

absolute india

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Global Food Security Index 2021: India Ranks 71st; Pak, Sri Lanka ahead in Food Affordability

► THE GFS INDEX MEASURES THE UNDERLYING DRIVERS OF FOOD SECURITY IN 113 COUNTRIES, BASED ON THE FACTORS OF AFFORDABILITY, AVAILABILITY, QUALITY AND SAFETY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE. ► INDIA'S SCORE IMPROVED ONLY BY 2.7 POINTS TO 57.2 IN 2021 FROM 54.5 IN 2012 WHEN COMPARED WITH PAKISTAN BY 9 POINTS (TO 54.7 IN 2021 FROM 45.7 IN 2012) WHILE THAT OF NEPAL BY 7 POINTS (TO 53.7 POINTS IN 2021 FROM 46.7 POINTS IN 2012) AND BANGLADESH BY 4.7 POINTS (TO 49.1 IN 2021 FROM 44.4 POINTS IN 2012). CHINA'S SCORE IMPROVED BY 9.6 POINTS TO 71.3 IN 2021 FROM 61.7 IN 2012, THE REPORT SAID.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is ranked at 71st position in the Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021 of 113 countries, but the country lags behind its neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka in terms of food affordability, according to a report. Pakistan (with 52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2 points) in the category of food affordability. Sri Lanka was even

better with 62.9 points in this category on the GFS Index 2021, a global report released by Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience on Tuesday said.

According to the report, India held 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries, fared better than Pakistan (75th position), Sri Lanka (77th position), Nepal (79th position) and Bangladesh (84th position). But the

country was way behind China (34th position).

In the food affordability category, Pakistan (with 52.6 points) scored better than India (50.2 points). Sri Lanka was also better at 62.9 points on the GFS Index 2021. In case of availability of food, quality and safety as well as protecting natural resources for food production, India scored better than Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka on the GFS Index 2021,

the report added.

However, over the past 10 years, India's incremental gains in overall food security score were lagging behind that of Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The findings of GFS Index 2021 also showed that global food security has decreased for the second year in a row after seven years of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal of achieving zero hunger by 2030.

PRIYANKA GANDHI ANNOUNCES 40% TICKETS TO WOMEN IN UP POLLS

40% OF 403 = 161 SEATS

TOSSED A SLOGAN "LADKI HOON, LAD SAKTI HOON" (I AM A GIRL, CAN FIGHT)

Priyanka Gandhi said that all women who want to bring about a change in the system, are welcome to come forward and contest elections. "Any woman who wants to contest can give an application till October 15," she announced at a press conference. She said the Congress would help women fight elections and next time, they will be stronger. She further said that the candidates would be decided on the basis of merit. Congress termed this move as truly unprecedented, historic and a turning point in Indian politics.

► PRIYANKA, HOWEVER, PARRIED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CHIEF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE OF THE CONGRESS IN UTTAR PRADESH AND WHETHER SHE WOULD CONTEST ELECTIONS. "THESE ISSUES WILL BE DECIDED LATER AND WE WILL LET YOU KNOW," SHE STATED.

Team Absolute | Lucknow

In a major decision that could prove to be a game-changer for the Congress, in particular and Indian politics, in general, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, on Tuesday, announced that her party would give 40 per cent tickets to women in the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Priyanka said the decision was for the woman named Paro, who had held her hand in Prayagraj and had said that she wanted to join politics. "This decision is for Vaishnavi in Chandauli and the sisters-in-law of two rape victims of Hathras and Unnao, who are fighting for justice and against the system. "This is for every woman who wants to be heard -- whether it is Laxmi Valmiki of Lucknow who wants to be a doctor, the daughter of journalist Raman Kashyap who was killed in Lakhimpur Kheri violence. "This is also for two women constables -- Madhu and Pooja, who arrested me in Sitapur and were with me till 4 a.m. Power today amounts to trampling over the weaker sections of



society, primarily women," Priyanka said. She said that women were not only stronger but more compassionate and sensitive and could bring a change in the political system.

Asked whether the same formula of 40 per cent reservation for women would be extended to the Congress-ruled states, including Punjab, Priyanka said, "I am in charge of UP and we have taken this decision here. If they (Punjab), they are welcome to

implement the formula." She said that women were being divided on the basis of caste which weakened their battle for justice. "A woman's struggle is not limited to a gas cylinder or Rs 2,000. It goes beyond that. We have to rise above the shackles of casteism and communalism and come together as a group," she said. Priyanka, when asked whether wives and daughters of leaders would not take



advantage of this reservation, said, "What is wrong with that if it leads to empowerment. In Amethi, a village pradhan's wife contested and won elections. After some months, he met me and said that his wife has started making decisions in the house as well. This is empowerment."

AMARINDER TO ANNOUNCE NEW PARTY SOON; HINTS AT PACT WITH BJP FOR PUNJAB POLLS



Chandigarh: Formally saying goodbye to the Congress which made him the Chief Minister of Punjab twice and the state party president thrice, an 'upset' Amarinder Singh on Tuesday said that he would soon

announce the launch of his own political party to serve the interests of the people, including the farmers who've been fighting for their rights for over a year now.

The former Punjab CM also said that he is hopeful of a seat-sharing arrangement with the BJP for next year's Assembly elections in the state, if the farmers' issues are resolved in their interest. In a series of tweets, his media advisor Raveen Thukral quoted Amarinder Singh as saying, "The battle for Punjab's future is on. Will soon announce the launch of my own political party to serve the interests of Punjab and its people, including our farmers who've been fighting for their survival for over a year."

In another tweet, Amarinder Singh, who earlier this month had slammed the Congress over the "preposterous lies being floated by various party leaders in a clear bid to cover up their mishandling of the crisis in Punjab", said, "Hopeful of a seat arrangement with @BJP4India in 2022 Punjab Assembly polls if #FarmersProtest is resolved in farmers' interest.

Key industrial states report high unemployment rate: CMIE

► ACCORDING TO THE DATA FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED BY THE CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY (CMIE), THE STATES OF HARYANA AND RAJASTHAN TOPPED THE LIST OF PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIAL STATES WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE MONTH REMAINED IN HIGH DOUBLE DIGITS AT 20.3 PER CENT AND 17.9 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY.

► IN 2020, THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD SHOT UP TO OVER 20 PER CENT LEVEL. EVEN LAST MONTH'S 6.86 PER CENT LEVEL PRESENTED A DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR A LABOUR-INTENSIVE ECONOMY LIKE INDIA. WHAT IS MORE WORRISOME IS THAT URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS STILL HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE AT OVER 8.62 PER CENT, AS PER CMIE.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two of the country's prominent manufacturing centres registered joblessness in high double digits in September even though economic revival and demand resurrection were resulting in more jobs being created in various sectors.

The two states are important industrial hubs with the presence of several automobile and auto component companies, including prominent multinational corporations. High unemployment rates in these states indicate that the so-called national level economic recovery and demand resurrection has not yet reached various

industrial segments that are still struggling to grow their businesses.

Interestingly, both the states had even higher unemployment in August at 35.7 per cent in Haryana and 26.7 per cent in Rajasthan.

As per CMIE data, apart from the two prominent states, Bihar, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry and Tripura reported unemployment rate in double digits in September, while the national average for the month fell to 6.86 per cent from 8.32 per cent in the previous month.

What is worrisome is that in states such as Delhi, unemployment rate rose for the fourth consecutive month. Even in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, the unemployment rate in September was higher than the previous month.

The job market has created a worrisome scenario in the country since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic last year.

Cloudburst in Uttarakhand



Team Absolute | New Delhi

At least 42 people are dead as heavy rainfall battered Uttarakhand for a third straight day today, leaving authorities fearing for the lives of many more who may be trapped under debris and in flooded areas. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said, "So far 42 people have died and five are missing. Rs 4 lakh compensation will be given to the families of the deceased. Those who lost their houses will be given Rs 1.9 lakh. All possible help to be extended to those who lost their livestock."

About 4,000 devotees have returned from Kedamath out of 6,000 amidst heavy rain in Uttarakhand. The rest 2,000 pilgrims have been taken to safer places, officials said on Tuesday. Heavy rain for the past three days has wreaked havoc in Nainital, Haldwani, Kathgodam, Ranikhet, Pauri, Lansdowne and Chamoli districts of the state. In Kathgodam, the railway track was washed away and fell into the river. Instructions have been issued to Chamoli and Rudrapur district administrations to focus on the safety of the stranded pilgrims on the Char Dham Yatra routes. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday took stock of the situation by conducting an aerial survey of the affected. Tourists are also reported to be

HEAVY RAIN BREAKS 107 YR RECORD

Dehradun: Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall over 24 hours led to massive flooding, landslides, and damage to infrastructure in large parts of Uttarakhand, especially Kumaon region, with IMD data showing over dozen places receiving rainfall in excess of 200 mm-400 mm, and few even more than 500 mm. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, the districts that observed heavy to extremely heavy rainfall were Champawat, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Pauri and Chamoli from 8.30 a.m. on Monday till 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday. There were several reports where people called the rain "multiple cloudbursts". But the IMD terms rainfall of 100 mm or above in just one hour as a cloudburst.

stranded at several other places in Uttarakhand. Instructions have been issued to the district authorities to evacuate them as soon as possible.

Crop fires emissions: India tops chart globally



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Latest data analysis has shown that compared to the previous three years, there has been an increase in emissions due to crop fires in 2019-2020 by 12.8 per cent, taking India's global contribution to 12.2 per cent. The new insights into recent trends in biomass fires, including emissions from forest and crop residue fires in India, showed a downward trend in crop fires being observed between 2016-19 citing a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to cropland fires by 11.39 per cent during the three years. However, the data and analysis for GHG emissions available online, show that even when India tops the chart when it comes to crop fires, this particular emission

quantum comes at 47th position when total emission categories from agriculture sector are considered. That inventory is dominated by enteric fermentation, managed soil, and rice cultivation. The crop fire data becomes relevant, particularly for northwest India, during the months of October-November when farmers from Punjab and Haryana and from several districts of Uttar Pradesh resort to stubble burning ahead of the wheat sowing.

Blue Sky Analytics, that released this new data on emissions from biomass fires as part of the world's first comprehensive accounting of global greenhouse gas emissions, said their analysis is based primarily on direct, independent observation with the Climate TRACE coalition.



UP TOPS IN 'EASE OF COMMITTING CRIME', SAYS AKHILESH YADAV

Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav said that Uttar Pradesh has topped the "ease of committing crime" graph.

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Referring to the Shahjahanpur incident in which a lawyer was shot dead in a court on Monday, the SP chief attacked the ruling BJP and said the murder has exposed the "encounter" government's tall claims of zero tolerance towards crime and criminals.

"Under the BJP government, Uttar Pradesh has made it to the number one position in ease of committing crime," Akhilesh said.

The SP also attacked the state government over Rs 25 lakhs in cash "stolen" from a police station in Agra where miscreants broke open locks of the 'maalkhana' (strong room) and decamped with cash kept at the police station.



The cash was recovered from burglars who had raided the residence of a top railway contractor in Agra some time ago.

"If the police station is not secure, one can imagine the state of affairs elsewhere," the SP President said.

Akhilesh attacked the government for its growing insensitivity towards victims of crime.

He cited an instance in which a woman went to a police station seeking help to trace her husband who had been missing for over 10 days.

"Instead of helping the woman, the cops advised her to explore the option of marrying someone else," Akhilesh said in a tweet.

The SP President also quoted media reports of a woman who recently consumed poison inside a police station when the cops allegedly refused to act on her complaint of sexual assault by local goons in his parliamentary constituency of Azamgarh.

North Bengal sees heavy rains, Darjeeling suspends trekking

KOLKATA | Agencies

The Darjeeling district administration on Tuesday had to stop trekking and close some roads as sudden heavy rainfall led to landslides in several areas of the hilly north West Bengal.

Trekking routes will be opened only after the improvement of the weather, it said.

According to the Met Department, torrential rain was experienced in many places in north Bengal from Monday night, leading to several landslides in the area. The sudden rains also led to the collapse of roads and snapping of power supply. Many tourists who went to Darjeeling during the puja were stuck.

"Many people go trekking during Puja holidays. However, due to the bad weather, it has been cancelled for the time being. The trek to Rimbik and Sandakpur is closed. The road connecting Tagda-Tinchuley and Kalijhora-Rangpo has been closed.



Tourist cars were stopped at these places from Tuesday noon," a senior district official said.

There was a sudden downpour at Gorubathan near Dowers in Jalpaiguri district on Tuesday afternoon, while large clouds over the mountains cut down visibility.

Apart from hilly areas like Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Tajdar and plains of Siliguri were also affected by rains. The road near Rimbick's

Palmajua Bridge collapsed and the road was closed. With road repairs not so easy in this area and to avoid danger, trekking to Rimbik and Sandakpur has been kept closed for the next 12 hours.

Meanwhile, a road in Kalimpong also collapsed due to landslide, and communications with Sikkim was been cut off, forcing tourists to return midway. There were some accidents due to the rain.

9 arrested for gang rape of two minor girls in Jharkhand

RANCHI | Agencies

Nine persons accused of raping two minor sisters have been arrested in Bishnupur block of Gumla district by the police, while one accused committed suicide by hanging.

The gang rape took place when the two sisters were returning after visiting the Dussehra fair with their brother on Friday evening (October 15). Ten youths intercepted them and passed lewd comments. The accused then beat up the brother, took both the girls to a nearby forest and took turns to rape them. A case of gang rape was registered on Saturday after which police raided a house where one of the accused hanged himself fearing arrest. On Tuesday, seven accused were arrested by the police when they reached the house of a lawyer in Gumla. Gumla police said that the seven accused were preparing to surrender in the court, but the police arrested them as



soon as the lawyer left the house. Two accused had already been arrested by the police. In another incident, an FIR was lodged on Sunday by a deaf-mute woman alleging gang rape by two home guards posted at Mehrma block office in Godda district of Jharkhand. She told the police through sign language that she had gone to the block office to graze her goat, when the two home guards raped her. Police have arrested both the accused.

Rajasthan government to give free school uniforms for classes 1-8

Jaipur | Agencies

The Rajasthan government will provide uniforms free-of-cost to students of classes 1 to 8 studying in government schools in the state.

The money for the uniform will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the students or their parents. The Rajasthan School Education Council has issued a circular in this regard and issued orders to all District Chief Education Officers to collect and send the information about the bank accounts.

The order said the process of making the uniforms available is being worked out. Information is being collected and the hard and soft copies are being sought about details of



bank accounts of eligible students or their parents and their Jan-Aadhaar card is being updated with their bank accounts. The details of bank accounts of all government schools or school management committees etc. is also being collected to work on the direct benefit transfer scheme.

Money can be deposited in the account of parents or students or it can be transferred to the bank accounts of schools or management committees of schools, the order added.

Providing free school uniforms is expected to help in increasing the enrolment percentage of children in government schools and reduce the drop-out rate.

Woman gang-raped for a week in Patna, 5 held

PATNA | Agencies

A married woman was allegedly gang-raped for a week by five men in Patna, an official said here on Tuesday.

All the accused have been arrested.

According to police, the woman left her house following an argument with her husband on October 10.

She decided to go to Kolkata and reached Patna Junction to catch a train. The woman then went to a hotel where she asked the owner about the train bound to



Kolkata. Gopal, the hotel owner, told his friend Amit about the woman and the duo took her to another person named Ajay who arranged for a room in Karbigahiya locality where he asked her to wait till the train arrived at night," said K.P. Sharma, an investigating officer of Jakkampur police station.

"A few hours later, all three

accused went to the room and assaulted her sexually. Two more auto drivers joined them in the crime," the officer said. The victim was held captive in that room till the night of October 17. One of the accused used to stay outside the room round the clock to keep an eye on her.

As the victim failed to reach Kolkata, her husband filed a missing complaint in Jakkampur police station. Her mobile was put on surveillance which found Patna junction as her last location. Accordingly, a search operation was launched.

'ALL KIDS DRINK', RAJ CONGRESS MLA'S VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Jaipur | Agencies

A video has gone viral on social media in which Rajasthan Congress MLA Meena Kanwar along with her husband Umed Singh Rathore are seen staging a protest at Jodhpur-based police station asking police to release their relatives, saying children usually drink.

"Bacche to sable pete hain (Everyone's children drink)," she can be heard saying in the video.

Meena Kanwar can be seen in verbal duel with police, saying, "We have requested police that kids, usually everybody's kids drink. It should not matter. You have arrested our children," she said. Meena Kanwar is MLA from Shergarh and the chaos, as per the sources, started on Sunday night around 10.30 p.m. when police arrested her relatives and issued challan to them for drunken driving under MVI Act while seizing their vehicle. Both husband and wife staged dharna at the police station and their video went viral when they were seen arguing with cops insisting that everybody's children drink. What went wrong if they were drunk, she asked the cops. As the couple were seen sitting on the floor, the husband of Meena is also seen questioning the cops why the police officer is sitting on a chair when the MLA is sitting on ground.

Bihar bypolls: Potshots between Congress, RJD intensify

PATNA | Agencies

By-elections for the Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur Assembly seats may turn to be a cake-walk for Bihar's ruling Janata Dal-United JD-U as the opposition RJD and Congress are more busy fighting each other.

Congress' Bihar in-charge Bhakta Charan Das accused the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of having an "undisclosed pact" with the BJP in the by-election.

"Tejashwi Yadav, the son of Lalu Prasad, has taken away the right of Congress by fielding RJD candidates



from both Kusheshwar Asthan and Tarapur. He has violated the coalition pact with us. We demanded one seat of Kusheshwar Asthan where we have strong ground support but he denied us," he said. "As he has not conceded one seat to the Congress, it means that he does not want the 19 seats of Congress to form the government. It clearly indi-

cates that RJD has an undisclosed alliance with the BJP to form the government in Bihar. We have fought against the BJP but they (RJD) are compromising their ideology to come into power," he added. Hitting back, RJD Rajya Sabha member Manoj K. Jha accused Das of "not knowing the ground reality of Bihar". "Das is a drawing room politician who has no knowledge of the sacrifices of Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi. He has made unacceptable comments against the RJD. He has given statement without being briefed by other leaders of the state," he said.

Centre asks states, UTs to focus on second vax dose

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central government on Tuesday asked all states and Union Territories (UTs) to focus on second dose of vaccination in the light of adequate availability of Covid vaccines. The Union Health Ministry said a sizeable number of beneficiaries who are eligible have not received their second vaccine dose. The states and UTs should focus on the second dose.

As the country is close to administering a billion vaccine doses, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan discussed and reviewed the mass vaccination drive across the country virtually with Health Secretaries and National Health Mission Managing Directors of states and UTs.

Underlining states and UT's efforts to achieve landmark vaccination coverage, he said many states have adequate doses to vaccinate those who are awaiting their second dose. He said the Central government can provide additional vaccine doses to the states/UTs to improve the



momentum and accelerate the vaccination drive.

The Union Health Ministry has asked states and UTs to identify and prioritize districts having low coverage for focused action and explore requirement for mobilisation efforts, addressing local challenges, need for

additional Covid vaccination centres and improving access in rural areas.

The Union Health Ministry has issued various Standard Operating Procedures over the last one year for international travel. The Ministry is in consultation with all stakeholders, including the Ministry of Home

Affairs, Bureau of Immigration, Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of External Affairs to review the guidelines for international travel. The Ministry has asked states and UTs to share their suggestions on international travel.

AAP to take out 'free bijli guarantee yatras' in UP

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Buoyed by the response to its promise of providing 300 units of electricity free to every household if voted to power, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is now planning to take out 'Free Bijli Guarantee Yatras' across the state.

The yatra will begin from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency of Varanasi on October 21. According to AAP spokesman Vaibhav Maheshwari, the yatra will be led by party MP and state in-charge Sanjay Singh.

Four yatras have been finalised but one will be held in all divisional headquarters over the next month.

"The yatra will cover a distance of 3-5 km in Varanasi. Through this, party workers will reiterate the promise made by the party to the people of UP in which AAP will provide 300 units of free power to people, waive off all pending bills within 24 hours of getting elected, provide free power to farmers for agricultural purposes and ensure that there is 24 hours of uninterrupted power supply," he said.

Maheshwari further said that the party had been running a 'free bijli guarantee scheme' in the state for which a number had been issued so that people could connect with the party. The AAP workers were also going house



to house and holding camps where they were telling people about the various promises made by the party.

"In the coming days, we will hold similar programmes on our promise of employment and also on education, for which we have promised to set aside 25 per cent of the state's budget," he stated.

After Varanasi, the next yatra will be held in Basti on October 22, followed by one in Gonda on October 24 and one in Ghaziabad on October 28. yatra will also be held in Lucknow but that will be the largest and the date is expected to be announced soon, said Maheshwari.



AHEAD OF FESTIVAL SEASON, MAHA EXTENDS TIMINGS FOR HOTELS, SHOPS

Spelling cheers ahead of Diwali, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday decided to relax pandemic norms further and extend the timings for restaurants and shops, an official said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As per the new orders, which come into effect immediately, all shops and establishments shall be allowed to remain open beyond 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. to handle the festival shopping rush expected over the next few days.

Similarly, all hotels, restaurants, eateries can remain open beyond 10 p.m. to midnight as part of series of relaxations introduced in phases, bowing to the demands of the hospitality industry.

From October 22, all cinemas and theatres, plus dry amusement parks/rides shall be thrown open for people's entertainment, though a decision on reopening the wet rides or water parks has been deferred for now.

The state government is also considering a proposal to allow commuters with two vaccine doses to travel in Mumbai suburban local trains, even as high schools and junior colleges have started func-



tioning with stringent norms from October 4. The Health Department is keeping a close watch on the emerging Covid-19 scenario especially after Mumbai recorded zero deaths on October 17, first time since March 26, 2020.

Wanted Maoist held in Gadchiroli

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a huge success, the Maharashtra Police has arrested a most wanted Maoist carrying a bounty of Rs 200,000 on his head from the forests of Permilli in the Aheri region of Gadchiroli, an official said on Tuesday.

The apprehended ultra has been identified as banned CPI-Maoist's Action Team Member Mangaru Madavi, a resident of Visamundi village in Bhamragad.

Following an intel input, the anti-Maoist operation was launched late on Monday in the forests and the security forces managed to trap and arrest Madavi early on Tuesday.

A history-sheeter in Gadchiroli Police records, he was directly involved in at least 3 murders, one encounter, attacks on police posts or security forces, the brutal



killing of a Vice Sarpanch and other serious offences.

Besides serving as Action Team Member engaged in various terror activities, he was a senior cadre of the Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Mazdoor Sanghatana, said Gadchiroli police.

The officials involved in the operation in different capacities included Additional SPs Sameer Shaikh, Anuj Tare, SP Ankit Goyal and their teams, and the police have renewed their appeal to other Maoists to give up violence and return to the social mainstream.

After mega fight with wife, Maha man burns his home, neighbourhood

Team Absolute | Satara

In a bizarre incident, a man in Maharashtra's Satara set his house on fire after a big brawl with his wife and ended up burning around 10 homes in the immediate neighbourhood, police said on Tuesday.

The incident in Majgaon village happened late on Monday evening when Sanjay Patil and his wife Pallavi got into a fight over some domestic differences, said Malharpath Police Station investigating officer Uttam Bhapkar. In a fit of boiling rage, Patil suddenly went to the kitchen, lit a fire, and started setting his house ablaze as his wife screamed for help.

Within minutes, the gas cylinder in the kitchen was engulfed in flames and burst, and the blaze spread to the homes, built close to each other in the vicinity.

Panicked neighbours managed to pull out the warring couple and also evacuated their own homes, with no casualties reported.

Though they tried their best to extinguish the conflagration, their dwellings were completely reduced to ashes by early this morn-



ing. "According to the local villagers, around 9-10 homes are fully gutted, and others suffered some damage, all totally worth around Rs 50 lakh," Bhapkar told reporter.

The enraged villagers, rendered homeless in the early winter chill, caught and thrashed Patil before handing him over to the police who arrested him, while his wife has taken refuge with the family of a relative nearby, locals said. Patil was produced before a court in Satara which sent him to police custody for two days and a probe into the reasons for the huge brawl, the intentions behind the arson at home, etc is underway, said Bhapkar.

3RD COVID WAVE MAY ARRIVE AFTER DIWALI: HEALTH MINISTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope on Tuesday said the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic has not receded yet in the state but at the same time conditions are not favourable to immediately trigger the third wave.

Speaking to reporters in the Nashik district, Tope also said the COVID Task Force has cautioned about a third wave of the pandemic post the Diwali season.

"The second wave of the pandemic is not over yet. But there is no favourable condition for a third wave as of now. The state task force has cautioned of a third wave post the Diwali season. We are assessing the situation," he said.

Tope said over nine crore people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 with at least one dose in Maharashtra and 35 per cent of them have taken both doses. He also said that no new coron-



avirus variant has been found yet and added that a special drive to inoculate the people left out so far will continue till the Diwali festival, which will be celebrated in the first week of November. Tope said the new challenge before the state administration is to get the college students vaccinated against COVID-19. He appealed to collegians to come forward for vaccination.

Colleges in Maharashtra are set to reopen from October 20. The government had said that it would be advisable if students are fully inoculated to attend the physical classes.

Referring to Mumbai not reporting any fresh death due to COVID-19 on Sunday for the first time nearly since the pandemic broke out in March last year, the minister said it was a big achievement for the city with a 1.5

crore population. The recent trend indicates that the number of COVID-19 cases is on the decline in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra reported 1,485 COVID-19 cases on Monday, the lowest daily count in more than 17 months, and 27 deaths, taking the infection tally to 65,93,182 and the toll to 1,39,816, as per the state health department. As of Monday, Maharashtra had 28,008 active cases.

According to a study, India's R-value, which reflects how rapidly the coronavirus pandemic is spreading, has remained below 1 since September, suggesting that the infection rate is declining.

In addition, the bulletin pointed out that the Monetary Policy Committee's call on inflation has turned out to be correct, with the softer than expected food prices providing the impetus for a further disinflation of the headline to a closer alignment with the target.

Slow it down; Thackeray on climate change

Team Absolute | Mumbai

We may not be able to stop climate change, but we can slow it down, state Environment Minister Aadiya Thackeray said on Monday.

He was interacting at National Stock Exchange during a panel discussion on 'Economic opportunity for India to accelerate management of marine & land waste and pollution', amid members of UN agencies, government, sustainability heads of corporates and select NGOs.

Asking people to make it a habit to adhere to climate change emergencies, making small changes, Thackeray said, "We may not be able to stop climate change, but what



we can do as corporates, citizens, industries is slow down what climate change is doing to us." NSE Foundation, a section 8 subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India Limited, partnering with Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet and UNICEF (Maharashtra), hosted a conversation around the environment and specifically the ocean and other waste management with designer Cyrill Gutsch, who has worked to rid oceans of plastic waste, and Erik Solheim, former executive director, UN Environment Programme.

Moody's revises outlook for Indian banking system to stable from negative

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Moody's has revised the outlook for the Indian banking system to stable from negative suggesting that the deterioration of asset quality since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic has been moderate and an improving operating environment will support asset quality.

In its banking system outlook, Moody's Investors Service said that India's economy will continue to recover in the next 12-18 months with GDP growing 9.3 per cent in the fiscal year ending March 2022 and 7.9 per cent in the following year.

"The pickup in economic activity will drive credit growth, which we expect to be 10-13 per cent annually. Moreover, weak corporate financials and funding constraints at finance companies have been key negative factors for banks but



these risks have receded," it said. The basis of Moody's revision of outlook for Indian banking system has been limited impact that the pandemic has on deterioration of asset quality of banks despite relatively limited regulatory support for borrowers. The quality of corporate loans has improved, indi-

cating that banks have recognised and provisioned for all legacy problem loans in this segment. The quality of retail loans has deteriorated, but to a limited degree because large-scale job losses have not occurred.

"We expect asset quality will further improve, leading to decline in credit costs, as economic activity normalises," Moody's banking system outlook said.

The ratings agency said that capital ratios have risen across rated banks in the past year because most have issued new shares. Public sector banks' ability to raise equity capital from the market is particularly credit positive because it reduces their dependence on the government for capital. However, further increase in capital will be limited because banks will use most of retained earnings to support an acceleration of loan growth.

SHILPA - RAJ KUNDRA FILE RS 50 CRORE DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST SHERLYN CHOPRA



Mumbai: Actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra have filed a ₹ 50 crore defamation case against actor Sherlyn Chopra today, five days after Ms Chopra filed a complaint against the couple for allegedly committing fraud against her and mental harassment. While addressing the media at Mumbai's Juhu police station, Sherlyn Chopra said, "I have filed a complaint to register an FIR against Raj Kundra for sexual harassment, cheating and criminal intimidation." Businessman Raj Kundra was arrested by the police on July 19 along with 11 others on charges related to the alleged creation of pornographic films. He was granted bail on September 20 by a Mumbai Court in the case on a surety of ₹ 50,000.

Film industry has to pay a price for being high profile: Javed Akhtar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar on Tuesday said the Hindi film industry is under the scanner because of its "high profile" nature and it is the "price" it has to pay. The veteran writer's statement comes at a time when there is a renewed attention on Bollywood and its celebrity culture after superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan was arrested in connection with a case of alleged seizure of drugs from a cruise ship. There have been voices on social media that felt the case against Aryan Khan was a deliberate attempt to target the film industry.

When asked if he feels that Bollywood is being routinely targeted with raids, Akhtar told reporters, "This is the price the film industry has to pay for being high profile. When you're high profile, people have fun pulling you down, throwing muck at you. If you're a nobody, then who has the time to throw stones at you?"

Akhtar was speaking at the launch of the book "Changemakers", written by authors Almas Virani and Sweta Samota.

The 23-year-old was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on October 3 from the cruise ship off the Mumbai coast. Without taking names, Akhtar said the superstar's son's case got more media attention than an



alleged "one billion dollar" drug recovery from a port, referring to the seizure of 2,988 kg of heroin at Mundra Port located in Kutch district of Gujarat.

Goa wants 'rich tourists', not ones who travel on low budget: Minister

Team Absolute | Panaji

Goa only wants "richest tourists" and not the kind of travellers who visit the coastal state on shoestring budget and cook food in the buses that they travel in Goa, Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar said on Tuesday.

"We do not want tourists who consume drugs. We do not want tourists who ruin Goa. We do not want tourists who cook food in buses in Goa. We want richest tourists. We want tourists who respect our culture, heritage and Goan-ness. We welcome tourists, but they should enjoy Goa within the limits of culture and tradition," Ajaonkar told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing



two-day session of the state legislative assembly.

Amid increasing cases of budget tourists, who travel to Goa by hired buses and then cook food along the state's roads in tourism areas, the state government had recently banned cooking in public, making it an offence.

The Tourism Minister also said that the state government would not tolerate tourists who visit Goa to indulge in drug abuse. "We are against drugs. Our

government is against it, our CM is against it, I am against it," the Tourism Minister said.

Ajaonkar also said that with the Prime Minister's decision to award five lakh free visas to international tourists, Goa would stand to benefit from the move.

"Tourism is going to open up. The PM has announced five lakh free visas. Charter flights will begin now. We have already waived fees to the tune of 50 per cent related to shack and hotel licences," Ajaonkar also said. Goa is considered one of the top beach and nightlife tourism destinations in the country. Before the advent of the pandemic, Goa attracted nearly 8 million tourists, both domestic and international, annually.



EDITOR'S SPECS

A subtle terror message

The selective targeting of civilians by the terrorists in recent days in Kashmir has all the telltale evidence of a sinister message. The intent behind the abrogation of citizenship rights, reserved only for the permanent residents of J&K under Article 35A, has been that all citizens of the country can settle in J&K. The choice of civilian targets by the terrorists during the last 15 days leaves one in no doubt that the perpetrators of murder and mayhem have chosen to spill innocent blood in Kashmir to convey a subtle message. The killing of the reputed pharmacy owner, Makhan Lal Bindroo, who had chosen to serve the people in the Valley despite the mass exodus of other members of his community, was aimed at scuttling attempts to bring back the displaced Pandits. The despicable murder of Bindroo was intended to warn members of the Kashmiri Pandit community—'don't ever think of returning to Kashmir.' Supinder Kour, the Sikh school principal gunned down by the terrorists inside her school premises, had been supporting an orphan Muslim girl. Killing Supinder Kour was intended as a message of extreme intolerance towards religious minorities. This was followed by killing non-local skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workforce that has been supporting the local economy. Most of this 2 to 3 lakh strong workforce has kept the local industry going so far. The killing of non-local workforce has, therefore, one and just one message the terrorists wanted to deliver—'Don't ever think that the dream of a Naya Kashmir would be allowed to be fulfilled. The very idea of employment, education, industrialisation and creation of high-end jobs for the local youth would naturally deplete the breeding grounds of terror. A youth with a better stake in life cannot be lured with the false promise of a better place in the World here after if he chooses to die as a terrorist.'

It's battle between Virbhadra's legacy and Himachal CM's credibility

Vishal Gulati

It's a battle between the past performance of an erstwhile political stalwart and the new achievements of a first-time Chief Minister in Himachal Pradesh, literally! Congress veteran and six-time Chief Minister late Virbhadra Singh's legacy will be put to test against BJP's Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur's credibility during the parliamentary bypoll of Mandi, one of country's toughest and sprawling constituencies. The saffron party has pitted Brigadier Khushal Thakur (retired), a decorated officer who played a crucial role in the 1999 Kargil war, against Congress' Pratibha Singh, a two-time MP from Mandi. The seat -- a prestige for Chief Minister Thakur as it falls in his home district -- fell vacant with the death of two-time BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma, who defeated Congress candidate Ashray Sharma, the grandson of former Telecommunications Minister Sukh Ram in his electoral debut, with a record margin. Eyeing sympathy votes, Pratibha

Singh, who is banking largely on her first-time legislator son Vikramaditya Singh for campaigning, is seeking votes on development carried out by her husband during his three stints as an MP from Mandi and six terms as the Chief Minister. Pratibha Singh, who lost the Mandi seat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, is missing no opportunity to remind the electorate that the victory in Mandi by-election "will be a tribute to him (Virbhadra Singh)". Hitting out at the Chief Minister in his Seraj Assembly constituency, she reminded the people that Virbhadra Singh had contributed a lot to the development of this area. "I am saddened to see the poor condition of roads. It appears that BJP pays no attention towards the problem of the common man," she said, adding the state needed 'majboot' (strong) Lok Sabha members, not 'majboor' (helpless) leaders. Countering the Congress candidate, Chief Minister Thakur replied: "People want a 'majboot' candidate as their MP, not a 'majboor' candidate." "The Congress candidate says that she did not want to contest the

election. If she was not keen, she should not contest it," he said, while seeking votes for party candidate Brigadier Khushal Thakur, a Kargil War hero. Facing criticism over his purported remark with Congress woman legislator Asha Kumari saying the women are stronger, not helpless, Chief Minister Thakur defended himself by saying he has high respect for the Congress candidate and for all women. "Asha Kumari misconstrued my words," Thakur told the media. Even the Congress candidate has courted controversy by taking a jibe at her political rival by saying Kargil "was a small battle, not a full-scale war", which the Chief Minister said "saddening". "Everybody knows about the valour of Brigadier Khushal Thakur. He fought the Kargil battle valiantly. It is saddening that Pratibha Singh described the battle with Pakistan a minor one," said the Chief Minister, who misses no opportunity to remind the voters that the credit for popularising Mandi as Chotti Kashi went to the late MP. Even in the Prime Minister's speeches had a



mention of Chotti Kashi. For the five-time legislator Thakur, development, welfare and no witch hunting are the mantras of success. He says his government is working without any vendetta and vengeance even towards the political opponents. Pratibha Singh is hoping to make a comeback from the margins after she failed to retain the Mandi seat in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. She believes she has an edge owing to sympathy. She's also banking on this month's results in the Panchayati Raj Institutions elections in which the Congress-supported candidates did particularly well in the tribal-dominated areas that fall in the Mandi constituency. The main contest in Mandi is between the BJP and the Congress. Her husband, Virbhadra Singh, who devoted over 50 years for the common people despite being born in royalty, had travelled across the

state, both as an MP and the Chief Minister. The veteran leader passed away on July 8 in Shimla at the age of 87, leaving behind a rich political legacy. Her husband was elected from Mandi in 1971, 1980 and 2009. However, Virbhadra Singh lost the Mandi seat in 1977. At the time of his death, he was representing the Arki Assembly seat that is going for bypoll along with two other Assembly seats -- Fatehpur (in Kangra district) and Jubbal-Kotkhai (Shimla district) -- on October 30. However, BJP candidate Brigadier Thakur in his maiden contest is banking on his integrity and connect with voters. The Mandi constituency, which includes Kullu, Mandi and some areas of Chamba and Shimla districts, besides the tribal-dominated Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti, is one of the biggest in the country.

Exploits of Raj 'tree man' inspiration for preserving nature

Archana Sharma

In 1975, an 18-year-old youth was advised by his grandmother that there is no better deed than planting saplings and feeding animals and birds. The suggestion of his grandmother, who helped him plant a peepal tree at that time, seeped deep into the mind of the youth, which eventually changed the course of his life. Now, Himmaram Bhanbhu, is known as the 'tree man' of Rajasthan. Recipient of Padma Shri in 2020, Bhanbhu has planted over 5.5 lakh saplings, of which 3.5 lakh have grown into big trees, giving oxygen worth Rs 12 billion to the masses. Bhanbhu is a social worker, nature lover, conservationist and environmentalist from Nagaur district in Rajasthan, who takes pride in his work and urges people to start caring



for the environment, else they will face the consequences by the year 2040. "The rising temperatures across the world due to global warming is a warning sign for all. Every person might have to carry oxygen 24x7 if the current trend of depletion of greenland continues," he said.

Bhanbhu has converted his six-hectare land into a jungle by planting 11,000 trees. Now there are 300 peacocks and hundreds of deer and other animals on this land. "Even the peepal tree which my grandmother inspired me to grow has spread wide and large, allowing around 500 people to sit under it. We celebrate its birthday each year by lighting diyas around it," he said. Bhanbhu is 70 now, but there is no lack of energy in him as aims to plant 2 lakh more trees. "During the Covid-19 pandemic, we faced oxygen crisis which taught all of us a lesson to care for our environment. While a person normally lives till 80, a peepal tree has an age of 700 years while many other trees also live for around hundreds of years. So, we all should try to grow one sapling into a tree," he said, adding, "We have ensured that

we plant one tree on the birth of each child in our village and name it after his name so that his name lives for hundreds of years." Bhanbhu also has issues with bursting crackers during Diwali. "When we were kids, we used fire crackers in limited numbers. But over the years, factories producing crackers have mushroomed with the sky turning into a smoke chamber during Diwali, posing health hazards to people, especially the children and the elderly. Is this the way to celebrate festivals," he asked. "I have made 2.5 lakh kids take a pledge to shun crackers during Diwali. Instead, they can light diyas and distribute clothes and sweets to the poor by saving the money they spend on crackers," he added.

international

N.KOREA FIRES WHAT SEEMS TO BE SLBM: SEOUL

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired what appears to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) toward the East Sea on Tuesday, the South Korean military said, in yet another setback to Seoul's efforts for peace with Pyongyang. The short-range missile was launched from waters east of Sinpo, a city on the North's east coast, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). The launch was detected at 10.17 a.m., Yonhap News Agency reported. The missile travelled about 590 km at a top altitude of around 60 km, an informed source said, noting the possibility that the North might have used a submarine as a launch platform this time. The North previously conducted an SLBM test in 2015 and 2019. The South's military believes that it used a



barge rather than a submarine during the past tests. Officials said that Tuesday's launch came after South Korean and US intelligence authorities had detected signs of a possible weapons test near Sinpo, where the North has been pushing to build a 3,200-tonne submarine capable of SLBM operations. "The intelligence authorities of South Korea and the US are currently conducting a thorough analysis regarding additional details on the missile," the JCS said. The North's latest missile test marks its

eighth known projectile launch this year. It previously fired a new hypersonic missile, called the Hwasong-8, on September 28. The US Indo-Pacific Command condemned the missile launch, calling on the North to refrain from "any further destabilising acts". China called for concerned countries to exert "restraint", saying the situation on the Korean Peninsula stands at a critical period. North Korea watchers cited a possibility that a new, small-sized SLBM, capable of striking targets in the South or Japan, might have been fired from a 2,000-tonne submarine on Tuesday. The North displayed a mini-SLBM at a defence exhibition in Pyongyang last week. In recent years, Pyongyang has boasted its development of various SLBMs, including the "Pukguksong-4" and the "Pukguksong-5", which were unveiled during military parades in October last year and January, respectively.

GLOBAL COVID-19 CASELOAD TOPS 241 MN

Washington: The global coronavirus caseload has topped 241 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.90 million and vaccinations soared to over 6.61 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University. In its latest update on Tuesday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number number of vaccine doses administered stood at 241,098,699, 4,904,877 and 6,17,433,262, respectively. The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 45,050,219 and 726,196, according to the CSSE. In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 34,081,315 cases.

US will not join Afghanistan talks hosted by Russia

Washington | Agencies

The US will not join talks on Afghanistan hosted by Russia this week, the Department of State has said. "We will not participate in the Moscow talks," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters in a press briefing on Monday. "The Troika-plus has been an effective, a constructive forum. We look forward to engaging in that forum going forward, but we're not in a position to take part this week," Price was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. He said that the US is unable to join the talks due to logistic difficulties, adding the US side supports the process. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Antony Blinken later in the day announced that US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad is leaving his post and will be replaced by his deputy Thomas West. The departure of Khalilzad, who served as special envoy for Afghanistan under presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, came



less than two months after the US withdrawal from the country. Russian special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmir Kabulov said on Friday that Russia had invited the United States to participate in the upcoming talks on Afghanistan in Moscow, which would focus on post-conflict reconstruction and humanitarian assistance. Russia has invited Taliban representatives to the meeting slated for October 20. The Moscow-format consultations on Afghanistan were launched in 2017 on the basis of the six-party mechanism for consultations among representatives from Russia, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and China.

Buoyed by int'l support, Taiwan gets ready to counter Chinese aggression

China has reiterated its plans to integrate Taiwan with the mainland country, which is complemented by military threats and frequent violation of Taiwanese air space. But Taipei has declared its intention to counter Chinese aggression in the wake of growing international support for the island country, which Beijing calls an integral part of mainland China.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chinese President Xi Jinping has asserted that Taiwan must be annexed with the mainland, which Taiwanese leadership has opposed fiercely. With the people of Taiwan completely against the annexation, China has the only option of a military takeover. And Beijing has minced no word while expressing its intentions. Military threats to Taiwan have seen a sharp increase recently, which involved incursion into the Taiwanese airspace. Any military action by Beijing is bound to bring the US and its allies into the Taiwan Strait crisis. So the Taiwan Strait is set to witness serious tension and even armed conflict in case China tries to take control of Taiwan. Jinping has asked for "peaceful reunification" of Taiwan even as he refused to rule out the possibility of a military takeover. Warning the Taiwanese people that their



future is in their hands, Xi said that Chinese people had a "glorious tradition" of opposing separatism. His message was clear that Taiwan cannot be allowed to be an independent nation at

any cost. "The historical task of the complete reunification of the motherland must be fulfilled, and will definitely be fulfilled," Xi said. The comments of Xi's, however, were not

welcomed in Taiwan despite the fact that a section of Taiwanese people may have no problem in reunification to avoid bloodshed. "China is presently rather authoritarian. Especially under Xi Jinping, it's gotten worse. Reunification is not appropriate now," said a Taiwanese national. It will not be easy for China to get Taiwan integrated with the mainland. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has declared that the Taiwanese would not bow to pressure from Beijing and instead built strong military capabilities to fight off Chinese forces. "We will continue to bolster our national defence and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us," she said in response to Xi's comments. Tsai also stressed the international support in favour of Taiwan in case of China sends its troops to occupy the island country.

Raisi urges removal of sanctions on nuke deal revival

Tehran | Agencies

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that Washington should show its seriousness on the revival of the Iran nuclear deal by lifting anti-Iran sanctions. "We are serious about outcome-oriented negotiations, and there must be a sign on the other side that is serious about lifting the sanctions," Raisi said in an interview with Iran's state TV. In the negotiations that took place a few days ago in Tehran with the representatives of the European Union (EU), the Iranian side said that the Islamic republic is serious, and that seriousness should be seen in the other side, he said, stressing that "these oppressive sanctions must be lifted", reports Xinhua news agency. "We are committed to what we said," Raisi referred to his administration's pledges to resume nuclear talks aimed at the restoration of 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive



Plan of Action (JCPOA). "We had said that when the government is established, work (on nuclear talks) will be maintained and now work is pursued through the Foreign Ministry," he noted. Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh, said on Monday that Iran and the EU will continue discussions on JCPOA topics in Brussels in the coming days. According to western media, the recent talks between the EU and Iran are aimed to bring Washington and Tehran back to compliance with the accord.



SUBSIDY OF MORE THAN RS 20 THOUSAND CRORE IN ELECTRICITY CHARGES

'Mukhya Mantri Ration Aapke Dwar' scheme approved, Chief Minister Chouhan chairs Cabinet meeting

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A virtual meeting of the Cabinet was held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Cabinet has decided to give subsidy of over Rs 20 thousand crore in electricity rates to domestic and agricultural consumers for the financial year 2021-22. In the scheme implemented for domestic consumers, a maximum bill of Rs 100 up to the first 100 units on monthly consumption of up to 150 units, and for the BPL domestic consumers of SC and ST, the provision of charging Rs.100 in 4 months at the rate of only Rs.25 per month from domestic consumers, whose monthly consumption is 30 units, has been continued this year as well. A subsidy of Rs.4981 crore 69 lakh has been approved under the Griha Jyoti Yojana.

The Cabinet has also decided to provide relief in electricity rates to the agricultural consumer category. In this, a flat rate of Rs 750 per horsepower per year will be payable to the consumers of meterless permanent agricultural pump of capacity up to 10 horsepower. The remaining amount will be payable by the state government as subsidy. For this, a subsidy of Rs 9876 crore will be provided by the state government to the distribution companies.



About 21 lakh 75 thousand agricultural pump consumers of the state will be benefited by this decision. A flat rate of Rs 1500 per horsepower per year will be payable by the consumer of a meterless permanent agricultural pump with a capacity of more than 10 horsepower. The remaining amount will be payable by the state government to the distribution companies as subsidy. For this a subsidy of Rs 644 crore will be provided which will benefit about 50 thousand agricultural pump consumers of the state. Energy charges, fuel charges and fixed charges will be waived on permanent and temporary metered agricultural pump combinations. The rebate amount is paid by the state government to the companies in the form of subsidy.

For this an amount of Rs 350 crore will be payable and about 2 lakh temporary and 20 thousand meter permanent agricultural pump consumers will be benefitted. Free electricity will be provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe agricultural consumers of up to 5 horsepower having land up to one hectare. The entire amount of the bill will be payable by the state government as subsidy. About 9 lakh 25 thousand agricultural pump consumers will be benefitted by this. For this, an amount of Rs 4733 crore will be given by the state government as subsidy to the distribution companies.

For this, an amount of Rs 4733 crore will be given by the state government as subsidy to the distribu-

tion companies. Energy charges and annual minimum charges will be waived off for high pressure lift/group irrigation consumers. The exemption amount will be borne by the state government as subsidy. For this, an amount of Rs 90 crore will be payable as subsidy. With the decision taken by the Cabinet, the consumers of agriculture sector of the state will get annual relief of Rs 15,722 crore 87 lakh in electricity bill.

'MUKHYA MANTRI RATION AAPKE DWAR' SCHEME APPROVED

The Cabinet has decided to implement 'Mukhya Mantri Ration Aapke Dwar' scheme for the convenience of poor tribal families, for distribution of ration material from their village to the eligible families of dependent villages of fair price shops in tribal development blocks of the state. This scheme will be implemented in the tribal development blocks of the remaining districts except the districts of the election code of conduct. Under the scheme, tribal families of 7511 villages will be benefited in 74 development blocks of 16 districts

MISCREANTS RAISE PAK-LIKE FLAG AT BJP OFFICE IN BETUL

Betul: Miscreants allegedly raised a flag resembling that of Pakistan at the BJP office in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh. The flag was later removed after several photos and videos went viral on the social media.

On Monday evening, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Praveen Gugnani lodged a written complaint with the Betul Superintendent of Police through e-mail saying that a Pakistani flag was installed at the BJP office.

"Some anti-national elements have tied an Islamic flag resembling that of Pakistan at the BJP office in Betul district on one side without permission," the complaint added.

The BJP leader in his complaint said on the basis of the pictures which went viral he initially thought it was fake but later the same day in the evening, he sent a BJP worker to the spot where it was confirmed that the flag was installed at the BJP office till late night. The accused must be booked under a criminal case.

As the videos went viral, the Police removed the flag the same evening. It is not yet known who installed the flag. A police investigation is on.

Survey of crop damage due to rain will be conducted: CM Chouhan

Assistance amount to given after survey

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that crops have been damaged due to rain in the last two days in some areas of the state. Chouhan said that he wants to assure all farmers that necessary relief will be provided to them affected by this rain. For this purpose, instructions have been given to survey the damage done to crops in the affected areas. Once the damage is assessed, the affected will get assistance. Farmers will also be provided the benefit of crop insurance scheme. Necessary arrangements will be made for this. The state government stands with the farmers in this hour of crisis. Madhya Pradesh government is a farmer friendly government.

Aid to farmers and domestic consumers by Government

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the government has decided to give aid for providing affordable electricity to different categories of farmers and domestic consumers. A subsidy of more than Rs 20 thousand

crore will be given by the government. Farmers get cheap electricity because the government gives money from the treasury. Disruption of electricity supply will not be allowed. There is power crisis all over the world today. Many developed countries are also struggling with this crisis. The Prime Minister is also aware of the problem. They will not allow Madhya Pradesh to suffer. Necessary cooperation is also being received from their level. We also give subsidy of about Rs 4900 crores to domestic consumers due to which cheap electricity is available. Altogether it has been decided to give subsidy of more than Rs 20 thousand 700 crore. With this, farmers and domestic consumers will get cheap electricity.

Curb power consumption

Chief Minister said that it is very necessary to prevent the misuse of power during this time of crisis. Use of electricity as per the need is in the interest of all of us. Everyone try to save electricity. We should save electricity as much as possible.



CHIEF MINISTER CHOUHAN PLANTS GULMOHAR SAPLING

Bhopal | Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling of Gulmohar in Smart Garden today. Chief Minister Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in big clusters among the leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. In summer, Gulmohar trees are laden with flowers instead of leaves. It is also rich in medicinal properties.

NUISANCE AND STONE PELTING AT MANY PLACES IN MP

Bhopal | At many places in Madhya Pradesh, miscreants created ruckus, also pelted stones. Many people have also been injured in this stone pelting. In Jabalpur, Dhar and Barwani, there were attempts to disturb the communal harmony as well. Due to the corona epidemic in the state, the administration is allowing public events with a fixed number. In order to conduct the events peacefully on the occasion of Eid Miladunnavi, rioters of a sect pelted stones on the police force deployed in Jabalpur. The incident took place in the fish market area of Gohalpur Marg under Kotwali police station area. Where people bursting fire-crackers pelted stones at the police itself.

It has been told that to control the stone-pelting mob, the police had to release tear gas shells along with lathi-charge. Many vehicles were damaged in this stone pelting, while a large number of people fled leaving their shoes and slippers due to the stampede.

Similarly, there was a dispute during the procession going out in Rajpur area of Barwani. A procession was being taken out here without permission. During this, two sides came face to face when one side played the controversial song and there was fierce stone pelting. Many shops were damaged in this stone pelting and many people got hurt.

Another incident took place in Dhar district. The procession of Eid Miladunnavi was going out here, this procession reached the Utavad Darwaza area when some people tried to remove the barricades put up by the police. These people were stopped by the police forcefully, even after that, if they were not considered rioters, then the police used sticks.

Flames erupted during borewell excavation in Panna district

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Excavation for borewell was going on in the premises of a school in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh. The machine was engaged in this work, meanwhile the water did not come out from the borewell pit, the flames started rising with the release of gas. Later, somehow the fire was brought under control with the help of nitrogen gas. It has been told that in the secondary school of Jhuthka area of Gunaur tehsil, digging was being done for drinking water with the help of boring machine. Suddenly, flames started coming out of the excavated pit. The fire took a formidable form in no time and a situation of stampede was created among the people present there. The driver of the machine somehow managed to get out safely.

It is told that the flames continued to rise and he also took the machine engaged in the boring work. The villagers somehow poured water from buckets to douse the fire, but the fire could not be brought under control.



After that the fire brigade was also called.

When the fire did not come under control, arrangements were made for nitrogen gas and after several hours of effort, the fire was brought under control.

According to administrative officials, how this fire started, it is being investigated. There is a possibility that there may be natural gas or other flammable material reserves present at that place.

Twenty five thousand seats increased in colleges : Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the Higher Education department is continuously taking decisions in the interest of the students. The colleges that want to increase the number of seats on the basis of the applications of students, should send their proposal to the state government at the earliest. In any case, we will give approval by October 21.

Dr. Mohan Yadav informed that 25 thousand seats have been increased in 262 government and 17 private colleges. He said that it is our endeavor that all the students can get admission in this session itself and can take advantage of the new courses.

New subjects approved The state government has given approval to start new

subjects in various colleges in the academic session 2021-22, an order in the regard of which has been issued by the department in this regard.

Approval has been given for teaching Economics, Hindi and Political Science subjects at PG level in Government Madhav Arts and Commerce College, Ujjain. Again, approval has been given to teach BA Foundation course, History, Geography, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Hindi Literature, English Literature and Computer Application and B.Com, B.Com with Computer Application and B.Com with Taxation in Government Madhav Vignyan Postgraduate College, Ujjain.

Similarly, course on Kathak subject will start at the postgraduate level in Government Maharani Laxmi Bai Girls College, Bhopal.



Van Bandhu Parishad's Royal kitty with Colourful Garba

78 Members participated and enjoyed the get together for Durga Maa ki bhakti with Ras Garba and joyous Dasherha festival. All the members participated with enthusiasm and excitement. 2 Prizes each were given to Best dressed in traditional attire, two best dancers and two most enthusiastic and energetic dancers. President Sandhya Agarwal along with her team Sangita Palod, Renu Gupta, Alka Gupta and Lalita Khabya thanked the gathering. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful evening which coincided with Sharad Purnima. The programme concluded with Mouth watering yummy cuisines.

Parties and candidates worried about voters' silence

Campaigning for the by-elections to the assembly and Lok Sabha in Madhya Pradesh is slowly gaining momentum, but the silence of the voters remains, which has increased the concerns of the candidate as well as the political parties.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The political temperature is high in the state, the campaigning period is increasing continuously, so the attacks on each other by politicians have also intensified. Apart from Raigaon, Prithvipur and Jobat in three assembly constituencies, by-elections are being held in Khandwa parliamentary constituency, which is completely painted in electoral colours. Every day leaders' meet-

ings are being held here, public relations is going on, and claims and promises are being made there.

The leaders who came out for the election campaign are counting their work among the voters. While the ruling party BJP is trying to woo by giving details of the works done by it in the interest of the public, the details of the poor friendly schemes of the central government are being given.

The leaders and party workers who are

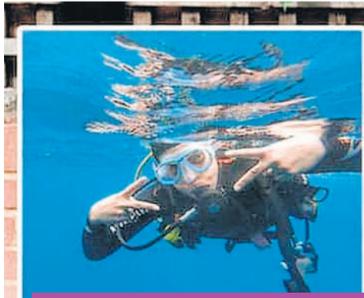
campaigning in the by-elections are speaking a lot but the voters are completely silent. This silence of the voter has increased the concern of the candidates as well as the parties because the silence of the voters remains an inexplicable puzzle.

Claims are being made by both the parties BJP and Congress to win all the four places, but no party is sure. Of the four seats where by-elections are being held, one of the representatives of the BJP was elected from Raigaon and Khandwa Lok

Sabha constituencies. Congress candidate had won from Jobat and Prithvipur.

In these by-elections, the command of campaigning on behalf of BJP is in the hands of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma, while Congress's campaigning is in the hands of State President Kamal Nath, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh, former Union Minister Arun Yadav. In this election, the national leader of any party is not coming for campaigning.





PRIYANKA CHOPRA GETS WET IN SCUBA DIVING PICS



Los Angeles | Agencies

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has been busy with the filming of the American spy series 'Citadel' since the past few weeks. It's a known fact that when Priyanka takes up a project, she puts her heart and soul into it, from sleeping on airplanes in order to make way for her water-tight schedules to modifying her biological clock as per the time zones across the globe, the international star leaves no stone unturned to put up terrific performances that win the audience over and over again.

And those, who work hard, deserve a downtime once in a while where they

could rejuvenate and strike back with a greater force.

Priyanka took some time off from her busy schedule to spend time in the cool blue waters of the Mediterranean sea. The actress went scuba diving accompanied by her brother-in-law Franklin Nathaniel Jonas, her mother Madhu Chopra and the camera crew of Citadel. Talking of 'Citadel', the one-of-a-kind spy thriller will feature a mothership series starring Priyanka, Richard Madden and Roland Møller. Created by Patrick Moran and the Russo brothers, who are the leading forces behind the Avengers franchise, the series is set to premiere on the streaming giant Amazon Prime in January 2022.

Mel Brooks' classic, 'History of the World, Part I', to get a sequel

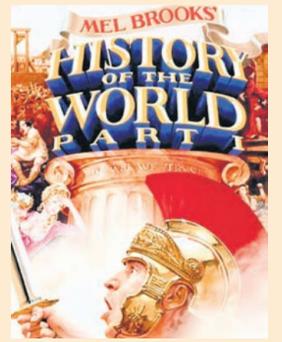
Los Angeles | Agencies

The Mel Brooks comedy classic, 'History of the World, Part I', which was released in 1981 to mixed reviews, will have a sequel in the form of an eight-part series titled 'History of the World, Part II', to be streamed on the OTT platform Hulu in the Spring of 2022, reports 'Variety'.

The original film, which saw Brooks play five roles, including that of Moses, was made up of segments, each parodying different periods of world history, from the Stone Age to the French Revolution. It also saw the movie debut of America's most celebrated tap dancer, Gregory Hines, as well as cameos by 'Playboy' founder Hugh Hefner and Nigel Hawthorne of 'Yes, Minister' and 'Yes, Prime Minister' fame.

Brooks, who is 95 years old and a World War II Battle of the Bulge veteran, is one of the very few actors who have won an EGOT -- Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony. He will be a writer and executive producer of the Hulu series.

"I can't wait to once more tell the real truth about all the phony baloney stories the world has been conned into believing are History!" the comedy legend, who was last in the news for the political video he made endorsing Joe Biden, said to 'Variety'.



Adele suffered with anxiety attacks during her divorce

Los Angeles | Agencies

Adele has admitted she suffered from an 'anxiety attack' as she struggled to cope with the fallout from her divorce. The singer, shares son Angelo, nine, with her ex-husband Simon Konecki, and revealed she would try to put on a brave face until their little boy was sleeping.

Speaking on Australian radio station Carrie & Tommy, Adele revealed one of the songs on her upcoming album, 30, features a voicemail she left for her friend as she suffered with a panic attack, reports dailymail.co.uk. The Easy On Me singer explained: 'It's in the song about my son, it's at the end, in the outro. I was really frightened.'

'I was having an anxiety attack and I called my best friend to try to talk to her to calm me down but she didn't bloody answer.'

'It shines some light on... I'm talking about my son in the rest of the song, and once I put him to bed I can stop putting on that brave face.'

Adele and charity CEO Simon, 47, announced they were going their separate ways in April 2019 after nine years together, and their divorce was finalised in March this year.

While the pair have remained amicable and co-parent their son, the pain Adele felt during their split was the inspiration behind her album. Asked what she hopes Angelo will take away from his track, she explained: 'So often mum is mum and dad is dad, and who they are outside that role is never really discussed in childhood. So it's more that.'

'And when he does get older he will understand, because life is going to hit him as well, of what I was going through.'



'Indiana Jones' with 'Zoro'

Los Angeles | Agencies



Oscar nominee Antonio Banderas was spotted on the set of Indiana Jones 5 for the first time in Italy on Monday. The Spanish 61-year-old was given an affectionate, warm welcome by his famous costmate, Oscar nominee Harrison Ford. The 79-year-old Hollywood silver fox gave Antonio a big bear hug as they reunited in the Sicilian town of Castellammare del Golfo. Ford and Banderas previously co-starred as Drummer and Galgo, respectively, in Patrick Hughes' 2014 action three-quel The Expendables 3, reports dailymail.co.uk. The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard actor wore a captain's cap, dirty chambray shirt, grey pin-stripe pants, and laceless canvas sneakers selected by costume designers David Crossman and Glyn Dillon.

Antonio's grey hair and beard looked bushy and disheveled, and he carried a cane as his mystery, harbor-dwelling character. The acting pair's bromance was interrupted by a young male costmate, Oscar-nominated director James Mangold, and three-time Emmy winner Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

Los Angeles | Agencies

Salma Hayek made a rare red carpet appearance alongside her daughter Valentina, 14, as they attended the Eternals premiere at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood on Monday. Salma stars as Ajak in the Marvel film, and was dressed to impress as she celebrated the movie's release. The actress, 55, showcased her ample cleavage in a plunging black gown with gold accents along the inside of the frock. Salma wowed in a revealing black gown that featuring a very low-cut neckline. The beautiful actress' frock featured a gold color lining, which was seen via the thigh slit. The movie star rocked an eye-catching diamond necklace as well as her wedding ring, while toting a black clutch and gold heels. She styled her locks loose and straight, opting for smoky eye makeup and glossy lips, reports dailymail.co.uk. Valentina looked stylish as she posed alongside her mother in a polka dot dress while toting a black clutch bag. Salma shares daughter Valentina with husband Francois-Henri Pinault, her husband of 11 years.



Busty Salma Hayek, makes a rare red carpet appearance with lookalike daughter Valentina, at the Eternals premiere

'I met him that day and was like, "this is crazy!"'

Cara Delevingne reveals she had a one-night stand in an elevator and admits intimate details about self-pleasure during candid chat

Los Angeles | Agencies

Cara Delevingne has revealed intimate details about her sex life, saying she has only had one one-night stand and also discussed her experiences with self-pleasure.

The model, 29, spoke with actress Sarah Hyland and comedian Whitney Cummings as part of the Ellentube series Lady Parts in an episode called 'The Joy of Sex', reports dailymail.co.uk. Discussing her one-off fling, she said: 'I've had like one one-night stand when I was a lot younger but I remember the spontaneity off it. The person I was with, we were playing music for three hours. I was on the drums, he was on the guitar and then we swapped. Then he was going to drive me home and we had sex in the elevator. I mean it was so sexy. It was amazing. It's not that I didn't like him, I had met him that day or whatever and was like, "this is crazy"'. Discussing self-pleasure, she said: 'That was the worst thing growing up. You're shamed for masturbating. I remember the pool jet was probably the first. I would hump a teddy a bit too long. I remember being in a sandpit and building a sand castle in my underwear and just sitting on it and being like, "this is nice."'

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Rita Ora



2021 T20 WORLD CUP

SHAKIBAL HASAN'S, MUSTAFIZUR & NAIM HELP BANGLADESH WIN, KEEP SUPER 12 DREAMS ALIVE

Al Amerat (Oman) | Agencies

Shakib Al Hasan's all-round performance, Mohammad Naim's fighting fifty, and Mustafizur Rahman's superb bowling effort led Bangladesh to a comprehensive 26-run victory over Oman in the 6th match of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground, here on Tuesday.

With this win, Bangladesh kept their hopes alive for a spot in the Super 12s. They will face Papua New Guinea in their next match.

Riding on fighting knocks by Mohammad Naim (64 off 50) and Shakib Al Hasan (42 off 29), Bangladesh posted a total of 153 all out in 20 overs.

Chasing a fighting total, Oman lost the wicket of Aaqib Ilyas in the second over. However, Jatinder Singh and Kashyap Prajapati made full use of the fielding restrictions and kept the scoreboard ticking. Prajapati survived two dropped catches, with Mustafizur Rahman and Mahmud Ullah at fault for the chances.

But, Mustafizur, who returned for the last over of the Powerplay dismissed Prajapati for 21. On the other hand, Jatinder continued to attack even after the first six overs, hitting Shakib for a six and a four off consecutive balls. Oman were 70/2 and needed 84 from 10 overs, but their chase was derailed after the drinks break with two wickets falling in two overs. Mahedi Hasan broke the 34-run stand between Jatinder Singh and Zeeshan Maqsood with the Oman skipper holding out in the deep to a great diving catch by Mustafizur.

In the very next over, the pendulum swung Bangladesh's way when the



well-set Jatinder found Liton Das at deep square leg. A couple of quiet overs pushed the asking rate over 10 for the last five overs. Oman buckled under mounting pressure and lost three wickets in the next two overs, with Sandeep Goud, Ayaan Khan, and Naseem Khushi all departing for single-digit scores.

Back into the attack, Mustafizur picked up two more wickets and eventually finished with figures of 4/36. Oman batted out the 20 overs but fell short by 26 runs after it looked at one point that they would be cruising to a win.

Earlier, batting first, Bangladesh were off to a poor start as they lost the wickets of Liton Das (6) and Mahedi Hasan (0) cheaply. While Das was dismissed by Bilal Khan in the 3rd over, Fayyaz Butt got rid of Hasan in the 5th over as Bangladesh limped to 29/2. Two quick wickets in the powerplay

forced Mohammad Naim and Shakib Al Hasan to have a cautious approach with the bat. The pair rotated the strike regularly and hit occasional boundaries to keep the scoreboard ticking. Naim, who was drafted into the playing XI for this game, got two lives in two overs. The first time he was dropped by Jatinder Singh, who parried the ball over for a six, then by Kashyap Prajapati. Riding their luck, Bangladesh managed to revive the innings, as they went into the drinks break at 63/2. In the next three overs, Bangladesh scored 35 runs, with Naim and Shakib both taking the attack to the Oman bowlers. It took a moment of brilliance from Aaqib Ilyas whose direct hit caught a well-set Shakib short of his crease. Nurul Hasan, who came to bat next, didn't last long as he holed out in the deep to Sandeep Goud. Naim, at the other end, punished the Oman bowler and

got to a half-century with a thumping four. But, unfortunately, with wickets falling at the other end, he was running out of partners at the other end and got out trying to accelerate the scoring. After Naim's wicket, Bangladesh's lower order didn't contribute much. Oman were brilliant in the death overs, giving away just 33 runs while scalping six wickets to skittle Bangladesh out for 153 in 20 overs. Fayyaz Butt and Bilal Khan were the most successful of the bowlers with three wickets each while Kaleemullah picked two.

Brief scores:

Bangladesh 153 all out in 20 overs (Mohammad Naim 64 off 50, Shakib Al Hasan 42 off 29; Bilal Khan 3/18) beat Oman 127/9 in 20 overs (Jatinder Singh 40 off 33; Mustafizur Rahman 4/36, Shakib Al Hasan 3/28).

Scotland beat PNG for second win in a row

Al Amerat (Oman) | Agencies

Scotland continued to impress in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup as they defeated Papua New Guinea by 17 runs to move closer to a spot in the Super 12 stages of the showpiece event on Tuesday.

Guided by a half-century by Richie Berrington and clinical performance by bowlers, Scotland, who had stunned Bangladesh in their opening match, made easy meat of the lightweight Oman.

They rode on Richie Berrington's entertaining half-century to post a defendable target of 165/9 in 20 overs. In response, Scotland bowlers led by Josh Davey bundled out PNG for 148 all out in 19.3 overs. Berrington's 70 off 49 balls was the cornerstone of Scotland's innings. He added a crucial 92 runs with Matt Cross for the third wicket, amid a flurry of wickets at the start and the death. Scotland were 26/2 in the 4th over when Berrington and wicket-keeper Matthew Cross came together to raise 92 runs for the third wicket with a score reading 118. Berrington and Calum MacLeod then took the score to 151 before MacCallum was out and that led to another collapse as Scotland, from 151/3 in 18.2



overs ended up at 165/9. Coming up against disciplined bowling in their chase, PNG lost five wickets in the Powerplay. Opener Tony Ura's poor run in the tournament extended to a second game as he chopped on in the second over, giving Josh Davey his first wicket of the day. Having taken Brad Wheel for a four on the first ball of the over, Lega Siaka attempted to dance down the pitch again, only to edge to the wicket-keeper. Alasdair Evans, playing his first game of this World Cup in place of Safyaan Sharif, had been welcomed with a flurry of fours in front of and behind square from Assad Vala. However, he had the last laugh: Vala, searching for the third boundary of the over, could only top edge to offer Wheel at mid-on an easy catch inside the circle. Charles Amini was run-out thanks to a good throw from Michael

Leask from the deep behind square. Three balls later, Berrington at point plucked the ball out of the air to send back Simon Atai and give Davey his second. Coming in at No.7, Vanua hit Chris Greaves for back-to-back fours and found a couple of sixes off Wheel the very next over. It brought the equation down to 62 needed off 30 balls. But with Doringa stumped off Mark Watt in the 17th over, and Vanua himself falling in the 18th, PNG's last hopes faded. A slower ball bouncer from Davey that was gloved to Cross proved Vanua's and PNG's undoing.

Brief scores

Scotland; 165/9 in 20 overs (Richie Berrington 70, Kabua Morea 4-31) vs PNG; 148 all out in 19.3 overs (Norman Vanua 47, Josh Davey 4-18).

World Snooker Qualifiers

Pankaj Advani shines with 121-point effort

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's most celebrated cueist, Pankaj Advani (PSPB) neatly constructed a brilliant 121 points effort as he rallied splendidly from the loss of the opening two frames to prevail over Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 4-2 and record his fourth successive win in the Men's 'Y' Camp (1st leg) round-robin league matches of the World Snooker Qualifiers, a BSFI National Selection Tournament on Tuesday.

The 36-year-old India No. 2 Advani, started hesitantly and the left-handed Dhvaj cashed on the opportunities to take a 2-0 lead. But, the cool and cal-



culated Advani, winner of multiple World titles, showed his class as he turned on the magic in compiling a stupendous run which drew loud cheers and applause from the goody crowds as he went on to win the third frame and get back into the match.

That three-figure break, the highest break so far in the competition, seemed to have knocked the fight out of Haria as the Bengaluru-based Advani went on to comfortable win the next three frames to complete a satisfying 29-74, 31-79, 121(121)-00, 69-14, 69-

03 and 72-17 win. On Monday night, Advani had defeated Pushpender Singh (RSPB) 4-1 (68(51)-34, 86-01, 00-86(86), 120(84)-11, 61-25) win, the organisers informed in a release on Tuesday. In the women's contest, Vidya of Karnataka came up with a tremendous break of 81 in the third frame but that effort went in vain as she was unable to prevent Tamil Nadu's Anupama Ramachandran from scripting a hard-earned 3-2 (47-37, 41-71, 01-81(81), 92-34 and 83-38) victory. Earlier, Vidya got the better of compatriot Chitra Magimairaj 3-1 (74-8, 14-70, 58-37, and 44-29).

SINDHU MAKES WINNING RETURN AT DENMARK OPEN

Odense (Denmark) | Agencies

India's Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist PV Sindhu on Tuesday made a winning return from a long break from badminton as she won her first-round match at the Denmark Open here on Tuesday, beating Neslihan Yigit of Turkey in straight games.

It was a mixed day for India in the BWF World Tour Super 1000 event as Kidambi Srikanth and Sameer Verma too advanced in singles as did the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty but B Sai Praneeth and the doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy lost in the opening round of the main draw.

Sindhu, who was on a sabbatical since the Tokyo Olympics ended in August, romped to a 21-12, 21-10 win against the Turkish opponent in the women's sin-



gles first-round match played at court 3 at Odense Sports Park.

Sindhu, who is ranked 7th in the BWF rankings as compared to Neslihan's 28, was too strong for her opponent and took an early lead in the first game. She maintained her grip on the game and there were no first match jitters as she dominated the second game too, winning it on her second game point. Srikanth defeated compatriot Sai

Praneeth in straight games, winning the all-Indian affair 21-14, 21-11 in 30 minutes. He maintained a strong grip on the match from the start and did not allow Sai Praneeth many chances, earning five match points in the match.

Sameer Verma defeated Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand 21-17, 21-14 in 42 minutes the men's doubles pair of Rankireddy and Shetty quibbled a tough fight from the British pair of the English combination of Callum Hemming and Steven Stallwood 23-21, 21-15 in 39 minutes and made it to the next round where they will meet the Malaysian pair of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin. The Malaysian pair had defeated India's Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy 21-18, 21-11. MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila defeated the English combination of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy 21-19, 21-15.

Asian Cup qualifiers

India will succeed only if we prepare from now, says Igor Stimac

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India has qualified for the third round of the 2023 AFC Asian Cup football championships, but chief coach Igor Stimac says further progress in the event will depend on how much time the national team will get for preparation for the important games.

"If we make sure that we get enough time to prepare for the games, then we might expect good football and good results. Otherwise, we're going to gamble. As simple as that because our players will start twice a season now," said Stimac during a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

India have made it to the third round via the joint 2022 World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers. In the 2022 World Cup qualification



programme, Stimac's India started with a 1-2 home loss to Oman but earned a point after holding the 2019 Asian Champion and 2022 FIFA World Cup hosts Qatar to a credible draw. The third round of qualifiers will be held in February 2022 and Stimac said that they have to put together a proper plan for the event.

Hockey India Junior women's nationals to be held in Simdega

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As many as 26 teams will take to the field in Simdega, Jharkhand where they will vie for top honours in the 11th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2021 which begins on Wednesday.

Speaking about the competition, Uttar Pradesh Hockey coach Akram Mahmood said, "I think Hockey Jharkhand and Hockey Haryana will be tough contenders in this tournament. We finished fourth previously and definitely look forward to doing better in this edition."

The participating teams include Hockey Jharkhand, Kerala Hockey and Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu in Pool A; Hockey Haryana, Assam Hockey, Hockey Rajasthan in Pool B; Hockey



Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Hockey in Pool C while Uttar Pradesh Hockey, Hockey Uttarakhand and Manipur Hockey feature in Pool D.

In Pool E, Hockey Maharashtra, Delhi Hockey and Hockey Gujarat will fight for a place in the knockouts while Hockey Chandigarh, Hockey Bihar, Goans Hockey, Hockey Jammu & Kashmir feature in Pool F. Odisha, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Himachal and Hockey Madhya Pradesh are grouped in Pool G, whereas Hockey Karnataka, Hockey Punjab, Hockey Bengal and Le Puducherry Hockey are in Pool H.

After six days of pool matches, the quarter-finals will be played on October 26, the semifinals will be held on October 28, whereas the medal matches are scheduled for October 29.

HARBHAJAN, SRINATH GET MCC'S HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

London | Agencies

Former India cricketers Harbhajan Singh and Javagal Srinath are among 18 players who were given honorary life membership by the Marylebone Cricket Club here on Tuesday.

Harbhajan is India's third-highest wicket-taker in Tests, with 417 dismissals in 103 Tests, while Srinath is one of country's greatest ODI players, taking 315 wickets to end his career as India's second-highest wicket-taker in ODIs.

England cricketers Alastair Cook, Marcus Trescothick and Ian Bell too were conferred honorary life memberships on Tuesday, along with wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor, who, at 32, came out of retirement this season to play for Northern Diamonds in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint and Charlotte Edwards Cups, besides competing in The Hundred for Welsh Fire.

Four South African cricketers have also been awarded the honorary life membership, with Hashim Amla, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis and Morne Morkel all receiving the honour. Kallis's 13,289 Test runs puts him third on the all-time run-scoring list. Alex Blackwell and Damien Martyn of



Australia were also included. All-rounder Blackwell won over 250 caps for her country across all formats of the games, and batter

Martyn scored almost 10,000 international runs.

West Indies's Ian Bishop, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ramnaresh Sarwan also received the honours on Tuesday. Bishop took 161 wickets in just 43 matches, while Chanderpaul is West Indies' most capped Test player (164) and only seven players have scored more than his 11,867 runs. Sarwan racked up 15 Test centuries, and his 291 against England in 2009 equalled the highest individual score by a West Indian.

Rangana Herath of Sri Lanka took 433 Test wickets in a career spanning almost two decades, and features in the top ten of all time Test wicket-takers.

Sara McGlashan is the sole New Zealander on the list, appearing over 200 times for the White Ferns over the course of a 14-year career and Zimbabwean all-rounder Grant Flower has been recognised for his 10,000 international runs in 288 matches, completing a list that celebrates some of the greatest cricketing talent to grace the international arena.

Junior nationals hockey

Big wins for Naval Tata Academy, Namdhari XI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Jamshedpur, Namdhari XI, Mumbai Schools Sports Association, Ghumanhera Riser's Academy, and SAI Academy (Kolkata) registered wins in their respective matches on the second day of the 1st Hockey India Junior Men Academy National Championship 2021 here on Tuesday.

In the first match of the second day, Naval Tata Hockey Academy from Jamshedpur thrashed Berar Hockey Academy (Vidarbha), Amravati 15-0. Atish Dodra (4', 6', 10', 29', 38') scored five goals, Sem Munda (15', 40', 42', 54') scored four, while Sajal Saxena (24', 30') netted twice in the Pool A match. Jaymasih Tuti (9'), Niyaren Champia (18'), Sandeep



Surin (56'), and Simon Bodra (57') also got on the score-sheet for Naval Tata Hockey Academy-Jamshedpur.

In Pool B, Namdhari XI registered a massive 20-0 win against Bhai Behlo Hockey Academy Bhagat. Captain Rajinder Singh (6', 9', 14', 29', 34', 48', 49') and Maninder Singh (10', 39', 40', 44', 50', 59') wreaked havoc, scoring 13 goals among themselves. Mokhran (34', 54', 55') bagged a fine hat-trick, while Gurwinder Singh (3'), Harshant Singh (13'), Mahavir Singh (22') and Rohit Rana (33') contributed a goal each in the goalfest.

Ajay a 'fabulous cook', but avoids touching anything with fingers: Kajol

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ajay Devgn may have been in headlines for his movies and now because of appearing on "Into The Wild with Bear Grylls", but like every star he has a private side to him that we know little about.

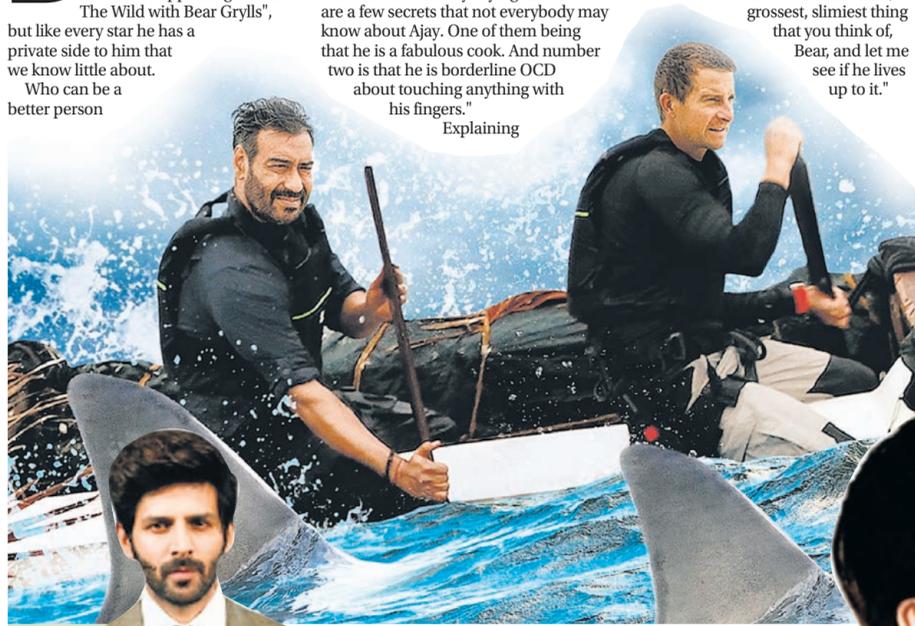
Who can be a better person

than his wife and popular actress Kajol to reveal these secrets to the world? And she has just let it be known that her husband is a "fabulous cook".

Speaking on the popular show, Kajol said: "Let me start by saying that there are a few secrets that not everybody may know about Ajay. One of them being that he is a fabulous cook. And number two is that he is borderline OCD about touching anything with his fingers."

Explaining

this fetish of his, Kajol said: "According to him, it's because he just cannot get the smell out of his fingers. Whatever that means! Anyway, so my challenge to him is that he has to be made to touch and eat the smelliest, grossest, slimiest thing that you think of, Bear, and let me see if he lives up to it."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Miloni Jhonsa has been receiving a lot of love from the audience for her portrayal of the Indian athletic teams captain in the Taapsee Pannu-starrer 'Rashmi Rocket'. According to her, it has been her "dream debut" as the movie caught the audience's attention for all good reasons and put her in the limelight.

A dentist by profession, Miloni decided to switch her career after she realised her calling. But, like every underdog story, her initial phase was replete with quite a bit of struggle and rejections which are part and parcel of any actor's life.

The opportunity came to her when she least expected it. The dentist-turned-actress had gone to a casting agency for the audition of another film featuring Ajay Devgn. When she was returning from the audition, she was approached by a casting assistant from 'Rashmi Rocket' to read some lines from the film.

Talking about her terrific experience, she said: "The casting for 'Rashmi Rocket' had already been locked in January 2020. But the film was on hold after its first schedule because of the lockdown. Eventually, when they started shooting again in November 2020 they cast me."

"I was asked to read two scenes with Varun Sir (Badola), who plays my father in the film and they were immediately sent to the director, Akarsh Khurana. He liked my audition but I was told that I will be informed whether I had been chosen or not the next day." After the actress was finalised for the role, her whole world changed within a matter of three days from the date of her audition.

Miloni Jhonsa talks about her dream debut in 'Rashmi Rocket'

RASHMIKA, YASH CHANNEL SOCIAL MEDIA POWER FOR KANNADA CINEMA

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

With 'Forbes' magazine rating Rashmika Mandanna as South Indian cinema's most influential social media star, and Yash of 'KGF' fame ranking No. 3, it's a moment of celebration for Kannada film fans.

It's also indicative of the growing pan-Indian visibility of Sandalwood film stars such as Rashmika, Yash and Kichcha Sudeep. Rashmika, in fact, has left behind her Tollywood compatriots Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is ranked No. 4, and Allu Arjun, who follows at No. 5. The Kannada star's social media handles, as a result, have been inundated with congratulatory messages from her fans. The rankings were based on views, likes and comments garnered by posts and videos shared by celebrities of the Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada film industries. Rashmika's social media content centres around her forthcoming movies and her takes on fashion. Yash, who'll be seen soon in the 'KGF' sequel, posts pictures of his children and family celebrations, and of his travels and film projects. Both stars have ensured that the footprint of Kannada cinema extends much beyond its immediate market.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Ram Madhavni, who directed 'Neerja' and the 2020 Disney+ Hotstar special 'Aarya', is back with yet another compelling story. 'Dhamaka', starring Karthik Aryan, is his latest offering and its trailer was officially released here on Tuesday.

The film marks Karthik's foray into the world of intense and gritty storytelling. Karthik essays the role of Arjun Pathak, a news anchor who spirals into the dark abyss of uncertainty, deceit and mind games after a terrorist makes a phone call to him about an attack that would engulf an entire city. He initially dismisses the call, considering it a prank, but soon realises the gravity of the situation when the terrorist blows up a bridge. Arjun gets drawn to the task of reporting the terrorist's advances and catering to his whims and fancies in order to put his career back on track. What he's not aware of is how he's being played out and what it would lead to. Filled with moments that are best described as nerve-wracking and mind-boggling, the 'Dhamaka' trailer offers a peek into the roller-coaster world of a newsroom where emotions run high and the ability to think and act at lightning speed is a necessity.

Four production companies from around the world -- RSVP Movies, Ram Madhavni Films, Lotte Entertainment and Global Gate Entertainment -- have joined forces to put together the explosive mix of a thrilling story that 'Dhamaka' is. The film also stars Mrunal Thakur and Amruta Subhash and is set to release on the streaming platform Netflix.

KARTHIK ARYAN SHINES IN EXPLOSIVE TRAILER OF 'DHAMAKA'

'Special Ops' sequel takes viewers into Agent Himmat's life

New Delhi: The popular Disney+ Hotstar espionage thriller 'Special Ops' is making its comeback with an extension to its universe. Titled as 'Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story', whose trailer was released on Tuesday, the series will be a prequel to unravel the formative years of agent Himmat Singh. The project has been helmed by filmmaker Neeraj Pandey of Friday Storytellers, in association with Shivam Nair. Talking about the latest installment, Neeraj Pandey said, "Special Ops has managed to create a space in the hearts of audiences as each character's story became an intense driving point in the series. But one character that massively stood out for fans was Himmat Singh."

"With Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story, we wanted to build the Universe of Special Ops and give fans a glimpse of the making of their favourite R&AW agent. Viewers will see what made Himmat Singh the man they loved in the first installment", he added.

The character of Himmat Singh has been singularly loved by the audience for his undeterred faith in his profession and his willingness to go the extra mile in the line of duty.

The upcoming thriller is a treat for action lovers and will explore how he went from being the nation's greatest threat to the nation's greatest spy as he battles corruption and politics that cripple the system.

Actor Kay Kay Menon who has garnered immense love from the audience for the portrayal of Himmat Singh will be seen reprising the role. The character of Himmat Singh will be wading through tricky lanes of politics, red-tapism and honey trapping in this action-packed installment.



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Gautam and Pankhuri Rode are a much loved and not to forget talented couple who tied the knot in 2018. What stands out is that post their wedding, the adorable duo have worked time

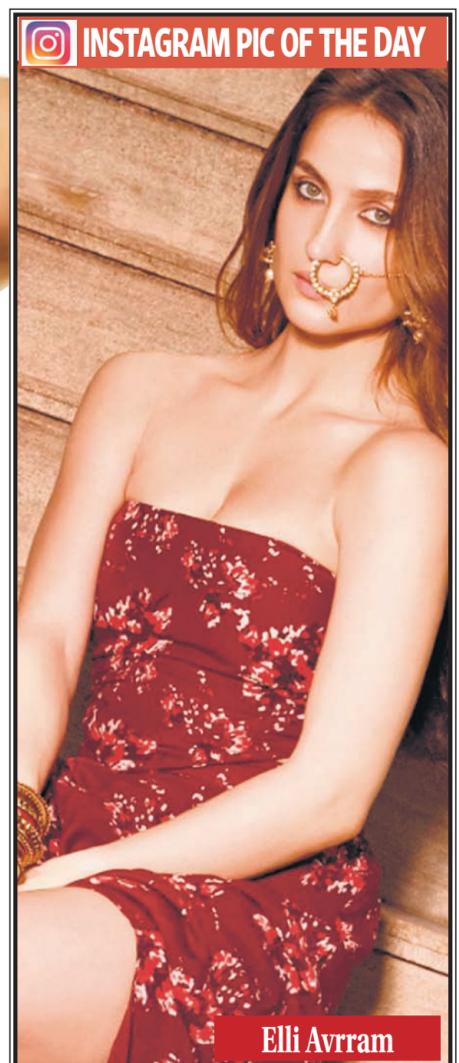
From real to reel couple!

GAUTAM & PANKHURI RODE PAINT THE TOWN RED WITH THEIR FABULOUS LIST OF WORK

and again together,

becoming a hot favourite for directors who are on the lookout for amazing chemistry and outstanding work. The real to reel couple have acted in numerous projects together post their wedding right from the super loved Zee Music single, Sun Le Zara to great ad films and now with the most recent launch, the Navratri anthem and chart buster song

ChhanoMaano. The audience too are absolutely in love with the couple tagging them time and again as #CoupleGoals and now they are swooning over the superb chemistry the two share on the screen. All this and more, Gautam and Pankhuri are surely painting the town red with their work together and taking their relationship from real to reel with aplomb! We can't wait to know what more the two lovebirds are working on!



Elli Avrram