday, the CBI sleuths submitted its progress report at the bench of Justice Sengupta where it did not rule out the possibility despite admitting that their sleuths are yet to get any definite proof in this connection.



The central agency counsel also informed the court that the assistance of international probe agencies like INTERPOL might be

required for further investigation in the matter. Justice Sengupta directed the CBI to immediately file an FIR in the matter and progress with its

investigation process.

On June 13, a petition was filed at the bench of Justice Rajasekhar Mantha by one Bishnu Chowdhury. The original directive to the CBI to start investigation in the matter was given by Justice Mantha. Later he was elevated to the division bench of Calcutta High Court and the matter was referred to the bench of Justice Sengupta.

In his petition, Chowdhury had alleged that the duo got selected through the Staff Selection Commission examination and they secured the jobs through forgery of documents.

He had also alleged that a major racket involving influential political leaders, bureaucrats and police officials was involved behind such appointments through forged documents.

On Wednesday, Justice Sengupta also directed the police to ensure security arrangements for the petitioner considering that he had been facing life threats since the time he filed the PIL.

BDL hands over first RF Seeker of 'Akash' to DRDO

Hyderabad | Agencies

Barat Dynamics Limited (BDL) on Wednesday handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash, a next generation weapon system produced at its newly commissioned state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre, to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Seeker is a critical and technology intensive subsystem used in Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking in the terminal phase.

The RF Seeker has been designed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and produced by BDL at its state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre set up at BDL, Kanchanbagh Unit in Hyderabad.

In a special ceremony held at BDL's Kanchanbagh Unit, BDL Chairman and Managing Director, Commodore A. Madhavarao (retd.) handed over the 1st RF Seeker manufactured by BDL at this facility to DRDO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development, Dr Samir V Kamat.

In his remarks on the occasion, Kamat stated that the establishment of Seeker Facility



Centre at the BDL has enabled India achieve self-reliance in the field of RF seeker production and contribute greatly towards realizing the goal of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Madhavarao expressed pride in the accomplishment stating that with the production of RF Seeker, BDL, now joins an elite group of companies worldwide having the complete capability for production of RF Seekers. The ceremony was attended by several high ranking officials from DRDO and BDL including DG, MSS, U. Raja Babu, DRDL Director, G.A. Srinivasa Murthy, RCI Director Anindya Biswas, ASL Director, B.V. Paparao, BDL's Director, Finance, N. Srinivasulu, and others.

300 kg drugs recovered in TN's Nagapattinam, police probing LTTE connection

Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu Police have arrested six people along with 300 kg drugs from Nagapattinam town of the state.

The accused have been produced before the magistrate court and remanded to judicial custody on Wednesday.

The accused have revealed that the drugs were procured from the borders of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, and were to be ferried to Sri Lanka. Sources told reporter that the Nagapattinam and Rameswaram coastal belts of Tamil Nadu are still being used by certain Tamil national movements.

Meanwhile, the security agencies are probing whether this drug recovery was a tip of the iceberg and that those behind it are bent on pushing more stuff to the island nation through the sea route.

In October 2021, National Investigating Agency (NIA)



had arrested Santukam alias Sabesan, a former top operative of the now-defunct LTTE.

Tamil Nadu security agencies which had investigated the case found that Sabesan was connected with Sri Lankan 'criminal' Angoda Lokka who was later found dead in Coimbatore. Lokka was living in disguise in Coimbatore. The arrested people have informed the police that they were trying to revive the LTTE and were using the drug network to raise funds.

In March 2021, the Coast Guard had intercepted 300 kg of heroin and five AK 47

assault rifles and 1000 pellets from a boat 'Rahivans' near Minicoy island in Arabian Sea.

The drug was valued at Rs 3000 crore and it was one of the biggest drug recoveries in the area. Investigating agencies have said that Sabesan was connected to this drug recovery and he was arrested in October 2021.

Sources in Tamil Nadu Coastal police told reporter that the 300 Kg of ganja haul from Nagapattinam may only be a trail run by the Tamil outfit and that there can be a major consignment to be smuggled into Sri Lanka.

Cross-border love: Sri Lankan woman ties knot with Andhra man

Amaravati | Agencies

In another cross-border love story, a 25-year-old woman from Sri Lanka tied the knot with a youth from Andhra Pradesh, her Facebook friend of seven years.

Vikneshwari Sivakumara, who arrived in India on a tourist visa on July 8, married D. Lakshman, a resident of Arimkulapalle village in Chittoor district.

The couple, who had been in love for seven years, tied the knot at a temple in Venkatagirikota on July 20.

Lakshman, 24, who ekes out living as a construction worker, received his girlfriend at Chennai airport and brought her home. The Sri Lankan national wants to settle down with Lakshman in his village. She wants to get Indian citizenship so that she can live with her husband. The couple was first connected on Facebook in 2017 and since then they have been in regular touch.

Vikneshwari is a resident of



Velangudi in Sri Lanka. The friendship blossomed into love and Vikneshwari finally decided to come to India to marry Lakshman. She had told her family members that she was going on a tour.

After marrying Lakshman, the Sri Lankan woman applied for an Aadhaar card at a local enrollment centre. Officials, who got suspicious, alerted the police and thus the marriage came to light.

The police have served a notice asking her to return to Sri Lanka before August 6, the date on which her tourist visa expires.

Chittoor Superintendent of Police Y. Rishant Reddy said they asked the Sri Lankan national to obtain a one-year visa or return when her tourist visa expires. Vikneshwari has applied to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for a longer visa based marriage certificate. This is the third cross-border marriage to hit the headlines in recent times. It comes close on the heels of Pakistan's Seema Haider, 30, entering India illegally with her four children to marry a 22-year-old Indian man Sachin Meena whom she met through the online mobile game PUBG. In another story of cross-border love, an Indian woman travelled to Pakistan to marry her Facebook friend. Anju, 34, a mother of two children, married 29-year-old Nasrullah in a remote village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



YET ANOTHER JOLT TO 'PROJECT CHEETAH', 9TH BIG CAT DEAD IN KUNO

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ambitious 'Project Cheetah' suffered yet another jolt as one more big cat translocated from South Africa was reported dead at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) on Wednesday.

The dead feline was identified as 'Dhatri'. With this a total nine cheetahs, including three born on Indian soil, have died since in the last seven months.

As per the official sources, Dhatri (all 20 cheetahs were given Indian names and 'Tiblisi' was named as 'Dhatri') was spotted lying unconscious and when examined she died.

The officials said they were yet to come out with the exact reason of her death, which will be known after autopsy reports.

It is the third adult cheetah to die at KNP within a span of 20 days after two big cats brought from South Africa -- 'Tejas' and 'Suraj' -- died in the second week of July.



While a total of nine cheetahs have died so far at KNP since the 20 radio-collared cheetahs were released in two phases on September 17, 2022 and February 18 this year. Cheetah 'Suraj' -- a sub-adult from South Africa released in the KNP on February 18 -- was found dead in the Masawani beat of the park. Earlier, on July 10, five-and-half-year old Teja, also from South Africa, was found dead.

Three of the four newborn cubs of the Namibian Cheetah 'Jwala' died between

May 23 and 25 due to complications arising from low birth weight and extreme heat. Earlier, 'Sasha', a six-year-old female from Namibia had died on March 27 due to apparent renal infection.

On April 23, a male renamed 'Uday' from South Africa died after being seen staggering in his enclosure. 'Daksha', also from South Africa, died on May 9 likely due to injuries sustained during violent mating interaction with two adult cheetahs also from South Africa.

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE MAN'S VANITY FOR SELF-GLORY TAKES OVER: JAIRAM RAMESH

New Delhi: Former Environment Minister and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh questioned the death of ninth cheetah in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno national park, saying something has really gone wrong at Kuno and this is what happens when one man's vanity and desperate need for self-glory takes over.



In a cryptic tweet targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ramesh said, "Something has really gone wrong at Kuno... The ninth cheetah death took place this morning. The argument that all these deaths are expected mortality is complete nonsense and has been debunked by international cheetah experts." Hitting out at the government, he said, "This is what happens when science and transparency take a backseat. This is what happens when one man's vanity and desperate need for self-glory takes over."

His remarks came after ninth cheetah, Dhatri, died in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday morning. "A female cheetah, Dhatri (Tiblisi), was found dead this morning. To determine the cause of the death, a post-mortem is being conducted," a press note issued by authorities at the park stated. The nine cheetahs, who have died at the national park in Madhya Pradesh, include three cubs.

MP Assembly polls: Second round of verification of voters list starts today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In the run-up to the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the second round of revision of voters list is set to start from Wednesday.

Meanwhile, teams of the Election Commission will also be conducting meetings with recognised national political parties and a hard copy of the draft voters list will be handed over to them.

The draft voters list will be published on Wednesday, and applications for addition, deletion or modification of names in the voters list accepted during the revision, says an official notification.

As the draft of the voter list will be published at the polling stations and district level, all Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be present at their respective polling booths.

Chief electoral officer, Anupam Rajan said, "As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, the activities for the second special summer revision - 2023 in Madhya Pradesh will commence from August 2."

He added that during this



revision process, the sector officers and BLOs will verify voter lists in presence of voters between August 3 and 10.

In cases where there are more than six voters in a house, the sector officer will physically verify their presence. It was informed that the

BLOs have been directed to be present at their respective polling stations from August 2 to August 31 to accept applications for the addition, deletion and modification of names in voters

list. "District collectors and electoral officers have been given necessary instruction in this regard," Rajan added.

The special camps will be organised during the weekend - August 12 -13 and again on August 19-20. The applications will be accepted till August 31 while the scrutiny of received applications will be done by September 22 and the final publication of the voter list will be over by

October 4, the electoral officer added.

Claiming harassment by cop, Indore man commits suicide

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A man committed suicide in Madhya Pradesh's Indore after sharing a note on social media claiming that he was harassed by a police sub-inspector.

The deceased was identified as Mohan Pal, a resident of Akash Nagar. His suicide note mentions that a few months ago he came in contact with a Saharsa (Bihar)-based marriage broker -- Pravesh Sharma and paid Rs 95,000 for arranging a bride from him.

The suicide note further mentioned that after paying the amount in three installments, Sharma stopped picking up his phone and then he realised that he was cheated.

Pal in his suicide note alleged that when he approached the Dwarakapuri



police station to lodge a complaint, Sub-Inspector Amod Uike misbehaved with him.

After his death, a group of locals along with the family members of the deceased staged a protest at Dwarakapuri police station on Wednesday morning and demanded action against the Uike.

In his suicide note, Pal also claimed that after paying Rs 95,000 to Pravesh Sharma, he received a call from Purnia district in Bihar and was threatened to get him arrested. "The caller introduced

himself as a cop from Purnia police station and alleged that I was planning to elope with a girl. He threatened me with police action. Following this, when I approached Dwarakapuri police station to file a complaint, SI Amod Uike misbehaved and harassed me," the suicide note read.

Alka Menia Upadhe, in-charge of Dwarakapuri police station said that the deceased had approached the police station to lodge a complaint against Pawan Sharma, a resident of Bihar. SI Amod Uike asked him that he should file his complaint in Bihar as the person is living there only. "SI Amod Uike has been suspended on the basis of the suicide note. After the post mortem, the body was handed over to the family and we are doing the further investigation," Upadhe said.

President Murmu to inaugurate "Utkarsh" and "Unmesh" festival in Bhopal today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

President Draupadi Murmu will arrive in Bhopal on August 3 for a one-day stay. She will attend a local programme and leave for New Delhi in the evening.

President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate the "Utkarsh" and "Unmesh" festival on Thursday, August 3 at 11:30 am at Hansadhwani Auditorium of Rabindra Bhavan in Bhopal. The Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be there also. Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Academy under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh, are organising national festivals of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and "Unmesh" for the first time from August 3 to 5 in Bhopal.

About 800 artists from 36 states and union territories of the country will spread the colorful hues of folk and tribal performing arts in Utkarsh Utsav. The festival will telecast on the Facebook and YouTube channels of the Department of Culture, along with the Facebook and YouTube channels of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Dance performances will be held in Utkarsh from 5 pm Folk dances and tribal dances of India



will be presented at Utkarsh Utsav from 5 pm in the auditorium of Rabindra Bhavan. Prior to this, on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, there will be a Kala Yatra at 7 pm. On Thursday, the first day of the festival, folk dances from different states will be presented from 5 pm onwards. Jabaro dance of Leh and Ladakh, Sumi War of Nagaland, Time of Goa, Sindhi Chham of Sikkim, Rai and Nareri of Madhya Pradesh, Bangla of Meghalaya, Lavani of Maharashtra, Bihu of Assam, Singari of Odisha, Paika of Jharkhand and Tappeta Gullu dance will be performed.

On the second day Friday, Aaji Lamu dance of Arunachal Pradesh, Sirmauri Nati of Himachal Pradesh, Panthi of Chhattisgarh, Kalbeliya of

Rajasthan, Tiwa of Assam, Phag of Haryana, Mayur Raas of Uttar Pradesh, Nagpuri Jhumur of Jharkhand, Dhol Cholam and Thang of Manipur, Ta Karagattam of Tamil Nadu, Natuva of West Bengal, Puja Kuniha of Karnataka and Maniyaro Ras of Gujaraat will be performed.

Rauf dance of Kashmir, Sorathi of Sikkim, Jhijhiya of Bihar, Hojagiri of Tripura, Gaud Maria of Chhattisgarh, Pulkali of Kerala, Chhapeli of Uttarakhand, Gotipua of Odisha, Bhangra of Punjab, Purulia Chhau of West Bengal on the last day of the festival on 5th August, , Oggu Dolu of Telangana and Gudum Baja dance of Madhya Pradesh will be presented.

Unmesh is Asia's biggest literary conference. Unmesh Utsav is Asia's largest literary convention. In this, multilingual poetry recitation, writing lesson, tribal poet's conference, discussion on the topics of literature, poetry recitation on the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and various topics related to the upliftment of literature will be discussed by the enlightened people. Along with this, books of Sahitya Akademi and other publishers will be available for sale in the "Book Fair" from 10 am to 6 pm. A documentary on eminent writers made by Sahitya Akademi will also be screened during the festival.

Ladli Laxmi Yojana made with the vision to eradicate discrimination against daughters: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Chouhan said that he saw many examples of discrimination against sisters in different families and the society in the rural areas of the state. Taking cue from this, the Ladli Laxmi Yojana was formulated. After this many schemes were launched for women. Through these schemes, the work of women empowerment has been done successfully in the state. Continuous work is being done in this direction in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the Kisan Sammelan in Pipliyamandi dis-



trict Mandsaur during Vikas Parv. Chief Minister Chouhan dedicated and performed bhoomi-pujan of construction works worth more than Rs 1337 crores. The Chief Minister inaugurated the Kisan Sammelan by performing kanya puja. The Chief Minister also worshipped 126 urns

brought from 126 villages for the meeting.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that farmers' welfare is the utmost priority of the government in the state. Agriculture is being made a profitable business in the state. The amount of Kisan Samman Nidhi has been increased to Rs 12 thousand. The previous government had made the farmers' defaulters. Our government has again started giving them loans for crops at zero percent interest by paying their interest amount.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that under the Ladli Bahna Yojana, I am not only giving

money to the sisters, but also giving respect and honour to them. This amount will not remain only Rs one thousand, but it will be increased to Rs 1250, then Rs 1500, then Rs 1750, then Rs 2000, then Rs 2250, then Rs 2500, then Rs 2750 and then Rs 3000. Now women of 21 to 23 years of age and who are from families owning have also been included in this. On the coming 10th August again an amount of Rs one thousand will be sent to the accounts of all the women.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the daughter will not be allowed to become a burden in the state.

Installation of Madhavrao Scindia's statue in Orchha triggers fresh row

Praveen Dwivedi | Bhopal

The installation of a life-size statue of former Union Minister late Madhavrao Scindia in the premises of historic building of Circuit House in Madhya Pradesh's Orchha town has triggered a fresh row after the Kshatriya Mahasabha along with the Karni Sena sought removal of the statue, citing the sentiment of people of the Bundelkhand region.

"Why the statue of erstwhile Scindia family member of Gwalior should be installed at Orchha (Niwari district), when they have no contribution in the region?", they said.

The controversy first erupted in March when the statue was installed all of sudden, and now the row has escalated as the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is likely to visit Orchha on August 5 "to unveil" the statue.

Though the Chief Minister's office has not issued any official statement regarding Chouhan's visit to Orchha, the Niwari administration and the local police have reportedly started the preparation for the programme.

Police personnel have also been deployed at the site of the statue, which is yet to be unveiled. Also, some construction works have been carried



out recently in the area surrounding the statue. A delegation of Kshatriya Mahasabha and Karni Sena handed over a memorandum to the district administration, saying if the said statue would not be removed, they will stage a massive

protest on the day of Chouhan's visit to the district.

"There have been many great men in Tikamgarh's (Orchha was formerly in Tikamgarh district) history, and only they deserve a place at this historical building. People are demanding to install a life-size statue of Maharaja Chhatrasal, who founded this city. It is an attempt to destroy our great history of Tikamgarh. Madhavrao Scindia had no role in the development of the city. So the citizens here demand that statues of local heroes should be installed," said Kshatriya Mahasabha chief Pushpendra Singh. People aware of this political episode said that the contention is not about Madhavrao Scindia's statue, but more about the centuries-old rivalry between the Kshatriyas of Bundelkhand and the Scindia dynasty of Gwalior. It is also about Rani Laxmibai (Queen of Jhansi) versus the Scindia dynasty, they said.

The erstwhile kingdom of Orchha, which was founded in the 16th century by Bundela ruler Rudra Pratap Singh. Like the Scindia dynasty in Gwalior, Orchha, which was part of Vindhya Pradesh till 1956, also has a rich legacy. Both princely states of Gwalior and Orchha were merged into Madhya Pradesh in 1956.

ROW OVER MIHIR BHOJ'S LEGACY ESCALATES IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A row between Rajputs and Gurjars over legacy of 9th century king Mihir Bhoj has escalated once again in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh.

Tension prevailed after some people on Monday attempted to remove the 'Gurjar' title prefixed with Mihir Bhoj's name inscribed on a plinth of a life-size statue of the king in Gwalior.

The statue was installed by Gwalior Municipal Corporation at Chirwai block in the city back in 2019. The Kshatriya or the Rajput community claims that Mihir Bhoj belongs their community and thus use of 'Gurjar' title with his name hurts the community's sentiments. Last year also, a massive scuffle had broken out



between Rajputs and Gurjars, following which curfew was imposed in Gwalior.

Meanwhile, a couple of petitions from both sides were filed before the Gwalior bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court backing their claims over the king's legacy. The bench of Justices Anand Pathak and Sheel Nagu hearing a petition had then asserted that "such clashes not only affect the law and order situation but also violate the principle of fraternity which is a cherished virtue in our

Constitution".

A committee of experts was also constituted to determine the historical claims made by the two communities and the police and district administration were directed to barricade the area (place where statue is installed). The matter is currently subjudice and the expert committee is yet to submit its report.

On Monday, two youths removed the barricades and barged on the cemented platform (surface of the statue). They tried to erase the 'Gurjar' mentioned before Mihir Bhoj's name inscribed on the plinth.

The entire incident was recorded in CCTV footage.

On Tuesday, police claimed that two persons involved in the matter have been arrested.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 11th August 2023, inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the quarter ended on 30th June 2023.

The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

Place: Bhopal

Dated: 02/08/2023

For
We Win Limited

Sd/-
Ashish Soni
 (PAN: HCOPS6623A)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer



EDITOR'S SPECS

Data security issue

Parliamentary panel has noted that in the absence of well-defined rights and obligations of individuals and entities responsible for data processing, the interests of stakeholders are not adequately safeguarded. The Lok Sabha's Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology in its report on "Citizens' Data Security And Privacy", said that there is an urgent need to introduce a data protection law, that effectively combats the growing menace of cybercrime, ensures public order and also strengthens India's defence capabilities. It also cautioned the Electronics and IT Ministry to judiciously use the rule-making powers defined within the proposed Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, which was passed by the Union Cabinet last month, and is to be brought during the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. It cautioned the ministry about the judicious use of rule-making powers and emphasised on the importance of employing them responsibly and with utmost care. The committee noted that no legislation can be perfect from the outset and it evolves over time and is fine-tuned in response to changing circumstances. The Committee also found the IT Ministry's submission "encouraging" that the proposed legislation aligns with the data protection laws of other jurisdictions, featuring financial penalties instead of criminalisation, imposing additional obligations on specific data fiduciaries (known as significant data fiduciaries in the bill), resembling the approach of the European Union and Singapore. The committee appreciated the fact that by using the word "she" instead of "he", for the first time, women have been acknowledged in any Central Act or Bill. "The committee are hopeful that the bill, while absorbing international practices, would exemplify the best of the know-how to India and become a model legislation for the other countries to follow," it noted in the report.

FACING THE EDUCATION DROPOUT DILEMMA

Lalit Garg

Education is one of the core building blocks of a society and of a nation. This is why countries with high literacy rates and good educational systems tend to be more developed than those without. It can be said that education is also such a weapon by which a person can change not only himself but also the society, the nation and the world. When it comes to making a new India - a strong India, then there is a need to develop a positive attitude towards education and pay maximum attention. But it is a matter of concern that despite this positive thinking of the governments, our education system has been giving opposite signals. The increase in the number of dropouts of students in higher education and school education in India, that is, increasing the number of students leaving studies in the middle, is becoming a big question not only on the education system but also on the government's education policy and system. According to a reply given in the Parliament, during the last five years, more than 34,000 students left their studies midway in the country's renowned higher educational institutions. On the other hand, in the analysis of the board examinations of the year 2022 by the Union Ministry of Education, it has been said that lakhs of children drop out in the country at the level of tenth and twelfth. According to the analysis, last year 35 lakh students did not go to class 11th after class 10th. Out of these twenty seven and a half lakh were not successful and seven and a half lakh students did not appear in the examination. Similarly, 2.34 lakh students dropped out after class XII last year. Seventy-seven percent of these were from eleven states. That is, about fifty eight lakh students leave studies in tenth and twelfth, so it should be a matter of great concern for any government and it is a question mark on the ground level implementation of government welfare programs from the overall education system. If we talk about higher education, then

our educational institutions look far behind on global standards. This is when in the 76 years of independence; the governments made a lot of efforts towards the spread of education, gave shape to multidimensional schemes and made huge provisions in the budget as well. Among the more than 34,000 students who drop out midway, Dalit, tribal and backward class students are more. These institutes are not any ordinary government colleges but of the level of IITs, NITs and IISERs, IIMs and Central Universities and the like. Is the standard of education and environment not proper in such institutions? The government and the educationists of the country will also have to worry about the fact that why 92 students who took admission in these higher educational institutions in the last five years committed suicide in the middle of their studies? Similarly, Darshan Solanki, a first year student of IIT Bombay, committed suicide recently, after which the students there have been officially asked not to inquire with each other about JEE (advance) rank or GATE score. Nor ask any such question which exposes the caste of the student and its related aspects. Such a guideline is needed not only by IIT Bombay, but by all higher education institutions. But the question is whether such symbolic steps can solve serious problems like the increasing number of suicides. The success of any country's education system lies in the fact that there is a continuum in the attainment of education from elementary to higher levels. If due to any reason a student is facing difficulties in further studies, then measures should be taken to remove them. But for the past many decades, this question has been persistent that a large number of students leave school-colleges midway and concrete measures are not taken by the government to complete their further studies. This concern has been underlined many times in the study reports of organizations working on this issue from the government to education, but till now no meaningful solution has been found.

Due to all government efforts and schemes, education is becoming expensive, competition is increasing, and it is becoming a compulsion to teach children in private schools and colleges due to the impossibility of admission in high level schools and colleges. Even if some families take courage and get admission in private schools and colleges, then due to financial compulsion, they are forced to withdraw their children from the school in between. Amidst the big schemes of the government, the situations of students leaving schools and colleges will have to be taken seriously. Instead of making education complicated, it has to be made easy, carefree, less expensive and interesting. It is also necessary to make education interesting so that some children do not find school-college boring, by the time they reach 9th and 10th standard; many children find school-college boring. For this reason, they want to go to school-college late, bunk the class and sit in the lunch break. Due to lack of attachment to studies, students often leave school and college. Students wanting to drop out for any reason are a major problem for parents, but it also points to a major lack of education. The purpose of sending children to school is not only to become a good citizen by getting education; education also plays a major role in earning and advancing nation-building. But at present, most of the school-college managements have started seeing it as a business, governments are also running away from the responsibility of education, after the implementation of the Right to Education Act in India, many things have changed at the ground level. For example, enrolment of children in schools has increased. Every year the figures of the number of children passing the eighth standard have increased rapidly. But along with this the question of quality in education and retention of children in school remains the same. Dropout of students, especially in higher educational institutions, is becoming a

serious problem. In all other fields, the world recognizes our talents as iron. It is also true that admissions in these prestigious higher educational institutions of ours are also fiercely competitive. Despite this, the governments will have to think deeply about why students are turning away from such institutions as well. Otherwise, the process of dropping out from such institutions is not going to stop. Amidst the efforts being made to improve the level of education in the country, one cannot lose sight of the fact that there is not a single name from India in the top 100 higher educational institutions of the world. Even today, foreign educational institutions remain the first choice for higher education of capable families. Lack of resources and lack of better teachers could be the reason for this. But it is also true that due to the attitude of the bureaucracy, even in our so-called better educational institutions, an environment of learning is not created. Education seems to be given high priority in government schemes and at the policy level, yet the trend of dropping out among students is an indicator of failure or indifference at the policy level. It is difficult to understand that this concern has persisted for so long, and then why not reach a solution on this issue is a question on which extensive thinking is necessary. It is well known that on the one hand, the standards set in the education system in school-colleges are not easily acceptable to many students, on the other hand, due to non-continuity in studies, from the form of education to poverty, family, social and many other factors. It is related to and its solution will need to be seen only by keeping all the points in one formula.

(Lalit Garg is a Writer, Journalist, Columnist based in Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

international

UKRAINE REMOVES SOVIET-ERA SYMBOL FROM MOTHERLAND MONUMENT IN KIEV

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian authorities have removed the Soviet-era "hammer and sickle" symbol from the landmark Motherland Monument in Kiev, making way for the installation of a trident -- Ukraine's coat of arms. The Soviet emblem on the monument -- the tallest statue in Ukraine -- will be replaced by the trident by August 24, when the country celebrates Independence Day, Xinhua news agency quoted the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy as saying in a statement. Experts on Monday carried out some preparatory work and constructed the metal sculpture of the trident, the Ministry said.



It also said that it will consider a proposal made by local scientists to change the name of the Motherland Monument to Mother Ukraine. The 102-meter-high statue

was built in 1981 when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, The Kyiv Independent reported. It depicts a woman holding a sword and a shield emblazoned with the Soviet

hammer and sickle symbol. In April 2015, the Ukrainian parliament outlawed most Soviet and communist symbols, street names, and moments as part of a decommunisation policy. As the monument stands on the site of the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in World War II, the statue was exempted. However, in a 2022 survey, following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, 85 per cent of respondents backed the idea to replace the Soviet emblem with a trident. On May 3 this year, Ukraine's parliament voted on a law to remove the remaining Soviet and Russian Empire monuments left in the country.

BEIJING REPORTS HEAVIEST RAINFALL IN 140 YEARS

Beijing: Beijing has reported its heaviest rainfall over the past few days since record keeping began 140 years ago, authorities in the Chinese capital said. The capital city logged 744.8 mm of rain, the maximum amount of precipitation recorded during the rain-storm, between 8 p.m. on July 29 and 7 a.m. Wednesday at the Wangjiayuan reservoir in Changping district, the Beijing Meteorological Service said Wednesday. Beijing has experienced spells of torrential rains brought by typhoon Doksuri since the start of the weekend, which had caused 11 fatalities as of Tuesday morning. The city lifted the red alert for flood on Wednesday morning as the water flow in major rivers has gone below the warning mark.

Another Indian-American joins 2024 US presidential race

Washington | Agencies

Scientist and entrepreneur, Shiva Ayyadurai has become the fourth Indian-American to announce his bid as an independent candidate for the 2024 US presidential election. Announcing his campaign bid recently, the 59-year-old Mumbai-born said he wants to serve America, beyond "Left" and "Right" to deliver solutions people need and deserve. "I am running for President of the United States of America. We stand at the crossroads where we can either head into a Golden Age or into the Darkness... America becomes great when innovators, entrepreneurs, working people with skills and those committed to using common sense and reason run this country," Ayyadurai said. In his campaign bid, he said that the old guard of career politicians, political hacks, lawyer-lobbyists and academics who pervade the country and local government with corruption and crony capitalism stop America from becoming great. Ayyadurai



left India in 1970 and came to live the American dream along with his parents and settled in Paterson, New Jersey. "I left the caste system of India in 1970 where we were considered low caste 'Untouchables' and 'Deplorable'," he said on his campaign website. Ayyadurai's announcement comes closely after Indian-American aerospace engineer Hirsh Vardhan Singh threw his hat in the ring for the Republican nomination after former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.

Heat wave deaths in S.Korea rise to 23

Seoul | Agencies

The death toll from the heat wave in South Korea has increased to 23, more than tripling from last year, authorities said on Wednesday, as the government's heat warning remained at the highest level of "serious". A total of 21 people died of presumed heat-related illnesses between May 20 and the end of July, fire authorities said, while two additional deaths were reported Tuesday alone, reports Yonhap News Agency. The death toll represents more than a threefold jump from seven reported in the same period last year. A farmer in her 70s collapsed and died around noon the previous day while working outdoors in Yeongcheon, 243 km southeast of Seoul. Another farmer in his 80s died the previous day after being moved to a hospital due to a high temperature while working outdoors in Jeongeup, 217 km south of Seoul. The 25th World Scout Jamboree, currently being held in the Saemangeum Reclaimed Area on the southwestern South Korean coast, has reported 400 cases of heat-related illness-



es. About 43,000 young Scouts from 158 countries are currently participating in the world event. The previous day, the government raised its heat wave warning to "serious", the highest level in the four-stage warning system, for the first time in four years. A serious-level alert is issued when daily high temperatures remain at 35 degrees Celsius or higher in many parts of the country for at least three days or when daily highs remain at 38 degrees or higher in some parts of the nation for at least three days.

TRUMP INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTS TO OVERTURN HIS 2020 DEFEAT

Yashwant Raj | Washington

Former US President Donald Trump was indicted on a slew of charges for trying to overturn the 2020 election verdict, which put Joe Biden in the White House, stay in power by making "false" claims of election fraud and for fueling the January 6 "attack" on the US Capitol in pursuit of those goals with these "lies". Trump has been indicted -- and arrested -- twice previously on multiple charges regarding payment of hush money to an adult film star to keep quiet about their affair (by New York state) and (by the federal government) for spiriting away classified papers from his presidency instead of turning them over to official archives as required by law. These indictments, and arrests that follow, had made Trump the most only American President facing this kind of legal jeopardy -- and there is more coming as Georgia state pursues a similar case of trying to overturn the 2020 election verdict with similar election fraud claims -- but they will stop him from continuing



his campaign for the White House in the upcoming 2024 election. Trump will be arraigned on

Thursday. "Despite having lost, the defendant was determined to remain in power,"

said the four-count and 45-page indictment, with the help of false claims and lies. "These claims were false, and the defendant knew that they were false. In fact, the defendant was notified repeatedly that his claims were untrue -- often by the people on whom he relied for candid advice on important matters, and who were best positioned to know the facts -- and he deliberately disregarded the truth," the indictment states. Jack Smith, the special prosecutor for this case and the one about Trump's mishandling of confidential papers, said announcing the charges, "The attack on our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy." "It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant." Trump responded to the indictment with a post on "Truth Social", he launched after being banned from the popular social media platform Twitter. "Why didn't they bring this ridiculous case 2.5 years ago? They wanted it right in the middle of my campaign, that's why!" he wrote.



NOTED ART DIRECTOR NITIN DESAI, FOUND DEAD AT HOME, DEFAULTED ON RS 252 CRORE LOAN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Noted art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai, who was found dead at his studio in Maharashtra's Raigad, had trouble paying back a Rs 252-crore loan, and a bankruptcy court had admitted an insolvency petition against his company last week.

Nitin Desai's company, ND's Art World Pvt Ltd, had reportedly borrowed Rs 185 crore through two loans from ECL Finance in 2016 and 2018. His financial troubles began in January 2020. Nitin Desai's body was found at the ND Studio premises this morning. The police suspect he died by suicide.

The noted art director, known for projects like Lagaan and Devdas, had opened the sprawling studio in the Khalapur taluka on the outskirts of Mumbai, where films like Jodha Akbar were shot. His company ND's Art World is also in the business of organising, maintaining, and operating replicas of historical monuments and providing facilities and services related to hotels, theme restaurants, shopping malls and recreation centres.

On July 25, the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal had admitted a petition filed by Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company to initiate a corporate insolvency resolution process.



The tribunal's Member (judicial) HV Subba Rao and member (technical) Anu Jagmohan Singh, after hearing both the sides, had appointed Jitender Kothari as the interim resolution professional. The management of ND's Art World would be with Kothari during the process, the order had said.

Typically, the insolvency professional has to ensure that all the creditors get their dues by selling securities, and has to take care of day-to-day business operations.

The order said that the account was classified as a non-performing asset (NPA) by the creditors on March 31, 2021, and the total default amount was Rs 252.48 crore as of June 30,

2022. In its reply before the order, Nitin Desai's company had said there was a fire at the studio on May 7, 2021, which resulted in loss of property, and blamed the creditors for sending a recovery notice on the same day. Reports suggested the financial creditor had approached district authorities in Raigad to take possession of ND Studio a few months ago.

"Won't tolerate insult of national icons": Devendra Fadnavis on Savarkar remark

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said insult of national icons will not be tolerated and announced action against a Congress mouthpiece for "insulting" late Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar.

On Wednesday, Congress legislators demanded action against right-wing activist Sambhaji Bhide for his alleged controversial remarks against Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking in the assembly, Fadnavis said a case was registered against Bhide in Amravati and police will take his voice samples.

"A case has been filed against Sambhaji Bhide by the Amravati police. Insult to national icons will not be tolerated," said Fadnavis, who handles the Home Ministry.

An FIR was registered against Bhide, the founder of the Shri Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan outfit, for allegedly making offensive remarks about Mahatma Gandhi's lineage during his speech, last week, police said.

Bhide is yet to be arrested. "Bhide made an activist (of his outfit) read the controversial portion from a book 'The Koran and the Fakir'. No recording of that meeting is available hence police will take voice samples (of Bhide)," Fadnavis said.

He said Bhide works for the cause of Hindutva but remarks against Mahatma Gandhi will not be tolerated.

"Similarly, action will be taken against Congress mouthpiece 'Shidori' for objectionable writings against VD Savarkar and a case will be filed," he added. The issue of Bhide's remarks on Mahatma Gandhi was raised in the



assembly by Congress MLA Prithviraj Chavan who demanded a motion of condemnation be admitted. Another Congress MLA Yashomati Thakur told the House that Bhide's supporters had threatened her (for demanding his arrest). "I assure full security for Yashomati Thakur. The person who threatened her will be traced," Fadnavis said. Chavan said he had also received a threat over the issue and the person was arrested, and given bail. In the legislative council, Congress MLC Ashok Jagtap condemned the remarks made by Bhide and demanded a discussion on the matter. He said Bhide had made controversial remarks in the past and asked why he had still not been arrested. Samajwadi Party MLA Abu Asim Azmi said on the one hand, the government is taking action against some people for keeping the status of Aurangzeb on social media, but on the other hand, no action was initiated against Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) leader Prakash Ambedkar for visiting the Mughal emperor's grave in Aurangabad.

After 1.2 mn flags sale in 2022, DoP launches I-Day 2023 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Department of Posts here has launched the annual 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2.0 for Independence Day, 2023, an official said here on Wednesday.

The initiative was kick-started last year to mark the Amrit Mahotsav of India's Independence and elicited a huge response from the people, said an official.

"Last year, DoP sold over 12 lakh (1.2 million) Tricolours in the Maharashtra Circle, which includes Goa," said an official, saying this year the sales will be even more robust.

For this, the government and DoP has called upon all citizens to participate in the campaign by hoisting the



National Flag in their homes, offices, societies, etc. The DoP - which has been mandated as the agency for sale and distribution of quality Tricolours, measuring 20x30 inches each - will sell the National Flags in time before August 15.

It has also appealed to various government, private, corporates, local bodies and other institutions as well as members of the public to contact them in advance for their requirements to ensure the supply of the National Flags in time before August 15.

Tata Memorial Centre's Maha cancer care drive upped from 6 to all 36 districts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a major initiative, the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) in collaboration with the Maharashtra government, has extended the pilot project, 'Access to Affordable Cancer Care for One and All' to cover the entire state, an official said here on Wednesday.

The pilot initiative was launched in June 2016 in Pune, Nashik, Jalgaon, Amravati, Gadchiroli and Nagpur to make cancer care more accessible and affordable at the district levels and bring down the incidence of its preventable form, besides strengthening cancer care services in district government institutions.

After the success in the 6 districts, from Aug. 1 it has been extended to the remaining 30 districts in the state, said TMC Director Dr. Rajendra Badve and Joint Director of Public Health Department Dr. Vijay Baviskar.

The officials explained that the three most common cancers in India are the breast, uterine cervix and lip/oral cavity, accounting for 34 per cent or one-third of all the cancers in the country.



Besides constituting a public health concern, the patient and their families also reel under a financial catastrophe plus psychological stress for the diagnosis and treatment.

The initiative tackled the larger goal that patients from the rest of Maharashtra do not have to rush to Mumbai for treatment leaving behind their families and livelihoods on hold for their cancer treatment.

The project was supported by Mylan Laboratories Ltd (A Viatris Co) as part of its CSR activity, and it approached TMC to join as a project partner. Through this, they created models of rural and semi-urban cancer healthcare delivery virtually at the doorstep via training and capacity building of cancer cure personnel, standardisation of treatment and reduction in costs for the patients.

In 2019, the project was scaled up at the national level with one district each in Punjab, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Nagaland, as a pilot and after success, will be rolled out on a bigger scale.

Two years later in 2021, the project was expanded to cover 10 more districts - Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Ahmednagar, Satara, Jalna, Akola, Wardha and Chandrapur.

At a function, the authorities also launched the 'Maharashtra Oral Cancer Warriors', a voluntary group of oncologists, alumni of Tata Memorial Hospital, practicing in their respective districts.

The MCVs have taken a novel initiative to provide their free services at district civil hospitals and medical and surgical oncology.

Railway cop who shot 4 dead on train sent for mental health check-up

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A Railway Protection Force (RPF) jawan who killed four people on a Jaipur-Mumbai train on Monday has been sent for a mental health assessment, government sources said today, ruling out any communal angle to the incident.

Chetan Singh, 33, killed his senior and shot dead three more passengers on the Jaipur-Mumbai Central super-fast express. He was arrested while trying to escape.

A "comprehensive mental and psychological health assessment" of the RPF personnel is being carried out, Railway Ministry sources said. They have ruled out the communal angle - raised by videos and posts on social media - and pointed out that the accused had also shot Hindus,



including his own boss. Four RPF personnel, including Chetan Singh and Tikaram Meena, boarded the train at Surat in Gujarat



as part of an escort group posted on long-distance trains to protect passengers and cargo. Witnesses say Singh, who appeared

to be agitated, lost his temper and simply shot his senior. He then went from coach to coach shooting three more, including Ajgar Abbas Shaikh, 48, and Abdul Kadarbhai Mohammed Hussain Bhanpurwala, 62. Singh had shown signs of poor health in the morning, after which he was asked to rest, sources said. He took rest for a while and then insisted he was fine, after which he resumed duty.

The Railway Ministry said it would look into the incident thoroughly after the medical report came out. Constable Chetan Singh's family described him as short-tempered and hot-headed.

The Western Railways has said they are conducting a high-level inquiry. Singh was posted in Lower Parel, they said.

MMRDA completes 73% of station works for Metro-5 line in Thane

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The MMRDA has completed erecting all precast elements for the six stations on the first phase of Metro-5 line from Thane to Bhiwandi in Thane district, a top official said here on Wednesday.

This includes 1098 station elements like spines, wings, U-girders, pier arms, L-beams, etc, thereby, achieving 73.35 per cent of all the stations work on this corridor.

Besides, the work on 9.87 kms of a total 11.88 kms (80.50 per cent) viaduct elevated stretch comprising the six stations is also done, said Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority Commissioner Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee.

Being built at a cost of Rs 8,416-crore, the Metro Line 5 is an elevated 24.9 kms stretch linking Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan towns in Thane district, of which the Phase I comprises 11.88 kms between Kapurbawadi in Thane to Dhamankarna in Bhiwandi. The six stations en route are Balkumnaka, Ksheli, Kalher, Puma, Anjurphata and Dhamankar Naka and



the unique aspect is the 550-metre long viaduct on the Ksheli Creek section plus traversing through the rural areas of Bhiwandi between Ksheli-Anjurphata.

After the precast elements work, now other aspects like flooring, fall-ceiling, facades, roof, laying tracks and system works will be taken up simultaneously to complete it within the stipulated deadline, said Dr. Mukherjee.

MAN HELD FOR TRYING TO KILL SON IN VIRAR

Mumbai: A 47-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly trying to kill his 26-year-old son in Virar over a domestic issue.

According to the police official, the accused, Bharat Bansode, allegedly stabbed his son last week on July 28.

The incident happened following a quarrel between the father and son duo over the victim's alcohol addiction and his refusal to take up a job. "A case of attempt to murder was registered after a complaint was lodged by another son of Bansode," a crime branch official said.

Raigad landslide: Authorities to collect data on landslide-prone villages

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After the Irshalwadi tragedy, the Raigad district authorities decided to conduct a survey in order to gather information about the people living in tribal hamlets and villages prone to landslides and other natural calamities.

The authorities plan to electronically store the information regarding the villagers of such areas, including their cattle, belongings, bank accounts etc, in a card that will be kept with the Revenue authorities and the families concerned.

"This will help authorities to get information about the dead or missing persons in the event of a natural calamity," he said. At least 27 persons were killed and 57 went missing after a massive landslide occurred at Irshalwadi hamlet located on slopes of a mountain in Khalapur. "A Disaster Alertness Data survey



will be conducted in two phases. In the first phase, the information regarding villages prone to natural calamities will be gathered," said Raigad district collector Yogesh Mhase. In 2021, a survey conducted by the Geological Survey of India declared 103 villages in the coastal Raigad district as disaster-prone.

"Revenue authorities faced difficulties to decide Irshalwadi victims due to the incomplete survey," the official said.

2 Auto drivers beat journalist in Mumbai over fare issue, arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two auto-rickshaw drivers have been arrested here for allegedly beating a journalist working for a YouTube news channel after he insisted on paying fare as per the meter.

The incident took place in the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) area on Tuesday night, said a police official.

As per the 48-year-old journalist, he asked one of the auto drivers to take him and his colleague to the Kurla railway station.

The auto driver said they would have to pay on a 'sharing' basis and not as per the meter.

It led to an argument and the journalist asked him to drive them to the nearby BKC police station.

The driver took him to a spot near the police station,



called up the other auto-rickshaw driver, his friend, and the duo allegedly thrashed the journalist and also took 100 from him, as per the First Information Report.

After the journalist lodged a complaint, the accused were arrested from the nearby Bharat Nagar locality and booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicles Act.

Further probe is underway, the official added.



TIMOTHEE CHALAMET 'DUMPED' KYLIE JENNER AFTER 7 MONTHS OF DATING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kylie Jenner and actor Timothee Chalamet's romance is reportedly over. If a new report is to be believed, Kylie "got dumped" by the 'Call Me by Your Name' actor after seven months of dating, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). An insider told Life & Style that the mom of two blames their split on their busy schedule. "She is telling people that things between them naturally fizzled out because they're both busy and traveling," the source claimed. However, "friends are whispering that Kylie got dumped." They also suspected that the 'Dune' actor used her for publicity for his upcoming 'Wonka' movie. The former star of 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' allegedly tried to look like she was unfazed by the separation. "Kylie is playing it casual, but her friends know this must sting. Timothee was the first guy she really spent time with after splitting from (Travis Scott (11)). She even introduced him to her family," the source noted. The split report arrived after Travis appeared to shade Timothee on his new song 'MeltDown'. Previous reports revealed that Travis wasn't thrilled about Kylie's alleged romance with Timothee. "Although Travis understands that Kylie is free to date whoever she wants, he's not exactly ecstatic about the whole situation [with Timothee]," a source said at the time. "Despite his feelings, Kylie and Travis have both been very mature about their split, and are focused on co-parenting in a healthy manner." News of Kylie and Timothee dating first broke in early April after the popular Instagram gossip account Deuxmoi claimed they were seeing each other. Fueling the dating speculation, the TV personality's car was seen subtly arriving and then leaving the actor's home in Beverly Hills, California in late May.



Emma Corrin to play a mysterious villainous role in 'Deadpool 3'



Los Angeles | Agencies

English actress Emma Corrin, best known for her role in the series 'The Crown', is now set to play a villainous role in 'Deadpool 3'. She opened up on her new venture, saying that she is really excited to do her new role, though her current role in the movie is unknown. The actress while speaking to 'Empire' magazine said that "I'm really excited to play a villain." Her character is a complete mystery as both director Shawn Levy and actor Ryan Reynolds have hardly revealed anything apart from the new Deadpool costume and Hugh Jackman reprising his role as Wolverine, while donning his iconic comic costume minus the helmet. "I haven't done that, and it's an itch I want to scratch," Corrin said, quoted by 'The Hollywood Reporter'. Shawn Levy approached the actor after seeing her onstage in a production of Virginia Woolf's British period drama film 'Orlando'. "I'd heard about the project but, classic Marvel, they couldn't tell me anything about it," she continued. "Absolutely nothing. Zilch. So, I met him being like, 'I don't

know what this is about." She further went on to explain that entering the Marvel Cinematic Universe for her was an entirely new step as she was unfamiliar with almost every hero and villain, as well as the majority of the storylines. "I've watched 'Spider-Man' and 'Black Panther'. I was like, 'Look, you're gonna have to debrief me into this'. It's such an intricate world. There's so much to it, so it's an absolute mind-f***." "All the language and the Easter eggs, and this person is related to that person who did this, and this person came back and this person's dead... it's amazing." To enter her role, she began studying the character and his many details which left her curious and absolutely baffled. She went on to explain: "I really understand why it means as much as it does to so many people. It's a phenomenon, and I feel really lucky to be part of it, especially Deadpool because I love the fact that it's self-aware, and critical of its own inner workings." This is not far from the truth as Deadpool who was created as a parody of the assassin Deathstroke from DC is in fact one of the more complex characters of Marvel

Zendaya mourns 'Euphoria' co-actor Angus Cloud's death

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Zendaya, best known for her roles in 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' and 'Dune' along with the series 'Euphoria', expressed her condolences on the death of her fellow 'Euphoria' co-actor Angus Cloud, who died on July 31 at the age of 25. Taking to her Instagram, the actress penned: "Words are not enough to describe the infinite beauty that is Angus (Conor). I'm so grateful I got the chance to know him in this life, to call him a brother, to see his warm kind eyes and bright smile, or hear his infectious cackle of a laugh (I'm smiling now just thinking of it)." She continued, "I know people use this expression often when talking about folks they love... they could light up any room they entered, but boy let me tell you, he was the best at it. I'd like to remember him that way. For all of the boundless light, love and joy he always managed to give us. I'll cherish every moment." She further added: "My heart is with his



mother and family at this time, and please be kind and patient as grief looks different for everyone." Other tributes also began pouring in from fellow 'Euphoria' stars such as Sydney Sweeney who plays Cassie Howard in the series. She wrote: "Angus you were an open soul, with the kindest heart, and you filled every room with laughter." "This is the hardest thing I've ever had to post, and I'm struggling to find all the words. You will be missed more than you know, but I'm so blessed to have known you in this lifetime, and I'm sure everyone who has ever met you feels the same. This heartache is real and I wish we could've had one more hug and 711 run. All my love is with you", she added. The actor made his debut with 'Euphoria' where he played a local drug dealer called Fezco "Fez" O'Neill who has a bit of a romantic thing with Rue Benett (Zendaya). As Fezco, the actor was known primarily for his deadpan expression and relaxed demeanour.

Beyonce pays tribute to fan who died after being stabbed for 'voguing' to her song

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Beyonce Knowles has paid a tribute to a special fan named O'Shae Sibley, who passed away after being fatally stabbed at a Mobil gas station in Brooklyn for "voguing" to one of her songs. She made use of her official website to honour her late fan, reports a website page for the "Break My Soul" hitmaker appeared to be different than usual. It featured a special homage to O'Shae. Over a black screen, a message written in white color read, "Rest in power O'Shae Sibley", reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). Her tribute came a few days after the passing of O'Shae. The latter was fatally stabbed in the chest on July 29. At that time, he stopped by the gas station with a group of friends to fill up their car. While waiting for the fill up, he and his friends started dancing to one of Beyonce's songs from her "Renaissance" album. In a scene from a video obtained by The Post, it could be seen a different group of individuals, who stood in front of a convenience store, began approaching O'Shae and his friends. After a few minutes of chatting, the two groups dispersed. However, it did not take long for the two groups to approach each other again, and for their argument turning physical. O'Shae, who was shirtless and only donned a pair of neon pink shorts, stood behind a black car. He appeared to be in shock after being stabbed. He then vanished from the view of the video recording as his friends rushed to help him.



Madonna gets special shoutout from Beyonce at Renaissance Tour concert

Los Angeles | Agencies

Queen of pop Madonna attended Beyonce Knowles' New Jersey show, in one of her first major public appearances since her hospitalisation five weeks ago. Madonna, who confessed she's "lucky to be alive" this week, attended the Grammy winner's 'Renaissance World Tour' stop in East Rutherford, and received a special shoutout from the 'Formation' singer. "Big shoutout to the Queen. Queen Mother, Madonna, we love you," Beyonce could be heard gushing in a viral clip on Twitter while performing 'Break My Soul', the song Madonna featured on a remix of last year, [Aceshowbiz](#) reported. Later, two music queens met up backstage where they posed for a photo along with Madonna's kids -- twins Stella and Estere, 10,



Mercy, 17 -- and Beyoncé's youngest daughter, Rumi, 5.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Madonna, 64, posted snapshots of the meeting. Along with a snapshot of her view of the stage, Madonna wrote, "Thank You Queen B. for your magnificent show!" In the backstage photo, Queen Bey stood centre as she wore what looked like a silk black robe. At her right stood Madonna, who rocked fishnets and combat boots with a colourful shorts and top set and a black corset. Her 17-year-old daughter Mercy beamed with pride as she wore a blue and white jacket with white pants. Stella and Estere also appeared to be thrilled to spend time with the 'Single Ladies' hitmaker. Rumi wore a silver tank top with denim shorts. Madonna was hospitalised on June 24, leading to cancellation of her 'Celebration Tour'. She was in the ICU for the treatment of a "serious bacterial infection".

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Maya Jama



FIFA Women's World Cup

WTC standings

SOUTH AFRICA EARN ROUND OF 16 SPOT AFTER WIN OVER ITALY

Wellington | Agencies

South Africa earned an unexpected last-16 spot in the ongoing FIFA Women's World Cup with their historic 3-2 win against Italy, here on Wednesday.

As Sweden had already qualified for the knockout stage, Italy, South Africa joined Argentina to compete for the rest of the round of 16 spots.

South Africa earlier picked up their first-ever point in the Women's World Cup in their second match against Argentina, Xinhua reported.

Italy needed to bounce back from a 5-0 loss at the hands of Sweden last time out. A draw would see them reach the round of 16, as long as Argentina do not beat Sweden in the other match in Group H, though victory would make the other result irrelevant.

Italy put their nose ahead in the 11th minute after Chiara Beccari was



tripped down in the box, and Arianna Caruso kept her cool to convert the spot-kick. The African side then put together

a series of attempts and forced Benedetta Orsi to score a horrible own goal in the 32nd minute as the defender recklessly passed the ball

into her own net.

South Africa kept sharp after the break and took the lead in the 67th minute as Thembi Kgatana's smart pass found Hildah Magaia to beat goalkeeper Francesca Durante.

The Azzurre fought back moments later when a corner found Caruso to flick it into the net.

However, South Africa turned the game around completely in the dying minutes from another combination between Kgatana and Magaia.

This time they switched roles as Kgatana sealed the win from a close range.

After three group games, South Africa progressed out with a second finish on four points, while Sweden won the group after a 2-0 victory over Argentina.

Sweden will take on defending champion the U.S. in the next match, while South Africa is to play the Netherlands.

Pakistan, India firmly occupy top two spots after Ashes sanctions

Dubai | Agencies

England and Australia had points deducted from their tally due to a slow over-rate in the recently-concluded men's Ashes 2023 series, which affected the World Test Championship standings as Pakistan and India firmly occupy the top two spots.

England were docked 19 points and Australia 10 points as a penalty for slow over-rate across the series as they fell further down the WTC25 standings on Wednesday.

As a result, the gap at the top of the ICC WTC standings has further widened significantly, with Asian neighbours Pakistan and India leading the way after making an unbeaten start to the new cycle.

Pakistan have made a perfect start to the 2023-25 campaign with a point percentage of 100 after their clean sweep against Sri Lanka. After a closely fought first Test, Babar



Azam's men dominated the hosts with a thumping innings victory in the second Test. Closely tailing them are India in the second spot with 66.66%, who have a win and a draw against their name after their series against West Indies. India set the tone with a massive innings win in the first Test but rain dampened their hopes of a clean sweep in the second Test that ended in stalemate. Before the sanctions, England and Australia had 26 points each and a point percentage of 43.33. After the penalties, Australia dropped to 30% while England plummeted to 15%,

taking them below the West Indies at 16.67%.

Having been whitewashed 2-0 at home, Sri Lanka are at the bottom with 0 points. Bangladesh, New Zealand and South Africa are yet to kickstart their campaign in the current iteration of the World Test Championship.

Adding to the misery, Australia lost their top spot in the ICC Men's Test Rankings as England made an impressive comeback from 2-0 to 2-2 in the Ashes. Tied on 118 points, India are on top on decimal points (118.4 points) as Australia (117.8) drop to second.

Australia Open

Sindhu, Srikanth, Prannoy advance to round of 16; Lakshya retires mid-way

Sydney | Agencies

Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu advanced to the second round of the Australia Open after registering win in her women's singles match at the State Sports Centre, here on Wednesday.

Sindhu, who has been struggling for form this year, defeated compatriot Ashmita Chaliha 21-18, 21-13 to make the women's singles round of 16.

She will face another compatriot Aakarshi Kashyap, who made it to the second round with a 21-15, 21-17 win over Malaysia's world No. 34 Goh Jin Wei.

In the men's singles, Srikanth beat world No. 14 Japanese shuttler Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 21-18, 21-7. He will play Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei in the second round on Thursday.

Prannoy, India's highest-



ranked singles shuttler, fended off a challenge from world No. 15 Lee Cheuk Yiu from Hong Kong to win 21-18, 16-21, 21-15. The world No. 9 Indian will next take on Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen.

Meanwhile, the 2021 world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen retired mid-way into his first-round match against countryman

Kiran George.

Mithun Manjunath, however, registered a shock 21-19, 21-19 straight-games win over former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore.

Priyanshu Rajawat also advanced to the second round after beating local shuttler Nathan Tang 21-12, 21-16 in 33 minutes and set up a second round clash against Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei.

India's challenge in the mixed doubles ended after BS Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa and Rohan Kapoor and N Sikki Reddy lost their respective opening round matches.

Reddy and Ashwini lost to the Japanese pair of Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito 13-21, 12-21 while Rohan and Sikki were beaten by Korean pair Seo Seungjae and Chae Yujung 14-21, 18-21.

ISHAN KISHAN JOINS ELITE GROUP AS INDIA CLINCH ODI SERIES IN STYLE

Tarouba | Agencies

Inexperienced opener Ishan Kishan joined an elite group of just six players as India clinched the ODI series against the West Indies in style with a commanding 200-run victory over the Caribbean side in the third ODI, here.

Kishan scored his third consecutive half-century when compiling a quickfire 77 from just 64 deliveries against the West Indies and in the process joined a group of five other India men's players to have reached 50 in all matches of a bilateral three-game ODI series, reports ICC.

There are some India greats among that group that Kishan entered, with Kris Srikkanth (1982), Dilip Vengsarkar (1985), Mohammad Azharuddin (1993), MS Dhoni (2019) and Shreyas Iyer (2020) the previous batters to have achieved the feat.

While Kishan has some way to go to match the exploits of the aforementioned quintet, the dynamic 25-year-old has made a blistering start to his international career over the last two years and is in the mix to earn selection for India at this



year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Kishan has 617 runs from 17 ODIs since making his international 50-over debut against Sri Lanka in July 2021 and his record-break-

ing 210 against Bangladesh at the end of last year is the standout performance of his fledgling career to date.

But his efforts against the West Indies have shown the left-hander

has more consistency to his game now and his imposing career strike rate in ODI cricket of 107.43 provides India's top-order with yet another good attacking option.

While Kishan was troubled early by West Indies pacer Kyle Mayers in the third ODI of the series on Tuesday, he soon found his rhythm to find the boundary with ease alongside fellow opener Shubman Gill.

Kishan fell in the 20th over when stumped by West Indies captain Shai Hope, but not before he and Gill had put on 143 for the opening wicket and put India in a dominant position to clinch the series.

Gill (85), Sanju Samson (51) and stand-in skipper Hardik Pandya (70) also compiled half centuries in the absence of rested stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as India amassed a big total of 351/5 from their 50 overs and that was always going to be enough as the hosts fell well short in reply.

Kishan was deservedly named Player of the Series for his efforts that saw him compile 184 runs from the three matches at an average of 61.33.

'He's born for Ashes cricket': Nasser Hussain backs Stuart Broad's retirement call

London | Agencies

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has hailed Stuart Broad for retiring at the top of his game after the veteran pacer enjoyed a memorable end to his career in his final international match.

Broad dropped a bombshell at the end of Day 3 of the final Ashes Test against Australia by announcing his decision to retire from international cricket at the end of the series.

With a jaw-dropping 604 wickets as a pacer in the longest format, Broad walked into the sunset as one of the greatest players in modern-day Test cricket.

Even in his last series, he finished with 22 wickets, the highest for any England bowler at this year's Ashes.

While announcing his retirement, Broad expressed that he could have



carried on playing but chose not to.

Speaking on the latest episode of The ICC Review, Hussain praised the English pacer's decision to call time

while he was still at the top of his game.

"Well, that's the point," Hussain said. "I think retirement is, you'd

want people to ask, 'Why not a little bit more?'

"You retire when people are saying, 'Why are you retiring?' rather than 'Why not?' When people start saying that you should be retiring, then you've probably gone a bit too far. So I think he's timed it perfectly. Two days to go, came down to us at Sky (Sports) and said, 'Yep, I'm done'. And then he had two days.

"But the one thing with Stuart, you know, because he announced his retirement, it's not like 'I'm done, I'm checking out. You know Stuart Broad is going to want to win. He's always been a winner."

It was a fairytale ending to Broad's career, both with the bat and ball.

Off his last ball with the bat, he smashed Mitchell Starc for a maximum, much to the delight of the parochial English crowd at The Oval.

Citi Open

Madison Keys and Frances Tiafoe registers first-round win

Washington (US) | Agencies

No. 7 seed American Madison Keys registered a win at the Citi Open for the first time in a decade, easing past Zheng Qinwen of China 7-5, 6-1 in the opener.

With a win on Tuesday night, Keys ended the five-match winning streak of 20-year-old Zheng, who won her first career WTA singles title on the clay courts of Palermo two weeks ago.

The American saved three break points at 4-4 in the first set to stay in front of Zheng, and Keys eventually converted her first set point at 6-5 by forcing an error with a penetrating backhand. Two of Zheng's 10 double faults ceded a 2-0 lead to Keys in the second set, and the seventh seed rolled to victory from there.

Keys will come back on Wednesday night for an all-American second-round tussle with Jennifer Brady, who picked up her first tour-level win in nearly two years on Tuesday.



Meanwhile, another American Frances Tiafoe opened his men's singles campaign with a tight 7-6(5), 7-6(5) win against Aslan Karatsev on Tuesday. Playing in his first match since Wimbledon, the 25-year-old Tiafoe fought off a set point on serve at 5-4 in the second set to avoid going the distance and later in the tie-break, he won four consecutive points after falling behind 3/5. After earning his second ATP Head-to-Head win against Karatsev, World No. 10 Tiafoe set a first-time meeting against 18-year-old Chinese star Shang Juncheng in the second round.

I am not playing only to seal a spot in the World Cup: Shardul

Tarouba | Agencies

India all-rounder Shardul Thakur said he is not among those who play for a spot in the World Cup but remains committed to making a significant impact in helping the team win.

On Tuesday, Thakur showcased his prowess with a remarkable spell, taking four wickets for 37 runs. His performance played a crucial role in dismantling the West Indies batting line-up as India secured a massive 200-run victory in the final ODI, ultimately clinching the three-match series 2-1.

"I don't think that way, I am not playing only to seal a spot in the World Cup. I am not that type of a player. If I keep that



(World Cup spot) in mind and play, I won't be able to play well," Shardul told reporters after the match.

"If I don't get picked for the World Cup, it's their (selectors) call. I can't do much about it. Very wrong of me to think that I should play to seal a spot, I will do just enough and go. I want to perform for the team, perform according to the situations. Whatever happens, I will always play to help the team win and make an impact in helping the team win," he added.

Speaking about his bowling performance, the all-rounder said he is determined to live up to the team's belief in his abilities and continue to deliver strong performances.

Tarouba | Agencies

West Indies captain Shai Hope expressed his team's inconsistency after suffering a 1-2 series loss against India and said while his side has the potential to showcase top-tier performance on some occasions, they also encounter crushing defeats on other days.

India amassed a big total of 351/5 from their 50 overs in the third ODI. However, the West Indies folded for 151, resulting in a massive 200-run victory for India. With the thumping defeat in the decider, the hosts failed to break India's 17-year unbeaten series win streak against them.

Speaking after the match, Shai Hope stated that they restricted the opposition to a gettable total



in the series decider. However, he admitted that they didn't pose a challenge with the ball at the start. "Hindsight is the best sight as I keep saying. We saw how the wicket was in the back end and I thought we restricted them well enough. We can look back and change many things but it is what it is. We didn't give them a challenge with the ball at the start.

"350 was a gettable total on that wicket but today wasn't our day. Anything you play, you gotta believe you can win. I keep stressing on that same thing - the consistency in attitude and the key is to get the guys together and turn some of these losses into wins. Some days we wake up and play like the best team in the world and some days we just get steamrolled," said Hope.



RANVEER SINGH SHARES CUTE POST WITH HIS 'HEART THROB' GRANDPA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ranveer Singh shared a heartwarming Instagram post with his 93-year-old Nana (maternal grandfather), on Wednesday, calling him the "peak of Rocky-ism" and a "heartthrob".

The actor, whose recently released film 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' is getting a lot of appreciation

from the audience, showed his fondness for his grandpa in the post, which includes one where the two are dancing to the Hindi song 'Jhumkagira re'.

The first image has the actor posing with his Nana, with both making the 'V' sign with their hand. While Ranveer has the slogan "What Jhumka??" written on his light blue sweatshirt, his nana is wearing a black

t-shirt with "Team Rocky" written on it.

Ranveer posted: "Nana is peak Rocky-ism! 93 and Rocky(y)ing!!! such a #Heartthrob."

In a video, the actor and his grandfather dance to Asha Bhonsle's song 'JhumkaGiraRe', and Ranveer plants affectionate kisses on his grandpa's head. In the third post, in black and white, his Nana is

seen saying "Tiqqichorro Tequila lao!" (bring Tequila).

Ranveer plays Rocky Randhawa in Karan Johar's 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'.

The film, which also features Alia Bhatt, released in theatres last week.

JOINING 'OTT GANG' UNDENIABLY ENTICING, SAYS NARGISFAKHRI

New Delhi: Actress NargisFakhri has expressed her excitement on joining the 'OTT gang', with her debut in 'Tatubaaaz', calling it an undeniably enticing and exhilarating experience.

She will be seen alongside 'SasuralSimarKa' fame TV actor DheerajDhoopar, who is also making his OTT debut with this series.

Nargis made her acting debut with a lead role in Imtiaz Ali's musical romantic drama 'Rockstar' in 2011, opposite RanbirKapoor. Reflecting on her foray into the ever-evolving landscape of OTT, Nargis said: "In the ever-evolving landscape of OTT, the surge of captivating content has made joining the 'OTT gang' undeniably enticing. Having worked in films previously, the opportunity to dive into a series was a refreshing and exhilarating experience for me." "Tatubaaaz" will stream on EPIC ON, the OTT platform under the IN10 Media Network umbrella. Talking about the same, Nargis added: "EPIC ON is venturing into the realm of OTT originals with an unyielding hunger to establish its mark in the market. Together, we embrace the challenge and excitement of delivering exceptional storytelling in this ever-evolving landscape, driven by the desire to captivate and engage audiences." "Dheeraj is also thrilled on his maiden voyage into the world of OTT. He expressed, "It has been a long wait for the perfect script, and when I came across the script of 'Tatubaaaz', I instantly knew it was the right project to take the leap."

"The OTT landscape is constantly evolving, and I am delighted to make my entry at a time when viewers have access to a diverse range of content. 'Tatubaaaz' brings a unique and out-of-the-box concept, and I am grateful to EPIC ON and the production house for their dedicated efforts in creating something we all strongly believe in," he added. Meanwhile, on the film front, Nargis was last seen in 'Shiv Shastri Balboa'. Dheeraj was last seen in 'SherdilShergill'.

Ayushmann says he has fast metabolism; only needs cardio, no carbs to lose weight

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star AyushmannKhurrana, who is set to reprise his role of Pooja in the upcoming madcap comedy 'Dream Girl 2', has shared the secret behind getting the perfect figure for her alter-ego of female in the film. The actor credits it to his fast metabolism.

Recently, while speaking to the media, the actor who essays dual character of Karam and Pooja in the film, said: "I have quite a fast metabolism. I can lose weight just by doing cardio and giving up on carbs."

In the film, Ayushmann's character of Karam assumes the avatar of Pooja in order to get the money so that he could live happily ever after with his lady love. The comedy ensues as Karam faces the trials and tribulations during the course of his transformation as Pooja.

The actor further mentioned:

"Thodibahutmehnatkipatla hone keliye like cardio and eating right, baakithodabahut VFX bhihotahai (I did cardio and ate right to get the right frame for Pooja, for everything else there's always VFX)."

The film's trailer was recently launched in Mumbai and promises a laughter riot. The film also stars AnanyaPanday, PareshRawal, Asrani, AnnuKapoor, Abhishek Banerjee, Manjot Singh, RajpalYadav, Manoj Joshi, SeemaPahwa and Vijay Raaz.

The film is a sequel to the 2019 runaway hit 'Dream Girl' which focused on a cross-gender actor (played by Ayushmann) whose female voice impersonation begets attention from others, and talks about depression and loneliness. Produced by Balaji Telefilms, 'Dream Girl 2' is directed by RaajShaandilyaa. The film, which was earlier supposed to release in July, is now arriving in theatres on August 25.



Rhea Chakraborty engages in new skit, mixes dance and drama

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Gang Leader Rhea Chakraborty in her latest activity with contestants on 'MTV Roadies: KarmYaKaand' decided to go for a bit of fun, as they all decided to make a new skit which would mix in a dance as well. Saying that they needed a journalist for the skit, she'd play the role of one as she had the most experience with them leaving everyone laughing.

Spicing things up, the new skit was one of the newest additions to the

plethora of drama that comes in the way of being on Roadies. The other contestants sure had their own dose of extra fun with Rhea as they acted out the skit with great enthusiasm and enjoyed every moment of it. Speaking about the skit, one of the contestants said that the whole thing was a powerful message for the youth to open up their minds, and that would be metaphorically akin to an entirely new dish. Rhea and her gang attempted to mix in a ton of flavours from all kinds of spices to sweetness in order to make the skit a fun experience, as well as

something that could pack in a message for the youth which will appeal to them.

This is one of the latest additions to the energy exuding from the gang as different contestants engage in different activities. If sometimes they fight and sometimes they are chided by the Leaders, then also they engage in unplanned spur of the moment ideas. Either way, this was a fun way for the contestants from Gang Rhea to vent out their in-built frustration from the drama that had been unleashed in front of them.

BHUVAN BAM IS 'OVERWHELMED WITH JOY' AS BB KI VINES CLOCKS 9 YEARS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of India's biggest YouTubers, and actor Bhuvan Bam is celebrating 8 years of BB Ki Vines. The YouTube channel, which was launched in 2015 made the most of the 4G revolution in India as it reached a greater audience due to the expansion of the 4G spectrum.

BB Ki Vines is known for its hilarious content in which all characters are played by Bhuvan himself. With his impeccable wit and relatable humour Bhuvan has achieved unparalleled success in the realm of online content creation and has collaborated with the likes of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan. As the journey of BB Ki Vines marks its 8th anniversary, Bhuvan celebrates



this milestone with gratitude towards his devoted community, whom he fondly refers to as his "family."

Talking about the same, Bhuvan expressed his heartfelt gratitude, saying, "I am overwhelmed with joy as BB Ki Vines completes 8 incredible years. It feels like just yesterday when I started this journey, and the love I have received from my community and everyone who has been part of this has been truly humbling."

Moreover, 2023 proves to be a year of dual celebration for Bhuvan Bam, as he transitioned from being an online sensation to an accomplished actor with his OTT series, "TaazaKhabar".

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Alaya F

Debutant Prem on VidyutJammwal: He is the OG commando



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Set to make his acting debut with the action-thriller series 'Commando', Prem has heaped praise on actor VidyutJammwal, saying he will always remain the 'OG commando'.

The 'Commando' franchise started in 2013 with 'Commando: A One Man Army' which starred Vidyut in the titular role. Over the years, the franchise has become a favourite of the enthusiasts of the action genre.

Prem opened up on how Vidyut has set a bench-mark, which he aspires to reach. The

young action hero Prem is set to surprise the audiences with the role of 'Commando Virat'. He shared: "Making a debut with something as big as 'Commando' which is giving me a moniker is surely a great deal. While I hope that the audience can resonate with me, Vidyut Sir will always remain the OG commando." Prem called Vidyut his inspiration, and said, "he has taken this action franchise to another level altogether, he is an inspiration for me or anyone else who wants to become an action star. In fact, I feel grateful that I had a benchmark to aspire to reach." "I hope to spring a surprise for the audience

and the Jammwalians by bringing them a new Commando with my style of aggression and my technique of action," he added. The upcoming series is touted to bring forth the tale of valour, patriotism, high-octane action and the journey of the titular character. Torn between a nefarious plan and a bio-war, Commando Prem devises an extraction mission to protect his nation and his brother Commando. Will he be able to succeed? The action-thriller will also see Adah Sharma, VaibhavTatwadi, Shreya Singh Chaudhry, AmitSial, MukeshChhabra and Ishteyak Khan in pivotal roles.