

absolute india

VOL. 8, ISSUE 318 BHOPAL | THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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Can India adapt to warming weather?

HEAT IS ON!

Heatwaves in India have become more frequent, intense, and longer-lasting. This increase can be attributed to the larger problem of global warming and climate change. Rising greenhouse gas emissions have led to a rise in average global temperatures, which directly contribute to the occurrence and severity of heat waves.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aditya Valiathan Pillai, a fellow with the Initiative for Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) explains the heat-wave challenge.

The conversation began by acknowledging the undeniable evidence of rising temperatures and an increasing number of heat waves in India. Aditya Valiathan Pillai emphasised that the issue isn't just limited to heat waves but extends to various extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. With these events worsening due to global warming, the need for proactive measures is evident.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has highlighted the current impact of climate change on India, suggesting that these impacts are already here and intensifying. Rising temperatures are taking a toll on agriculture, causing wheat and maize production to decline significantly. As a result, a considerable portion of the population is at risk of hunger. Additionally, extreme weather events are causing massive infrastructure losses and threatening India's GDP. These events are not mere projections; they are a reality with severe implications.

The discussion then delved into the socioeconomic shockwaves that extreme weather events, especially heat waves, bring at both the national and state levels. Aditya Valiathan Pillai emphasised the complexity of assessing damages caused by heat waves since they extend beyond physical infrastructure. Losses in productivity and labour hours across the



economy are often difficult to quantify but are no less devastating.

Studies have attempted to estimate these losses, particularly regarding labour productivity. One study projected a potential loss of 5 per cent of working hours by 2030 due to heat exposure, with agricultural sectors experiencing a more significant impact. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that a significant portion of India's labour force is exposed to extreme heat conditions.

At present, heat is not classified as a disaster at the national level. While some states have declared it as such, the effectiveness of this approach varies based on each state's governance architecture. Heat's classification as a disaster may not always be the best solution. The key is to find the most suitable department or agency to handle the problem effectively within each state's context. India's battle against heat waves

and extreme weather events is a complex and multifaceted challenge.

While Heat Action Plans are a step in the right direction, their effectiveness varies across states. The issue's multi-departmental nature requires a coordinated effort and a clear understanding of vulnerability at the local level. Defining heat as a disaster could streamline the response, but the nuances of this approach need careful consideration. Regardless, addressing the heat wave challenge is imperative for India's future, as these events have far-reaching socioeconomic consequences. By understanding the complexities involved and continuously refining HAPs, India can better prepare for and mitigate the impact of heat waves and other extreme weather events in the years to come. Adaptation and proactive measures are key to ensuring a sustainable and resilient future in the face of a warming world.

IMPLEMENTATION OF HEAT ACTION PLANS

The heart of the issue lies in the multifaceted nature of the heat wave problem. Heat Action Plans (HAPs) are created to address this challenge, but their implementation is far from straightforward. HAPs are bottom-up initiatives that vary from state to state. Different departments are involved in their creation, leading to coordination challenges and varying levels of effectiveness. Additionally, the absence of a central mandate for HAPs compounds the problem.

To evaluate the effectiveness of HAPs, Pillai's team compiled a repository of 37 HAPs from across India, creating the first comprehensive resource of its kind. Three key aspects were evaluated including the range of solutions (urban shade cover, cooling centres, heat-resilient crops, efficient irrigation, etc.), characterisation of heat (temperature, humidity, exposure duration), and implementation prospects like the viability of implementation through the creation of institutional structures, financial considerations, and the legal framework supporting HAPs. One of the core challenges in HAP implementation is the multi-departmental nature of the issue. Heat waves impact various aspects of society, and no single department holds complete responsibility for addressing them. Ideally, a disaster declaration could simplify the process, bringing a more coordinated response. However, the definition of heat as a disaster remains a complex issue.

AFSPA extended for 6 months in Manipur; students' protest enters second day



Imphal | Agencies

In view of the prevailing situation in strife-torn Manipur, the state government on Wednesday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state, excluding 19 police station areas including Imphal, for six months.

A notification issued by the Commissioner (Home), T. Ranjit Singh, said that the Governor of Manipur hereby accords approval to declare the entire state of Manipur, excluding the areas falling under the jurisdiction of 19 police stations, as "Disturbed Area" for a period of six months with effect from October 1.

The "Disturbed Area" under the AFSPA was in force in the same areas earlier, whose tenure had lapsed recently.

Meanwhile, many agitating students were injured on Wednesday after security forces fired several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse them in Imphal's Moirangkhom area, about 200 metres from the Chief Minister's secretariat.

The police said that the agitating students pelted stones on the security forces, who then fired tear gas shells and smoke bombs to disperse the mob.

The students of various schools are agitating for the second day against the kidnapping and killing of two

young students, including a girl, who went missing on July 6. Their photographs had gone viral on social media on Monday.

The students, raising "we want justice" slogans, were heading towards Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's bungalow when the security forces prevented them, leading to the clash.

On the other hand, the women's wing of Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), a leading tribal body, staged a massive demonstration in Churachandpur protesting against the delay in CBI probe into the killing and rape of tribals during the ethnic violence, which broke out in the state on May 3.

'AMIT SHAH ASSURED THAT MURDERERS WILL BE PUNISHED'

Imphal: Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said on Wednesday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured him that the case of the murder of two young students will be dealt with seriously and the perpetrators will be punished appropriately. "The CBI team has already found some clues, but I cannot disclose them at the moment," Singh said, adding that the state government and the Centre condemn the act in the strongest terms. He said the government will not spare the perpetrators and all-out efforts are being made to bring the culprits to book. Meanwhile, the Congress on Wednesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "showing his back to the people of Manipur" which criticising him over the killing of two students in the strife-torn state which has sparked protests.

GOVT TO SELL 50-YEAR BONDS FOR FIRST TIME

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central government for the first time will sell 50-year bonds to meet the demand for longer dated securities from the country's life insurance and pension fund segments.

This comes as a major development in the country's financial sector as a fast-growing middle-class looks for long-term financial security and retirement planning through such investments.

The new 50-year bonds, revealed in the borrowing plan released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday, will add to the 30-year and 40-year tenor bonds that are being offered currently.

Investor demand has been strong, supported by the expansion of the formal sector, with households allocating a higher share of financial savings in life insurance, pensions



and provident funds," Gaura Sen Gupta, economist at IDFC FIRST Bank wrote in a note. The government plans to sell Rs 30,000 crore worth of 50-year bonds in the October to February period.

The Centre is sticking to its plan of borrowing Rs 6.55 lakh crore for the second half of the current financial year -- or 42.45 per cent of its gross market borrowing of Rs 15.43 lakh crore for the full year.

'2018: EVERYONE IS A HERO' IS INDIA'S OFFICIAL ENTRY FOR OSCARS

Mumbai: The Malayalam film '2018: Everyone Is A Hero', which stars Tovino Thomas and Kunchacko Boban, has been selected to represent India as the country's official entry at the 96th Academy Awards, by the Film Federation of India on Wednesday.

Hereafter, the film will compete in the Oscars if it is selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the final nomination list.

'2018: Everyone Is A Hero' is one of the highest grossers of Malayalam cinema and clashed at the ticket windows with 'The Kerala Story' - the Hindi film incidentally set on its soil. The makers of '2018: Everyone Is A Hero' even went on to market the Malayalam film as the 'Real Kerala story and not the Hindi film which received the flak from a section of audience for staging a propaganda.



Google launches earthquake alert system in India for Android smartphone users

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Technology giant Google on Wednesday launched an earthquake alert system in India that can help people with android smartphones run to safety when the quake begins.

The system, introduced in consultation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Center (NSC) in India, uses sensors in android smartphones to detect and estimate earthquakes. Each android smartphone is equipped with tiny accelerometers that can act as mini seismometers. When a phone is



plugged in and charging, it can detect the very beginnings of earthquakes. Google sends two types of alerts: 'Be Aware and Take Action.' The 'Be Aware' alerts are sent to users exercising MMI 3 & 4 shaking during an earthquake of magnitude 4.5 or greater. It just shows an alert on screen and doesn't play any sound if your phone is on Do Not Disturb mode or in silent mode. The alerts are sent to

users experiencing MMI 5+ shaking during an earthquake of 4.5 magnitude. In this case, the alert will bypass system's notification settings, including Do Not Disturb, and play a loud sound. The feature, already deployed in many countries around the world, will be rolled out to all Android 5+ users in India in the coming week. The alerts are designed to be easy to read and follow, and are available in Indian languages supported by android. To receive alerts, users must have Wi-Fi and/or cellular data connectivity, and both android earthquake alerts and location settings enabled.

MODI TO VISIT POLL-BOUND TELANGANA, MP IN FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit poll-bound Telangana on October 1 and 3, official sources said. He may also visit Madhya Pradesh on October 2 and 5, they added. Modi is expected to participate in various public meetings and government related functions during his visit to the southern state, sources added. The Prime Minister is also likely to address a public rally in Hyderabad.

In Madhya Pradesh also, Modi is expected to hold a series of public meetings, sources said.

Both Madhya Pradesh and Telangana are expected to go to polls in December this year.

NASA RECORDS 6TH LOWEST ARCTIC SEA ICE, LOW GROWTH IN ANTARCTIC ICE COVER

Antarctic sea ice also reached its lowest maximum extent on record on September 10 at a time when the ice cover should have been growing at a much faster pace during the darkest and coldest months, said the teams from NASA and NSIDC.

Sea ice around Antarctica reached its lowest winter maximum at 16.96 million square kilometres. That's 1.03 million square kilometres below the previous record-low reached in 1986 -- a difference that equates to roughly the size of Texas and California combined, they noted.

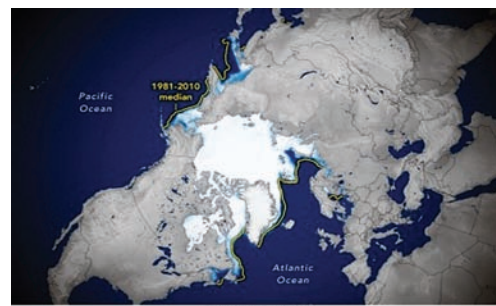
Washington | Agencies

Rising global temperatures caused Arctic sea ice to reach its annual minimum extent on September 19, making it the sixth-lowest year in the satellite record, according to researchers at NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC).

The findings, made using satellite data, showed that between March and September, the ice cover in the Arctic shrank from a peak area of 14.62 million square kilometres to 4.23 million square kilometres.

That's roughly 1.99 million square kilometres below the 1981-2010 average minimum of 6.22 million square kilometres. The amount of sea ice lost was enough to cover the entire continental US, said the researchers. This year in the Arctic, scientists saw notably low levels of ice in the Northwest Passage, said Walt Meier, a sea ice scientist at NSIDC.

Meier said the changes are a fundamental, decades-long response to warming temperatures. Since the start of the satellite record for ice in 1979, sea ice has not only been declining in the Arctic, but



also getting younger. Scientists are working to understand the cause of the meagre growth of the Antarctic sea ice, which could include a combination of factors such as El Nino, wind patterns, and warming ocean temperatures. New research has shown that ocean heat is likely playing an important role in slowing cold season ice growth and enhancing warm season melting.

Bank employees to strike work for 13 days between Dec 4 - Jan 20

Chennai | Agencies

The largest workers' union in the banking sector, the All India Bank Employees' Association, has called for a series of strikes across the nation between December 4 and January 20, 2024 demanding staff recruitment.

"There is a deliberate attempt on the part of the Government and banks to reduce the number of employees in clerical and subordinate cadres in the banks and to increase the number of supervisory staff. The idea is very clear that they want less workers who are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act," CH



Venkatchalam, General Secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBE) said. "Similarly we also find that there is a naked attempt to outsource the regular and permanent jobs in the banks on contractual basis with a view to avoid the payment of wages as per our bipartite settlement. "Because of this, the recruitment of clerical staff in the banks has come down drastically year after year and there is a virtual ban on appointment of subordinate staff and cleaning staff.



MAJOR ROW ERUPTS OVER MANEKA GANDHI'S ISKCON IS THE 'BIGGEST CHEAT' REMARK, SOCIETY DENIES CHARGE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A major controversy has erupted over BJP MP and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi's remarks concerning the International Society for Krishna Consciousness as she termed it the "biggest cheat in the country" and accused it of selling cows from its gaushalas (cow shelters) to butchers. The ISKCON has refuted the claims.

In a video that went viral, the BJP MP, who is also an animal rights activist, can be heard saying, "ISKCON is the biggest cheat in the country. It maintains gaushalas and get benefits from the government, including vast lands."

She also recalled her visit to ISKCON's Anantpur Gaushala in Andhra Pradesh, where she claimed that she couldn't find any cow that doesn't give milk or calves.

"There was no dry cow in the entire dairy. Not a single calf was there. It means all were sold," she is heard saying in the video.

"ISKCON is selling all its cows to butchers. No one else does this as much as they do. And they go and sing 'Hare Ram, Hare Krishna' on the roads. Then they say their entire life is



dependent on milk. Probably, no one has sold as many cattle to the butchers as they did," she alleged.

However, Maneka's allegations were rejected by ISKCON, whose national spokesperson Yudhishir Govinda Das shared the statement on social media platform X, and said, "Response to the unsubstantiated and false statements of Maneka Gandhi. ISKCON has been at the forefront of cow and bull protection

and care not just in India but globally. The cows and bulls are served for their life not sold to butchers as alleged."

In the statement, ISKCON said, "A video of Maneka Gandhi has come to our notice wherein unsubstantiated and false information regarding ISKCON and its cow care standards has been presented. ISKCON has pioneered cow protection in many parts of the world where beef is a staple

diet. Within India, ISKCON runs more than 60 gaushalas protecting hundreds of sacred cows and bulls and providing personalised care for their entire lifetime."

It said that many of the cows served in ISKCON's gaushalas were brought to the society after being found abandoned, injured, or rescued from being slaughtered. It said that in recent times, ISKCON has begun training programs for the farmers and rural households on cow care techniques to help revive the culture of cow worship and care as was the case in previous generations.

"Several ISKCON gaushalas are recognised and lauded for their high cow-care standards by the Government or association of gaushalas," it said.

"Maneka Gandhi is a well-known animal rights activist and well-wisher of ISKCON hence we are surprised by these statements. The documents provided herein by the local officials will help shed light on the actual scenario," it added.

Meanwhile, Radharamn Das, vice president and spokesperson ISKCON Kolkata in a tweet said that "we will sue her if she does not apologise for her wrong statements."

Army chief underlines complexities, challenges in Indo-Pacific region

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indo-Pacific region is not only a cauldron of cultures, histories, resources and opportunities but also a theatre of complexities and challenges. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj Pande said during Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) that culminated here on Wednesday.

The three-day long event -- IPACC, Indo-Pacific Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS), Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF) -- was organised by the Indian Army with the US Army as the co-host. The event witnessed participation from 30 countries. US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George highlighted the role of land power and said that it not only contributes to the shared security of the region but land power is also the decisive force in dealing with crises.

As many as 18 countries were represented by Chiefs of their respective Armies and



12 countries were represented by heads of delegations.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered the inaugural address while the closing address was delivered by Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt. According to Defence Ministry, the event provided an opportunity for the delegates to exchange ideas and views on security and other contemporary issues of mutual interest, with core efforts directed to promote 'Peace and Stability'

in the Indo-Pacific region.

As part of 13th IPACC, a Chief's Round Table Conference was held on the theme "Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region". All Chiefs echoed the theme and reflected the sentiments of all the nations in the area, a Defence Ministry official said.

The COAS also held bilateral meetings with Chiefs of the armies of the participating countries.

Delhi: Massive fire breaks out in girls' PG; no casualties

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A massive fire broke out at a girls' PG hostel in the Mukherjee Nagar area on Wednesday, an official said, adding that no casualties were reported.

Five persons, including a toddler, were admitted to the New Life Hospital in Mukherjee Nagar where their condition is stated to be stable.

Delhi Fire Services Director Atul Garg said that a call regarding the fire at the PG -- Signature Apartment -- was received at 7.46 p.m. He said that 20 fire tenders were rushed to the spot following which the blaze was brought under control at around 9.30 p.m.

"Around 35 girls were present in the building at the



time of the incident. They have all been rescued, and are safe now," said Garg. "It is being suspected that the fire broke out at a meter-reading board installed near the staircase, which quickly

spread to the upper floors," he added. On June 15 this year, several students of a private coaching institute in Mukherjee Nagar broke open windows and climbed down using ropes and ladders in desperate attempt to escape a fire that broke out on the top floor of the building housing it.

According to officials, around 150 students were rescued, while 22 students, who were climbing down the Sanskriti Coaching Centre sustained minor injuries.

As per sources, there are over 15,000 coaching centres and PGs operating across Delhi, mainly in Laxmi Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Kalu Sarai, Satya Niketan, Rajendra Palace, and Karol Bagh areas.

PM Modi, CM Shivraj have suppressed screams of daughter amidst election speeches: Rahul

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday condemned the horrific incident of a 12-year-old girl's rape in Madhya Pradesh and slammed the BJP government, saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan "have suppressed the screams of the daughters" amidst election speeches.

In a post on X, Gandhi said: "The horrific crime committed against a 12 year old girl in Madhya Pradesh is an attack to the heart of Mother India. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of crimes against women and rape against minor girls."

He said not only criminals, who are behind the heinous crime, are the culprits but "the incapable BJP government is also responsible as it has failed to protect its daughters".

"There is no justice, no law and order and no rights - today, the entire



country is ashamed of the condition of the daughters of Madhya Pradesh. But the Chief Minister of the state and the Prime Minister of the country have no shame at all - they have suppressed the screams of their daughters amidst election speeches, hollow

promises and false slogans," he alleged. His remarks came a day after a mentally-challenged minor girl was brutally raped, and faced people's apathy as she was left semi-naked on the roadside seeking help in Ujjain. In viral footage, the victim, who was in a

semi-naked condition and bleeding, was seen approaching a man for help, who shoos her away. As per the report, while wandering on the streets, she knocked on several doors to seek help but no one helped her. Eventually she reached an ashram and a priest there suspected her to be a case of sexual violence, covered her with a towel and rushed her to the district hospital. The medical examination confirmed rape. After primary treatment of the victim, doctors referred her to Indore for surgery as her private parts were brutalized. The reports also said that a cop donated blood as she needed blood transfusion urgently to survive and her condition is now learnt to be stable. The fresh incident has given the Congress ammo to target the ruling BJP ahead of the high octane Assembly election later this year as it questions the Chouhan government over crimes against women, tribals and the Dalits in the state.

BENGALURU TOPS IN INDIA'S GREEN OFFICE SPACE, NCR 2ND

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bengaluru has been ranked as India's top city in the green office space with 104.5 million square feet of green offices that accounts for about 30 per cent of the country's total, followed by National Capital Region (NCR) in the second spot with 70.2 million square feet that works out to a 21 per cent share, according to a CII-CBRE report on real estate released on Wednesday.

The country's commercial capital, Mumbai, figures at the third spot with a 17 per cent share that measures 56.6 million square feet. Next on the list of green office space are Hyderabad with a 15 per cent share, Chennai 9 per cent, and Pune 8 per cent.

The area covered by green-certified office buildings in the top six Indian cities shot up by over 36 per cent to 342 million square feet in June 2023 compared to the levels in



2019, the report states. The report released at the CII

Realty 2023 conclave in New Delhi states that green certified green office

spaces that are classified as environmentally sustainable grew at a compounded annual rate of about 7.1 per cent over the past five years.

According to the report, office leasing touched 26.4 million square feet between January and June this year, with Bangalore, Chennai and the NCR accounting for 60 per cent of the total.

Space taken up by the industrial & logistics (I&L) sector recorded a 35 per cent growth to 19.1 million square feet during this period, while retail leasing jumped by 24 per cent to 2.9 million square feet.

"An annual office stock supply of 51-53 million square feet is expected for the entire 2023, with Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Delhi-NCR dominating the office space completions. The investment activity is projected to pick up pace in July-December 2023 with an overall investment between \$6-6.5 billion," the report said.

24 'married' women continue to avail widows' pension in UP

Kanpur | Agencies

Nearly 24 married women have been found to be taking advantage of widow pension in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur.

Nearly 5,000 more beneficiaries of the Destitute Women Scheme in the district are untraceable.

The facts came to light during a recent verification drive by the district probation department for the financial year 2023.

"As many as 24 women, who had remarried after the death of their first husband, were still receiving widow pension. We have put their pension on hold and are in the process of making a recovery. Notices for the same will be issued soon," said district probation officer Jaideep.

During the drive, it was found that these 24 women were not present at their given destination and had shifted to another place after remarrying, but were receiving the widow pension.



Sources said the women were not aware that an application had to be moved to stop disbursement of pension.

At present 58,000 women in the district are benefiting from the scheme.

Crocodile surfaces out of open drain in Hyderabad



Hyderabad | Agencies

A baby crocodile surfaced from an open drain in Hyderabad during rains that lashed the city on Wednesday evening.

The reptile came out of the drain in Chintal Basti in Khairatabad, triggering panic among local residents in the area in the heart of the city.

People were in for a shock when the young crocodile crawled out of the drain which was in spate due to the downpour. They informed the police, which, in turn, alerted the

Forest Department.

The reptile was spotted at the place where a bridge is being constructed over the drain. Large number of curious onlookers gathered to have a look at the crocodile, which is believed to have been washed ashore in the flood water.

After a four-hour-long operation, the Forest Department, with the help of Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams and police, caught the crocodile. The reptile was later shifted to Nehru Zoological Park in the city.

Ex-MP Sameer Bhujbal appointed rival NCP's Mumbai unit chief

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Senior leader and former MP Sameer Magan Bhujbal has been appointed the Mumbai unit President of the breakaway chapter of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), an official said here on Wednesday.

Sameer Bhujbal is the nephew of state Minister Chhagan Bhujbal and the appointment was announced by NCP national President and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Working President Praful Patel and state President Sunil Tatkare.

Pawar said that Sameer Bhujbal has been quietly working from the backstage for the past 25 years to build the party, and will now carry out the work of expanding it in Mumbai which was largely



ignored. "We have got an experienced and visionary youthful leader and by paying more attention to the city, he will create a revolution in Mumbai," Pawar said. Sameer Bhujbal, who has

extensively worked in Mumbai as in his home town Nashik -- which he represented in the Lok Sabha from 2009-2014 -- played a key role along with Chhagan Bhujbal to give a strong founda-

tion to the NCP in its early days. His appointment is expected to give a fillip to the party's fortunes in the state capital ahead of the crucial civic, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

Daylight robbery: Armed men flee with gold worth Rs 30 lakh from Delhi jewellery store

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a brazen daylight heist, three armed men targeted a jewellery store in north Delhi on Wednesday, making off with around 480 grams of gold, valued at nearly Rs 30 lakh.

The robbers, wearing helmets, arrived on a motorcycle at Shriram Jewellery shop in Samaypur Badli area, where they brandished their firearms and threatened the staff before escaping with their loot. According to police, the incident occurred around 1.30 p.m. "A police team was dispatched for the spot after they received information regarding the incident," said a senior police official.

The CCTV footage captured the culprits fleeing on the motorcycle, even firing shots into the air. "Police teams have been formed to crack the case and further teams are scanning CCTV



cameras in the area to trace and identify the accused. We are hopeful that the case will be solved soon," said the official.

This incident follows closely on the heels of a daring theft at a jewellery store in Jangpura in south Delhi, where thieves made off with ornaments estimated to be worth Rs 20-25 crore. The criminals gained entry through the building's terrace and ultimately accessed the strongroom on the ground floor, where the jewellery was stored, by boring a hole through its wall. They not only made away with these items but also seized the pieces displayed in the showroom.



PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU FOR LESS EXPENSIVE JUSTICE FOR COMMON MAN

President Murmu lays foundation stone for High Court Annexe building, State-of-the-art building To Come Up at a cost of Rs 460 crore

Team Absolute | Bhopal

President Draupadi Murmu has said that justice should not be so expensive that the common man can not afford to get justice. Therefore, institutions and groups of lawyers should come forward to provide affordable and accessible justice.

The President was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of the High Court building to be built at a cost of Rs 460 crore in Jabalpur. Addressing the programme organized at Triple ITDM, President Murmu said that the High Court building is 134 years old. Having a new High Court building technically equipped and efficient is the need of the hour.

Murmu said that solutions to disputes can be made less expensive and accessible. Those who are in jail due to cases pending in the courts need attention. For minor crimes and settle the disputes with mutual consultations. Settlement of disputes through mediation enjoys support in the society. This also reduces litigation. Efforts should be made for providing accessible and speedier justice.



Murmu said that India is progressing fast due to technology. Progress has also been made in the judicial system. In this, the e-court system has proved a reliable judicial mechanism. The use of technology has an important role in making the judicial process easy and simple. Last week, an Act to reserve 33 percent seats in Parliament was passed for the

empowerment of women. She said that there should be collective participation of women in the justice sector also because women have a natural sense of justice. It is very important to have practical knowledge along with bookish knowledge. Referring to a 1976 case of ADM vs Shivkant Shukla, she said that the Jabalpur is indelible in history due to the decision given in

favour of fundamental rights.

The Governor Mangubhai Patel said that the court is a temple of justice where democratic faith along with loyalty is strengthened. He said that India is the only country where there is a system of free legal advice. Justice is the basis of success. We must make efforts towards providing decisions in regional languages along with English. We have to give priority to undertrials in jails who are generally from poor families and promote work culture and innovations. He said that a temple of justice should be built with all facilities where no innocent person should be punished. The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed President Murmu on behalf of the people of Nyayadhani besides Sanskardhani Madhya Pradesh and said that it is a matter of pleasure that the foundation stone of the annexe building of Madhya Pradesh High Court is being laid beside the 134 year old building. All the necessary arrangements have been kept in mind in the building. Public trust in a democratic system also depends on the functioning of the judicial system.

Twelve-yr-old's rape has brought shame to MP, BJP has made it most unsafe state: Congress

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress on Wednesday slammed the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in Madhya Pradesh over the sexual assault of a mentally-challenged minor girl who also faced people's apathy as she wandered on the street in a semi-nude state seeking help.

The incident, it said, has brought shame to the state and the BJP government has made it the most unsafe state in the country.

Slamming Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the BJP government in the state, in a post in Hindi on 'X', state Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "The great sin of cruelty to a girl child in the Mahakal police station area of Ujjain. Under the ineffective BJP government, near the police station, a 12-year-old girl becomes a victim of 'Nirbhaya' like brutality."

He said that, despite facing cruelty, the girl, drenched in blood, kept wandering on the streets in a semi-nude condition for two-and-a-half hours. "But the police of the Shivraj government and the entire government attack kept sleeping. The girl has also told about something "wrong" happening with her mother, but the police still have no clue about it," he alleged. "This heart-wrenching incident is once again going to bring shame to Madhya Pradesh and the entire country. But in case of crimes against women... Chief Minister Shivraj and the BJP government, which have made Madhya Pradesh the most unsafe state in the country. There is nothing for daughters except 'false promises' and 'fake claims'. Shame on you, Shivraj ji," the Congress general secretary



added. His remarks came after a mentally-challenged minor girl was brutally raped, and faced people's apathy as she was left semi-naked on the roadside seeking help in Ujjain.

In a viral footage, the victim, who was in a semi-naked condition and bleeding, was seen approaching a man for help, who shoos her away. As per the report, while wandering on the streets she knocked on several doors to seek help but no one showed mercy. Eventually, she reached an ashram.

A priest there suspected her to be a case of sexual violence, covered her with a towel and rushed her to the district hospital.

The medical examination confirmed rape. After primary treatment of the victim, doctors referred her to Indore for surgery as her private part was brutalized. Reports also claimed that a cop donated blood as she needed blood transfusion urgently to survive and her condition is now learnt to be stable.

The fresh incident has given the Congress ammunition ahead of the high-octane Assembly election later this year to target the ruling BJP.

1 taken into custody, says Home Minister after 12-year-old raped

Team Absolute | Ujjain

One person has been taken into custody in connection with the rape of a 12-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh, who went door to door in asking for help but received none. Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra told news channel, "A SIT has been formed and a suspect has been taken into custody. The girl is not able to speak properly now. She does not seem to be from Ujjain..." He also said the girl - who was finally taken to hospital, where doctors confirmed she had been raped - is now stable.

In an incident that has triggered shock, shame and rage in equal measure, the girl was semi-naked and bleeding as she went from door to door begging for help, only to be shoos away. In one particularly heart-breaking moment, CCTV footage from a street about 15 km from Ujjain shows the girl approaching a man for help only to be turned away.

Senior police officer Sachin Sharma said the girl is still unable to identify herself or her family, but her accent suggests she is from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, which is nearly 900 km away. Police have registered a rape case against unidentified individuals and raised



charges of child abuse under the stringent Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The horrific incident comes shortly before state polls and the opposition has ripped into the BJP government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The Ujjain shocker has renewed focus on the state's dismal record on violence against women. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, between 2019 and 2021 Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra reported the most disappearances of women and girls. In 2021 Madhya Pradesh reported the most incidents of rapes (per state) in - 6,462, 50 per cent of which were minors.

In other words, 18 minors were raped every day in Madhya Pradesh in 2021.

Poll aspirant dy collector in protests to get her resignation accepted

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Poll-bound Madhya Pradesh saw several protests especially in the past few months largely by students and job aspirants and over corruption in state government's recruitment exams -- for instance -- Patwari and nursing exams.

But, what could be surprising that a woman, who is a deputy collector, is protesting to get her resignation accepted by the state government as she wants to contest the assembly election to become a politician.

The woman officer Nisha Bangre, who was posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) in Chhatarpur district, marched on street to mark her protest in her home town Amla in Betul district on Tuesday.

Bangre had submitted her resignation on June 22 alleging that she was not given permission to organise a 'sarva dhama sammelan' during grihapravesh of her newly constructed home in Amla.

She had then accused the top officials of the state government of not permitting her to organise the programme at her home at the behest of a powerful BJP leader. She had also made public her



resignation letter and accusations levelled against senior officials. After submitting the resignation, to fulfill her political ambition, she had also met state Congress President Kamal Nath in July, sources had then told reporter.

Over two months have passed since Bangre submitted her resignation, however, the government rejected the same and then she has approached the court also. On Tuesday, Bangre took out a rally with a bunch of supporters and submitted a memorandum to district collector Betul.

Bangre warned that she would do hunger strike if her resignation wasn't accepted.

"I have already submitted my resignation and want to contest election from Amla seat. I will sit on hunger strike, if the resignation not accepted."

Sources told reporter that Bangre had started to follow her dream to become a politician a few years back and she has started preparations for the same.

She had even hired a PR agency for highlighting her even when she was serving actively as SDM. Notably, BJP's Yogesh Pandgre had won the election in 2018, while the Congress has bagged rest four seats. Sources said that the Congress is likely to field Bangre from Amla seat this time.

I'm Senior leader, will I ask for votes with folded hands?: Vijayvargiya

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Whenever a political party releases its lists of candidates for elections, many are upset for not making the cut. But in this case, a BJP veteran appears to be upset because he was picked for polls. Kailash Vijayvargiya, the BJP's national general secretary and veteran leader, has said he was "surprised" when his name was on the list and that he did not have even "1 per cent desire" to contest this time.

Addressing his supporters at an event, the 67-year-old leader said, "I am not happy from within. I am telling the truth. I had no desire to contest, not even 1 per cent. There is a mindset to contest. I am a senior leader now, will I now ask for votes with folded hands? I had thought I will give speeches and leave. This was my plan."

Vijayvargiya has been fielded from the Indore-1 Assembly seat. He has earlier served as Indore Mayor, a cabinet minister in Madhya Pradesh gov-



ernment and held senior positions within the BJP. His son Akash is sit-

ting MLA from Indore-3 seat. "I had planned eight public meet-

ings -- five by helicopter and three by car. But what you think never happens. What happens in God's will. He wants me to contest elections, go back to the people again. I still can't believe that I am a candidate, that I have been given a ticket," he said to loud cheers from his supporters.

In another interaction with the media, Vijayvargiya said, "I am fortunate that the party has selected me again for an electoral contest. I will try to fulfil the party's expectations."

Indore-1 constituency is currently represented by the Congress's Sanjay Shukla.

"There is a huge scope for development in Indore-1 Assembly constituency. Many people do not get basic amenities," Vijayvargiya said.

On why the BJP has not named a Chief Minister candidate, Vijayvargiya said the party follows a "collective leadership" model. "Polls are due in four states, but no leader has been announced. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the campaign. This is our strategy," he said.

CM Chouhan congratulates people of the state on World Tourism Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has extended greetings and congratulated the people of the state on World Tourism Day.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh, the heart of the country is full of spiritual energy, natural beauty and is the center of historical places. Every tourist destination of Madhya Pradesh including world famous Sanchi, Bhimbaitka, Khajuraho, Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Park, Pachmarhi, Orchha, Mandu, Chitrakoot and Bhopal provide unmatched pleasure to the tourists. Ujjain and Omkareshwar are emerging as special centers of spiritual tourism. Along with this, many such Lok will be built in the state including Ramraj Lok in Orchha, which will bring positive changes in the economic condition of small



local entrepreneurs along with tourism development. The number of tourists in the state has also increased this year. On Tourism Day, Chief Minister Chouhan has called upon the tourism lovers of the country, state and the

world to visit Madhya Pradesh and enjoy tourism to the fullest. Chief Minister Chouhan expressed confidence that tourists will return from Madhya Pradesh with pleasant and unforgettable memories.

IISER Bhopal finds 75% increase in greenhouse gas emission in India

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Bhopal, have developed a novel satellite technology which showed a whopping 75 per cent increase in greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural residue burning across India in the past decade.

To clear their fields to sow subsequent crops, farmers burn some 87 million tonnes of crop residues annually, surpassing the entire agricultural waste production of peers in the neighbouring countries.

"Crop residue burning has significant repercussions, as it releases pollutants and greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, leading to severe and adverse impacts on climate, public health, and food security," said Dhanyalekshmi K. Pillai, Assistant Professor at IISER Bhopal.

The team, including from CIMMYT and University of Michigan, leveraged remote sensing technology to offer pre-



cise insights into the scale of such emissions across the country.

Punjab emerged as the highest emitter, with 27 per cent of its cultivated area burned in 2020, closely followed by Madhya Pradesh, revealed the data published in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

The burning of rice, wheat, and maize crops accounted for 97 per cent of India's agricultural burning emissions, with rice being the largest contributor at 55 per cent.

Tackling the challenges of crop residue burning requires knowing the spatial and time-dependent emissions across the country.

The novel satellite technology can facilitate monitoring of residue burning and provide region-specific mitigation strategies and policy interventions to combat this grave environmental crisis, emphasising the role of science and technology in shaping a sustainable future.



Elegance and Depth

The Signature Style of Waheeda Rehman's Acting

Lalit Garg



Waheeda Rehman has been representing the ethical values of a woman in Hindi films with which a traditional Indian woman has been seen. She is a unique actress, who by playing memorable and unforgettable roles for five decades, not only gave high heights to Hindi cinema but also opened many doors of entertainment. The Government of India has taken the decision to honor this great actor with the 'Dada Saheb Phalke Award' at a time when the historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act' has been passed in the Parliament.

Waheeda Rehman has been wowing millions of audiences from generation to generation with memorable and sensitive roles. Whose acting, like love, can be cherished in a safe corner of the mind? It has hitched into the minds of the audience as a mark of glory. Her charming image, gestures and nuances of dance captivate the audience at once. This unique and wonderful actress has been seen on the screen as the most beautiful creation of nature. The love and respect that she has received from countless audiences through her impressive acting is amazing, till date no actress has been able to match the depth of her acting. The decision to honor WaheedaRehman with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, who has given sensitive and indomitable dignity to the characters with her acting skills, is an event that makes everyone proud.

Certainly, it is a happy coincidence that when the country is celebrating the birth centenary of the beloved actor Dev Anand, at the same time, Waheeda Rehman, the actress of his classic film Guide, was announced the highest honor of Indian cinema. Interesting fact is also that the pair of Waheeda Rehman and Dev Saheb dominated the silver screen for a long time. Both of them did seven films together, out of which five were huge hits.

The most attractive aspect of Waheeda Rehman's personality is that from the beginning of her film career till now, she has worked only on her own terms and her upbringing played a major role in this. In childhood, when she was learning Bharat Natyam, a relative had complained to her District Magistrate father, 'Will you make your daughter dance after being a Muslim? Preferring progress, father's answer was that art is not a bad thing, human thoughts are bad.

Waheeda Rehman's acting has not only been appreciated by the big screen audience of Hindi films, but she has also ruled the audience of Telugu, Tamil and Bengali films. She is known for her contributions to various genres of films of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Born on 3 February 1936, this great artist has many characteristics and eccentricities. Considered one of the most accomplished actresses of Hindi cinema, Waheedaji has received one National Film Award and three Filmfare Awards. Rahman was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1972 and the Padma Bhushan in 2011. She has worked in more than 90 films.

At this stage of her career, Rahman started experimenting with more challenging roles. She accepted the offer to play Jaya Bhaduri's mother in Phagun (1973). Waheeda Rehman's successful films in the new innings of the 70s included Kabhi Kabhie (1976), Trishul (1978), Jwalamukhi (1980), Naseeb (1981), Namkeen (1982), DharamKanta (1982), Namak Halal (1982), Coolie (1983), Mashaal (1984), Chandni (1989) and Lamhe (1991). Namkeen, Chandni and Lamhe received nominations for the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actress. After his appearance in Lamhe (1991), he announced a sabbatical from the film industry. The way Waheeda Rehman is living her life at the age of 85, she is an inspiration for all women, and she has a unique and meaningful way of living. Often at this age, women get affected by some disease or lose hope of living, but Waheeda Rehman inspired her fans through photography and scuba diving at this age, she is praiseworthy. In such a situation, even at this age, she is an example for other women of her age.

Waheeda will always be appreciated and remembered for many films in her acting career spanning over half a century,

but the entire spectrum of her acting can be understood from three films - Guide, Teesri Kasam and Khamoshi. Guide's character 'Rosie' is like a proclamation of women's liberation in which women of that era did not have the desire to break various types of restrictions and taboos? When Waheeda embodied Aaj Phir Jeene Ke Tamanna Hai, Aaj Phir Marne Ka Irrada Hai on screen, it was as if the suppressed desire of the entire women's society had found expression. Today, when the discussion of women's liberation is in front of us in new forms, and sometimes it appears in a very indecent form, then the character of Rosie shows us a decent path.

Despite being in a disrespected profession, Heerabai of 'Teesri Kasam' starts looking respectable and loved due to Waheeda's pure beauty, innocent feelings, unexpressed pain and innocent sweet voice.

Gulabo of 'Pyaasa' is a prostitute, but her sensitive expressions also seem innocent and natural due to her skillful and excellent acting style. Waheeda's cheerful and flirtatious acts in 'Saheb, Biwi Aur Ghulam' immersed the audience in a sweet feeling and they started humming along with her, 'Bhanwara is bada nadan hai...' In 'Chaudhwin Ka Chand', the traditional lady who loves her husband deeply and whose young mind would not have cherished a devoted wife like Waheeda. Certainly Waheeda is different, her attire and make-up were also special, decent and dignified. A rare talent, a soft-spoken woman, who has been described by great personalities of the world as a brilliant artist, whose soul is as pure and sensitive as a poet. WaheedaRehman, dressed in simple fashion, whose characters are also known for their determination and frankness. Favorite actress of filmmakers like Yash Chopra, Prakash Mehra, Manmohan Desai, Mahesh Bhatt, Raj Khosla and Gulzar, Waheeda stands at a place where today's actresses start gasping at the thought of reaching.

She is an inspiration for budding actresses. Now even after so many years, the shine of 'Guide' is increasing. 'Time Magazine' has given a new insight to the importance of Indian cinema by discussing this classic film while doing an in-depth analysis of Hindi cinema. Needless to say, no other film could create the same place that 'Guide' did in Indian cinema. The spiritual height achieved by a romantic drama film is unmatched. Waheeda Rehman is unmatched in the role of Rosie. No other heroine could have played this role better than Waheeda. The gestures and expressions of her dance are rare in Hindi cinema. With such immortal films, Waheeda Rehman has created new milestones in Indian cinema; her films can be considered as a living museum. When we tell our future generations about Waheeda Rehman, an influential, great and vibrant actress of the golden era of Indian cinema, we will be able to say that this is Waheeda Rehman, who used her soul in the acting.

international

NEW YORK JUDGE FINDS TRUMP LIABLE FOR FRAUD

New York | Agencies

A New York judge has ruled former US President Donald Trump and his sons liable for fraud, saying they provided false financial statements for nearly a decade.

Judge Arthur Engoron found that the former President and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing financing.

He ordered that some of Trump's business licenses be rescinded as punishment, Xinhua news agency reported. In the lawsuit, New York's Attorney General Letitia James alleged that Trump, three of his children and his companies submitted "gross-



ly inflated" numbers to banks and insurers. She is seeking \$250 million in penalties and a ban on Trump doing business in New York state.

Engoron is expected to hold a non-jury trial starting October 2 before deciding on the claims and any punishments he may impose.

Trump has long insisted he did nothing wrong, and his lawyers had asked the New York judge to throw out the case ahead of the trial.

The ruling by the judge is a setback for Trump, who is a frontrunner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination.

British Indian MP, 21 others urge UK to halt FTA talks over Manipur violence

London | Agencies

Indian-origin British MP Nadia Whittome has tabled an early day motion in the House of Commons calling the UK to halt its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks with India in the wake of the ethnic violence in Manipur.

The motion, signed by 21 other MPs, also urged the government to raise the issue of human rights violations in Manipur with the Indian government. "While the Tories are negotiating a free trade agreement with India, minorities face persecution under BJP rule. I tabled a motion highlighting the campaign of violence against the Kuki-Zo people in Manipur," Whittome wrote on X (formerly Twitter) recently.

"FTA talks must be halted while this continues," the Labour MP for Nottingham East added.

The motion tabled earlier this month notes "the ongoing, grave human rights violations in Manipur, India, including acts of sexual violence, extrajudicial killings, home destruction, forced displacement, torture and ill-treatment, predominantly targeting the Kuki-Zo people, a tribal community who are largely Christian".

Highlighting that UN experts have raised serious concerns about the slow and inadequate response by India, the motion stated that it "recognises that these human rights violations occur as part of wider attacks on religious and ethnic minorities across India, many of which public officials have been accused



of aiding and abetting".

Early day motions are submitted for debate in the House of Commons for which no day is fixed, due to which very few are debated.

However, many attract a great deal of public interest and media coverage.

Whittome's Punjabi Sikh father emigrated to the UK from Banga, Punjab at the age of 21. Her mother is an Anglo-Indian Catholic solicitor and former member of

the Labour Party. On Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said efforts are on to ensure there is adequate law-and-order enforcement in Manipur and find a way by which a sense of normalcy returns to the northeastern state.

"...I think one part of the problem in Manipur has been the destabilising impact of migrants who have come," Jaishankar said in response to a question raised on the situation in Manipur at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

"But there are also tensions which obviously have a long history which precede that. And today, I think the effort is on the part of the state government and the Union government to find a way by which a sense of nor-

malcy returns, that arms which were seized during that period are recovered, that there is an adequate law-and-order enforcement out there so that incidents of violence don't happen," he said. Beginning this week, fresh protests erupted in the state after two students, who had gone missing in July were found murdered, with mobile internet services in the state snapped once again. A team of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials is reportedly reaching Imphal today to investigate the "kidnapping and killing" of two students. At least 175 people have been killed, 1,108 injured and 32 remain unaccounted for since the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3.

8 storage rooms uncovered in Egypt's Pyramid of Sahure



Cairo | Agencies

A joint Egyptian-German archaeological mission discovered eight storage rooms in the Pyramid of Sahure in Giza province, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said in a statement. Mostafa Waziri, secretary general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, described the discovery as "very significant because it sheds light on the interior design of the Pyramid Complex of King Sahure, the second ruler of the fifth dynasty (of Egypt) that dates back to 2400 BC", reports Xinhua news agency. He

added that the newly discovered chambers will soon be opened to Egyptian and foreign visitors. According to the statement, though the northern and southern parts of the storage area were severely damaged, remnants of the original walls and parts of the floor can still be seen. It added that 3D laser scanning was used in drawing comprehensive maps of the external and internal areas and narrow passages of the pyramid. The pyramid complex included a large burial pyramid, a smaller satellite pyramid, a mortuary temple and a valley temple.

Nijjar was being tracked by a device under his car before his killing, says friend

Toronto | Agencies

A friend of pro-Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in the parking lot of a gurdwara in Surrey in British Columbia on June 18, has said that the slain leader was being tracked before his killing. CTV has quoted Moninder Singh, a spokesperson for the British Columbia Gurdwaras Council, as saying, "A couple of weeks before his death, he had come home to say there was a tracking device on the bottom wheel well of his vehicle." He said, "When he was at a mechanic shop, it (the vehicle) was raised and they found it."

"Recalling the events of the day when Nijjar was killed in the parking lot of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Mohinder Singh said, "The first call was made to me by



the person who opened the door and saw him inside. He called and told me to get there right away."

"He said video footage from the area captured the suspects' car as "it followed him (Nijjar) through the parking lot, cut him off through the back exit where he was going to exit out and slowed down and led him to almost a stop to where shooters emerged to shoot him. It was very well coordinated".

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had last week spoken in the House of Commons about India's alleged involvement in the killing of the separatist leader, who was spearheading the Khalistani campaign in Canada. India has denied the allegation, accusing Canada of harbouring terrorists on its soil. In a tit-for-tat, Canada and India expelled one diplomat from each country.

114 dead, over 200 injured in Iraq wedding hall fire

Baghdad | Agencies

At least 114 people were killed and more than 200 injured after a massive fire ripped through a wedding hall in Iraq's Nineveh province, a top official announced on Wednesday. The updated figures were confirmed to the media by Nineveh Governor Najm al-Jubouri, reports Xinhua news agency. The fire broke out on Tuesday night in the al-Haytham Wedding Hall in al-Hamdaniya town, 35 km southeast of the provincial capital Mosul, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted the Iraqi Civil Defence as saying. It said that initial reports indicated that fireworks were used during the celebration, which may have caused the fire. The building was covered with highly flammable materials, which accelerated the blaze that led to the collapse of part of the building, the INA said, adding that an investigation was launched into the incident. It was not clear if the bride and the groom were among the victims. Initial reports in Iraqi media said they had died in the blaze, with news agency Nina later reporting that they were alive but were being treated for burns. Health Ministry spokesman Sayf al-Badr said that the situation is under control and that they were following the incident closely. The INA report-



ed that the Health Minister directed authorities in the neighboring provinces of Kirkuk and Salahudin to send ambulances to help evacuate the victims. A statement by his media office said that Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani made a phone call to the Nineveh Governor to learn about the situation and ordered the interior and health ministers to support the affected people. "We are following the tragic developments in the town of al-Hamdaniya following the painful accident that caused a number of victims and injuries," Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi said in a tweet.



Envoys of 30 nations through Maha CM's home for Ganeshotsav

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Diplomats and commercial attaches from over 30 countries, including Deputy Governor of St. Petersburg, Russia, visited the home of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to celebrate Ganeshotsav, an official said here on Wednesday. The tastefully decorated CM's official residence, 'Varsha' reverberated with the chanting of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya', bhajans, hymns and aartis by the foreign guests who prayed at the idol of Lord Ganesha

there. Several of the visitors took the pooja thali and performed the 'aarti' guided by the CM, and others joined by singing bhajans and hymns in praise of the elephant-headed God. The dignitaries represented neighbourhood countries like Mauritius, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, plus Muslim nations like Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Turkiye. From the far-off nations were representatives from Australia, Belarus, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Poland,

Spain, Great Britain, Ukraine, Ireland, Italy, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, and Colombia in South America. Diplomats or representatives from various Asian countries like China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, were also present for the occasion, said an official. The foreign guests freely interacted with the CM, asked him questions on the state's biggest public festival, the different aspects of the worship (pooja) of Lord Ganesha during the 10-day and other details of the celebrations that will end with Anant Chaturthi on September 28.



Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad case

SC EXTENDS BOMBAY HC STAY ON MAHESH RAUT BAIL

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that the order granting bail to the Bhima Koregaon-Elgaar Parishad conspiracy case accused Mahesh Raut will not be given effect for another week. A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi extended, till October 5, the stay already granted by the Bombay High Court as it heard the plea filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). "Leave granted. List on October 5. The stay already granted by Bombay High Court on operation of judgment and order shall continue until the next date of hearing," the bench said. On September 21, a division bench of Justice AS Gadhari and Justice



Sharmila Deshmukh of the High Court had granted bail to Raut, who has been in jail since June 6, 2018 for his alleged links with Maoists.

However, the High Court deferred implementation of its order for a week after the anti-terror agency sought a stay for filing a special leave petition in the Supreme Court. In July, the top court had granted bail to two other accused -- Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira, who were in jail since August 2018. The case pertains to inciting people and giving provocative speeches during the Elgar Parishad organised by the activists of Kabir Kala Manch at Shaniwarwada in Maharashtra's Pune on December 31, 2017, which allegedly promoted enmity between various caste groups and led to violence resulting in loss of life and property and a state-wide agitation in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra pushes back to relax for long weekend till Oct 3

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra prepares to sit back for a long weekend of bank and public holidays starting from September 28 and ending on October 3. On Thursday, the state government and all other offices shall remain shut for Anant Chaturdashi, marking the end of the 10-day long Ganeshotsav festival. This will be followed by a holiday on Friday for Eid Milad-un-Nabi, to mark the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed. Earlier, the Eid Milad-un-Nabi coincided with Anant Chaturdashi (September 28), but the Muslim community voluntarily decided to postpone the celebrations from Thursday to Friday. They had also urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to postpone the Eid Milad-un-Nabi holiday from September 28 to September



29, which he consented on Wednesday. Thereafter, September 30 will mark the half-yearly closing of banks, followed by the weekly holiday, Sunday, Monday, October 2, will again be a national holiday to mark the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, when everything will remain closed. With a series of five consecutive non-working days, thousands of people from Mumbai, Thane, Pune and other places have chalked out elaborate holiday plans with their families to fan out to various sea resorts or hill stations, and even to destinations out of the state.

Maharashtra pushes Eid Milad-un-Nabi holiday to Friday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Following to the wishes of the Opposition and Muslim groups, the Maharashtra government has decided to push back the Eid Milad-un-Nabi by a day to Friday, September 29. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde made the announcement to the effect this evening, and was welcomed by state Congress Working President M. Arif Naseem Khan and others. Earlier, the official state holiday for Anant Chaturdashi marking the immersion ceremonies and Eid Milad-un-Nabi were falling on the same day, September 28. Since huge processions are taken out for both festivals, it could have resulted in problems and difficult for the police to manage the huge crowds. Keeping in view the solemnity of both the festivals, the Congress' Khan, Samajwadi Party's state President Abu Asim Azmi, MLA Raees Shaikh, ruling Shiv Sena MP Rahul Shevale, representatives of All India Khilafat Committee and others met the CM recently and submitted a proposal. In early-September, all Muslim organisations in the city and state had unanimously decided that in order to avoid any disturbances or clashes, the processions to be taken out in honour of Prophet Mohammed celebrations would be postponed to Friday, September 29. Last week, Khan had also written to the CM explaining the situation and sought the Eid Milad-un-Nabi holiday be postponed from



Thursday to Friday. The CM's announcement today was greeted warmly by the Muslim community and would now pave the way for smooth celebrations of both the festivals over the next two days. "The arrival of Lord Ganesha created an atmosphere of rejoicing for the last ten days. There are festivals like Eid Milad as well as the upcoming Navratri, Dassehra and Diwali in the next two months. We want that everyone should celebrate these festivals with unity and devotion and make the traditions of the state brighter," said Shinde. The CM also took the opportunity to wish the Muslims on Eid Milad-un-Nabi and expressed hope that the festival will usher in harmony, love and affection among all people. "Prophet Mohammad gave the world a message of sacrifice and love. His life is a great message. Let's take inspiration from it and try to increase mutual respect and love," said the CM.

Maha onion traders crisis unresolved, next meeting in New Delhi on Friday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Late Tuesday meeting between the striking wholesale onion traders, the state and Central government representatives remained inconclusive as the traders' stuck to their prime demand of rolling back the 40 per cent export duty on the kitchen staple. Present at the meeting were Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar and other top central and state officials, besides representatives of major onion trading associations and other agencies. Ajit Pawar and Goyal later said that the next meeting will be held at the latter's office in New Delhi on Friday (September 29) with Sattar, other ministers and officials remaining present. The onion farmers have also demanded that the NAFED and NCCF should purchase onion directly from the farmers in the APMC premises. Till then, Goyal, Pawar and Sattar appealed to the onion traders to call off their week-long strike and resume



the auction of the vegetable in Nashik in the interests of all stakeholders. "We have also requested the traders and NAFED to procure onion from the farmers to ensure they don't suffer losses," said Sattar. The current situation arose after the Centre's decision to purchase 2-lakh tonnes of onion at Rs 2,410/quintal through NAFED and NCCF, which was beneficial for the farmers and the consumers. However, the onion purchased through NAFED and NCCF was available to private traders in other states at a lower prices, the traders in

Maharashtra were compelled to sell their stocks at rates lower than the purchase price (Rs 2,410/quintal), thus running into losses, and resorted to the strike, which in turn hit the farmers. As the state struggled to prevent losses to the farmers and keep onion prices reined in, the Centre imposed the 40 per cent export duty on the vegetable, adding to the woes of the producers and the traders, said an official. The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi allies Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut have slammed the state and Centre for the onion crises just as the festival season has started. Sharad Pawar has termed the export duty as 'unjust' to the farmers, and said it's having international repercussions as now exports to some countries like Bangladesh have stopped completely. Raut has also questioned the government's alleged failure to resolve the onion crisis which has hit the farmers and traders both badly in the state.

Man in custody for sexually assaulting minor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a shocking incident, a 53-year-old man has been arrested for the alleged sexual assault of an eight-year-old minor girl living in a same building in Mumbai's Jogeshwari suburbs, police sources said here on Wednesday. The accused, said to be closely acquainted with the victim's family, was arrested on Sunday after a complaint registered by the girl's mother. A working woman, the mother used to drop her minor daughter under the care of her neighbour when she left for office as there was nobody at her home. The man, who has a wife and two grown-up children, allegedly took advantage of the situation and sexually assaulted the minor girl at his home. Few days ago, the girl narrated the incident to her mother on how the accused had sexually assaulted her for several days, between



September 7-14. Stunned by the girl's revelations, the woman immediately lodged a police complaint and the police moved swiftly in the matter. The police registered a FIR and have arrested the accused man under various sections of Indian Penal Code and POCSO Act. He was produced before a Special POCSO Court in Dindoshi Sessions Court on Tuesday and has been remanded to police custody even as further investigations are on. The minor girl has been taken to a government hospital for a thorough medical examination and treatment, while the accused also underwent a medical checkup to determine his mental and physical condition.

Epilepsy not ground for divorce under Hindu Marriage Act: High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has said a spouse being epileptic does not amount to cruelty and is not a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, as epilepsy is neither an incurable disease nor can it be considered a mental disorder. A division bench of Justices Vinay Joshi and Valmiki SA Menezes in its order on Tuesday dismissed a plea filed by a 33-year-old man seeking divorce on grounds of cruelty from his wife who, he claimed, suffered from epilepsy due to which she was mentally unsound. The bench in its order said epilepsy was "neither an incurable disease nor can it be considered a mental disorder or a psychopathic disorder" for making a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act. The man in his plea said his wife was suffering from epilepsy due to which she was not mentally sound, which amounted to cruelty and hence he could not live with her. He had sought divorce under Section



13 (1) (iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act, which says that if either the man or the woman has been incurably of unsound mind or has been suffering continuously or intermittently from mental disorder of such a kind and to such an extent that the person cannot reasonably be expected to live with the partner. The woman opposed the plea, arguing she had seizures but it had no effect

on her mental health. While dismissing the man's petition, the bench said he has failed to prove that his estranged wife was suffering from epilepsy or even that if she was suffering from such a condition, the same could be considered as a ground under Section 13 (1) (iii) of the Hindu Marriage Act for seeking divorce. The HC noted that as per medical evidence, every person suffering from epilepsy can lead a normal life. It said the woman had suffered only seizures and not from epilepsy, and even assuming she was suffering from epilepsy, this was "certainly not a mental disorder or a psychopathic disorder or for that matter can be even considered as leaving the respondent incurable or of an unsound mind." The medical evidence suggests the woman in the present case does not suffer from epilepsy, it noted. "We are of the opinion that there is an abundance of medical evidence that such a medical condition could not justify the petitioner's stance that the condition would be an impediment to the spouses living together," the court said.

Man rescued by Cops after suicide search on Google alerts Interpol

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai police traced a 28-year-old man here and saved him from ending his life following an alert from the Interpol that he was searching about the 'best way to commit suicide' on Google, an officer said today. The man, who hails from Rajasthan, was rescued on Tuesday from suburban Malvani after the police traced his location on the basis of his mobile number shared by the Interpol, he said. The International Criminal Police Organization, commonly known as Interpol, is an international organisation that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. "The rescue operation was conducted by the Unit-11 of the Mumbai police's crime branch based on the information given by the Interpol



on Tuesday afternoon," the police officer said. "The man, a resident of Malvani in Malad west is a native of Rajasthan. During the probe, the police found that he was under pressure as he was not able to secure the release of his mother from jail in Mumbai since her arrest in a criminal case two years ago," he said. The man earlier stayed in Mira Road locality (in neighbouring Thane district) with his relatives before shifting to Malvani, a western suburb, he said. "He has been jobless since the last six months. Since he was not able to secure the release of his mother from a jail, he was under depression."



Johnny Depp starts shooting for 'Modi' in Budapest

Los Angeles | Agencies

The filming of "Modi", a biopic about a moment in the life of internationally acclaimed artist Amedeo Modigliani is set to start filming in Budapest this fall. The story of the movie will follow famous painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani during his time in Paris in 1916. The biopic will chronicle the life of the Italian artist across a turbulent and eventful 48 hours which sees him on the run from police through the streets and bars of war-torn Paris. His desire to prematurely end his career and leave the city is dismissed by fellow bohemians: French artist Maurice Utrillo, the Belarusian-born Chaim Soutine and his English muse and lover, Beatrice Hastings. Modi seeks advice from his Polish art dealer and friend Leopold Zborowski, but the chaos reaches a crescendo when he's faced with art collector Gangnat who could change his life.

While part of the movie's cast has been revealed previously, with Riccardo Scamarcio set to play Modigliani and Al Pacino to star as Gangnat, according to recent reports in the French media, French actor Pierre Niney will not be involved in the project. Originally, he was supposed to play Maurice Utrillo. He is now busy shooting "Le Comte de Monte-Christo".

"Modi", which is set to be released next year, marks Depp's second foray into directing feature-length movies after the 1997 neo-western flick "The Brave". Depp has also directed TV shorts and several music videos.



Shakira accused of tax crimes for the second time

Los Angeles | Agencies

Colombian singing star Shakira has once again been charged with tax evasion by the Spanish government. Prosecutors in Spain claim Shakira defrauded the state of \$7.1million in 2018 after she allegedly failed to declare millions in advance payments for her "El Dorado" world tour, among other payments, reports aceshowbiz.com. The charges are due to the fact Shakira was living with then-partner Gerard Pique and their two sons in Barcelona in 2018 and therefore was required to tax her international revenue there, but she is accused of having instead divert her money to "companies domiciled in countries with low taxation and high opacity."

The investigation was opened in July 2023 but the details have only just been released. The news comes ahead of Shakira going on trial over six separate alleged tax crimes in the Spanish city this November, having been accused of failing to pay \$1,53,10,840 in tax between 2012 and 2014. She has denied the charges against her. A representative for Shakira said in a statement when the case first made headlines, "Shakira has always cooperated and abided by the law, demonstrating impeccable conduct as an individual and a taxpayer, and faithfully following the counsel of PriceWaterhouse Coopers, a prestigious and globally recognised tax firm." "Unfortunately, the Spanish Tax Office, which loses one out of every two lawsuits with its taxpayers, continues to violate her rights and pursue yet another baseless case," the statement continued. "Shakira is confident that her innocence will be proven by the end of the judicial process."



Charlize Theron can feel 'alone' as a mother

Los Angeles | Agencies

Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron feels people are "scared" to talk about the challenges of motherhood. The 48-year-old actress has adopted daughters Jackson, 11, and seven-year-old August and shared that she can sometimes feel "alone" as a mother and loves to hear the support of other parents who may be struggling in certain moments, reports aceshowbiz.com. She told US TV show "Extra": "I feel like there is a lot of stuff in raising kids that people are scared to talk about, and you feel sort of alone with it. That's the challenging stuff, the things that are not so pretty, that doesn't look like the Disney movie, the moments when you really are losing your mind..." "There is nothing better than when another mom looks at you and goes, 'I know, I know what you're talking about,' and that's what I am talking about - we have to have more of that." Meanwhile, the Oscar-winning actress is passionate about helping the environment and claimed that "time is running out" for those not on board with making changes in their life as she joked that her children are more than aware of the issue because she is so upfront about it herself. She added, "You can't get lost in the size of the change you are making, you have to just know that changing one person's life will then continue in a world where that if you don't have any because of that one person." "We are living in a world where that if you don't have any awareness time is running out, it is very unfortunate. We are trying to speak as loud as we can... We are running out of time. It is not a message that has been taken well. It is like, 'Yes, Mom, we know, we know.'"



Helen Flanagan hits back as trolls target her over glamorous transformation

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Helen Flanagan had the perfect response after being cruelly shamed. She recently took to social media to share an important message for her fans about female empowerment. The 33-year-old actress got quite the reaction with a glamorous video of her getting ready for a night out with her girlfriends, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

In the short clip, Helen teamed a pink corset with a pair of high-waisted baggy jeans. The mum-of-three accessorised the 90s-inspired look with white sandals, a mauve purse and chunky gold earrings by Neima Row.

She finished the video by spritzing herself with perfume, before applying a slick of pink lipstick to her pout and adjusting her gifted top's shoulder straps.

"Love a Corset," she captioned the post, adding that the special outfit had been put together to attend, "Drinks with girls". Doja Cat's hit song, "Paint The Town Red", was playing over the video.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', it didn't take long for the clip to receive backlash from the actress's followers, however, some of whom expressed annoyance over her facial expressions. Fortunately, the cruel remarks from trolls were outweighed by a number of positive messages - many of which jumped to Helen's defence.

"Some of the comments on here are vile! Don't like what you're looking at, unfollow her!", one fan urged. "Just because she's a celebrity, doesn't give you the right to pass on your nasty opinions. Nothing nice to say, don't say anything! She is happy and loves her body."

Ozzy Osbourne wants to record one final album & tour after final surgery

London: Heavy metal icon Ozzy Osbourne says he wants to record one final album and tour once again after the completion of his final surgery. The Black Sabbath singer, in a new update has revealed that he just underwent successful spinal surgery and that he's hoping to make a new solo album in 2024 as well as hoping for a subsequent live return and hit the stage, which was thwarted several times in recent years by his health. Following a series of spinal operations related to structural damage he sustained from a 2019 fall, the 74-year-old rock icon told Metal Hammer in a new interview that he's undergone his "final surgery" and now wants to make "one more album" and return to touring.

"I've had all the surgery now, thank God," Osbourne told the outlet. "I'm feeling OK - it was just this mode of living, constantly having something wrong. I can't walk properly yet, but I'm not in any pain anymore and the surgery on my spine went great", according to People magazine.

Outlining his plans for the near future, Osbourne explained: "I'm getting myself fit. I've done two albums fairly recently (2020's 'Ordinary Man' and 2022's 'Patient Number 9') but I want to do one more album and then go back on the road." The idea of Osbourne going "back on the road" didn't seem possible earlier this year, when he all-but-retired from touring. After canceling yet another leg of his 'No More Tours 2' farewell outing in February, he had stated: "Never would I have imagined that my touring days would have ended this way. My team is currently coming up with ideas for where I will be able to perform without having to travel from city to city and country to country."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Lotti Moss





Asian Games

Sift Kaur wins gold with world record as shooters make India's day; Vishnu Saravanan wins bronze in sailing

Hangzhou | Agencies

Led by a sensational performance by rifle shooter Sift Kaur Samra in the Women's 50m Rifle 3-positions, who set a world record in the Individual event, Indian shooters banged in seven medals as India took its medal tally to 22 medals including five gold medals on a Wonderful Wednesday at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou.

India won eight medals in all on Wednesday, seven in shooting and one in sailing -- a bronze by Vishnu Saravanan in the Men's Dinghy - ILCA7 at the sailing venue in Far away Ningbo. At the end of the day, India is in seventh position in the medals tally with 5 gold, seven silver and 10 bronze medals. China was marching ahead towards the 100 gold mark as they have already amassed 76 gold, 43 silver and 21 bronze for a total of 140 medals. The Republic of Korea is second with exactly half of that count -- 70 medals including 19 gold, 18 silver and 33 bronze medals.

The day belonged to the shooters, particularly Sift Kaur, who was absolutely brilliant as she became the first-ever Indian rifle shooter to win a gold medal since the sport made its debut at the 1954 Asian Games in Manila. The 22-year-old MBBS student from Faridkot in Punjab qualified for the final in the second position, took the lead soon and never looked back as she shot superb scores to set a new World Record of 469.6 points. India also bagged the silver medal in the Women's 50m Rifle 3-positions as Ashi Chouksey finished third in the Individual event.

Earlier, Sift and Ashi had combined with Manini Kaushik to win a silver medal in the Team combination finishing behind China.

The women pistol shooters bagged India's second gold on Wednesday in the 25m Pistol event as Rhythm Sangwan, Manu Bhaker and



Esha Singh scored 1759, finishing ahead of China, who had a score of 1756 with Korea taking the bronze medal with a score of 1742. Esha then came back to the range to bag a silver in the Individual competition while Manu Bhaker was left disappointed as she finished fifth after topping the qualifying stage with superb shooting in precision and rapid sections. Shotgun shooter Anant Jeet Singh Naruka also bagged two medals on Wednesday -- a historic silver medal in the Men's Skeet Individual competition and a bronze in the Men's Skeet Team event with Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Gurjoat Singh Khangura.

It was the first time since the 1974 edition in Tehran when India won medals in the skeet competition at the Asian Games. Anant Jeet Singh was brilliant in the Individual competition as he matched the legendary Abdullah Al-Rashidi of Kuwait, a three-time World

Champion, two-time bronze medallist in Olympics and two-time gold medallist at the Asian Games, shot for shot till 42 targets before he missed two in the next two series and eventually finished with a score of 58 out of 60.

Al-Rashidi shot a perfect 60 out of 60 to equal the World Record set by India's Angar Vir Singh Bajwa.

India could have bagged one more medal in sailing but nature conspired against Nethra Kumanan as there was no wind on Wednesday and races had to be abandoned. Kumanan was placed fourth after the penultimate race and that's how things ended for her. The lack of wind also prevented India's Vishnu Saravanan from going for gold in the Men's Dinghy - ILCA7 class. Vishnu Saravanan had jumped into medal contention with second place in the 10th race and first spot in the 11th race. He could have gone for

gold on Wednesday but had to be satisfied with bronze in the end.

India was also assured of a medal in the Wushu competitions as Roshibina Devi Naorem reached the final in Women's Sando 60kg, beating Vietnam's Thi Thu Thuy Nguyen 2-0 in the semifinals. However, there were disappointments for India in the boxing ring as experienced Shiva Thaka, 67kg, and Sanjeet (92kg) lost their bouts. The spirits were lifted a bit later in the evening with two-time World Champion Nikhat Zareen cruising into the women's 50kg quarterfinals with a dominating victory over South Korea's Chorong Bak in the Round of 16 clash. On the tennis courts at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre, India had a disappointing day with Sumit Nagal and Ankit Raina crashing out, ending India's campaign in the men's and women's singles. Nagal lost to China's Zhang Zhizhen 7-6(3), 1-6, 2-6 while Ankit lost to Japan's Kaji Naruka in three sets, going down 6-3, 4-6, 4-6 in a hard-fought encounter.

The men's doubles pair of Saket Myneni and Ramkumar Ramanathan defeated China's Zhizhen Zhang and Wu Yibing 6-1, 7-6(8) in one hour and 22 minutes on the Centre Court. The mixed doubles pair of Rutuja Bhosale and Rohan Bopanna, seeded second, were also in the hunt, reaching the pre-quarters with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Japan's Ayano Shimizu and Shinji Hazawa, the 13th seeds.

India encountered disappointment at the chess and esports venues, missing out on medals. In chess, India could not win a single medal in the men's and women's individual despite the presence of players like Vidit Gujarathi and Koneru Humpy appearing for them. In esports, the Indian campaign in the League of Legends section ended in the quarterfinals.

Glenn Maxwell stars in Australia's consolation 66-run win over India



Team Absolute | Rajkot

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell picked career-best figures of 4-40 on his return to the ODI team as Australia picked a consolation 66-run victory over India in the final match of the ODI series at SCA Stadium here on Wednesday.

Australia's top-four batters, David Warner (56), Mitchell Marsh (96), Steven Smith (74) and Marnus Labuschagne (72), smashed half-centuries to propel the visitors to a mammoth 352/7, the highest ODI score at this venue.

In reply, India began well, thanks to half-centuries from returning duo of captain Rohit Sharma (81) and Virat Kohli (56). But Maxwell took the duo out, apart from Washington Sundar and Shreyas Iyer, to derail India's chase.

Australia took a leaf out of India's strategy of using slower balls in the back-end of the innings to bowl out India for 286 in 49.4 overs. The result meant Australia broke their five-match losing streak in ODIs, though India has won the series 2-1.

Brief Scores:

Australia 352/7 in 50 overs (Mitchell Marsh 96, Steven Smith 74; Jasprit Bumrah 3-81, Kuldeep Yadav 2-48) beat India 286 in 49.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 81, Virat Kohli 56; Glenn Maxwell 4-40, Josh Hazlewood 2-42) by 66 runs

Milik gives Juve slender victory over Lecce in Serie A

Rome | Agencies

Juventus rebounded from their 4-2 defeat to Sassuolo as Arkadiusz Milik's goal secured a 1-0 victory over 10-man Lecce. Juventus, sitting in fourth with 10 points prior to Tuesday's game, faced an unexpectedly strong Lecce side that had remained unbeaten and occupied third place, reports Xinhua. Juventus controlled the match, crafting multiple opportunities but struggled to score. Their breakthrough came in the 57th minute when Weston McKennie floated a pass to Adrien Rabiot, who headed it down for Milik to tap in at the back post. Late in the game, Lecce's Mohamed Kaba fell in the penalty area under pressure from Federico Chiesa. However, instead of earning a penalty, Kaba received his second yellow card for simulation and was subsequently dismissed. With this victory,



Juventus temporarily climbed to second place with 13 points, one point ahead of AC Milan, who will face Cagliari on Wednesday.

World champion sprinter Schippers retires

The Hague | Agencies

Two-time world champion sprinter Dafne Schippers from the Netherlands announced her retirement at the age of 31 after having struggled with injuries in recent years. "The race stops here," she posted on Instagram. "As an athlete, you always know this day will come, that at one point, your career will be a moment in time, a collection of memories and hopefully medals." The highlight of Schippers' career was at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing when she captured the 200m gold and silver in the 100m. Two years later in London, she defended her title in the 200m and finished third in the 100m. In between she grabbed silver in the 200m at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, reports Xinhua. Schippers still holds the European record in the 200m with a time of 21.63 seconds set in Beijing in 2015.



Mallorca hold Barca, while Sevilla smash Almeria in La Liga

Madrid | Agencies

Mallorca held La Liga leaders FC Barcelona to a 2-2 draw at their Son Moix Stadium on Tuesday night in a match filled with excitement.

Mallorca took an early lead in the seventh minute when Vedat Muriqi capitalised on a poor pass from Marc-Andre ter Stegen, netting the ball from close range. Raphinha equalised for Barcelona in the 40th minute with a brilliant low shot from outside the penalty area. Barcelona nearly added a second, but defensive lapses allowed Abdon Prats to find the net following a long pass from the back, reports Xinhua.

Both teams had opportunities in the closing minutes, but Mallorca came closest to victory when Cyle Larin missed a clear shot in the 96th minute.



In another match, Sevilla regained their form against bottom-placed Almeria. Youssef En-Nesyri and Dodi Lukebakio gave Sevilla a 2-0 lead within the first seven minutes, with Suso adding a third in the 37th minute. Erik Lamela extended the lead to 4-0 in the 50th minute. Although Luis Suarez managed to score for Almeria from the penalty spot, youngster Kike Salas sealed Sevilla's dominant performance with a fifth goal during injury time.

'Little Mermaid' Haughey lights up Hangzhou Asiad pool

Hangzhou | Agencies

Siobhan Bernadette Haughey of Hong Kong, China, nicknamed "The Little Mermaid", showcased her prowess in the pool at the Hangzhou Asiad, clinching two gold medals with impressive performances. Haughey, 25, who was the runner-up in both the 100m and 200m free at the Tokyo Olympics, delivered an exceptional swim on Monday. She won the 200m freestyle in one minute 54.12 seconds. This victory marked Hong Kong, China's first swimming gold medal at the Asian Games and was also her first Asian Games gold, especially significant after she missed the 2018 edition due to an injury, reports Xinhua. On



the following day, "The Little Mermaid" set a new Asian record in the 100m freestyle, clocking a time of 52.17. This time is only surpassed by Australia's Olympic and world champion, Mollie O'Callaghan, and ranks as the third-best of the year. She quickly made a name for herself in the pool. She became the first swimmer representing Hong Kong, China to reach the final of an individual event at the world championships, finishing fifth in the 200m freestyle at the 2017 Budapest worlds. Haughey continued to make history at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. She secured silver in both the 200m and 100m freestyle, becoming the first athlete from Hong Kong, China in any sport to win more than one medal at a single Olympic Games edition.

Nepal's Dipendra Singh smashes fifty in just 9 balls, breaks Yuvraj Singh's 16-year old record

Hangzhou | Agencies

Dipendra Singh Airee of Nepal on Wednesday achieved the fastest fifty, taking only nine balls to break Yuvraj Singh's 16-year-old record set during the 2007 T20 World Cup match against England. In the group match of the ongoing Asian Games, Dipendra scored an unbeaten 52 off just 10 balls against Mongolia here at the Pingfeng Cricket Field. His record knock was studded with eight sixes. Nepal posted a massive total of 314/3 against Mongolia, becoming the first team to cross the 300-run mark in a T20 innings.

Kushal Malla, who smashed 137 off 50, broke the fastest T20 century record. He slammed a ton in



just 34 balls, pushing Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma (35 balls) to second place.

In response, Mongolia bumbled out for 41 in 13.1 Overs with Nepal sealing 273-run victory, the highest in T20 Internationals so far.

Before the Nepalese batter, former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj held the T20 cricket's fastest 50 record for nearly 16 years. His remarkable innings came against England in the inaugural ICC T20 World Cup in 2007, achieving a half-century in just 12 balls. This remains the fastest 50 in T20 World Cup history. Yuvraj's memorable knock included three fours and seven sixes, with six sixes coming in a single Stuart Broad's over, marking the first instance of six sixes in one over in T20 cricket.

Asian Games

Indian women's hockey team trounce Singapore 13-0 to begin campaign in style

Hangzhou | Agencies

Indian women's hockey team is off to a winning start to their 19th Asian Games campaign, defeating Singapore 13-0 in a Pool A match, here at Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium, on Wednesday.

Udita (6'), Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam (8'), Deepika (11'), Navneet Kaur (14', 14'), Deep Grace Ekka (17'), Neha (19'), Sangita Kumari (23', 47', 53'), Salima Tete (35'), Monika (52') and Vandana Katariya (56') were the goal scorers for India.

India displayed their dominance from the word go, pressing relentlessly and launching consistent attacks against Singapore courtesy of which they even won two



early penalty corners and Udita (6') converted the second one to give them a much deserved lead early in the

game. Moments later after scoring their first goal, India won a penalty stroke and they capitalised on it through

Sushila Chanu, who slotted the ball in the left bottom corner to give her side a 2-0 lead.

The goals kept coming for India as Deepika (11') converted a penalty corner to extend her team's lead, following which Navneet (14', 14') netted two goals - one through a penalty corner and the other by smartly dodging the Singapore defenders and goalkeeper to give India a solid 5-0 lead by the end of the first quarter. The second quarter continued in a similar fashion, with the Indian team maintaining control of the game through ball possession and relentless attacks, which once again paid off as Deep Grace (17') and Neha (19') converted penalty corners with ease, while Sangita (23') scored a brilliant field goal as India entered the halftime with a commanding 8-0 lead.



Nehha Pendse calls herself a 'homebody'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nehha Pendse, who plays a pivotal role in the show 'May I Come In Madam', has not only captivated audiences with her performance, but also demonstrated her prowess in balancing her professional and personal life.

The comedy show 'May I Come In Madam?' is produced by Sanjay and Binaifer Kohli.

The makers have launched new episodes of the show, featuring the talented trio of Sandeep Anand, Nehha, and Sapna Sikarwar reprising their lead roles. Nehha plays the character of Madam Sanjana. Talking about the same, Nehha said: "I have managed the delicate balance between my work and personal life quite effectively. While Nehha, the actor, thrives in the limelight, I am essentially a homebody."

Nehha's ability to seamlessly transition between her on-screen persona and her off-screen life is a testament to her versatility and adaptability.

"I play the roles of a daughter to my mother, a devoted dog mom, a loving wife to my husband, and a dedicated homemaker to my household. Over the years, I've experienced significant personal growth. Marriage has transformed me, altering my emotions and priorities," she said.

Her journey as an actor and a homemaker showcases her commitment to both her craft and her personal relationships, reflecting the multifaceted nature of her life.



Alia Bhatt turned producer to tell stories that evoke emotions, leave impact

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Alia Bhatt, who recently announced her production venture 'Jigra' in which she will also be seen playing the title role, says turned producer to tell stories that evoke emotions and leave an impact.

Alia launched her own production company named Eternal Sunshine Productions in early 2019. Her first film as a producer was 'Darlings', which released in 2020 and also stars Vijay Varma and Shefali Shah in the lead. With 'Jigra' being her second production, Alia said: "I believe stories are everywhere, and stories are everything! I turned producer with Eternal Sunshine to tell some of these stories, ones that evoke emotions and leave an impact."

The actress said: "Our first production, 'Darlings' got so much love that it was exciting and overwhelming at the



same time. And just a little over a year later, we are ready to launch our second production -- Jigra, a beautiful story of courage, passion and determination. I hope to consistently support compelling

narratives that are authentic, and enduringly timeless and work with brilliant creative minds to bring them alive."

'Jigra' is directed by Vasant Bala. The film is slated to release

on September 27, next year. The film is produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Alia Bhatt and Somen Mishra. Other details related to the film are still under wraps.

International Emmy nominations India gets 4 nods with 'Rocket Boys', 'Delhi Crime 2', 'Vir Das: Landing'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The International Emmy Awards are coming up soon as the nominees have been announced with India garnering four nods. These nominations include two for 'Rocket Boys', one for 'Delhi Crime - Season 2' and one for 'Vir Das: Landing'. Jim Sarbh has been nominated in the Best Performance by an Actor category for 'The Rocket Boys', competing against Gustavo Bassani in 'Tosi, El Espia Arrepentido' from Argentina, Martin Freeman in 'The Responder' from the UK, and Jonas Karlsson in 'Nattytarna' (Riding in Darkness) from Sweden.

Shefali Shah has been nominated in the Best Performance by an Actress category for her role in the series 'Delhi Crime 2'. In this category, she is competing against Connie Nielsen in 'Drommeren - Karen Blixen Bliver Til (The Dreamer-Becoming Karen Blixen)' from Denmark, 'Billie Piper' for 'I Hate Suzie Too' from the UK, and Karla Souza in 'La Caída'/'Dive' from Mexico.

Actor-comedian Vir Das has been given the Emmy nod in the Comedy category for his show 'Vir Das: Landing' where his competition includes: 'Derry Girls - Season 3' from the UK, 'El Encargado' (The Boss) from Argentina,

and 'Le Flambeau - Season 2' from France.

In addition, producer Ekta Kapoor is also set to get an Emmy Award for the Directorate Award.

The 51st International Emmy Awards will be held in New York on November 20, 2023.

Bruce Paisner, who is the CEO of the International Academy, said in a statement on the official Emmy website: "The International Emmy competition is the pinnacle for recognising excellence in television around the world. We look forward to gathering the international television community in New York City in November to recognise these outstanding programs and performances on our global stage." Nominees come from: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.

All nominees will convene in New York at The International Emmy World Television Festival for Nominee Panels & Presentations and special events, from November 17-19, the weekend before the awards ceremony.

Winners will be announced at the 51st International Emmy Awards Gala in New York City, on November 20, 2023.

Nikki Sharma discovers self through travel

'Let the world be your adventure'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nikki Sharma, who is essaying the role of 'Shakti' in the show 'Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya ShivShakti', has shared her views on 'World Tourism Day', saying the world is full of amazing places to explore, and every trip is an experience in itself. Hailing from Delhi, Nikki said that on 'World Tourism Day', all she can think about is the amazing trips she has taken.

The actress said: "Travelling isn't just about going to new places; it is also about getting to know yourself better. I have been to peaceful beach places, like Goa and experienced the busy streets of London, Serbia, and Ireland; each location has its own special story in my heart."

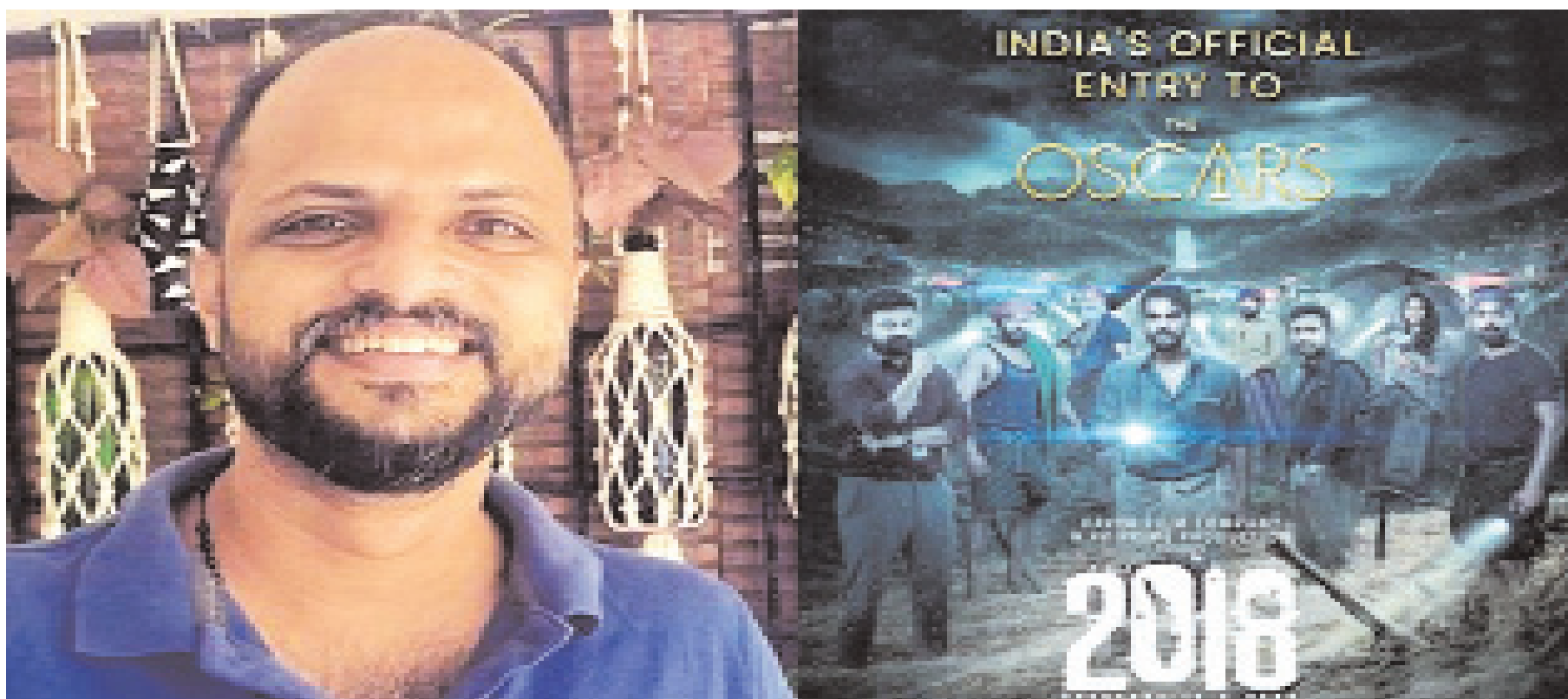


She said that travelling has always been very refreshing. Nikki said: "It's about learning from different cultures and making memories

that stay with you forever. I have a special trip planned in the coming months, and I am stuck between two countries, France and Peru because I want to go to both places."

The actress added: "So, as we celebrate this day, remember that the world is full of amazing places to explore and discover the beauty of the world, and every trip is an experience in itself. After all, we have only one life, so pack your bags, follow your heart, and let the world be your adventure!" Nikki plays the character of Shakti, who is a young and passionate girl from Varanasi. The show explores the healing power of love in a contemporary take on the Shiv-Shakti dynamic. Produced by Studio LSD Productions, it stars Arjun Bijlani as Shiv and Nikki as Shakti.

This is as good as winning an Oscar: Director of Malayalam film '2018'



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Jude Anthony Joseph, the director of Malayalam film '2018' which has been selected as India's official entry to the upcoming Oscar film awards, termed the nomination "as good as winning the Oscar". "This is as good as winning the Oscars. I

just do not know how happy I am as this is news that shocked me. This is God's blessing," said Joseph.

"The response to the film after its release was in itself a big recognition and now comes this news. Each and every person who played a part in the film had worked really hard as such were the conditions. Am

thankful to God and am feeling really happy," added Joseph.

"2018" also known as '2018: Everyone is a Hero' is an epic survival drama film that tells the tale of the 2018 floods that ravaged Kerala and was the worst ever floods in a century.

In the floods, a total of 483 people lost

their lives and the film has portrayed the tragedy quite well. It took Joseph six months to shoot the film in different parts of the state besides Tirunelveli and Hyderabad.

The film stars Tovino Thomas, Kunchacko Boban, Asif Ali, Gibin Gopinath amongst others. Released in May this year, the film turned out to be one of the biggest grossers.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aahna Kumra