

# absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 311, BHOPAL | WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

**NATION** > 02  
PM launches 35 climate-resilient crop varieties ...



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
Adjoa Andoh not fazed by intimate scenes in 'Bridgerton'...



**SPORTS** > 07  
Narine, Rana help KKR prevail over Delhi...



## AFTER 71 DAYS AT HELM, SIDHU RESIGNS AS PUNJAB CONGRESS CHIEF MESS IN PUNJAB CONGRESS

**SIDHU WROTE TO SONIA**

"The collapse of a man's character stems from the compromise corner, I can never compromise on Punjab's future and the agenda for the welfare of Punjab. Therefore, I hereby resign as the President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. Will continue to serve the Congress."



### Kanhaiya Kumar and Jignesh Mevani joined Congress

**New Delhi:** Former student leader Kanhaiya Kumar today joined the Congress party. He inducted at the All India Congress Committee headquarters in New Delhi in the presence of party leader Rahul Gandhi. At the event, Gujarat Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani, too, extended his support to the outfit, though he couldn't join the party formally due to technical reasons. "Congress party is like a big ship. If it's saved, I believe many people's aspirations, Mahatma Gandhi's oneness, Bhagat Singh's courage, and BR Ambedkar's idea of equality will be protected, too. This is why I have joined it," said Kumar after joining the party.



Team Absolute | Chandigarh

### NOT A STABLE MAN: AMARINDER

"I have been saying all along that this man is unstable and dangerous, and cannot be entrusted with the task of running Punjab. I've known this boy since his childhood and he has been a loner and can never be a team player. That's what his real character is."

Advocate General, A.P.S. Deol, who was counsel of former Director General of Police Smedh Singh Saini, who is being investigated for his alleged role in the killing of two Sikh protesters in 2015 when the SAD-BJP combine was in power.

### Minister, 3 Cong Leaders Quit 'in Solidarity'

The biggest loss to Punjab Congress was perhaps Razia Sultana who resigned as the Cabinet minister on Tuesday, just hours after Sidhu quit as the state Congress chief. In her resignation letter to Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Sultana said she is resigning "in solidarity with Navjot Singh Sidhu". Sultana is considered close to Sidhu. About an hour after Sultana, PPCC treasurer Gulzar Inder Chahal also quit his post and sent a one-line resignation letter to CM Channi without giving any reason for his decision. PPCC general secretaries Yoginder Dhingra and Gautam Seth also put in their papers. "We stand with Sidhu as he is fighting for Punjab. We have resigned due to some issues. We have not resigned from the Congress," he said.

## Ordnance Factory Board dissolved; Employees, assets transferred to PSUs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Defence Ministry has dissolved the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) with effect from October 1 and transferred its assets, employees and management to seven public sector units (PSUs), according to an official order. As part of the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) package, the central government had announced on May 16 last year that it would improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency in ordnance supplies by corporatisation of the OFB. In an order dated September 28, the Defence Ministry said: "Government of India has decided to transfer, with effect from October 1, 2021, the management, control, operations and maintenance of these 41 production units and identified non-production units to seven government companies (wholly owned by the government of India)."



### THE ORDER

- ▶ THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT ALL THE EMPLOYEES OF OFB (GROUP A, B & C) BELONGING TO THE PRODUCTION UNITS AND ALSO THE IDENTIFIED NON-PRODUCTION UNITS... SHALL BE TRANSFERRED EN MASSE TO THE NEW DPSUS ON TERMS OF FOREIGN SERVICE WITHOUT ANY DEPUTATION ALLOWANCE (DEEMED DEPUTATION) INITIALLY FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM THE APPOINTED DATE (OCTOBER 1).
- ▶ EACH OF THE NEW DPSUS IS REQUIRED TO FRAME RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO SERVICE CONDITIONS OF THE ABSORBED EMPLOYEES.
- ▶ EACH OF THE DPSUS SHOULD ALSO "SEEK AN OPTION FOR PERMANENT ABSORPTION FROM THE EMPLOYEES ON DEEMED DEPUTATION" TO THAT RESPECTIVE DPSU, WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.
- ▶ THE SERVICE CONDITIONS OF THE ABSORBED EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT BE INFERIOR TO THE EXISTING ONES. A COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSTITUTED BY DDP (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION) FOR GUIDING THE NEW DPSUS IN THIS REGARD SO THAT THE ABSORPTION PACKAGE GIVEN IS ATTRACTIVE.

The OFB is currently a Defence Ministry entity and supplies critical arms and ammunition to the three armed forces and the paramilitary.

## Heavy rains kill 10 in Maharashtra; downpour in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Heavy rains and floods in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra killed 10 people, while one person died on Tuesday after a bus got swept away in Yavatmal even as more than two dozen stranded people were rescued in Latur district, officials said.



Besides, more than 200 cattle perished and a number of houses were damaged in torrential rains that lashed Marathwada on Sunday and Monday, causing havoc in a region which is considered a perennially drought-plagued area, they said.

In discharge of 78,397 cusec 80,534 cusec water from them, respectively, they said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of heavy rains in parts of the state over the next two days as well.

The region in central Maharashtra which faced rain fury comprises eight districts - Aurangabad, Latur, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Nanded, Beed, Jalna and Hingoli. Excessive rainfall (over 65 mm) was recorded in over 180 circles falling under these eight districts, a release issued by the divisional commissioner's office said.

Heavy rainfall in catchment areas of the Manjara dam forced authorities to open all 18 gates of the reservoir to discharge water on Tuesday, which led to flooding in some villages in Beed district while an alert was sounded in some neighbouring districts, the officials said.

The local administration opened all 18 gates of the Manjara dam and 11 gates of the Majalgaon dam, resulting in discharge of 78,397 cusec 80,534 cusec water from them, respectively, they said.

The heavy showers forced authorities to open the gates of various dams for water discharge, which led to flooding in villages located on the banks of the Manjara river in Beed and Latur districts.

Meanwhile, the IMD on Tuesday issued a yellow warning for eight districts of Maharashtra's Vidarbha, predicting thunderstorm with lightning and light to moderate rainfall for the day, an official said.

The heavy showers forced authorities to open the gates

## MP by-polls announced; BJP, Congress foresee victory

By-polls to the Khandwa parliamentary constituency and three assembly seats including Jobat in Alirajpur, Prithvipur in Niwari and Raigaon in Satna is touted as semi-finals before 2023

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and MP Congress chief Kamal Nath exuded confidence of wins by huge margin as by-polls to the Khandwa parliamentary constituency and three assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, touted to be semi-finals before the 2023 assembly polls, were announced on Tuesday.



The polling will be held on October 30 and results will be announced on November 2.

The assembly constituencies that will go to polls include Jobat in Alirajpur, Prithvipur in Niwari and Raigaon in Satna. The Khandwa Lok Sabha and Raigaon seats were held by BJP while the Jobat and Prithvipur seats were with the Congress. Both the parties will try to wrest all the seats to show their political hold in the state in the run up to the 2023 assembly polls.

Chouhan said that the BJP was totally prepared for the by-polls and based on the welfare work undertaken by Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre and the state government, the party will all the by-polls with huge margin. State BJP president Vishnu Dutt Sharma said that

BJP workers were always in preparatory mode and the strength of organisation, along with the welfare works of government, will ensure a historic win for the party. Kamal Nath tweeted to welcome the announcement of by-polls date and said that Congress was fully prepared for it and will announce its candidates at the right time. "We have total faith in the people and we will win these four by-polls with huge margins like in Damoh. At least the announcement of the poll dates will put a stop to the fake announcements and fake foundation stone laying worth crores in the by-polls bound areas," Nath said.

While the BJP has already launched its hectic electioneering by organising mass events with CM Chouhan in the lead, the Congress will be seeking to replicate its Damoh strategy of ground-level mass contact.

Congress's substantial win in the Damoh by-polls in May this year had caused a worry for the BJP that had managed to win 19 out of 28 assembly seats up for by-polls just six months ago.

The BJP has thus kept its election mode up in the four by-polls constituencies right since June after the COVID-19 pandemic subsided. Apart from public meeting and recent 'jandarshan' programmes of Chouhan where he has made several announcements of local development, BJP state in-charge P Murlidhar Rao, Sharma, ministers and office bearers made in-charge of the by-polls have been visiting the areas regularly.

## Prime focus is right to life of citizens, SC on firecrackers ban

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said its primary concern is to protect "the right to life of innocent people", which cannot be infringed under the guise of employment, while considering ban on firecrackers. A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and A.S. Bopanna said it is important to strike balance between employment, unemployment, and the right to life of the citizen. It emphasised that under the guise of employment of few, it cannot permit others to infringe the right to life of other citizens. On the aspect of burning firecrackers, the bench noted that everyday, there is a violation of orders, and pointed out at several crackers being set off at marriages and other functions. It added that the court would have to set up liability on someone, otherwise, this will not stop at all. The top court is likely to continue hearing this matter on Wednesday.



## SEBI amends regulatory provisions on related party transactions

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The SEBI board considered and approved on Tuesday the amendments to the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, in relation to regulatory provisions on related party transactions (RPTs).



The SEBI board also approved an amendment that has changed the definition of RPT, which will now include transactions between the listed entity or any of its subsidiaries on one hand, and a related party of the listed entity or any of its subsidiaries on the other hand. It will also include those transactions between the listed entity or

any of its subsidiaries on one hand, and any other person or entity on the other, the purpose and effect of which is to benefit a related party of the listed entity or any of its subsidiaries w.e.f. April 1, 2023.

Prior approval of the shareholders of the listed entity will be required for material RPTs having a threshold of lower than Rs 1,000 crore or 10 per cent of the consolidated annual turnover of the listed entity. Approval of the Audit committee shall also be required for all RPTs and subsequent material modifications as defined by the Audit committee, RPTs where subsidiary is a party but listed entity is not a party, subject to threshold of 10 per cent of the consolidated turnover of the listed entity, and 10 per cent of the standalone turnover of the subsidiary w.e.f. April 1, 2023.

As per the approved amendments, the definition of related party has been changed to include all persons or entities forming part of promoter or promoter group, irrespective of their shareholding. Also, any person/entity holding 20 per cent equity shares or more in the listed entity or 10 per cent or more will be treated as related party.

## Covid containment measures extended till October 31

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Tuesday extended the Covid-19 containment measures across the country till October 31, 2021 in view of some localised spreads of pandemic in a few states. In a communication with the Chief Secretaries and Administrators of the Union Territories (UTs), the Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla conveyed the measures. The communication also said that the 'National Directives' for COVID-19 Management, shall continue to be strictly followed throughout the country and all the District Magistrates shall strictly enforce the above measures.



Noting that the daily Covid cases and overall number of patients in the country has been declining steadily, Bhalla further said that there are still localised spreads of virus in few States and the pandemic continues to be a public health challenge for the country.



# CYCLONE IMPACT: CROPS OVER 1.56 LAKH ACRES DAMAGED IN ANDHRA

AMARAVATI | Agencies

Cyclone 'Gulab' left a trail of destruction in coastal Andhra Pradesh, damaging crops over 1.56 lakh acres and causing extensive loss to infrastructure.

The cyclone, which crossed the Andhra-Odisha coast on Sunday night, triggered heavy rains and strong winds, uprooting electricity poles. Six persons lost their lives in separate incidents.

As per the preliminary estimates by the state government, almost 1.56 lakh acres of crop loss occurred due to the cyclone, especially in Godavari and Krishna districts. Agriculture Minister K. Kannababu said paddy crop over 1,16,823 acres was damaged, and maize crop over 21,078 acres. In Krishna district, cotton crop over 10,588 acres was damaged.

The cyclone also resulted in damage to horticulture crops over 7,207 acres. He said Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has already directed the department to help the farmers who suffered crop losses.

It is estimated that crops were damaged in 169 mandals.

Kannababu said that officials have been appointed to assess the crop damage, and assured that farmers will be provided all assistance.

He stated that the officials have



been appointed to oversee the final enumeration and the District Collectors have been directed to hold Agri-Advisory Committee meetings to discuss the crop loss. As instructed by the Chief Minister, all the required measures will be taken to rescue the farmers. He said while the government was working hard in these critical times, the opposition leaders were creating panic among farmers by taking up a malicious campaign against the government.

The minister slammed TDP chief

Chandrababu Naidu for "misleading people". He reminded that farmers were abandoned by TDP rulers during their regime but the same rulers are now shedding crocodile tears. "Unlike the previous government, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had always supported the farmers, introduced market stabilisation fund, and stood by their right from seed to sale," he said.

Kannababu said that the TDP government had procured only 11.22 lakh tonnes of crops in five years at a

cost of Rs 3,921 crore but the current government spent Rs 6,454 crore to procure 19.39 lakh tonnes of crops in the last two years. He said agriculture growth rate declined from 8.31 per cent to 4.75 per cent during the TDP's rule but it increased to 5.52 per cent under the YSRCP rule. Similarly, the growth rate in livestock and fisheries was recorded at 8.84 per cent and 4.66 per cent, respectively, in the five years of the TDP rule while the same under the present regime was 12.51 per cent and 8.59 per cent.

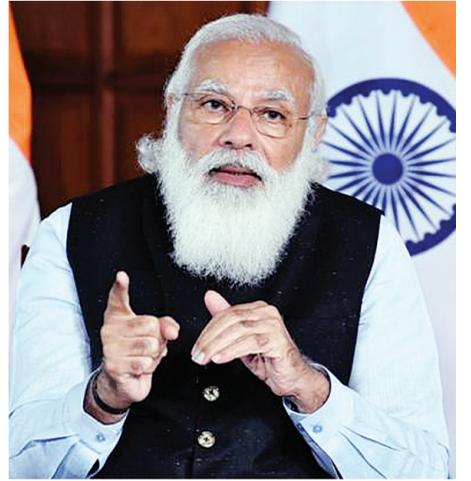
# PM LAUNCHES 35 CLIMATE-RESILIENT CROP VARIETIES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Launching 35 climate-resilient crop varieties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday suggested states and NGOs to conduct various programmes and create a task force for the promotion of millets.

"As part of traditional farming, India had farmers growing different crops according to different climatic conditions. In dry climate, flood-prone areas, even in snow, different varieties of crops were grown, which also had more nutrition value, especially the coarse grains, the millets. These millets are beneficial for health. Therefore, given today's lifestyle diseases, millets are much in demand," Modi said during a virtual event to launch the 35 crop varieties.

The Prime Minister also dedicated to the nation the newly constructed campus of National Institute of Biotic Stress Management at Raipur in Chhattisgarh and distrib-



uted the 'Green Campus Awards' to agricultural universities. Before launching the crop varieties, he interacted with select farmers, who use innovative methods in farming. Stating that it was due to India's efforts that 2023 has been declared as the International Year of Millets by the UN, Modi said, "This is a good

opportunity to showcase our tradition of millet farming on the international platform. But we will need to start working right away. I appeal to all the NGOs to arrange food festivals on the theme of millets, and conduct competitions on millet recipes. We will need to innovate if we want to take this to global platform in 2023."

# Top Maoist leader Tingraj Orang surrenders in Assam

Guwahati | Agencies

Top Maoist leader Tingraj Orang surrendered to Assam police on Tuesday, officials said.

Orang surrendered to Hiren Chandra Nath, Additional Director General of Police, Special Branch, in Guwahati.

Officials said that Orang is the convener of the Assam state organising committee of CPI (Maoist), which was formed following a meeting of the Eastern Regional Bureau held on Jharkhand-Odisha border in 2017.

The 49-year-old leader was the General Secretary of the Barak and Brahmaputra Valley zonal committees of



CPI (Maoist) in Assam. He was in-charge of expanding the base of the proscribed outfit in Brahmaputra and Barak val-

leys. According to officials, Orang's association with the Left parties began as a member of SFI and CPI-M in 1989-99.

# New online courses launched by Maharishi University and US Educational Organization

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Maharishi University of Information Technology (MUIT) and American Educational Organization Princeton Hive new online courses were launched on Tuesday. With this launch, the registration process has also started. The first batch will begin in the last week of October. These new courses are in Forensics, Data Science, Animation, Law, Healthcare and Finance. On the occasion of the launch of the courses, MUIT Vice-Chancellor Prof (Dr) BP Singh honoured representatives of Princeton Hive.

On the occasion of a joint Press conference organized to announce the launch of new online courses, India Adviser, Princeton Hive, Anil Kumar said the new batches will start in the last week of October. Registration for these courses has started from (September 28) Tuesday. He said these online courses were of 3, 6, 9 and 11 months different duration. These courses will provide training to students and professionals as per the requirements of industry and corporate sectors.



On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor of Maharishi University of Information Technology (MUIT) Prof (Dr) BP Singh said the faculty that will be teaching these courses will be from Princeton Hive Educational Organization and MUIT. Specialists from the industry and globally prominent experts will also teach the students. Prof (Dr) BP Singh said that these new courses started in collaboration with prominent educational organization in the field of artificial intelligence Princeton Hive would prove to be extremely useful for shaping the future and enhancing skill development of students and professionals. With the help of these courses the knowledge level of students

would also increase. At the same time, they would gain in self confidence and get jobs. On the occasion, Director, Planning and Implementation, MUIT, Dinesh Pathak said sometime back an MoU had been signed between MUIT and Princeton Hive. As part of this MoU, these new courses have been started. He expressed happiness that with the help of these courses, students and those who were in jobs would see a rise in their income. They would also develop better capability. At the Press conference Director of Communications, Princeton Hive, Avery Maune said students and professionals from across the globe could enroll for the courses launched from Tuesday. The exams would also be held online.

According to Director of Operations, Princeton Hive and cyber security expert David McDermott India and America had already been collaborating for a very long time in the field of education. With the launch of these new courses, that relationship had been further strengthened. On the occasion, on behalf of Princeton Hive, Sudhanshu Singh and Ikshita were also present.

# Deshbhakti Curriculum a milestone in India's progress journey: Kejriwal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Deshbhakti Curriculum will prove to be a milestone in India's progress journey, which will inculcate patriotism in children from a tender age, thereby making them true patriots who will stay true to their country by staying true to their jobs, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

"With this curriculum, we will not just produce doctors, engineers, lawyers and other professionals, but we will produce a patriot doctor, a patriot engineer and a patriot lawyer, who will put their country first. They will no longer be driven by the money factor. Instead, they will do what is best for their nation and countrymen," Kejriwal



said while launching the Deshbhakti Curriculum at the Chhatrasal Stadium in the presence of hundreds of Delhi government school teachers and students.

Explaining the new curriculum, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, said, "We are starting this curriculum with stories of 100 freedom fighters a year. As a child will grow up, he/she will learn about 700-800 such people who did remarkable things for their nation and their fellow countrymen. In addition to that, five minutes of the 45-minute class will be devoted to 'deshbhakti dhyaan' during which students will contemplate about any five freedom fighters on a daily basis. These are just a few of the many activities."

In the past, the Delhi government had introduced the Happiness and Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum to encourage mindfulness and innovative ideas among the students.

## AGRICULTURE MINISTER LAUNCHES AMUL HONEY

New Delhi: Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, on Tuesday launched 'Amul Honey', a product of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) in active collaboration with the National Bee Board (NBB). Emphasising the importance of the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission in increasing the income of small farmers, which is being implemented in the country for doubling the income of farmers/beekeepers with a budgetary allocation of Rs 500 crore, Tomar said, "There are 86 per cent small farmers in the country.

# IPL betting racket busted in Delhi, five held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police have busted an Indian Premier League (IPL) betting racket and arrested five people in this connection, including the kingpin, an official said here on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off about the betting racket being run during the IPL matches, the police constituted a team of six cops to nab the accused persons.

The team conducted a raid in Sant Nagar, Burari, and arrested five persons, who have been identified as Manoj, Ajay, Vasant Verma, Juber Khan and Sunil.

The police recovered six mobile phones, one laptop, and cash worth Rs 37,500 from the spot. During inter-



rogation, it was revealed that Manoj was the kingpin of the 'satta' racket. "He used to contact the clients for betting on cricket matches over WhatsApp call or chat and the payment was made through online payment modes as well as

cash," a police officer said. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Sagar Kalsi, informed that the police have registered a case under the relevant sections of the Delhi Public Gambling Act at the Burari police station.

# Nitin Gadkari wants Zojila, Z-Morh tunnels to be ready by 2024

Srinagar | Agencies

Union minister for roads and highways, Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday directed that both the Zojila and the Z-Morh tunnels in J&K should be completed before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Gadkari on Tuesday visited the Zojila and the Z-Morh tunnels whose completion would make the Srinagar-Leh highway an all-weather road.

At present, the cold desert Ladakh union territory remains cut off from the rest of the country for months because of heavy snowfall on the Zojila Pass.

Gadkari expressed satisfaction over the construction work at the Zojila tunnel and said that he has directed the authorities to complete the tunnels before the 2024 parliamentary election.

"I am satisfied with the speed of construction and



have told the authorities to complete the construction of the tunnels before May 2024, so that we can show the opposition what we have achieved", Gadkari said while addressing a press conference. Gadkari said that projects costing Rs one lakh crore are currently being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Among all the projects, six of them are the most important ones for the socio-eco-

conomic development of Jammu and Kashmir", he said. Gadkari said after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took over the government in 2019, the national highway has been lengthened from 1695 km to 2664 km.

"There has been an increase of 969 km in the national highway," he said.

The Zojila and Z-Morh tunnels are part of a 18-km long approach road to Zojila west portal.

# Bagga threatens legal action against Swamy for Twitter remark

Team Absolute | New Delhi

There is a Twitter war going on between senior BJP Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy and Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga, the national secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) with allegations and counter allegations flying thick and fast against each other.

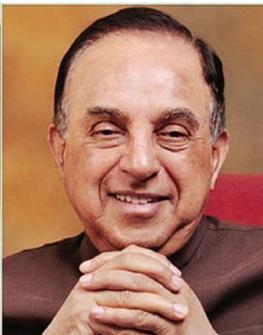
Supporters of both the leaders are also eliciting support for their respective leaders and making all kinds of comments on the social media.

Subramanian Swamy had tweeted targeting Tajinder Bagga, saying, "Journalists from Delhi told me that before joining BJP, Tajinder Bagga was jailed several times by Mandir Marg police station in New Delhi for petty offences." He also asked a question to the BJP's national president J.P. Nadda in the same tweet,



saying that if this is true, then Nadda should know this.

Infuriated by Swamy's direct attack, Bagga hit back at Swamy saying, "Heard you are James Bond's uncle. Instead of tweeting, call



Mandir Marg SHO and expose me with details. I'll give you 48 hours after that it's my turn. Your time starts now." Talking to IANS, Bagga said that Subramanian Swamy is the same person who brought down the

government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and now he keeps writing against Prime Minister Modi. Bagga said he will keep exposing Swamy on his old statements. "Now he has attacked me directly, I am giving him 48 hours ultimatum to come clean on this, after that I will send a legal notice to him," he said.

Bagga told IANS that no case was ever registered against him at Mandir Marg police station. "Before 2014, there were 5 cases against me and till date only 3 are pending, and all are political," he added.

Earlier, while sharing a screenshot of a news item, Swamy had tweeted that he did not participate in any meeting of opposition leaders as claimed by Bagga. He asked whether the party president will take action against the BJYM leader for telling lies or will the Morcha President take action against Bagga?



# WORLD CLASS HOCKEY STADIUM WILL BE BUILT IN THE STATE: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh will leave no stone unturned in the development of sports. All necessary facilities will continue to be given to players of the state. The Indian women's hockey players have brought glory to India. We are all proud of them. If there is will, the heights of success can be achieved. India's women's hockey team has proved the same this time with their best performance in Tokyo Olympics. A world class hockey stadium will be constructed in the state which will benefit both sportspersons and sports enthusiasts. Not only this, in-principle approval has been obtained by the central government to organize the 2022 Khelo India Games in Bhopal. We are also getting ready to organize the National Games. Chouhan was addressing the felicitation ceremony of the Indian women's hockey team at Minto Hall auditorium on Tuesday.

Chouhan honored the players of the team with Rs 31 lakh each as honorarium, memento, citation, shripal and angavastra. Special guest on the occasion was Narinder Dhruv Batra, President of the Indian



Olympic Association.

Chouhan said that continuous work is being done for the promotion of sportspersons in Madhya Pradesh. Male and female sportspersons are being given more and more opportunities to progress for which necessary facilities have been mobilized. The initiative to remove financial problems of women hockey players took place in the year 2010 from Madhya Pradesh. After this, the Hockey Academy was strengthened. Today it is one of the best hockey academies in the country. Chouhan also told about the background of Madhya Pradesh government's decision to honor the Indian women's hockey team. He

said that despite having played so well in the semi-final match of the Olympics, when the women hockey players could not win, I could clearly see tears in their eyes, at that time I had resolved to honor the members of the team in Bhopal.

Chouhan said that the captain of India's women's hockey team, Rani Rampal hails from a very ordinary family. She played with a broken hockey stick and developed her skills. Vice-Captain Savita also struggled hard and improved her game. Monica's father wanted her to pursue wrestling. Gurjit Kaur and Nikki Pradhan belong to ordinary farmer families. Salima lived in a Naxal-hit village. She played with bamboo

splints and became a member of the Indian team. Vandana and Sushila took coaching in Gwalior. Vandana plays in forward position and Sushila plays at mid fielder position. Similarly, Neha and Uditia have come from Haryana on the position of mid fielder and defender.

Captain of Indian Women's Hockey Team, Rani Rampal said that Chief Minister Chouhan has given a message to all the states by honoring the players of the team. The example set by him of encouraging daughters is exemplary. The setup made by Chief Minister for the promotion of hockey in Madhya Pradesh is commendable. This assistance will go a long way in encouraging hockey players.

Indian Olympic Association President Narinder Dhruv Batra said that Chouhan has done a significant job by creating a conducive environment for sports in Madhya Pradesh by starting various sports academies. The contribution of Gwalior Women's Hockey Academy is significant in enhancing the pride of the women's hockey team. The efforts of the Madhya Pradesh government are praiseworthy. Batra said that Madhya Pradesh also has the capacity to organize important sports events.

# 86% Eligible Population Given 1st Covid Vaccine Dose In State

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has become the number one state to have vaccinated the largest number of people with the first dose.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has become the number one state to have vaccinated the largest number of people with the first dose, said Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday.

Addressing an event, the chief minister said, "There is a shortage of funds but I have decided that no matter what, I will ensure that Jhirmiya Irrigation Project, whose estimated cost is Rs 1,400 crore is completed...even if I have to take a loan."

Chouhan said Madhya Pradesh has become the number one state to have vaccinated the largest number of people with the first dose.

"A total of 6.11 cr doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Madhya Pradesh till Sept 26. A total of 86 per cent of eligible persons have been administered the first dose," he added.

Slamming the Congress, Chouhan said, "Diggy (Digvijay Singh), there was no electricity for two hours



in your rule. They reached the farmers' dharna to do gimmicks. During Diggy's rule, the farmers were not even getting water for irrigation. He did not make irrigation project."

Taking a dig at former chief minister Kamal Nath, Chouhan said, "He has become a Twitter master.

He cannot go among people and the farmers. His only work is to tweet."

He alleged that Kamal Nath closed schemes like Sambal citing lack of funds as the reason. He said Kamal Nath had problems with the schemes for the benefit of the labourers and workers.

# Digvijaya Singh accuses State government of harassing Congress leaders

Singh led a rally against the Indore district administration to protest against 'extremism' of Congress leaders

Team Absolute | Indore

Congress veteran and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh on Tuesday accused the Madhya Pradesh government of falsely implicating his party leaders in criminal cases at the behest of the ruling BJP.

He said government officials should adhere to the



Constitution while carrying out their duties.

Singh led a party rally against the Indore district administration to protest against what he alleged was exterrment of Congress leaders and filing of false criminal cases against them. "The administration in the

state is implicating innocent Congress leaders (in criminal cases), demolishing their houses by terming them illegal and harassing them at the behest of the BJP," he alleged. Congress workers who participated in the rally, which started from the Bapat Square and ended at the

Divisional Commissioner's office, were carrying saffron flags along with those of their party. Singh said the opposition Congress will not tolerate the "oppressive" behaviour of the administration and fight against it on the streets and also in the Assembly.

The former chief minister said the party will move courts for quashing of alleged false cases against Congress leaders.

After the rally, Congress workers staged a protest outside the office of Indore Divisional Commissioner Pawan Kumar Sharma and submitted a memorandum listing their demands.

# Lightning kills 9 in Dewas and Agar Malwa

According to the official information, six people died due to lightning strikes in Dewas district on Monday in Tonkkhurd, Khal, Gagankheda and Bannibujurg villages. Similarly, in Agar-Malwa the lightning claimed three lives. Incidents of lightning were reported from Manasa, Pilwas and Lasuldia Kelwa villages of the district.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least nine people were killed due to lightning strikes in Dewas and Agar Malwa districts. Six people died in Dewas and while three lost their lives in Agar Malwa. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh



Chouhan and former Congress state president Arun Yadav have expressed grief over the deaths. According to the official information, six people died due to lightning strikes in Dewas district on Monday in Tonkkhurd, Khal,

Gagankheda and Bannibujurg villages. Collector Chandramouli Shukla immediately sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of those who died under the Revenue Book Circular 6-4 of Madhya Pradesh Government Revenue Department (Relief Branch).

Some people were also injured in the lightning strikes. They were rushed to hospital in Indore.

Similarly, in Agar-Malwa the lightning claimed three lives. Incidents of lightning were reported from Manasa, Pilwas and Lasuldia Kelwa villages of the district. Chief Minister Chouhan has expressed grief over the death of citizens due to lightning in Dewas and Agar Malwa districts and directed the district administrations to help the affected families. Former state president of Congress, Arun Yadav has also expressed grief over the deaths and prayed for the recovery of those seriously injured.

# CM hosts lunch in honor of Indian women's hockey team



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Indian women's hockey team has given an outstanding performance in the Tokyo Olympics. These young women won the hearts of the people of the country. We are fulfilling our duty by honouring them in Madhya Pradesh, the heart of the country. In the next Olympics, they will definitely win gold medal.

Chouhan was addressing during the luncheon hosted by him in honor of the Indian women's hockey team at his residence this afternoon. Chief Minister Chouhan said that the members of the team displayed immense courage and skill in the Olympics. This has raised hopes of better performance of Indian

women's hockey team in the future competitions. Chouhan presented a replica of Sanchi Stupa to every member of the team as a memento. He also presented a memento to Shri Tushar Khandekar, coach of the Indian team. Sports Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Indian Olympic Association and FIH President Narinder Dhruv Batra, Principal Secretary Sports and Youth Welfare Department Gulshan Bamra, Director Sports Ravi Gupta, Director Public Relations Ashutosh Pratap Singh were present on the occasion. The Indian Women's Hockey Team comprises Rani Rampal (Captain), Savita (Vice Captain), Deep Gras Ekka (Vice Captain), Vandana Kataria, P Sushila Chanu, Navjot Kaur, Namita Toppo, Monika, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur, E Rajni, Navneet Kaur, Neha, Lalremsiami, Reena Khokhar, Uditia, Salima Tete, Sharmila Devi and Nisha. Among these players, Vandana Kataria and E Rajni have been associate members of Madhya Pradesh State Women's Academy. Both of them have also represented Madhya Pradesh in the national competition. Reena Khokhar, Monika and P Sushila Chanu have taken training from Madhya Pradesh State Women's Hockey Academy.

# CM PLANTS SAPPLINGS OF KADAMBA AND SAPTPARNI



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Kadamba and Saptarni in Smart city park today. On this occasion MP Khargone Gajendra Singh Patel, former minister Om Prakash Dhurve, former MLA Kal Singh Bhabar and i Bhagat Singh Netam and other public representatives were present. Chief Minister Chouhan said that today's plantation is dedicated to the development of tribal areas and public welfare. Chouhan planted two Saptaparni and two Kadamba saplings.

Chouhan is planting saplings every day as per his resolve. Saptaparni is an evergreen medicinal tree that has great importance in Ayurveda. Kadamba is loved by all because of its large leaves, lemon-like fruit and aroma.

# CM pays tribute to Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary. Chouhan garlanded his portrait in the auditorium at his residence.

Chouhan has tweeted on his anniversary that, "Tremendous respects to brave son Bhagat Singh on his anniversary who ignited a new fire in the hearts of all countrymen with his brilliant thinking and the spirit of patriotism. Bhagat Singh will live on in our hearts for ages with his heroic ideas and works."

Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh is considered one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian national movement. Bhagat Singh was born on 28



September 1907 in Banga, Lyallpur district of undivided India. His family was a supporter of the Ghadar Party. Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh studied up to 5th standard in the village and after that his father Kishan Singh got him enrolled in Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School, Lahore. At a very young age, Bhagat Singh joined the non-cooperation movement and bravely challenged the British army. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre had a deep impact on Bhagat Singh's mind. Bhagat Singh along with

Chandrashekhar Azad formed a revolutionary organisation. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were sentenced to death in the Lahore Conspiracy Case and Batukeshwar Dutt was given life imprisonment. Bhagat Singh was hanged along with Sukhdev and Rajguru at 7 pm on March 23, 1931. All three happily sacrificed their lives for the country. Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh was also a good speaker, reader and writer. He also wrote and edited for several magazines. MP Khargone Gajendra Singh Patel, former minister Om Prakash Dhurve, former MLA Kal Singh Bhabar and Bhagat Singh Netam also offered garlands on the portrait of Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh at the Chief Minister's residence.

# Video of BSP MLA 'telling officials how much corruption acceptable' goes viral

BSP MLA Rambai Singh can be purportedly heard saying, "It is alright to indulge in corruption equivalent to the amount of salt added in flour, but you should not snatch the entire plate from someone."

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BSP MLA Rambai Singh has hit headlines after a video of her purportedly telling officials how much corruption is "acceptable" went viral.

Rambai Singh, MLA from Pathariya in Damoh district, was heard comparing corruption to salt in flour, saying "Dekho aate mein namak barobar chalta hai, theek hai. Lekin aise nahi ki kauno se puri thaali hi cheen le (It is alright to indulge in corruption equivalent to the amount of salt added into wheat flour, but you should not snatch the

entire plate from someone)."

Rambai made the controversial statement while listening to complaints of corruption from residents of Damoh's Satouwa village on Sunday, where she had held a public redress meeting. A bunch

of villagers had approached Rambai with complaints against the block's secretary Narayan Chaubey and employment officer Neeranjan Tiwari, accusing them of asking for bribes for houses to be allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. She then held a public meeting, where the two officers were also summoned. In the video, the MLA asked the villagers how much bribe they had to pay. While one said Rs 9,000, the other claimed he paid Rs 5,000, while a third said he had to give Rs 6,000. After hearing the grievance of the villagers, Rambai turned to the officers and said, "Agar hazaar hi hazaar le



lete toh hum sochte theek hai. Kuccho dikkat nahi jaat. Dekho aate mein namak barobar chalta hai, theek hai. Lekin aise nahi ki kauno se puri thaali hi cheen le. Hum mana nahi karat, hum bhi jaanat hai.. andher nagri chaupat Raja chal raha.. lekin parisititi dekhne parat. Jaun aadmi mazdoori karat, mazdoori karai bahar jaat ab inki ek kuteer kitne ki hai ye batao.. ek lakh bees hazar".. ek lakh bees hazar ki tumhare yaha sochale banut (Had you taken Rs 1000 in bribe, then there was no problem. See, its alright to indulge in corruption equivalent to the amount of salt added into wheat flour, but it should not be that you snatch the entire plate from someone. I know this is a chaotic state with a confused ruler, but you should look at the condition. These labourers go out

to work.. how much does their house cost, tell me.. Rs 1.20 lakh...that much would be the cost of constructing your bathrooms)."

This isn't the first time that Rambai has held such a public gathering. In the past too, she is known to have addressed gatherings and gotten money back to the villagers.

Rambai further told the officers that she is not punishing them this time but the money of the poor villagers should be returned to them. "You can accept Rs 500 to Rs 1000 if people give them out of their goodwill, but not take away the money earned with their blood and sweat while working on the fields," she added.

After her video went viral, Rambai in a statement about the incident said, "It is alright, these officers indulge in such practices and it is acceptable but in some cases it gets too much. In such instances, the issues are sorted when we step out. In many cases, things are not completely in the hands of village sarpanch and secretary, but for the villagers, they are the ones at fault.

# CM plants saplings in Smart Garden along with Indian women hockey players

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings with Indian women hockey players in Smart Garden. Chouhan planted Amla sapling. Hockey players planted Saptaparni, Neem, Ashok, Kadamba and mango

saplings. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia, President of Indian Olympic Association Narinder Dhruv Batra, MLA and President of Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association Ramesh Mendola, Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association Digvijay Singh (Jabalpur), General Secretary Hockey India Rajinder Singh and CEO Hockey India Elina



Norman were also present.

It is noteworthy that today the members of the Indian women's hockey team were invited by Chouhan for lunch at the Chief Minister's residence. After lunch, Chouhan reached Smart Garden from Chief Minister's residence in a bus with all the players. After planting saplings along with the entire team, Chief Minister left for Minto Hall by bus, where the Indian women's hockey team was honoured in a special ceremony.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Smoking: Injurious to health, may cause Covid

Smoking is highly likely to worsen the severity of Covid-19 and the risk of dying from the infection, finds a large study. Several studies carried out early on in the pandemic reported a lower prevalence of active smokers among people admitted to hospital with Covid-19 than in the general population, baffling scientists. But in the new study, researchers at University of Oxford pooled both observational and genetic data, to show that smokers were 80 per cent more likely to be admitted to hospital and significantly more likely to die from Covid-19. The results, published online in the respiratory journal Thorax, revealed that a genetic predisposition to smoking was associated with a 45 per cent higher risk of infection and a 60 per cent higher risk of hospital admission for Covid-19. And it showed that a genetic predisposition to smoke more heavily was associated with a more than doubling in the risk of infection; a five-fold increase in the risk of hospital admission; and a 10-fold increase in the risk of death from the virus. For the study, the team analysed the Covid-19 test results, hospital admissions data and death certificates of more than 420,000 patients. Among nearly 14,000 smokers, there were 51 Covid admissions -- equivalent to one in 270 being hospitalised. There were also up to 36 deaths -- equating to one in 384 succumbing to the virus. On the other hand, among the 250,000 non-smokers there were 440 hospitalisations -- equivalent to one in almost 600. The team added there were a further 159 Covid deaths -- equivalent to one in 1,666, the Daily Mail reported.

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN MATRILINEAL MEGHALAYA: WHO'LL BELL THE CAT

NIRENDRA DEV

Like Economics, Sociology too cannot be a durable truth. It requires constant attention, closer scrutiny and revision. Such a notion or rather the conviction is reflected in the case of crimes against women. Which of the two worlds, a pro-feminist or matrilineal one or male-chauvinistic one suits women better? Society needs to understand the world around it better to ensure heinous offences are not committed against women. It cannot bank on one or two constant and standard factors believing that taking precautionary measures following those roadmaps would ensure the general good. Long back, sage Chanakya had said that a 'woman' remains the most mysterious living being on the earth. No one can be sure that he has mastered enough knowledge about a woman as an individual or as entire womenfolk. This observation could be guided by male chauvinism. I need not dispute this. There is a peculiar predicament as it is also difficult to understand what really drives the perpetrators of crime

against women. Recently, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has thrown up a new challenge with its data about growing incidents of rape and other incidents of crime against women in Meghalaya. The paradoxes involved make it equally puzzling as to why such a thing could happen against women in the state of Meghalaya. All knowledge and expertise on criminology and women related problems seem to fail. How? Firstly, Meghalaya is a matrilineal society of Garos, Khasis and Jaintia tribes. So, a world where the 'woman is supreme' and wives and mothers are guardians of households did not matter; and the perpetrators have continued with their criminal ways. Nestled in the northeast of India, Meghalaya is predominantly a Christian state, and hence even the much-cherished Christian values could not work as a deterrent for the perpetrators of the crimes. Another predominantly Christian state in the region, Nagaland, is generally known as a male chauvinist society. The women are safer there, and the crime cases against women in the year 2020 stood at 37. By contrast, Meghalaya's figures stood at 568 during the year.

In states such as Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh -- the number of cases of crime against women was fairly low, and these states have population figures similar to Meghalaya. Now, let us take another yardstick, the skewed male-female sex ratio. Some years back the declining sex ratio in Haryana was given out as the chief reason for growing cases of rape and other crimes against women. Around 2012, the Haryana sex ratio figures stood at 877 females for every 1,000 men. Brides came from other states and other communities, often after payment of a hefty amount. But the Haryana example cannot be compared with Meghalaya's. In the Northeastern state, the female-male sex ratio is 986 women for every 1,000 men; and this has increased from 975 per 1,000 males between 2001 and 2011. So where do we go from here? The real answer perhaps is that no single or two trend(s) can be attributed to explain the rise in crime against women. It is basically in men's minds. Reasons have been given to explain the Meghalaya situation. Congress legislator and Pradesh unit vice president Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh, says: "There are multiple

factors. Alcoholism and the growing number of men taking drugs and other substances are responsible (for crimes against women)." As the chairperson of the Assembly Committee for Empowerment of Women, she says the district administrations have been pulled up. She agrees the growing number of 'broken marriages' that have compelled women to stay alone and ensure regular income during the pandemic have contributed to these crimes. One independent state legislator Julius Kitbok Dorphan, an ex-militant, was arrested for raping a 14-year-old in 2017. The rebel leader was also founder-chairman of an armed insurgent group Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council (HNLC) and was sentenced to 25 years in jail by a special court in August this year. Militancy or insurgency in other northeastern states such as Nagaland and Mizoram are never known for such incidents against women. So, the ex-HNLC founder's case was an exception. In 2017, the police had recorded 238 cases of rape, including a few gang-rapes. In Northeast and in Meghalaya too, gang rape was

unheard of, but these days such crime occurs quite regularly, say some social workers. The state also has high cases of assault on women with intent to outrage a woman's modesty, and cruelty by husbands or relatives. Yes, that's despite the tradition of matrilineal practices. These growing incidents are not new. In 2012-13 too there were generally a high number of cases of crime against women. Then again, in several instances, the perpetrators of crime are below 18 years. There is hardly or 'less' fear of the law as minors are subjected to a maximum seven years of imprisonment. In several cases, locals say, you will find the stepfather has committed the gruesome act. The women and young girls are generally caught unawares. In many cases the men would be under the influence of alcohol or even drugs. A senior civil administration official says, "Earlier there used to be under reporting or no reporting of such cases. Now the women are more aware of their rights. Moreover, locals do not fear to report such cases knowing well that there is an assurance that the police would protect the victims' identity."

Pakistan's anti-US tirade scales new heights

It is difficult to discern whether Pakistan is angry more with its biggest aid-giver America or arch rival India. It is also confusing while trying to comprehend its sense of loss and being ignored by the superpower, whether to target Joe Biden or India's Narendra Modi. It is very easy to whip up anti-American sentiment in Pakistan. But the current phase has touched new heights or depths - in the mood. But the Imran Khan Government is unable to transfer to the general public. The Islamist bodies that thrive on this have in any case have their own agenda. They are more likely to add to their list Khan's widely perceived 'failure' at securing recognition, representation and thus, respectability, for the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. As for the India-Pakistan-US angle, Modi met Biden last week, while Imran has yet to get a phone call. And Afghanistan is only the latest straw in the wind. He hadn't got the much-awaited phone call for

six months after Biden took office. The Biden administration has not even attempted to establish contact that goes beyond the official. This contrasts, even in the world of diplomacy where rhetoric is played down, but atmospherics matter and things are said and done in correct, calibrated manner. This is visible in the Biden-Modi meeting. Their personal and easy rapport at the very first face-to-face began with Biden referring to his possible ancestors who live in Mumbai. "Are we related?" he asked Modi. His peeve is undiplomatic, to say the least. He also wants to wear his China connect on his sleeves. Many credit Pakistan for the switch-over to China as a brilliant masterstroke, considering that everyone expects history to repeat. The US is likely to "lose interest" in Pakistan now that it has quit Afghanistan. This had happened in the 1990s, after the Russians had quit and the Moscow-backed regime in Kabul was overrun by

the Mujahideen. However, China was not a factor then. Today, it is confronting the US as the main global adversary. Precisely for this reason, the US will want to retain presence in the region, with or without help from Pakistan. Pakistan has teamed up with China in Afghanistan against America's two other adversaries, Russia and Iran. Seen from the American standpoint, this is the worst time for Pakistan to line up with the 'opposite' camp. That too, after cocking the snook at the Americans in Afghanistan by nurturing the Taliban for two decades. A sustained, hostile, cryptic and loud campaign, at home and through interviews given to global media outlets, has not likened Imran Khan and his country to the US, and now that they are out of Afghanistan, the European allies. For four decades, Pakistan promoted militancy in the name of religion. If it had the tacit support of

the West for the first two decades in the fast two, after the 9/11 horror, it has been opposed. Pakistan gained first, by hoodwinking the West and second, because the latter was not effective. Both paid their respective price -- the US/Nato had to leave Afghanistan and Pakistan is, very rightly, a victim of terrorism as it claims. Only, it will not admit that it is also its creator and promoter. With Modi at the UN, Pakistan could not but bristle because while there are no takers - not even the OIC - for his Kashmir diatribe against India, the latter, going over the UN and Biden, touched the American sentiment by reminding everyone of the presence in Pakistan of Al Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 massacre.

international

PROTEST IN KATHMANDU AGAINST CHINESE LAND ENCROACHMENT

Kathmandu | Agencies

The Nepal Democratic Youth Association on Tuesday staged a protest in Kathmandu against alleged Chinese land encroachment in the Himalayan nation. Some media reports in Nepal suggested that China has encroached in Humla district and erected new boundary pillars. The leaders and activists affiliated to the Association staged the protest at Matighar in Kathmandu. Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs in August formed a six-member panel to probe and report the land encroachment in Humla. The panel submitted the report to the Home Minister Bal Krishna Khad on Sunday. The Home Ministry said that the panel headed by Joint Secretary Jay Narayan Acharya suggested the government to deploy a joint inspection group, inspection committee and formation of an expert team to resolve the boundary issue with China. The Nepal government has not said anything about



publicising the report prepared by Joint Secretary Acharya. A similar kind of issue was raised by the Nepali media last year too but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu declined having any disputes on the border. They also demanded to make public the report of the committee formed to study the

Nepal-China border from Limi Lapcha to Hilsa. "The government should make public the Acharya-led report," Mukesh Kumar Jha, President of the Democratic Youth Association said. "Why is the government silent over Chinese land encroachment in Nepal?" Jha said that Nepali students who had completed MBBS in China

should get a chance to do an internship in Nepal. Demonstrators displayed placards reading "Return Nepali land encroached by China". They also chanted that Pillar No. 12 in Humla district should not be moved. The youth association vowed to be vigilant for the protection of Nepal's borders.

Japan PM candidates make last-minute appeals before polls

Tokyo | Agencies

The four candidates in the fray to become the next Japanese Prime Minister made their last-minute appeals on Tuesday, with Vaccination Minister Taro Kono and former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida having a higher possibility of winning the election on Wednesday. The result of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader election is expected to come out on Wednesday afternoon, and the winner will replace Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who has served as the president of the LDP amid a battered economy during the Covid-19 pandemic, reports Xinhua news agency. The winner in Wednesday's election will become the public face of the LDP in the lower house election this fall. Former Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi and former Gender Equality Minister Seiko Noda are the female

contenders of the election. Due to a Covid-19 state of emergency in Tokyo and other areas, both of them have mostly conducted virtual meetings to gain support during the campaigning. Kono, a leader with reform-minded policies, is one of the leading candidates winning support from relatively young LDP lawmakers and rank-and-file party members, as he is popular among the public. He promised to reform the pension system in Japan and promote digitalisation. Kishida, who heads the LDP's liberal-leaning faction, garners support from many veteran lawmakers, but some view him as lacking wider public appeal. He pledged to make sure that ordinary people could enjoy the benefits of growth under his idea of "a new form of capitalism". Takaichi, who gained support from former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is expected to receive votes

from hawkish nationalists within the LDP. She focused on bold monetary easing and investment in crisis management and growth areas. oda, who struggled to garner the necessary nominations from 20 LDP lawmakers to join the race, has been scrambling to broaden her support base. She placed her priority on the care of the vulnerable such as children and the disabled. According to opinion polls, economic policy should be of the highest priority for the next Prime Minister, and the candidates spent hours explaining how their policies regarding Covid-19 fallout would be different from each other and also the Suga administration. The four candidates agreed on the need for constitutional reform while holding different opinions on whether to allow married couples to have separate family names.

S KOREA, US ENVOYS DISCUSS N KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH

Seoul: South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Noh Kyu-duk, on Tuesday spoke to US Special Representative for North Korea Sung Kim to discuss Pyongyang's latest missile launch, the Foreign Ministry said.



The phone conversation came hours after the North fired a short-range missile into the East Sea, days after Pyongyang expressed a willingness to improve inter-Korean relations and even discuss a summit with Seoul, reports Yonhap News Agency. The North said improvements can happen only when the South drops its hostile attitude against the regime and the double standards of calling the North's weapons tests "provocations" while conducting its own such tests. "The two sides shared the assessments on the latest Korean Peninsula situation, including the North's short-range missile launch and recent statements, and discussed ways to respond," the Ministry said in a statement. "They agreed on the need for the stable management of the Korean Peninsula situation and watertight coordination between South Korea and the US," it said. Noh and Kim decided to meet in person in Indonesia on Thursday for further discussions, the Ministry said. The US State Department condemned Tuesday's missile launch as violating UN Security Council resolutions and posing a threat to neighbouring countries and the international community.

Myanmar faces humanitarian crisis: UN

United Nations | Agencies

Myanmar is facing a humanitarian crisis with about 3 million people requiring assistance due to the ongoing armed clashes, insecurity, monsoon rains as well as the Covid-19 outbreak, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In a report on Monday, the OCHA said the crisis was February 1 military coup and the subsequent detention of politicians, including former State Councillor Aung San Suu Kyi. Of the 3 million people, 1 million were previously identified in the existing response plan and a further 2 million identified since the military takeover. More than 206,600 people have been internally displaced due to clashes and insecurity following the coup in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, and in Tanintharyi region, the OCHA report said.

There were also reports of population movement in Magway and Sagaing regions, believed to be in thousands, in recent months due to armed clashes and insecurity. The security situation in southeastern Myanmar remains challenging, particularly in Kayah state and neighbouring areas of southern Shan, with clashes reported between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the alliance of the "Karenni Army" and the "Karenni Nationalities Defence Force", according to the OCHA. In Kayah, around 22,000 people fled from their homes in September, while a large number of returns were also documented during this period. In Kayin and Tanintharyi, some displacement was reported with increased deployment of troops and ongoing clashes. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that 149,000 people remained internally displaced across the southeast since February 1. The security situation in Kachin and Shan states remains volatile, with spo-

radic clashes reported between MAF and ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) or among EAOs, said the OCHA. In Kachin, 13,730 people have been internally displaced since the start of 2021; more than 7,750 of them remain displaced. In Shan, around 28,680 people have been internally displaced during the same period; about 8,150 remain displaced in five townships. The World Food Programme (WFP) has resumed monthly cash distributions to 45,000 IDPs in Kachin, following two months of suspension due to banking issues. In Shan, WFP and partners are resuming cash distributions to 6,900 IDPs. WFP already provided two-week food rations to some 3,000 IDPs in Kyaukse Township. The security situation remains fragile in Chin State, with clashes between the MAF and different 'People's Defense Forces' reported in several townships, particularly in Kanpetlet and Thantlang, according to the OCHA report.

AUKUS DEAL DANGEROUS TO WORLD PEACE: UK LABOUR PARTY

London: Britain's main opposition Labour Party has passed an emergency motion that described the new security pact among the US, the UK and Australia, known as AUKUS, as a "dangerous move that will undermine world peace".



During the party's annual conference held on Monday, delegates passed the emergency motion by 70.35 per cent to 29.65 per cent, reports Xinhua news agency. "AUKUS is starting a new nuclear arms race and cold war. We must keep speaking out against it," said former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn on Twitter on Monday. The AUKUS pact, announced earlier this month, has triggered widespread concerns and criticism. The three countries announced that the first initiative under AUKUS is to deliver a nuclear-powered submarine fleet to Australia. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), a global nuclear watchdog, has voiced concern amid international worries about the proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies in response to the trilateral deal. "The IAEA will engage with them (Australia, the US and Britain) on this matter in line with its statutory mandate, and in accordance with their respective safeguards agreements with the Agency," it said in a recent statement.



### 4 killed as bus washed away in flooded river

In a shocker, at least four persons were killed when state transport bus with at least 8 passengers on board was washed away while crossing a submerged bridge in Umerkhed in Yavatmal on Tuesday morning.

bodies of the bus driver, conductor, and two passengers. At least four other passengers managed to clamber onto the roof of the bus, bobbing dangerously in the swirling river and three were rescued by the villagers.

Employment Guarantee Minister Sandipnarao Bhumre, who is the Guardian Minister of Yavatmal, supervised the search and rescue ops. A crane with ropes was deployed on the river bank to retrieve the bus stuck in the fast-flowing river this evening as rains continued to lash the district as the side-effects of the Gulab cyclone. Top district, police officials, ST officers and fire brigade teams also rushed to help the rescue efforts along with youths from surrounding villages. Several parts of the state including the coastal Konkan districts of Mumbai, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Nashik, Pune, Dhule, Nandurbar, Beed, Osmanabad, Satara, Kolhapur, Solapur, Aurangabad, Jalna, Nanded, Latur, Parbhani, Yavatmal, Chandrapur, and others have been lashed by torrential rains in the past three days.

YAVATMAL | Agencies

Apparently ignoring warnings by locals, the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) Nanded-Nagpur bus drove ahead in the flood waters which had submerged the bridge.

Barely had it gone a few metres, the bus got trapped in the powerful water currents, the driver lost control, and the vehicle with the passengers toppled into the river. Almost sunk to the roof, it was pulled ahead several metres by turbulent river flow before it got wedged in a fallen tree trunk. By late afternoon, rescue teams managed to fish out the

## Anil Deshmukh money laundering case:

# Anil Parab appears before ED

Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab was asked to appear before the ED's office in Ballard Estate area of south Mumbai on September 28

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Transport Minister Anil Parab appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai on September 28 in connection with a money laundering case registered against former State Minister Anil Deshmukh and others, an official said.

The ED had on Saturday issued summons for the second time to Parab, 56, who also holds the parliamentary affairs portfolio in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, for questioning in the case.

He was asked to appear before the ED's office in Ballard Estate area of south Mumbai on Sept. 28. Accordingly, the Minister reached the probe agency's office around 11 a.m., the official said.

There was heavy police deployment out-

side the ED office, he said.

Before leaving for the probe agency's office, Parab told reporters that will fully co-operate with the ED in its probe into the case. "I am appearing before ED officials today, though I am still unaware for what purpose they have called me. I swear by my daughters and late Shiv Sena supreme [Balasaheb Thackeray] that I have not done anything wrong, so I am going to the ED office," the minister said.

"I will co-operate in the inquiry and answer the questions of ED officials," he added. The three-term Shiv Sena MLA was first summoned by the agency to depose on



August 31, which he had declined citing official engagements and had sought more time.

Parab is to be questioned in the money laundering case being investigated against former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh after certain "disclosures" have been made by other accused and

those involved in the case, officials earlier said.

The summons pertain to the criminal investigation being carried out by the ED in the alleged Rs 100 crore bribery-cum-extortion racket in the Maharashtra police estab-

lishment that led to Deshmukh's resignation in April. The ED case against Deshmukh, who was earlier the Home Minister in the MVA government, and others came after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) booked him in the corruption case related to allegations of at least Rs 100 crore bribe made by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Deshmukh, who has skipped the ED summons at least five times till now and moved court against the agency, had said Mr. Singh made the allegations against him after he was removed from the post of Mumbai Police Commissioner. statements it has twice recorded of former police officer Sachin Waze. Waze, arrested by the NIA in the case of recovery of an explosives-laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai, had earlier alleged in a letter he sought to submit before a court that in January 2021, Parab asked him to look into an inquiry against "fraudulent" contractors listed in the Mumbai civic body and "collect" at least Rs 2 crore from about 50 such contractors. Parab had then rejected Mr. Waze's claims and said he was ready to face any probe into the allegations.

## DHFL case: No bail for wife, daughters of Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday dismissed a bail plea filed by Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's wife Bindu, and their daughters Roshini Kapoor and Radha Kapoor-Khanna, and former bank senior executive Rajiv Anand, in the financial irregularities pertaining to the Dewan Housing Financials Ltd (DHFL) cases.

In her detailed order rejecting their bail pleas, Justice Bharati Dange observed that the petitioners are accused of committing serious offences which have "resulted in serious dent to the financial health of the state" and defrauding the public at large.



The court further said that such "heinous" offences seem to be on "occurring in plenty", leading to "stultifying overall growth of the nation and caused tremendous impairment to the economy of the nation".

Moreover, the Central Bureau of Investigation had opposed the

bail plea on grounds that the accused are influential and affluent persons, and the probable witnesses are employees who may be influenced, and evidence may be tampered with if they (the accused) are enlarged on bail.

The petitioners applied for bail before a special CBI court which

declined the plea and the accused continue to be in judicial custody till October 1, after which they challenged the lower court order in the Bombay HC.

Senior advocates Mahesh Jethmalani, Amit Desai, and Aabad Ponda represented the applicants while the CBI was represented by its counsel Hiten S Venegaonkar.

The CBI has contended that between April-June 2018, the Yes Bank had invested Rs 3,700 crore in short-term debentures of DHFL and in return, the latter paid alleged kickbacks of Rs 900 crore to Kapoor in the form of loans to a company, DoIT Urban Ventures Ltd, owned and controlled by his wife and their daughters.

### MAN HELD FOR HACKING MINOR TO DEATH OVER PROPERTY DISPUTE

Mumbai: The accused, who is a distant relative of the victim, attacked her with a sickle over 10 times.

A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering an eight-year-old girl, who was his distant relative, by attacking her with a sickle over 10 times because he had a property dispute with her father in Palghar district's Dahanu on Monday afternoon, police said.

The incident took place around 1 pm at Ranshet in Wangadpada village. The accused, Pramod Ghoshe (46), attacked Varsha Ghoshe with a sickle. An onlooker tried to stop Pramod, but got attacked too and fled the spot.

The accused had a dispute with the girl's father Suresh Ghoshe over an ancestral farm land. "He fled into the jungle near the spot of crime. We traced and arrested him. He has been booked under IPC section 302 for murder," said Govind Omase, Senior Police Inspector at Dahanu station.

## Vehicle owners clear fines worth crores

BK Upadhyay, ADG traffic, said the notices were sent to the traffic violators who together owed the government more than Rs 417.41 crore in fines for traffic violations

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A fortnight after the Maharashtra traffic police issued an ultimatum to traffic rules' violators to clear their pending e-challans, 484,739 vehicle owners have cleared their pending fines worth Rs 22.77 crore. The number of unpaid challans still stands at 2,100,983, involving 679,676 vehicles and Rs 102.39 crore

fine. From September 13, over one million vehicle owners across Maharashtra were sent pre-litigation notices by the additional director general (ADG) of Maharashtra (traffic), warning them to clear their pending fines levied through e-challans or remain present before the next Lok Adalat.

BK Upadhyay, ADG traffic, said the notices were sent to the traffic violators who together owed the government more than Rs 417.41 crore in fines for traffic violations. The notices were sent to violators via SMS on their registered mobile numbers, he added.

Of the one million pending e-challans, the traffic police have sent maximum notices to violators in Mumbai.

## Kin of Maha government's class A, B employees who die while on duty to get jobs

The policy is aimed at providing financial support to the family after the primary earning member's death, the State government said in an order issued on September 27

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has decided to provide jobs on compassionate ground to eligible

family members of class A and B employees in case of their death during service.

The policy is aimed at providing financial support to the family after the primary earning member's death, the State government said in an order issued on September 27.

Earlier, there was such a policy for family members of class C and D employees and the Maharashtra government was deliberating on extending it to class A and B officials also in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, said

the order issued by the State General Administration Department.

The decision to offer jobs to the eligible kin of State government employees from class A and B on compassionate ground was taken during the State Cabinet meeting on August 26 this year.

Based on it, the State government on Monday took the decision to extend the policy to class A and B officers, the order said.

As per the order, the policy will be applicable retrospectively with effect from

## First-come-first-serve admissions for Class 11 begins

Students will be able to see vacancies across junior colleges from today. Based on the marks, students have been divided into seven groups.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government begins the first-come-first-serve (FCFS) round of admissions for candidates who have not yet secured admissions into the first year of junior college from Tuesday.

This admission round will go on till October 14 in a phased manner on the website 11theadmission.org.in. So far, three regular and one special round of admissions have taken place for Class 11 and more than 60,000 students have taken admissions. However, as per registrations, around 18,000 students are yet to secure admissions, for whose benefit the FCFS round is being held.



Students will be able to see vacancies across junior colleges from today. They are required to fill Part I of their admission form but filling Part II of the form which indicates colleges of choice is not

necessary as students can directly take online admissions into the college of choice.

Based on the marks, students have been divided into seven groups. On September 28-29, students with more than 90 per cent or marks between 450-500 can take part in the FCFS round. The further dates are September 30-October 1 for students with 80 per cent plus marks, October 2 to 4 for students with 70 per cent plus marks, October 5 - 6 for students with 60 per cent plus marks, October 7 to 9 for students with 50 per cent plus marks, October 10-12 for all students who have passed Class 10 and October 13-14 for students with ATKT (allowed to keep terms) and all those who have passed Class 10.

# Indian, US academicians bag 2021 Yidan Prize for Education Research

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai-based Pratham Education Foundation's (PEF) CEO Dr Rukmini Banerji and Stanford University's Prof Eric A. Hanushek have been awarded the '2021 Yidan Prize for Education Research', carrying an award of \$3.90 million, or almost Rs 28 crore, for each laureate, making it the world's highest education accolade.

The coveted award from the Yidan Prize Foundation, Hong Kong, has recognised their ground-breaking work addressing a crucial piece of the education puzzle pertaining to 'improving quality of education and outcomes for learners at scale'.

"Dr Banerji and the Pratham team have a clear mission: 'Every child in school and learning well', a reminder that we need to focus on education quality and not just school enrolments," said Dorothy K. Gordon, of the jury and Board Member of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.

The solutions that they have developed towards this goal have proven to be cost-effective and scalable with a demonstrated potential to impact globally disruptive education innovation with transformative results, she added.

"Like no one else, Eric has been able to link the fields of economics and education. From designing better and fairer systems for evaluating teacher performance to linking better learning outcomes to long-run economic and social progress, he has made an amazing range of education policy areas amenable to rigorous economic analysis," said Andreas Schleicher, of the judging panel.

The Dr Banerji-Prof Hanushek duo was selected after a rigorous selection process from entries around the world for the prize instituted in 2016, with 9 previous laureates till date.

This is the second major world honour for a Maharashtra academic in 10 months after the Solapur's government schoolteacher Ranjitsinh Disale bagged the Varkey Foundation-UNESCO's 'Global Teacher Prize-2020', worth \$1

million, in December 2020.

Dr Banerji pioneered the Annual Status of Education Report assessment approach revealing literacy and numeracy gaps among children who had already spent several years at school.

For this her team's 'Teaching at the Right Level' (TaRL) program with schools and local communities to provide basic reading and math skills ensured that no kids are left behind in the academics, with the replicable model benefiting millions in the country and spreading worldwide.

With the prize money, Dr Banerji plans to strengthen and expand the PEF's work with young children to build strong foundations early in their lives and march towards the goal of seeing 'every child in school and learning well'.

Prof Hanushek - a Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University - focuses his work on education outcomes and importance of teaching quality that have transformed both research and policy internationally. His contributions helped shape the

UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education) by reframing targets for learning outcomes and has shown how much students learn - and not, how many years they spend in school - that boosts economies.

With the prize, Prof Hanushek plans a research fellow program for Africa supporting analytical capacity to shape education policies from a local perspective.

"The quality and diversity of this year's nominations reflect the drive and passion around the world to unlock new approaches to education. Our nominees work on projects that span over 130 countries and territories, rethinking education systems from top-to-bottom, tackling inequities and empowering learners," said Dr Koichiro Matsuura, Chairman of the Yidan Prize Judging Committee and a former Director-General of UNESCO.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong-based institution has announced October 19, 2021 till March 2022 as period of nominations for Yidan Prize-2022.

## Two held for accepting Rs forty thousand bribe

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) laid a trap on Monday night and caught DDR Gopal Mavale and head clerk Suhas Davate while accepting the bribe amount, the official said.

ALIBAUG | Agencies

A district deputy registrar (DDR) and a head clerk of the cooperative department were arrested for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from members of a housing society in Maharashtra's Raigad district, an official said on Tuesday.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) laid a trap on Monday night and caught DDR Gopal Mavale and head clerk Suhas Davate while accepting the bribe amount, the official said. According to the ACB,



a Roha-based housing society had approached the DDR office for registration, and the accused official had registered it, but kept the verification pending. Mavale had allegedly demanded Rs 40,000 from members of the housing society to clear the verification and asked them to furnish the amount on Monday, the official said.

A case has been registered against the duo under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, he added.



## DON'T THINK JAMES BOND SHOULD BE PLAYED BY A WOMAN: LEA SEYDOUX

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lea Seydoux, who reprised the role of Dr Madeleine Swann for the new Bond movie 'No Time To Die', has dismissed the idea of the franchise being helmed by a female character. Seydoux, who previously starred in the 2015 film 'Spectre', said: "James Bond is James Bond. I

don't think James Bond should be played by a woman."

The 36-year-old actress acknowledges that young girls need to have "strong" female role models.

However, she also feels that a female spy should lead another film franchise and not the Bond series, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told Sky News: "It's important for young girls to have a good

example of strong women - maybe they could do a female spy, but it would be another film."

Daniel Craig is playing Bond for the final time in the new movie, and he previously argued that his replacement should not be a woman.

However, he thinks that women and people of colour should be offered similarly high-profile roles.

## World's largest Imax screen to open in Germany ahead of 'No Time to Die'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The world's biggest Imax screen is all set to open its gates on Thursday in Germany, kicking off with the premiere of the latest James Bond film 'No Time to Die'. The screen, located at the Traumpalast Multiplex in Leonberg, is wider than a Boeing 737 airliner at nearly 70 feet high and around 125 feet across. It was so large it had to be painted by a specifically designed robotic arm, reports variety.com.

The theatre housing it seats 574, and features Imax with Laser technology and Imax's 12-channel sound technology with new side and overhead channels for greater range and precision.

"The IMAX at Traumpalast redefines the 'big screen'," said Rich Gelfond, CEO of Imax.



Gelfond added: "With Lochmann Filmtheaterbetriebe, we've created an unforgettable moviegoing experience where fans can truly immerse themselves in the world's biggest blockbusters on the world's largest screen. As we continue to grow in Germany and open new iconic locations around the world, the Imax at Traumpalast will become an exciting flagship location at a critical time for fans seeking premium, differentiated experiences."

Marius and Heinz Lochmann said in a statement: "Audiences in Germany and beyond will travel far and wide to see the Imax at Traumpalast, from its enormous screen and incredible audio to the luxurious seating and other exciting amenities the theatre has to offer. We're proud to partner with Imax on this new, record-breaking location and can't wait to start letting fans in the door."

Director Cary Fukunaga shot 'No Time to Die' with Imax's 15/70mm film cameras, making it the first Bond entry to make use of them.

The movie is specifically formatted for Imax theatres and features 40 minutes of Imax exclusive expanded aspect ratio. The new theatre is Imax's eighth in Germany.

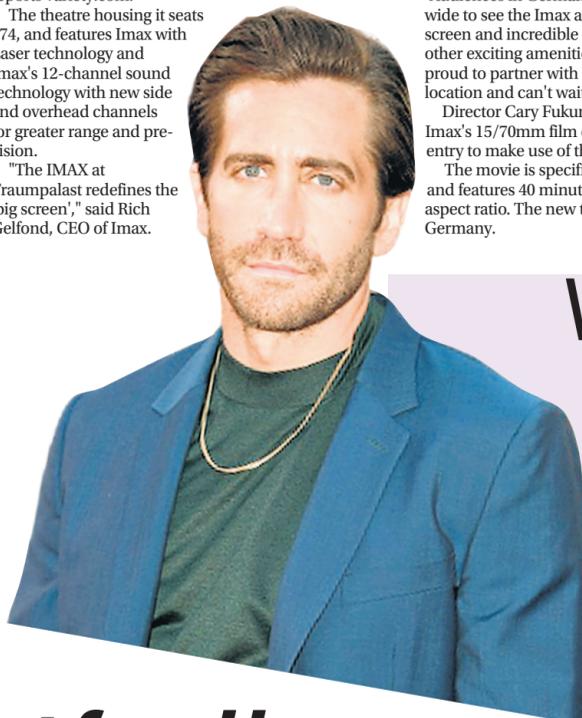


## R KELLY FOUND GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES IN SEX TRAFFICKING CASE

New York | Agencies

Singer R. Kelly has been found guilty of leading a decades-long scheme to recruit women and underage girls for sex in New York, with the jury declaring him guilty of all nine counts of racketeering and sex-trafficking charges, the New York Times reported. The jury, consisting of seven men and five women, convicted Kelly of racketeering and eight violations of an anti-sex trafficking law after nine hours of deliberations in the federal court in Brooklyn, after beginning its deliberations on Friday afternoon. Kelly faces the possibility of decades in prison. An attorney for Kelly told CNN that they are considering filing an appeal as they are disappointed with the verdict. Kelly's sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 4, 2022.

The singer sat motionless in the courtroom as the verdict was read, according to the NYT. "Today's guilty verdict forever brands R. Kelly as a predator, who used his fame and fortune to prey on the young, the vulnerable and the voiceless for his own sexual gratification," Jacquelyn M. Kasulis, acting US attorney from the Eastern District, said outside the court after the verdict was read, according to CNN. "He is a predator who used his inner circle to ensnare underage girls and young men and women for decades in a sordid web of sex abuse, exploitation and humiliation. In the New York trial that began on August 18, Kelly faced federal counts of human trafficking, racketeering, child pornography, kidnapping and forced labour. Kelly denied all the allegations against him, and pleaded not guilty. During the trial, the prosecution sought to prove that not only is Kelly a predator, but his team has long enabled his behaviour."



## Women 'are superior to men': Jake Gyllenhaal

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Jake Gyllenhaal has said that women are "superior to men" and paid tribute to the "incredible" females in his own family, which includes his actress sister Maggie Gyllenhaal. He said: "(Women) are superior to men."

The 40-year-old actor's actress sister Maggie Gyllenhaal and her husband, 'Shattered Glass' star Peter Sarsgaard have two daughters together - Ramona, 14, and Gloria Ray, nine, and he is proud to play an active role in their lives, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Jake regularly has both girls stay over at his house to give their parents a break and to really get to know them as they grow up. In an interview with The Sunday Times newspaper, he said: "They are truly two of the most incredible people. They come from a long line of incredible women and they're even more incredible than the ones before them."

## Adjoa Andoh not fazed by intimate scenes in 'Bridgerton'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Adjoa Andoh, who plays Lady Danbury in the Netflix series 'Bridgerton', says she is not fazed by the sex scenes in the show. She said: "I wasn't shocked. I grew up on my mum's Georgette Heyer and Jean Plaidy library books, where I learned a lot about history and sex."

Andoh's character will "look fabulous and be fabulous" in the new season of the show.

Although she's remaining tight-lipped about plot details, Andoh said that fans can expect more of the same from Lady Danbury, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She shared: "I can't tell you much or they will take me out and shoot me. She continues to look fabulous and be fabulous and be her usual plotty, strategic, gusto-ing self."

"She's a force of nature and when she sets her hat at something she goes for it."

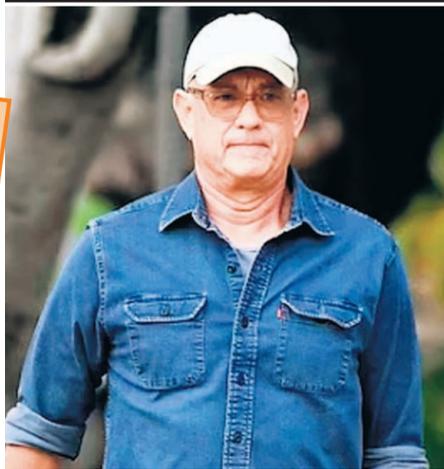
Andoh said that her on-screen character actually shares some similarities with her real-life self and her mother.

The actress told the Daily Star newspaper: "There's a certain swagger which Lady Danbury has in the way she dresses, which is most definitely my mum, who loves a hat - as do I."

Meanwhile, Adjoa previously admitted Rege-Jean Page would be a big miss on the set of 'Bridgerton'.



## Casual Star



Los Angeles | Agencies

He's one of Hollywood's biggest stars. But Tom Hanks, 65, proved he's just a normal guy as he headed out for a solo stroll in Brentwood, California on Monday.

The actor rocked a blue denim shirt which he rolled up at the sleeves and a pair of navy cotton trousers.

He casually rested his hand in his pocket as he walked with his watch visible on his wrist. The star donned a comfortable pair of black trainers on his feet for his walk.

He wore a white baseball cap on his head with a beige peak in a bid to keep the sun off his eyes. Tom stepped out with his wife Rita Wilson, 64, to the opening of the opening gala of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles on Saturday night.

The couple were delighted to be supporting their local arts community with Rita taking to Instagram to share some words. 'About last night', she wrote. 'Academy Museum of Motion Pictures opening.'

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jana Kramer



## Indian Premier League : 2021

# NARINE, RANA HELP KKR PREVAIL OVER DELHI

Sharjah | Agencies

Struggling at 96/5 on a very slow surface at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, it looked like Kolkata Knight Riders would make heavy weather of the small target of 128 runs against Delhi Capitals in the UAE leg of the IPL 2021 on Tuesday. But a couple of big shots by spinner Sunil Narine and Nitish Rana helped them to a three wickets win. KKR moved to 10 points from 11 matches and maintained their chances of reaching the knockout stage.

After restricting Delhi Capitals to 127/9 in 20 overs thanks to some disciplined bowling after electing to field, Kolkata Knight Riders looked in trouble as Dinesh Karthik was out with the score 96/5. But Sunil Narine tonked Kagiso Rabada for 21 off the innings' 16th over and though the Knights lost a couple of more wickets, they managed to reach 130/7 with 10 balls remaining. Rana remained unbeaten on 36. After losing Venkatesh Iyer (14), who was one of the three KKR bowlers along with Narine and Lockie Ferguson to claim two wickets apiece, Kolkata were looking at fellow opener Shubman Gill and Rahul Tripathi to build up the innings. Gill kept one end going, hitting a



couple of sixes but Tripathi did not last long and KKR were 43/2 in the 6th over. They lost Gill (3) and skipper Eoin Morgan (0) in quick succession and slumped to 67/4. Though Dinesh Karthik and Rana tried to resurrect the innings, mixing caution with aggression, the equation looked a bit stiff at 52 off 43 balls considering the slow nature of the pitch. However, KKR scored 20 runs off the 14th over bowled by Lalit Yadav with Rana blasting a couple

of sixes off successive balls and Karthik hitting a four. But Karthik got out, castled while trying to run a slower one by Avesh Khan to the third man, Delhi were still in the hunt. But Sunil Narine blazed two sixes and a four off Rabada in the 16th over, pushing KKR nearer to victory, which they achieved despite losing Narine and Tim Southee with victory in sight. Earlier, Delhi Capitals kept losing wickets at regular intervals against some disciplined bowling KKR on a sluggish pitch in scorching conditions as they were restricted to 127/9. This was the second time in the season that Delhi failed to hit a single six in their innings. Kolkata had bowlers coming to the fore with Sunil Narine, Lockie Ferguson, and part-timer Venkatesh Iyer picking up two wickets each while Tim Southee had one scalp to his name. Things looked difficult from the start as Delhi lost Shikhar Dhawan early.

### Briefscores:

Delhi Capitals 127/9 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant, 39, Steve Smith 39, Lockie Ferguson 2/10, Sunil Narine 2/18) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 130/7 in 18.2 overs (Shubman Gill 30, Nitish Rana 36 not out, Sunil Narine 21; Avesh Khan 3/13, Anrich Nortje 1/15).

# Tiwarly and Pandya seal six-wicket win for Mumbai over Punjab

Abu Dhabi | Agencies

Saurabh Tiwarly and Hardik Pandya played gutsy knocks to help Mumbai Indians seal a six-wicket win over Punjab Kings at Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Tuesday. This is Mumbai's first win in the UAE leg of the tournament and places the defending champions at fifth place in the points table, thereby keeping their playoffs hopes alive.

Chasing 136, Mumbai were given a double jolt in the fourth over. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi had captain Rohit Sharma miscuing a slog-sweep to mid-on. On the next ball, Bishnoi bowled Suryakumar Yadav through the gate with a googly.

Quinton de Kock and Saurabh Tiwarly resurrected the chase with a stand of 45 runs for the third wicket. But Mohammed Shami broke the partnership in the tenth over as de Kock, dropped on 17 by Aiden Markram, inside-edged a pull onto his stumps.



Tiwarly waged a lone battle for Mumbai, smashing boundary boundaries and keeping his side in the hunt. But he perished at 45, chasing a wide yorker from Nathan Ellis and edging behind to Rahul, who dived forward to complete a low catch. Pandya, dropped by Harpreet Brar at seven, smashed Shami for a four and six over mid-wicket on consecutive deliveries in the 17th over. Kieron Pollard hit Arshdeep Singh for back-to-back boundaries in the 18th over. Pollard crunched Singh for a four through extra cover followed by a big six over long-off. Pandya then cut

Shami over third man in the 19th over followed by a slap past a diving long-on fielder. Pandya finished off the chase with a flat-bat shot bursting through the hands of long-on, handing Mumbai two crucial points with an over to spare.

### Briefscores:

Punjab Kings (Aiden Markram 42, Deepak Hooda 28, Kieron Pollard 2/8, Jasprit Bumrah 2/24) lost to Mumbai Indians 137/4 in 19 overs (Saurabh Tiwarly 45, Hardik Pandya 40 not out, Ravi Bishnoi 2/25, Nathan Ellis 1/12)

# Messi leads Argentina squad for World Cup qualifiers

Buenos Aires | Agencies

Lionel Messi will spearhead Argentina's squad for the next triple-header of South American World Cup qualifiers, the Argentine Football Association said on Monday.

The 34-year-old was named on the Albiceleste's 30-man list despite having missed Paris Saint-Germain's last two matches because of a knee injury.

Manager Lionel Scaloni also included Paulo Dybala, who left the pitch in tears during Juventus' 3-2 win over Sampdoria on Sunday with an apparent thigh injury.

Meanwhile, Scaloni recalled Bayer Leverkusen forward Lucas Alario and



Monterrey goalkeeper Esteban Andrada. Argentina will meet Paraguay in Asuncion on October 7 before hosting Uruguay and Peru in Buenos Aires on October 10 and 14, Xinhua reports. Scaloni's men are currently second behind Brazil in the 10-team

South American group with five wins and three draws from their eight matches so far.

The top four teams will earn an automatic spot in next year's World Cup in Qatar while the fifth-ranked side will advance to an inter-continental playoff.

# Jhulan Goswami climbs to second spot in latest ODI rankings

Dubai | Agencies

Jhulan Goswami has climbed to the second spot in the ICC Women's ODI Rankings for bowling after the update on Tuesday. Alyssa Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper-batter, moved up a place to No.2 in the batter's rankings, just 11 rating points short of topper Lizelle Lee, while Beth Mooney moved up eight places to break into the top ten.

Goswami's rise comes after a stellar display in the ODI series, which Australia won 2-1. Her four wickets in the three-match series came at an average of 28.75, with her return of 3/37 in the final ODI helping India break Australia's astonishing winning streak of 26 ODIs.

Others making waves in the bowler's rankings were the England duo of Anya Shrubsole and Kate Cross, both of whom jumped into the top ten, occupying the 9th and 10th spots respectively. Shrubsole gained four places after picking



three wickets in the final two ODIs against New Zealand, while Cross' spell of 3/44 in the fifth ODI

helped her move up five slots.

The spotlight among the batters was on Mooney. She rocketed up eight places to break into the top ten, sitting at No.8, just below compatriot Meg Lanning by nine rating points. Mooney's marvellous performance against India included a stunning century as well as a half-century - she amassed 177 runs at a strike rate of 89.84.

Healy found joy following scores of 77 and 35 against India, moving up a slot to No.2, while Smriti Mandhana, the India opener, moved up one spot to No.6 in the rankings.

In the all-rounder's rankings, Ashleigh Gardner scaled four places to reach the sixth position while Ellyse Perry's poor form led to her dropping two positions, pushing South Africa's Marizanne Kapp to the top of the all-rounders' rankings. Goswami also entered the top ten among the all-rounders, moving up three spots to 10th place.

# Senior men's team reaches Maldives for SAAF Championships

Male | Agencies

The Indian men's senior national team landed safely in the Maldives on Tuesday for the upcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship which kicks off here on October 1.

The 23-member squad along with the support staff travelled from Bengaluru where all had assembled the previous day. Head Coach Igor Stimac joined the squad directly in the Maldives.

India begin their campaign against Bangladesh on October 4.

India have won the SAFF



Championship (formerly SAARC Cup) seven times - 1993 in Lahore, 1997 in Kathmandu, 1999 in Margao, 2005 in Karachi, 2009 (U23 squad) in Dhaka, 2011 in New Delhi, 2015-16 in Thiruvananthapuram.

### India's fixtures in the group stage:

- October 4 : Bangladesh vs India (IST 4.30 pm).
- October 7 : India vs Sri Lanka (IST 4.30 pm).
- October 10 : Nepal vs India (IST 8.30 pm).
- October 13 : India vs Maldives (IST 8.30 pm).

# UEFA to appeal to punish Barca, Real Madrid and Juventus

London | Agencies

UEFA, the European football's governing body, confirmed on Tuesday that it will appeal to a higher court after their legal action against Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus was suspended.

Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus are among the 12 founding clubs of the so-called European Super League which was declared to be set up in April to challenge UEFA's Champions League, but failed within 48 hours as the other nine clubs all announced their withdrawal.

UEFA decided in May that it would fine the nine clubs including the Big Six from English Premier League and would consider to take legal action against Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus as they remain committed to the Super League, reports Xinhua.

Late on Monday, UEFA declared that the proceedings against the three clubs "null and void" after a commercial court in Madrid ruled out that governing body had no authority to



take action.

However, UEFA changed their mind on Tuesday morning saying that "UEFA does not recognize the jurisdiction of the Court in Madrid and firmly believes that it has always acted in full compliance with the pending proceedings - UEFA has today made formal submissions to the Court in Madrid evidencing its ongoing compliance with the orders."

# Neither Kumble wants to return, nor BCCI interested now; source

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is now in search of a foreign coach as the idea of bringing Anil Kumble back didn't impress most of the board members, sources said.

"Well, neither Kumble wants to return, nor the BCCI officials, other than president Sourav Ganguly, are or were interested. The board is looking for a foreign coach now. Kumble knows that he will have to face the same old team members (Virat Kohli and others in the team), nothing new, then why would he return? And moreover Dada (Ganguly) has recommended his name but other officials expressed their disagreement on it," a highly-placed source in the board told reporter.

"VVS Laxman also will not be able to get the post. However, there's still a month left, so let's see what comes or



some change of minds! Also look at Kumble's record as coach, it is not that impressive. See what is happening with Kings Punjab in IPL," he added.

It is learnt that India's batting coach Vikram Rathour is also planning to

After the reports emerged, that BCCI was looking to recall Kumble to

the coaching fold, sources had told IANS that the legendary spinner might not accept the offer. And the post may go to some foreign recruit.

Kumble was head coach of the team before he decided to step down in 2017 after reports emerged of serious differences with Kohli. A bitter fallout with Kohli led to Kumble tendering his resignation after the Champions Trophy final defeat against Pakistan. Soon after Kumble's exit, Kohli had prevailed upon the BCCI, governed then by a committee led by former CAG Vinod Rai, to get Shastri as the replacement.

It is believed that Ganguly had wanted Kumble to continue in 2017, despite Kohli's reservations, when he was a member of the BCCI's Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC).

Kumble is currently in the UAE as head coach and director of cricket operations for IPL franchise Punjab Kings.

# APPOINTING DHONI AS MENTOR IS NOT TO UNDERMINE ANYBODY: BCCI

New Delhi | Agencies

After about one year of retirement from international cricket from all formats of the game, MS Dhoni will once again be seen wearing the Indian blue jersey next month. However, with a different role.

The two-time World Cup-winning skipper was named as the mentor for team India for the T20 World Cup, on the heels of the team announcement by the BCCI.

BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal on Tuesday spoke on Dhoni's inclusion, stating that India will definitely benefit from the presence of the legend in the camp. "He (Dhoni) has been a great leader. Under his captaincy, India won the inaugural World Twenty20, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, the 2011 World Cup and the 2013 Champions Trophy. Records are amazing. It is really great to have him as a mentor of the team (for the ICC World Cup). "He has a good reputation and respect in the team, and also bringing him doesn't mean to undermine anybody. They have also done a phenomenal job," Dhumal told India Ahead.



# Olympic campaign has taught us glory comes at a price: Gurjant

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian men's hockey forward Gurjant Singh, who scored three goals at the Tokyo Olympic Games, said on Tuesday that the historic bronze-winning campaign had taught the team that glory comes at a price. He said that participating and fighting for a medal at the Olympics is an altogether different ball game.

"Participating and fighting for a medal is altogether a different ball game. Every team wants to win, and they also come fully prepared, they had also worked hard like us, so it's not easy to win a medal at Olympics, and I reckon that was our biggest learning as well," said Gurjant.

"The whole journey from preparation to competing and winning a medal at the Olympics taught us that glory comes at a price, and the price was hard work. We had worked day and night, we worked on our physical fitness and mental fitness as well, we made a lot of sacrifices, and I think that paid off," he



added. On whether he was nervous playing his first Olympic Games, the 26-year-old forward said, "I think the confidence and excitement level was more than the nervousness. That feeling of representing your country, which has a very rich Olympics history in hockey, gives you extra confidence on the field.

