

absolute india

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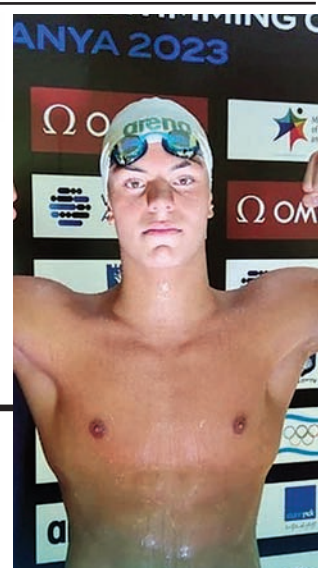
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G20 Dinner invite sparks big buzz: Oppn leaders slam govt over 'Prez of Bharat'

INDIA THAT IS BHARAT

The Narendra Modi-led Central government, which has been emphasising liberating the people of the country from the "slavery mentality" and any elements related to such a psyche during the ongoing "Amrit Kaal", is reportedly planning to remove the word "India" from the Constitution, sources in the know of things claimed, adding that a preparation pertaining to the proposal is underway. The sources said said at the upcoming Special Session of the Parliament scheduled to be held from September 18-22, the government is likely to present Bills related to the 'India' word omission proposal.

► The controversy has erupted just two days after the chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological mentor, suggested that the country discard India and switch to Bharat.

► The Presidential invite is not a one-off. "Bharat" has also been used in a G20 booklet meant for foreign delegates titled "Bharat, The Mother Of Democracy".

► "Bharat is the official name of the country. It is mentioned in the Constitution as also in the discussions of 1946-48," the booklet says.



This marks a significant shift in nomenclature on the international stage as the country prepares to host US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and other top world leaders.

President Droupadi Murmu's invite to G20 foreign leaders and Chief Ministers for a dinner on September 9. Amid buzz about the country's name change and the possibility of the government sealing the move in parliament in the five-day special session from September 18, the opposition held a series of meetings. Leaders denied reports that the opposition would skip the session. Amid surprise and criticism, BJP leaders

said the term "Bharat" is also in Article 1 of the Constitution, which says: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States."

Opposition parties linked the government's move to the name of their front to take on the BJP in 2024 - INDIA or Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. Leaders of the INDIA bloc met at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's home to discuss strategy.

The India versus Bharat debate heated up after the opposition alliance adopted the acronym INDIA in July. BJP leaders welcomed the "Bharat" nomenclature.

"Why does Congress has so much objection on every subject related to the honour and pride of the country? Why those doing political tours in the name of Bharat Jodo (Yatra) hate the slogan of Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

JP Nadda, President, BJP

"I don't understand what is wrong in writing President of Bharat. If we don't use Bharat name as Bharat, then what we will use. Our country is Bharat, so there should not be any doubt on this."

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS, Electronics and Technology

"What is the problem of Congress party. They did Bharat Jodo Yatra, why they did not name it India Jodo Yatra. When you think it will benefit you, then you take Bharat name, when you feel it will not benefit you, you take India name."

Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

"Article 1 in the Constitution can read: 'Bharat, that was India, shall be a Union of States'. But now even this 'Union of States' is under assault. After all, what is the objective of INDIA parties? It is BHARAT-Bring Harmony, Amity, Reconciliation And Trust. Judega BHARAT, Jeetega INDIA."

Jairam Ramesh, General Secretary, Congress

"BJP is fearful of INDIA alliance. I am asking, if we change the name of our alliance from INDIA to Bharat, what will they do? They will change the name of country to BJP?"

Arvind Kejriwal, CM, Delhi

"This is a blatant attempt to distort the history of the country. They are always trying to do this. But it is not acceptable to us."

Mamata Banerjee, CM, West Bengal

Congress gathers at Sonia's house, INDIA meet later

New Delhi: The buzz about the change of the country's name from "India" to "Bharat" has started a flurry of meetings in the Opposition camp. A meeting of Congress's parliamentary leaders is in progress at the house of Sonia Gandhi. It will be followed by a meet of opposition bloc INDIA leaders at the residence of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. The buzz had exploded this morning with the news that the President Droupadi Murmu's invite to G20 leaders introduces her as the "President of Bharat" instead of the traditional "President of India".

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A shift from "India" to "Bharat" on President Draupadi Murmu's G20 invitations to foreign leaders today triggered a huge row, with the opposition accusing the ruling BJP of rebranding the nation over political one-upmanship.

For the first time, official invites to heads of state for a dinner on September 9 in Delhi are from the "President of Bharat" instead of the traditional "President of India".

BJP claims to form government with 150 seats in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah could not reach Sheopor due to bad weather. He addressed the gathering over the phone itself. Shah said that due to rain in Gwalior the helicopter could not fly to Sheopor. But I will definitely come to Sheopor during this election campaign.

Shah, in his short address on phone, said that the double engine government in MP is establishing new dimensions of development. From 2003 to 2023, BJP has transformed MP from a sick state to an unmatched state. He appealed to the public to bless the Jan Ashirwad Yatra. CM Shivraj and Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also addressed the gathering over phone.

First of all, in Mandla, Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that this time BJP government is going to be formed in Madhya Pradesh with 150 seats. Shah flagged off BJP's



Jan Ashirwad Yatra in Mandla. Before this he addressed a meeting. He said - With your blessings we are starting Jan Ashirwad Yatra. Five such yatras will visit 210 assembly constituencies of the state and go to Bhopal.

Shah said - I have come today to say with certainty, Bantadhar ji, both you and Corruption Nath, listen, when our Jan Ashirwad Yatra ends on 25th September, on the same day it will be decided that next time in Madhya Pradesh, Indian National Congress will be elected with 150 seats. Janata Party government will be formed.

DOMESTIC SUGAR PRICES RISE 3% TO 6-YR HIGH OWING TO POOR RAINS

New Delhi: Domestic sugar prices have risen by 3 per cent in the last 15 days to their highest levels in six years, according to industry sources.

Owing to shortfall in rains in the sugarcane growing regions, the prices have risen even as the festival season is round the corner, when consumption of sweets is set rise manifold.

This could add to food inflation and discourage the government from allowing sugar exports, supporting global prices which are near their highest in more than a decade.

Sugar prices rose to Rs 37,760 per metric tonne on Tuesday, highest since October 2017. Keeping in view the strong demand for sugar during the upcoming festival season, an additional quota of 2 lakh metric tonnes (over and above 23.5 LMT allocated for the month) was allocated for August by the government.

Breather for Maha govt as Maratha leader extends GR ultimatum by 4 days

Jalna (Maharashtra) | Agencies

Spelling a respite for the Maharashtra government, Maratha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil on Tuesday extended his ultimatum to issue a GR on Maratha reservations by four days, while deciding to continue his agitation.

Speaking to media persons, Jarange-Patil made it clear that if the state failed to issue a Government Resolution (GR) in four days, then he would go off water too. His statements came after a 3-minister delegation called on him this evening to convey the government's stance on the issue of Maratha quotas in education and jobs, for which the Marathas have been agitating for the past



eight days at Antarvali-Sarati village. Since Sunday, government delegations of ministers, MPs, legislators and others have met Jarange-Patil on at least five occasions and made attempts to convince him to withdraw his hunger strike, but he has not budged.

This evening, a delegation led by Minister Girish Mahajan and two other ministers, called on Jarange-Patil and requested for a month's time to come out with GR on the

Maratha quotas. After much cajoling, Jarange-Patil agreed to extend his deadline from Tuesday by four more days - till Saturday - for the government to comply, failing which he threatened to intensify the agitation.

"Girish Mahajan has informed that he will revert within four days. I have also made it clear that they have four days' time only to implement their assurance. Thereafter, I shall be off food, saline, and water. We respect you but you should also understand us," said Jarange-Patil. He has proposed that the government should include Marathas in the Kumbi community which figures in the OBC quotas, and this will enable the GR survive any legal challenge, but the response of the government is not clear yet.

Over 75% believe kids at major risk of sexual abuse when using VR headsets

► According to the report, sex offenders are using games that simulate sexually abusing a child on the dark web and through private networks, so they can simulate abusing children online the way they would offline.

► About 52 per cent of children have remained silent about the sexual abuse they have experienced.

► The report also explored the broader issues of depersonalisation and dissociation in VR. Users can often experience a dissociated feeling when leaving an immersive space; the feeling that the world around them is not real.

London | Agencies

More than 75 per cent of people believe that 6 to 12-year-old kids are at major or significant risk of sexual abuse in VR (virtual reality) immersive spaces, a new report said on Tuesday.

About 80 per cent of people said that 13 to 16-year-olds are at major or significant risk of sexual abuse in VR immersive spaces, according to the UK-based child protection charity National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

According to the researchers, VR technologies can cause people



to experience "phantom touch". This is where the brain fills in the gaps in sensory input and causes the body to experience sensations similar to physical touch, meaning kids who experience VR sexual abuse might experience the physical sensation of being touched without their consent. "These shocking findings should be a wake-up call to us all about the

harm young people are facing when engaging with immersive technology," said Richard Collard, Head of Child Safety Online Policy at the NSPCC. "Technology will continue to progress, and so must we ensure that we can understand the existing and emerging risks that young people face in these virtual spaces," he added. "Victims have also been known to dissociate from their body as part of a trauma response. Therefore, there could potentially be a heightened risk of dissociation when a child suffers sexual abuse in a VR space. The research found that offenders also experience this dissociation," the researchers said.

ISRO RELEASES 3D IMAGE OF MOON'S SURFACE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Tuesday put out a 3-dimensional 'anaglyph' image of the Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander from the south pole of the Moon.

This image features the left image within the red channel, and the right image within the blue and green channels, resulting in a striking cyan hue.

"The Anaglyph presented here is created using NavCam Stereo Images, which consist of both a left and right image captured onboard the Pragyan Rover," the space agency said on X (formerly Twitter).

Anaglyph is a simple visualization of the object or terrain in three dimensions from stereo or multi-view images. "In this 3-channel image, the left image is positioned in the red channel, while the right image is placed in the blue and green channels (creating cyan). The difference in perspective between these two images results in the stereo effect, which gives the visual impression of three dimen-



sions. Red and cyan glasses are recommended for viewing in 3D," ISRO stated.

Red and cyan glasses are recommended for viewing in 3D. NavCam was developed by LEOS/ISRO. Data Processing is carried out by SAC/ISRO, the space agency added.

Notably, these images were released just a day after ISRO announced that the 'Vikram Lander' has been set into sleep mode at around 8 am (Indian Standard Time) on Monday morning.

ISRO said that the data collected by the payloads is received at the Earth and the payloads are now switched off. It is expected by ISRO that Vikram Lander and Pragyaan will awake again on around September 22.



UNION GOVT FILES SUGGESTIONS BEFORE SC ON SETTING UP EXPERT PANELS TO DETERMINE HIMALAYAN REGION'S CARRYING CAPACITY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry has filed its suggestions before the Supreme Court on the constitution of the expert committee to determine the carrying capacity of the ecological fragile Indian Himalayan region.

The Centre suggested that all 13 Himalayan states may be directed to submit an Action Taken Report and an Action Plan to carry out the carrying capacity assessment in a time bound manner.

The Union government proposed formation of a Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the respective State and comprising other members for carrying out a multi-disciplinary study as per guidelines prepared by G.B Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment.

It sought directions for formation of a Technical Committee to examine or evaluate the carrying capacity studies prepared by the Himalayan states and to forward its report to the respective states for implementation.

On August 21, the Supreme Court called for suggestions from the Union government over formation of an expert committee to assess the



"carrying capacity or bearing capacity" of the ecological fragile Indian Himalayan region against the backdrop of the recent land cracking and sinking issues in Uttarakhand's Joshimath.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, had mooted formation of an expert panel to carry out a comprehensive study after the petitioner had pointed out that the "carrying

capacity" template was formed by the government in the past and there is a need to undertake a comprehensive study by expert institutions.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who represented the Centre, had said that the Union government has circulated Guidelines for Assessing Carrying Capacity of Hill Stations including Cities and Eco-Sensitive Zones to all 13 Himalayan states in

2020 and has also sent another reminder in May this year requesting the states to submit their action plans. The plea claimed the Indian Himalayan Region, spread across 13 states/Union Territories (UTs), is facing issues of unsustainable and hydrologically disastrous constructions - home stays, hotels, and commercial accommodations, hydropower projects and unregulated tourism, which has allegedly collapsed the drainage and waste management system.

The plea filed by Ashok Kumar Raghav said these governments have failed in preparing and implementing the master plans, tourism plans, lay-out, area development or zonal plans.

It added that due to non-existent carrying of bearing capacity studies, grave geological hazards in the form of landslides, land subsidence, land cracking and sinking issues such as that in Joshimath and previously as flash floods or glacial bursts in Kedarnath (2013) and Chamoli (2021), are being witnessed and serious ecological and environmental depredation is taking place in the hills. Notably, the top court has said that it desired to restrict the scope of proceedings to Himalayan regions rather than all states of the country.

Dhugguri by-election: Polling concludes peacefully with over 80% turnout

Kolkata | Agencies

The by-election to the Dhugguri Assembly constituency in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district concluded peacefully on Tuesday with over 80 per cent voter turnout, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said.

The officials added that the exact polling percentage will be slightly higher as some voters were still standing in queues at some polling booths even after the expiry of the scheduled polling time.

Political observers feel that the polling percentage recorded so far is quite high considering the trend of lower turnout in by-elections.

The CEO officials said the polling process was peaceful on Tuesday, with hardly any complaint received from any political party throughout the day.

The counting of votes will be taken up on September 8.

The bypoll in Dhugguri was necessitated by the sudden demise of BJP legislator Bishnu Pada Roy on July 25. Roy had come to Kolkata to



participate in the monsoon session of the Assembly. He was admitted to a city hospital after he complained of the chest pain. He died soon after being admitted to the hospital.

The bypoll is witnessing a three-way fight between Trinamool Congress, BJP and Congress-backed CPI(M).

The BJP has fielded Tapasi Roy, the widow of CRPF jawan Jagannath Roy who was martyred in a terror attack at Lawaypora in J&K

on March 25, 2021. The Trinamool has fielded Nirmal Chandra Roy, a professor at the Dhugguri Girls College, while the Congress-backed CPI(M) candidate is Ishwar Chandra Roy.

In the 2021 Assembly elections, BJP's Bishnu Pada Roy had defeated sitting Trinamool MLA Mitali Roy by a margin of 4,355 votes. Being denied re-nomination in the bypoll, Mitali Roy joined the BJP just a couple of days ago.

INDIA bloc Campaign Committee holds first meeting to chalk out strategy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after the formation of the Campaign Committee by the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), the panel on Tuesday held its first meeting here to chalk out strategy for the campaigning ahead of the crucial Lok Sabha polls scheduled next year.

In a tweet, Congress leader Gurdeep Singh Sappal said: "The Campaign Committee, INDIA held its first meeting and had preliminary discussion on the modalities and functioning. It was a hybrid meeting, in which seven members joined online and eight were present physically."

He said, beside him, the meeting was attended by DMK's Tiruchi Siva, AAP's Sanjay Singh, JD-U's Sanjay Jha, Shiv Sena-UBT's Anil Desai, RJD's Sanjay Yadav, NCP's P.C. Chacko, CPI-M's Binoy Vishwam, RSP's N.K. Premachandran, RLD's Shahid Siddiqui, AIFB's G. Devarajan, PDP's Dr. Mehboob Beg, National Conference's Hasnain Masoodi, KC-M's Jose K Mani, and CPI-ML's Ravi Rai.



According to party sources, a proposal was kept during the meeting to hold a joint public meeting in four states.

However, the party leaders remained tightlipped. This was the first meeting of the campaign committee after the INDIA bloc, during its two-day meeting in Mumbai, constituted it. The INDIA bloc has formed a 14 member coordination committee and also Campaign Committee, research committee and social media committee to take on the BJP-led NDA in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

CBI arrests GAIL Executive Director for bribe, recovers full Rs 50 lakh bribe amount

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday said that it has recovered Rs 50 lakh, the full bribe amount that was paid to Gail India Ltd's Executive Director, Projects, K.B. Singh by two persons at the instruction of a private firm's director.

Singh allegedly promised to provide the private firm with undue favors in the SAPL (Srikakulam Angul Pipeline) and VAPL (Vijapur Auraiya Pipeline) projects of GAIL.

"We have arrested Krishna Ballabh Singh, the Executive Director of GAIL, Surendra Kumar, Director of Advance Infrastructures Pvt Ltd, Davinder Singh, CGM of GAIL, Harsh Yadav, a resident of Delhi, and Suryavesh, a resident of Jhajjar, Haryana. An FIR was filed against them, including



Sunil Kumar, the Senior General Manager of MECON Ltd, and

Vadodra-based private firm, Advance Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd.,"

said the official.

The official stated that Singh, in conspiracy with others, was providing undue favours in connection with the SAPL and VAPL Projects of GAIL.

Surendra Kumar of Advance Infrastructures arranged the bribe amount of Rs 50 lakh through Yadav and Suryavesh. The CBI learned that a Rs 50 lakh bribe was to be delivered to Singh by Yadav and Suryavesh, set a trap and apprehended the duo when they handed over the bribe to the official. The official said that Rs 50 lakh bribe was recovered from Singh.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused, including in Delhi, Noida, Visakhapatnam, and Vadodra, which led to the discovery of incriminating documents and digital evidence. The arrested accused will be presented before the competent court.

PUNJAB TO GO FOR MASSIVE RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS: MANN

Moga (Punjab) | Agencies

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced a major recruitment drive in the Education Department to augment the human resource for imparting quality education in government schools.

The Chief Minister, while addressing the gathering during a state-level function to mark Teacher's Day, said a large number of posts are lying vacant in the Education Department due to which studies are being affected.

He said in consonance with the commitment of the government to make Punjab a front-runner state in education, the government has decided to start a massive recruitment drive.

Mann said a large number of posts, including campus managers, sanitary workers and others, will be recruited in the coming days.

The Chief Minister, who also felicitated 80 teachers with the state-level awards, said ushering in an era of revolution the government is all set to launch schools of eminence in the state.

He said a budget of Rs 68 crore has been released for setting up these schools and the first school will be dedicated to people on September 13.



Mann said this state-of-the-art school will act as a catalyst in providing quality education to the students.

The Chief Minister said in a bid to transform the

schools in the state 10,000 classrooms are being given a new look across Punjab.

He said these classrooms will be equipped with "U" shape furniture and hi-tech equipment to facilitate the students.

Mann said apart from it, 1,000 new classes are being constructed in the state. The Chief Minister said students are also being sent to ISRO and other institutes for boosting their scientific temperament.

He said this will enable the students of the government schools to compete with their convent educated peers. The Chief Minister said for the first time in the history of Punjab, mega parent-teacher meeting (PTM) was organized in government schools across the state.

In these PTMs, 19 lakh parents took part. Striking an emotional chord, the Chief Minister said the problem of every teacher will be solved for which the government is already making all-out efforts.

Asserting that he is there to resolve all issues faced by the teaching fraternity, Mann said being son of a teacher he knew the problems of the teachers very well, adding he is duty-bound to resolve all of them. He said the state exchequer belongs to the people and every single penny will be judiciously utilised for the well being of every strata of society.

ED busts international hawala racket of Rs 300 cr; detains 5

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday detained five persons under the provisions of the COFEPOSA Act for running an international hawala racket of more than Rs 300 crore. The detained persons have been identified as V.S. Suresh Babu, A.K. Shaji alias Payasam Shaji, Mohammed Shibu, Mohammed Shiju, and Siraj V. Essakhan, all residents of Kerala.

The ED case is based on the investigation establishing that these persons were involved in high-volume international hawala operations for the past many years in contravention of Foreign Exchange Management Act



(FEMA), running into more than Rs 300 crore.

The ED had on June 19 conducted raids at 14 locations in Kerala as part of its investigation into hawala operators in the state.

The raids were conducted against entities who were allegedly undertaking hawala transactions in the guise of forex exchange, gifts shops,

jewellery shops and ready-made garment shops, etc.

During the searches, assorted foreign currencies from more than 15 countries and Rs 4 crore in Indian currency were seized. It was established that the suspects were indulging in illegal forex dealings without KYC or issuing bills.

Bihar farmer carries fodder on BMW, video goes viral

Patna | Agencies

A farmer in Bihar's Samastipur district carried green fodder on his BMW car for feeding cattle.

A video has gone viral over the social media (Instagram) where the farmer, Anshu Kumar, has put the green fodder on the rooftop of the luxury car and takes it home.

Following the video, a social media user said that anything is possible in Bihar while another social media user said that the car has a missing number plate, which means it is a stolen car.

When contacted, Anshu Kumar claimed that he has a tour and travel business and is a farmer, located at Jitwarpur locality. "As green fodder is unavailable in urban areas I went in my BMW car to bring green fodder to feed the cattle. Due to green fodders, cattle yield an extra



quantity of milk. I had put the green fodders on the rooftop of my car and was returning home when someone shot the video and uploaded it on social media," Anshu said. Commenting about com-

ments which say that it was a stolen BMW, Anshu said: "I want to inform them that I have purchased it from hard earned money. I also have a Mahindra Scorpio, Thar and other sedans," he said.

SIX KILLED AS HEAVY RAINS LASH MANY PARTS OF TELANGANA

Hyderabad | Agencies

Six people were killed as heavy rains lashed several parts of Telangana on Tuesday, throwing normal life out of gear.

Six deaths were reported in separate rain-related incidents. Three persons including two women died of lightning in Jayashankar Bhupalapally district. Three others were drowned in Sangareddy and Wanaparthy districts.

Two agriculture workers were killed when lightning struck them in Kailapur of Chityal mandal in Jayashankar Bhupalapally district. They were working in agriculture fields. They were identified as Sarita (30) and Mamata (32).

A farmer died of lightning in Damarakunta of Kataram mandal in the same district. Rajeshwar Rao (46) was working in the field when he was hit by a thunderbolt.

A man was washed away in flood waters in Sangareddy district. The incident occurred near Mambapur in Gummadidala mandal when he was crossing a stream. Rescue workers retrieved the body of Sudhakar (42).

Two persons died in separate inci-



dents in Wanaparthy district. A six-year-old boy drowned in a pond on the outskirts of Peddagudem. In another incident a person identified as Shankar Nayak was drowned in a lake while fishing.

Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed several parts of the state since Monday night, inundating low-lying areas and affecting normal life. Lakes, ponds and streams were overflowing due to incessant rains.

Irrigation projects were receiving huge inflows from upstream. Authorities opened the gates of some projects to release the water downstream. Officials lifted the gates of Nizam Sagar reservoir in Kamareddy district due to massive inflows from the catchment and upstream areas. Sriram Sagar Project and Kadam dam were also receiving huge inflows.

Meanwhile, the Indian

Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Khammam, Nalgonda and Mahabubabad districts. Heavy Rain very likely to occur at isolated places in KomaramBheem Asifabad, Mancheril, Karimnagar, Peddagudem, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Suryapet, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Janagao, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvangiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajiri, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy, Narayanpet and Jogulamba Gadwal districts. According to the IMD, under the influence of the cyclonic circulation over Northwest Bay of Bengal, a low pressure area has formed over Northwest and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal off south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coasts.

The associated cyclonic circulation extending upto 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwestwards with height persists. It is very likely to move nearly westwards across south Odisha and south Chhattisgarh during next 24 hours, the IMD said in its bulletin.



MAA SHARDA'S CITY MAIHAR WILL BE GIVEN DISTRICT STATUS- CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Maihar, the city of Maa Sharda, will be given district status, the process of which will start from today. Chief Minister Chouhan made this announcement while addressing the gathering of Maihar virtually from his residence office Samatva. He said that I had to come to Maihar and announce the formation of the district, but due to the arrival of Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah in Mandla and Sheopur, it was not possible for me to come to Maihar. I am announcing this today with Maa Sharda's blessings.

I pray to God that drought does not occur

While praying to Maihar's Maa Sharda for rain in the state, Chief Minister Chouhan said that the farmers are worried due to lack of rain, he has also offered prayers at Ujjain Mahakal and Shri Ramraja in Orchha for rain. I pray to God that there should be no drought in the state, may God's grace and blessings be upon all of us.

We will not sit idle in case of lack of rain

Chief Minister Chouhan said that in case of lack of rain, we will not sit



idle. If there is a crisis, we will take the people of the state out of the crisis. Demand for electricity has increased due to drought, we are also making efforts to fulfill it.

Water has been released in the canals for the farmers, I am continuously monitoring the situation. We hope the crops are not adversely

affected, but if necessary, a survey of the crops will also be conducted and along with the compensation, the amount of crop insurance will also be made available to the farmers. Farmer need not worry, Sharda Maa's blessings will be on all of us.

Home Minister Narottam Mishra, Minister of State Ramkhelavan Patel,

MP Ganesh Singh were present in Maihar's meeting. Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, Member of Parliament V.D. Sharma, MLA Rameshwar Sharma and Krishna Gaur, former MLA Dhruvanarayan Singh and former Mayor Alok Sharma were present.

Holistic development of country in Amrit Kaal : Home Minister Amit Shah

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that a new era of development has started in India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The country is continuously progressing in Amrit Kaal. With better implementation of the development schemes run by the double engine government of the Center and the State, Madhya Pradesh has evolved from sick to a developed state. Union Home Minister Shri Shah was addressing the huge public meeting organised at Sheopur district headquarters virtually from Gwalior airport. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also addressed the public meeting virtually.

Union Home Minister Shah and Chief Minister Shri Chouhan addressed the public meeting of Sheopur virtually from the Gwalior airport complex on Tuesday afternoon when the helicopter could not reach Sheopur due to heavy rain in Gwalior. Union Forest Minister Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Energy Minister Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar, State BJP President Shri V.D. Sharma were also present.

In the programme organised in Sheopur, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, State Minister of State Shri Suresh Dhakad, MP Shri K.P. Yadav and Sushri Sandhya Rai along with other public representatives and a large number of distinguished citizens were present.

Home Minister Amit Shah said that earlier Madhya Pradesh was counted in the category of Bihar states. After the year 2003, several huge developments have taken place in the state. Amazing works of public welfare are conducted in Madhya Pradesh under the



leadership of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan. Madhya Pradesh is writing a new chapter of development. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan, the state government has made adequate availability of electricity and water for agriculture to the farmers, apart from better facilities for food grains and treatment to the poor. The central and state governments are working for the welfare of every section in the society, due to which the state and the country are progressing by leaps and bounds.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that farmers are worried due to less rainfall in Madhya Pradesh. I want to assure them that farmers should not worry about anything. The state government stands with the farmers. If crops have been damaged due to less rainfall, the government will help farmers overcome this crisis. Due to the development-oriented schemes of the Central and State Government, new dimensions of development are being established in Sheopur. A network of roads has been laid in Sheopur district. Besides, huge irrigation projects have been implemented in the district. A medical college is also being established in Sheopur district.

ED raids multiple locations in Bhopal in Rs 250 cr loan fraud involving Peoples Group

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday said that it recently conducted search operations at multiple locations in Bhopal in the case of Peoples Group-Bhopal and the entities under it -- Sarvjanik Jankalyan Parmarthik Nyas, Peoples University, Sark's Metal Pvt Ltd, and their Directors Rohit Pandit, Mayank Vishnoi and others in a loan fraud of Rs 250 crore.

The ED initiated PMLA investigation based on a complaint filed by Registrar of Companies, Gwalior wherein it was alleged that directors of Peoples General Hospital Pvt Ltd, Peoples International & Services Pvt Ltd and PGH International Pvt Ltd abused their positions and gave loans of more



than 250 crore at zero or very low interest rates to related entities, causing wrongful loss to the shareholders and wrongful gain to related entities. During the search operations, cash of Rs eight lakh

was seized and various incriminating documents were found which revealed lending of loan to various related entities. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

Teachers should impart values to serve parents and nation in students : Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that teachers should impart the values of service to parents and the nation to their students. Shri Patel said that world famous universities like Takshashila and Nalanda are our glorious heritage. People from the entire world came to India for education. He urged the teachers to focus on restoring the ancient glory of Indian education.

Shri Patel was addressing the state-level teacher felicitation ceremony at Academy of administration, Bhopal. The ceremony took place under the auspices of the Directorate of Public Instruction and the School Education Department. Minister of State for School Education Shri Inder Singh Parmar and Principal Secretary School Education Smt. Rashmi Arun Shami were present.

Governor Shri Patel said that it is pivotal for teachers to unitedly work to mould a future generation that is ready to dedicate everything for



nation building. The nature of education and teaching should inspire students to progress in life. Even the glare of success, should not keep them from serving their parents, society and nation. He said that it is the responsibility of teachers to maintain the dignity of the honour they have received. Whatever children learn from their teachers, they inculcate in their own life. Motivate and encourage them with your conduct and behaviour. Plant the seeds of morality, good conduct and values in them. Tell them that conduct and behav-

iour are the basis of success in life. Shri Patel appreciated the musical presentation of Saraswati Vandana at the beginning of the programme.

During the ceremony Minister of State for School Education Shri Inder Singh Parmar said that Guru creates a great citizen. Guru tradition is important in Indian culture. Teacher has the best place in our cultural beliefs.

The teacher community should serve as a source of inspiration for students and society. Inspire others with your work and conduct.

Governor felicitates teachers Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel felicitated 14 teachers by presenting them shawl, shریف, citation and Samman Nidhi cheque. 8 teachers of primary and middle schools and 6 teachers of high school and higher secondary schools were honoured. Three teachers from the state honoured with the National Teacher Award 2022 and the first three teachers selected in the educational seminar were also honoured. Commissioner School Education Smt. Anubha Srivastava proposed vote of thanks.

In the ceremony, Chairman Patanjali Sanskrit Sansthan Shri Bharat Bairagi, Chairman Madhya Pradesh Text Book Corporation Shri Shaileendra Barua, Chairman Yoga Commission Shri Ved Prakash, Director State Education Centre Shri Dhanraju S, Vice Chairman Board of Secondary Education Dr. Rama Mishra, senior officials of the Education Department and family members of felicitated teachers were present.

Uma Bharti Respected By All In BJP, Says Scindia After She Complains About 'No Invitation' To Jan Ashirwad Yatra



Team Absolute | Gwalior

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia reached Gwalior on a three-day visit where he took a dig at Congress' Van Adhikar Yatra. He said that no matter how many yatras Kamal Nath and the Congress Party take out and no matter how many guarantees they give, there is only hatred in their shop of love.

Scindia thanked Chouhan regarding the Madhya Pradesh government's deci-

sion regarding guest teachers, he said "I want to thank Shivraj Chouhan from the bottom of my heart. Our guest teachers raised their voice against Congress's breach of promise. The guest teachers were fighting for their rights due to the breach of promise made to them. Chouhan has doubled the honorarium of guest teachers. Their contract has been kept completely for 1 year. Their reservation in jobs has been increased from 25% to 50%. I thank CM Shivraj on behalf of the guest teachers and on my own behalf. Our three Gods are on this earth - Our life giver doctor, food giver farmer and knowledge giver teacher. The Chief Minister of our state Chouhan has done the work of providing new energy to all three, so I thank CM Shivraj and the central lead-

ership from the bottom of my heart." Scindia regarding Jan Ashirwad Yatra Regarding the Jan Ashirwad Yatra, Scindia said that the Jan Ashirwad Yatra is starting from Sheopur. Five yatras are going on as per the predetermined schedule. The first yatra is flagged off by JP Nadda. For the second yatra the green flag has been shown by Rajnath Singh. The third and fourth yatra are being flagged off today by Amit Shah. The last yatra will be flagged off by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

On the resentment, Scindia said that Bharatiya Janata Party, senior, junior and youth are all one family which are pearls of the same garland. BJP is a party of workers and it is our wish that every person, whether old or young, should contribute to this journey.

Bharti respected by all He further said that as far as Uma Bharti is concerned, She is not a regional but national level leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party. She is respected and revered by all of us.

While making a clean sweep in the assembly elections, he said on the question of forming the government that I am not an astrologer, but I will definitely say that the Bharatiya Janata Party government will be formed in Madhya Pradesh with absolute majority. During the Corona period also, this government has established new dimensions of development and progress. Under the leadership of Chouhan, the work of taking the BJP to a new height has been done. There has been rapid development in every field.

Prime Minister Modi will perform the Bhoomi Pujan of Rs 50 thousand crore investment works at the petrochemical complex in Bina on September 14

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will perform the Bhoomi Pujan of the investment works worth Rs 50 thousand crore in the petrochemical complex at BPCL, Bina in Sagar. An investment of Rs 50 thousand crore is going to be made near Bina Refinery for the production of petrochemicals. An investment of one and a half lakh crore will be made in the state, which will provide employment to three lakh people.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave this information after flagging off Vikas Rath which will provide information about the public welfare schemes of the state government. These Vikas Rath are based on the theme of "Vikas Kiya Hai-Vikas Kareng" to apprise the general public. The Vikas Rath were flagged off to visit the districts. These chariots will travel for 40 days in rural and urban areas. A total of 127 Vikas Rath will travel in the state. Our government has brought the state in the category of developed states On this occasion, Chief Minister



Chouhan said that it is a matter of pleasure that our government has put the state in the forefront of the developed states of the country. There are many achievements of our government, it is our duty to tell the people of the state what works we have done for the development and welfare of the people of the state. Our Vikas Rath will put our achievements and report card in front of the public. Roads, irrigation system, growth of economy, education, health, electricity arrangements etc. progress has been made in every field. The development of villages and cities, production of crops and investment coming into the state have continuously increased. The achieve-

ments of the state government will be showcased through the Prachar Rath. Three lakh people will get employment. Vikas Rath will screen films focused on the progress of the state. It is noteworthy that various video films and songs will be shown through the LEDs fitted in the Vikas Rath. In these videos, film focusing on the development of the district will be shown. The Madhya Pradesh song sung by Raghuvver Yadav, video films based on Madhya Pradesh then and now, central government schemes in Madhya Pradesh then and now, amazing Madhya Pradesh, public concerns, Vande-Madhy Pradesh, women empowerment, Ladli Bahna Sena, agriculture and irrigation, self-help groups and Seekho-Kamao Yojana will be screened. The video films will be screened and publicity-promotion will be done through Vikas Rath in Haat Bazars organised in districts, and various religious and public places, rural areas, in the wards of urban areas and at prominent places.

Congress' Randeep Surjewala Calls CM Chouhan 'Phisaddi', Says 'Likening Him To Dhoni Is Huge Disrespect Of The Iconic Cricketer'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The likening of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni is huge disrespect of the legendary cricketer, said Congress' Randeep Surjewala on Tuesday referring to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent statements. Chouhan is "such a player" to whom one will not even give an opportunity for "trials" and that he gets himself out hit-wicket, said the Congress general secretary in-charge of MP, where assembly elections are due by November.

Singh on Monday heaped praise on Chouhan for his leadership qualities and sought to compare him with Dhoni, who was known for his match-winning abilities. Like Dhoni, who led India to the 2011 ODI World Cup victory, Chouhan will also pull off win in the polls, he said.

Calls Chouhan 'Phisaddi' Responding to a question on Singh terming Chouhan as Dhoni of politics, Surjewala said, "It is the biggest disrespect of our best player. He (Chouhan) is a 'phisaddi' (failed) player to whom no one will give an opportunity even for trials. Whenever he holds a bat, he gets



himself out hit-wicket. Here Madhya Pradesh gets hit-wicket." Asked about the speculation that the government is planning to drop India and stay with just Bharat as

the country's name, the Congress leader said, "They (BJP gov't) will never talk about unemployment, agriculture, drought, compensation, inflation, hatred and progress." Surjewala said the government will keep people entangled in such "webs and propaganda". It is like a "web of Shakuni (character from epic Mahabharat)".

Dodges question on Stalin On the controversial statement of DMK leader Dayanidhi Stalin about 'Sanatan Dharma', Surjewala said he had not heard the exact word or understood its meaning as he didn't know the south Indian language in which it was made.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, गुना जिला गुना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/3128/ई-निविदा/2023-24		निविदा विभाजन क्रमांक 05/ई-निविदा/नपा, गुना, गुना, 2023-24		गुना, दिनांक 04.09.2023
द्वितीय आमंत्रण				
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EDITOR'S SPECS

SHOWER OF FREEBIES

Even though the entire Opposition has been accusing the BJP of being in election campaign mode round the year, top BJP leaders, however, say that every decision taken by the Modi government is in the interest of the country and is the reason for some bold decisions. The BJP leaders say that the Centre did not shy away from taking bold political decisions, for instance demonetisation, GST implementation, etc. And, as far as elections are concerned, the government focuses only on governance for the first four years of its term and then enters electoral politics in its fifth and final term, the BJP says. If seen from this perspective, the fifth year of the second term of the Modi government has already begun, that is the poll bugle for the election year has started for which the BJP has entered the electoral field by dedicating various major announcements for the people. Recently, the Modi government's announcement to slash the prices of LPG gas cylinders by Rs 200 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan has once again brought the issue of 'revdi politics' (offering freebies) at the forefront before the crucial upcoming general and several Assembly elections in the country. The BJP leaders are refusing to say that this decision by the Modi government is a 'freebie'. According to a top cabinet minister in the Modi government, the Prime Minister can make several big announcements in the coming days to ease the difficulties of the people, to reduce the economic burden on them and to improve their standard of living. The Modi government is making a poll pitch dedicating development projects for the people of the country. It is clear that political tussle regarding 'Revdi politics' and 'Revdi culture' is likely to continue in the future.

INDIA TO POSITION ITSELF AS THE 'VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH' AT G20 SUMMIT

Animesh Singh

The New Delhi G20 summit, scheduled to be held between September 9 and 10, is just round the corner and is being highlighted as one of the key achievements of the government in positioning India as the voice of the Global South.

After two days of intense deliberations, the G20 Summit will culminate with a New Delhi Declaration, which is expected to outline the main agenda items namely climate change and climate finance, the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in poverty alleviation, advancement on sustainable development goals, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure and most significantly the socio-economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

India has always positioned itself as the voice of the Global South -- a reference to the developing or least developed nations -- and it has used the platform of G20 presidency to champion the cause of such nations.

During the Voice of Global South summit, which took place in January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the "world is in a state of crisis" and told the leaders of developing countries "your voice is India's voice" and "your priorities are India's priorities".

"India has always shared its developmental experience with our brothers of the Global South. As India begins its G20 Presidency this year, it is natural that our aim is to amplify the Voice of the Global South," he had added.

With the theme for India's G20 presidency being 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', or 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', a phrase, which originates from the ancient Sanskrit text Hitopadesha, the government has consistently used it to establish its foreign policy.



India aims to make maximum use of the diplomatic opportunity which it has got as president of the G20 and therefore almost all the countries have confirmed their presence for the forthcoming G20 summit.

The G20 grouping consists of nations which contribute to around 80 per cent of the global GDP and more than 70 per cent of international trade.

The G20 Summit will see the presence of around 25 world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, British PM Rishi Sunak, French president Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, among others.

According to sources, except for Russian president Vladimir Putin, almost all G20 leaders have confirmed their presence for the New Delhi G20 summit.

On August 28, Putin in a telephonic conversation with prime

minister Narendra Modi, had conveyed his inability to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi and informed that Russia would be represented by his foreign minister Sergey Lavrov.

US president Joe Biden in fact is arriving on September 7 on a four-day bilateral visit, during which he will also attend the G20 summit.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's presence in the multilateral event is yet to be confirmed. On August 11, when asked about it, the External Affairs Ministry's Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said that the government has invited all participants and looked forward to their participation.

Mexico's delegation may also not be led by its President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, and its Minister for Economy Raquel Buerrostrero Sanchez is likely to represent the country in the summit.

Here is the complete list of G20 member states invited to the sum-

mit: Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese; Argentina President Alberto Fernandez; President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa; President of France Emmanuel Macron; Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida; Prime Minister of Italy Giorgia Meloni; US President Joe Biden; President of Indonesia Joko Widodo; Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau; President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva; Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Mohammad Bin Salman; Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz; President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak; President of China Xi Jinping; President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol; and President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

The multilateral event will also see

participation from Charles Michel, President of the European Council.

In addition to this, India has also invited leaders from nine nations who are not a part of the G20 Cohort. These are Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Spain President Pedro Sanchez, President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sayyid Asad Bin Tariq Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister of Oman and personal representative of the Head of State Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

international

MOSCOW READY TO REVIVE BLACK SEA GRAIN DEAL AS SOON AS ITS DEMANDS ARE MET: PUTIN

Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that Moscow would return to the Black Sea grain deal as soon as its requirements are met.

"We will be ready to revive the grain deal, and we will do this as soon as all restrictions on the export of Russian agricultural products are lifted," Putin added on Monday at a press conference following talks with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Russian city of Sochi.

He said that Russia's grain harvest could reach 130 million ton this year, and the country's export potential would remain at 60 million ton, Xinhua news agency reported.

He added that Moscow is not opposed to the grain deal, but warned Ukraine against using grain export corridors for mili-



tary purposes.

Erdogan noted that Turkey had been working on a new package of proposals together with the UN. He expressed confidence that the proposals would help resume the deal as soon as possible.

The Russian leader further said that Moscow will continue

exporting food and fertiliser to help stabilise global food prices. He added that Russia, Turkey and Qatar would work jointly to deliver one million tonne of Russian grain to countries in need. The initiative will contribute to solving the global food crisis, Putin said, adding however that it shouldn't be viewed as

an alternative to the Black Sea grain deal. The two leaders also discussed bilateral energy and trade relations, including the joint construction of the Akkuyu nuclear power plant.

The Russian President noted that the plant's first unit is expected to be launched next year. Putin further confirmed Moscow's readiness to establish a regional gas hub in Turkey to deliver gas supplies to third countries. The two Presidents also discussed the Ukrainian crisis and global ceasefire proposals aimed at achieving a political settlement.

Putin thanked Erdogan for his mediation efforts, and reiterated that Moscow remained open for dialogue. Erdogan in turn confirmed that Turkey is ready to act as a mediator between Russia and Ukraine, and remains committed to establishing lasting peace and stability.

Another cyclone likely to make landfall in China

Jill Biden tests positive for Covid-19

Washington | Agencies

Beijing: Another tropical cyclone is expected to make landfall in or have a major impact on China in late September, bringing gales and heavy rains to the country's southern and southeastern regions, an official said on Tuesday. Local authorities should take precautions to reduce the repercussions on people's lives, said Jia Xiaolong, deputy director of the National Climate Centre.

China has already been hit by Typhoon Saola and Haikui from the starting of this month, reports Xinhua news agency. The country will see an uneven distribution of rainfall in September, with parts of Heilongjiang and Xinjiang expected to receive precipitation 20-50 per cent higher than average. However, parts of Hebei, Shanxi, Henan, Shandong, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hubei, and Shaanxi will have less rainfall than normal years this month. Some parts of the country, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, and Inner Mongolia, will see temperatures slightly higher than in normal years, Jia said.

US First Lady Jill Biden has tested positive for Covid-19, the White House announced. "This evening, the First Lady tested positive for Covid-19. She is currently experiencing only mild symptoms. She will remain at her home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware," CNN quoted Biden's spokesperson Elizabeth Alexander saying in a statement on Monday night. President Joe Biden, 80, tested negative, according to the White House. An administration official told CNN that there were no changes to White House Covid protocols or to the President's schedule at this time. The diagnosis of the 72-year-old First Lady comes amid a busy week for the President, who delivered a Labor Day speech in Philadelphia earlier in the day.

He is scheduled to present the Medal of Honor to an Army captain in a White House ceremony Tuesday before departing for the G20 Summit in New Delhi, India. The First Lady had tested positive



for Covid-19 while vacationing in South Carolina in August 2022, just a month after the President was diagnosed with the virus.

Both experienced rebound cases shortly after being treated with Paxlovid. Jill Biden's diagnosis comes amid renewed attention to Covid-19 as the world approaches the fourth virus season since the global outbreak in early 2020, CNN reported. In the US, there were about four new hospital admissions for every 100,000 people in the week ending August 19, which is considered low, according to the CDC. While seven countries had high levels of Covid-19, 117 countries -- about 3.6 per cent of the country -- were in the medium threshold.

Kim Jong-un likely flaunting daughter at military events to elicit loyalty: Seoul

Seoul | Agencies

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has mainly brought his daughter, Ju-ae, to military-related events in an apparent bid to highlight his feats in the military sector and elicit the loyalty of the armed services, South Korea's Unification Ministry said Tuesday.

Kim's daughter has made public appearances on 15 occasions since she made her first one in November 2022, and 12 cases of the total, or 80 per cent, were at military-related events, the Ministry said citing reports by the Rodong Sinmun, the North's main newspaper.

In contrast, she attended events related to the economy and social affairs three times, Yonhap News Agency quoted the Ministry as saying.

Ju-ae, believed to be around 11 years old, was first reported by state media on November 18, 2022 when she, along with her father, attended the firing of a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile.

Since then, her public appearances have been focused on the military field, including a military parade in February and an inspection



in May of a facility to prepare the launch of the country's first spy satellite.

North Korean state media have carried a total of 107 photos featuring her.

Of them, seven photos were placed on the front page of the Rodong Sinmun, and 80 photos, or 75 per cent, showed her right next to Kim Jong-un.

Despite an increase in her appearances in state media, many North Korean observers see the possibility of Ju-ae becoming a hereditary successor as low, given the country's patriarchal society and the rumoured existence of an eldest son among Kim's children.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers Monday that it is "hasty" to judge that Ju-ae has been anointed as the successor, as North Korea, a male-dominant society, is "obsessed" with the Paektu bloodline of Kim's royal family.

Thousands of festival attendees in Nevada struggle to leave due to torrential rain

Los Angeles | Agencies

Thousands of people were struggling to leave a remote desert in western US state of Nevada, after they had been stuck in the mud at the annual Burning Man Festival due to days of torrential rain.

Each year, the annual arts and music festival attracts around 70,000 attendees to the Black Rock Desert in northern Nevada to create Black Rock City, a temporary metropolis dedicated to community, art, self-expression and self-reliance.

This year's event, which began on August 27 and was scheduled to run through Monday, has drawn national attention as its exit gates were forced to be closed after a rare storm on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported.

In a Facebook post on Sunday, Pershing County Sheriff's Office said that most Burning Man Festival operations had been halted or significantly delayed "due to unusual weather conditions on the playa".

There had been mild to heavy rain



for several hours, causing conditions that made it virtually impossible for motorised vehicles to traverse the

playa, according to the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office also said that it

was investigating a death which occurred during the rain event but there was no further information available at this time.

The organisers of the event said on Sunday that some vehicles with 4WD and all-terrain tyres were able to navigate the mud and were successfully leaving. "But we are seeing most other types of vehicles that try to depart getting stuck in the wet mud which hampers everyone's exodus," they said, urging attendees "do not drive at this time".

The organisers asked attendees to "take shelter in a warm, safe place" and "conserve your food, water, and fuel" in a wet playa survival guide.

"Gate road remains a bit too muddy and there is still too much standing water along it for large numbers of vehicles to safely navigate out of the event this morning, but it is drying up," said the organisers in a Facebook post on Monday morning, adding that they anticipate that exodus will be able to officially begin later Monday.



PRO-QUOTAS STIR: MARATHA PROTESTERS DON'T BUDGE, INSIST ON GR

Team Absolute | Jalna

Leader of the Maratha Kranti Morcha, Manoj Jarange-Patil on Tuesday remained adamant on his stance that the Maharashtra government should issue a Government Resolution (GR) on Maratha quotas before he would call off his indefinite hunger strike here.

A delegation led by ruling ally Shiv Sena leader Arjun Khotkar and others met Jarange-Patil again and requested him to call off his fast and give a month's time to the government for finalising the reservations in a fool-proof manner that would stand legal scrutiny.

However, Jarange-Patil refused to oblige and has vowed to continue his hunger strike even as another delegation sent by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde will reach here later this afternoon.

"Our expectation is a decision and the GR. The entire state is hopeful that we will get the reservations today," said Jarange-Patil, lying on a mattress due to increasing weakness.

Appearing to be in frail health, he warned on Monday night that if the government doesn't announce its decision on Tuesday, then he would



also stop drinking water, triggering fresh concerns.

Meanwhile, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar is likely to visit Jarange-Patil in Antarvali-Sarati village which was the scene of a massive police crackdown including caning and tear-gassing, on the protesting

crowds there on September 1.

Besieged by a huge political backlash from the Maratha community and wide condemnation from across the political spectrum, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Monday tendered an apology to the victims of the police clampdown being treated in local hospitals.

Ambedkar meets protesters, backs Maratha quotas agitation

Jalna: Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) President Prakash Ambedkar, along with senior leaders, on Tuesday called on Maratha Kranti Morcha leader Manoj Jarange-Patil who is currently on a hunger strike since August 29.

Accompanied by Prof. Dhairyavardhan Pundkar, Prof. Kisan Chavan, Ashok Hinge-Patil, Savita Munde, Amit Bhugal and others, Ambedkar went to the tent where Jarange-Patil is carrying on the protest and expressed his support to their cause at the Antarvali-Sarati village this afternoon.

On seeing Jarange-Patil's frail condition, the VBA chief appealed to him to take care of his health to carry forward the agitation successfully ahead.

Referring to the Maratha leader's recent statements that the government may target the protesters, Ambedkar urged Jarange-Patil not to talk of "dying" and said if he is not around, then who will lead the agitation.

"I plead on behalf of all that Jarange-Patil should not speak about 'dying'... Better to kill than die! And prove your point... For this is our country, in a democracy, people are the real masters. All should take note," declared Ambedkar.

Jarange-Patil has reiterated that he will discard consuming even water from Tuesday if the government failed to bow to the Marathas reservations demands.

Heavy rain very likely over Maharashtra from Wednesday to Friday: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday said that active monsoon conditions are likely to continue over north Peninsular, central and adjoining East India during the next five days while increase in rainfall activity with isolated heavy falls is very likely over Maharashtra from Wednesday to Friday. In the eastern region of India, weather conditions are expected to bring light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. "This weather pattern is anticipated to persist from Tuesday to Thursday over Gangetic West Bengal, till Friday over Odisha, on Tuesday and Friday in Jharkhand, and till Saturday in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands," said the IMD in its bulletin.

In South India, there is a forecast for light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy rainfall expected in various areas.

"Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana, and North Interior Karnataka are likely to experience this weather pattern on Tuesday and Wednesday, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal can expect rainfall till Thursday," the IMD predicted.

"Coastal and South Interior Karnataka are also expected to see



these conditions Friday and Saturday, and Kerala and Mahe Saturday," it added. Central India is also expected to witness light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning.

"This weather pattern is likely to occur over East Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha till Saturday, over Chhattisgarh from Tuesday to Thursday, and over West Madhya Pradesh from till Saturday. Isolated very heavy rainfall is also expected over Chhattisgarh on Tuesday and over Vidarbha Wednesday," the weather forecast agency.

In West India, light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning are anticipated.

"This weather pattern is expected over Marathwada till Friday, Konkan and Goa from Thursday to Saturday, and Madhya Maharashtra from Wednesday to Saturday. Additionally, Gujarat Region is likely to experience this weather on Friday," said the IMD.

No one has right to change country's name: Sharad Pawar on 'Bharat' invite

Team Absolute | Jalgaon, Maharashtra

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar today said no one has the right to change the country's name, after the Congress claimed that a G20 dinner invite refers to the President as "President of Bharat".

Sharad Pawar said there will be deliberation on the issue in a meeting convened on Wednesday by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with chiefs of the parties which are part of the INDIA alliance, an opposition bloc of 28 parties aiming to take on the BJP-led Centre in next year's general elections.

"I don't understand why



the ruling party is perturbed over a name related to the country," the NCP chief told reporters at a press conference in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district.

Asked whether the name of India will be changed in the Constitution, Sharad Pawar said, "I don't have any information on it."

Pawar said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has

called a meeting of all party heads of the INDIA alliance on Wednesday.

"There will be deliberation on this in the meeting, but no one has the right to change the name (of the country). No one can change the name," the NCP chief said.

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that the "Union of States" is under assault by the Modi government as it claimed that a G20 dinner invite refers to the President as "President of Bharat".

The G20 Summit will be held in New Delhi from September 9 to 10 under India's presidency and several heads of state from across the world, including US President Joe Biden, are attending the event.

MGL OFFERS FREE FUEL CARDS OF RS 20K-RS 500K ON CNG VEHICLES IN MMR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bid to curb vehicle pollution levels in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), the Mahanagar Gas Ltd has announced a new incentive of free fuel cards worth between Rs 20,000-Rs 500,000 for new or retrofitted CNG cars and other commercial vehicles, an official said here on Tuesday.

Under the 'MGL CNG Mahotsav' the company will offer the incentive for new CNG vehicle buyers or retrofitment of existing petrol-diesel vehicles to gas, in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts, said MGL Managing Director Ashu Shinghal.

For cars the fuel card incentive will be Rs 19,999, for small, medium and large commercial vehicles (ranging from 3.5 to 10 to 15 tonnes) Rs 200,000, Rs 350,000 and Rs 500,000.

Additionally private CNG buses will be entitled to fuel card benefits of Rs 300,000, and all the beneficiaries



can avail them at MGS's 310-plus outlets and commercial vehicles can also use them to fill gas at select BEST bus depots in Ghatkopar and Goregaon by pre-booking slots.

Shinghal said that the scheme is launched to popularise the use of CNG, a clean and green fuel.

"MGL has partnered OEMs for promoting new CNG vehicles also with leading CNG kit distributors to retrofit vehicles. We hope that it will be advantageous to people planning to purchase new vehicles or those opting for retrofitment," said Shinghal.

Promoted by GAIL, MGL is the sole authorised distributor of CNG to nearly a million vehicles comprising 350,000 auto rickshaws, 450,000 cars and over 60,000 cabs, 3,000 LCVs and 2,600 public buses.

The PNG reaches over 22-Lakh homes and more than 4,500 small, commercial and industrial establishments through its huge distribution network.

Woman harassed for not paying Rs 20 lakh 'groom cost' | Man attempts sword attack on bus driver, booked

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A case has been registered against a 36-year-old Navi Mumbai man and his parents for allegedly harassing the daughter-in-law over dowry demand of Rs 20 lakh. A case has been registered against a 36-year-old Navi Mumbai man and his parents for allegedly harassing the daughter-in-law over dowry demand of Rs 20 lakh.

According to the FIR, before finalising the marriage, the family of the accused had demanded Rs 20 lakh towards the "cost of the groom". The police stated that the accused trio (man and his parents) and the victim woman hail from Bihar and are presently living in Nvavi Mumbai's CBD Belapur area.

"No arrest is made so far," the police said. "The victim woman (34)

was beaten up frequently by her husband and subjected to cruelty during November 2017-August 2023 after she failed to pay Rs 20 lakh promised by her father while finalising the marriage," a police official said. The woman's father had given gold ornaments and various electronic gadgets to the groom, as per the FIR. "Police have booked the husband, identified as Anand Ranjan, and his parents under sections 498A (Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty), 323 (Punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), and 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of the Indian Penal Code," the official added. Meanwhile in Navi Mumbai, an offence has been registered against a 44-year-old man for



allegedly beating up a woman from his neighbourhood.

Based on a complaint lodged by the woman, the police have registered a case under sections 452 (house trespass after preparation for hurt, assault or wrongful restraint), 509 (insult to the modesty of a woman) and 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Indian

Penal Code. "The incident took place in Vavanje area of Panvel on September 1, when the woman was washing clothes outside her house and the water splashed into the accused's house next door," the police official said. The accused identified as Dhanraj Mhatre went to the woman's house, abused her, and beat her up.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vashi police has registered a case against a 40-year-old man who attempted to attack a bus driver with a sword. The incident took place on a Monday night when the Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) bus driver suddenly halted to give way to pedestrians. The man, driving a car behind the bus, collided with the rear end of the bus and became agitated upon seeing the damage to his vehicle. He retrieved a sword from his car and attempted to assault the bus driver.

The incident occurred in Sector 10 of Vashi around 10:15 pm. The NMMT bus, carrying passengers from Uran to Koparkhairane, had just departed from the NMMC hospital bus stop. When pedestrians unexpectedly appeared in front of the bus, the bus driver, Suryakant Suravanshi (29), promptly applied the brakes to ensure the safety of the passengers. The abrupt stop caught the driver of

the car (MH-03-BC-7492) behind the bus by surprise, leading to the collision and damage to the car's bonnet. The car's driver exited the vehicle and brandished a sword, demanding that the bus driver come out. He continued to yell at the bus driver and attempted to break open the bus door with the sword. Pedestrians and bus passengers recorded the entire incident, and vigilant police officers on patrol noticed the commotion and apprehended the individual wielding the sword.

Case against Thane man, 6 other members of his family for harassing his wife

The man with the sword has been identified as Sunny Lamba (40), a resident of Kalamboli in Panvel. He has been charged under IPC Section 279 (rash driving) and relevant sections of the Arms Act. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of road safety and maintaining composure in unexpected situations.

MUMBAI WOMAN MAKES 39TH BOMB HOAX CALL TO COPS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a bizarre development, a woman on Tuesday called up the Mumbai Police Control Room to inform about a bomb allegedly planted at the posh Napean Sea Road, which later turned out to be a hoax.

The police later found out that she had earlier made 38 similar bomb threat calls, making them run around for non-existent explosives planted in different areas.

In another such scare, the Mumbai Police got a call of a

bomb kept in Kamathipura area of south Mumbai, which also turned out to be a fake alert. Recently, the Mumbai Police have been barraged with calls warning of "26/11-style terror strikes," bombs planted in locations like Mantralaya, police headquarters, airports, railways, suburban trains, prominent locations, etc, but all turned out to be fakes. Besides the woman, other calls were made by mentally-unstable persons, one was by an ill minor boy, or some suspicious characters who face action.

Gokulashtami 2023: Mumbai Police issues preventive order for city

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai Police on Tuesday issued preventive orders for the city ahead of the Gokulashtami celebrations in Mumbai.

In the preventive order, Mumbai Police said, Gokulashtami Festival is being celebrated from September 6, 2023 to September 7, 2023. Whereas acts of using colored water indiscriminately in public places are likely to lead to communal tension and breach of public peace.

The preventive order was issued by Vishal Thakur, DCP (Operations), Mumbai.

The preventive order further said, Whereas, it is considered that it is necessary for the preservation of public peace and public safety to prohibit some acts mentioned hereunder.

"This order will remain in force from 00.01 hours of 06th September 2023 to 24.00 hrs. of 07th September 2023," the preventive order further said.

Krishna Janmashtami is a popular festival celebrated in various ways across India, known by different names such as Gokulashtami, Krishnastami, and Sriyayanti. In Maharashtra, people celebrate it with a fun event called 'Dahi Handi.' Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna, observes this festival with great enthusiasm.

Hindus all around the world celebrate the holy festival of Janmashtami with grand celebrations. Krishna devotees fast, sing devotional songs (kirtan), and perform other rituals to please the Lord and commemorate his birth. Temples with Krishna idols are adorned with balloons and decora-

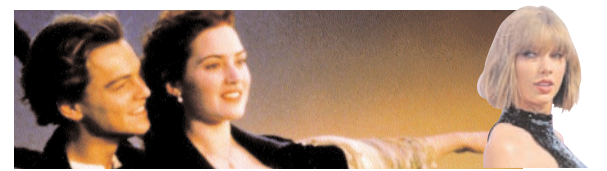


It said, it is being hereby prohibited, the following acts throughout Mumbai.

- (i) The public utterances of obscene words or slogans or singing of obscene songs.
- (ii) The use of gestures or mimetic representations and the preparation, exhibition or dissemination of pictures, symbols, placards or any other objects or things which may offend dignity, decency or morality.
- (iii) The practice of spraying or throwing colored water, dyes or powder on pedestrians.
- (iv) Preparation and or throwing of balloons filled with colored or plain water or any liquid.

tions to mark the occasion of the God's birth. According to Hindu scriptures, Janmashtami is a special day celebrated to honor the birth of Lord Krishna. It is considered auspicious because of a unique astrological

alignment that occurs on this day. Janmashtami is celebrated all over the country on the eighth day (Ashtami) of the dark fortnight (Krishna Paksha) in the month of Bhadrapada.



Gigi Hadid becomes more picky with work after becoming mother

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel Gigi Hadid feels the need to be more "intentional" about the work she takes on now she is a mother. The 30-year-old model said to NET-A-PORTER's digital title, PORTER, that she only books jobs that will be "fulfilling" because she doesn't have as much time for her career due to her focus on her and

former partner Zayn Malik's little girl Khai, who turns three later this month, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"I think when you are a parent, you have to be intentional because, now, I literally have half the time. I work when my daughter is with her dad, and that's the time I have. And the jobs I choose to fill that time with have to be ones that are fulfilling to me," she told the outlet.

Last year, Gigi founded her own fashion brand, Guest in Residence, and while being in charge still feels "surreal", she has learnt to find a balance of being assertive with her vision and being collaborative with the rest of

her team.

She said, "I have learnt a lot about being assertive, which doesn't make you a b****... As long as you do what comes naturally, which is not to be rude, you can say how you feel."

Meanwhile, the model said she is still keen to make the move into movies, but only when the right script comes along. She said, "If and when the right script comes around, I'd still like to do a movie one day. I took acting classes for a few years in New York. But a lot of scripts that I've gotten over the years are just the most obvious roles for me to play."



Oprah Winfrey's Fundraiser accused of being a sham

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oprah Winfrey had earlier donated a huge sum to the Maui Wildfire Fundraiser started by her and Dwayne Johnson. However, since then the reality star has been accused of hiring a private security team to her Hawaii estate, while calling her Fundraiser a 'sham'.

A widely shared TikTok video on X (formerly Twitter) claims that Winfrey hired the team before the fires even started with the person saying: "Instead of taking some of that land and housing even a small portion of those displaced people, you hired a private security team to keep them off your land."

The user also went on to add: "You are so concerned about Maui, that you are asking the American public, most of whom can't pay their rent right now to donate the money to your fundraiser, instead of actively donating that money and helping." The netizen further went on to add that, Winfrey was doing it all to score 'social media points', when she and a couple of her billionaire friends were capable of sending out money which could mix the issue, in a matter of months.

Since then, the whole news has gone viral on social media, with man netizens slamming the star and slamming her for her bigotry.

One user on X slammed the reality star, saying: "Oh, so on one hand you start a so-called 'Fund Raiser' and on the other just focus on your house!!"

Another person wrote: "You first start a f***** fundraiser, and then instead of giving the so called millions, you have actually done pretty much nothing. You entitled piece of!"

Another netizen did a fact check and found out that so far, her fundraiser where she and Johnson had collectively donated \$10 million, had in fact never reached the people and as of now only had gotten \$4000, showing that "people are actually waking up to the".

The unexpected wildfires had devastated the area of Maui, in the American island state of Hawaii back in August, with several Hollywood stars such as Jason Momoa actively warning people from going there until the crisis had been resolved.



Nicki Minaj pays birthday tribute to 'queen' Beyonce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Nicki Minaj took to her social media to share a sweet birthday shoutout to "queen" Beyonce Knowles with love on her special day.

"Make some noise for the Queen Bey!!!"

Nicki wrote on Instagram Stories on Monday.

"Happy Birthday BarBEY @beyonce," she added, reports aceshowbiz.com. The 'Cuff It' singer's birthday isn't the only thing to celebrate for Nicki.

On the same day, the 'Trinidadian' rapper unveiled more details about her upcoming album 'Pink Friday 2'. Making use of her Instagram account, she shared the album artwork and the release date for the highly-anticipated set.

In the cover art, the self-proclaimed black Barbie poses in a futuristic-looking bus stop. The bus stop, which is dominated by the color pink, appears to be floating on the sky.

The 'Anaconda' hitmaker, meanwhile, looks stunning in a white ensemble as her hair is dyed pink at the tip. She adds a Harajuku touch to her look with a gorgeous headpiece.

Fans were beyond excited for the new album. "Let's go Queen," one wrote underneath her post. "no bc i can't even believe we're

here omg i'm gonna cry," another added.

Prior to this, Nicki treated fans to a new single, 'Last Time I Saw You'.

"Please enjoy the song as much as I have enjoyed creating it, and just know that 'Pink Friday 2' is going to be the best album that's been released in years!!! LOVE YOU," Nicki wrote in a message on her website.

The 'Super Freaky' hitmaker went on to pen a sweet message to fans, "I can't thank you enough for your love and continued support. I have not been excited about the release of a song to this extent for maybe... I don't know I can't even tell you, I don't even remember when! I hope that it's therapeutic for you."

The Grammy-nominated rapper continued: "I hope that even after, it makes you reflect and that if you are reflecting on a time, or a person that you wish you could go back in time and have a do over etc... I hope that you are still able to smile at the end of the song by realizing that you now have a chance to treat the people that you love, that are still in your life the way that expresses to them what they mean to you."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kylie Jenner and actor Timothee Chalamet decided to go public with their romance while attending Beyonce Knowles' "Renaissance" Tour stop in Los Angeles.

The reality TV star and the "Dune: Part Two" actor were photographed getting cozy during the concert date, which marked the very first time the couple was seen together in public, reports aceshowbiz.com.

In a video circulating on X, formerly Twitter, the pair could be seen sitting close to each other at the show, which took place at the SoFi Stadium in Inglewood.

Timothee had his arm around the back of "The Kardashians" star's chair. The clip also saw the lovers totally engrossed in their chat as they leaned into each other. At one point, Kylie threw her head back as they laughed together.

For the musical outing, the "Call Me by Your Name" actor donned a black bomber jacket and a matching cap. As for Kylie, the Kylie Cosmetics mogul opted for a glamorous look as she wore a strapless top. The mom of two had her hair swept up in a chic updo.

Kylie and Timothee's first public appearance came after they were photographed exiting the actor's Beverly Hills estate separately on Saturday, August 26. Kylie tried to go low-key as she donned an all-black outfit. The 26-year-old makeup mogul also protected herself with a face mask when she left his rumored beau's L.A. home in her luxury Cadillac Escalade.

As for Timothee, the "Little Women (2019)" star allegedly passed through the residence gates in his new Lucid electric sedan just minutes earlier.

The "Wonka" actor also attempted to go incognito, though he added some elements to his style by rocking a chunky chain around his neck.



Kylie Jenner, Timothee Chalamet go public with their romance at Beyonce's concert



HELEN MIRREN 'DOESN'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK' ABOUT HER CHILDLESS LIFE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren has come to terms that it was not her destiny to have babies and she has "never had a moment of regret" about not having kids of her own.

"I kept thinking it would be, waiting for it to happen but it never did, and I didn't care what people thought. I have never had a moment of regret about not having children," she said to America's Closer magazine, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Since 1997, Helen has been happily married to director Taylor Hackford, who had two children from previous marriages. The pair met when Hackford, 78, directed Mirren in 1985 musical drama 'White Nights', but it was not love at first sight for the British actress.

The 'Shazam! Fury of the Gods' star said: "I didn't like him at all when I met him. He was 20 minutes late and I had a meeting and I turned up on time. I don't like being late. He's still not on time and it drives me crazy."

Meanwhile, Helen is embracing and wouldn't go back to being younger for anything.

"If someone said to me, 'I'm going to wave the magic wand and you'll be 25 again,' I would say no I don't want that. The reality is as you age your body changes but you learn so much with time," she said.



Georgina Rodriguez



sports

INDIA NAME 15-MAN ODI WORLD CUP SQUAD, KL RAHUL IN, SANJU SAMSON MISSES OUT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

KL Rahul has been included in India's World Cup 2023 squad, marking his return from a lengthy injury layoff, as the BCCI confirmed the 15-member squad on Tuesday.

Batter Suryakumar Yadav also managed to hold on to a spot in the squad for the marquee event with regular skipper Rohit Sharma leading the side and all-rounder Hardik Pandya as his deputy.

Rahul, who last played an ODI in March this year, injured his thigh earlier in the year at the IPL, though has been training at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru, and preparing to fly out to Sri Lanka for the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup.

With Rahul in the squad, Sanju Samson, who is a reserve player at the Asia Cup, has missed out, as well as Tilak Varma and Prasidh Krishna as other omissions.

Rohit leads the batting group, with Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav all named, as well as Ishan Kishan, who provides another keeping option.

Hardik, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Shardul Thakur will be the all-rounders in the team.

After making a successful return from a long injury layoff, Jasprit Bumrah spearheads the bowling group, with Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj are the designated pacers while Kuldeep Yadav is the specialist spinner in the squad. While the deadline to submit the World Cup squad to the ICC is September 5, teams can make changes until September 28 without needing approval from the ICC.



India will open their World Cup campaign on October 8, when they take on Australia in Chennai.

India's World Cup squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah

Asia Cup: Roaring Afghans lose their way as Sri Lanka win by 2 runs; seal Super Fours berth

Laahore | Agencies

Mohammad Nabi hammered the fastest ODI half-century for Afghanistan but they lost their way in the run chase as Sri Lanka won by two runs and made it to the Super Fours stage in the Asia Cup cricket tournament at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Tuesday.

After Sri Lanka rode on a superb 92 by Kusal Mendis and some vital contributions by the tailenders to post 291/8, Afghanistan had the challenging task of reaching the target in 37.1 overs. They were eventually bundled out for 298 in 37.4 overs and failed to register a historic win. Sri Lanka eventually finished on the top of the table with four points from two wins while Bangladesh also went through with two points. Afghanistan lost both



their matches and finished at the bottom of Group B.

But they came very, very close to making it to next stage and lost out only by the skin of their teeth.

Afghanistan mounted a brilliant chase, led by some brilliant batting by their middle-order -- Mohammad Nabi (65 off 32), skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi (59 off 66), Rahmat Shah (45 off 40) -- as they nearly chased the target and almost grabbed the spot in the next round. Nabi completed his

half-century off 24 balls, the fastest fifty by an Afghan batter, as he slammed six boundaries and five maximums in his 32-ball 65 that kept Afghanistan in the hunt.

Afghanistan lost Nabi, Shahidi, and Karim Janat (22 off 13) as wickets fell at regular intervals. Former skipper Rashid Khan blasted 27 off 16 balls and along with Najibullah Zadran (23 off 15) dragged Afghanistan to 289/8 at the end of the 37th over. They needed two runs off the first ball of the 38th over but

Dhananjaya De Silva got Mujeeb Ur Rahman caught by Samarawickrama.

The Afghanistan team management seems to have lost track of the permutations and failed to convey the equations -- that in case the Afghans failed to reach 292 in 37.1 overs, they could have still qualified if they scored six runs in the next three deliveries.

Brief scores:

Sri Lanka 291/8 in 50 overs (Kusal Mendis 92, Pathum Nissanka 41; Gulbadin Naib 4-60, Rashid Khan 2-63) beat Afghanistan 289 all out in 37.4 overs (Mohammad Nabi 65, Hashmatullah Shahidi 59, Rahmat Shah 45; Rashid Khan 27 not out; Kasun Rajitha 4-79, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-12) by 2 runs.

Mitsin gives Bulgaria 1st ever world junior swimming gold

Jerusalem | Agencies

Junior world record holder Petar Mitsin won the gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle race on the opening day of the World Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships held in the Israeli coastal city of Netanya.

Mitsin clocked three minutes 46.49 seconds, just 17 hundredths ahead of Italian Alessandro Ragaini, securing Bulgaria's first ever world junior swimming title. Italy's Filippo Bertoni took bronze, reports Xinhua.

"It was a tough race, and I'm happy with the time I did," Mitsin said. "I'm really proud to represent my country."

Leah Hayes of the United States, the 2022 World seniors 200m individual medley bronze medalist, predictably clinched gold in Netanya in the 400m medley, setting a junior world championship record of 4:36.84. Canada's Ella Jansen and Julie Brousseau took silver and bronze respectively.

The American boys' relay team, consisting of Daniel Diehl, Maximus Williamson, Hudson Williams, and Jason Zhao, established a junior world record of 3:15.49 in the 4x100m freestyle relay, finishing ahead of Australia and Canada.



Following that, the American girls also secured gold in the 4x200m freestyle. Addison Sauickie, Leah Hayes, Lynsey Bowen, and Madi Mintenko clocked 7:52.48, after a dramatic battle against Australia and Canada.

INDIA U-16S FOCUSED ON GETTING THE JOB DONE AGAINST NEPAL

Thimphu (Bhutan) | Agencies

India are just a point away from securing their berth in the semifinals of the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 but their focus remains squarely on their last Group A match against Nepal.

Their aim now is to finish on top of the group. India began their campaign with a 1-0 victory over Bangladesh and are set to face Nepal at the Changlimithang Stadium here on Wednesday. Head coach Ishfaq Ahmed put off all talks about the possible permutations and combinations of their semifinal opponents, till the spot was actually secured.

"Yes, we have been watching all the matches of the other groups. If we top our group, we could play hosts Bhutan, and if we finish second, we will play Pakistan. I have assessed their strengths and weaknesses, but all that will come later," Ahmed told the-aiff.com on the eve of the match. "Right now, we must focus on getting the job done against Nepal."

As it currently stands, India are top of Group A with three points from one game, with a goal difference of +1, having defeated Bangladesh 1-0 in the opening game. Meanwhile, Bangladesh have



clawed their way back on the table, after defeating Nepal 1-0. A draw or a win will secure the top spot in the group for India, but a loss may make things more complicated.

While all the permutations and combinations exist, the Blue Colts are simply looking to earn three points to maintain their winning momentum. "It's a tricky situation, but we don't want to get

caught up in all the permutations and combinations. We just want to win and maintain our momentum," said Ahmed.

"For sure, they (Nepal) will try to push us hard and try to get the result, but I see that as a good thing for the boys. Putting them under such pressure situations from such early on in their careers will only help them in the future."

Ahmed kept a close watch on the match between Nepal and Bangladesh and believes that the side from the Himalayan nation can pack quite the punch.

Over the last few days in Bhutan, the India U-16s have had a number of tough training sessions, along with some good recovery sessions as well. Ahmed feels that the boys are now fairly acclimatised to the conditions in the mountains.

"I think the boys are now used to the altitude and the weather. They have improved a lot. Their first international game was a difficult one, and they showed a few nerves in the first half. But they showed good character to come back in the second half and combined well together. They can only get better from here."

However, the former India international winger feels that the team need to improve their efficiency in the final third.

India's Gaurav Gill set for WRC-2 outing in gruelling Acropolis Rally of Greece

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's ace rally driver Gaurav Gill is all set for his first outing in the World Rally Championship (WRC) 2023 season by taking part in one of the world's toughest rally-raids -- the Acropolis Rally of Greece -- scheduled from September 7-10.

Widely hailed as the 'Rally of Gods', the Acropolis Rally of Greece will cover a total distance of 1,235 km, including 15 special stages stretching across 307 km over four days this weekend. This year as well, the spectators will witness 72 teams fighting it out for their spot in the gruelling event.

Arjuna Award-winner Gaurav Gill, the only Indian amongst the world's best rally drivers, will compete in the 30-car WRC-2 category in a specially prepped Skoda Fabia R5 alongside his French co-driver, Florian Barral. Supported by an excellent and potent pit crew team of the Italian team



Delta Rally, Gill will try to set a new benchmark for himself. The rally will also be featuring previous Acropolis winner and current

WRC-2 Championship leader Andreas Mikkelsen along with title rivals Yohan Rossel and Sami Pajari. The Skoda Fabia R5 Rally 2 spec

car with a 5-speed, sequential, manual gearbox, that enables a driver to shift gears in milliseconds. The R5 is geared to touch a top speed of 200 km/h. Seven-time national champion and three-time APRC champion, Gill, will be in his element around the hot, dusty, and rock-strewn stages of the Rally Acropolis. Gill had put on a dazzling display of speed to finish sixth in a 35-car WRC 2 field last year, Gill's team informed in a release on Tuesday.

On his participation this season, Gill said, "I'm really looking forward to driving in the Rally Acropolis. The sweltering heat, the dust, the rocky mountain passes, and the loose gravel all combine to make this one of the most punishing rallies on the calendar. This event is not for the faint-hearted, but these conditions play to my strengths. I expect to be in my element this weekend and I'm going to give it everything to bring home a strong result."

Romania shocks France to reach last 16 in men's EuroVolley 2023

Jerusalem | Agencies

Romania stunned Olympic champion France 3-1, securing a place in the Round of 16 of the 2023 Men's European Volleyball Championship (EuroVolley).

Although France had already secured their spot in the last 16 and rested key players, the outcome is still seen as sensational. The victory brought Romania to three wins after completing their five matches in the six-team Group D, held in Tel Aviv, Israel, reports Xinhua. Romania clinched the first set 25-23 before France bounced back to take the next set 25-16. Romania's outside spiker, Adrian Acioabanitei, then dominated on offense, particularly in the fourth set, guiding his team to win 25-18 and 25-21.

Acioabanitei contributed 20 points, with teammate Alexandru Rata adding 12. Robert Calin finished with 11 points, including five block points. Stephen Boyer was France's top scorer with 19 points. Later that evening, Portugal also clinched a spot in the round of 16 after a thrilling 3-2 (26-24, 21-25, 15-25, 28-26, 15-13) win over Türkiye. The match was decided by a winning spike from Alexandre Ferreira in the fifth set.



Ferreira tallied a team-high 24 points, while Lourenco Martins added 23. Despite an impressive game-high of 33 points from Yigit Gulmezoglu, including five aces, it wasn't enough for Türkiye.

The final two matches in Group D are scheduled for Friday. Israel will face Türkiye, with the victor advancing to the last 16. Meanwhile, Greece, having lost their chance to advance, will play against France.

The top four teams from Group D will be joined by 12 teams from the other three groups, competing in Italy, Bulgaria, and North Macedonia.

Junior Boys NFC

Maharashtra rally from goal deficit to beat Karnataka 3-1; UP, Odisha win

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Maharashtra (WIFA) made a winning start as they staged a gallant fightback to put it across Karnataka 3-1 in a preliminary group match of the AIFF Junior Boys National Football Championship for the Dr. B.C. Roy Trophy 2023-24 here on Tuesday.

Niall Goghavala scored twice and Parth Talkokul scored the third after Kris Joseph gave Karnataka an early lead.

In other matches, Uttar Pradesh defeated Chhattisgarh 5-1, Odisha thrashed Haryana 4-0 while Jharkhand prevailed 5-2 over Mizoram in other preliminary round matches on Tuesday.

In their match against Karnataka, Maharashtra took time to settle down and suffered an early setback as Karnataka seized the advantage when Kris Joseph hit the target in the sixth minute to put his team in front.

But, Maharashtra came roaring back and Niall scored the equaliser on the stroke of half-time as the teams went into the break on level terms.



Niall was again on target in the ninth minute of the second half to put Maharashtra in the lead before Parth scored the third in the 69th minute to extend their advantage which they maintained till the final whistle to come out trumps. Maharashtra captain and goalkeeper Atharva Goankar was adjudged as the 'Player of the Match'.

Boxing: Indian team all set for 21st Mustafa Hajrulahovic Memorial Tournament

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A strong 11-member Indian squad comprising six men and five women boxers is set to participate in the 21st Mustafa Hajrulahovic Memorial tournament in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Indian women's squad is led by the 2019 World Championships silver medalist Manju Rani (50kg) and Youth World Champions Jyoti (54kg) and Shashi Chopra (60kg). Apart from them, Vinakshi (57kg) and Jigyasa Rajput (75kg) are the other pugilists who will be looking to make a mark in this prestigious competition.



The men's squad will be spearheaded by 2019 World Championships bronze medallist Manish Kaushik (63.5 kg) along with the 2021 World Championship bronze medallist Akash Kumar (57 kg) Tokyo Olympian and veteran boxer Satish Kumar (92+ kg) will be seen in action after a long time whereas National Champion Naveen Kumar will represent the country in the 92 kg category. Young pugilists Barun Singh (51 kg) and Nikhil Dubey (71 kg) will also get the opportunity to showcase their talent and win medals for the country. The bouts will start on September 6 and the finals will be held on September 9.

Squad:

Elite Men: Barun Singh Shagolshem (51kg), Akash Kumar (57kg), Manish Kaushik (63.5kg), Nikhil Premnath Dubey (71kg), Naveen Kumar (92kg), Satish Kumar (92+kg)
Elite Women: Manju Rani (50kg), Jyoti (54kg), Vinakshi (57kg), Shashi Chopra (60kg), Jigyasa Rajput (75kg).



RADHIKA MADAN SHARES HER LEARNINGS FROM IRRFAN KHAN: 'NEVER STOP BEING A STUDENT OF LIFE'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Radhika Madan, who has shared the screen space with late actor Irrfan Khan in the movie 'Angrezi Medium', has opened up on an important learning that she has imbibed from the latter.

On the occasion of Teacher's Day, Radhika said about her life's greatest teacher, learning, and childhood memories of the celebration. The 'Shiddat' fame actress said: "I would say fear has been one of the greatest teachers in my life. And just acknowledging, that addressing that, getting past that has made me grow as a person a lot." On the biggest learning that she follows, Radhika shared: "Never stop being a student of life, no matter where you reach, always be open to learn another perspective, another skill and then just go with the student approach and I don't think you'll ever, ever backfire." "The learning that never stop being a student, was imbibed by Irrfan sir. And I remember that like before an important scene a night before he was always seen with a script rehearsing, and he

didn't need to at that stature, and at that position, so I just looked at that and I was like, I'm always gonna be that, I want to be that, and that is one learning that I imbibed from him," she said. Irrfan Khan passed away in April 2020 due to colon infection. Talking about her childhood memories of Teacher's Day, the 28-year-old diva said: "I remember in school we used to perform for our teachers, and we used to dress up like them and use to pick up the nuances and it was so much fun, so I always cherish the memories that I made in school on Teachers Day." On the work front, Radhika was seen in the web series 'Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo', alongside Dimple Kapadia, Isha Talwar, Angira Dhar, Deepak Dobriyal, and Naseeruddin Shah.

The actress next has 'Sanaa', yet-untitled remake of 'Soorarai Pottru', and 'Happy Teacher's Day' in the pipeline.



Pankaj Tripathi eats khichdi everyday on sets of his films

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is celebrating his birthday on Tuesday and had the trailer launch of his upcoming film 'Fukrey 3' on Tuesday, shared that while shooting, he likes to eat khichdi.

Pankaj, who was recently honoured with the National Film Award for Best Supporting Actor for his work in 'Mimi', spoke with the media on the occasion of the trailer launch of the third instal-

ment of the franchise.

Talking about his eating habits while on shoot, the actor said, "Main jab bhi shoot pe hota hoon khichdi khata hoon har din."

Hearing his answers, the media burst into laughter to which the actor replied in all earnestly saying, "Nahi sach mein ye mazak nahi hai, main sach mein har din khichdi khata hoon jitne din bhi shoot chale. It helps me stay calm and focused and main apna kaam acche tareeke se kar paata hoon".

The actor was then requested to cut a cake at the trailer launch to celebrate his birthday but, he humbly turned down the request saying: "Thank you for this gesture but main kaafi asahaj ho jata hoon cake cutting ko leke. Apna birthday manaane mein meri itni ruchi nahi hai (thank you for this sweet gesture but I get very uncomfortable with the whole cake-cutting thing. I don't celebrate my birthdays because I can't relate to that concept of celebrating one's own birthday."



'Parineeti-Raghav wedding this month in Udaipur'



Jaipur | Agencies

AP party leader Raghav Chadha and actress Parineeti Chopra will reportedly tie the wedding knot in Lake City Udaipur this month, said sources.

The wedding rituals will be held at Hotel Leela Palace and Udayavilas on September 23-24, they added. During this period, many big personalities from politics and Bollywood will

come to Udaipur.

If sources are to be believed, mehendi, haldi and saangeet events will start from September 23. Also there are discussions that a reception will be held in Gurugram after the wedding.

Several film personalities, including Parineeti's sister Priyanka Chopra and her husband Nick Jonas, and leaders from Delhi and other states are expected to attend the event.



Pulkit Samrat gets protective about Richa, says 'Main Ali bhai ki taraf se duty pe hoon'

Actor Pulkit Samrat, who is gearing up for his upcoming release 'Fukrey 3', was in a fun mood throughout the trailer launch of his film in Mumbai on Tuesday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The actor, while to the media, joked around, shared a few anecdotes and engaged in a fun banter with his co-actors. As the female emcee for the event complimented Pulkit's co-actor Richa Chadha on her looks and her outfit, Pulkit told Richa in jest, "Isse thoda sambhal ke rehna, maamla kuch theek nahi lag raha mujhe."

The female emcee too played along as she approved of the joke. Pulkit then turned to the media and said, "Main Ali bhai ki taraf se duty pe hoon", which again sent the audience into fits of laughter.

The actor was referring to Richa's husband and his 'Fukrey' and 'Fukrey Returns' co-actor Ali Fazal, who wasn't present at the event as he is not part of the 3rd franchise.

Pulkit also credited the writing of the franchise and shared that the reason all the characters in the 'Fukrey' franchise feels relatable and relevant is the writing of the franchise.

Ali Merchant's track 'Pardesi Balam' is a celebration of cultural diversity

Television actor Ali Merchant made his big comeback to the screens with his new web-series 'Libaas'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

But apart from acting, he is also a music enthusiast and will be releasing his new track 'Pardesi Balam', which according to him is a celebration of cultural diversity and the unifying power of music.

Detailing the song, its music and its underlying meaning, the actor-turned-music producer said: "We wanted to create a track that goes beyond being just a song, serving as a musical experience that celebrates cultural diversity and the unifying power of music."

'Pardesi Balam' will apparently be an 'electro-folk' track with classical undertones, featuring melodies of ragas in it.

Talking about the lyrics, Merchant said: "Its lyrics express a universal story of longing and connection, making it relatable to diverse audiences. The song gradually introduces electronic elements like synths, beats, and bass lines, woven together with classical instruments to create an enchanting sonic blend."

Ali is best known for his work in 'Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata Hai', 'Lock Up Season 1', and 'Bandini', among others. But for some time now, the actor has been on a long hiatus which he broke with his appearance in 'Libaas'.

A passionate DJ, Merchant's 'Pardesi Balam' will mark the actor's debut in the music industry as a music producer and composer.



VARUN'S MOM RECALLS BEING CALLED 'FUKRA MUMMY', 'CHOOCHA MUMMY' AFTER 'FUKREY'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Varun Sharma's mother

Veena Sharma is a proud mom as her as the legacy built by her son with the character of Choocha is going to be furthered with the third films in the 'Fukrey' franchise. The trailer of which was unveiled on Tuesday.

At the trailer launch of the film in Mumbai's Juhu area, Varun's mother recollected how after the release of the first part from the franchise, suddenly everyone started

calling her "Fukra Mummy" and "Choocha mummy."

Talking about the same, she told the media, "Isne film mein kaam kiya, film khatam hui aur hum sab normal jaise rehte hain waise but film release hone k baad everyone started calling me 'Choocha mummy' and 'Fukra mummy'."

She further mentioned, "At first, I couldn't understand but then I understood that it's because mere bete kaam logo'n ko pasand aa raha hai." 'Fukrey', produced by Excel Entertainment, lands in theatres on September 28.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aishwarya Sushmita