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EIGHT KILLED IN VIOLENCE DURING PROTEST IN UP'S LAKHIMPUR KHERI: POLICE

Eight people including four farmers died in violence that broke out in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday after a protest to block UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to Banbirpur village, a senior police officer at police headquarters in Lucknow said.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Violence and arson broke out after eight people were feared dead when a jeep allegedly ran over protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday afternoon, police officials said.

In a tweet, Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait claimed that the farmers were attacked when they were returning after staging a protest against the Centre's new farm laws. He also alleged that people in the convoy opened fire.

He further claimed that some people died and many were injured in the incident. Tikait said that he was going to Lakhimpur Kheri and would be likely to reach by midnight.

Taking serious cognisance of the incident, UP police's additional director general (ADG) (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar, along with other senior officials, have been rushed to the spot to control the situation.

Kumar, who was on the way to the spot, said he could confirm the deaths and the exact situation only after reaching the site. He said heavy police deployment had already been done in the Tikonia area to avert any further trouble.

Tikonia is nearly 70 kilometres from the Lakhimpur Kheri district



headquarters and very close to the India-Nepal border.

A local police official said the violence broke out minutes ahead of UP deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to Banbirpur village under Tikonia police station limits. He said the incident took place on Tikonia-Banbirpur road when the farmers, who were agitating against the new farm laws and had blocked the road to oppose the deputy CM's visit, got infuriated after two SUVs reportedly belonging to BJP workers hit them, leaving a

number of farmers seriously injured. He said the farmers in retaliation overturned and set on fire two SUVs, besides thrashing people in the convoy.

The deputy CM had to cancel his visit to Banbirpur village, where he was to inaugurate an annual wrestling competition, which is organised by Kheri MP and Union minister of state for home Ajay Kumar Mishra in memory of his father late Ambika Prasad Mishra.

Following the incident, Congress

general secretary and UP in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in a tweet, said: "How much hatred BJP harbours against farmers in the country? Don't they have a right to live? If they raise their voices, then you will open fire on them? Run them over by vehicles? Enough is enough...This is the country of farmers, and not a fiefdom of BJP ideology...Farmers' satyagrah will get stronger, farmers' voice will get louder."

The Samajwadi Party will send a delegation of party leaders to Lakhimpur Kheri to probe the incident.

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav in a tweet in Hindi said running over farmers who were peacefully protesting the farm law (three new central farm laws) by the son of a Union minister of state was inhuman and cruel...UP will not tolerate atrocities by arrogant BJP members...and if this state of affairs continue then in UP BJP members will not be able to travel in vehicles or get out of them.

In another tweet Akhilesh said that he could speak a bit to the seriously hurt farmer leader Tejender Singh Virk...the government should give him best of medical treatment...and there's only one demand--- that the chief minister should resign.

UP violence:

Congress demands Union Minister Ajay Mishra be sacked

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress on Sunday demanded sacking of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra in wake of violence at a farmers' protest in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur-Kheri that left at least six dead and 15 others injured.

Addressing a press conference, party spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said: "We demand that MoS Home Ajay Mishra should be sacked immediately while while government should constitute enquiry by a sitting judge of the Supreme court."

He also called for sacking Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar for allegedly giving instructions to the BJP workers to attack farmers while hoping that the apex court will take cognisance of the matter immediately. Protests on farm laws in the UP district took a violent turn as unidentified persons opened fire at the farmers. Infuriated farmers set three jeeps on fire after some of the



protestors were run over by the vehicles. One of the vehicles is said to belong to Ashish Mishra, son of the Union Minister.

In wake of the violence, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the sacrifice of the farmers will not go waste. "Those who are silent upon witnessing such inhuman genocide, have already died. But we will not go this sacrifice go waste, farmers satyagrah zindabad," he said,

in a tweet in Hindi. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who is expected to head to Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday, in a Hindi tweet, said: "How much does the BJP hate India's farmers? Don't they (farmers) have a right to live? If they raise their voices, will you open fire on them, trample them under vehicles? Enough is enough. This is a land of farmers, not a realm for BJP's cruelty."

Cruise drug bust:

NCB won't seek further custody of Aryan Khan; lawyers to file for bail

Shah Rukh's Son, Aryan, Arrested In Drugs-On-Cruise Case

■ Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's 23-year-old son Aryan Khan was arrested along with seven others on Sunday following a raid at a party on a cruise ship off the coast of Mumbai last night by the Narcotics Control Bureau or NCB.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Narcotics Control Bureau on Saturday arrested eight people following a raid on an alleged "rave party" onboard a cruise ship off the coast of Mumbai. Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan's son Aryan Khan is among the people arrested by the NCB. The anti-drugs agency seized banned substances and narcotics during the raid on the Cordelia Cruises' Empress ship.

The NCB on Sunday said that they would not seek further police custody of Aryan Khan in connection with the Cordelia Cruise drugs case. Aryan Khan

was sent to NCB's custody for a day by a Mumbai court on Sunday.

Sources informed that Khan's lawyers will apply for his bail on Monday. Apart from Aryan Khan, his friend Arbaaz Merchant and another accused, Munmun Dhamecha, were arrested on Saturday by the NCB officials for their alleged involvement in drugs.

Shah Rukh Khan was seen leaving his home and heading for his lawyer's office shortly before the arrest was confirmed. Aryan Khan was also seen in a viral video on social media allegedly shot after the raids. The high-profile raid yielded 13 grams of cocaine, 21 grams of charas, 22 pills of MDMA and 5 grams of MD in all, the NCB has said. The charges brought against Aryan Khan include purchase, possession and use of banned substances, it added. He was produced in court in the evening where the agency was granted custody of those arrested till Monday. Aryan Khan's lawyer Satish Maneshinde demanded bail, saying that he had been arrested only on the basis of chat messages. "Aryan had no ticket, no cabin or seat on

board the cruise. He was there because he had been invited. He didn't even have a boarding pass. Nothing has been found on him. He was arrested on the basis of chat only." Besides Aryan Khan, the NCB had earlier released the names of the seven people who had been detained for questioning from the ship - Munmun Dhamecha, Nupur Sarika, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, Vikrant Chhoker, Gomit Chopra, Arbaaz Merchant. The NCB team boarded the Goa-bound ship disguised as passengers on Saturday morning, sources said. According to officials, the party began after the ship left Mumbai and was at sea. The raids began at 10 am and went on till 2 pm, it said.

Drugs like Ecstasy, Cocaine, MD (Mephedrone) and Charas were recovered from the party on board the ship, the agency said.

During the operation, the suspects were searched and different drugs were recovered from them, which they had hidden in their clothes, undergarments and purses, an NCB official told news agency PTI.

MAHARASHTRA LOGS 2,692 COVID-19 CASES, 41 DEATHS

Mumbai: Maharashtra on Sunday reported 2,692 new coronavirus positive cases and 41 fatalities while 2,716 patients were discharged, the state health department said. The new additions pushed Maharashtra's Covid-19 tally to 65,59,349, the death toll to 1,39,207 and the number of recoveries to 63,80,670, it said, adding that the state is now left with 35,888 active cases. With 1,47,603 new tests, the number of samples examined in Maharashtra so far went up to 5,92,22,263.

Mumbai city reported 573 Covid-19 cases and three deaths during the day, taking the tally of infections to 7,44,389 and the number of fatalities to 16,125, the department said. Mumbai division reported 1,053 more cases and four fatalities during the day which pushed the number of total cases in this region to 16,79,422 and the toll to 35,291. Nashik division reported 500 new cases including 424 in the Ahmednagar district. Pune division reported 809 cases, Kolhapur division 202, Aurangabad division 29, Latur division 73, Akola division 10, and Nagpur division 16. Akola and Nagpur divisions did not report any fresh Covid-19 death on Sunday.

Congress ex-MLA Sulochana Rawat joins BJP ahead of MP by-polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a major setback to the Congress ahead of the forthcoming by-elections in Madhya Pradesh, former Congress MLA Sulochana Rawat, who was tipped as the party candidate in one seat, has joined the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

More such resignations are expected to follow-up from the BJP and the Congress in the coming days ahead of the by-elections to the Jobat, Raigaon, Prithvipur Assembly seats as well as the Khandwa Lok Sabha constituency.

These elections will be significant for both the BJP and the Congress, and thus both the parties are leaving no opportunity in consolidating their presence.

The by-poll in Jobat seat of Alirajpur district was necessitated by the demise of sitting Congress MLA Kalavati Bhuria and both the BJP and the Congress have not yet finalized their party candidates. Rawat was likely to be finalised as the Congress candidate. After switching over to the BJP, Rawat cited several schemes implemented for the welfare of tribal community under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.



"The land leases are being given to the tribal community and foodgrains are being delivered directly to their homes. Constant efforts are being made to bring the water of Narmada river to Alirajpur," she said, adding that she joined the BJP as she was influenced by all these development works.

Asked about her defection, Congress state spokesperson Syed Jaffar said that Rawat was not liked by the voters as the party candidate according to a Congress survey. Claiming she has a history of backstabbing and rebellion, he said that the BJP which claims to be a cadre-based party in the country could not find any leader of their own who could be fielded in the assembly constituency.

Referring to the defeat of former Congress leader Rahul Lodhi, who quit the party before the Damoh Assembly by-polls, Jaffar said Rawat would meet the same political fate.

Drugs worth crores of rupees recovered in J&K's Uri sector

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police said on Sunday that a major drug smuggling bid was foiled by the security forces in the Uri sector in which drugs with Pakistani markings were recovered.



"On 2nd October, alert Indian troops deployed along Line of Control (LOC) in Uri sector observed some suspicious movement. "During searches of the area, two bags were recovered. The bags contained a large amount of contraband-like material. The scrutiny of the two bags revealed approximately 25 to 30 kilograms of drug-like substance in packages with Pakistani markings." The exact nature of the heroine-like substance is being ascertained. "The value of the suspected contraband is around Rs 20 to 25 crores in the black market." The legal proceedings have been initiated after the recovered contraband was handed over to concerned police." Case FIR no 101 of police station Uri has been registered under relevant sections of law," the police said. "The huge drug haul along the LoC showcases the nefarious designs of Pakistan based narco-militant nexus and its inimical intent to abet militancy and finance militancy in India. "This drug haul in the Uri sector comes just days after one Pakistani origin militant was neutralised and another namely Ali Babar, resident of Okara, Pakistan captured alive in this sector in an extended search operation culminating on September 28, 2021," police said.

Mamata secures CM's post, wins with a record margin

Team Absolute | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the by-election in Bhabanipur assembly constituency in South Kolkata defeated her nearest rival Priyanka Tibrewal of BJP by a record margin of 58,832 votes. Previously Banerjee had the record of winning from this constituency by a margin of 54,213 votes in 2011. With this win Banerjee secured her position as the chief minister of West Bengal.

After 21 rounds of counting, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee secured 84,709 of the total 1,17,875 votes, securing more than 71 per cent of the total votes polled while Tibrewal secured 26,350 votes, little more than 22 per cent of the votes. CPI(M) candidate Shreejib Biwas managed to get only 4,201 votes.

"I am indebted to the people to Bhabanipur because they helped me win with a record margin. The most interesting thing is we didn't lose in any of the ward. The polling in Bhabanipur has always been low and there was rain. Despite that people came out in numbers and gave us votes," Chief Minister who was flanked by All India Trinamool Congress General Secretary and his daughter said.

"There was a lot of conspiracy against us



and the people of Bhabanipur have given the answer. When we won in all the seats, we lost in Nandigram. The matter is subjudice and so I shall not say more," she said adding, "I shall not show victory signs raising two fingers. I am not selfish. Two of my colleagues are contesting from Jangipur and Samsanganj and so I shall raise three fingers. They are also leading and blessing them so that they can win."

Speaking to the media state transport minister Frihad Hakim who was also instrumental in facilitating the victory of the chief minister said, "I had no doubt about her win. It was my curiosity to see whether she can win with a margin of

more than 50,000 votes and she did that." "It is a victory for the people of Bhabanipur. It is a victory of the people of West Bengal. It's an answer to the way she was treacherously defeated in Nandigram. People have taken revenge. They have shown that Mamata Banerjee cannot be stopped in this way. She will become the prime face against BJP nationally and that is the verdict of the people," Hakim said.

Meanwhile Mamata Banerjee announced the names of the candidates for the three of the four assembly constituencies that are going for the by-elections on October 30. "Our candidate from Khardha will be Sovondeb Chattopadhyay, for Shantipur in Nadia the candidate is Broj Kishore Goswami and for Dinhat in Coochbehar the candidate will be Udayan Guha. The chief minister said that the name of the candidate for Gosaba in South 24 Parganas is yet to be decided.

Sovondeb Chattopadhyay who won from Bhabanipur by a margin of 28,189 votes in the assembly election resigned to make room for Mamata Banerjee. Banerjee who lost to Suvendu Adhikari in the assembly election had to win within six months to retain her position as the chief minister of the state. In two other constituencies - Jangipur and Samsanganj the Trinamool Congress candidates have

BJP announces candidates for assembly by-polls of 3 states

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP on Sunday announced candidates for assembly by-polls of Maharashtra, Mizoram and Telangana. The BJP has fielded former Telangana health minister Etela Rajender from Huzurabad. In a statement, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said, "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Central Election Committee (CEC) has decided following names for By-elections of Maharashtra, Mizoram and Telangana."

The BJP has announced Subhash Pirajiro Savane from Deglur (SC) assembly constituency of Maharashtra. The saffron party has fielded K Ladinthara from Tuirial (ST) assembly seat in Mizoram. In June, Rajender joined the BJP after resigning from TRS. In May, he was dropped from Telangana cabinet over allegations of land grabbing in Medak district. He had said that he was unfairly targeted. On September 28, the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the poll schedule to fill vacancies in three parliamentary constituencies of Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The ECI also announced the schedule of by-polls to fill 30 vacancies in Assembly Constituencies of various States. As per the schedule, polling will be held on October 30 and the counting of votes will take place on November 2. A party insider said that names of candidates for other states will be announced soon. On Saturday, BJP Rajasthan unit core committee met to shortlist candidates, while party state unit Haryana, Himachal Pradesh will be short-listing the candidates by Sunday evening.



OUTCOME OF BENGAL BY-POLLS NOT IN LINE WITH OUR EXPECTATION: BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Kolkata

The West Bengal BJP on Sunday said the results of the three Assembly by-polls in state are not in line with their expectations, and they are accepting the outcome gracefully.

Sukanta Majumdar, the Bengal unit chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said: "We need to understand that a large number of people couldn't come to vote or they were not allowed to come to vote. But one thing we should keep in mind that the chief minister Mamata Banerjee thought that she would wipe out BJP from Bhabanipur but that has not happened."

"We are overwhelmed by the support of the people who despite all the odds, have come out and voted for us. This will inspire us to fight with a new spirit in future. There are four by-elections in October and we hope that we will do better in these elections," Majumdar said. In a statement, the West Bengal BJP said: "The outcome of the three Assembly by-polls in West Bengal are not in line with our expectation but we accept it gracefully."

"After being demolished in Nandigram, Mamata Banerjee may have survived in Bhabanipur for now, but it has never happened that a losing candidate chose to thrust herself as the Chief Minister, in violation of all democratic norms and propriety," the statement said. The BJP alleged that the elections were held under an overbearing state administration, with dark shadow of fear, intimidation



tion and gloom of the post poll violence hanging over the electorate.

Echoing the sentiment of state unit, senior leaders said the victory margin of Banerjee has surprised them a little.

"While contesting the by-polls, we tried our best and everyone had worked hard to ensure the Chief Minister's defeat in Bhabanipur. In reality, we are sure that her victory margin would be narrow. But the huge victory margins also came a surprise to us," a party leader said. Another leader said that the party will draw plans for future to further expand its presence in the state with eye on 2024 Lok Sabha polls and next assembly polls in 2026.

"A long term plan will be finalised to strengthen and expand the party in West Bengal. The BJP workers will continue to fight for the people of West Bengal and uproot the Banerjee government in the next polls," another senior leader said.

'Centre, states can include value of water conservation in school curriculum'

Guwahati | Agencies

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday has suggested to the Central and the state governments to include lessons on the importance of water conservation in school curriculum.

He also proposed that schools should conduct nature camps for students from a young age so that children, especially those living in the urban areas, see and enjoy the splendour of nature.

The Vice President, who as part of his eight-day tour of the northeastern states arrived in Guwahati on Sunday and later inaugurated 'Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre' here to showcase the traditional life, culture and art of Assam focusing the spirit and legacy of the majestic Brahmaputra River.

The old bungalow of Guwahati Deputy Commissioner (DC) atop the Barphukanar Tila in Panbazar, along the Brahmaputra River, has been converted into a heritage centre by the state government.

The British annexed Assam in 1826 and the post of DC was created for Guwahati in 1839 but the city had no appropriate house at that time to



accommodate Captain James Matthie, the first DC. Several sites were surveyed before Barphukanar Tilla, where cannons used in the Battle of Saraighat lay scattered, was chosen. In the post-independence, Barphukanar Tila continued to be the DC's bungalow until 2011 before the project to convert it into a heritage museum was taken up under the Brahmaputra Riverfront Development plan. The heritage centre has on display the traditional

boats, an amphitheatre, a collection of traditional fishing equipment, photographs, artefacts related to the history of Guwahati and river transport.

The bungalow has installations depicting the textile designs, ethnic motifs and indigenous musical instruments. After inaugurating the heritage centre, the Vice President called for a powerful national campaign on the need to rejuvenate rivers and suggested that 'we save our rivers with a sense of immediacy'.

Noting that rivers have always been revered in India for their life-regenerating power, Naidu pointed out that growing urbanization and industrialization have led to pollution of rivers and other water bodies in different parts of the country.

"In the past, our villages and cities used to be dotted with several water bodies. In the quest for modernization, man, driven by greed, has destroyed natural ecosystems and at several places, the water bodies have virtually disappeared or have been encroached upon", he observed.

The Vice President noted the legacy of the hillock where the heritage centre is located as the base camp of the most powerful Borpuhan of the Ahom Kingdom, Lachit Borpuhan. Naidu appreciated the fact that the heritage campus is pedestrian only and vehicular traffic has been prohibited to maintain the serenity of the place. He suggested other heritage centres around the country too should adopt such green and healthy practices, by creating walking and cycling paths for visitors to explore.

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma among other dignitaries were present in the inaugural function.

CONGRESS AT ZERO IN WEST BENGAL AS MAMATA WINS BIG

New Delhi: With the ruling Trinamool Congress winning the West Bengal bypolls, Congress insiders say the biggest loss of their party which has formally conceded opposition space to the BJP, now the number two in the state.

This makes West Bengal the third major state after Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where Congress presence is getting wiped out. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee secured 84,709 votes, decisively defeating BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal who secured 26,350 votes in the make or break Bhabanipur bypoll, while CPI-M's Shreejib Biswas managed to get only 4,201 votes. In Jangipur and Samserganj too, the Trinamool have maintained decisive leads. The Congress, which did not contest Bhabanipur, was the second largest party with 44 MLAs in the assembly after the 2016 polls but now has none and just one Lok Sabha and one Rajya Sabha MP from the state. The Congress

Pvt sector needs to partner with govt to treat cancer in rural areas: VP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday called upon the private sector to come forward and partner with the state governments to provide modern cancer treatment facilities in the rural areas.

The Vice President, who embarked on an eight-day tour of the northeastern states, while inaugurating a PET-MRI wing at the state Cancer Institute in Guwahati, said that it would not only greatly help in more accurate diagnosis, but will also reduce patients' exposure to radiation. It is only the 4th such machine in India and the first in the country, which is based on Time-of-Flight technology.

The Vice President lauded the Assam government and the state's medical fraternity for the services rendered during the pandemic. He also called for making healthcare more accessible and affordable to the common man. In this regard, he reiterated the Prime Minister's statement that there is a need to have at least one medical college in each district of the country. Under the



Distributed Cancer Care Model, it is planned to have one Apex Referral Centre called L1, Comprehensive Cancer Hospitals attached to Government Medical Colleges called L2s and Diagnostic and Day Care Centres with Radiation

adjacent to District hospitals called L3s. Referring to the aim to create patient-centric cancer institutions to deliver standardized and affordable care closer to the patients' homes, instead of a single apex hospital handling a cancer

patient's treatment, Naidu noted that they would provide high-quality cancer care closer to home and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for cancer patients. The Vice President said palliative care was a crucial area that required greater attention of the governments and health professionals. "Palliative care is basically supportive care and seeks to improve the quality of life of patients," he added. Naidu also urged all the state governments to include lessons on the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles in the school curricula to make children aware of the need to prevent non-communicable diseases. He called for a national campaign to bring awareness among people about 'lifestyle diseases'. As per the Indian Council of Medical Research report, there were 14 lakh new cancer cases in 2020 and this number is estimated to rise to 16 lakh by 2025. "I am told that the northeastern region of India has a huge burden of cancer with Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh reporting the highest incidence of the disease in India. Assam also has a high burden of cancer with around 52,000 new cases reported in 2020," he said.

Mehbooba welcomes decision

J&K LG inaugurates 'Retreat Ceremony' on int'l border in Jammu

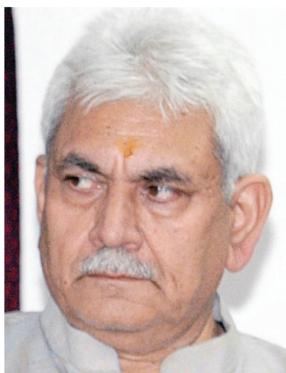
JAMMU | Agencies

In a historic event Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated Retreat Ceremony at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh on the India-Pak International Border.

The event was witnessed by hundreds of tourists and local residents. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor observed that the ceremony on the lines of Amritsar's Wagah Border reflects the great legacy and valour of Border Security Force (BSF), India's first line of defence.

"On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversaries of Gandhi ji and Lal Bahadur Shastri ji, Border Security Force has made a new beginning that will ensure a massive push to the border tourism in the UT, besides putting Suchetgarh into the global tourism map," he said.

With the beginning of retreat ceremony, the long pending demand of the people of Suchetgarh has been fulfilled.



Now, the tourism potential of Suchetgarh will be fully tapped, giving a fillip to the economic development of the area, Sinha said.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj was the special guest on the occasion.

Former Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday welcomed the decision to start 'Beat the Retreat' on the Suchetgarh Octroi post at the International Border (IB) in Jammu.

"Welcome GOIs decision to start 'Beat the Retreat' ceremony at Suchetgarh. Will certainly give a flip to tourism & hope its taken further by using it as a trade & travel route between Suchetgarh & Sialkot. Such CBMs improve cross border ties & benefit both sides economically too," Mufti tweeted.

Saturday, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Retreat Ceremony at Octroi Post, Suchetgarh on the India-Pak International Border. The event was witnessed by hundreds of tourists and local residents of Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, the Lt. Governor observed that the ceremony on the lines of Amritsar's Wagah Border reflects the great legacy and valour of Border Security Force, India's first line of defence.

BJD WINS PIPILI BY-POLL BY OVER 20,000 VOTES

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Sunday won the by-poll to the Pipili Assembly constituency by 20,916 votes.

BJD candidate Rudra Pratap Maharathy got 96,972 votes while BJP's Ashrit Pattanayak secured second position with 76,056 votes. Congress candidate Bishwokeshan Harichandan Mohapatra was able to get only 4,261 votes, state Chief Electoral Officer SK Lohani said.

A total of 1,80,930 votes including 893 postal ballots were counted while 136 votes were rejected due to various reasons, he said. As many as 10 candidates were in fray for the seat lying vacant after the death of sitting BJD lawmaker Pradeep Maharathy in October last year.

Nadda to meet national office bearers of BJP youth wing on Monday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BJP Chief JP Nadda will meet the national office bearers of the party's youth wing on Monday.

In a statement, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) said that its national office bearers meeting will be held on October 4 at party headquarters here.

"The national office bearers will receive guidance from the BJP chief Nadda," it said.

Following this, on October 5 a meeting with all the national office bearers, national executive members, all state presidents and general secretaries will be held at the NDMC Convention Centre here. "The agenda of the BJYM's national executive meeting is to discuss roles and strategies for the upcoming state elections in several states due next year, to delegate responsibility for election



campaigns and other events lined up and further discuss the role of today's youth in nation building. The future road-map on various issues will be thoroughly discussed and delivered in this meeting," it said. The Assembly polls are likely to be held in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur in February-March next year. This would be the first national executive meeting of BJYM since Lok Sabha member Tejasvi Surya assumed charge as the national presi-

dent in September last year. "It is expected that some key points related to further strengthening the organisational work will be delivered in this meeting. The Yuva Morcha will talk about numerous government schemes that have successfully benefitted millions of people and also further brainstorm to suggest new policies and schemes that would prove to be supportive and encouraging for the youth," the statement added.

The BJP leadership has asked all its morchas to conclude their national executive meetings by October.

A two-day executive meeting of the Schedule Caste (SC) Morcha was held in Varanasi and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) Morcha organised its national executive on September 23-24 in Ranchi.

Two women Maoists surrender before Odisha police



Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Two women Maoist cadres have surrendered before Odisha DGP Abhay in Koraput on Sunday.

The surrendered Maoists have been identified as Debe Padiami alias Gangi of Guma area Committee and Gita Padiami alias Rajita a member of the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) Military platoon. While Debe was carry-

ing a cash reward of Rs 4 lakh in her head, Rs 1 lakh reward was on the head of Gita, said DGP Abhay.

Debe, 32, was inducted in the Maoist organisation in 2005 in Kalimela area committee and in December 2009, transferred to Guma area committee. An Insas rifle was issued to her, the Odisha police said in a statement. Similarly, Gita, 22, joined the Dandakaranya special zonal committee of

Maoists in 2018 and transferred to the AOB military platoon in 2019. She was given formal training in 2019 and issued with 303 rifle, the police said.

Both ultras were involved in several incidents and attacks on security forces. Abhay welcomed the duo to the mainstream and appealed to others who are still into left wing extremism to shun violence and join mainstream society.

NIA carries out multiple raids involving cross LoC trade

JAMMU | Agencies

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday carried out raids at nine places in Jammu and Kashmir involving the cross Line of Control (LoC) trade.

"With the assistance of the J&K pPolice, CRPF and ITBP, the NIA conducted searches at nine locations in Poonch district at the premises of the suspected LoC traders in relation to case no. RC-17/2016/NIA/DLI," an Agency official said.

"The case was registered on December 9, 2016 by the NIA under Section 17 of UA(P) Act, 1967. The cross LoC trade had started in the year 2008 as a part of confidence building measures between J&K and Pakistan," the official said.

According to the official, the trade was based on a "barter system and third party origin goods were not allowed".



"This case is related to the large scale transfer of funds from Pakistan to India through the import of California Almonds and other items via the cross LoC Trade Facilitation Centres (TFCs) located at Salamabad, Uri in Baramulla district and Chakkam Da Bagh in Poonch district.

"These funds were purportedly being used for fomenting terrorism/separatism in Jammu and Kashmir," the NIA official claimed.

He added that "the investigation into the case revealed that some of the traders having excess imports were channeling the surplus profit generated to militant organizations while others are suspected to have links/connections with proscribed terrorist organisations."

"During the searches conducted today, documents, digital devices and other incriminating materials have been recovered from the premises of the suspects."



Four labourers killed, five injured in road accident

CM EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER DHAR ROAD ACCIDENT

Team Absolute | Dhar
Four labourers were killed and five others injured when a loading pickup vehicle collided with a truck in Dhar district on Sunday, police said. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has consoled the untimely death of 4 people in a road accident in Dhar. The accident took place around 7.30am near Amka Jhamka temple under Amjhera police station limits, about 35kms from the district headquarters, they said. "The pickup vehicle coming from Bekalia village collided with the truck from the opposite direction, killing three labourers on the spot," Amjhera police station in-charge Kamal Singh Pawar said. Five others, including two women, were injured in the accident and rushed to a hospital in Dhar, he said. These labourers were going to Amjhera for the cutting

of soybean crop, Pawar said, adding that the truck driver fled from the spot after the mishap. The truck has been seized and a case was registered against the driver, he said. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has consoled the untimely death of 4 people in a road accident in Dhar. Chouhan has prayed to God to give peace to the departed souls at his feet and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear this loss. Chief Minister has prayed to God to grant peace to the departed souls and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear this loss. Chouhan has directed to provide financial assistance of Rs.4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased. Chouhan has said that the state government stands with the bereaved families in this hour of grief.

Rural population will get tap water at home with Jal Jeevan Mission

Schools and Anganwadis in priority with rural population: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the gift of Jal Jeevan Mission to the entire nation to ensure easy availability of drinking water to the rural population. Through the mission, it is being ensured to provide pure water from tap to every household through village-to-village tap water schemes. In Madhya Pradesh, work is being done at a fast pace in the mission. In the last 16 months, despite the Corona period, the pace of the work of the mission was maintained, as a result of which till now water has been supplied through tap in 3401 villages, 33 thousand 996 Anganwadi centres and 56 thousand 369 schools. In the rural population, 41 lakh 79 thousand 60 houses have been provided with tap water. Chouhan said that it is our endeavour that in the next two years, water should start reaching from door to door in all the villages of the state. For this, water sources are also being explored in all the villages. Jal Jeevan scheme will be started by developing new water sources in the villages where there is no water source. This work goes on continuously. Chief Minister said that PM Modi announced Jal Mission on August 15, 2019, to relieve the rural population, especially women, from the drinking water problem. Today this mission is proving to be a



boon for the women living in rural areas. Now women have started getting drinking water through taps at home. Chouhan has said that the Central Government is also providing adequate allocation for this mission which is the priority of PM Modi. In the state from June 2020, through the mission, the process of providing water through tap connections

to every household in the villages started. Today more than 41 lakh 56 thousand rural families are getting continuous water supply through tap connections. Chouhan said that a change is being brought in the lives of the rural population by using existing drinking water sources and creating new ones where there are no drinking water sources in the Jal Jeevan Mission. The change brought about by the implementation of the mission can be seen in 3401 villages of the state, where water is being provided from taps. Soon the availability of drinking water from door to door by tap will be ensured through the mission in all the villages of the state. Chouhan informed that tap connections are being provided for drinking water in the houses of rural population as well as in schools and Anganwadis in the mission. The goal is to ensure supply of quality and adequate water to every rural household, Anganwadi and school. So far, arrangements for drinking water from taps have been made in about 34 thousand Anganwadis and more than 56 thousand schools. The works of water supply from taps to the Anganwadis and schools, including the remaining rural households, are going on continuously. Public participation has also been ensured in planning under the mission, so that the villagers maintain affinity in the water supply scheme.

Rewa division will get many gifts in Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan CM to lay the foundation and dedicate water supply schemes and development works in Chitrangi

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will lay the foundation stone of water supply schemes costing more than Rs 1566 crore 49 lakh under Jal-Jeevan Mission on October 4 at Chitrangi in Singrauli district under the Jan-Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan.

Works Department costing Rs. 39 crore. With these water-supply schemes, more than 3 lakh families of Singrauli, Chitrangi, Devsar of Singrauli district and Dhauhani in Sidhi district and areas of Sinhwali assembly constituencies will be provided water through tap connections. In this sequence, foundation stone of water supply schemes costing Rs 197 crore 6 lakh will also be laid in 200 villages of Rewa division. From these, drinking water will be provided to 94 thousand 214 families through domestic tap connections. Work is being started on these water supply schemes by surveying and estimating on the basis of the population projection for the next 30 years. In order to provide tap water to the entire rural population of the state, the implementation of

water supply schemes in Jal Jeevan Mission is going on continuously. In the foundation stone laying programme of these water supply schemes, works costing Rs 33 crore 98 lakh have been included for providing water through tap connections to 1428 schools and 960 Anganwadi centres. About 11 lakh population will be benefited from these water supply schemes built for about 700 villages of Singrauli and Sidhi districts. 183 villages of Baidhan and 100 villages of Chitrangi have been included in Baidhan-one water supply scheme built from water source of Rihand dam, 184 villages in Baidhan-two water supply scheme from water source of Son river and 206 villages have been included in the Gond Devsar

water supply scheme from water source of Gond dam. Chouhan will lay the foundation stone for four road construction works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna costing Rs 20 crore 55 lakh and building construction works of Public Works Department PIU costing Rs one crore 15 lakh. Chouhan will dedicate four buildings costing Rs 17 crore 26 lakh 37 thousand in Chitrangi. These include District Education and Training Institute building Baidhan, Government College building Sarai, Jagannath Singh Memorial College building Chitrangi and Government Higher Secondary School building Vardi. Chief Minister will also visit the exhibition of products of self-help groups and Jal-Jeevan Mission.

State Level Wildlife Week at Van Vihar National Park

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A bird watching and nature camp was organized on Sunday at 6.30 am under the State Level Wildlife Week 2021. In this, about 130 bird lovers including Youth Club saw various species of birds including Pond Heron, Egret, Magpie Robin, Kingfisher, Green Bee Eater, Titahari (Sandpiper), Dudhrui (Indian Paradise Flycatcher), Golden Oriole, Red Munia (Red Avadavat), Iora, Whistling teal, Bronze-winged Jacana, Cormorant, Moorhen, Drongo, Silverbill Munia etc. The participants enjoyed the sight of butterflies like Common Grass Yellow, Grey Pansy, Blue Tiger, Plain Tiger, Grey Pansy, Crinoid, Common Evening Brown etc. Source persons including AK Khare, Sudesh Waghmare, Sangeeta Rajgir, Mohd. Khalik and other officers and employees were also present. The programme was conducted by Assistant Director Van Vihar AK Jain. Among other competitions held today, photography competition was organized for Junior Classes from Class VIth to XIIth and Senior Class



(open category) from 7 am, in which 126 participants took part and submitted their photographs in the form of soft copy in the office. Bird watching camp and nature camp will be organized on October 4th at 6.30 am in wildlife week. From 9.30 am, a discussion will be held with the animal keepers and staff in Vihar Vithika, Van Vihar. In addition to other competitions, Mehndi competition on the theme 'Wild Animals' will be held for all age groups in Vihar Vithika, Van Vihar from 11 am to 12 noon and Palm Painting competition on the theme 'Wild Animals' from 12 pm to 1 pm. will be organized.

CM PLANTS KARANJ SAPLING IN SMART GARDEN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday planted a sapling of Karanj in Smart Park located in Shyamala Hills. The Karanja plant, considered important in Ayurvedic medicine, is also used in religious works. It is also used in the treatment of leprosy, quick healing of wound, swelling and controlling of cough and vaat. It is helpful to grind the bark of its plant and prepare a paste and apply it on the place of leprosy and wound. Its oil destroys worms. The wood of this plant is also used as a toothpick. Its species include karanj, kata karanj and chir-bilva.

GAYATRI PARIVAR'S PANDYA MEETS CHIEF MINISTER



Bhopal: Chinmay Pandya of Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar, Haridwar, met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence this morning. Pandya has been honoured with the National Mahatma Gandhi Award for the year 2019 by the Madhya Pradesh government in a grand ceremony on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2. Pandya has come to Bhopal for the purpose of receiving the award. Chouhan honoured Pandya at Ravindra Bhavan on Saturday evening. During meeting with Chief Minister Chouhan on Sunday, Pandya gave detailed information about the activities of the organisation. He told Chief Minister Chouhan about the projects run by Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya. Chouhan also apprised Pandya about tribal development in Madhya Pradesh, activities carried out under the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi, remembrance of martyrs and recently started Jan Kalyan and Suraj Abhiyan from September 17.

Little guest arrives at Bandhavgarh National Park

Female elephant Anarkali gave birth to a female calf

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A little guest arrived in Bandhavgarh National Park located in Umaria district on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2. Here the famous female elephant Anarkali has given birth to a female calf. The little guest is fully healthy. The park management has named the newborn female elephant calf as "Gayatri". Wildlife lovers have expressed happiness on the arrival of a new guest in the National Park.



The 57-year-old female elephant Anarkali of Bandhavgarh National Park has given birth to 4 calves so far. Of these, 4 are safe and 4 have died earlier. The female elephant Anarkali was brought to Bandhavgarh by purchasing it from Sonpur Mela Bihar in the year 1978-79. Anarkali has made a special contribution in the rescue operations of wildlife and wild animals inside the National Park. Presently there are 14 elephants in the National Park, which make a major contribution in forest and wildlife management. Here tourists ride on an elephant and also enjoy tourism by observing the forest area

and animals of the National Park. The female elephant calf "Gayatri", born on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, will be the centre of attraction for the tourists.

Third edition of Marathon organised at Pachmarhi, awards given to participants

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The third edition of "Pachmarhi Marathon" was organised by the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board with the aim of introducing tourists to the scenic beauty and natural environment of Pachmarhi, the beautiful hill station of the state, and to attract more and more tourists for tourism. State Tourism Development Corporation Managing Director S Vishwanathan said that a meaningful effort is being made to promote wellness tourism and active holidays concept in the state by organising the marathon. Pachmarhi is the number one tourism spot of the state. Tourists from all corners of the country come here throughout the year, whether it is winter or rainy season and enjoy the natural beauty. Vishwanathan said that an action plan is being prepared to organise a professional marathon in Pachmarhi. He also appreciated



the efforts being made by the district administration to promote tourism in Pachmarhi. Marathon was organised in three categories 5km, 10km and 21km. These categories were named Family Fun Run, Endurance Run and Dhupgarh Pahari Run. The Tourism Board provided T-shirts, RFID timing chip, route support, finishers medals and e-certificates to all the runners participating in the marathon. In addition, the top three runners of the competition were awarded trophies by the guests and free stay vouchers for two nights and three days.

4 killed in 2 lightning strikes in Neemuch district

Neemuch: Four men were killed and two others injured in two separate incidents of lightning strike in Neemuch, an official said on Sunday. The incidents occurred in Jiran and Lod villages in the district on Saturday, sub divisional magistrate (SDM) SL Shakya said. In Lod village, two persons were killed and two others suffered injuries, while in Jiran village, the lightning claimed the lives of two persons, including a man from Rajasthan, he said. The injured were admitted to a hospital and free treatment was being provided to them, the official said. The district administration has started the process of sanctioning Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased, Shakya said.

Indore hotels to serve half glass of water to promote water conservation

Team Absolute | Indore

To promote and spread awareness about water conservation among people, hotels in organised by non-profit Ojas Foundation. Indore, known as the commercial hub of Madhya Pradesh, has emerged as one of the fastest-growing cities widely praised for several innovations. Now onwards, efforts are going to be made to boost water conservation and end wastage of water. To promote these efforts, a half-filled glass of water will be served to customers in hotels across the city of Indore with an aim to create awareness among people about the importance of water. 'Jalhaat' programme was organised in the city recently in which water crisis and suggesting ways to conserve water was discussed. People stressed on putting an end to unnecessary wastage of water and saving all forms of precious water sources such as ponds, rivers, lakes,



streams etc. During this water conservation programme, Indore Hoteliers' Association President, Sumit Suri announced that during the initial phase of 'Jalhaat Jan Abhiyan' programme, half a glass of water will now be served to customers dining at hotels. Addressing the Jalhaat programme organised by Ojas

Foundation, Madhya Pradesh Water Resources Minister Tulsi Ram Silawat said the state government is committed to water conservation and preventing water wastage. The state government is fully cooperating in every effort to create mass awareness in this regard. Through Jalhaat programme, continuous work is being done regarding water conservation in all

urban and rural areas of Indore district and connecting all sections of the society to it. During this water conservation programme, Nishant Khare, member of the Madhya Pradesh Covid Advisory Committee, said cities like Chennai, Bengaluru etc have been reeling under serious water crisis. Continuous efforts will have to be made to avoid such a situation in Indore. He said significant work would be done in the field of water conservation through Ojas Foundation connecting all sections of the society with it. There is an urgent need to work continuously in the field of water conservation in urban and rural areas. All the public representatives present at the event gave suggestions to adopt new ways and methods to conserve water. All the public representatives stressed that the ponds should be made encroachment-free. Public awareness must be spread among people, educational institutions as well as youth in this regard.

UNION MINISTER MAKES A COURTESY CALL ON CM



Bhopal: The Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore made a courtesy call on Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the Chief Minister's residence. Chouhan was presented with a bouquet by Kishore. He discussed about the various schemes implemented for the development of the state.



CRUISE SHIP RAVE PARTY BUST: NCB ARRESTS MEGA-STAR SRK'S SON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a sensational weekend development, Aryan Khan - the son of Bollywood mega-star Shah Rukh Khan and producer Gauri Khan - is among at least 8 youngsters being probed by the Narcotics Control Bureau on Sunday, a day after it bust a rave party aboard an Indian luxury cruise liner, Cordelia, official sources said.

A leaked video clip of a dazed Aryan Khan sitting with a few others in the NCB office, was flashed by some local TV channels, with the likelihood of more prominent names emerging.

An NCB official has said that Aryan is among several others who are being probed in connection with the alleged party that they attended aboard the luxury ship on a Mumbai-Goa cruise.

The others detained by the NCB include: Munmun Dhamecha, Nupur Sarika, Ismeet Singh, Mohak Jaswal, Vikrant Chhoker, Gomit Chopra and Arbaaz Merchant.

In the first of its kind operation on a deluxe cruise ship, the NCB swooped onto the rave party being held on the Cordelia ship off the Mumbai coast and detained 8 persons including Aryan Khan.

The NCB said that during the raid, it has recovered various popular party drugs like Cocaine, MDMA, Ecstasy, Mephedrone and Charas. "A total of 8 persons, including two females have been apprehended and their role is being investigated in relation to the said recovery. Crime No 94/21 has been registered in this matter. Further investigation is underway," the NCB said in a statement.



The action - which stunned Mumbaiers and rattled the rich crowds - started on Saturday afternoon, and is still continuing with the process of registering the FIR, with the possibility of some high-profile arrests. NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, who led the raid on the ship along with a team of officials, declined to comment on the developments as the investigations are underway. The operation followed a tip-off

on the proposed rave party that was planned aboard the Cordelia ship bound on a scheduled Mumbai-Goa voyage, setting sail from the International Cruise Terminal, Mumbai. The participation for the party was reportedly done via social media with the ticket rates upwards of Rs 75,000 per person. To avoid detection, the NCB sleuths booked themselves on that cruise as ordinary passengers and they soon found some of their co-passengers consuming drugs. Then the NCB launched its full-scale raid,

detained at least 8 persons including two women consuming drugs, and seized different types of narcotics in varying quantities. Simultaneously, the Cordelia ship with an estimated 1,500 passengers, was ordered to turn and sail back to the ICT at Ballard Pier where the detained passengers were offloaded along with their baggage. A comprehensive search of their belongings as also the cruise ship is being carried out, while the detainees were sent for a medical examination.

Rave party bust on cruise ship shocks Mumbaiers



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In what is said to be a first of its kind operation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) swooped onto a raid party being held on a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast and detained around a dozen persons, including the son of a leading Bollywood actor.

The action -- which has shocked Mumbaiers and rattled the rich crowds -- started on Saturday afternoon, is still continuing with the process of registering the FIR underway. NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede, who led the raid along with a team of officials, declined to comment on the developments as the investigations are underway. Officials said that some days back, they had received a tip-off on the proposed rave party that was

planned aboard a cruise ship bound on a Mumbai-Goa voyage, setting sail from the International Cruise Terminal, Mumbai. To avoid detection, the NCB sleuths booked themselves on that cruise as ordinary passengers and they soon found some of their co-passengers consuming drugs. Then the NCB launched its full-scale raid, detained at least a dozen passengers, and seized different drugs of various quantities. The ship was ordered to turn and sail back to the ICT at Ballard Pier where the detained passengers were offloaded along with their baggage. A comprehensive search of their belongings as also the cruise ship is being carried out, while the detainees were sent for a medical examination.

Nathuram Godse was India's 1st terrorist who killed Mahatma Gandhi: Thakur

Team Absolute | Nagpur

"Godse is the first terrorist of India who killed the Mahatma. It was very surprising to see such trends about a killer receiving support from our own country. How can anyone tolerate such trends about our greatest leader? I appeal to Twitter management to remove all those objectionable posts with immediate effect," Thakur said.

Maharashtra minister for women and child development Yashomati Thakur for women and child development on Saturday took a strong objection over the subject of 'Nathuram Godse Zindabad' that is trending on Twitter on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. Expressing concern over the development, she requested the social media giant to immediately stop its trending and block senders of such posts. The subject received thousands of tweets both and against on Twitter. While the pro-Hindu groups



endorsed Godse's brutal killing of the Father of the nation, others slammed them for promoting such trends of glorifying a terrorist. "Godse is the first terrorist of India who killed the Mahatma. It was very surprising to see such trends about a killer receiving support from our own country. How can anyone tolerate such trends

about our greatest leader? I appeal to Twitter management to remove all those objectionable posts with immediate effect," Thakur said. She added that when Prime Minister Narendra Modi often talks highly about Gandhi whenever he was abroad, it was sad to see that such kinds of trends supporting a terrorist were trending on the social media. "Such acts is akin to promoting the terrorism and must be condemned in strongest possible words," she said. Endorsing her, MPCC president Nana Patole targeted the BJP-led NDA government stating that those following such assassin's ideology were ruling at the Centre unfortunately.

Schools Reopening Tomorrow, Gaikwad Says Coordination Important

The minister said Maharashtra State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) will prepare an action plan and help officials overcome any hurdles in resuming physical classes.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

For a smooth transition of teaching-learning activities to offline classes, "effective coordination" between education, health departments, and local administration will have to be maintained, Maharashtra School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad said. Schools across Maharashtra will reopen tomorrow, October 4. In rural areas, schools will reopen for Classes 5 to 12 and in urban areas, schools will reopen for Classes 8 to 12. Ms Gaikwad yesterday held a review meeting with the state Education Department. "With schools reopening Monday onwards, held a meeting with senior education department officials, education officers across the state to assess preparedness. Officials gave some welcome suggestions during the meeting.



These will surely help," Ms Gaikwad later tweeted. The minister said Maharashtra State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) will prepare an action plan and help officials overcome any hurdles in resuming physical classes. "I have instructed education officers to personally visit schools and monitor reopenings...For a smooth transition to

physical classes, effective coordination with health department, local administration will have to be maintained. We are committed to providing a conducive atmosphere to students, many among whom will be returning to class after a year and a half," the minister said. It is not mandatory for students to attend physical classes and if they do, they will have to bring consent letters from parents. "Though schools will reopen in the entire state, there is no compulsion for students to attend physical classes. Consent of parents will be necessary if they want to attend," the minister had said last month. The decision to reopen schools in Maharashtra was taken last month after a survey conducted by the state's school education department. More than 70 per cent of parents wanted schools to reopen, according to the minister.

Mumbra Devi temple to reopen, but flowers, garlands, and Prasad to remain banned

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has decided to reopen the Mumbra Devi temple from October 7 onwards, with certain restrictions that have now miffed the devotees. This comes after CM Uddhav Thackeray had announced last month that religious places of worship will be reopened from the onset of the Navaratri festival. The temple premises will be accessible for fully vaccinated individuals, while unvaccinated devotees need to register on the temple website and upload a negative COVID-19 certificate. Moreover, the Maharashtra government has barred the use of puja essentials, preventing devotees from offering flowers, garlands, or prasad to the deity. Besides, the government had also prohibited the touching of idols, religious scriptures, and the sprinkling of Holy water. Devotees have also been asked to maintain a distance of 6 feet and use face masks/covers at all times. Children below the age of 10 years and senior citizens have been directed to stay at home. Another user, Ananya Mishra, remarked, "Flower, garlands & Prasad not allowed. Just come to donate money in the



Hundi to raise gov't income." Another user took potshots at the government and said, "Flower, Prasad, garlands not allowed... Why did you reopen the temples then? Is it to allow making of Instagram reels on temple premises?" Notably, On August 30, Chandrakant Patil, state chief BJP, held a 'shankhanad andolan' and sought the reopening of temples for the public. Protests were held by the party workers outside temples across the state in cities including Mumbai, Nashik, Pune, Nagpur, and Solapur. The party workers marched towards the temples blowing conch shells. Patil said, "The shankhanad is necessary to wake up the Maha Vikas Aghadi government, which is in deep slumber. Pleas demanding the reopening of temples have gone unheard for the past 15 months." Anna Hazare, the social activist, had also raised questions over the Maharashtra government's orders to open bars and pubs in the state while the temples were still closed. Hazare has offered his support if devotees hold protests to lift curbs on the temples in the state. The restrictions imposed on temple devotees have angered the netizens. A Twitter user asked, "Are the same protocols applicable to churches, mosques & gurudwaras?"

BJP fields former Shiv Sena MLA for Deglur assembly by-poll

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The by-poll in Deglur was necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar due to Covid-19. The polling will be on October 30 and the counting on November 3. BJP has decided to field former Shiv Sena MLA Subash Sabane as its candidate for the assembly by-poll at Deglur constituency in Maharashtra's Nanded district. On Sunday morning, Maharashtra opposition leader Devendra Fadnis met Sabane at BJP general

secretary Shrawan Patil's residence in Nanded to get his consent. The decision was announced by the central leadership of the party. The by-poll in Deglur was necessitated by the death of sitting Congress MLA Raosaheb Antapurkar due to Covid-19. The polling will be on October 30 and the counting on November 3. A three-time MLA, Sabane represented Mukhed from 1999 to 2009. In 2014, he beat Raosaheb Antapurkar from Deglur. However, in 2019, Antapurkar came back to beat Sabane in the assembly polls.

After NCB, Cordelia Cruises hints of action against rave party revellers

"Should anyone be found violating rules on board the cruise ship, strict and appropriate action will be taken," Jurgen Bailom, the CEO and President, Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd., which runs Cordelia Cruises said.



indirectly connected to this incident. The company had chartered its ship for a private event to a Delhi-based event management company," Bailom said. Condemning the developments that created a sensation, Bailom said the company is extremely mindful of providing wholesome entertainment to the families travelling with them, but "this incident is contrarian and far from the culture that Cordelia Cruises represents". Sources in the luxury cruises industry said that the incident has come as "a rude shock" to all operators who would now strengthen their systems of 'checks and verifications' of all passengers and those who charter the vessel for events like parties, weddings, promos, corporate functions, etc. "Most global cruise liners have very stringent safety, security, entry, and other rules like dress codes, etc., for passengers sailing with them. Such an incident can cause irreparable damage to its reputation and image which in turn can have serious implications on its business," said an Indian agent with an international cruise liner, requesting anonymity. Cordelia Cruises, India's largest ship is promoting the cruise culture in India through stylish, luxurious and inherently Indian experiences on board, with ticket rates starting from Rs 5,000 -- which of course, did not apply to the Delhi-based charterer.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hours after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) bust a rave party aboard a luxury vessel, Cordelia Cruises, the company on Sunday gave clear indications that it may take action against those responsible for sully its image and reputation. The Saturday afternoon NCB swoop came on the ship while it was moored in the International Cruise Terminal port in south Mumbai and after the central probe agency's green signal, it started on its voyage to Goa late this morning. According to Jurgen Bailom, the CEO and President, Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt. Ltd., which runs Cordelia Cruises, the company will now decide its further course of action based on "the

HC asks Maharashtra govt to give details on functioning of shelter, observation homes for children

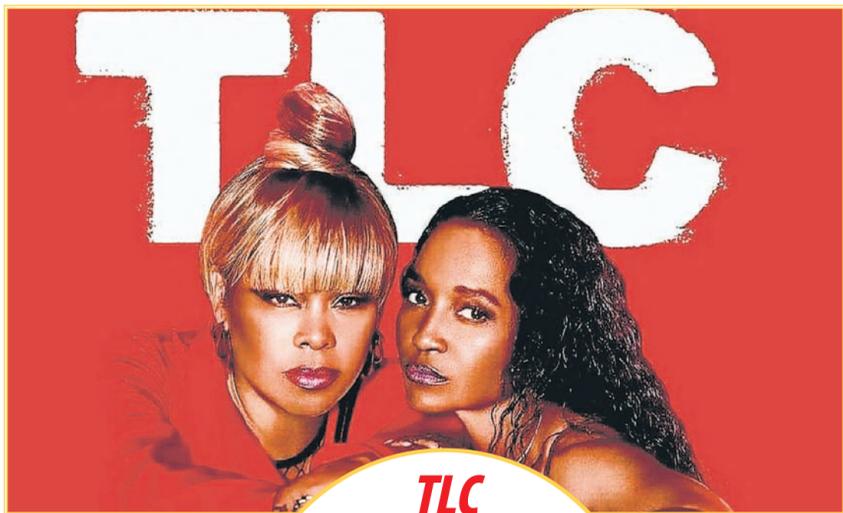
On August 20, the HC asked Assistant Government Pleader (AGP) A R Kale to take instructions from concerned law enforcement machinery on whether the Jalna Police has probed financial irregularities in such homes.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court recently directed the Maharashtra government to collect and provide data, statistics and state of affairs of institutions, including observation homes, where children in con-

lict with law are lodged, as well as of state-run shelter homes for special children. A division bench of Justice Sanjay V Gangapurwala and Justice Rajesh N Laddha was on September 23 hearing a suo motu public interest litigation it had initiated last year, in which amicus curiae Akshay Kulkarni, assisting the court, had informed HC that those in charge of shelter homes for special children in Jalna were "turning a blind eye" to observations made by the District Legal Services Authority (DLA) in regard to unhygienic conditions in the homes. The HC had expressed shock after a report of DLSA chairperson mentioned that fodder of animals, including cows and calves, were kept in a room of such homes, creating unsuitable conditions for children. On August 20, the HC asked Assistant Government Pleader (AGP) A R Kale to take

instructions from concerned law enforcement machinery on whether the Jalna Police has probed financial irregularities and irregularities in such homes. On September 9, Kale had assured the court that chargesheet in the crime pertaining to irregularities in Jalna shelter homes will be submitted within two weeks by the police. However, on September 23, Kale said that while he had tried to communicate with the investigating officer, he could not get a response. "The AGP shall remind the investigating officer of the consequences if the orders of the court are not respected and/or responded. If, within a period of one week from today, the investigating officer does not respond to the AGP and then place on record the chargesheet, then this court would not hesitate to issue a warrant against the investigating officer," the HC said.



New York | Agencies

TLC POSTPONES CONCERTS AFTER T-BOZ SUFFERS ALLERGIC REACTION

TLC's T-Boz is recovering from an allergic reaction that has forced the group to reschedule shows on their Celebration of CrazySexyCool Tour, reports Billboard.com. TLC has rescheduled the Saturday, October 2nd show at the Smart Financial Center in Houston, TX to Monday, October 4th, read a notice posted on TLC's Twitter account on Saturday. "Due to extreme cigarette and recreational smoke being present backstage at a previous show, T-Boz suffered an allergic reaction. The group has always enforced a strict no smoking policy at their shows in an effort to prevent any health related issues for the group and/or crew," said the note.

The venue announced on Twitter that "all previously purchased tickets will be honored for the new date". Later Saturday night, TLC announced a second show had been postponed, saying: "TLC has rescheduled the Sunday, October 3rd show at the Pavilion at Toyota Music in Irving, TX to Tuesday, October 5th. We are so excited to see all our TLC fans there."

T-Boz and Chilli have been on the road with Bone

Thugs-N-Harmony since early September.

The trek comes nearly 27 years after the release of their classic 1994 album 'CrazySexyCool', which peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and featured four Billboard Hot 100 top 5 hits, including the No. 1s 'Creep' and 'Waterfalls'. TLC's third member, Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes, died at age 30 in a car crash in 2002. "We love what we do until this day," Chilli told Billboard in an interview ahead of the tour.

TLC is an American girl group whose original line-up consisted of T-Boz (Tionne Watkins) and Lisa 'Left Eye' Lopes. Formed in Atlanta, Georgia in 1990, the group enjoyed success during the 1990s. Later Chilli (Rozonda Thomas) was added to the group.

Twenty years after their debut, TLC was honored with Outstanding Contribution to Music at the 17th MOBO Awards and Legend Award at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards Japan.

Following Lopes' death, instead of replacing her, the remaining members chose to continue as a duo. In 2017, they released their eponymous fifth album TLC.

Emily Ratajkowski claims she was touched inappropriately by Robin Thicke

Los Angeles | Agencies

American model-actress Emily Ratajkowski has accused musician Robin Thicke of "cupping her bare breasts" while filming the music video for 'Blurred Lines'.

The 30-year-old bikini model-actress was made famous when she starred in the 2013 promo, in which she appears nude and musicians Pharrell Williams and Robin are fully clothed, singing "You know you want it" at her. And in an excerpt of her new tome, 'My Body', obtained by the New York Post newspaper, the model has claimed that Thicke was drunk when he supposedly grabbed her chest on set, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She wrote: "Suddenly, out of nowhere, I felt the coolness and foreignness of a stranger's hands cupping my bare breasts from behind. I instinctively moved away, looking back at Robin Thicke." He smiled a goofy grin and stumbled backward, his eyes concealed behind his sunglasses.

My head turned to the darkness beyond the set. (The director, Diane Martel's) voice cracked as she yelled out to me, 'Are you okay?'" Ratajkowski continued: "I pushed my chin forward and shrugged, avoiding eye contact, feeling the heat of humiliation pump through my body. I didn't react - not really, not like I should have." Director Diane confirmed she witnessed the whole thing and immediately wrapped the shoot. She said in an interview: "I remember the moment that he grabbed her breasts. One in each hand. He was standing behind her as they were both in profile. I screamed in my very aggressive Brooklyn voice, 'What the f*** are you doing, that's it. The shoot is over.'" Diane claimed Thicke apologised and insisted: "I don't think he would have done this had he been sober."

Ratajkowski previously confessed she didn't actually like the idea of the project, which was later accused of being "rapey", when first approached, and also didn't care that it was Pharrell who wanted her to do it.



Stacey Jackson reveals Snoop Dogg's parenting style

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Live It Up: Rebooted' singer Stacey Jackson has shared how rapper Snoop Dogg, whom she collaborated with on both the original track and its new remix, wants to be a 'friend' to his children rather than simply a parent.

Dogg, who has Corde, 26, Cordell, 24, and Cori, 22, with wife Shante Taylor and son Julian, 23, with former partner Laurie Holmond, opened up to Jackson when they worked together on her new music video for 'Live It Up: Rebooted', having collaborated on the original track a decade ago.

She told Bang Showbiz: "We literally bonded over parenting! He told me he thinks being 'friends' with his kids, who are roughly around the same age as mine, he actually said 'we must have started at the same time', is much easier than being a parent."

She added: "Especially when they get older, there's this kind of respect that you earn for each other. And with him being on the road so much and providing for them he wanted to always have a strong, friendly relationship with them and not be the one to come home and be the strict disciplinarian." Jackson joked she felt like she was "passively getting stoned" just by being in the same room as Dogg. She was grateful that the hip hop legend connected to 'Live It Up', and she said he penned his contribution "on the day" they went into the studio, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Jackson added: "I was so lucky that Snoop connected to and respected the meaning of the song which is about it never being too late to live your dreams."

"His rap, which he wrote on the day we recorded says it all... 'drop your purse, let down your hair'. I mean, I took a 15 year hiatus to focus on raising a family. So we spoke a lot about our families and also what inspires us as artists especially because we were on very different journeys." But we found the commonality and when I told him I was married to my college sweetheart he told me that he was too and she's the 'best mama'."



WILL SMITH NAMES HIS WORST CHOICE OF FILM ROLES

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Will Smith has reviewed his film career and has named his worst choice of film roles. Smith participated in GQ's 'Actually Me' series, going undercover online to talk with social media commenters, reports deadline.com.

On Quora, Smith was asked, "In your opinion, what is the worst and best movie of Will Smith?" The actor had a quick reply.

"For the best, I think it's a tie between the first 'Men in Black' and 'Pursuit of Happyness'. For different reasons, those are the two almost-perfect movies."

When asked about the worst?

"I don't know, a 'Wild Wild West' is a thorn in my side. To see myself in chaps I don't like it," he added.

Smith's role in 1999's 'Wild Wild West' caused him to turn down the role of Neo in 'The Matrix'.

New York | Agencies

Britney Spears may be in celebration mode following the removal of her father as the conservator of her estate after a period of 13 years, but the singer says it will take time before she fully recovers from the battle, reports Billboard.com.

On October 2, two days after a judge suspended Jamie Spears from the conservatorship that has controlled the pop star's personal life and finances for over a decade, Britney shared an uplifting message on social media about the next chapter of her life. "Although there is change and things to celebrate in my life, I still have a lot of healing to do." Britney captioned an

upward view of a large tree on Instagram. "Thankfully I have a good support system and am taking time to understand it's ok to slow down and breathe. Only through self love I can pray... love... and support others in return." On September 29, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny agreed with a petition from Spears and her attorney that Jamie Spears needed to give up his role as conservator. The decision came months after the 39-year-old singer pleaded for her father's removal in dramatic court hearings. Britney has been actively celebrating the decision on social media, recently sharing photos from a tropical vacation with her fiancé Sam Asghari. On September 30, she took to Instagram to share a series of posts, including videos and photos of her topless or fully nude on her beach vacation. "A beautiful day here in paradise celebrating," Britney captioned a video set to Prince and the New Power Generation's sexy 1991 Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 hit 'Cream'. In the clip, she's on a boat with Asghari surrounded by the turquoise water and then on a private beach wearing nothing but her bikini bottoms.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jodie Comer



'SNL' opens Season 47 with former Trump impersonator debuting as Biden

New York | Agencies

The 47th season of "Saturday Night Live", the late-night comedy sketch and variety show aired on the US television network NBC, opened with comedian James Austin Johnson, previously famous for his Donald Trump impersonations, making his debut as Joe Biden, reports Variety.com.

After winning eight Emmys last month, including the variety sketch series award for the fifth consecutive year, "Saturday Night Live" returned to Studio 8H in New York City for the live premiere of its 47th season on October 2. Hollywood's funny man Owen Wilson was the host and Kacey Musgraves, the musical guest. It was not an easy task for the newcomer, according to Variety.com, to take on the opening. He had the unenviable task of summarising the last few months of

U.S. politics in a few short minutes.

And how was his summer? Bad, said Johnson in his Biden avatar. "Not Cuomo bad, but definitely not Afghanistan good," he added. "Everyone keeps razzing me about that drone strike, but on the bright side, I went through the entire summer without falling down the stairs once." He commented on Broadway being back, but noted that so was the Taliban. "You win some, you lose some," he said. He also drew comparisons to Trump, noting that, "I'm like an oil change; you don't think about me until you absolutely have to." Longtime cast members Cecily Strong, who portrayed the iconoclastic Democratic Senator from Arizona, Kyrsten Sinema, and Aidy Bryant, who played the Democratic Senator from West Virginia, Joe Manchin, joined Johnson in the opening, as did Ego Nwodim, appearing as Member of

the House of Representatives Ilhan Omar, and Melissa Villaseñor, as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who spearheads the Progressive faction of the Democratic lawmakers.

Pete Davidson popped in at the end as former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, while Alex Moffat showed up as the Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer, Democrat from New York.

Of course, the latter had to comment on Ocasio-Cortez's Met Gala moment, in which she wore a dress that said "Tax the Rich" and "then spent all night partying with the rich." "Oops", Johnson follows in the footsteps of his new co-star Moffat, who previously played the President after taking over from special guest star Jim Carrey. Others who played Biden on the series include Kevin Nealon, Jason Sudeikis, Woody Harrelson, and John Mulaney.



IPL 2021

Bowlers and Gill hand Kolkata a crucial win over Hyderabad

Dubai | Agencies

Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers maintained a tight leash before Shubman Gill steered the chase to help his team register a six-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Dubai International Stadium here on Sunday. With the win, Kolkata now have 12 points from 13 matches and remain in contention for the last spot in the playoffs stage. It wasn't a straightforward chase of 116 for Kolkata, who were watchful in their first four overs. Venkatesh Iyer and Rahul Tripathi fell cheaply in the first ten overs. But Shubman Gill displayed a subtle shift in gears to make up for the slowness in the scoring rate. Sedate till the last ball of eleventh over, Gill hit Kolkata's first boundary after power-play by coming down the pitch and hitting through mid-wicket off Khan. He then pulled Holder twice through mid-wicket in the next over. Debutant Umran Malik, who impressed with his searing pace, was hit for back-to-back boundaries through square leg and mid-wicket. Gill hit five boundaries in seven balls to ease tension in Kolkata camp. Nitish Rana, who found it hard to come to terms with Malik's pace,



struck his first boundary by reverse-sweeping Khan. Gill reached his maiden half-century in IPL 2021 with a pull through mid-wicket off Malik. The 55-run partnership between Gill and Rana was broken by Siddharth Kaul in the 17th over, with Gill mistiming a flick to long-on. Dinesh Karthik nailed an off-drive on his first ball from Kaul. Rana pulled Holder through mid-wicket in the next over before a top-edge on the pull was pounced by keeper Wriddhiman Saha. Karthik slapped through point off Kumar in the 19th over before fin-

ishing off the chase with a fierce pull through deep mid-wicket off Kaul. Earlier, opting to bat first, Hyderabad had a bad start with Wriddhiman Saha trapped in front of the wicket by Tim Southee on second ball of the innings. Jason Roy never looked to be settled at the crease and mishit to mid-on off Shivam Mavi in the fourth over. Kane Williamson crunched Mavi for four fours in the last over of power-play. But his promising stay at the crease was cut short in a huge misjudgement for a tight single

towards short mid-wicket. Shakib Al Hasan ran to collect the ball and fired a direct hit to catch Williamson short of the crease at the non-striker's end. Abhishek Sharma, in a bid to break the dry run, charged down the pitch to hit over leg-side. But he couldn't connect with the ball from Shakib and was easily stumped. Priyam Garg had a six but a top-edge on slog-sweep landed in deep mid-wicket's hands off Varun Chakravathy. The leg-spinner had his second wicket in his next over as Jason Holder miscued to long-off. Abdul Samad made a quickfire 25 laced with three sixes before holing out to long-on off Southee. Rashid Khan hit a boundary through covers off Mavi to take Hyderabad past 100. On the next ball, Mavi had his man as Khan mistimed to long-on. Siddharth Kaul got a boundary on the last ball, which wasn't enough for Hyderabad to avoid their 10th loss of the tournament.

Brief scores:
Sunrisers Hyderabad 115/8 in 20 overs (Kane Williamson 26, Abdul Samad 25, Varun Chakravathy 2/25, Tim Southee 2/26) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 119/4 in 19.4 overs (Shubman Gill 57, Nitish Rana 25, Jason Holder 2/32, Siddharth Kaul 1/17) by six wickets.

IPL 2021: Maxwell, Chahal star in RCB's 6-run win over Punjab, seal playoffs berth

Sharjah | Agencies

Riding on impressive performances by Glenn Maxwell (57 off 33) and Yuzvendra Chahal (3/29), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) beat Punjab Kings by six runs in the 48th match of the IPL 2021 and sealed the play-offs berth, at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, here on Sunday.

With this win, RCB, who now have 16 points, joined Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals in the playoffs. For the second consecutive season, the Virat Kohli-led RCB have made it to the last-four stage. It will now be a four-way battle between Punjab Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders, Mumbai Indians, and Rajasthan Royals for fourth place in the points table. Chasing a challenging total for victory, opens KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal came all guns blazing and gave Punjab Kings a solid start. The duo didn't allow RCB bowlers to put pressure on them and took Punjab to 49/0 after 6 overs.

This was the 5th match in a row that RCB failed to pick a wicket in the powerplay. They haven't been able to do it since the resumption of the IPL in the UAE.

Shahbaz Ahmed, in the 12th over of the innings, provided the much-needed breakthrough after he dismissed Rahul. The Punjab skipper scored 39 off 35 and added 91 runs for the opening stand with Mayank.

Continuing his brilliant form, Mayank then smashed his fifty in 36 balls. But, he was not getting support from the other end. Nicholas Pooran, who came to bat next, couldn't do much and got out to Yuzvendra Chahal for only 3 runs.

Chahal, who hasn't been named in India's T20 World Cup squad, struck again and got the wicket of dangerous-looking Mayank Agarwal. Chahal then bowled a beautiful leg-break to dismiss Sarfaraz Khan on a duck.

After that, Sharukh Khan (16 off 11b) and Moises Henriques (12 not out off 9) hit some lusty blows but the required rate went high with every passing over at Sharjah. Punjab needed 27 runs from the last two overs and Siraj bowled an impressive penultimate over to bring down the equation to 19 runs off the final over and Harshal Patel used different variations well and defended the total for RCB.

Earlier in the day, opens Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal gave Royal Challengers Bangalore a flying start. The duo played some beautiful shots and took RCB to 55/0 at the end of the powerplay.

However, during the process, Kohli was given a few lifelines by the Punjab team. In the 4th over of the innings bowled by Ravi Bishnoi, Kohli stepped out of his crease and KL Rahul missed a relatively easy stumping chance to dismiss RCB captain. Very soon,

Sarfaraz Khan dropped Kohli at midwicket. The 8th over, bowled by Ravi Bishnoi was the most eventful one when KL Rahul and Punjab Kings were left baffled after a caught-behind appeal was turned down against Devdutt Padikkal. Padikkal, who was struggling to read the leg-spinner's googlies, went for a reverse sweep but was not able to execute the shot properly and got an under-edge.

Both Bishnoi and KL Rahul went up in appeal immediately but the on-field umpire did not give it out, forcing Rahul to go for the review. The replays showed the ball kissed Padikkal's gloves before crashing into KL Rahul's gloves. However, the third umpire deemed it not out and went with the on-field call, leaving Rahul and Bishnoi frustrated.

Thereafter, Punjab captain Rahul brought Moises Henriques (3/12) into the attack and he wreaked havoc. First, he dismissed Kohli (25) and then got rid of Daniel Christian in the next ball to bring Punjab back in the game. In his next over, Henriques struck again to remove a set Padikkal for 40.

After losing the wickets of Kohli, Christian, and Padikkal in quick succession, Bangalore were at 73/3 and in big trouble. But, Glenn Maxwell and AB de Villiers batted well and stitched a good partnership to bring RCB back on track. While Maxwell was the aggressor, de Villiers batted cautiously. Continuing his brilliant form, Maxwell cleverly targeted the short boundary and hit a few big sixes to complete his fifty off just 29 balls in the 18th over. De Villiers (23 off 18) also hit Arshdeep Singh for a six in the first ball of the over, before getting out to him in the next ball.

Mohammed Shami (3/39) put brakes on RCB's run-rate in the 20th over as he dismissed Maxwell (57 off 33), Shahbaz Ahmed (8), and George Garton in the same over. In the end, Bangalore posted 164/7 in 20 overs, which became the winning total for Virat Kohli's side.

Brief scores:
Royal Challengers Bangalore: 164/7 (Glenn Maxwell 57 off 33 balls, Devdutt Padikkal 40 off 38 balls, Moises Henriques 3/12, Mohammed Shami 3/39) beat Punjab Kings 158 for 6 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 39 off 35 balls, Mayank Agarwal 57, Yuzvendra Chahal 3/29)

ASIAN TT: INDIA ASSURED OF TWO MEDALS IN MEN'S DOUBLES

Doha (Qatar) | Agencies

Both the men's doubles teams in the fray in the Asian Table Tennis Championships won their respective quarter-final matches with an identical margin, making it to the semi-finals and assuring India two medals in the competition.

Achanta Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan, the higher-ranked team, defeated Chew Zhe Yu Clarence and Beh Kun Ting of Singapore 3-0 in their quarter-final match, winning 11-9, 11-7, 12-10 in just 22 minutes on Sunday.

They were joined in the semis by compatriots Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar, who overcame Alamian Nima and Alamian Noshad of Iran 3-0 (12-10, 11-5, 11-6) in 19 minutes.

The women's pair of Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee went down fighting to Minami Ando and Miyu Nagasaki 2-3 in the quarter-finals. The Indian pair, which had defeated Chen Szu-Yu and Li Yu-Jun of Chinese Taipei 3-1 in the pre-quarters, came back strongly after losing the first two games to level scores at 2-2. But they could

not maintain the momentum in the decider as they lost 4-11, 5-11, 11-4, 11-7, 8-11 in the 34-minute encounter.

Sharath and Sathiyan 14 points on their serve and 17 off their opponents' serve as they cruised to an easy victory. On Saturday, they were taken to five sets by Kazakhstan's Alan Kurmangaliyev and Kiril Gerassimenko in the pre-quarters. The Indians, however, ended with a hard-fought 3-2 (11-9, 11-6, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7) win. Desai and Thakkar also sailed to the last eight with convincing wins over Saudi Arabia and Indonesian pairs.

With both the pairs reaching the semi-finals, India are assured of two medals as a place in the semis assures a medal at the Asian Championships. They had already won a bronze in the tournament as part of the team that lost to South Korea in the Men's Team Competition semis.

Meanwhile, Kamal and Sathiyan kept the Indian flag flying in the singles section too, beating their lower-ranked opponents respectively in the Round of 32 on Sunday.

However, it was the end of the road for both

Sanil Shetty and Manav Thakkar in singles as they lost their respective matches.

Sharath, the four-time Olympic veteran, defeated Sokhri Dzhalil of Tajikistan 3-0 in straight games, winning 11-6, 11-3, 11-4. Whereas, Sathiyan lost a game but came out unscathed beating Ahmad Khalil Al-Mohannadi of Qatar 3-1 (11-2, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9).

Meanwhile, Sanil Shetty went down to Japan's Shunsuke Togami in a hard-fought match, losing 2-3 after coming back from a game down twice as he ended with a 7-11, 11-9, 13-11, 9-11, 9-11 scoreline. Thakkar took a game off Kazakhstan's Kiril Gerassimenko as he was beaten 1-3 (10-12, 5-11, 11-8, 13-11).

India faced setbacks in the women's singles too as Ayhika Mukherjee, Akula Sreeja and Archana Kamath ended their campaign with defeats in Round of 32.

Earlier, Olympian Sutirtha Mukherjee prevailed over Mongolia's Batmunkh Bolor-Erdene in straight games (11-6, 11-4, 11-4) in the women's singles to book a place in the round of 32.

Durand Cup: FC Goa lift maiden title with 1-0 win against Mohammedan



Kolkata | Agencies

Indian Super League side FC Goa were crowned champions of the 130th Durand Cup football championship, beating local outfit Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 at the end of extra time in a climactic culmination to the event at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) on Sunday night. This was FC Goa's first triumph in India's oldest football tournament.

The Gaurs defeated Mohammedan 1-0 owing to a set-piece goal scored by their captain and Man of the Match, Eduardo Bedia in the 105th minute off a free-kick after the two teams were locked goalless after 90 minutes of regulation time. Goa pocketed a cheque of Rs 40 lakh while Mohammedan Sporting Club got Rs 20 lakh.

FC Goa along with two rolling trophies of the Durand Cup and the Shimla Trophy were also awarded the President's Cup for permanent keeping.

The final kicked off on a lively note in front of around 34,000 spectators with both Mohammedan Sporting and FC Goa going on the attack from the word go. Though both teams were looking to attack but were failing to keep possession for longer durations. The first shot of the match came from Marcus Joseph in the third minute but it was wayward. Soon after, FC Goa created a chance but a mix-up between Nemil and Romario in the box led to an easy save for the Mohammedan SC keeper. As the half started to progress, the tempo started

to rise and the foul count also started to increase. Mohammedan was at the receiving end of the cards as they received three yellow cards within 17 minutes with the names Azharuddin Mallick, Nikola Stojanovic, and Shaher Shaheen going into the book.

The match was slowly starting to open up now, as chances were being created more often but none of them was being converted and the two teams were locked 0-0 at half-time.

The second half saw FC Goa dominating possession but were finding it difficult to create concrete chances as they were losing the ball far too easily in the final third.

The last few minutes of the second half saw some moments of excitement. Mohammedan made some good runs down the left flank but again failed to make them count. In the injury time, Redeem Tlang came close to scoring the first goal but the angle was too steep and the ball went across the face of the goal.

With scores tied at 0-0 at the end of the regulation time, the final went into extra time. The story of missed chances continued in the first half too as both teams continued with the trend.

Just when it was looking like the first half of the extra-time was going to end go'less, came Bedia's goal that gave them the lead. The FC Goa captain scored from a fantastic free-kick awarded just outside the Mohammedan box in the 105th minute owing to a foul by Milan Singh.

Pink-ball Test: Lone match between Australia and India ends in a draw

Gold Coast | Agencies

India tried to force a result on Day Four of the one-off pink-ball Test at Metricon Stadium. But with not much time left due to rain in the first two days, the tourists' attempts to force a win against Australia were futile and the match ended in a draw on Sunday. Both teams pocketed two points from the drawn Test, which keeps Australia in the lead in the multi-format series 6-4. But it was India who gave a better account of themselves in their first-ever pink-ball Test with both bat and ball.

Starting the day at 143/3, Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner went on to share an 89-run stand before Meghna Singh and Pooja Vastrakar triggered a batting collapse. With the new ball just nine deliveries away, Ashleigh, given a life at 20, was out with Mithali Raj pulling off a diving catch at mid-off Deepti Sharma. Meghna took her maiden Test wicket with a lovely outswinger to get Annabel Sutherland caught behind. Four overs later, Meghna had her second wicket of the day with an inswinger trapping Sophie Molineux lbw. Three overs later, Pooja had Georgia Wareham



caught behind off an outswinger. A drive past mid-off by Darcie Brown meant that Australia avoided the follow-on. Amidst the wicket-taking spree, Ellyse was the lone ranger with the bat with luck on her side. She was first dropped by Deepti at gully on 58. Then, on 61, a healthy edge off her bat was shelled by Taniya Bhatia. After Darcie fell lbw to Deepti, captain Meg Lanning declared the innings at 241/9 with Ellyse unbeaten on 68, giving India a lead of 136 runs. India began their second innings well as Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma put 70 runs for

the opening partnership. Smriti, the centurion of the first innings, fell to a splendid catch in the deep by Ashleigh running to her right from deep mid-wicket off Sophie. Yastika Bhatia's promotion to number three to up the scoring rate lasted for 12 balls as Ashleigh disturbed her stumps through the gate. Shafali was undeterred and marched to her third half-century in just her second Test match with a four down the ground. Four overs later, Shafali was trapped lbw by leg-spinner Georgia Wareham for her first Test wicket. Punam Raut raced to her 41

runs in 62 balls before India declared their second innings at 135/3 in 37 overs, setting Australia a target of 272 in 32 overs. The hosts lost opens Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney in the first ten overs. While Alyssa chopped on to her stumps off Jhulan Goswami, Beth's top-edge on the pull lobbed to deep backward square leg off Pooja. It took effort from Meg and Ellyse to take Australia to 36/2 in 15 overs before both captains shook hands, signalling the end of the Test in a draw.

The focus will now shift to the final leg of the multi-format series featuring three T20Is on October 7, 9 and 10.

Brief scores (Day 4, Stumps)
India 377 for 8 declared in 145 overs and 135/3 in 37 overs (Shafali Verma 52, Punam Raut 41 not out, Ashleigh Gardner 1/21, Sophie Molineux 1/23) against Australia 241 for 9 declared in 96.4 overs (Ellyse Perry 68, Ashleigh Gardner 51, Pooja Vastrakar 3/63, Jhulan Goswami 2/33) and 36/2 in 15 overs (Meg Lanning 17 not out, Beth Mooney 11, Jhulan Goswami 1/8, Pooja Vastrakar 1/13).

'VACCINE IS 'NOT A LIMIT ON FREEDOM', SAYS LIVERPOOL MANAGER KLOPP

London | Agencies

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has said that vaccine is 'not a limit on freedom' and he does not understand why there is a reluctance among Premier League players to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

There have been concerns about the rate of vaccination in the Premier League. Earlier, this week, the league revealed that only seven of the 20 clubs have

squads where 50 per cent or more of the players are fully vaccinated.

The 54 old German said he was jabbed to protect not just himself but all the people around him.

"I don't understand why that is a limitation of freedom. Because if it is, then not being allowed to drink and drive is a limitation of freedom as well -- but we accept that," said Klopp.

"I got the vaccination because I was concerned about myself but even more so for everyone else

around me. If I get it and suffer -- my fault. If I get it and spread it around to everyone else -- my fault and not their fault," he added.

The Liverpool manager also said that he has not had to convince any players from his club to be vaccinated.

"I think we can say we have 99 per cent vaccinated," said Klopp to Sky Sports.

"I didn't have to convince the players, it was more a natural

decision from the team. I can't remember really talking to a player and convincing him why he should because I'm not a doctor. What I would give, like in a lot of other situations, would be my advice -- but it was not necessary," he added. On Friday, it was announced that Premier League players will be allowed to travel to red-list nations to represent their countries in this month's World Cup qualifiers -- but only if they are fully vaccinated.



Neha Dhupia, Angad Bedi welcome baby boy

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actors and Bollywood couple Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi have welcomed their second bundle of joy -- a son. Angad posted a picture on Instagram posing with his wife Neha. Alongside the image, he wrote: "The almighty today blessed us with a baby boy. Both Neha and the baby are well."

The couple have a daughter named Mehr, who was born in 2018.

"Mehr is ready to pass on the 'baby' title to the new arrival. #Bedisboy is here!!!!!!A Waheguru Mehr kare @nehadhupiathank you for being such a warrior through this journey. Lets make it a memorable one for all 4 of us now," Angad wrote.

Neha and Angad got married in a hush-hush affair in May 2018. It was in July 2021, the two announced that they are expecting their second child with an Instagram post.

'BIGG BOSS 15'



Akasa says she will be her candid self in the show, has no strategies

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Akasa Singh says she has no strategies in mind for the 'Bigg Boss 15' and that she will be her candid self and is all set to let herself loose in the controversial reality show.

Akasa said: "I have no strategies to be honest. I would be giggling and talking to my friends when we had games and sports in school. So you can imagine how much of a strategist I am."

"I am going to be the candid me," she

added.

The singer, who is known for numbers such as 'Naagin' and 'Kheech meri photo', spoke about being under vigilance 24x7 in the show, which airs on Colors and is hosted by Bollywood superstar Salman Khan.

She added: "There are no filters there in the show like our phones. So I am all set to let myself loose, be the best that I am and enthrall everyone. I can't wait to be with everyone in the show. I would be getting the audience feedback in real time but nevertheless it should be a great experience."

AMAN GANDHI SHARES HIS JOURNEY FROM AN AUTO EXECUTIVE TO A TV ACTOR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aman Gandhi has opened up on his journey of becoming a television actor from being an employee in an automobile company. Talking about the same, Aman said: "After my MBA I was working at a global automobile company as an assistant manager, but I knew that this wasn't my dream. I always wanted to be an actor because I was good at mimicry and was known as the entertainer by many people." "I finally gathered courage to convince myself and my parents to follow my passion. While I was pursuing a full-time job, I would focus on learning acting during the weekends. It took me a while to finally muster the confidence to come to Mumbai," he added.

"Even when I moved here, there were quite some struggles to deal with. My parents were very supportive, and helped me mentally and financially to overcome those frustrating days. Since my debut in 2016, I have done small cameos here and there and currently, I am really excited about my role in Bhagya Lakshmi," he further said. On the work front, Aman currently features on the Zee TV daily soap 'Bhagya Lakshmi'.



MANOJ BAJPAYEE'S FATHER PASSES AWAY

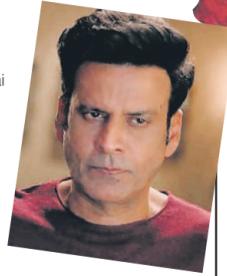
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National Award-winning actor Manoj Bajpayee's father R.K Bajpayee passed away on Sunday morning.

Manoj's father died aged 83. His father's condition was very critical in the past few days.

After hearing about the news, Manoj has rushed to Delhi from Kerala where he was shooting for his next project.

His father's funeral will be at 1.30 p.m. at the Nigam Bodh Ghat in New Delhi.



Vartika Tiwari opens up about battling insecurity during lockdown

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Vartika Tiwari has opened up about how she battled insecurity while she was stuck alone in her Mumbai apartment during the Covid-19 induced lockdown last year.

Talking about the same, Vartika said: "I was stuck alone in Mumbai in lockdown and one day I realised that apart from me, the one living being staying with me is my plant. I used to feel I won't be able to survive in this pandemic but the plant would live. There was so much insecurity."

Being inspired by the 'Sacred Games' dialogue "Sif Trivedi bachega", Vartika named her plant 'Trivedi' and shared a post on Facebook saying how it was her one and only support during the lockdown.

Recalling the same, the actress said: "So the whole idea was to explore my lockdown with Trivediji in this situation. It was my personal

experience." On the work front, Vartika features in Rajesh Tailang's short film titled "Trivediji" which is somewhat similar to her real life experience.

The short film narrates the story of a woman stuck alone in an apartment during the Covid-19 pandemic with her aloe vera plant. Her food supplies start depleting while she has to survive with her plant. 'Trivediji' streams on MX Player.



OTT platforms have opened up market for documentaries: Filmmakers

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With audiences for the format expanding and streaming services making them more accessible, documentaries have broken out from the stereotype of being just film festival fixtures.

Participating in a panel discussion titled 'Decoding Documentaries' here, filmmakers Claire Cahill, Dylan Mohan Gray and Leena Yadav shared their perspective on the genre. The discussion was hosted by Netflix.

Talking about the planning and research that goes into a documentary, Dylan Mohan Gray, who directed 'Bad Boy Billionaires', said: "So much of what we do in documentaries is about creating relationships of trust with different kinds of people. I understood the importance of diversity of voices and to allow the audience to triangulate what they felt about the story."

Gray continued: "In the course of my research I realised that the story is quite different from the one that was put out there, it's much more complex than that. The story is about many other things, it touched upon so many interesting aspects of Indian culture and society. That, to me, was fascinating."

'Crime Stories: India Detectives', on the other hand, centres around how the police cracked four cases. Sharing her pre-production experience, series producer Claire Cahill said that 'Crime Stories: India Detectives' took almost three years to be made.



followed live investigations."

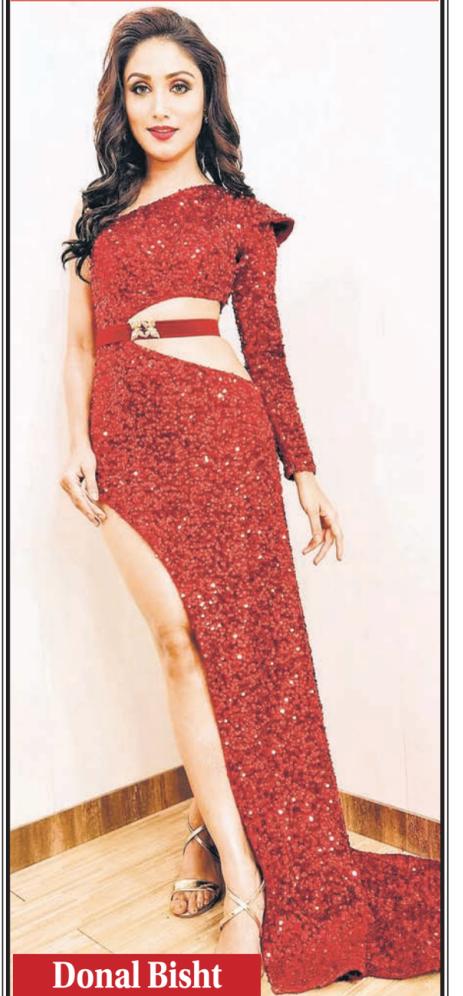
Continuing her account, Cahill recalled: "These conversations progressed. We obtained all necessary permissions over a period of 18 months and the filming continued for over five months. The process of gaining trust, having conversations with all the parties in order to cover an investigation in the way we did, involved an enormous amount of work." Leena Yadav, showrunner and co-director of the upcoming docu-feature 'House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths', recounted how difficult it was to get people who were a part of the incident to talk. "Those were very difficult conversations, I must admit," Yadav said. 'House of Secrets' recreates the horrific case of 11 members of a family in the Delhi neighbourhood of Burari died in their house as a result allegedly of an occult practice gone wrong.

Even while working on a film with such a gruesome storyline, there's

invariably a moment worth remembering fondly. Yadav recalled one such "beautiful incident".

She said: "When we were interviewing members of the family, one of them came up to me and thanked me, saying that this was like therapy for him. That was when I felt we were doing the right thing. We covered 400 hours of interviews and having those conversations were definitely difficult and emotionally draining, but this has been a big learning for me." 'House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths' is releasing on Netflix on October 8. Sharing the OTT platform's perspective, Tanya Bami, Director, International Originals, at Netflix India, said: "It is magical to sit in a room with a creator who has a vision and to go through that experience through their eyes. Netflix strives to bring creative excellence by enabling their vision. We want to narrate stories that are authentic and relevant."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Donal Bisht