

# absolute india

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## WILL FIGHT FOR JUSTICE, NOBODY CAN STOP US: PRIYANKA GANDHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said her fight for justice would continue until Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni was suspended.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said nobody was safe under the Narendra Modi government and this included the poor, the Dalit community and women, adding, however, billionaire friends of the regime were managing fine.

Addressing a massive crowd at the 'Kisan Nyay' (justice for farmers) rally in Varanasi, Vadra said, "This country is not the property of the PM and his ministers. This country is yours. If you are not aware, you will not be able to save your own

country, and yourself. You have made this country." Vadra, said this country was about faith. Here, farmers feed the citizens, and their sons protect the country's borders. "But when some of them got killed in Lakhimpur Kheri, their families lost hope for justice."

Around the same time the PM came to Uttar Pradesh to attend some celebratory events, but he did not have the time to meet the aggrieved families, the Congress leader added. Stating that her fight for justice would continue until Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni was suspended, she said the junior home minister's son (Ashish Mishra) had trampled over protesting farmers, but he was sent an invitation for interrogation. "The chief minister (Yogi Adityanath) is protecting them... What is this?"

She said Modi did not have time to speak to farmers who had been protesting for almost a year against the three centrally passed agri laws. "The farmers are protesting against the three laws because they know their land will be snatched, if three agri laws were implemented, by the corporate friend of Modi," Vadra added.

Exhorting people to fight for their rights, she said those "who call you andolanakari (protesters) and terrorists, force them to give justice. We are the workers of the Congress. We are scared of anyone. Put us in jail, beat us, but we will fight for justice."

"If you want to bring a change, come with me, struggle together and change this government. I will not stop until I bring change here," she added. Vadra also targeted Modi over growing inflation and rising prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. She said unemployment was at its peak.

"People are angry and upset with the government due to these problems. But when people are losing their jobs and small businesses are shutting down, the PM's rich friends are making billions of money."

### Priyanka Gandhi invokes goddess, chants shlokas at Varanasi rally



Varanasi: Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra chanted 'Jai Mata Di' before her speech at the Varanasi rally on Sunday in a bid to counter BJP and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Hindutva style. "I am observing fast in navratras and today, let's start with prayers to the goddess," she said, chanting shlokas and then asking the public to join her in saying 'Jai Mata Di'. This is not the first time that Priyanka has showcased her religiosity. On the first day of Navratri, she visited the Mari Mata Mandir in Lucknow and offered prayers. She has been seen wearing a chain of rudraksh beads and often has posted her pictures in different temples. Congress MLC Deepak Singh said: "She chanted 'Jai Mata Di' as Goddess Durga will destroy demons in this Navratri... the demons who are destroying peoples' lives and livelihoods." Addressing the rally, Priyanka Gandhi took on the Central and state governments on the issue of farmers and injustice to the poor.

### Situation to normalise in three-four days, Union Minister on coal crisis

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Acknowledging the current coal crisis, Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday assured that the situation will normalise in next three-four days.

The Union minister noted that despite adverse circumstances, country recorded highest coal production in October.

He asserted that the price of coal in the international market has suddenly risen sharply, which resulted to reduction in import. While on the other hand heavy rains affected the domestic coal production significantly.

Joshi was reacting to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the latter's intervention in resolving the coal crisis.

The Union minister said that he has come to know that the Delhi Chief Minister has written a letter and he will give a statement on it only after taking detailed information. However, he added that the NTPC looks into it.

Kejriwal on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the prevailing coal shortage situation that has struck the national capital for the third month in a row, affecting power generation in the city.

The problem that has



been continuing since August "has affected the power generation from the major Central Generating Plants supplying power to NCT of Delhi", the Kejriwal wrote.

An expert from energy sector said as the Covid scare is subsiding, the demand for electricity has increased rapidly amidst the increase in industrial and economic activities. This demand is increasing not only in India but all over the world, due to which the demand for coal is also increasing continuously. This is pushing the coal prices at the international level and thus imported coal is becoming very expensive for India.

"If the crisis is not controlled soon, then there will be darkness in many states of the country including Delhi," the expert

## 'Sufficient fuel...': Power Ministry rules out any energy crisis in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi will not face any energy crisis as sufficient fuel is being provided to power plants supplying the national capital, Union Power Minister RK Singh said on Sunday after reviewing coal stock position in all thermal power plants including those supplying power to Delhi distribution companies.

The Central assurance came a day after Delhi Power Minister Satyendra Jain had said that if the coal supply didn't improve, there will be a blackout in Delhi in two days. On October 9, the total despatch of coal from all sources (Coal India Ltd, Singareni Collieries, captive coal mines, and imported coal) was 1.92 million tonnes while the total consumption was 1.87 million tonnes, officials said. Thus, the coal dispatches have exceeded the consumption, thereby indicating shift to gradual building up of coal stock. The Coal Ministry and CIL have assured that there is ample



coal available in the country to meet the demand of power plants, and any fear of disruption in power supply is entirely misplaced. The coal stock at power plants is sufficient for more than four days' requirement and as the coal supply is being ramped up by CIL, the coal stock at power plant would gradually improve, they said. Singh has directed that distribution companies of Delhi will get as much as power as required by them as per their demand. The NTPC and DVC have been directed to give full availability as per the requirement of discoms.

GAIL India Ltd has been advised to make gas available from all sources viz., APM, SPOT, LT-RLNG sources to gas-based power plants in Delhi. NTPC has also been advised to offer normative declared capacity to the Delhi discoms, as per their allocations from gas-based power plants under respective PPAs.

If any discoms is found to resort to load shedding despite being power available as per PPA, action would be initiated against them, the Power Ministry has said. Despite heavy rains in the month of August and September, steep hike in power demand due to economic recovery, and increase in prices of imported coal, domestic coal supply have sustained the operation of power plants and all out efforts are being made to ensure full power supply to the discoms as per their requirements, a ministry statement said.

## Attempt to turn Lakhimpur Kheri into Hindu vs Sikh battle: Varun Gandhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after being dropped from party's national executive, BJP Lok Sabha member Varun Gandhi on Sunday said that an attempt is being made to turn the Lakhimpur Kheri incident into a Hindu vs Sikh battle.

In a tweet Varun Gandhi said, "An attempt to turn Lakhimpur Kheri into a Hindu vs Sikh battle is being made. Not only is this an immoral & false narrative, it is dangerous to create these fault-lines and reopen wounds that have taken a generation to heal. We must not put petty political gains above national unity."

Eight persons including a journalist were killed during a farmers protest in Lakhimpur Kheri which turned violent on October 3. On October 7, Varun and his mother, former union minister Maneka Gandhi were dropped from reconstituted BJP's national execu-



tive committee, party's top decision making body.

Earlier on October 7 sharing a video on Twitter, Varun Gandhi said, "The video is crystal clear. Protesters cannot be silenced through murder. There has to be accountability for the innocent blood of farmers that has been spilled and justice must be delivered before a message of arrogance and cruelty enters the minds of every farmer." On October 5, he tweeted, "This video of vehicles deliberately running over farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri is enough to shake one's soul. Police must take cognisance of these videos, and immediately arrest the owners of these vehicles, those sitting in them, and others involved."

## Lakhimpur Kheri violence:

### Minister's son 'evaded' crucial questions

LAKHIMPUR KHERI | Agencies

His inability to respond to pointed questions about the sequence of events on October 3, when a group of farmers were trampled over by a SUV belonging to him, finally led Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni, to jail.

Mishra was arrested at 10.50 pm on Saturday and sent to the Lakhimpur jail around 1 a.m. on Sunday after 12 hours of questioning.

According to a senior official in the investigation team, Ashish Mishra was not able to explain his location between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. on October 3 when the incident took place.

Witnesses have said he was missing from the event between 2 and 4 pm, his phone location showed him closer to the crime scene.

Though the minister's son admitted the SUV that ran over farmers belongs to him, but he maintained that he was not in it. His team said he had produced around 150 images of the wrestling match where he was present on the day of the incident.

"To every question, he had one answer - I was not present at the spot where the incident took



place. We asked him who drove his SUV, how many people were sitting in it, how many cars were there in the convoy and for every question he said he was not present," said the police officer. When asked why the vehicle did not stop after hitting the people and why was there a crowd on the road, Ashish Mishra had one reply - I was not there.

At times, he even lost his cool and said, "Even if you ask me one lakh times, my answer will be the same." He even feigned complete ignorance about the fact that his men carried arms with them. The families of at least two deceased have claimed that there were gunshot wounds on the

bodies - fact denied in the post mortem report.

However, two empty cartridges of 315 bore rifle have been found at the site of the incident, proving that someone opened fire.

When the police team asked him the veracity of video footage, he had produced to substantiate his presence at the wrestling match earlier in the district, Ashish said, "You can get its tested from forensic experts."

He still had no explanation for his whereabouts at the time when the incident took place because the wrestling match had ended by then.

When asked why he was not cooperating with the investigations, Ashish said, "Whenever I am needed, I will come. I am not a criminal - I am the son of a politician and a businessman in my own right." Mishra was arrested a day after the Supreme Court reminded the Uttar Pradesh government that the law must take its course against 'whoever is involved' amid nationwide outrage over the incident and mounting pressure from farmer groups. Two persons, Luv Kush and Ashish Pandey, were arrested on Thursday as the case reached the Supreme Court. They were reportedly in the same vehicle that ran over a journalist and farmers, the police said.

## NIA carries out raids across Kashmir Valley, 70 detained

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday carried out raids at 16 locations across Kashmir Valley in connection with two cases -- ISIS voice of Hind case and TRF case. The raids are still going on at nine locations in Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, and Baramulla as part of its probe, according to sources. Several stone pelters and anti-India elements have been detained and are being questioned, they said. As many as 70 youths have been detained in Srinagar and a total of 570 people have been detained across Kashmir in the past 2-3 days. The crackdown on anti-India elements by security forces took place just after the terror attacks on minorities three days ago. A group of masked militants barged into a school in Kashmir demanding to know the religious identity of its teachers.



# TRUCE BEING WORKED OUT WITH G-23 AHEAD OF BIG CONG MEET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Truce is being worked out between G-23 leaders and the Congress leadership in the party ahead of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting slated for Saturday. The CWC, which is the highest decision making body of the party, is likely to give a nod to the organisational polls, which is the key demand of the dissenting group.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is reaching out to the other camp through emissaries. Kamal Nath has been talking to the dissenting group and Priyanka has also been trying to reach out to the G-23 by involving Bhupinder Hooda's son Deepender Hooda with her protest on Lakhimpur Kheri violence. She has also taken the junior Hooda to Varanasi for her rally.

The sign of thaw emerges from the Congress letter, which has been written by party General Secretary K.C. Venugopal seeking an appointment with President Ram Nath Kovind to submit a memorandum on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. The signatories of the letter include Ghulam Nabi Azad on the second number after Rahul Gandhi. Azad is one among the G-23 leaders.

The Congress has been mired with internal rift since August 2020 last year when a letter was written to



Sonia Gandhi for visible and effective leadership. Last month Ghulam Nabi Azad again wrote a letter to Sonia Gandhi for calling CWC meet, and now the Congress high command has called the meeting on October 16.

Senior party leader Kapil Sibal had recently said, "There is no president in our party, so we do not know who

is taking all the decisions. We know it, yet we don't know, one of my senior colleagues perhaps has written or is about to write to the interim president to immediately convene a CWC meeting so that a dialogue can be initiated."

But after the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, the G-23 has toned down its statements. One of the G-23 leaders

Anand Sharma has been all praise for the Gandhis, "Commending @RahulGandhi and @PriyankaGandhi's courageous act of compassion and solidarity with farmers whose sons were killed. A sincere and expressed commitment to fight for justice for the bereaved farmers which must be supported by all who respect the rule of law."

## Cong seeks to meet with Prez to present facts in Lakhimpur case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid the political row triggered by Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the Congress has sought an appointment with President Ram Nath Kovind for a seven-member party delegation led by Rahul Gandhi to present a detailed 'memorandum of facts'.

In a letter dated October 9, the Congress requested the President of India to grant time for the delegation comprising Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Other members of the delegation include senior party leaders A.K. Antony, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Adhir Ranjan Choudhury and party general secretary K.C. Venugopal.

"The shocking incident of broad day massacre of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh has shaken the conscience of the entire nation. Even more tragic are the open warnings given by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Mishra Teni and consequent trampling



of farmers under a Thar Jeep owned by the Minister and his family", the letter read. Farmers, who were eye witnesses have openly stated that they were run over by vehicle being driven by the son of the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, the letter alleged.

Despite all round protests and intervention of the Supreme Court, no decisive action has been taken either against the guilty or against the Minister, it said.

Ashish Mishra, son of Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra, has been named in the FIR lodged by the

Uttar Pradesh Police in the violence at Tikonia last Sunday (October 3) for allegedly mowing down farmers who were going to protest against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the Union Minister's ancestral village for a function.

However, the Minister and his son have categorically denied any involvement in this incident and he claimed that his son was not present at the site of the incident.

A total of nine persons, including a local journalist and four farmers, were killed in the incident.

## Modi to visit UP twice this month

Lucknow | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Uttar Pradesh twice this month.

The Prime Minister, according to official sources, will visit Kushinagar on October 20 to inaugurate an international airport and he is likely to visit his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi on October 25. Sources said the Prime Minister's programme was being chalked out and the schedule for the first visit was almost final.

According to officials, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the Kushinagar international airport which will give a boost to tourism, especially in the Buddhist circuit, as Kushinagar is the place where Lord Buddha breathed his last. The first flight to the international airport is likely



to arrive from Sri Lanka, which has a huge population of Buddhists. The flight is likely to carry the President of Sri Lanka, other delegates and Buddhist pilgrims, a senior government official said.

Several Buddhist temples and guest houses have been built around the main temple, also known as Mahaparinirvana Sthal.

PM Modi will also lay the foundation of a medical college in Kushinagar. On October 25, the Prime Minister is expected to launch an all-India scheme related to health infrastructure from Varanasi.

## Nod to export of 40 lakh India-made MLAs, ministers threat to boycott Puducherry local polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India has allowed export of around 40 lakh doses of domestically-manufactured coronavirus vaccine 'Sputnik Light' to Russia, sources said on Sunday.

Sputnik Light - the single-dose Covid-19 vaccine variant of Russia's Sputnik - has not yet been approved for emergency use in India.

Hetero Dr Reddy's Laboratories, the Indian partner of Russian sovereign wealth fund RDIF, markets the Sputnik range of vaccines globally. There were various view points among Indian experts about the single-dose vaccine's efficacy on Indians. In September, the Drugs Controller General of India had granted permission for the conducting Phase 3 bridg-



ing trials of Sputnik Light on the Indian population. The nod comes after a recent study published in the medical journal The Lancet said that Sputnik Light showed 78.6 to 83.7 per cent efficacy against Covid-19, significantly higher than most two-shot vaccines. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's Subject Expert Committee had, in July, denied grant of emergency use authorisation to Sputnik Light, stressing need to Phase 3 trial of the Russian vaccine in the country.

## Two more detained in Lakhimpur Kheri violence

Lakhimpur Kheri | Agencies

The Lakhimpur Kheri police has detained the driver of Ankit Das, the nephew of former Congress MP late Akhilesh Das, in connection with the death of four farmers who were mowed down by a vehicle belonging to Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra Teni. He was reportedly driving the vehicle in the convoy, which was just behind Mishra's SUV. The driver is also accused of helping Ankit Das escape

from the spot.

Meanwhile, another aide of Mishra, said to be present at the scene of crime, was also detained. Senior police officers did not disclose the names of the accused saying they had not been arrested and are being questioned.

Ankit's uncle Akhilesh Das was a Congress MP and the national general secretary of BSP. He passed away in 2017.

Ankit was said to be a close associate of Ashish Mishra and his father. An official said the name of Ankit Das surfaced after a video went viral

a day after the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri. In the video, a man, having injuries on his head, is seen claiming that he was in the second SUV with Das.

A policeman is also spotted in the video who is holding a microphone and asking the injured man about the incident. He tells cops that the vehicle belonged to Ankit Das. The injured man is heard telling cops that he lives in Charbagh area in Lucknow and had accompanied Ankit Das to Kheri for work.

Srinagar | Agencies

The conspiracy between a taxi driver's killing in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district on October 5, amid a spate of targeted killings the same day, has been unearthed, police said on Sunday.

Mohammad Shafi Lone, who was killed by terrorists on October 5, was the third civilian killed by the terrorists on that day.

Earlier, prominent pharmacy owner, M.L. Bindroo and a non-local street vendor were killed by

the terrorists on the same day. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the killing was done on the behest of Pakistan-based TRF handler, and the Bandipora police has busted an LeT (TRF) module by arresting four militant associates involved in the killing of Lone, a resident of Naidkhain in Bandipora.

"The killing was carried out at the behest and instruction of LeT (TRF) handler Lala Umar, a resident of Pakistan. To carry out the nefarious design, a conspiracy was hatched by an LeT (TRF) module

of Shahgund, Hajin area in Bandipora," he said. The IGP said that the "module carried out a thorough recce of the target and all his movements were closely watched". "On the fateful evening, one of the OGWs who was known to the victim, called the victim for a meeting at Gundboon. "At the said place, a detailed ambush/trap had been laid by the other members of the module. Once the victim reached the spot, he was swiftly assassinated," he said. e further said that a special team of Bandipora police was entrusted

with the investigation of the case and after thorough human and technical corroboration, the module was busted and four OGWs arrested.

The arrested OGWs have been identified as Tariq Ahmed Dar alias Tarik Khoucha, Muhammad Shafi Dar, Mudasir Hassan Lone, and Bilal Ahmad Dar alias Saba Khoucha.

The IGP said another OGWs involved in the shooting identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar alias Kotru is absconding and has joined the militant ranks.

## Conspiracy behind J&K taxi driver's killing unearthed, 4 militant associates arrested

Srinagar | Agencies

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## Panchjanya now slams churches, priests over 'misdeeds'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

RSS-linked magazine "Panchjanya", in its latest edition, has targeted the Christian church and priests over the widespread allegations of sexual exploitation.

The magazine, that would hit the stands on October 17, has, in the cover story, dwelt on the complaints of sexual exploitation of children and nuns across the world, and demanded an investigation into those allegations in India also.

Citing the instance of France, the magazine said over 3 lakh children were exploited between 1950-2020, and around 3,000 priests were named as accused. Panchjanya mentioned that an independent enquiry committee set up in 2018 came across those details during its probe.

It also termed Pope Francis' apology in 2019 over these complaints and incidents a "formality under pressure", noting that despite it, episodes of similar nature have not seen any downward trend. It also cited complaints and incidents of sexual exploitation reported from various parts of India, underlining that the people of the country have been seeking probe against the church and priests. Claiming that such incidents are on the rise in India too, it referred to several incidents in Jharkhand and Kerala, besides the rape of a woman in Missionary College, Chennai, and of a nun from Kerala.

The Panchjanya had been in the news for its previous issues attacking Infosys and its leader N.R. Narayana Murthy over the glitches in the income tax portal, and then Amazon and its chief, Jeff Bezos, calling the global e-commerce giant "East India Company 2.0".

## Delhi Police on high alert to counter any threat: Top Official

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As India celebrates the festive season with traditional gaiety and enthusiasm, the police in the national capital are on their toes to prevent any untoward incident. "During the festive season, there is a high footfall of people in the markets, temples, and commercial places. This rush of people can be used by anti-national elements having nefarious designs to carry out terror attacks in such places," a top official told IANS.

Owing to this, Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana took a crime review meeting on Saturday with senior officials and issued directions to enhance their vigil during these

days.

"On such occasions (festival season), Delhi Police raises its alert. We increase our visibility, presence, and checking to counter any threat," the senior police official said.

He informed that the Delhi Police has activated its community policing like 'Eyes and Ears' so that locals inform the police personnel about any anti-social element in their area.

In the crime review meeting of the Delhi Police chief, it was also discussed as to how to prevent terrorists or anti-national elements from taking the help of local gangsters. The police official said they have made strict security arrangements keeping in view the ongoing nationwide cele-

brations. "The safety of the people is our topmost priority. The police personnel have been deployed on roads & streets to intensify patrolling and checking at pickets for area dominance," the official said.

The policemen could be seen, throughout the day and night, patrolling in different areas of the city. "Threat or no threat, we have to be always ready," another official told IANS.

Navratri, which marks the beginning of the festive season began on Thursday after which people, though less in numbers this time, began thronging the local markets and temples. "Due to the huge rush of people, there is always a possibility



## MAHARASHTRA CALLS BANDH TO SUPPORT FARMERS; TRADERS' BODY SAYS WON'T JOIN

The traders' union in a statement today said they are only limping back to business after intermittent lockdowns amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the bandh would hit their earnings

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

A union of traders in Maharashtra has objected to the state government calling a bandh tomorrow in protest against last week's violence in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri where four farmers were among eight people killed.

The traders' union in a statement today said they are only limping back to business after intermittent lockdowns amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the bandh would hit their earnings.

The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government comprising the Shiv Sena, Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party or NCP is supporting the bandh. In fact, the state government itself announced the bandh at a joint press conference of the three parties.

"I request 12 crore people of Maharashtra to support the farmers. Support means all of you join the bandh and stop your work for a day," Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik told reporters.

The state government said everything will be closed except for

essential services.

The Federation of Retail Traders' Welfare Association or FRTWA, however, said it does not support the bandh. "We oppose the killing of farmers in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri. Whoever was responsible for the killings should be punished. But FRTWA does not support any bandh called by the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government," the traders' group chief Viren Shah said in a video statement.

"We have suffered huge losses for the past 18 months due to lockdown. Our business is slowly pick-

ing up. In middle of the festival season when customers have started coming out to shop, let us do our business peacefully. We appeal to the government to allow retail businesses to remain open. We hope that shopkeepers are not harassed or forced to remain shut," Mr Shah said today.

Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra had been named in a police case filed by farmers who said he drove into a gathering of slogan-shouting demonstrators amid a peaceful black-flag protest last Sunday.

## Maharashtra to face power outages if coal shortage increases

**MahaVitaran urges consumers to use minimum electricity during peak hours**

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

**M**aharashtra may face power outages as due to shortage of coal, 13 thermal power generation plants supplying power to the state power distribution company MahaVitaran have been shut down. As a result, 3330 MW power supply has been cut off. Efforts are being made to provide power supply from hydropower and other sources along with immediate procurement to fill the power gap. MahaVitaran sources said that it is making

strenuous efforts to prevent load shedding in the state and has appealed to consumers for minimum use of electricity during peak hours 6 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 10 pm in a serious bid to balance the demand and the availability of power. MahaVitaran has further said that reduction in power consumption during the peak period will reduce the gap between demand and availability and there will be no need for load shedding.

Maharashtra daily needs 1,49,000 metric tonnes of coal for power generation plants to run at 85% capacity but now getting less than 70,000 metric tonnes. MahaGenco's seven coal-based power generation plants have a coal stock ranging between 0.72 day and 1.62 days. The MahaVitaran is forced to pro-

cure power at the highest cost which has shot up to more than Rs 20 per unit.

MahaVitaran has procured 700 MW of electricity from the open market at Rs 13.60 per unit and this morning, 900 MW of electricity was purchased at Rs 6.23 per unit through real time transactions. In addition, electricity is being supplied through MahaGenco's Koyana Dam as well as other small hydropower plants and non-conventional energy sources.

The rising coal shortage due to drastic fall in its supply is coupled with the increasing demand for electricity because of a surge in temperatures in the state. On Saturday (October 9), the MahaVitaran supplied 1,289 mw in the state excluding Mumbai as per the demand for electricity.

## Rains to continue over Maharashtra

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

**S**outhwest Monsoon has already withdrawn from many parts of Gujarat but Maharashtra is still waiting for the withdrawal of Southwest monsoon.

Rainfall between June 01 and September 30 for which monsoon rains are calculated, ended with the surplus of 24% for Saurashtra and Kutch whereas Gujarat region recorded normal rainfall with the deficiency of 15%. Konkan and Goa was surplus by 24%, Madhya Maharashtra by 16%, Marathwada remained large surplus by 48% and Vidarbha recorded near normal rainfall with 3% of surplus. Although monsoon has ended officially, but Monsoon withdrawal is still pending from southern parts of Gujarat and entire Maharashtra. During last 24 hours, heavy rain was recorded over Southern districts of Gujarat such as Valsad and light rain over many other districts. Many parts of Maharashtra recorded good rain and thunder shower activities as well.

Southern districts of Gujarat may receive light rain with one or two moderate spells for



another 48 hours. Southern districts of Gujarat such as Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch, Narmada, Bhavnagar, Gir Somnath and Amreli may receive scattered rain. Light to moderate rain with one or two heavy spells are possible over Konkan and Goa south Madhya Maharashtra and isolated pockets of Marathwada for another 24 to 48 hours. Thereafter, rain activities will reduce significantly over Maharashtra as well. Monsoon withdrawal from most parts of Gujarat and many parts of Maharashtra by October 12.

**T**eam Absolute | Mumbai  
A war over credit for the new airport developed at Chipli in Sindhudurg district broke out between chief minister Uddhav Thackeray of the Shiv Sena and union minister Narayan Rane of the BJP on the inauguration stage on Saturday.

Rane, who spoke first, listed out the work he had done for the coastal district since the 1990s. "Infrastructure in the district is due to Narayan Rane, no one can come close to it. When Sunil Prabhu and I had come to do bhoopujan of the airport project in 2009, there were many who were protesting against it. These were the same people who stall road projects and stand in front of contractors every month and some of those people are sitting on stage together," Rane said. He also went back to his days in the Shiv Sena and spoke about the qualities of Thackeray's father. "Balasaheb Thackeray sent me to Sindhudurg in the 90s. Saheb did not like people who lied," he said.

**T**eam Absolute | Mumbai  
It was for the first time that Rane and Thackeray shared the stage after the former chief minister's arrest in August following comments against the incumbent chief minister. Thackeray, when it was his turn to speak, told a jibe at Rane saying that the people of Konkan knew who had done what and that is why they had stood by the Shiv Sena for so many years. "Sindhudurg fort was built by [Chhatrapati Shivaji] Maharaj, but someone here will say he built it. And yes, Balasaheb did not like people who lied and so he had thrown out many such people," Thackeray said. Thackeray said that while it was an important day for the development of the Konkan, some people had a habit of politicising every issue. "Just like



we put a black tikka to ward off evil during auspicious occasions, there are some people who say such things," the chief minister said.

The inauguration event was attended virtually by union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

During his address, Rane said development projects had been stalled. "What developmental are they talking about? Where is the development? All the dam works are stalled. Even this airport doesn't have electricity and water and the road, too, hasn't been completed," he said.

Since Rane's exit from the Shiv Sena in 2005, for which he has always blamed Thackeray, the two have been at loggerheads. Thackeray said the development and growth of Konkan will be accomplished under the current government. "You [Rane] are a minister. So what if it is micro and small? It is an important portfolio and we hope you will use it to benefit Maharashtra," he said. A total of 934 hectares of land was acquired for the Chipli airport project, which hopes to put the different Konkan districts on the world map of tourism.

### Mumbai cruise raid:

## BJP leader threatens to file defamation case against for alleging kin's involvement

**While addressing a press conference, Nawab Malik had alleged that there exists a connection between the Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai unit and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders.**

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

**B**haratiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Mohit Kamboj on Saturday said that he will file a Rs 100 crore defamation case against Nationalist Congress Party

(NCP) leader Nawab Malik, for alleging the former's brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdeva's involvement in the drugs-on-crucifix case.

While addressing a press conference earlier today, Malik had alleged that there exists a connection between the Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai unit and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders. "We think there might have been some talk between Sameer Wankhede and BJP leaders," Malik said. "After the raid on a cruise ship off Mumbai coast, NCB's Sameer Wankhede had said that 8-10 people were detained. But the truth is that 11 people were detained. Later, three people including

Rishabh Sachdeva, Prateek Gaba and Amir Furniturewala were released," claimed Malik, who is also a minister in Maharashtra. Condemning the allegations, Kamboj said that Malik is misusing his powers to defame his family. "Such people should be dismissed from ministers' posts," said the BJP leader. Calling Malik a "Kachra king", Kamboj said that he will meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari in connection with the false allegations. "I will file a Rs 100 crore defamation suit against Nawab Malik," said Kamboj. The BJP leader further clarified that NCB had taken his brother-in-law Rishabh Sachdeva as he was in the same queue as Aryan Khan when NCB was

checking them and later all of them were taken to the NCB office.

"After questioning and complete checking, NCB had got clarity that my brother-in-law did not have any involvement in the case. Thereafter, he was released," he said. "My brother-in-law has no connection with Aryan Khan," added Kamboj.

Earlier, an NCB team busted an alleged drugs party on a cruise ship that was on its way to Goa at mid-sea on October 2 night. A total of 18 people, including Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, have been arrested in the case related to the seizure of drugs following a raid at a party on a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast.

## Two more arrested in Pushpak Express robbery and rape case

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

**T**he Kalyan Government Railway Police (GRP) arrested two more accused in connection with the Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express train robbery and rape case.

Some of the accused even sexually abused a 20-year-old woman. The accused had also beaten up the woman's husband and another passenger who protested the accused act. He was also pushed out of the train. However, the train was moving at a slow speed as one of the passengers in the coach pulled the chain.

one more accused who is on run. On Friday evening, the accused boarded Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express train at Igatpuri railway station and robbed 15 passengers with knives, belts and blades.

Some of the accused even sexually abused a 20-year-old woman. The accused had also beaten up the woman's husband and another passenger who protested the accused act. He was also pushed out of the train. However, the train was moving at a slow speed as one of the passengers in the coach pulled the chain.

## Drug supplier sent in one-day NCB custody

**The Special Public Prosecutor told the court that Harijan supplied drugs to Arbaaz Merchant, an accused in the Mumbai cruise drug haul case.**

**Team Absolute | Mumbai**

**A**n alleged drug supplier was remanded in the custody of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) till Monday (October 11) by a Holiday Magistrate Court in Mumbai on Sunday.

The accused, Shrivraj Ramdas Harijan (33), is a resident of Murugan Chawl in Santacruz (West). He was arrested at 7:45 pm on Saturday.

Earlier, Special Public Prosecutor Advait Sethna told the magistrate, SD Kamat, that 62 grams of "dark brown sticky substance purported to be charas" was seized from Harijan and the NCB required his custody for further interrogation.

Sethna told the court that Harijan supplied drugs to Arbaaz Merchant, an accused in the Mumbai cruise drug haul case. The NCB in its remand application stated that the initial probe revealed that

Harijan has vital links in the supply chain of contraband and, therefore, his role and involvement needed to be investigated through custodial interrogation. The application stated, "It has been revealed from the disclosure made by the accused person that he is a part of charas trafficking/peddling network. Some main suspects, whose details and role have been disclosed by him... are to be identified. The NCB sought a one-day custody of the accused by claiming that the

"Investigation in this case is at preliminary stage and the names and nexus revealed by the accused person are to be verified and corroborated."

However, Harijan's lawyer, Sandeep Sherkhane, opposed the remand plea and said that there was no link between his client and Merchant and, therefore, he should not be sent to NCB custody. Sherkhane claimed that Harijan has been falsely implicated in the Mumbai cruise drug haul case.

## Offices can work at full capacity, Pune Colleges, training institutes to reopen on Tuesday

**In a revised notification, the PMC's additional commissioner Ravindra Binwade has stated that all colleges, coaching classes and training institutes will reopen from 12 October**

**Team Absolute | Pune**

**T**he administration in Maharashtra's Pune city has postponed the reopening of colleges, training institutes and coaching classes by a day, an official said on Saturday.

Earlier, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) had on Friday issued an order that colleges will reopen for offline classes from Monday with only those students and staffers who have taken both doses of the coronavirus vaccine.

In a revised notification, the PMC's additional commissioner Ravindra Binwade has stated that all colleges, coaching classes and training institutes will reopen from 12 October.

The civic body has decided to postpone the reopening by a day to give colleges and training institutes time to sanitise their premises and make arrangements in keeping with the coronavirus protocols.

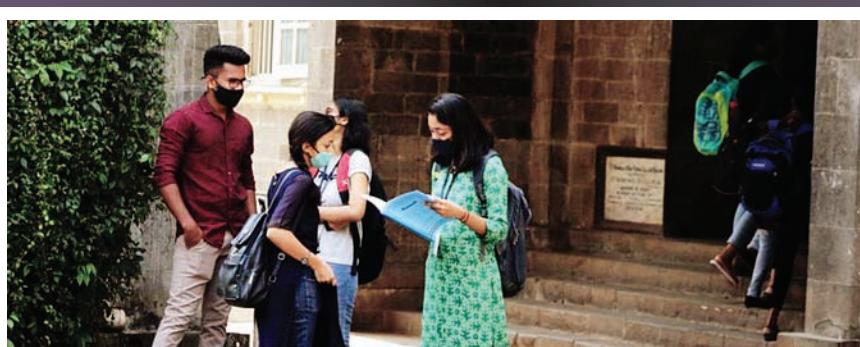
Notably, the notification for reopening of the classes was issued on deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's announcement on a host of further relaxations for Pune district at the review meeting on Friday. The government has not made a state-wide declaration on reopening of colleges as yet. Pune municipal commissioner Vikram Kumar's order also allowed private offices to operate at full capacity, and included an extension of the operating deadline till 11 pm for restaurants, food courts and bars throughout the week with food delivery services till midnight. Coaching classes can function at 50% capacity.

According to the notification which cov-

ers areas under the Khadki and Pune Cantonment boards, the order for restaurants, food courts and bars comes into effect from Friday till further notice. Pawar said that students who have received both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine, and fully vaccinated staff members can start attending college in-person from Monday. "All these institutions have to follow strict Covid-19 protocols," he added.

Students who have taken a single jab will not be allowed, and those arriving in Pune to attend college will have to show a negative RT-PCR test before entering the campuses.

"This is also the view taken by the admin-



istration of the colleges and universities with whom we consulted," Pawar said. Pune district has registered the second highest vaccination numbers in the state and is first among fully vaccinated states, the deputy chief minister said.

"The district's weekly positivity rate has dipped to 3.01% with PMC registering 2.5%, PCMC at 2.3% and Pune rural at 3.6%.

"So, we have decided to reopen colleges with full precautions," he added. Tourist spots will also open from Monday, the deputy chief minister said.

Vice-chancellor of Savitribai Phule Pune University said they will wait for the official communication before deciding on the course of reopening the university for students.

Pawar said they would urge the central government to reduce the duration between two vaccine doses. "In the beginning, the gap was 21 and 28 days, now it is 84 days between two doses. Considering the availability of vaccines now, the duration can be reduced. But it is up to the central government to decide," he added. The request would be discussed with chief minister and then put up to the Centre, the deputy chief minister further said.

Prashant Girbane, director-general of Mahratta Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture said that the deputy chief minister's announcement on more relaxations will speed up economic recovery, but citizens and businesses.

## EDITOR'S SPECS

**BJP workers waiting their leaders in Lakhimpur**

While the entire focus of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident has been on the farmers who were allegedly trampled to death on October 3, there seems to be no takers for the families of BJP workers who were allegedly killed in the violence later. The families of two local BJP workers who died in the violence, said that no senior party leader has come to visit them yet. Shyam Sundar, 32, was the booth in-charge for BJP at Singha Kalan village. He was also entrusted the responsibility of mobilizing Dalits in favour of the party. According to his father Balak Ram, He would participate in every BJP event in the area. He was loyal to the party. Even on October 3, he had left early to attend the wrestling match organized by union minister Ajay Mishra Teni. A video of Shyam, pleading for mercy on being beaten up by farmers after the convoy of cars ran over protesters, was shared widely. Farmer leaders, meanwhile, have maintained that they caught and handed over Shyam Sundar to the police alive. Family members are not sure about what actually happened but it would mean a lot if party leaders tried to help them get justice. No one has reached out yet. Shubham Mishra, the other BJP worker who died at 29, was also a booth in-charge of BJP. He was married three years ago and has a year-old daughter. Vijay Mishra, Shubham's father, a businessman, said, "He would actively participate in BJP's programmes but not one senior BJP leader has visited us and no one has fought for us." The two families, however, have been given the compensation of Rs 45 lakh by the state government. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that she wanted to visit the families of BJP workers who had died in the violence but was stopped from going there by the local police.

**G.S. Wadhwa**

**I**t is the responsibility of every state government to provide basic facilities to the people of the state, which is also their right. Shivraj government of Madhya Pradesh has proved itself in fulfilling all these obligations. Madhya Pradesh has its own identity in caring for every section and helping them on time and giving benefits of schemes.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also praised Madhya Pradesh and said that Madhya Pradesh, which was once considered in the category of BIMARU state, has today come under the category of developed state under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. In the programme of distribution of rights records to the villagers under the Swamitva Yojana in Madhya Pradesh, Prime Minister Modi again praised Madhya Pradesh and said that MP is amazing and also the pride of the country. Here the urge for development is seen. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the schemes are being implemented day and night in a better way in the interest of the people of the state. Every time when I see this I feel very happy. Madhya Pradesh is playing a leading role in the implementation of many schemes of the Central Government in the country.

Continuous work is being done in Madhya Pradesh for the welfare of the people. The basic concept of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also public welfare and good governance. The Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan, which was run from 17 September to 7 October 2021, has also been important in this direction. In this campaign which lasted for 21 consecutive days, many programmes were conducted for the welfare of farmers, labourers, women, destitute and poor sections along with giving the gifts with the distribution of benefits to the beneficiaries. In a sense, during this period, the Ganges of all-round development was flowing.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan believes that the people of Madhya Pradesh are my God and I am their valet. Being the Chief Minister, I have a commitment to the people that by helping every section of the society, I should maintain their honour and respect. For this, our government has left no stone unturned in increasing those basic facilities which are directly related to the well-being of the people, along with education, health, employment, housing, ration, sports. New technology is also being used with complete transparency for the citizens to provide the benefits of government services easily. For the convenience of the citizens, an online system has been developed in all the departments, so that now necessary information and services can be obtained sitting at home.

Realising the problems of the common people, Chief Minister Chouhan took decisions in public interest and made policies and schemes and implemented them successfully at the field level. With new innovations in every field, the unique experiments of the Shivraj government, which is following the basic mantra of public interest, are also being seen by other states and are being implemented in their state. Ladli Laxmi Yojana started by Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh



## MP CM inaugurates 29 power sub-stations under 'Jankalyan and Suraj Abhiyan Yojana'

has become an imitable example in the whole country. Recently, the model of public participation adopted to combat the corona infection also aroused the curiosity of other states. The work done by the district, block, village and ward level Crisis Management Committees to ensure public participation has led to a great deal of success in controlling the corona. The unique programme of distributing ration in a single day to all the poor families of the state has also attracted the attention of other states. Food ministers of other states also came to Madhya Pradesh to see this arrangement. Madhya Pradesh has also played a leading role in the Swamitva Yojana of the Central Government started for the people living in rural areas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself praised for better implementation in country. Shivraj government has become the support of the farmers of the state. By giving all possible support to the farmers, it has never shied away from increasing their produce and helping them financially. Taking forward the farmer welfare scheme of the Central Government, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi during the Corona period to provide assistance of Rs. 4 thousand per year to farmers which became a blessing for farmers. Madhya Pradesh has become the leader in the country by overtaking Punjab in wheat production only with the cooperation received by the farmers from the state government.

It was the thinking of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan that from 17th September to 7th October, by running Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan, the development plans should be taken among the people on different days and also public welfare works should be done. During the 21 days of the campaign, while there was a competition to implement the development works, a large number of benefits were distributed in

the beneficiary oriented schemes of the state. Along with this, public utility portals were launched in various departments by adopting modern technology to make citizens get a feeling of good governance and security. Through these portals, public and civil services will be provided within a certain limit without wasting time, without hassle, without charging anything.

Chief Minister reached among the public to know the ground reality. During the campaign, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also undertook Jan Darshan in various districts to know about the schemes being run by the state government in public interest and the working style of field officers and employees. During the Jan Darshan, he met the villagers, knew about their problems and took applications from them related to their problems and needs. After learning the reality of the complaints received during this period, the Chief Minister took disciplinary action against the negligent officers. The negligent officers were suspended on the spot and orders were given to investigate the cases. The on-the-spot action of Chief Minister Chouhan also made the rural people get a feeling of good governance. In the Jan Darshan, Chief Minister Chouhan gave gifts of development works to the local people. He said that even if the economic condition of the state was not good, no shortfall would be allowed in the development and implementation of the schemes. Overall, Jan-Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan proved to be auspicious for the development of the state and for the progress and prosperity of the citizens.

## international

# MAVERICK FATHER OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR BOMB, AQ KHAN PASSES AWAY

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, who considered the father of his country's nuclear weapon programme, and a self-confessed proliferator, who passed nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea, died due to lung problems on Sunday, his family said. He was 85.

Khan's health condition started deteriorating on Saturday night, after which he was rushed to the Khan Research Laboratories Hospital in Islamabad, according to his family members.

In August, he was admitted to the same hospital after testing positive for Covid-19 and was discharged after recovery.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his condolences to Khan's family, saying on Twitter that he was loved by the nation because of "his critical contribution in making Pakistan a nuclear weapon state".

"For the people of Pakistan he was a national icon," he said.

Pakistani President Arif Alvi said in a tweet that the nuclear scientist has helped Pakistan "develop nation-saving nuclear deterrence, and a grateful



nation will never forget his services in this regard". However, the most of the world saw him differ-

ently. After training and working in metallurgical sciences in western Europe, Khan set up the Khan Research Laboratories in 1976 to pioneer his country's nuclear programme - set up to counter neighbouring India, which had tested a nuclear device in 1974. His work was mainly on centrifuges required to purify the uranium.

However, his maverick tendencies made him a bad team player, and his quest for publicity also worked against him. Khan, who was already in the cross-hairs following the Dutch government's accusations of stealing centrifuge designs, began transferring information to both North Korea and Iran from the late 1980s. As Pakistan faced sanctions after testing a nuclear device in 1998, his role came under further scrutiny and in 2003, the US handed over a dossier of his proliferation activities to the then Pervez Musharraf government.

On February 4, 2004, a tearful Khan appeared on national television to confess his proliferation activities and seek the nation's apologies. He was pardoned by President Musharraf the very next day, but placed under house arrest. In 2009, he successfully moved court to have the restriction withdrawn.

The visit of the Iranian official comes

Baghdad | Agencies

Millions of Iraqis headed to cast their ballots on Sunday to elect a new Parliament amid hopes that it could solve the country's long-standing crisis.

Voters lined up to cast their ballots at 8,273 polling centres across Iraq, which opened their doors at 7 am, reports Xinhua news agency.

Voting will end at 6 p.m. and according to the country's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), the results are expected to be announced in the next 24 hours.

Noting that the elections are the first carried out without imposing a curfew, as the security situation in the country has improved, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi praised the elections as an important achievement, and called on Iraqis to participate in the polls to further change the country's situation themselves. "I prefer to be the first voter to cast my ballot, and all of us have to work to bring about the change, and this is an opportunity to achieve that," he told reporters in the first minutes of the voting at a polling centre in a Baghdad school. President Barham Salih cast his vote at a polling centre



inside the Royal Tulip Al Rasheed Baghdad Hotel in the heavily fortified Green Zone in central Baghdad.

"This is a memorable day because early elections are a popular demand and an opportunity for Iraq to move towards reform," Salih told reporters. The Iraqi parliamentary elections, originally scheduled for 2022, were advanced in response to months of protests against corruption and a lack of public services. According to the electoral commission, about 24 million Iraqis are eligible to cast their ballots for 3,249 candidates, running individually and within 167 parties and coalitions, vying for 329 seats in the legislature.

## TAIWAN SAYS IT WON'T BOW TO PRESSURE FROM CHINA

Taipei: Taiwan will not bow to pressure from China and will continue its democratic way of life, as tensions over the island continue, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Sunday.

"The more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China," the BBC quoted Tsai as saying. Her speech on Taiwan's National Day came after China's President Xi Jinping vowed to "fulfil reunification". Taiwan considers itself a sovereign state, while China views it as a breakaway province. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to achieve unification, the BBC report said. China has sent a record number of military jets into Taiwan's air defence zone in recent days. Some analysts said the flights could be seen as a warning to Taiwan's president. Tsai said Taiwan was "standing on democracy's first line of defence". The island could not be forced to take "the path China has laid out for us", which she said did not offer freedom, democracy or sovereignty. China's military flights into Taiwan's air defence zone had seriously affected national security and aviation safety, she said, and the situation was "more complex and fluid than at any other point in the past 72 years". Taiwan would not "act rashly" but would bolster its defences, she said. She repeated an offer to talk with Chinese leaders on an equal footing, a suggestion Beijing, which brands her a "separatist", has so far rejected, the report said. Tsai was re-elected by a landslide last year on a promise to stand up to Beijing.

Her speech was followed by a fly past of Taiwanese fighter jets.



## Iranian FM visits Syria for 'comprehensive developments' of ties

Damascus | Agencies

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian is on a visit to Syria to discuss about the "comprehensive developments" in the bilateral relations between Tehran and Damascus, according to the state news agency SANA.

Addressing the media jointly with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad here upon his arrival on Saturday, Abdollahian said that over the past few weeks, Syria and Iran have reached "important agreements" for achieving comprehensive development in the relations in all fields, reports Xinhua news agency.

He said both sides are putting forward "intensive programs" to implement cooperation in the economic, trade, and tourism fields.

"Syria is on the path of progress and prosperity," he said, stressing his country's ongoing support to Damascus.

On his part, Mekdad described the visit of the Iranian official as "important", noting that there are "important developments" that will be discussed between both sides for the interests of both peoples.

Before Damascus, Abdollahian visit-



ed Russia and Lebanon and held talks with Russian and Lebanese officials on various international and bilateral issues. Mekdad noted that he and Abdollahian will discuss the outcome of the latter's visits to Russia and Lebanon. The visit of the Iranian official comes

after Mekdad pointed out recently that there is a change in the international political atmosphere towards the Syrian issue, noting that during the recent UN General Assembly meetings, several countries wanted to meet with the Syrian government delegation.

## COALITION NARROWLY WINS CZECH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Prague: The centre-right coalition Together (SPOl) narrowly won the parliamentary election in the Czech Republic, according to the preliminary results released by the Czech Statistical Office. The coalition, formed by three parties -- Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the Christian Democrats (KDU-CSL) and TOP 09 -- won 27.78 per cent of the vote on Saturday after almost all voting districts have reported results, reports Xinhua news agency.

The ruling ANO party led by Prime Minister Andrej Babis came second with 27.13 per cent.

The coalition of Pirates and Mayors took about 15.6 per cent of the vote. Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) also made its way to the Chamber of Deputies, or the lower house of Parliament, with 9.56 per cent of the vote.

Neither the Czech Social Democratic Party (CSSD), the junior party in the current government, nor the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) made it above the five percent threshold to win seats.

It is unclear how a viable government will form since the former government, composed of ANO, CSSD, with support from KSCM, lost its majority. Parties will now have to negotiate to form a government.

The election started on Friday and ended at 2 p.m. on Saturday. This year, 5,242 candidates, nominated by 22 entities, competed for 200 seats in the Chamber of Deputies. The election is significant as the Chamber of Deputies is the house from which the government is formed, and the house with the largest say in proposing and debating legislation.



## FACED THE CORONA CRISIS WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE PUBLIC: CM

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that with the cooperation of the people, we have faced the Corona crisis. Be it oxygen supply or the provision of medicines and injections, we have successfully faced the most difficult situations with public cooperation. Chouhan while expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that at the time of shortage of oxygen, he continued the supply of oxygen in the state by running oxygen rail and transporting empty oxygen tankers by Air Force planes.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that many families have lost their heads in the crisis of Corona. The state government has made every effort to help such families. Government employees have been given compassionate appointments. Arrangements have also been made for the necessary financial assistance and education etc of the children who became orphan.

Chouhan was dedicating inaugurating the oxygen plant set up with public cooperation at Begumganj Civil Hospital in Raisen district from his residence. The oxygen plant installed at the Civil Hospital, Begumganj in Raisen district has a



capacity of 100 LPM. Through this, uninterrupted supply of oxygen in 15 beds will be possible. The cost of the oxygen plant is around Rs. 29 lakh. For this, 165 donors have provided support. Chouhan expressed gratitude to the donors for the initiative of setting up oxygen plant in Begumganj with public cooperation. Chief Minister said that the donors have provided the basis to give life to the people. Chief Minister said that so far 163 oxygen plants have been set up in the state, which has ensured the production of 182 metric tonnes of oxygen. Now in the event of the arrival of the third wave

of corona, we will not have to wander anywhere for oxygen. Chouhan said that the state has been able to control the infection of corona virus on the basis of the activism of disaster management committees and people-participation model. We still have to continue to be careful. Chief Minister expressed gratitude to PM Modi for providing free vaccine. Chouhan said that it is necessary to ensure that no person is deprived of the vaccine. Those who have got the first vaccine, they must get the second vaccine in time. Along with this, constant adherence to corona friendly behaviour is also necessary.

- It is still necessary to be careful - do not be negligent
- Donors gave people the base of life by establishing oxygen plant
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan virtually dedicated Oxygen Plant set up in Begumganj with public cooperation

Chouhan said that the economy has been badly affected by Corona. The condition of factories and trade was bad. Only activities related to agriculture continued. Despite this difficult phase, the state government has not allowed any reduction in the works of public welfare and development. Sambal Yojana has been restarted in the state. Be it depositing the fees of meritorious students or marriage of daughters or providing water from door-to-door by tap in Jal Jeevan Mission, all the activities of development and public welfare were continued and are still going on.

E-content is being prepared for first year courses

## More than one thousand modules will be ready by November 10

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav has said that e-content of 17 main subjects of all faculties is being prepared in the first phase for the first year courses under the National Education Policy in the state. He said that there is an action plan to prepare more than one thousand e-content models by November 10. The target is to ready e-content of about 1500 modules for the first year. In the second phase, content on some other subjects will also be prepared. Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh will probably be the first state in the country to provide e-content on the basis of National Education Policy 2020.

The Higher Education Minister said that apart

from course books, e-material would also be available to the students for studies in the colleges of the state. All efforts are being made to provide quality education through online medium. Yadav said that the contents being prepared will be available for video lectures, e-texts, assessment questions and references to other subject contents as per the rules of the University Grants Commission. It is noteworthy that this work is being done free of cost by the regular teachers, guest scholars of government, non-government universities and colleges of the state. Applications were received from about 1400 teachers for this work. A 6-day faculty development programme was organised for these teachers in seven batches. In this, a total of 1056 teachers were issued certificates

on successful completion of FDP.

Various selected teachers have been entrusted with the task of preparing content of 17 subjects Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Sanskrit, English Literature, Foundation Course, Political Science, Geography, Economics, Sociology, History, Geology, Hindi, Commerce, Textile and Clothing courses by making module wise division. Due to fewer numbers of teachers in the remaining subjects, applications will be invited again. Apart from this, e-content is being prepared for optional subjects along with main and other subjects. E-content will also be prepared for vocational subjects courses as and when they become available.

## Home Minister gave instructions to solve the problem in night chaupal



Team Absolute | Bhopal

We will not be able to move forward until development is done in every field, Home Minister Narottam Mishra while addressing the villagers at village Madgwan Ratri Chaupal said that we all want to develop each and every village. He said that as per the instructions of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, it is being ensured that the benefits of all the welfare schemes being run by the government reach the last person.

Mishra sought suggestions from the villagers for village development in Chaupal. Naval of the village told that

when the water in the canal stops, then the canal gets filled with soil, which should be rectified. Umesh Dubey apprised about the problem of electricity in the village and the problem of boundary of the temple. The Home Minister directed the officers present in the Chaupal to immediately install two DPs in the village and start the process of construction of boundary walls. Mishra provided financial assistance of Rs.4 lakh to the parents, Anita- Rammivas Vanshkar under the Sambal Yojana, after the death of Prince Vanshkar due to snakebite at his residence in Datia.

The entire incident lasted for around 25 minutes before the men left the house. The

Muslim family 'beaten up, asked to leave village'

The family alleged that these men chanted Jai Shree Ram and were beating them up because they had not vacated the house and left the village by Saturday, paying heed to an earlier warning by the group, a month ago.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A Muslim family of seven living at Kampel grampanchayat near Indore were allegedly beaten up and threatened by a mob of more than 100 people on Saturday night around 8.30 pm. The mob asked them to vacate the house and leave the village, alleged the family members.

The family alleged these men chanted Jai Shree Ram and were beating them up because they had not vacated the house and left the village by Saturday, paying heed to an earlier warning by the group, a month ago.

The police, however, stated that the two groups had got into a dispute over money and cross-complaint from both sides were registered.

The Geyasuddin family, who had moved to Kampel two years ago, are blacksmiths by profession and made trolleys and other agricultural equipment for a living.

Shahrukh Geyasuddin, whose 46-year old father Farukh Geyasuddin was allegedly beaten up by the mob, told The Indian Express, "they barged in and began beating us up using the rods that were lying nearby. They began hitting my father repeatedly and when my uncle intervened they beat him also saying 'we had asked you to vacate or else face dire consequences'."

Shahrukh's sister Fauziya, who was visiting her parent's house for a few days, was also present in the house when the incident took place. She said: "These men came in a row of cars and when I tried to record the incident in a video, some of them dragged me out holding my hand, snatched my cellphone and broke it into pieces."

The entire incident lasted for around 25 minutes before the men left the house. The



family then rushed to Khudel police station from where they were sent to Indore's Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital for a medical test and subsequently an FIR was registered based on their complaint.

According to Shahrukh, after the men had earlier threatened the family asking them to vacate the village and leave, they had approached the village panchayat and informed the sarpanch about it.

"When the same men had come last month and asked us to leave, they knew that we were about to purchase a plot near our house. They did not like it and told us 'we will get more of our kind to come and settle here'. As we lived on rent, we had to purchase a plot of land near our house but after their threats, we can-

celled the land deal and did not purchase the plot. But the sarpanch assured us that they were just young blood and there was nothing to worry about and so we did not vacate the house," said Shahrukh, who added that the men who had threatened them lived on the outskirts of the village.

Based on the Geyasuddin family's complaint, Khudel police have registered an FIR against nine people under sections 323 (for voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 294 (Obscene acts and Songs), 427 (Mischief causing damage to the amount of Rs 50), 147 (Punishment for rioting) and 148 (Rioting armed with deadly weapons) of the IPC. Sub-inspector Vishwajeet Tomar while talking to this newspaper said, "The

Geyasuddin family was given some money by the other group to build a trolley but neither did they make the trolley nor did they return the money which prima facie appears to have triggered the incident and the two groups have clashed. There has been a cross-complaint registered based on the complaint of Vikas Patel who lives near the village."

However, when asked about the family's allegation that the men belonged to RSS and had threatened them to leave the village a month back, Tomar denied having received any such information. "This information was not given to us when the FIR was being registered. We are not aware of it. We are investigating the case as there are cross FIRs from both sides and both parties have sustained injuries," he said.

Tomar also said that contrary to the claims made by the Geyasuddin family about the mob of more than 100 people, there were only around nine men involved in beating them up and the rest were part of the crowd that had gathered around the house.

Ehtesham Hashmi, an advocate practising at the Supreme Court who had received a call from the family on Saturday night and rushed to Maharaja Yashwantrao Hospital after they were taken there for the medical check-up, called the cross-complaint registered by the police as complete fraud.

"I rushed to the hospital after getting a call from the family after which we sat for around three hours at Kampel hospital station where the police refused to register an FIR based on the written application that the family was giving them. Instead, around three to four sub-inspectors sat with Shahrukh and then registered a fake FIR to pressure the poor family," said Hashmi.

## A People-centered Approach to Policy Leads MP's Mega-Vaccination Campaign to Wins

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Government of India announced the third phase of Vaccination Campaign against the COVID-19 virus, beginning May 1, for the largest section of our population (age group 18-44). For the citizenry, it was a much-awaited moment, but for the administration, the depth and breadth of our preparedness were now to be tested. Madhya Pradesh (MP) has a thick forest cover (over 1000 forest villages), a dense rural population (over 70%) and tribal demography (over 20%) with many small and scattered hamlets; these conditions continue to pose a challenge to our supply chain and service delivery. For cosmopolitan cities with largely urban populations, hesitancy may not have been a bottleneck, but for a state like MP, with a large rural population, misinformation was a hill we had to climb. However, when we look at the country's vaccination charts, Madhya Pradesh continues to establish itself among the best performing states.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recognized vaccination as the sole armour to prevent the third wave and end the pandemic. He set a vision that the state must inoculate the entire population with both doses by December 2021. To achieve the goal set by the CM, the state has been making concerted efforts relentlessly. A mass vaccination campaign in the form of COVID 19 Vaccination MahaAbhiyan was launched on 21st June 2021. We topped the vaccination charts in India by administering more than 17 lakh doses on the first day itself. To accelerate the fight against the pandemic, second round of the MahaAbhiyan was organized in August. Once again, on August 25th, Day One of the campaign, we achieved our highest single dose inoculation in a day - over 24 Lakh. The campaign gained momentum and we began to routinely register



over 1 million doses a day. By the third MahaAbhiyan in September, our vaccine administration figures were close to 29 lakhs doses (on 17th September). As a result, the first dose coverage of Madhya Pradesh has swiftly reached 88% which is highest among large states. Records and numbers by themselves are incomplete parameters to gauge progress. It is historically evident that the only way to successfully implement a mass campaign is by locating it at the centre of the public sphere. When we began framing the policy and planning for the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign in Madhya Pradesh, we were convinced that the only way to make the campaign a success was to locate it in a model of civil society participation, or Jan Bhagidari. The success of Madhya Pradesh's feet is not only due to the commitment of our health workers and administrators, but to the public's imminent participation as well.

To make the campaign far-reaching, we set up a state team comprising of all the multifarious departments. CM constituted a group of ministers to oversee a holistic implementation of the campaign and guide the administration at every stage. The Crisis Management Groups, comprising of members from government and non-government organisations, to provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic are leveraged at the district, block, and village level. The group brings members from Panchayati Raj, BLOs, school teachers and youth volunteers together for seamless campaign planning and management. We focus on micro-planning, continuous supervision and monitoring, and most importantly community mobilization. A chief aspect of our preparedness is devising precise vaccine allocation plan for every district based on consumption capacity, performance, and stock availability.

More than 10,000 vaccination sites have been established across all districts and equipped with necessary infrastructure. Vaccine Storage Transportation, and Distribution (STD) capacity has been augmented. Vaccine vans in all districts run day-in-day-out to ensure uninterrupted supply chain (State-to-Division-to-District-to-Block-and-further). 1378 mobile vaccination units operate ceaselessly despite rains and adverse conditions.

It has, by now, been firmly established that complete vaccination is more effective in protecting against severe disease and new variants. To ensure full vaccination, an innovative gamification technique was deployed to mobilize more people for second dose via over 1 Lakh COVID-19 volunteers and 32,000 Saathiya (Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram) members. Volunteers carried door-to-door campaigns to bring people to vaccination sites, especially in the tribal areas and inaccessible terrain.

## Pace of development has increased in the state due to the expansion of online public services

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan says that the state government has given a guarantee to make public services available to the citizens easily within a time-limit. For this purpose, CM public service and mobile governance services are being expanded. Along with this, the delivery system of various public services is also being strengthened more.

It is the result of Chouhan's thinking of public welfare that the Madhya Pradesh government has implemented e-governance system in the government to provide relief to the public, reduce the burden of files, bring transparency and eliminate the need for non-essential certificates. The system is being made more effective day by day. Recently, Chief Minister Chouhan has started 7 new portals and 8 Lok Seva Kendras. These portals will increase the public facilities available to the citizens and their work will be easier.

The e-rupee system is being implemented in the state in the form of e-vouchers. Cash benefit can be transferred directly to the beneficiary for a specific purpose through e-Rupee.

The online system is also being made more efficient and systematic

by the state government to provide effective, transparent and speedy facilities to the citizens. The amount of scheme and financial assistance to farmers, women, students, workers, destitute, old and beneficiary etc. is being transferred directly to their bank accounts by the state government.

Online system of bill payment will be implemented in all government departments of the state. For all the beneficiary-oriented schemes, the entire process from application to benefit distribution or contribution is also being done online. Public facilities and services are being provided online on the app itself. Transparency in beneficiary identification and benefit delivery is being further improved. Services like counselling, admission and scholarships to higher education students will be made completely online soon.

A total of 430 Public Service Guarantee Centers have been established in Madhya Pradesh at the block and tehsil level to make the services notified under the Public Service Guarantee Act, implemented for the first time in the country since 2010, to every citizen of the state. Public services covered under the purview of the Act can be availed from these centers.

# KIM KARDASHIAN JOKES SHE DIVORCED KANYE BECAUSE OF HIS 'PERSONALITY'

Los Angeles | Agencies

**R**eality TV star Kim Kardashian joked about her divorce from rapper Kanye West and her family's failed political ambitions during her opening monologue on 'Saturday Night Live'. The 40-year-old star filed for divorce from the rapper in February and quipped during her opening monologue while hosting 'Saturday Night Live' that she had separated from him because he wasn't charismatic enough.

Kim shares children North, Saint, Chicago, and Psalm with Kanye.

"I mean, I married the best rapper of all time. Not only that, he's the richest black man in America, a talented, legit genius, who gave me four incredible kids. So when I divorced him, you have to know it came down to just one thing: his personality," she said. Kim added: "I know it sounds mean, but people keep telling me that comedy. And if there's one thing I strive to be, it's genuine."

She also poked fun at the political aspirations of both Kanye and her stepfather Caitlyn Jenner, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



## CARY JOJI FUKUNAGA HAS MADE A PITCH FOR NEW JAMES BOND FILM

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Cary Joji Fukunaga has pitched an idea for a new 'James Bond' movie to producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson and suggested that he would be up for a return to the franchise. Asked if any ideas made it into 'No Time To Die', Fukunaga told *Slash Film*: "Nothing from that meeting. I mean, I still have a pitch I would do if I had to reboot it, which I'll keep for myself right now."

The filmmaker, who replaced Danny Boyle in 'No Time To Die' when the 'Trainspotting' helmer left due to creative differences, continued: "But this was a completely clean slate. In September of 2018 I was just listening to everyone, what was working, what wasn't working, what they wanted, what they hoped for, and just had to sit with that and try to figure out how to turn that into a story. 'Inevitably, things seep in, things you've tried before and other stories that didn't work, but you're just looking for that place that it could fit, you know? I kind of think of it like spare furniture, but it very much came out of those meetings in September, and then went on until we finished shooting." The film contains a dramatic single-take action sequence and Fukunaga said that it was a challenge convincing Craig as he is a "perfectionist" during stunt scenes, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



## 'The Rock' Johnson makes his debut as a rapper

Los Angeles | Agencies

In what Variety.com describes as a collaboration between "the most successful independent rapper in hip-hop and the biggest A-list actor in Hollywood", Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson successfully made his rap debut in the single 'Face Off' produced by Aaron Dente Yates, who's better known as Tech N9ne.

The single is a part of Tech N9ne's new album, 'ASIN9NE', produced by his studio label, Strange Music. It also features Joey Cool and King Iso.

Announcing what Variety.com calls a "history-making career move", the wrestler, actor and tequila maker said on Instagram: "Grateful and humbled to make my rap debut with these hip-hop kings as I was just trying to deliver a rhythm, flow, energy and intensity that didn't suck." Earlier, in another post, Johnson exulted: "And I'm loving all of your HYPE and EXCITEMENT around the song!"

Tech N9ne and Johnson had met a few years ago. "A huge fan of the independent rapper, Johnson, who is the most followed American on the planet, has been sharing Tech N9ne's music on his social media for years," Variety.com reported.

Johnson's earlier association with music was when he appeared on his friend, the Haitian rapper Wyclef Jean's 2000 song 'It Doesn't Matter'. The title of the song was borrowed from Johnson's favourite catchphrase, which he shouted out in the track, but did not rap.



## Kristen Stewart reveals why she felt 'disloyal' playing Princess Diana

London | Agencies

Actress Kristen Stewart said that she felt "disloyal" playing Princess Diana in 'Spencer' because she doesn't have children of her own so didn't think she was "authentic" enough in the role.

The 31-year-old actress plays the late royal in 'Spencer', which focuses on three days at Sandringham the Christmas before the Princess split from Prince Charles.

She said: "She's like this feral animal you wouldn't dare accosta (I regretted that) I'm not a mum yet. I need that to feel authentic. It's the one part of playing her that I felt disloyal about."

The movie has had a mixed reaction from critics and Stewart always knew it would be a divisive subject but she ultimately felt it was worth the risk, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told the Daily Mail newspaper columnist

Baz Barnigboye: "I definitely knew that the chances of 'mucking this up', as a Brit might say, were far greater than doing a 'good job'."

"But I thought it was worth it. I've been working as an actor for a long time and it's really rare to find things that make you feel this way."

She had been prepared for the "daunting and exceptionally harrowing experience" of recreating one of the lowest periods in the life of Diana, who died in a car crash in 1997, but she wasn't ready for how much "joy" she would feel.

She said: "Diana just really did have this overriding, disarming, beautiful energy. [The decisions she was making were] earth-shattering."

"(But) inhabiting her made me feel taller, and made me feel I could dance. I felt her power in a \*\*\*\*\* beautiful way."

Stewart spent six months researching the role and a lot of time focusing on Diana's "buoyant" accent.



**'Bridgerton' changed my life: Phoebe Dynevor**

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Nicki Minaj



## IPL 2021: GAIKWAD, UTHAPPA AND DHONI LEAD CHENNAI INTO NINTH FINAL

Dubai | Agencies

Ruturaj Gaikwad (70 off 50 balls) and Robin Uthappa (63 off 44 balls) played important knocks before MS Dhoni (18 not out off six balls) helped Chennai Super Kings book a spot in the final for the ninth time. After winning the toss, Chennai conceded 172 runs before hunting down the target with two balls to spare to beat Delhi Capitals by four wickets in Qualifier 1 at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

A target of 173 seemed tough as Anrich Nortje bowled Faf du Plessis through the gate on the fourth ball of the innings. Robin Uthappa, promoted to one-down ahead of Ambati Rayudu, got off the mark with a drive through covers before welcoming Avesh Khan in the next over with a boundary. Ruturaj Gaikwad welcomed Rabada in the fourth over by charging down the pitch and slamming a straight six. Uthappa followed it up with a flick off Rabada before taking 20 runs off Khan in the final over of power-play.

Delhi pulled things back by drying up the boundaries in four overs



after power-play. But Gaikwad and Uthappa kept the scoreboard with the latter reaching his half-century in 35 balls. Gaikwad took Patel for a four and six over his head in the 11th over. Uthappa went after Ravichandran Ashwin in the next over, slamming him for back-to-back fours. But Tom Curran broke the 110-run partnership in the 14th over, as Uthappa miscued the pull to be safely pouched by Shreyas Iyer at long-on after tossing the ball in the air. One brought two for Curran as Shardul Thakur's promotion to four ended in holing out to long-on. In the next over, Rayudu

was run-out as Iyer fired a throw from long-on which Rabada collected quickly to whip off the balls.

Gaikwad continued to march before finding deep mid-wicket in the 19th over of Khan. But Ali hit Khan for a four through backward point before Dhoni clobbered a six over deep mid-wicket to take 11 off the over. With 13 needed off the final over, Ali mistimed a pull to deep square leg off Curran on the first ball. Dhoni then struck consecutive boundaries off Curran; slapping over extra cover followed by an inner edge running through fine leg. Dhoni finished off the

chase in style with a pull-through mid-wicket, giving his team a spot in the final.

Earlier, Delhi were lifted from 80/4 in 10.2 overs to a competitive 172/4 in 20 overs, thanks to an excellent recovery staged by Shimron Hetmyer (37) and Rishabh Pant (51 not out). Delhi reached 51/2 in power-play, 43 of which came off Prithvi Shaw's bat off just 19 balls. Shaw began with two top-edge boundaries off Josh Hazlewood in the second over. Shaw took the attack against Deepak Chahar in the next over, collecting four boundaries, with the most impressive of them a back-foot punch through the gap in point. Shikhar Dhawan lifted Hazlewood for a boundary in his next over. But on the next ball, Hazlewood got Dhawan (7) to nick behind on a seaming-away delivery. But there was no stopping Shaw as he hit two sixes over mid-wicket and down the ground off Thakur. Thakur almost had Shaw out on 42 as MS Dhoni spilled a difficult one-handed catch to his right. Hazlewood had his second wicket of the match as Iyer (1) missed a flick on the cross-seamer to cover point. Shaw brought up his

50 in 27 balls with a cut through point followed by a sweep through the square on the leg-side off Ravindra Jadeja. Patel's promotion at four didn't pay off, holing out to long-on off Ali in the tenth over. In the next over, Jadeja ended Shaw's stay as the right-hander mistimed the loft to a diving long-off running to his left. Hetmyer and Pant shared an 83-run partnership off 50 balls for the fifth-wicket. The duo's partnership meant that Delhi regained rhythm which had slowed down in the overs 10-13. Dwayne Bravo separated the pair in 19th over as Hetmyer mistimed pull to wide long-on. Pant reached his fifty on the final ball with a brace as Delhi finished beyond 170, which wasn't enough in stopping Chennai from maintaining their clean slate while chasing this season.

### Brief scores

**Brief Scores:** Delhi Capitals 172/5 in 20 overs (Prithvi Shaw 60, Rishabh Pant 51 not out, Josh Hazlewood 2/29, Ravindra Jadeja 1/23) lost to Chennai Super Kings 173/6 in 19.4 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 70, Robin Uthappa 63, Tom Curran 3/29, Anrich Nortje 1/31) by four wickets.



Tanisha Crasto/Rutuparna Panda then helped India take a 2-1 lead after a dominating 21-10, 21-14 win over Paula Lopez and Lorena Usle.

Another youngster Aditi Bhatt then sealed the tie 3-1 for India with a 21-16, 21-14 victory over Ania Setien.

However, the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa/N Sikki Reddy lost the final match of the tie 18-21, 21-14, 17-21 to Clara Azurmendi/Beatriz Corrales. The Indian women will next play Scotland in Group B on Tuesday. The Indian men's team will take on the Netherlands later tonight in their first Group C match of the 2020 Thomas Cup.

## Bottas wins Turkish GP ahead of Verstappen; Hamilton 5th



Istanbul (Turkey) | Agencies

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won an engrossing Turkish Grand Prix that was run in damp conditions, with the Red Bull duo of Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez completing the podium.

Light rain peppered the track well before the race and while the rain stopped, conditions called for intermediate tyres throughout. With his second-place finish, Verstappen maintained his position atop the

## COCO GAUFF, BARBORAKREJCIKOVA ADVANCE AT INDIAN WELLS

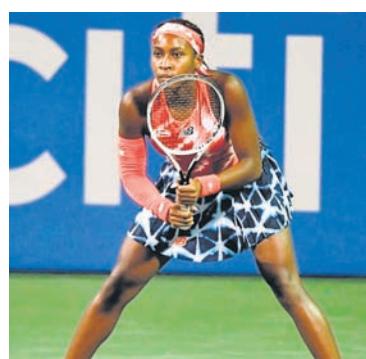
Indian Wells | Agencies

American teenager Coco Gauff had a winning debut at the BNP Paribas Open with a 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-1 victory over former top-10 player Caroline Garcia of France here on Sunday (IST).

In her first match in over a month, since losing to compatriot Sloane Stephens in the second round of the US Open, the 17-year-old secured a 2-hour and 10-minute victory to reach the third round.

Gauff has another first-ever meeting on the cards in Round 3, as she faces No.21 seed Paula Badosa of Spain, who overcame Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Also making her BNP Paribas Open debut, No.3 seed and French Open champion Barbora Krejcirova of the Czech Republic needed three sets to edge Kazakh qualifier Zarina Diyas, 6-



4, 3-6, 6-1. Krejcirova cruised in the final set after splitting the first two with Diyas. The reigning French Open champion will next face 2019 Roland Garros semifinalist Amanda Anisimova of the US. Anisimova upset No. 30 seed and Montreal champion Camila Giorgi of Italy to reach the third round, 6-4, 6-1.

### SUB-JUNIOR HOCKEY

## Odisha, SPGC, MP academies reach semi-finals

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, SGPC Hockey Academy, Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High-Performance Centre, and Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy stormed into the semi-finals of the 1st Hockey India Sub Junior Men Academy National Championship 2021 with comfortable victories here on Sunday.

In the first quarter-final, Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy registered a clinical 4-1 win against SAI-Academy. Prabhjot Singh (10'), Captain Harmanjit Singh (20'), Gursewak Singh (44'), and Harpreet Singh (56') scored a goal each for Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy, while Captain Kunal Yadav

### MEDVEDEV SAILS INTO THIRD ROUND

Russian tennis player Daniil Medvedev arrived in Indian Wells with a 3-3 record at the BNP Paribas Open. But the world No. 2 consolidated his status as tournament favourite with a resounding 6-4, 6-2 win against American Mackenzie McDonald to reach the third round here on Sunday (IST). Medvedev has been in dominant form of late, winning 17 of his past 18 matches and 38 of his past 41 sets. Medvedev will next play American Marcos Giron or Serbian Filip Krajinovic.

Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic eliminated No.5 seed Garbine Muguruza of

Spain for her fourth career top-10 win, while No.1 seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic and No.12 seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia also moved into the third round.

Tomljanovic will face No.26 seed Tamara Zidansek of Slovenia in the third round. Zidansek, a 2021 French Open semifinalist, defeated Ana Konjuh of Croatia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. No.12 Ons Jabeur also needed three sets to make it into the third round defeating Anastasija Sevastova of Latvia, 6-2, 6-7(5), 6-3.

No.1 seed Pliskova eased past Polish qualifier Magdalena Frech, 7-5, 6-2. World No.3 Pliskova has never failed to reach at least the third round in her seven career main-draw appearances in Indian Wells. She made sure to do it again with her 80-minute victory over 23-year-old Frech, who comes in at a career-high ranking of world No.106.

The winner of the men's T20 World Cup 2021 will take home a prize money of 1.6 million dollars while the runners-up will get half of the winning amount, said the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday. The ICC also said that the two losing semifinalists will receive 400,000 dollars each from the matches taking place on November 10 and 11. All the 16 competing teams in the tournament will receive part of the 5.6 million dollars allocated as prize money for the tournament, which will be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14.

Just like the 2016 edition of the tournament, there will be a bonus amount for every match that a team wins in the Super 12 stage. The winning team in each of the



**Brief scores**  
Australia 149/5 in 20 overs (Beth Mooney 61, Tahlia McGrath 44 not out, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/37, Renuka Singh 1/23) beat India 135/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 52, Richa Ghosh 23 not out, Nicola Carey 2/42, Annabel Sutherland 1/13) by 14 runs.

### T20 WORLD CUP

## Afghanistan name final squad with Mohammad Nabi as captain

Kabul | Agencies

Veteran Mohammad Nabi, the No. 1 ranked T20 all-rounder, was on Sunday named captain of the final 15-member squad by the Afghanistan Cricket Board for the ICC Mens T20 World Cup 2021, scheduled to be held from October 17 in UAE and Oman. Afghanistan will get their tournament underway in Sharjah on October 25 against the winners of Group B from the tournament's first-round -- one of Bangladesh, Oman, Papua New Guinea, or Scotland.

Nabi and company will also be joined in Group 2 by India, New Zealand, and Pakistan, plus the runners-up from the other qualifying

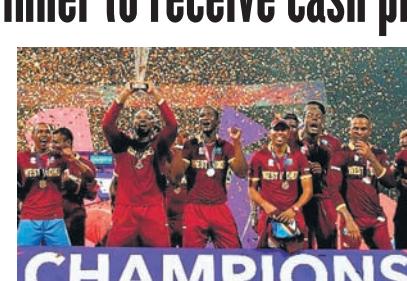


pool (either Ireland, Namibia, Netherlands, or Sri Lanka).

Afghanistan have won three men's T20 internationals in their history against the full members of the tournament's Super 12, out of a total of 14 fixtures. All three of those victories

came against the West Indies.

**Squad:** Mohammad Nabi (c), Rahamanullah Gurbaz, Hazratullah Zazai, Usman Ghani, Mohammad Shahzad, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Asghar Afghan, Gulbadin Naib, Najibullah Zadran, Karim Janat, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Hamid Hassan, Farid Ahmed Malik, Naveen ul Haq.



same structure is in place for the first-round victories -- with 40,000 dollars available to those who win each of the 12 games, amounting to 480,000 dollars.

The four teams knocked out in the first round will take 40,000 dollars each from an overall 160,000 dollars. Teams whose campaigns begin in the first round are Bangladesh, Ireland, Namibia, Netherlands, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, and Sri Lanka.

The ICC also said that there will be two

### Men's T20 World Cup winner to receive cash prize of 1.6 million dollars

Dubai | Agencies

The winner of the men's T20 World Cup 2021 will take home a prize money of 1.6 million dollars while the runners-up will get half of the winning amount, said the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday. The ICC also said that the two losing semifinalists will receive 400,000 dollars each from the matches taking place on November 10 and 11. All the 16 competing teams in the tournament will receive part of the 5.6 million dollars allocated as prize money for the tournament, which will be played in the United Arab Emirates and Oman from October 17 to November 14.

Just like the 2016 edition of the tournament, there will be a bonus amount for

every match that a team wins in the Super 12 stage. The winning team in each of the

30 games in that phase will this time win 40,000 dollars, a total pot of 1,200,000 dollars. The teams confirmed to be competing in the Super 12 stage are Afghanistan, Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, and the West Indies. The eight teams whose men's T20 World Cup campaigns end at Super 12 stage will automatically receive 70,000 dollars each, totalling to 560,000 dollars. The



**Happy Birthday  
Amitabh Bachchan**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

*'Kartik's performance will be talked about for a long time'*



Kartik Aaryan burst onto the scene with out and out comedy films like Pyaar Ka Punchnama series and SonuKeTitu Ki Sweety. However, since then he has also worked in drama films and other genres as well and has been equally good showing his versatility. The actor who will be seen in the film Dhamaka has been subject to a lot of praise from his director, Ram Madhvani.

Speaking about Kartik Aaryan, Ram Madhvani in an interview with a leading entertainment portal shared, "I don't know what it is. I can feel the excitement. Maybe it has to do with Kartik Aaryan's humongous fan-following."

Ram continued saying, "He surrendered himself to his part. There is a hunger in him to excel as an actor. That craving worked well for the film. I believe Kartik has given a performance that will be talked about for a long time." Lastly, "I shoot my films by the 360-degree technique which entails the use of multiple cameras. Kartik had never worked that way. He adapted himself to my way of working. For that matter Sushmita too was new to my technique of direction. I've just been so lucky with my actors."

It's not the first time that Ram has opened up on Kartik Aaryan. In recent past he had praised Kartik and his dedication and was happy to have worked with him. The movie Dhamaka was shot in a record 10 days and is newroom drama film. The movie is expected to release around Diwali, though there are no confirmations of the same. A mood poster was unveiled by Kartik Aaryan recently and the fans were much hyped up about the film. "Freddy", "Dhamaka", "BhoolBhulaiya 2", and "Captain India" make up the interesting lineup of Kartik Aaryan's upcoming movies.

Team Absolute | Mumbai



**It's Official: Rakul, Jackky in relationship**

smile, and as beauti-  
ful as you are.

Happy Birthday my (heart emoji) @rakulpreet". Rakul shared the same picture on Instagram and wrote a loved-up message for Jackky. "Thankyouuuuumy ! You have been my biggest gift this year ! Thankyou for adding colour to my life ,thankyou for making me laugh non stop , thankyou for being you !! here is to making more memories together @jackkybhagnani," Rakul wrote.

**SULAGNA PANIGRAHI  
ON HER ROLE AND  
LOOK IN 'VIDROHI'**

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tv and film actress Sulagna Panigrahi is all set to make her comeback on television after a gap of 10 years. The actress will be playing one of the leads in a period drama titled 'Vidrohi'. She shares about her role in the daily soap: "I am playing the character of 'Radhamani' on the show who was freedom fighter Jagbandhu's wife. She is extremely calm, sweet, and caring yet strong and ambitious. Radhamani is extremely supportive of her husband and would help him achieve his goals through and through. It's a beautiful marriage based on immense love and trust." The show revolves around JagabandhuBidyadharha Mohapatra Bhramarbara Raya popularly known as 'BuxiJagabandhu' was the commander of the king of Khordha, Odisha. The actress says she belongs to Odisha as her father was in the Army so has travelled and lived in every corner of the country. But she is familiar with the language and culture. It helped her also to bring this character on screen in a realistic way. She tells about the preparation work: "I was born in Odisha but brought up all over the country, being an Army kid. So naturally, I am quite the patriot but my roots are obviously in Odisha. I know the language and its culture."



**AMITABH  
BACHCHAN**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
DADA**

**VIPIN SHARMA 7999655202**

**INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY**



Aindrta Ray