

# absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 295, BHOPAL | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

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UNVACCINATED MAY BE 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM COVID

## GET VACCINATED

A STUDY SHOWED THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT VACCINATED AGAINST THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE ARE 10 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM THE INFECTION COMPARED TO THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN THE SHOTS.

THE FINDINGS SHOWED THAT THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE COVID-19 JABS PROVIDE STRONG PROTECTION FOR MOST PEOPLE AGAINST HOSPITALISATION AND DEATH, EVEN DURING THE DELTA SURGE. HOWEVER, HIGHER HOSPITALISATION AND DEATH RATES ARE OBSERVED IN OLDER AGE GROUPS, REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

FOR THE STUDY, THE CDC ANALYSSED DATA ON MORE THAN 6,00,000 COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALISATIONS AND DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE 18 AND OLDER BY VACCINATION STATUS, REPORTED FROM APRIL 4 TO JULY 17 IN 13 STATES AND CITIES.



WASHINGTON | Agencies

**A**s the Joe Biden administration stepped up efforts to get more people vaccinated, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in three new studies emphasised the importance of Covid shots in preventing death rates, even amid concerns on waning immunity in some populations. The studies appeared in the agency's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

Vaccine effectiveness against the infection dropped from 90 per cent, when delta had not yet gained significant traction, to less than 80 per cent from mid-June to mid-July, when delta began out-competing all other variants of the virus. Effectiveness against hospitalisation and death

### AHEAD OF PREZ VISIT TO SHIMLA, 4 STAFF TEST COVID POSITIVE

**S**himla: With President Ram Nath Kovind's 5-day tentative visit to the Himachal Pradesh capital just days away, four employees of 'The Retreat', the summer holiday resort of the President near here, tested positive for Covid-19, officials said on Sunday. The President, who is likely to reach Shimla on September 16, stays in the British-era heritage building. Four employees, including the manager of The Retreat, tested positive on Saturday. The RT-PCR tests of all employees of The Retreat were being conducted ahead of the President's visit on September 17, Deputy Commissioner Aditya Negi told the media here.

## No TDS on transfer of assets from Air India to SPV



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has come up with a set of notifications, announcing the decision. "The Central Government hereby specifies that no deduction of tax shall be made under section 194-IA of the said Act on any payment made to the Air India Ltd for transfer of immovable property to Air India Assets Holding Ltd under a plan approved by the Central Government," said a notification.

bid to raise more interest for the proposed privatisation processes. During the Budget speech for FY22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that all the proposed privatisation process would be completed by the end of the fiscal, including the much-delayed strategic disinvestment of Air India.

## New Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel to take oath today

**B**hupendra, earlier has served as the chairman of the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA). He has never held a ministerial post, just like Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he became Gujarat CM, twenty years ago. Similar to Modi, he's also a first time MLA.

Team Absolute | Gandhinagar

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devratt has invited the Bharatiya Janata Party's newly elected leader and the Ghatodia constituency legislator, Bhupendra Patel to take oath as the seventeenth chief minister of the state on Monday, at his residence in Gandhinagar, the Raj Bhavan.

The newly elected leader, Bhupendra Patel staked his claim to form a new government to the Gujarat governor on Sunday evening, after the announcement of his name for the top job at the state BJP headquarters, Kamalam earlier in the day.

Accepting his claim, Gujarat Governor Acharya Devratt invited Patel to take oath as Gujarat's seventeenth CM. The oath taking ceremony will be held at his residence in Gandhinagar, Raj Bhawan at 2.20 p.m. on Monday. "Only the chief minister will be sworn in tomorrow," state BJP president C.R. Paatil said while talking to reporters on Sunday after Bhupendra Patel's selection in the legislature party meeting at Kamalam.

Later Paatil added that the revamped cabinet will be formed following consultation with



the senior leaders in a couple of days.

Ghatodia MLA Bhupendra Patel was selected as Gujarat's new chief minister following Vijay Rupani's resignation on Saturday from the top post. It's over a year before the state goes to polls for the state Assembly elections.

The BJP's legislature party meeting was attended by Central Observers - Union Ministers Narendra Tomar and Pralhad Joshi. BJP's national general secretary Tarun Chug was also present at the meeting.

### POLICE OFFICER SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES IN SRINAGAR TERROR ATTACK

**S**rinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police sub-inspector injured in terrorist firing on Sunday in Srinagar city, has succumbed to critical injuries.

Police sources said sub-inspector Arshid Ahmad, who was injured in the terrorist firing on a police 'Naka' (Checkpost) near Khanyar police station in the old Srinagar city, has succumbed in the hospital.

"The injured SI was shifted to S.M.H.S hospital in the city from where he was referred to SKIMS Soura for specialised treatment. "He has succumbed to critical injuries", police sources said. The officer belonged to Kupwara district in north Kashmir. Security forces are carrying out searches in the area to trace the assassins.

### SAD to observe Sep 17 as 'black day' to mark enactment of farm laws

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

**T**he Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) will observe September 17 as the 'black day' on completion of one year of enactment of three Central farm laws, a party leader said on Sunday. Party activists along with farmers will hold a protest march from Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib to Parliament in New Delhi on that day, demanding repeal of the agricultural laws.

A decision in this regard was taken at a meeting here on Saturday presided over by party President Sukhbir Badal. Party Senior Vice President Daljit Cheema told the media that party leaders and workers along with farmers of Punjab will participate

in the protest march. It was on this day last year that party leaders, Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Sukhbir Badal, had opposed the passage of



three farm laws in Parliament and they were only the two MPs who voted against the Bills. After that Akali Dal representative Harsimrat Kaur resigned from the Union ministry and the party quit the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and broke away its 24-year-old alliance with the BJP.

## PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS ARE STABLE NOW AFTER PCA: NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Team Absolute | Chennai

**I**ndia's public sector banks are stable now after the prompt corrective actions (PCA) when it was caught in turbulence, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Speaking at the Tamilnad Mercantile Bank's (TMB) centenary celebrations in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu on Sunday, Sitharaman said prior to 2014, the public sector banks were facing various problems.

The public sector banks were laden with huge non-performing assets (NPA) which was a serious concern for the future of the banking sector itself. Sitharaman said a problem in the banking sector would impact the entire economic activity.

According to her, the government infused additional capital into public sector banks. It was then prompt corrective action was taken and the public sector banks are back on the rails now, she said. Even as the bank-

ing sector was in turbulence, TMB was carrying out its business efficiently, Sitharaman added.

Appreciating TMB, which was started as a Nadar community bank in 1921 and now gained universal acceptance, Sitharaman said the way forward is digitisation.

She said technology related solutions take away a lot of other problems. And even without a branch in a place, banking services can be offered now through digitisation.

Referring to TMB's deposit base of Rs 41,000 crore and advance portfolio of Rs 32,000 crore, Sitharaman said:

"If that is the rapidity with which you are using the money to make more businesses work, it is possible to be more efficient if you adopt complete technology related solutions."

According to her, using financial technology one can cross populate data and one can assess credit rating which is possible only with digitisation.

According to KV. Rama Moorthy, MD & CEO, TMB, as a part of their Centenary celebrations, the bank is kick-starting multiple initiatives, starting with the issuance of a special postage stamp and postal cards.



## YOGI'S IMAGE AGAINST KOLKATA FLYOVER SPARKS CRITICISM

**K**olkata: In a major embarrassment, a full-page advertisement carried in a national English daily showcasing the industrialisation and development of Uttar Pradesh under UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath featured a photograph of Kolkata's Maa flyover. The advertisement drew sharp criticism from several top ministers and leaders of the Trinamool Congress accusing Adityanath of "stealing images from infrastructure scenes in Bengal". The English daily, later, owned the responsibility of the fault. The advertisement "Transforming Uttar Pradesh Under Yogi Adityanath" carried on Sunday in an English language publication has a cut-out of Adityanath with a flyover that resembles Kolkata's "Maa flyover" that connects the central part of the city with Salt Lake and Rajarhat located in the northeastern fringes of the city. The image also has Kolkata's iconic yellow taxi and a high rise that resembles a five-star hotel in the city next to the Maa Flyover. The English daily, however, later in the day ran a statement admitting that the fault lies with the marketing and advertorial team of the newspapers. The statement said, "A wrong image was inadvertently included in the cover collage of the advertorial on Uttar Pradesh produced by the marketing department of the newspaper. The error is deeply regretted and the image has been removed in all digital editions of the paper".



## Fierce battle in Myanmar forces people to take shelter in Mizoram

**SOUNDS OF FIERCE GUNFIGHTS AND BURSTING OF SHELLS AND USE OF OTHER FIREARMS BETWEEN THE CADRES OF ANTI-COUP NUG AND THE MYANMAR ARMY COULD BE HEARD FROM THE VILLAGES BORDERING MYANMAR. OFFICIALS OF THE CRIME INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (CID), WHICH MAINTAINS THE DATA OF MYANMARESE REFUGEES, SAID THAT AROUND 11,500 REFUGEES, INCLUDING ABOUT 20 LEGISLATORS, HAVE TAKEN SHELTER IN MIZORAM'S 11 DISTRICTS SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR.**

**THE CHAMPHAI DISTRICT ALONG THE INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER IS CURRENTLY SHELTERING 4,550 REFUGEES, THE HIGHEST, FOLLOWED BY AIZAWL DISTRICT WHERE 1,700 REFUGEES HAVE TAKEN SHELTER.**

**SIX MIZORAM DISTRICTS - CHAMPAI, SIAHA, LAWNGTLOI, SERCHHIP, HNAITHIAL AND SAUTI - SHARE 510 KM UNFENCED BORDERS WITH MYANMAR.**

Sujit Chakraborty | Aizawl

**T**he fresh influx of refugees from military coup hit Myanmar continued with around 500 more Myanmarese forced to take shelter in Mizoram in the past few days as the Army and the opposition forces continue, more people are likely to come into Mizoram for shelter. The District administrations of the bordering districts are unable to officially help the migrants as they are yet to be granted refugee status by the Indian government or any international agencies.

Local police and district officials, legislators and others while talking to correspondent over phone from different places of Mizoram said that the desperate refugees from Myanmar crossed the Tiau River through small country boat and swam across to take

shelter in the bordering villages of the northeastern state of India.

Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana also told the media in Aizawl that if the attacks and counter-attacks by the Myanmar military and the opposition forces continue, more people are likely to come into Mizoram for shelter. The District administrations of the bordering districts are unable to officially help the migrants as they are yet to be granted refugee status by the Indian government or any international agencies.

According to the people acquainted with the happening in Myanmar and media and intelligence

reports, the fresh refugee influx took place in Mizoram as the Burmese government-in-exile, the National Unity Government (NUG), called for a countrywide uprising earlier last week and clashed with the military soldiers who undertook massive operations against the resistance forces.

As per the MHA advisory, the state governments and UT administrations have no power to grant "refugee" status to any foreigner, and India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram government has decided to enrol children of



# MAMATA EYES ALLIANCE WITH SAMAJWADI PARTY IN UP POLLS

Lucknow | Agencies

The Trinamool Congress is looking towards an alliance with the Samajwadi Party for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, due early next year. A decision on this is expected to be taken by the leaders of both the parties in the coming weeks.

The Trinamool has already launched its mass contact programme in Uttar Pradesh from Pilibhit where farmers had staged a protest on the issue of cane dues. At least two districts in each of the 18 divisions will be covered to gauge the mood of the people and their expectations.

Trinamool state president Neeraj Rai said, "We will tell the people about the policies implemented by us in West Bengal and will seek



public feedback on the welfare policies of the state government. We will prepare the manifesto of the Trinamool Congress based on the expectations of the people."

He said the Trinamool was focusing on building a strong organisational structure and cadre base in Uttar Pradesh.

"The party has added 100 com-

mitted members in more than 30 districts through the membership drive launched in May. The party leadership wants a strong unit in UP with a committed workforce ahead of the 2024 General Elections. Wherever we go, people want to know how we defeated the BJP in West Bengal," he added.

Sources in the Samajwadi Party said that the alliance with Trinamool could materialise since Akhilesh Yadav shares a warm rapport with West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Chief Mamata Banerjee.

"Besides, she is now an opposition mascot who crushed communal forces in her state against all odds. Her campaign in UP will certainly boost the opposition in general," said a SP spokesman.

# Rahul Gandhi Attacks Government Over "Job Losses"

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Sunday attacked the government over the issue of employment, saying the difference between a week off and a working day has ended under this dispensation as "there are no jobs".

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Taking to Twitter, Rahul Gandhi tagged a media report on US auto major Ford deciding to stop vehicle manufacturing in India which quoted an industry insider as saying that over 4,000 small firms could shut down.

"The 'development' under the BJP government is such that the difference between Sunday and Monday has ended," Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. "When there are no jobs, how does it matter whether it is Sunday or Monday?" the former Congress chief said.



## Bengaluru throws open 48-bed pediatric unit to tackle 3rd wave

Bengaluru | Agencies

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya inaugurated a 48-bed facility at the KSRTC Hospital in Jayanagar on Sunday in the presence of State Transport Minister B. Seeramulu.

The hospital was revamped using the MPLADS of the Bengaluru South MP and CSR funds from partners like Embassy REIT, PayTM, RoundTable India, SVG Bank and Yahoo Employees Foundation. The revamped KSRTC Hospital has 10 HDU beds and 38 general beds, adding



strength to critical healthcare infrastructure for citizens. The facility also received 3 new top-end ambulances from Mahindra. "The Government of Karnataka has been proactive in preparing healthcare infrastructure for a possible third wave with children in partic-

ular falling under the risk category," Surya said. "Whether it is the pediatric ICUs at the Jayanagar General Hospital or the 48-bed facility at KSRTC Hospital, we have developed these 2 centres on priority to provide critical healthcare for citizens," he added.

### 3 YOUTHS ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING DALIT WOMAN OVER DRINKING WATER ISSUE

Chamarajanagar, (Karnataka) : Three youths have been arrested on charges of assaulting and passing vulgar comments on a Dalit woman over the issue of drinking water in a village in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district, police sources said on Sunday. The arrested youths were identified as Sachin, Swamy and Manu, all residents of Kilagere village. According to the police, the accused got into a quarrel with Tejashwini, the Dalit woman, after which they assaulted her, passed vulgar comments and also threatened her. The victim lodged a complaint on Saturday.

## Heavy rain lashes several parts of Odisha

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Several parts of Odisha including capital city Bhubaneswar on Sunday experienced heavy downpour, under the influence of a well-marked low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, officials said.

"The well-marked low pressure area lies over northwest and adjoining west central Bay of Bengal with associated cyclonic circulation extending upto 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height," the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said in a bulletin.

The system is very likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas of north Odisha-West Bengal coasts during next 12 hours. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards across north Odisha and north Chhattisgarh during subsequent 2-3 days, it said. The well-marked low pressure area triggered heavy rainfall in some



parts of Jagatsinghpur, Nabarangpur, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Angul, Kendrapara, Rayagada, Sundergarh, Kalahandi, Koraput, Keonjhar, Puri, Cuttack, Khurda, and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha. Due to heavy rainfall, the normal life in Bhubaneswar came to a halt. Low lying areas have been reported water logging and the drains have been filled with flood water. Traffic was also affected in the city. Bhubaneswar Met Centre weather scientist, Umashankar Das said heavy rainfall would continue to occur in few places of Puri, Khurda, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Dehkanal, Nayagarh Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh, Angul, Jajpur, and Bhadrak districts till Monday morning. Some places of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, and Balasore would also experience heavy downpour, he said. The heavy rainfall may trigger flash flood, water logging and inundation in low-lying areas. There is also possibility of some damage to unpaved roads and 'kutcha' houses, Das said.

## Kejriwal re-elected AAP's national convener for 3rd term

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was re-elected as the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), a position he will be occupying for third consecutive term.

Kejriwal has been unanimously re-elected as AAP's national convener during a national executive meeting held on Sunday, sources in the party aware with the development told reporter.

AAP leader Pankaj Gupta has been elected as party's secretary while party's Rajya Sabha member from Delhi, Naraian Dass Gupta, has been elected as Treasurer, party sources informed.

Earlier on Saturday, the party had held its 10th national council meeting, in which names of 34



national executive members were approved.

The party has been looking to expand its footprint in other parts of the country by focusing on Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

"Don't ever be greedy for a position in the party; you won't achieve anything by greed," Kejriwal has said while addressing the national council meeting on Saturday. "In this party, you should only be at peace when you are satisfied with your work, not because you have reached some position. Your work should be of such quality that the position comes to you and you don't have to go to the position. If you come to us and say that you want a position or ticket, that means you aren't worth what you want," he has added.

## Uttarakhand Congress MLA Rajkumar joins BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi  
Influential Dalit Congress MLA from Uttarakhand, Rajkumar on Sunday joined the BJP, months before assembly polls in the hill state.

Second term MLA from Purola, Rajkumar joined BJP in presence of union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, state BJP chief Madan Kausik, Rajya Sabha member and national media head Anil Baluni and national media co-incharge Sanjay Mayukh at party headquarters.

Welcoming Rajkumar in the party, Kaushik said, "He is two-term MLA and a tall Scheduled Caste leader having influence across the state. He worked through his life and always helped the poor. On many occasions, he lauded the good work of the BJP government for SC community and the poor, going against the party line. His joining will help the BJP."

Chief minister Dhami said, "He always worked for the poor and deprived sections of the society. The BJP government is working for the development of the state under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kumar will strengthen the party at ground level."



## Postman decamps with savings of people in UP district

SAHARANPUR | Agencies

In a shocking revelation, a postman has allegedly duped several people in about nine villages in Saharanpur of their savings in the post office.

The postman, Rakesh Kumar, never deposited most of the money he collected from the account holders and before fleeing, he even collected passbooks from most of his victims and set them on fire. Station house officer (SHO) of the Behat area, K.P.

Singh, said, "The postman, Rakesh Kumar, was running a sub-centre of the post office in Muzaffarabad village which had over 2,000 accounts of people from nine nearby villages. He fled with all the money. Now we are searching for him. His son has been apprehended and is being interrogated."

The SHO said that the postman had never opened any account of these villagers. When police tried to verify the account numbers given by the villagers from the main post

office in Saharanpur, the officials there said that most of these accounts were either fake or owned by someone else. "Almost all the accounts were fake. He duped hundreds of people, even those who were working with him from the last many decades," the SHO added. Nem Chandra, former pradhan of Khurrampur village, said that his village has a population of around 2,000 people and a majority of them had, at least, one account in the post office run by Rakesh.

## Cloudburst in Kashmir kills 4 members of family

Srinagar | Agencies

Four members of a 'Bakarwal' (Nomad Goatherd) family were killed by a massive cloudburst in a meadow in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday.

Police said four persons of a Bakarwal family were found dead in Kafnarim meadow of the Rafiabad area in Baramulla district. "Of the six members of this family, four were found dead while one was found alive and one is still missing." Reports suggest that the family was hit by a massive cloudburst. The family belonged to Hajji



Bashir Ahmad Khari of Rajouri district. The family was washed away by the cloudburst.

Rescue teams are searching for the missing person, who is feared to be buried under the debris, Sujit Kumar, Deputy Inspector General (North Kashmir) said.

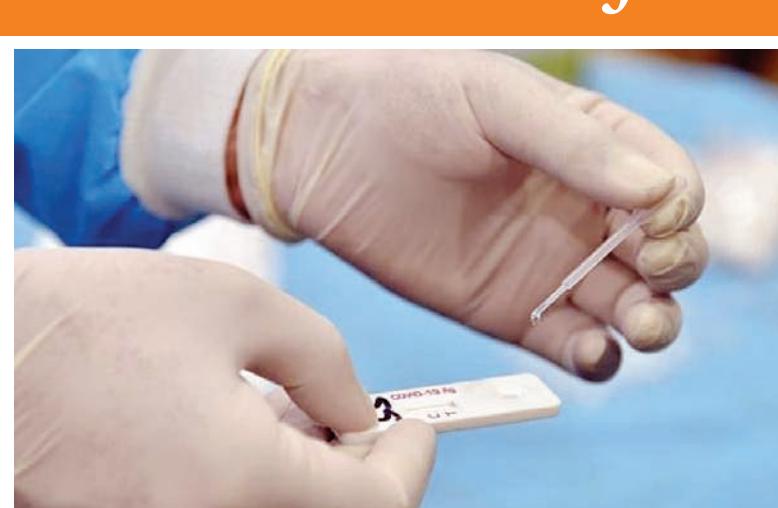
The cloudburst later triggered flash flood submerging paddy fields and some government buildings, including schools in Watergam village of the Rafiabad area.

## Saline gargle RT-PCR test tech transferred to MSME Ministry

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has transferred the know-how of the indigenously-developed saline gargle RT-PCR technique, used for testing Covid-19 samples, to the Union Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry on a non-exclusive basis, an official statement said on Sunday.

The technology, developed by Nagpur-headquartered NEERI, is simple, fast, cost-effective, patient-friendly and comfortable technique, provides instant results and is well-suited for rural and tribal areas, given the minimal infrastructure requirements. The CSIR-NEERI "dedicated to the nation" the innovation to serve the society by transferring the knowhow to the Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), on a non-exclusive basis, that will enable the innovation to be commercialised and licensed to all capable parties, including private, government and various rural development schemes and departments, the Science and Technology Ministry statement said. The licensees are expected to set up manufacturing facilities for commercial production in the form of easily usable compact kits. "In the light of the prevailing pandemic situation and probable third wave of Covid-19, CSIR-NEERI fast-tracked the know-how transfer process to potential licensees for its wider dissemination across the nation," it said. The ceremonial transfer of the SOP



and know-how was done in the presence of Union MSEM Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday. "The saline gargle RT-PCR method needs implementation across the nation, especially in resource-poor regions like rural and tribal areas. This would result in faster and more citizen-friendly testing and will strengthen our fight against the pandemic. The MSME unit had approached CSIR-NEERI for commercialising the Saline Gargle RT-PCR technology developed by CSIR-NEERI," he had said.

The principal inventor of the technology is NEERI scientist Dr Krishna Khairnar and the team of research scholars of Environmental Virology at CSIR-NEERI, the release said. The method is non-invasive and simple, and the patient himself/herself can collect the sample. Collection methods like nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab collection require technical expertise, and are also time-consuming. In contrast, the saline gargle RT-PCR method uses a simple collection tube filled with saline solution. The patient gurgles with the solution and rinses it inside the tube. This sample in the collection tube is taken to the laboratory where it is kept at room temperature, in a special buffer solution prepared by the NEERI. An RNA template is produced when this solution is heated, which is further processed for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR). This particular method of collecting and processing the sample saves on the otherwise costly infrastructural requirement of RNA extraction.

## TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF DENGUE EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD PARTICIPATE: CM CHOUHAN

**Statewide Dengue se Jung Janata ke Sang campaign will be conducted on September 15. Second dose of vaccine is necessary for protection against corona. Make the vaccination campaign a success on the birthday of Prime Minister. Chief Minister Chouhan appeals to the general public**

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has appealed to the people of the state to take necessary precautions to prevent corona as well as cooperate in preventing the spread of dengue. Chief Minister said that due to unnecessary stagnation of water around our houses, dengue causing larvae get a chance to flourish. Through awareness corona and dengue as well as other infectious diseases can be prevented. Precaution is better than treatment. Chouhan urged the citizens of the state through various mass media to take part in the "Dengue Se Jung Janata Ke Sang" (Battle Against Dengue With People's Participation) campaign on September 15 and attack the roots of dengue and be a participant in protecting the health of the people of the neighbourhood including themselves and their families.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that for the last one and a half years, we are continuously fighting the war against Corona. This has been possible with the cooperation of the public. I am satisfied to say that we have been successful in bringing the corona under control instantly. But don't be careless. Caution is necessary and vaccination is the most important in the war against Covid. So far, more than 75 percent of the brothers and sisters of the eligible population in Madhya Pradesh have been given the first dose of the vaccine. But still there are people



who have yet to take advantage of vaccination. It is our resolve that by September 30, we will give the first dose of vaccine to the eligible population of Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that remember that only the first vaccine is not enough. Getting the second vaccine after the first vaccine means taking the second dose of the vaccine is also necessary and so if the time limit is over after getting the first vaccine, then do not forget to take the second vaccine, only then you will get complete protection from Covid. Chouhan said that I request

you that if you have not got the vaccine yet, then do not delay at all. Chief Minister has urged the citizens who could not get the first dose or both the doses so far, to visit their nearest vaccination centre. Get vaccinated immediately and not only you, if there is anyone left in the family who has not been able to get vaccinated, then get your family vaccinated, get your neighbours vaccinated, get your relatives vaccinated, get the villagers vaccinated, it is also your duty that no one should be left without getting vaccine.

### FIGHT AGAINST DENGUE WITH THE PUBLIC

Chief Minister Chouhan said that a decision has also been taken to conduct "Dengue se Jung Janata Ke Sang" (Battle Against Dengue With People's Participation) campaign on September 15. Cases of dengue have been reported in the state. In view of this, it was decided to run this campaign. Government employees will do their work, they are doing it too. Government staff will do fogging, larva destruction, sanitation, spraying medicine where there is water logging, etc. But this battle also has to be fought with the cooperation of the people. Therefore, I appeal to you that if water has been accumulated for at least seven days in your house, then do not allow such water to remain accumulated. In any water tank, pot, pit and in the cooler, if there is any water filled for a long time, then immediately empty that water. Medicine can be put in the pit etc. to kill the larvae. Cleanliness is essential. Chief Minister Chouhan said that we have decided that on September 15, between 10 am and 10.30 am, half an hour has to be taken out for this campaign. With the cooperation of the citizens, this campaign will surely be successful.

**Chief Minister Chouhan gives many gifts to Shivrajpur village**

Will not let there be shortage of funds in development works. Bargi canals water will reach this area by 2023



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that most of the dreams that Late Jugul Kishore Bagri, MLA of Raigaon area, saw for the development of the area have come true. I have come in your midst to complete the work that was left incomplete by him. The economy of the state is not very good due to Corona crisis that struck twice. Even if the government has to borrow, I will not let there be lack of funds for development works. The water of Bargi canal's will reach this area by the year 2023. He said that wheat worth Rs 300 crore and paddy worth Rs 150 crore have been purchased from the farmers of Raigaon area on support price.

Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a public meeting after launching the Jan Darshan programme from Shivrajpur village of Raigaon assembly constituency in Satna district. Chouhan, while participating in the Jan

Darshan programme in 10 villages including Shivrajpur, interacted with the general public and also inquired about the implementation of the development schemes of the government. Many gifts including power sub-station announced Chief Minister Chouhan said that soon the construction of power sub-station will start in Shivrajpur. The Chief Minister announced for providing Bargi canal's water, construction of roads from Duari village to Rara, construction of building at a cost of Rs 18 crore for the opening of CM Rise Higher Secondary School in Shivrajpur, restoration of two ponds, Chitra and Mudhara of the village and expansion and construction of Haat-bazaar in Shivrajpur by 2023. Chouhan gave instructions to the departmental officers to complete the work of drinking water scheme under construction from Jal Jeevan Mission in Shivrajpur by March 31, 2022.

### CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTED SAPLINGS FOR 206TH DAY IN A ROW



**Bhopal :** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling of Pink Cassia in Smart Garden. Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings every day as per his resolve. On the occasion of Narmada Jayanti on February 19 in Amarkantak, Chief Minister had taken a pledge to plant saplings every day. In observance of this resolution, a sapling has been planted on the 206th day by Chief Minister Chouhan. Pink Cassia is important because of environment and beautiful flowers.

## Preparations for All India Tiger Assessment start in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Preparations for All India Tiger Assessment 2022 have been started in the state. In this connection, two day training of circle level nodal officers was completed at Pachmarhi of Satpura Tiger Reserve Hoshangabad. Principal Secretary Forest Ashok Varnwal and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Ramesh Kumar Gupta reviewed the preparations for tiger assessment in the state.

It is noteworthy that the All India Tiger Assessment is done every four years. This year assessment will run for three months from October to December. Tiger estimation is done in three phases. In the first phase, first of all the evidence related to the presence of herbivorous and carnivorous wild animals in all the forest beats of Madhya Pradesh and other states is collected. In the second phase, scientific study of the GIS map and in the third phase, photographs of wild animals are



taken by placing camera traps in the forest areas.

The specialty of this year's tiger assessment is that instead of using paper, tiger data will

be collected through a special mobile app M Stripe Ecological. Along with this, emphasis is being laid on the recording of herbivorous and carnivorous wildlife in a phased manner

in the regional forest divisions and corporation areas, apart from the Tiger Reserves. For this, field staff is being trained for tiger census.

Arches Stock / Shutterstock.com

## Gaur (Bison) will be brought to Sanjay Tiger Reserve

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Sanjay Tiger Reserve Sidhi 50 gaurs will be resettled. This decision has been taken in the meeting of State Wildlife Board held recently under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Aloki Kumar informed that Sanjay Tiger Reserve has been found suitable by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for rehabilitation of gaur. He informed that technical permission has also been given



by National Tiger Conservation Authority for gaur rehabilitation.

It is noteworthy that historical evidence of the presence of gaur has been found in the forest areas of Sanjay Tiger. There is no availability of gaur in the forest areas here for the last several decades. The proposed 50 gaurs will be brought from Satpura Tiger Reserve or Pench Tiger Reserve to Tiger Reserve Sidhi. Prior to this, gaurs have been brought from Kanha Tiger Reserve to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve and restored.

## SP removed on death of tribal in Khargone

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has removed Superintendent of Police Shailendra Singh Chouhan in connection with the death of a tribal youth arrested for theft in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district.

It is to be known that recently in Bistan police station area, 12 people were arrested and sent to jail for theft, out of which one Bisan died in jail. After this the mob attacked Bistan police station. During this, there was a fierce scuffle between the police and the crowd. The Congress delegation led by former Congress state president Arun

Yadav had submitted a memorandum to the Director General of Police, Vivek Johri and demanding registration of a case of murder against the natives. At the same time, Congress had also formed an inquiry committee. Taking this matter seriously, Chief Minister Chouhan announced the removal of Superintendent of Police Shailendra Singh Chouhan and said, "A young man had died in an incident in Bistan of Khargone district recently. We have already suspended the policemen. We have also decided to remove Khargone Superintendent of Police due to lack of supervision. The incident is under judicial inquiry. Further action will be taken based on the facts." Senior Congress leader and General Secretary of Media Department, KK Mishra, while citing the report of the Congress Inquiry Committee, said the reason for the action against the Superintendent of Police, demanding a case of culpable homicide against the policemen, said, "Police took custody in Bistan. After the report made public by the Congress committee formed on the instructions of former Chief Minister Kamal Nath in the matter of tribal's death, the Khargone SP is suspended. This decision is insufficient; the case of culpable homicide should also be registered against the culprits.

## Re-Scuffle of office bearers in state BJP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The phase of change is going on in the Madhya Pradesh unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Now the party has removed the divisional organization ministers and entrusted them with the responsibility of a member of the state working committee. BJP state general secretary and office in-charge Bhagwandas Sabnani on Saturday night released the list of six divisional organization ministers removed from their posts and made members of the working committee on the instructions of state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma. So far in BJP, organization minister of Jabalpur and Narmada Puram divisions, Shailendra Barua, organization minister of Ujjain division Jitendra Litoria, organization minister of

Bhopal and Gwalior Ashutosh Tiwari, organization minister of Rewa and Shahdol divisions Shyam Mahajan, organization minister of Indore division Jai Pal Singh Keshav Singh Bhadauria, who was the organization minister of Chavda, Sagar and Chambal divisions, has now been made a member of the State Working Committee. If we look at the ongoing changes in the BJP organization of the state, one thing is clearly visible that the organization is giving more preference to new faces.

## Ganesh Museum established in Khajrana temple of Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

The famous Ganesh Khajrana Temple, located in Indore, the commercial city of Madhya Pradesh, the country's second Ganesh Museum has been established in this temple complex. Many statues of Ganesha, literature and other materials will be collected in this museum so that every devotee can come here and see the different types of idols of Ganesha. On the occasion of Ganeshotsav, Ganesh Museum has been started in the premises of Khajrana temple. This museum has a large number of idols, Ganesha literature with the devotees of Ganesha in and around Indore and this museum has been started with the view that others can also see it.

Indore MP Shankar Lalwani has said that in this museum being started by the Ganesh devotees of Indore, rare idols of Ganesha ji, idols of different postures, bhanjan aarti etc. will be collected.

On the initiative of Indore's Ganesh



Bhakt Niwas Kutumble and others, its permanent start has been made in the Khajrana Ganesh temple complex. People are hoping that this museum will become the center of attraction for the devotees in the coming days.

Lalwani said that this museum, set up in the Khajrana Ganesh temple complex of Indore, will probably be the second Ganesh museum in the country after Poona. This museum will be established in the future of Yatri Niwas in the premises itself. But it is being started tentatively in the shed built on the campus.

Lalwani also dedicated Ganesh idols made of cow dung and clay to this museum. At the same time, other people will also hand over the idols, pictures and pictures of various figures of Ganesh ji present in their house to this museum, besides other materials, so that devotees coming from other parts of the country can see Ganesh ji with the darshan of Ganesh ji of Khajrana temple. There are statues of different shapes to be seen.

## EDITOR'S SPECS

**BJP's four CM replaced in last six months**

**J**ay Rupani became the fourth BJP's chief minister replaced in the last six months. In a surprise move, Rupani on Saturday resigned as Chief Minister of Gujarat almost 15 months before state polls, becoming fourth chief minister to be changed in six months in three states - Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Gujarat. Senior BJP leader Bhupendra Patel elected new chief minister of Gujarat. In March, the saffron party replaced Uttarkhand then chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat with Lok Sabha member Tirath Singh Rawat. In July, four months after being made chief minister, Tirath Singh Rawat was replaced by two time MLA Pushkar Singh Dhami. After Uttarakhand, BJP replaced B.S. Yediyurappa with B.S. Bommai. A party leader claimed that chief ministers in Gujarat and Karnataka were replaced to bring in new leadership in the state. In Karnataka, there was strong resentment against the chief minister and his son. Similarly there was demand in Gujarat unit for removal of Rupani by a section of the party saying it will be difficult to win next year's state polls under his leadership, according to party sources. While in Uttarakhand chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat was replaced to bring in a new face but Tirath Singh Rawat removed due his failure to get elected to state assembly within six months of being sworn in as chief minister of state. Among all the replacement of BJP chief ministers, the current change of guard in Gujarat took place without any buzz. There was a discussion and demand from a section in the party to change the chief minister but no one expected that news would come this way. Nobody had any idea that it will be announced after submitting resignation.

**absolute edit****Is Biden ending Islamophobia? What shall we do then?**

SAEED NAQVI

**O**ur media has been pegging away, at a nagging length, on the 'terrorists' in the Taliban cabinet and who are controlled by Pakistan. The information available to us would have been so much more reliable had our embassy not shut entirely. Our ambassador had to leave early because in the Taliban versus US-Ghani conflict we clearly sided with the losing side. Is the media campaign against an alleged Talib-Pak compact part of our rear-guard action? Considering that the first demonstration by women was against Pakistan interference in Kabul proves two things: that a demonstration can take place under Talib rule and that Pakistan being the target is occasion for reflection: Indians are not unpopular at the street level, Pakistan is.

Consistency continued to define coordination with the defeated occupiers at the UN where, as rotational President of the Security Council, we navigated a resolution on Afghanistan on terms which caused Russia and China to abstain.

This does not mean we are not on talking terms with Moscow. In fact, Nikolai Patrushev, Russian

National Security chief was in the capital on the same day as CIA Director William Burns. It may be too early to spot a pattern, but overt engagement by the NSA with his counterparts and a low key if not exactly covert contact with the Taliban by the MEA -- this seems to be the emerging pattern. The Shanghai Co-operation Organization sponsored regional conference on Afghanistan in Dushanbe on September 16-17 may clarify future approaches.

How long will the media froth in the mouth about Talib-Pak perfidy? Supposing the Talibs consolidate themselves independent of Islamabad, will the media change? How will it make the somersault? The town criers have their difficulties. Having spread saffron with a sense of dedication over decades, they surely cannot be expected to abruptly put saffron back in the bottle. The Modi regime's requirements are not for short-term Talib bashing. It would like the 'ogre' in public view at least until UP elections, February to March. What with the farmers agitation, joblessness, dipping economy, scary price rise, vaccine vacillations, Covid confusion, demoralizing Bengal defeat, courts finding their feet, all these and more can

only be thwarted by a double-fisted saffron punch. There is nothing else in the toolkit. Political fortunes would sink if, say, Yogi Adityanath were by some miraculous trick seen with a Taliban. In other words, all regional initiatives involving Talibs have to be kept on hold. In any case, Muslim bashing is almost a reflex action. The recent controversy sought to be created on Naseeruddin Shah's oracular sermon distancing Indian Muslims from Talib celebrations in Kabul was a function of the majority community's stereotype expectations of Muslim behaviour. Naseer, his supporters and detractors completely misread the Muslim reaction to the emergence of Talib power in Kabul. Muslims are thrilled at the Americans being trounced, not Talibs coming to power. That the Talibs beat the mighty power entities them to admiration, not their Islamism and the accompanying optics. When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh invited President George W Bush, during his March 2006 visit to New Delhi, to address a joint session of Parliament, Muslims protested in such large numbers that Ramila ground overflowed onto the roads. It was acute Muslim anger at Bush for having spread Islamophobia worldwide in

the guise of the global war on terror. Bush's address to the two Houses was called off. The President nicknamed at the Old Fort instead. In other words, anti-Americanism is all pervasive among Muslims for an obvious reason: US led war on terror indiscriminately cast them in unacceptable stereotypes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may know a thing or two about political profit from the war on terror. By an amazing configuration of stars, Modi was sworn in as Chief Minister of Gujarat on October 7, 2001, exactly the day when the US began air strikes on Afghanistan.

When the world's most spectacular fireworks dominated TV screens 24X7, terrorism became the flavour of the season for our leaders. When I turned up at Godhra after the train carnage, Collector Jayanti Ravi, was unable to give details because, she said, the case had been instantly handed over to Vijay Pipal, DIG anti-terror squad even before preliminary inquiries had been made. The carnage was an act of terror: period. With the suddenness of revelation, Joe Biden has announced an end to 'never ending wars on terror, a stance most disorienting for the rulers who cannot conceive life sans Islamophobia.

The Taliban is not the only prob-

lem. All countries ringing Afghanistan are Muslim. The only non Muslim neighbour is China, which is worse. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has been meeting Iranian leaders in Tehran. He may be able to corroborate well known Palestinian journalist Abdel Bari Atwan who is convinced that the ferocity of the Taliban advance was not the only reason for victory.

Covert help from Russia and Iran were too. One reason for eliminating the iconic Quds Force Commander Qasem Soleimani was the fact that he planned military strategy for the Taliban, persuaded them to shed their anti Shiism and convinced his regime that the Taliban was the only force with wide support among the country's 18 million Pashtun -- they alone could forge a wider coalition to defeat America. He appointed Esmail Qaani as the Liaison Officer with the Taliban. Qaani is now Soleimani's successor. All of this should provide comfort. Pakistan may not be the only puppeteer pulling the strings.

(Saeed Naqvi is a senior commentator on political and diplomatic issues. The views expressed are personal.)

**IT'S RAINING DOLLAR, RUPEE, JEWELLERY AND GOLD BISCUITS IN THIS RAJ TEMPLE**

Archana Sharma

**A**t a time when news regarding recession, funds crisis and job drops are making the rounds during the pandemic, its raining dollars, rupees, gold and silver jewellery and even gold biscuits in Sanwaliya Seth temple situated near Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan which is also believed to be the trade partner of businessmen operating here.

Sanwaliyaji, many traders believe, is their business partner. Before sending their consignment, big businessmen bow their heads at the doorstep of this temple and consider Sanwaliyaji as their partner. Once they make a profit, they offer a part of their profits to God. Each month on Krishna Paksha Chaturdashi, a day before Amavasya, the donation sheet of this temple is opened where an official figure of donations is

declared. Our team comprising around 200 members, sits and counts the collections. This time, 1 kg gold biscuits, gold and silver jewellery and more than Rs 5.48 crore have been received in a donation box in Sanwaliyaji temple when the donation box was opened on Krishna Chaturdashi. For the first time, 125 notes of 100 dollars were also found in the offering box," said temple trust officials. Devotees have a lot of faith in Shri Sanwariya Seth. People from far and wide have been coming to visit the temple and make offerings when their prayers are addressed, said Kailash Dhadeech, administration officer of the temple trust.

Shri Sanwaliyaji Mandir Mandal President, Kanhyadidas Vaishnav said: "Dollar currency donations were found earlier too, however, they were limited in number, this time, we have found 125 dollar notes, along with a

gold biscuit. "Counting continues in the presence of senior officials. In fact, cash and money orders worth Rs 72.71 lakh have also been collected, he added.

This temple, it is believed, has been the centre of Meerabai's faith. According to legend Meera Bai used to worship this Murlidhar. The famous Sanwaliya Seth temple attracts millions of devotees every year.

The Temple Devasthan Department is under the Government of Rajasthan. Sanwaliya Seth has a lot of recognition among farmers and traders who cultivate opium in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Dhadeech says: "The pandemic has failed to block the donations. Even when the temple was closed, the trust of people did not go down. They are coming with open hearts to donate after their wishes are

fulfilled. The number of notes and the quality of notes, both seem to have become better during the pandemic which shows that their faith has become stronger during the tough days."

Even after three months of lockdown last year, more than Rs 3 crore was offered in the reserves in just 10 days after the temple was opened post lockdown following the corona pandemic, said officials.

There is also an influx of foreign tourists here. At present, due to corona the visitors are very few. However, there is no let up in donations as a large amount of money, gold and silver jewellery is being donated to Sanwaliya Seth, said officials.

**international****ISRAELI FIGHTER JETS STRIKE HAMAS FACILITIES**

Tel Aviv | Agencies

**I**sraeli fighter jets on Sunday struck military posts and facilities belonging to the armed wing of the Islamic Hamas Movement in the Gaza Strip in response to rocket attacks, according to security sources. The sources said that the Israeli fighter jets struck by air-to-ground missiles military posts and facilities in the central and southern Gaza Strip for the second day in a row, reports Xinhua news agency.

On Friday and Saturday, unknown militants fired two rockets from the Gaza Strip towards Israel, according to Israeli media.

No injuries or damage were reported after the rocket landed on empty areas.

The Hamas-run al-Aqsa television said that witnesses heard the buzz of Israeli army drones and



fighter jets, and then several explosions were heard in the southern and central Gaza Strip after striking military posts that belong to the movement. On Saturday morning, Israeli army spokesman said that fighter jets attacked posts that were used for manufacturing homemade rockets besides attacking weapons caches in the Gaza Strip.

sources, which added that no injuries or damage were reported.

In two separate statements on Saturday and Sunday, an Israeli army spokesman said that fighter jets attacked posts that were used for manufacturing homemade rockets besides attacking weapons caches in the Gaza Strip.

**Five soldiers killed, 6 wounded in ELN attack in Colombia**

Bogota | Agencies

**A**t least five soldiers were killed and six others injured in an attack by guerrillas from the National Liberation Army (ELN) in a rural area of the Colombian municipality of Arauquita in Arauca department.

According to officials, the wounded men were promptly transferred to a health centre, where they are recovering from their injuries, while the army is coordinating the corresponding legal procedures with the relevant authorities', reports Xinhua news agency.

"The soldiers of Colombia express their heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of our murdered heroes," said the Colombian Army.

President Ivan Duque condemned

the attack, saying on Twitter on Saturday: "These cowardly acts are the product of despair in the face of military pressure. For the memory of



our heroes, we will continue attacking narco-terrorism and dismantling its structures. The ELN is a revolutionary left-wing armed group involved in the continuing Colombian conflict, which has existed in the country since 1964.

The group has been classified as a terrorist organisation by the governments of Colombia, the US, Canada, the European Union and Venezuela's National Assembly.

**NO FORMAL NOTIFICATION YET ON ASSET FREEZE: AFGHAN CENTRAL BANK**

**K**abul: Da Afghanistan Bank (DBA), the country's central bank, announced on Sunday that it has not received any formal notification so far concerning freezing of its assets.



"So far, Da Afghanistan Bank has not received any formal notification pertaining to the freezing of monetary reserves of this bank and the bank has been informed of it through the news published by the media of the country based on the reports of foreign media," the bank said in a statement posted on its website. The statement came as thousands of customers were still waiting in long lines to withdraw their savings since Taliban takeover in August. Reports of freezing of Afghanistan's bank assets by the US as well as the announced half of funds by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have fueled concerns among Afghans. On August 28, the DBA issued an order to all banks in the war-torn country setting a weekly limit of withdrawals of \$200 or 20,000 afghanis for a customer. "Da Afghanistan Bank assures the noble people of Afghanistan of the safety of their deposits in commercial banks," the DBA said in the statement issued on Sunday. It added that these banks are operating in accordance with the procedure it has issued and their services will soon return to normal.

**Pakistan to resume commercial flights to Kabul from Monday**

Islamabad | Agencies

**P**akistan International Airlines (PIA) announced that it has decided to resume commercial flights to Kabul starting from Monday onwards, the first since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

"The official flag carrier of Pakistan is going to

start again its flight operations for Kabul," Arshad Malik, CEO of the PIA, told Xinhua news agency on Saturday.

Malik added that the first flight will leave for the Afghan capital on Monday from Islamabad. The PIA official said that a permission to land at the Kabul airport has been granted by Afghanistan's Civil Aviation Authority.

**Global Covid-19 case load tops 224 mn**

Washington | Agencies

**T**he global coronavirus case-load has topped 224 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.62 million and vaccinations soared to over 5.65 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Sunday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and vaccination tally stood at 224,215,675, 4,623,663 and 5,652,335,899, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 40,920,922 and 659,691 respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 33,208,330 cases.

The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (20,989,164), the UK (7,231,111),



Russia (7,019,200), France (6,982,683), Turkey (6,613,946), Iran (5,275,567), Colombia (4,928,578), Spain (4,907,461), Italy (4,601,749), Indonesia (4,163,732), Germany (4,080,180) and Mexico (3,494,232), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 586,558 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (442,317), Mexico (266,849), Peru (198,673), Russia (188,546), Indonesia (138,701), the UK (134,469), Italy (129,885), Colombia (125,592), France (116,095), Iran (113,824) and Argentina (113,356).

**Ex-US President Bush warns against domestic extremism**

Washington | Agencies

**F**ormer US President George W. Bush has warned against domestic extremism, saying the country has seen "growing evidence that the dangers to our country can come not only across borders but from violence that gathers within".

"There is little cultural overlap between violent extremists abroad and violent extremists at home," said Bush in a speech on Saturday marking the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

"But in their disdain for pluralism, in their disregard for human life, in their determination to defile national symbols, they are children of the same foul spirit, and it is our continuing duty to confront them," he said.

Bush, who was in his first year as president when the horrific attacks took place, paid tribute to the passengers and crew members of Flight 93, which crashed in a field after those on board fought back against the hijackers and diverted them from their intended target.

The former Republican President lamented the division in the US, contrasting the current political climate to the spirit of unity that

he said he observed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

"A malign force seems at work in our common life that turns every disagreement into an argument, and every argument into a clash of cultures. So much of our politics has become a naked appeal to anger, fear, and resentment," Bush said.

"That leaves us worried about our nation and our future together."

Bush has been outspoken about condemning violent insurrectionists who stormed the Capitol on January 6 in an attempt to stop Congress from certifying the 2020 election results for President Joe Biden.



# SHIV SENA VOWS TO 'TEACH A LESSON' TO BJP, TO CONTEST UP, GOA POLLS

The Shiv Sena has vowed to "teach a lesson" to the Bharatiya Janata Party by contesting all 403 seats in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections, plus the Goa polls, both due to be held in early-2022, top officials said here.

**Quaid Najmi & Amita Verma | Mumbai**

The pre-poll bugle was sounded after a high-level meeting of Sena leaders, led by the state president Thakur Anil Singh in Lucknow, after deliberating on what it termed as 'jungle raj' prevalent in UP under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath since the past four-and-a-half years.

"We deliberated on several issues ranging from the education system to the healthcare sector, the bungling of the Covid pandemic, the problems of farmers, the spectre of unemployment among youth, etc," said UP Shiv Sena Secretary Vishwajeet Singh. Confirming the developments, Sena's Chief Spokesperson and MP Sanjay Raut said that as per current plans, the party may put up at least



100 candidates in UP and 20 in Goa polls. In a no-holds barred attack, Singh said that the (UP) regime has joined hands with the 'mafia' resulting in a 'jungle raj' where sisters and daughters are not secure, and the government has completely failed on the law-and-order front.

He charged the Yogi regime of not honouring the Supreme Court verdict giving 15 per cent fee remission to students, while youth reeling under unemployment and inflation are fleeing the state. "The UP government is giving a step-motherly treatment to the farmers, the health infrastructure has collapsed and they could make no arrangements to even cremate those claimed by Covid,"

Singh said. "However, now the Sena will stand up as the voice of the masses' and 'teach a lesson' to the BJP in UP by contesting all the seats in the state assembly," he said.

"We have been fighting UP elections since 1991 when one MLA Pawan Kumar Pandey was elected. We also have many Shiv Sainiks elected in various civic bodies across the state," Singh told correspondent on the party's prospects.

Welcoming the move, Sena's farmer face Kishore Tiwari, accorded a MoS status, said tersely: "The people of UP have not forgotten those dead bodies floating in the Ganga though the Yogi government has made no arrangements to even cremate those claimed by Covid,"

during the Covid pandemic."

He also questioned the safety of women, the Dalits and OBCs, minorities and other sections under Yogi rule and said after Maharashtra, "UP will prove to be a megagamechanger for the BJP." Founded 55 years ago (1966) by the late Balasaheb Thackeray, the Shiv Sena has contested civic, assembly or Lok Sabha polls in several states like Delhi, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir in the past but was mostly mauled. This time, buoyed by heading the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance of Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress, it hopes to create a national foothold by making an impact in UP and Goa polls.

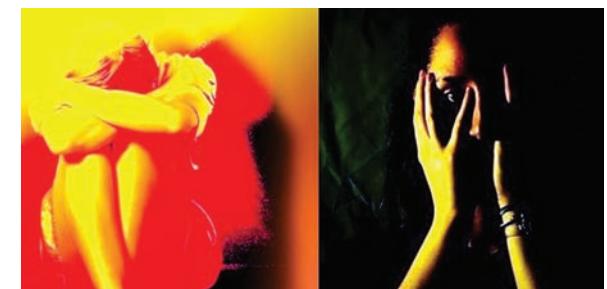
Though Sena has not declared plans for alliances, party sources hint it is not averse to join hands with the UP Congress since relations between Sena-BJP - both on the same ideological page - are badly strained after the MVA government took office in Maharashtra. Simultaneously, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had said her party was 'open' to the idea of alliances, while the UPCC chief Ajay Kumar Lallu has said they would ally with smaller parties in the coming months.

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**  
In wake of the horrendous Sakinaka rape-cum-murder incident of Friday, a team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) rushed here to meet officials and the victim's family members.

The apex women's rights panel has also frowned at a statement of Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrals who told the media how the local police team reached the site of the incident within 10 minutes.

"It (police) can't be present at every crime location. They would reach only after getting information. Police worked to the best of their capability," he had said on Saturday. NCW member Chandramukhi Devi termed the statement as "extremely unfortunate" and said police cannot run away from their responsibilities.

The NCW members visited the family members of the 33-year-old victim, who is survived by two minor daughters.



eve of the state's biggest public festival Ganeshotsav.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered the case to be transferred to fast-track special court, and a Mumbai Police Special Investigation Team headed by Assistant Commissioner of Police Jyotsna Rasam has been formed to probe the matter within 30 days.

Women leaders from the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party, the Congress, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Aam Aadmi Party and activists from across the state have expressed outrage over the incident and demanded implementation of the proposed 'Shakti Law' at the earliest.

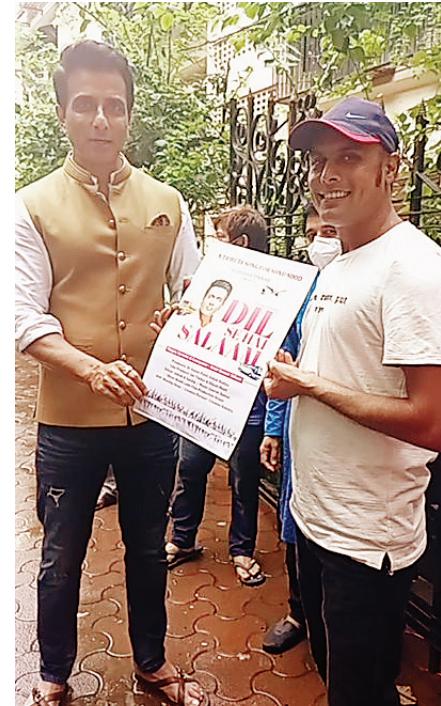
## Sonu Sood's fan to release a song dedicated to the actor

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

Some time back, an admirer of Bollywood star and social worker Sonu Sood, bicycled his way to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and unfurled a poster hailing the star. Now, Arun Kumar Nikam, a Surat-based singer who started life as a vegetable seller, is all set to release a music video - 'Dil se hai salaam' - dedicated to the actor.

Announcing this, Nikam said it was his way of showing his respect to the actor, who turned out to be a "real-life hero", standing by ordinary people when the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak.

"I am inspired by Sonu Sood's good deeds and want to pay my tribute to him," Nikam said. "The song is really special for me. The purpose of the release is to reach out to the largest possible audience. If the song gets positive feedback, my efforts will be rewarded, and doors to the industry will open up for me." The song, set to the music of Gaurav Kumar, has been written and sung by Nikam. He has also directed the music video. After recording the song, Nikam met the actor and got his go-ahead. It will be released on Monday, September 13.



## India's top cancer facility, TMC Mumbai, appeals for blood

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

The Tata Memorial Centre, the country's leader in cancer care, is facing an acute blood shortage and on Sunday issued a public appeal for donations.

"We are facing a shortage of blood at the Tata Memorial Centre. Please step up to donate blood - it's perfectly safe, and you'll save lives," the TMC's plea on social media said.

Providing its blood bank phone numbers (022-24177000), it has also offered to go to housing societies to conduct blood donation drives.

TMC Director Dr C.S. Pramesh said that it runs hospitals in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Varanasi, Vizag, Guwahati, Sangrur, and Muzaffarpur, while another at Chandigarh will be operational by November, and said people can also go and donate blood at any of these locations.



"We would be very happy to organize camps in housing societies where there are a reasonable number of donors. We've done that right through the pandemic, with strict adherence to physical distancing and all precautions," he assured.

During the past 18 months of the pandemic, several social organisations, political parties, corporates and

even Janmashtami and Ganeshotsav mandals have regularly conducted blood donation camps to fill the yawning demand-supply gap.

The Tata Memorial Hospital was started by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust in February 1941 as a centre with enduring value and a mission for concern for the people of India.

In 1952, the Indian Cancer Research Centre was established as a pioneer research institute for basic research, and was later named as Cancer Research Institute.

In 1957, it was taken over the Ministry of Health and later its administrative control was transferred to the Department of Atomic Energy in 1962, making it a classic example of private philanthropy augmented by government support mainly for service, education and research in cancer.

## Teen raped in Maharashtra, 2 police stations didn't file case citing area

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

A day after a 34-year-old woman died after she was brutally raped in Mumbai suburb Sakinaka, another incident of sexual abuse has been reported in Maharashtra, this time in Ulhasnagar.

A 15-year-old girl was raped in a railway accommodation on the Ulhasnagar station premises Friday night, Railway police said today. A case has been registered under sections of IPC and the Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and the accused has been arrested.

Railway Police Commissioner Qaisar Khalid told the media that the 15-year-old girl was returning from Shirdi. She got off at Bhivandi bypass, then went to Kalyan and boarded a local train to Ulhasnagar.

After getting off around 9 pm, she



met two friends and they headed home. They were walking on the skywalk at the station when the accused approached them. According to police, the accused scared away the girl's friends with a hammer he was

carrying. He allegedly abducted her and took her to a deserted railway accommodation about 50 m from the skywalk. There, the accused allegedly raped and assaulted the 15-year-old. The girl was confined

there the whole night.

In the morning, she managed to escape and borrowed a passer-by's phone and called her friend, who advised her to go to the nearest police station. According to the Railway Police Commissioner, two police stations refused to file the girl's complaint on the ground that the crime did not take place in their jurisdiction. He said it will be probed why her complaint was not filed.

"We conducted the victim's medical examination and she is receiving counselling. A forensic team has examined the spot and investigation is on," Khalid said. "We conducted a background check on the accused and found that there are many cases against him in Thane city for offences such as theft," he added. "We are looking into how to avoid such incidents again, especially in railway areas that have poor lighting and are deserted," he said.

## SEBI notifies requisite certification for people associated with portfolio management

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

Capital market regulator SEBI has notified certification requirements for the distributor and employees of portfolio management services.

As per the regulator, "the associated persons, engaged by a portfolio manager as a distributor of the portfolio management services, shall obtain certification from the National Institute of Securities Markets by passing the NISM-Series-XXI-A: Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Distributors Certification Examination".

The portfolio managers will ensure that all such associated persons who are distributors of the Portfolio Management Services as on the date of this notification obtain the certification by passing the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Distributors Certification



Management Services (PMS) Distributors Certification Examination within two years from the date of the notification.

The recent SEBI notification said that portfolio manager, who engages or employs any such associated person who is a distributor of the Portfolio Management Services, after the date of the notification, shall ensure that such person obtains certification by passing the Portfolio Management Services (PMS) Distributors Certification Examination within one year from the date of their employment.

Another notification said that the associated persons functioning as principal officer of a Portfolio Manager or employees of the Portfolio Manager having decision-making authority related to fund management, shall obtain certification from the National Institute of Securities Markets by passing the "NISM-Series-XXI-B: Portfolio Managers"

## Government must approach top court for OBC data from centre: Congress

**Team Absolute | Nagpur**

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said that the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in the state must appeal before the Supreme Court for directions to the Centre to provide census data of Other Backward Classes (OBC).

He was addressing a press conference in Nagpur against the backdrop of the top court on Saturday saying that the state government cannot postpone local body polls over OBC reservations, as this power rests with only the Election Commission.

All upcoming polls should be held after OBC reservations are restored so that members of these communities do not suffer any "political loss", he said.



"The state government should appeal before the Supreme Court to get the Central government to provide census data of OBCs to Maharashtra. The state OBC commission must also collect empirical data as soon as possible," Patole said.

An all-party meeting on August 27 had unanimously agreed to not hold polls till reservations for OBCs in local civic bodies are restored. Nana Patole further said he will meet Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over the post of advocate general as the incumbent, Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, was appointed by the previous BJP-Sena government. "Traditionally, the advocate general changes when the government changes," Patole claimed.

## 12 COPS TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID

**Nagpur:** Twelve police personnel have tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday and Sunday after returning from a training session at the Maharashtra Intelligence Academy in Pune, an official said. A total of 33 personnel from Nagpur police had gone for the training, which took place between August 30 and September 9, said Sandip Pakhale, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Headquarters) on Sunday. "Two policemen, on returning from Pune, showed mild symptoms and their swab samples returned positive late Saturday night, after which we decided to test all 33 as a precautionary measure. Another 10 tested positive, taking the total to 12," he said.



## Kim Kardashian's black leather suit leaves fans in the dark

New York | Agencies

Socialite and television personality Kim Kardashian left fans puzzled when she landed in the city wearing a leather suit with her face also covered in a zipped leather mask. According to dailymail.co.uk, Kim landed in NYC with mother Kris Jenner, sister Kourtney Kardashian, Travis Barker and Kris' partner Corey Gamble ahead of the Met Gala, scheduled to take place on September 13. Kim's estranged husband Kanye West had donned a similar look a couple of years back.

Kim paired the eerie look with high black boots and a ponytail.



## JOHN TRAVOLTA RECALLS 'FAIRY TALE' MOMENT WITH PRINCESS DIANA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star John Travolta still has fond memories of his "fairy tale" dance with late Princess Diana that is still fresh in his mind. The late princess and her then-husband Prince Charles were guests of US President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan in November 1985, and Travolta, who was also among the guests, was asked by Nancy whether he'd like to dance with the Princess at the White House, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The 67-year-old actor recalled: "My heart starts to race and I tap her on the shoulder and she turns around and looks at me." Earlier in the night, Travolta was told by Nancy that the Princess dreamed of dancing with him at the event. He still felt anxious about approaching Princess Diana and dancing with her on the marble floor of the White House's Cross Hall. Speaking to Life & Style magazine, the 'Face/Off' star recalled: "The whole room cleared and we danced for what felt like 15 minutes. It was a storybook moment. We bowed when it was over... and my carriage turned into a pumpkin." The "Grease" star won't ever forget his dance with the Princess. He shared that Diana considered their dance to be the "highlight" of her visit to the US. Travolta said: "I'm so honoured that I was able to experience that, and I know for a fact that it was the highlight of her time in the United States." He shared that the Princess helped to make him feel special "for that moment".

Travolta concluded: "I feel I made her life better, she made my life better, and I'm very sorry that she's not here."



## BRIAN 'B. DOT' MILLER TO HOST NEW LIVE HIP-HOP SHOW

New York | Agencies

Following the launch of Spotify Greenroom, the live audio platform is set to debut its new weekly hip-hop show 'Most Necessary: Live' with host Brian "B. Dot" Miller.

On September 14, B. Dot will bring Spotify's Most Necessary playlist to life to discuss rising hip-hop artists, debate trending topics in the genre and dive deep into each week's playlists edits with guests and fans alike. Back in March, the streaming service acquired Betty Labs and in June, relaunched the live audio app Locker Room as Spotify Greenroom - marking "the addition of live audio as part of the Spotify ecosystem" the company wrote in their announcement. "Since bringing the Locker Room app into the fold, we've been working to expand its capabilities, with the goal of creating a live audio experience that will delight creators and listeners everywhere," according to Billboard.com. B. Dot, who also hosts 'Complex Bracket' said, "Hip-hop conversations are never ending. They start in the booth and usually end up on social media. I've never been one to hold back and for anyone that's followed my career, they know I have a lot to say," he told Billboard. With 'Most Necessary: Live', B. Dot plans to "create a community where the conversations are not only engaging and constructive, but reflective of the weekly updates." 'Most Necessary: Live' will debut on Spotify Greenroom on September 14.



## Drew Barrymore won't lie to her daughters about her past

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Drew Barrymore says she will never lie to her daughters Olive and Frankie about her past, as she wants them to see how far she's come after her battles with drug and alcohol abuse. The 46-year-old actress has been open about her battles with drug and alcohol abuse which she faced after being thrust into the spotlight as a child when she starred in 'E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial' in 1982, reports femalefirst.co.uk. She said: "I will never lie to my daughters, and I think it will give me ammunition to say, 'This is why I am this way.' I have come full circle to say being classy, treating people with kindness, trying to embrace who we really are and grow every single day, those are the life lessons I've really come to value."

Barrymore, who has her daughters with former husband Will Kopelman, also said she doesn't have any advice for her younger self, because she knows she "wouldn't have listened" back then. She doesn't regret any of her past actions, because they all lead her to where she is today.

She told E! News' 'Daily Pop': "Well, first of all, she wouldn't have listened to any advice I gave her. I'm really happy to have those free moments, so I would encourage her to be herself. I've been utterly me for better or for worse, so I would just say keep being you. I think I'm relieved that I haven't stayed in the same place. I've grown a lot and I've worked really hard on myself. My 20-year-old self, I'm like, 'I totally embrace you', and my 46-year-old self is who I want to be right now. I don't have one regret. I've just loved every minute that led me to this point."

## Katie Price dumps fiance Carl Woods before attending NTA



London | Agencies

Model and television personality Katie Price reportedly ended her relationship with fiance Carl Woods before attending the National Television Awards (NTA) in London on Thursday.

According to the sun.co.uk, Katie seemed quite drunk by the time she got herself seated at the event.

A guest at the event revealed: "Katie has publicly claimed to be a teetotaller - but she already seemed quite drunk by the time she took her seat in the auditorium." She was knocking back the wine and asking for vodka. She was telling people, 'I'm single, I've dumped him' and was clearly focused on moving on. They had been constantly rowing, and she said she'd had enough. The guest further said: "She said she was back living at her house in West Sussex even though it wasn't fully done up yet. But she was adamant she wouldn't go back to his place. As far as she's concerned, it's over."

Katie was seen flirting with a businessman at the awards night and getting cozy with him. Katie and Carl started dating in June 2020 and got engaged earlier this year in April.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Penelope Cruz



US Open

## RADUCANU EMERGES NEW WOMEN'S CHAMPION IN AN ALL-TEEN AFFAIR

New York | Agencies

Great Britain's Emma Raducanu, who had made her tour-level main-draw debut in Nottingham just three months ago, emerged the new US Open women's champion, defeating 19-year-old Leylah Fernandez of Canada 6-4, 6-3 in an all-teenage final to win her first Grand Slam title and her first tour-level title overall on Sunday (IST).

The 18-year-old British teenager had a perfect three weeks in New York. She made it through three rounds of qualifying without the loss of a set, was equally composed in her main-draw debut, where she also did not drop a set in seven matches.

She is the first woman to win the US Open without dropping a set since Serena Williams in 2014. Raducanu is also the youngest Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova of Russia won the 2004 Wimbledon aged 17.

Ranked world No.150, Raducanu is the lowest-ranked player to win the US Open title since an unranked Kim Clijsters of Belgium earned the first major of her comeback in Flushing Meadows in 2009.

Raducanu is projected to reach a world ranking of 23 on Monday.

Raducanu also makes history by



"It's an absolute dream. You just have visions of yourself going up to the box, hugging everyone, celebrating. That's something that you always think of, you always work for."

becoming the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam singles title -- she had already become the first qualifier to make a Grand

Slam final on Thursday. She is also the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles title in over 40 years.

Virginia Wade triumphed on home soil at Wimbledon 1977, the year of the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Wade is the only other British woman to reach a US Open final in the Open Era, when she won the first of her three Grand Slam singles titles in New York in 1968.

As she had in all of her previous matches here, Raducanu eased through two sets mixing power and precision that belied her lack of experience at this level. Against world No.73 Fernandez, Raducanu had 22 winners to Fernandez's 18, while firing one fewer unforced error than the Canadian.

I lost but it will also motivate me: Fernandez

"I think this loss; I'm going to carry it for a very long time. I think it will motivate me to do better in training, better for the next opportunity I get. I'm very happy with myself, with the way I competed, and the play I played, the way I acted on court the past two weeks. I've improved a lot not only tennis-wise but emotionally and mentally. I'm happy. Next year hopefully it will be just as good."

The momentum of the game changed after that as Jain P quickly scored the equalizer for the regimental side.

Minutes before half time, Bikash Thapa scored the second goal for Army Red and they had the all-important lead going into the second half. Gokulam played an attacking game in the second half and even had a brilliant opportunity to score when their captain Sharif' Mohammad's shot missed the target by a small margin and went over the crossbar onto the nets. He made up for it though later, courtesy a penalty. The Malabarans had several close chances in the final quarter but failed to convert any and would be the more disappointing side for sure. Their next game is against Hyderabad FC who are in red hot form.

## Champions Gokulam Kerala left to rue missed chances in 2-2 draw



Kalyani | Agencies

Defending Champion Gokulam Kerala's opening game of the 130th Durand Cup football championship ended in a 2-2 draw against Army Red Football Team here on Sunday.

The Malabarans started on a positive note, courtesy a spectacular goal from long-range by Ghanaian Rahim Osumanu in 9th minute. But they failed to capitalize in the later stages and had to settle for a draw.

It was a windy day at Kalyani and both teams had started well. Gokulam secured the lead in the 9th minute as Osumanu scored a stunner. However, a major turning point came as Gokulam FC's goalkeeper Rakshit Dagar collided with Army Red's Mukesh Kumar. It was ugly and Ajmal PA had to take R'kshit's place.

Army Red Football Team still leads Group D with four points.

## ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 set to resume with Nepal against USA

Dubai | Agencies

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 is set to resume for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic when Nepal faces second-placed USA in Muscat on Monday.

Nepal is currently ranked sixth in the points table featuring table-toppers Oman, the USA, Scotland, Namibia, the UAE and Papua New Guinea. Nepal so far has played four matches in the four-year League 2 cycle and have registered two wins and two defeats. Oman leads the standings winning eight of the 10 matches played. The USA is second in the standings with six wins out of 12



matches played and PNG are at the bottom having lost all eight matches played so far.

The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 is the gateway to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 as the teams finishing in the

top three will secure berths in the Men's CWC Qualifier set to take place in Zimbabwe between 18 June and 9 July 2023. The bottom four will compete in the Men's CWC Qualifier Play-Off.

## Shanaka to lead 15-member Sri Lankan squad to T20 World Cup

Colombo | Agencies

Dasun Shanaka will lead a 15-member Sri Lankan squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 to be held in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year.

Sri Lanka will begin their campaign on October 18 against Namibia in Abu Dhabi in Group A of the First Round, where they have also drawn Ireland and the Netherlands.

The only major omissions from the squad were Niroshan Dickwella, Kusal Mendis and Danushka Gunathilaka, who were banned for a year for breaking the Covid-19 protocols on their tour of England in July. With Kusal Perera's return after an injury, Minod Bhanuka, who was keeping the wickets in Perera's absence, also



misses out.

Sri Lanka are scheduled to leave for Oman on October 3 to take part in two T20 games against Oman on October 7 and 9, ahead of the T20 World Cup.

Sri Lanka will also play two ICC-organised World Cup warm-up games, on October 12 and 14, before commencing their T20 World Cup Campaign.

Squad: Dasun Shanaka (c), Dhananjaya De Silva, Kusal Janith Perera, Dinesh Chandimal, Avishka Fernando, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Kamindu Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Nuwan Pradeep, Dushmantha Chameera, Praveen Jaywickrama, Lahiru Madushanka, Mahesh Theekshana. Reserves: Lahiru Kumara, Binura Fernando, Akila Dananjaya, Pulina Tharanga.

## 25 players named for senior women's national hockey camp

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Following their success at the Tokyo Olympic Games, Hockey India (HI) has called up 25 players for the senior women's national coaching camp scheduled to begin in the Sports Authority of India campus in Bengaluru on September 13.

The core group, which also includes the 16 players who were part of the Indian contingent at the Olympic Games, will report later on Sunday for the camp which will conclude on October 20.

The core probable group includes Savita, Rajani Etimarpur, Deep Grace Ekka, Reena Khokhar, Gurjot Kaur, Nisha, Nikki Pradhan, Monika, Neha, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Namita Toppo, Rani, Vandana Kataria, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur,



Udita who were part of the Indian team at Tokyo Olympics.

Experienced player Lilima Minz, Rashmita Minz, Jyoti, Rajwinder Kaur and Manpreet Kaur too have received a call-up for the camp along with Gagandeep Kaur, Mariana Kujur, Suman Devi Thoudam and Mahima Choudhary who have been moved to the senior core group from the junior ranks. Meanwhile, Salima Tete, Lalremiama and Sharmila who were part of the Olympic squad will join the junior Indian women's team's ongoing national camp at the same campus in Bengaluru. Bichu Devi Kharibam who was also part of the Olympic core group will now join the junior national camp.

The junior women's core group is currently preparing for the FIH Junior Women's World Cup to be held later this year in South Africa.

## Shetty, Ravikumar post maiden wins in National Motorcycle Championships

Team Absolute | Chennai

Bengaluru-based Anish Damodara Shetty (Race Concepts) pulled off a well-deserved win, if a bit fortuitous, his first of the season in the premier Prostock 301-400cc category as the second round of the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

Also scoring his maiden win of the 2021 season was Deepak Ravikumar who led a 1-2 finish for TVS Racing with championship leader Jagan Kumar in tow ahead of Idemitsu Honda SK69 Raci's Senthil Kumar. The lead Honda rider, Rajiv Sethu, who was eyeing a possible win, crashed after making contact with Senthil in the last lap and eventually

finished a distant ninth which fetched him one point. Earlier, Chennai's Ryhana Bee (RACR) and Thrissur lad Alwin Xavier (Sparks Racing) won in the Girls and Novice (Stock 165cc) categories, respectively. The Prostock 301-400cc race was action-packed. With several front-runners, including championship leader Rajini Krishnan (RACR) crashing out in the latter part of the eight-lap race, the door was open for Anish Shetty, astride a KTM RC390, to seize the opportunity to win from TVS Racing's KY Ahamed, the defending champion, and Hydrabad's Rahil Shetty (Gusto Racing).

Rajini, the winner of three consecutive races, crashed at the last corner on the sixth lap soon after surviving a contact on the back sweep with TVS Racing's Deepak Ravikumar whose challenge thus ended.

## INDIA ARE A VERY GOOD ALL-ROUND TEAM: CHAPPELL

Sydney: Former Australia captain Ian Chappell said there are no doubts about the Indian cricket team being a very good all-round side. He added that India, virtually unconquered at home, have proved themselves after winning successive Test series in Australia before leading 2-1 in the Test series against England. "There's no doubt that India are a very good all-round team. They have conclusively proved it by winning consecutive series in Australia and now having had success in England, albeit Covid-affected, while they are virtually unbeatable at home," wrote Chappell in his column for ESPNcricinfo on Sunday. "However, that isn't to say they can't improve. That's how good teams remain at or near the top -- by constantly searching for ways to be better. Herbie Collins, a shrewd Australian captain of the 1920s, reckoned the most important aspect of selection was finding the right combination," added Chappell. He also gave an uncomplicated equation on how Test matches are won. "The simplest equation for winning Test matches is for the batters to score quickly in order to give the bowlers enough time to take 20 wickets."



## Fifth Test abandoned, forfeited, or postponed? ECB seeks clarity from ICC, say reports

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A few years back the nation wanted to know 'Why did Katappa kill Bahubali?' And now in 2021 another question arises What happened 'o the Manchester Test?' joked a former BCCI official when asked about his reaction to the confusion over whether the India and England final Test was abandoned, forfeited or postponed?

To date, no exact details of the series or the final Test have been given either by the Indian cricket board (BCCI) or the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). However, there is a lot of speculation since then. And the latest one, that the ECB has now written to the world cricket governing body, ICC, to decide the fate of the cancelled fifth Test at Old Trafford; further indicating that the two cricket boards are far from settling the issue. The series-deciding Manchester encounter was called off after a Covid-19 outbreak in the Indian camp; forcing its senior players to express their apprehensions to both the BCCI and ECB on going



ahead with the match.

A former BCCI official on condition of anonymity told reporter that it seems both the boards came to the conclusion to "cancel" the match in a lackadaisical manner.

"They met, discussed what? Nothing. Just cancel it (final Test)! No plans, what and

removed it later. Why so confused?" he added. Even former England captain Michael Vaughan had said the Manchester Test was cancelled because players were petrified of catching Covid and missing the IPL, scheduled to begin from September 19 in UAE. It is now learned that the ECB wants the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee to address the issue and expect that a forfeiture would be granted so that they can claim insurance as they are going to lose approximately 40 million pounds if the match is declared abandoned due to Covid-19 and India will win the series 2-1.

But if England gets a forfeiture as per the DRC ruling, it will be a 2-2 verdict and the host nation can also claim insurance. The ECB going to the ICC prov's that there hasn't been an amicable settlement yet on the issue as the host board stares at losses.

The Indian cricketers have already reached Dubai from Manchester to participate in the second leg of the IPL. Despite several calls, the BCCI officials were unavailable to comment on the matter.



## AJAY DEVGN TO APPEAR ON 'INTO THE WILD WITH BEAR GRYLLS'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctor Ajay Devgn will soon be seen on popular adventure show 'Into The Wild With Bear Grylls' with adventurer and survivalist Bear Grylls.

The show, which airs on Discovery channel, has earlier had actors Akshay Kumar and Rajinikanth on the show.

In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared with Grylls on the show 'Man vs Wild'.

According to the channel, the episode will be shot in Maldives and Ajay has left for the shoot on Sunday.

The show focuses on survival skills required when out in the wild without the comforts of technology or human habitat.

While the date of the episode's release hasn't been announced yet, it will premiere first on discovery+ app.

# Why Akshay Kumar enjoys hard work?

Durga Chakravarty | New Delhi

Three weeks after 'Bell Bottom' became the first major Hindi film to be released in theatres, Akshay Kumar made a startling revelation in an interview given to correspondent.

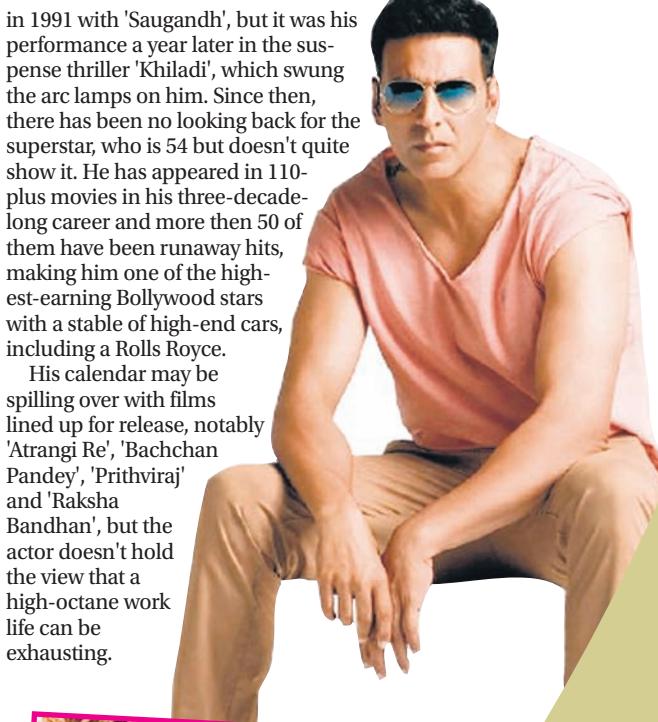
He may be a master of martial arts and an action hero, but Akshay Kumar is not free from what he calls "good fears". During the interview, he said, "I fear everything and these are called good fears. I fear even jumping from a stool because I want to take care of myself and make sure I don't hit my leg or hurt my knee." What he does not fear is the big burden of expectations of fans because they mean the most to him. With 54.4 million followers on Instagram and another 42.1 million on Twitter, he knows each move of his is in the public eye, but Akshay Kumar says he is "very happy, humble and very thankful" for it. "I want to thank my parents for this and I just want to thank all my fans from the bottom of my heart," he said. "It is for all my dear ones that I am here because of them. They are the most important people for me."

Akshay lost his mother this past week and the whole of Bollywood joined him in mourning her death. Stardom comes at a price and Akshay knows it pretty well. He is, in fact, quite philosophical about being trailed by the paparazzi. "This is the price you pay for the love that the public has for you. That is it," he said.

Akshay made his debut in Hindi cinema

in 1991 with 'Saugandh', but it was his performance a year later in the suspense thriller 'Khiladi', which swung the arc lamps on him. Since then, there has been no looking back for the superstar, who is 54 but doesn't quite show it. He has appeared in 110-plus movies in his three-decade-long career and more than 50 of them have been runaway hits, making him one of the highest-earning Bollywood stars with a stable of high-end cars, including a Rolls Royce.

His calendar may be spilling over with films lined up for release, notably 'Atrangi Re', 'Bachchan Pandey', 'Prithviraj' and 'Raksha Bandhan', but the actor doesn't hold the view that a high-octane work life can be exhausting.



## Amit Sarin all set for Hollywood project 'Between Mountains'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctor Amit Sarin of 'Pavitra Rishta' fame is excited about his Hollywood project, 'Between Mountains', for which Jatin Nautiyal has sung a song.

Directed by Amit's wife Vineesha Arora Sarin, the feature film deals with suicide prevention and mental health.

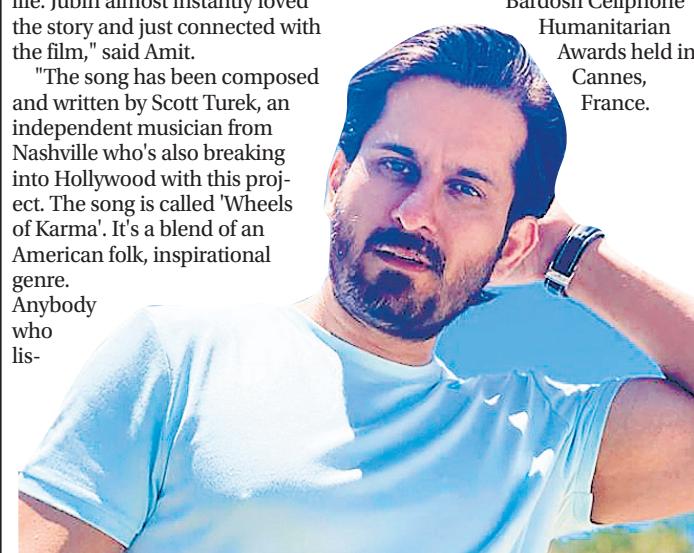
"Vineesha approached Jatin as she wanted to show a softer side of my character, Johnny Morris, who is in pain due to the losses in his life. Jatin almost instantly loved the story and just connected with the film," said Amit.

"The song has been composed and written by Scott Turek, an independent musician from Nashville who's also breaking into Hollywood with this project. The song is called 'Wheels of Karma'. It's a blend of an American folk, inspirational genre. Anybody who lis-

tens to it can't believe the singer behind it isn't American. Jatin has done a brilliant job in this rendition which is going to be a big hit with audiences," he added.

It had its world premiere in Los Angeles in July. "It was overwhelming and extremely humbling. We were thankful and relieved to see how well the film was received by one and all," said Amit.

Amit also won the Best Actor Award for 'Between Mountains' at the 9th Annual AFI World Peace Initiative and the 3rd Annual Karl Bardosh Cellphone Humanitarian Awards held in Cannes, France.



## Ranveer, Deepika's selfie with PV Sindhu goes viral

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**ctor Ranveer Singh and his actress wife Deepika Padukone were spotted dining with ace badminton player P.V. Sindhu here on Saturday. Ranveer also took to Instagram to share a picture of the three of them together.

He captioned the image as: "Smashing time!" To this, Sindhu replied: "@ranveersingh @deepikapadukone Lovely spending time with you guys. Looking forward to see you soon". Deepika Padukone, who is daughter of former badminton champion Prakash Padukone, has often spoken about being fond of the sport herself.

Sindhu was recently facilitated in Hyderabad by superstar Chiranjeevi for her bronze medal win at the Tokyo Olympics.

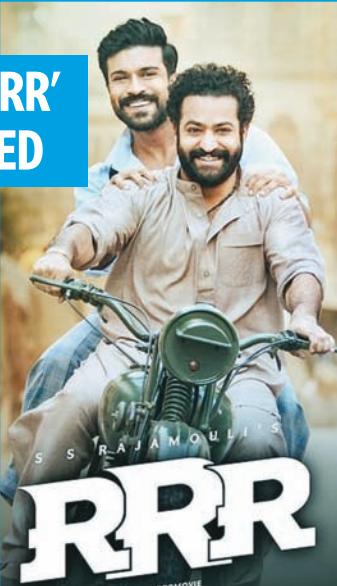
Hyderabad | Agencies

**N**ational Award-winning Telugu film director S.S. Rajamouli's much-anticipated magnum opus 'RRR', starring NTR Jr, Ram Charan, Ajay Devgn and Alia Bhatt, will not be released on October 13, as planned earlier. The new release date hasn't been disclosed yet, but sources say that the producers are waiting for cinema theatres in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to start operating normally. According to film's production house, the makers have stressed on the fact that since theatres across world won't be open on or by October 13, 2021, they will soon decide and get a new release date. 'RRR' has a strong line-up of actors including Ram Charan and Jr. NTR as leads alongside Ajay Devgn, Alia Bhatt, Olivia Morris in pivotal roles while Samuthirakani, Ray Stevenson and Alison Doody join in supporting roles. PEN Studios has bagged the theatrical distribution rights across North India and have also bought the worldwide electronic rights for all languages. Pen Marudhar will be distributing the film in the north territory. The Telugu-language period action drama film is produced by D.V.V. Danayya of DVV Entertainments.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**A**D for her upcoming Bollywood film 'The Modern Culture'. The former Miss Teen North-East feels blessed to be featured in the song. She says, "I'm feeling blessed to have the song in my kitty. We are actually using the original sound track giving credits to the original singers for the new version. I'm watching Tina ma'am. Hope to act as gracefully as she did." The 'E.I.R.' actress adds: "I enjoyed shooting in London. The song required a lot of changes in facial expression. It was really quite challenging. In between there were also devotional lyrics. The song focuses on showing the transformation from a typical Indian to a western girl. So, overall, this song has many shades." The song which was originally released in 1978 was sung by Kishore Kumar and Lata Mangeshkar. It featured iconic stars Dev Anand and Tina Munim. Upcoming film 'The Modern Culture' highlights the struggle of an ordinary Indian girl in Britain, played by Mahika.

## SS RAJAMOULI'S 'RRR' RELEASE POSTPONED



## Mahika Sharma to appear in new version of 'Jaisa Desh Waisa Bhesh'



### INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

