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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL



NATION > 02

Varun Gandhi likely to meet Mamata in Delhi, fuels...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

Jennifer Lopez releases piano ballad, soundtrack for her upcoming...



SPORTS > 07

Openers, Harshal lead India to 7-wicket win over NZ...

THE THREE CONTROVERSIAL FARM LAWS TO BE REPEALED, SAYS PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

THE GOVERNMENT BOWED DOWN

Opposition leaders said after almost 12 months of Gandhian agitation, the repeal of three farm laws is a 'victory of the farmers, democracy and sacrifices of more than 700 farmers who laid their lives for this struggle,' and hoped that the government would have drawn some lessons for future.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A little more than a year after they were passed followed by widespread agitation by farmers declining to accept them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced that the Centre has decided to repeal the three farm laws. Modi also announced that the constitutional process to repeal the laws would be taken up in the winter session of Parliament that begins on November 29 and appealed to the agitating farmers to withdraw their agitation and go back to their homes.

Modi also announced to form a committee comprising representatives of the Centre, state governments, farmers, agriculture scientists and agriculture economists to discuss how Minimum Support Price (MSP) can be made more effective.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, an umbrella body of farm unions, on Friday said its future course of action will be decided after the core committee meetings on Saturday and Sunday.



“While apologising to the nation, I want to say with a sincere and pure heart that maybe something was lacking... that we could not explain the truth to some of our farmer brothers... we have decided to repeal the three farm laws.”



Prime Minister

DECISION NOT RELATED TO UPCOMING POLLS: BJP

“We won by-polls in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka held on October 30. We swept the Zila Panchayat chairpersons' elections in Uttar Pradesh. We also won civic polls in Gujarat and Karnataka. It is completely wrong to say that the decision to repeal the farm laws is a political move with an eye on next year's assembly polls in five states.”



CONG TO OBSERVE 'KISAN VIJAY DIWAS'

New Delhi: The Congress has decided to observe 'Kisan Vijay Diwas' on November 20 and will organise victory rallies across the country on behalf of farmers to mark the Centre's announcement on Friday of repeal of three contentious farm laws. Congress leaders will also visit the families of the over 700 farmers who died during the agitation and will organise candle marches and rallies to pray for the departed souls. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal has asked all state units to organise such rallies and candle marches at state, district and block levels on Saturday.

WHAT ARE THE THREE CONTROVERSIAL FARM LAWS?

Law 1: Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act

This is supposed to allow "contract farming", or allow farmers to enter into direct agreements with agri-firms, exporters or large buyers to produce a certain crop for a pre-agreed price.

Government: The government had stressed that crop prices under this law would be determined by market forces - i.e., farmers would get paid more for sowing in-demand crops.

Farmers: Farmers were worried the new law would eliminate MSP - the guaranteed minimum price for their produce. They also feared the 'corporatisation of agriculture' - a scenario in which small and marginal landholders would be vulnerable to such disadvantageous contracts unless sale prices were regulated.

Law 2: Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act

Government: The government said this law would enable farmers barrier-free intra- and inter-state trade of all farm produce, which they could, again theoretically, sell at markets of their choice, even in other states. Farmers would also not have to pay a tax collected by the state. Currently farm produce is sold at notified wholesale markets, or mandis, run by Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, or APMCs. Farmers take their produce to local markets, where licensed middlemen buy from them - at prices set by auction - before selling to institutional buyers.

Farmers: Farmers, however, pointed out that in practice small and marginal farmers may find it difficult to avail the potentially better prices at markets further away because of constraints on travel and storage, as well as associated costs. That was precisely why, they argued, some chose to sell in local wholesale markets even though prices were better elsewhere. Farmers were also angry with the wording of Section 8 of this law, which said farmers could approach a sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) for dispute resolution. They argued that they - particularly the smaller farmers - were not powerful or influential enough to access the SDM office.

Law 3: Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act

This law was to scrap the government's power to limit stocks of essential food items, except under extraordinary circumstances. It also removed certain goods - like edible oil and onions - from that list. It further enabled the government to regulate the supply of such commodities, or even re-include them on the list. The stock limit would be based on price rise in the market. In the case of this law, there was no real disagreement between the farmers and the government.

WIN AGAINST INJUSTICE AND ARROGANCE: RAHUL

Congratulations its win against the injustice, the farmers of the nation have compelled the arrogant govt to bend down through satyagraha.”



DECISION ONLY BECAUSE OF UPCOMING POLLS: PRIYANKA

“We will have to understand that the government decided to change its decision only after recent surveys showed that it was slipping.”



Repeal Farm Laws In Parliament: Tikait

Ghaziabad: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Friday said the ongoing anti-farm laws protest will be withdrawn only after the three contentious legislations are repealed in Parliament and legal guarantee on minimum support price (MSP) for crops made. He also asked supporters not to engage in celebrations as their "struggle" will continue. Tikait, took to Twitter soon after Modi announced repealing the three farm laws. "The protest will not be withdrawn immediately, we will wait for the day when the farm laws are repealed in Parliament. Along with MSP, the government should talk to farmers on other issues too."



REPEAL OF FARM LAWS 'UNFORTUNATE': SC PANEL MEMBER

Anil Ghanwat, a farm leader from Maharashtra who was one of the three members of the Supreme Court appointed committee on farm laws earlier this year, has termed the decision as "very unfortunate" as this "political move" will not end the farmers' agitation and will not help the BJP in the upcoming assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

Allahabad HC asks Centre to consider uniform civil code

The court directed marriage registrar or officer of petitioners' districts to immediately register the marriage of the petitioners without insisting or awaiting approval of the competent district authority with regard to conversion of faith.

“Marriage is just an association of two persons recognized by law. There is nothing 'special' about marriage to subject it under different laws for various communities, thus erecting barriers in the free intermingling of the citizens. The petitioners herein cannot be hounded as criminals.”

High Court



“The UCC is necessity and mandatorily required today. It cannot be made 'purely voluntary' as was observed by B.R. Ambedkar 75 years back, in view of the apprehension and fear expressed by the members of the minority community,” the court said.

Justice Suneet Kumar said it is the need of the hour that the Parliament comes up with a "single family code" to protect interfaith couples from being "hounded as criminals".

"The stage has reached that the Parliament should intervene and examine as to whether the country requires multiplicity of marriage and

registration laws or the parties to a marriage should be brought under the umbrella of single-family code," the court observed.

The standing counsel appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government pointed out that the petitioners' marriage could not be registered without an enquiry by the district authority as they did not get the mandatory approval from district magistrate before converting to the faith of their partner for the purpose of marriage.

The petitioners' counsel, however, asserted that citizens have the right to choose their partner and faith; and the conversion took place out of free will.

12 WASHED AWAY AS HEAVY RAINS TRIGGER FLOODS IN ANDHRA

Amaravati | Agencies At least 12 people were killed and 18 others went missing after three buses of Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) were stuck in floods triggered by heavy rains in Kadapa district on Friday. Rescue workers pulled out 12 bodies and were searching for the missing people in Rajampet area.

The buses were stuck in flood waters in Mandpalle, Akepadu and Nandaluru villages. The passengers along with drivers and conductors had climbed on the top of the buses. While some were rescued by the local residents, 30 people were feared washed away. Three bodies were recovered from an RTC bus near Nandaluru. Seven bodies were found in



Gundluru while three bodies were pulled from Rayavaram areas. Annamayya reservoir in the district breached, leading to floods in surrounding villages of Gundluru, Seshamambapuram and Mandpalle. An overflowing stream also inundated Nanduluru, Rajampeta and other areas. The massive downpour has paralysed normal life. Authorities have declared a holiday for all educational institutions in the affected districts.

2 COPS HELD IN BIHAR JUDGE MANHANDLING CASE

Patna: After the alleged manhandling of Additional District Judge (ADJ) Avinash Kumar inside a court room in Bihar's Madhubani district, the police have arrested the accused SHO and sub-inspector. Station House In-charge (SHO) Gopal Krishna and sub-inspector Abhimanyu Sharma were arrested late on Thursday night. The alleged officers posted at the Ghoghardiha police station had not only manhandled the ADJ but also had threatened him with their service pistols inside the Jhanjharpur sub-divisional court on Thursday afternoon. The ADJ was rescued by the lawyers present in the court. Madhubani Superintendent of Police Dr Satya Prakash confirmed the development. The alleged officers were arrested under relevant IPC sections followed by a medical examination in Sadar hospital.

Raj CM calls emergency meeting as Covid cases rise

Jaipur: The Rajasthan government on Friday convened an emergency meeting of officials concerned after the state registered a Covid death after over three months.

The meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, deliberated on measures to curb the rising cases.

According to officials, Gehlot has decided to explore the possibility of applying a booster dose of Corona vaccine and write a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard.

The officers have been asked to implement social distancing norms in the



districts. They have also been instructed to conduct genome sequencing and sero survey.

After the review meeting, Gehlot said: "We are keeping an eye on this. Everyone has to take precautions in this context. Corona protocol has to be followed."

AUSTRIA 1ST EU COUNTRY TO REIMPOSE FULL LOCKDOWN

Vienna | Agencies Barely a week after imposing a lockdown on the unvaccinated, Austria on Friday announced a full national Covid-19 lockdown starting next week.

Austria became the first country in the European Union to take such a measure in the face of the Covid-19 resurgence. Besides, it has also made vaccination mandatory from February 1, Euronews reported. The new measures announced by Chancellor Alexander Schallenberg on Friday morning will come into effect initially for 10 days starting Monday. Most stores will close, and cultural events will be cancelled.

After 10 days, the effects will be assessed and if



Covid cases don't drop sufficiently, the lockdown can be extended to a maximum of 20 days.

However, according to Austria's Health Minister, schools would remain open for those who need to go there, but all parents have been asked to keep their children at home if possible.

According to the latest figures, the incidence rate was 990.7 cases per 100,000 people in the past week, and Health Minister Wolfgang Mackstein said imposing a lockdown was the "last resort".

Last Monday, Vienna had announced a nationwide lockdown for about two million unvaccinated people. Under this, people aged 12 years and older were banned from going outside except for essential activities such as work, attending classes, essential shopping, or going for a walk.



FAKE STAMP PAPER RACKET BUSTED IN K'TAKA, FIVE HELD

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Karnataka Police have arrested five persons, including a woman, in connection with running a fake stamp paper racket in the state. The police have also recovered Rs 64 lakh worth equipment and other articles from the accused persons' possession. The arrested persons have been identified as Hussain Babu, Harish, Nayaz Ahmad, Seema and Shabbir Ahmad. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant had formed a special team to bust the fake stamp paper racket following directions from the court. After gathering inputs, the special team arrested the five persons and took seals, rubber stamps, 663 fake stamp papers and 136 packed fake stamp papers into custody. The accused were into manufacturing fake stamp papers since 2005. They sold the fake stamp papers for Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000. Hussain Babu, also known as Chota Telgi, was arrested by the police in 2013 on similar charges. The other accused persons -- Harish and Seema -- worked as typists at the court premises and the Revenue Bhavan in the city. The fake stamp papers were used to lodge false cases and false claims.

SUPERIM COURT: FUTURE RISE IN INCOME APPLICABLE EVEN IF DECEASED WASN'T EARNING AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

Team Absolute | Puducherry

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has held that future increase in income of an accident victim should be considered while determining compensation in motor accident claims. A bench comprising justices M.R. Shah and Sanjiv Khanna said: "We are of the opinion that even in case of a deceased who was not serving at the time of death and had no income at the time of death, his legal heirs shall also be entitled to future prospects by adding future rise in income as held by this court." The bench cited an earlier judgment where addition of 40 per cent of the income determined on guesswork considering the educational qualification, family background etc. was taken into account, when the deceased was below the age of 40 years. The deceased's family counsel cited the victim's educational qualifications and his bright future, and contended that the

high court committed an error in fixing the future income at Rs 5,000 per month and did not consider the future rise in income. Prashant (21), at the time of the accident, was in third year of engineering. The Centre's counsel argued that since the deceased was not earning anything at the time of the accident, there would not be any future rise in income. The bench noted that in case of a deceased, who was not earning or not doing any job or was self-employed at the time of death, his income has to be determined on the guesswork looking into the circumstances. "The perception that he is likely to remain static and his income would remain stagnant is contrary to the fundamental concept of human attitude, which always intends to live with dynamism and move and change with the time," said the bench. The top court was hearing an appeal by Prashant's family members against the Madhya



Pradesh High Court order, which partly allowed the appeal by the Railways and reduced the amount of compensation from Rs 12,85,000 to Rs 6,10,000. Prashant's family had filed a claim petition before the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT) for Rs 25 lakh compensation. However, the MACT in toto awarded Rs 12,85,000 with 7.5 per cent interest per annum. The family then moved the high court, which reduced the amount to Rs 6,10,000 after assessing the income of the

deceased at Rs 5,000 per month. The top court said the income of the deceased at least ought to have been considered at Rs 10,000/per month, more particularly considering the fact that the labourers/skilled labourers were getting Rs 5,000/per month even under the Minimum Wages Act in the year 2012. The top court directed that Prashant's family members are entitled to a sum of Rs 15,82,000 with interest at the rate of 7 per cent per annum.

3 Air India employees arrested for helping gold smugglers

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Three employees of Air India, accused of having a role in the smuggling of gold, have been arrested, officials said on Friday. They have been accused of having a hand in a recent incident where in 1.5 kg gold -- stored beneath an aircraft's seat -- was seized. A passenger, who was later questioned in the matter, revealed the involvement of three employees of Air India. All three of them have been arrested on charges of assisting in gold smuggling. The Customs Department claims that the smugglers had brought gold worth Rs 75 lakh hidden

under the seat with the help of the arrested individuals. "...or else, it was not possible to hide the gold under the seat of the plane," an official said. According to the information received, this is the first time that the collusion of airline employees has come to the fore in the case of gold smuggling. On November 16, at Jaipur airport, the Customs team had seized gold from an aircraft. A senior Customs official said that gold was hidden under the seat of the plane with the connivance of Shivram Meena, Gyanchand Meena and Kaushal Verma. During questioning, it was revealed that they have been working for Air India for the last four years.



THREE INJURED IN CYLINDER BLAST IN DELHI

New Delhi | Agencies

Three people were injured after an LPG cylinder caught fire and exploded in a factory located at Bawana Industrial Area, an official said here on Friday. The official informed that they received a call about the fire incident on Thursday evening at around 7.04 p.m. at L-235, Sector-3, Bawana Ind. area after which 14 fire tenders were immediately pressed into the service. As per the official, it took the firemen four hours to douse the flames. The cooling process has also been completed. The last unit returned at 11.00 p.m. All the three injured, identified as Janak Raj Yadav, 25, Mool Chand Yadav, 47 and Joginder Yadav, 20, were admitted to Maharishi Valmiki hospital where Janak Raj who received 60 per cent burn injuries is currently undergoing treatment.

While Mool Chand sustained 40 per cent burn injuries, Joginder suffered minor leg injuries. The official confirmed that there were no casualties in the incident. However, the factory was completely gutted. Most of the articles were burnt and turned into ashes. Delhi Fire Services chief Atul Garg informed IANS that the fire destroyed the machinery, raw materials, chemicals and LPG cylinders in the three-storey "Krishna Packaging" factory which was built in an area of 150 sq. metres. Locals could be seen gathering in the morning to see the charred remains of the building. The incident comes just four days after a family of four members were injured, one seriously, after an LPG cylinder caught fire in western Delhi's Nangloi area on Monday.

Varun Gandhi likely to meet Mamata in Delhi, fuels switch talks

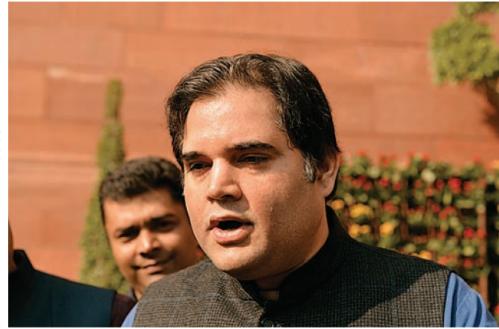
Archana Sharma | Kolkata

After Sushmita Dev, Babul Supriyo, Luizinho Faleiro and Leander Paes, there are strong indications that BJP MP Varun Gandhi might jump ship and join the Trinamool Congress. It is likely that Varun Gandhi might meet West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee during the latter's visit to the national capital next week. Though there has been no official confirmation about Maneka Gandhi's son joining the Trinamool, according to a senior party leader, the Chief Minister's visit to Delhi next week is going to be 'very significant' and might have some 'surprises' as well. However, it is still not clear whether the BJP leader will join the Trinamool during Banerjee's Delhi visit, or later. Without making any direct statement on the matter, a senior Trinamool leader said, "Leaders who are angry with the BJP, but have no way to go to the Congress, are contacting Trinamool. At the moment, it is clear that Mamata and Trinamool can play

the biggest role in stopping (Narendra Modi)." Recently, BJP had dropped Varun Gandhi and his mother Maneka Gandhi from the party's national working committee, and the Gandhi family junior is reportedly looking for a political platform. Varun Gandhi had also condemned the killing of farmers at Lakhimpur Kheri, indicating that his ties with the saffron camp have turned sour. Political experts believe that cornered by the BJP, he would be looking for a stable platform and in that case, Trinamool Congress could be the best alternative. "Varun Gandhi cannot go to the Congress. So he would be looking at a party that can

give him a national platform. With Trinamool Congress trying to increase its presence nationally, it would also be interested to include a person who has national acceptability. And in that case, it will be a win-win situation for all," a senior Trinamool leader told reporter on condition of anonymity.

There are also indications that Danish Ali, who had switched to the BSP from JD-S in 2019, might join Trinamool because of his differences with party supremo Mayawati. Last year, Mayawati had removed Ali from the post of Lok Sabha leader due to differences with him. According to official sources, Mamata Banerjee might go to Delhi on November 22 and return on November 25. During her two-day stay in the national capital, she might meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discuss the pending issues. Sources in the Chief Minister's Office indicated that the discussion between Banerjee and Modi might revolve around the state's pending financial dues, and the recent extension of BSF's jurisdiction in the state from 15 km to 50 km from the international borders. The Chief Minister is also likely to meet the leaders of the opposition parties, including interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi.



110 countries recognise India's Covishield, Covaxin: Source

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As of now as many as 110 countries have recognized India's Covid vaccines -- Covishield and Covaxin -- and have agreed to mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificates with India, said official sources in the Union Health Ministry. A source with the Ministry said that at present, 110 countries have agreed to mutual recognition of vaccination certificates and those who recognise Indian vaccination certificates of travellers fully vaccinated with Covishield or World Health Organisation(WHO)-approved Covid vaccines. As per the new travel guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry, if a fully vaccinated traveller is coming from a country with which India has reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO-approved Covid-19 vaccines, they will be allowed to leave the airport and



must self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival. If partially or not vaccinated travellers visit India, they will have to submit their sample for post-arrival Covid-19 test at the point of arrival after which they will be allowed to leave the airport. They will have to undergo home quarantine for seven days and undertake re-test on the eighth day of arrival in India and if found negative, further self-monitor their health for next seven days. "Travellers arriving from countries excluding those at risk, will be allowed to leave the airport and must self-monitor their health for 14 days' post arrival. This is applicable to travellers from all countries, including with which reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO-approved Covid-19 vaccines also exist," said the new international arrival guidelines. Of eight WHO-approved vaccines against Covid-19 in emergency use listing, two vaccines -- Covaxin and Covishield -- are from India.

MUSLIM LEADERS URGE CENTRE TO WITHDRAW CAA

New Delhi | Agencies

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to repeal the three farm laws, Muslim leaders on Friday demanded the withdrawal of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The CAA is mainly being opposed by the people from the Muslim community, and some other sections of the society, alleging that the Act is discriminatory in nature. Syed Sadatullah Hussaini, President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, said: "We now urge the government to also look at the other anti-people and anti-Constitutional laws like CAA-NRC etc., and ensure that they are withdrawn at the earliest. We feel delighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has finally acceded to the demands of the

farmers. Had it been done earlier, the losses could have been averted." Welcoming the decision to repeal the three farm laws, the chief of Jamaat Ulama-e-Hind, Arshad Madani, said in a statement: "The CAA movement encouraged the farmers to protest against the farm laws. The government should also withdraw the CAA now. We should congratulate our farmers as they have made great sacrifices. Every effort was made to subdue the peasant movement like all other movements in the country, and conspiracies were hatched to divide the peasants. But they continued to make all kinds of sacrifices and remained steadfast in their stand. "Once again the truth has come to light that if a movement is run with honesty and patience for a legitimate cause, one day success will be achieved."



9 killed in house collapse due to heavy rain in TN

Team Absolute | Chennai

Nine people were killed at Pernambet in Tamil Nadu, Vellore district on Friday when the house in which they were staying collapsed in incessant rainfall. The deceased include four women and four children and one man. The house collapsed when the family was fast asleep. Fire and Rescue personnel and the police rushed to the spot and took out those injured. Eight people were injured in the accident and are being given medical aid at the Pernambet Government hospital. The bodies are at the Pernambet Government hospital for post-mortem.



DRI SEIZES 85.5 KG GOLD, APPREHENDS 4 FOREIGN NATIONALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a big swoop, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 85.535 kg gold valued at approximately Rs 42 crore from four foreign nationals involved in international smuggling activities. The seizure had been made under an intelligence operation code-named 'Operation Molten Metal'. Several Indian and foreign (Chinese, Taiwanese and South Korean) nationals were suspected to be indulging in smuggling gold into India from Hong Kong using the air cargo route. The DRI operation identified the smuggling racket and laid a trap to apprehend the culprits. The intelligence indicated that the gold smuggled in the form of machinery parts was being melted and moulded into bar/cylinder shapes before being disposed of in the local market. Acting upon the said intelligence, DRI officers examined an import consignment at the air cargo complex at the Indira Gandhi



International Airport in Delhi. During the examination, the consignment was found to contain electroplating machines fitted with transformers. The 'EI' laminates of the transformers were found to have been made of gold coated with nickel, essentially to hide the identity of the gold. Approximately 1 kg gold was recovered from each of the 80 imported electroplating machines. In a swift follow-up operation, further recovery of 5.409 kg of foreign-origin gold smuggled into India earlier adopting a similar modus operandi was made from a Delhi-based jeweller. Further, during search operations conducted at several rented properties in Chattarpur and Gurugram, four foreign nationals (two from South Korea and one each from China and Taiwan) were found to be using sophisticated metallurgical techniques to convert the smuggled gold in the form of 'EI' laminates into bar/cylindrical form for further distribution.



CM PLANTED KACHNAR AND NEEM SAPLINGS IN SMART CITY GARDEN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem and Kachnar saplings in Smart Udyan today. Workers of Avani Welfare Society, Bhopal also took part in the plantation programme along with Chouhan. By planting saplings every day, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan is ensuring the participation of the people working in the field of environmental protection at individual level in order to encourage participation of the society. Avani Welfare Society workers Vijay Kumar Gupta, JC Chandrasekaran, Roopa Chandrasekaran and Shiv Pathak informed Chouhan that their organization is working in the field of environment and bird conservation for the last 11 years. Nests for birds are made by the organization along with plantation of trees. The organization distributes them free of cost by making seed balls from soil-dung manure and seeds of different species. Wherever plantation is done

by the organization, some person is entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the trees, so that the plants grow into trees and the environment can be protected. No financial assistance is taken by the organization in any way. The members of the organization work only with mutual cooperation. So far 25 thousand saplings have been planted by Avani Welfare Society, and about one lakh seed balls and one thousand nests have been distributed free of cost. The Kachnar planted today is a beautiful flowering tree. Many trees and plants are naturally full of medicinal properties, Kachnar is one of them. The leaves, stem and flowers of this tree, which are laden with flowers after mid-March, are all useful. Kachnar is counted among beautiful and useful trees. Similarly, neem rich in antibiotic elements is known as the supreme medicine. Neem may be bitter in taste, but its benefits are like nectar. Neem is also very useful from environmental point of view.



WHATEVER HAS BEEN SAID FOR THE WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRIBALS IS IMPLEMENTED: CM

CM reviews the preparations for Janjatiya Gourav Saptah

- Concluding convention of Janjatiya Gourav Saptah will be held in Mandla
- Chief Minister Chouhan will hand over rights to tribal brothers and sisters under Forest Rights Act
- 25 vehicles will be flagged off under "Ration Aapke Gaon" scheme

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that tribal brothers and sisters will be given community forest rights under the Forest Rights Act in the concluding convention of Janjatiya Gourav Saptah to be organised in Mandla. Along with this, the right to live in the forests will also be provided under the lease distribution and Forest Rights Act. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan has said that for the welfare and development of tribal brothers and sisters, what the state government has said is being implemented.

Chouhan said that speedy implementation of schemes made by the state government and distribution of benefits is being ensured soon. Janjatiya Gourav Saptah is a campaign to create awareness among tribes and transform their lives. Therefore, the tribal brothers and sisters of the area, come in maximum numbers

for the discussions in the programme organised in Mandla. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan was virtually addressing from his residence a meeting organised in connection with the preparations for the concluding convention of Janjatiya Gourav Saptah to be held at Mandla on November 22.

Chouhan will offer flowers at the flag site of the Gond dynasty in the concluding convention of the Gourav Saptah. The programme will be held in Ramnagar of Mandla, in which all the major tribes of Mandla like Gond, Baiga etc. will take part. The programme will include exhibition based on tribal life culture, display of Kodo-Kutki products by women self-help groups in "One District - One Product" and Gond paintings and works of art by local artists showcasing tribal life.

In the concluding convention of Janjatiya Gourav Saptah, Chief Minister will also perform Bhumi-Poojan of works worth Rs. 318 crore and dedicate works worth Rs. 26 crore. Along with this, distri-



tribution of lease to 148 Baiga families of 6 villages, distribution of community forest rights letters of 11 thousand 310 hectares to 123 villages under the Forest Rights Act and other rights will be given to tribal brothers and sisters. Chouhan will distribute Rs 10 crore loan to tribal women self-help groups and bamboo plants to 5 thousand tribal families.

Chouhan will launch a comprehensive scheme "Basic Amenity Inclusion by Government Agency" to benefit all the Baiga families of Mandla district by conducting door-to-door survey of all the Baiga families. Chouhan will release a book based on Baiga culture and will flag off 25 vehicles under "Ration Aapke Gaon" Yojana.

CM RECEIVED AND WELCOMED PM MODI AT KHAJURAHO AIRPORT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was received by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Khajuraho Airport and accorded a warm welcome. Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma and Minister in-charge of Chhatrapur district Omprakash Sakhlecha were also present. The Prime Minister Modi reached Khajuraho Airport on Friday on a short stay at 2 pm in the afternoon by an Indian Air Force plane and left for Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh by an Air Force helicopter. On this occasion former Minister of State Lalita Yadav, MLAs Pradyumna Singh Lodhi and Rajesh Prajapati, BJP District President Malkhan Singh along with Sagar Divisional Commissioner Mukesh Kumar Shukla, IG Anil Sharma, DIG Vivekraj Singh, Collector Sheelendra Singh and Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma were also present.



CM offered garland on Guru Nanak Jayanti

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan garlanded the portrait of Guru Nanak Dev ji in the auditorium at his residence on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti. Guru Nanak is the first Guru of the Sikhs. His followers address him by the names Nanak, Nanak Dev Ji, Baba Nanak and Nanak Shah. Guru Nanak Dev had in his personality the qualities of philosopher, yogi, householder, religious reformer, social reformer, poet, patriot and Vishwabandhu.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born on Kartik Purnima in a village called Talwandi situated on the banks of river Ravi. Talwandi is a town in the Punjab state of undivided India. The name of Talwandi was later changed to Nankana after the name of Guru Nanak. Since childhood, signs of sharp intelligence were visible



in him. Many miraculous events happened in his childhood, seeing which the people of the village started considering him as a divine personality. Guru Nanak made visits in all directions and started preaching. By the year 1521, Guru Nanak completed four travel cycles, in which he visited the

main places of India, Afghanistan, Persia and Arabia. In the last days of his life, his fame increased greatly. He started spending time in the service of humanity. Guru Nanak Dev established a city named Kartarpur, which is now in Pakistan. It was at this place that he left for his heavenly abode.

"THOSE WHO DRINK DON'T LIE": OFFICIAL'S ODD VACCINE LOGIC

"He does not need to show a certificate.

The customer can tell if he has got both the doses (of the vaccine) or not," the official is heard saying in a video that triggered amusing reactions on social media.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Among the fight against coronavirus, vaccination certificates have become mandatory for travel and visiting public places in several parts of the country over the past few months. Khandwa district, about 230 km from state capital Bhopal, has also seen a new rule - liquor shops are selling alcohol only to those who're fully vaccinated. But, a government official says, they "don't need to show vaccine certificates, they can just tell if they've got both doses or not... because those who drink don't lie". "Targetting a huge vaccination coverage, the adminis-

tration wanted to spread awareness among the locals. Taking the same vision forward, we enforced a rule - only those who are fully vaccinated will be able to buy alcohol". Shops have put up a board outside to let people know about this," Khandwa District Excise officer RP Kirar told reporters on Thursday. Asked about the verification process, the official gave a bizarre reply: "Yeh to uski imandaari se hi wo bolega (The buyer will tell that honestly). It's our personal experience that those who drink don't lie." "He does not need to show a certificate. The customer can tell if he has got both the

doses (of the vaccine) or not," the official is heard saying in a video that triggered amusing reactions on social media. "Tell me you drink and I'll believe, because those who drink alcohol they only say the truth, they don't lie," wrote a user. Another user wrote: "Those who drink don't lie. What a logic!" "Lie detector. Science is winning. Just get a jab (sic)," a tweet in response to the remark read. Madhya Pradesh has so far given 7.88 crore vaccine doses across 52 districts. The Khandwa district has administered 13.86 lakh-plus vaccine doses so far.

CM PAYS OBEISANCE TO RANI LAXMIBAI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid obeisance to Rani Laxmibai on her birth anniversary. Chouhan garlanded her portrait in the auditorium at his residence. Rani Laxmibai was the queen of the Maratha-ruled Jhansi state and a martyr of the 1857 first freedom struggle. At the age of just 29, she fought with the army of the British Empire and became a martyr in the battlefield. Rani Laxmibai was born on 19 November, 1828 in Varanasi. She was named Manikarnika as a child. In 1842, she was married to Raja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi and became the queen of Jhansi. After marriage she was renamed Lakshmi bai. Jhansi had become a major center of the freedom struggle of 1857. On 18 June 1858, while fighting the British army, Rani Lakshmi bai was martyred.



मतदाता सूची का विशेष संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण-2022

01 नवंबर 2021 से आरंभ

1 जनवरी, 2022 की अर्हता तिथि में वोटर बनने की है, ये लाईफलाइन

विशेष कैम्प का आयोजन सभी मतदान केन्द्रों पर 20-21 नवम्बर, 2021

उम्र 18 साल पात्रता 1 जनवरी, 2022 तक

ऑनलाइन **ऑफलाइन**

अपने नज़दीकी मतदान केन्द्र या कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर जाएं

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- निर्वाचक नामावली में दर्ज स्वयं अथवा परिवार के सदस्यों के विवरण को विलोपित करने हेतु Form-7 पर क्लिक करें।
- यदि निर्वाचक नामावली की प्रविष्टियों में कोई संशोधन या सुधार करने की जरूरत हो तो निर्वाचक नामावलियों की प्रविष्टियों में सुधार करने पर क्लिक करके फार्म 8 भरें।
- अप्रवासी मतदाता रजिस्ट्रेशन के लिये ऑनलाइन फार्म 6A में आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

- सभी प्रकार के फार्म निर्वाचक रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिकारी (ईआरओ) और बूथ लेवल अधिकारी (बीएलओ) के पास उपलब्ध हैं या फार्म वेबसाइट www.ceomadhya Pradesh.nic.in तथा www.eci.gov.in से भी डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।
- संबंधित फार्म भरकर एवं फोटो, पता और आयु के प्रमाण के साथ आवेदन प्रस्तुत करें। फार्म, दावे, आपत्ति प्रस्तुत करने की अवधि 1 से 30 नवंबर, 2021 तक है।
- फार्म BLO के पास जमा किए जा सकते हैं।
- मतदाता सुविधा केन्द्र - तहसील कार्यालय में भी भरे जा सकते हैं।

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EDITOR'S SPECS

FARMERS, GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION AND ELECTIONS

The three farm laws will be repealed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi taken this decision much earlier, several precious lives would have been saved. Notably, the farmers' agitation on the Delhi borders and across the state has so far claimed "hundreds of lives" during unparalleled struggle to safeguard their rights to secure livelihood and future of their generations. The incidents like Lakhimpur Kheri which happened during the struggle has put a slur on the fair name of democracy and the people will never forgive and forget. Shortly after Modi's epochal announcement repealing the three contentious farm laws, Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said that the farmers' ongoing agitation will continue. BKU leader said that farmers will return to their home only after the law will be repealed officially in parliament. Till then farmers won't change their protest schedule. Also, farmers are expecting from government to regulate minimum support price act. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha is willing to wait for the announcement to take effect through due parliamentary procedures. The opposition parties on their toes to criticize. Congress leader Priyanka said that the government had agreed to repeal the three farm laws only because it had understood that they would face reverses in the upcoming elections. She said, "The farmers have been called names like 'aatankvadi', 'andolanjeevi', 'gundey', and 'deshdrohi'. Why should they trust the government so blindly in a minute? Besides, the government has the option of bringing an ordinance so why is it waiting for the Parliament session?" Congress said that, this government, it does not believe in consultation. The laws were implemented after passing in parliament but repealing process didn't go through it. Meanwhile, The BJP believes that Modi's announcement to repeal three farm laws will help the party in the forthcoming Assembly polls. The BJP is also eyeing political dividend in 40 Lok Sabha seats spread in Western UP, Haryana and Rajasthan in the next general election in 2024.

TRUTH BEHIND GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO SIKH RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN PAKISTAN

Prof Sarchand Singh

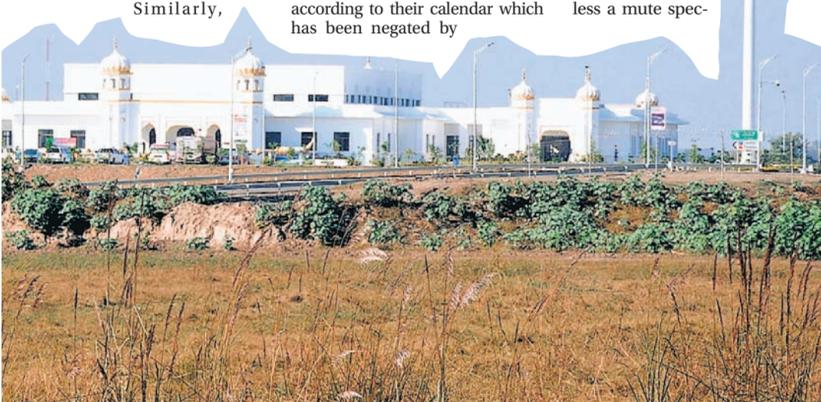
Pakistan always tries to wash away its stigma of being a pro-terrorist country in the world community. The idea of opening the Kartarpur Corridor was also hatched to improve its image and mislead Sikhs around the world. But in reality, Pakistan holds a glib attitude towards minorities. Despite its best efforts for progress and economic prosperity, the oppressive system/mindset has never been lenient for minorities. Hindus and Sikhs are infidels and persecution of infidels is like 'charity' for Islamic fundamentalists. As far as the status of the historical gurdwaras in Pakistan is concerned, they are managed by the so-called Pakistan Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC), which does not have much authority over the religious affairs of the Sikhs. The claim is that this committee has been formed on the lines of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee of India having status/stature like a state but in reality, the PSGPC is a puppet working under the dominance of Muslim-oriented Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), which operates under the Pakistan Waqf Board. ETPB was started as a constitutional body under the Act (Management and Settlement) No. XIII of 1975 as a result of the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement in 1950 and the Pant Mirza Agreement in 1955 to protect the rights of Hindu Sikhs. According to the India-Pakistan agreement, it was declared that the ETPB's chairman would be a Hindu or a Sikh, but Pakistan has never complied on the pretext that no non-Muslim can be given responsibility for such a large body in an Islamic country. Also, the Supreme Court of Pakistan did not implement the order to appoint

a Hindu or Sikh as the Chairman of the board. Even the non-Muslim members Gural Singh and Khushi Ram and others who were included in the Board for the first time (last year) were never invited to the meeting and unilateral decisions were taken. Actually, the board has been under the command of Pakistan's ISI since its inception. Even today, Tarak Wazir and Imran Gokal, who have been shifted from the ISI, have the authority to take all decisions of the board. What has this Muslim-oriented board done so far for Sikhs? During partition, more than 1,130 Hindu temples and 517 gurdwaras were abandoned by Hindus and Sikhs. Today, only 30 temples and 17 gurdwaras have been opened up by the ETPB. Apart from certain gurdwaras like Gurdwara Dera Sahib Lahore, Gurudwara Singh and Singhanian, Gurudwara Nine Lakh Bazar Lahore, Guru Nanak Janamsthan Nankana Sahib, Gurudwara Mall Ji Sahib, Gurudwara Tambu Sahib and all gurdwaras dedicated to fifth & sixth Patshahis in Nankana Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Sri Kartarpur Sahib, Guru Panja Sahib Hassan Abdal, Guru Bhai Joga Singh, Guru Baba Bidhi Chand Ji Peshawar) prakash (housing) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji has not been undertaken in any other gurdwaras in Pakistan. Also, prakash has not been accomplished in the main gurdwaras namely Gurdwara Kiara Sahib, Gurdwara Patti Sahib, Gurdwara Chakki Sahib, Gurdwara Rori Sahib, Guru Khui Bhai Lalo and Gurdwara Sacha Sauda, Chuharkana, Farukabad (from where Guru Nanak Dev Ji started the practice of langar). In addition, Gurdwara Bebe Nanaki, Dera Chahal Lahore (land worth 800 crore PKR), which is under the control of the Waqf Board, was hit by a tragic case of demolition four years ago. Half of the land of Gurudwara Nankana Sahib has been sold. In

May 2019, centuries-old Nanak Mahal in Narawal- a four-storey building was demolished and its expensive doors and windows were sold. The magnificent Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Mahla Mandi Sahiwal, built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, has been converted into a jail. Gurdwara Karam Singh Ahluwalia on the banks of the river Jhelum was earlier a police station and now is being repaired with the help of foreign funding. Similarly,

May 2019, centuries-old Nanak Mahal in Narawal- a four-storey building was demolished and its expensive doors and windows were sold. The magnificent Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha Mahla Mandi Sahiwal, built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, has been converted into a jail. Gurdwara Karam Singh Ahluwalia on the banks of the river Jhelum was earlier a police station and now is being repaired with the help of foreign funding. Similarly,

lined. Even, the Sikh Marriage Act of 2007 was not passed due to pressure from extremists. From the above actions, it can be stated that all the decisions making matters are dealt by ETPB only and PSGPC is more or less a mute spec-



places of alleged saints where they spent their life/gave sermons like Gurdwara Bhai Lalo Ji (Tateani), Gurdwara Baba Jamiat Singh (Lahore) and Guudwara Patshahi Chhevi (Amar Sidhu), which are located in rural areas are inhabited by locals or their livestock is tied up over there, but ETPB has never tried to evacuate these gurdwaras. Value of Sikhs in Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that a 9-foot-tall statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh established at Lahore Imperial Fort has been broken three times by the extremists. Statistically, around 109,404 acres of agricultural land and 46,499 acres of built-up urban sub-units belonging to temples and gurdwaras are occupied by politi-

ally influential people or the land mafia. The PGPC in actual is a 'dummy' committee because it has no right to take decisions on Sikh religious matters in Pakistan. For instance, Sikh organisations and most of the Sikh Sangat across the globe celebrate the "Gurpurab" according to the Akal Takht and the Shiromani Committee approved Nanakshahi calendar but in Pakistan, Gurpurab is being celebrated by government orders according to their calendar which has been negated by

tator. PSGPC is suppressed to the limit that they have no say in any Sikh matters. Pakistan has formed this committee/governmental body to govern Gurudwaras with the sole intent to showcase to the world that they possess a soft corner for the Sikh minority and are true saviours of Sikhism. But in reality, Pakistan will never allow any committee to hold independent rights and speak for their community freeman ship. All the religious organisations ultimately forced to work under the states of Muslim hegemony.

international

PAK SLAMS 'SELECTED ASSESSMENT' OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM BY US

Islamabad | Agencies

Pakistan has categorically rejected the recently released report by the US State Department, in which Pakistan was re-designated as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) for failing to stop violations of religious freedom, and termed it as an "arbitrary and selective assessment", which it maintained was completely contradicting to the realities on ground. Pakistan was re-designated into the list of CPC by the US State Department due to the country's reported failure in ensuring religious freedom and increased number of attacks on religious shrines, communities and sects by extremist religious hardliners. The previous Donald Trump administration in the US had first placed Pakistan on this list in December 2018 and retained it in 2020. The present Joe Biden administration has retained the old list with two changes, adding Russia into the list and removing Sudan from the CPC category. "This raises serious doubts about the credibility of this exercise. Such objective designations do not contribute towards promoting the cause of religious freedom worldwide. Pakistan and the US have been constructively engaging on the subject at the bilateral level, a fact regrettably overlooked by the US," said a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson. Pakistan brushed aside the allegations, saying religious freedom and protection of rights of minorities are ensured and guaranteed by the country's constitution. "The Pakistani society is multi-religious and pluralistic with a rich tradition of



inter-faith harmony. Religious freedom and the protection of the rights of minorities are guaranteed by our Constitution and ensured through a range of legislative, policy and administrative measures," said the spokesperson. Pakistan maintained that while it was disappointed to see its name in the CPC, it was in a state of shock to see the omission of India from the list. "The glaring omission of India, where the RSS-BJP regime and its leaders openly disregard religious freedom and discriminate against minority communities in an institutionalised manner, is unfortunate and puts the credibility of the US report into questions," said the spokesperson. "The state complicity in organised violence against the Muslim minority in India is a matter of record. It is no secret that attacks by cow vigilantes and mob lynching of Indian Muslims take place regularly, with complete impunity for the perpetrators," he added. "I think it can be done, whether it will be done is a different question," Xinhua news agency quoted Frost as saying to the BBC, after Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said the issues with the protocol could be resolved "before Christmas." "I would like to progress this as fast as we possibly can, I'm glad there's ambition on the EU side from what Simon says," Frost was quoted by the BBC as saying.

The question of how goods move from Britain into Northern Ireland is obviously at the heart of the talks and there is no reason why goods going to stay in Northern Ireland need to go through processes, Frost said. As part of the Brexit deal, the Protocol stipulates that Northern Ireland remains in the EU single market and customs union to avoid a hard border between the region and the Republic of Ireland. However, this leads to a new "regulatory" border between Britain and Northern Ireland. Britain and the EU view changing the protocol as a long-term solution to post-Brexit trade disruption in Northern Ireland. Britain outlined its proposals in a government paper in July, which observers interpreted as an intention to renegotiate the protocol. In response, the EU published its own package to facilitate the movement of goods from Britain to Northern Ireland, including cutting customs formalities, simplified certification, and an 80 per cent reduction of checks on retail goods for Northern Ireland's consumers. It said it would guarantee an uninterrupted supply of medicine to the people of Northern Ireland, by changing EU rules. However, the two sides remain poles apart on the more challenging issue of the oversight role of the European Court of Justice in Northern Ireland.

Biden says he's mulling US diplomatic boycott of Winter Olympics in Beijing

New Delhi | Agencies

US President Joe Biden has confirmed that he is mulling a diplomatic boycott of the upcoming Winter Olympics in Beijing, CNN reported. "It's something we're considering," Biden told reporters in the Oval Office following a bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. A senior administration official told CNN that Biden is not expected to attend the upcoming Olympics in China in February 2022 and that his administration is on the verge of implementing a diplomatic boycott of the games, the report said. The president has not signed off on having no government officials attend, the senior administration official cautioned on Wednesday, but discussions regarding the matter have all leaned in that direction, the report added. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said Thursday afternoon that the decision to consider a boycott of the Olympics

"doesn't say anything" about the Biden-Xi meeting. "(W)e've said from... the beginning of this administration, as it relates to how we engage with China, that we see it through the prism of competition, not conflict," Psaki added. Psaki repeated the administration's serious concerns about China's human rights abuses, adding that "certainly, there are a range of factors as we look at what our presence would be." When pressed for more information about what a potential diplomatic boycott would entail, and what that would mean for athletes, Psaki said she didn't have an update about what the US presence would be. Republican and Democratic lawmakers, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, had advocated for a diplomatic boycott in protest of China's human rights abuses. Some Republicans have even suggested no American athletes attend either, but the official said a full boycott is unlikely right now, the report added.

Pak-China joint ventures face hurdles

New Delhi | Agencies

The increasing number of joint ventures between Islamabad and Beijing under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are confronted with some practical difficulties, The Express Tribune quoted an official as saying. In an online address to the Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) executive committee on Thursday, its President Wang Zihai called for the swift resolution of issues and removal of impediments. "The government of Pakistan is fully cognisant of the issues and this has led to the creation of alternative dispute resolution courts in the country," The Express Tribune report quoted Wang as saying. The joint chamber has established an online plat-



form to provide assistance in solving the problems and issues of Chinese companies pertaining to domestic policies and regulations. He hailed the initiative of the chamber to facilitate foreign investors who entered into business partnerships with Pakistani entrepreneurs. Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Chaudhry

assured the participants that the interest of investors engaged in joint ventures under CPEC would be protected. "Along with the online platform, the PCJCCI will keep on playing a proactive role in overcoming the difficulties faced in the implementation of joint ventures being established in collaboration with foreign firms."

IRAQI CLERIC SEEKS TO FORM NATIONAL MAJORITY GOVT

Baghdad | Agencies

Iraq's prominent Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has set a roadmap for the country's political process, which includes the formation of a national majority government and the dissolution of uncontrolled armed groups. Al-Sadr, whose party appeared as the frontrunner in the elections held on October 10, said at a televised press conference from the Shia holy city of Najaf that "the only option we have is either a national majority government or a national opposition (in Parliament)", reports Xinhua news agency. "The world witnessed the integrity of the elections, and your loss should not be a prelude to ending and ruining the

democratic process in Iraq," al-Sadr addressed the losing political parties in the elections. The cleric set several conditions in the roadmap, including "the parties wish-

ing to participate in the government must hold their suspected corrupted people accountable", as well as eliminating the uncontrolled armed groups that must hand over their weapons to



the Hashd Shaabi forces, which are under the supervision of the outgoing Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, also the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces. He also stipulated that the parties "must sever all their foreign relations in a way that preserves Iraq's prestige and independence, and not interfere in the affairs of neighbouring countries to spare Iraq from useless wars." Iraq held early parliamentary elections on October 10, which showed the Sadrist Movement, led by al-Sadr, took the lead with more than 70 seats, while the al-Fateh Coalition (Conquest), which includes some Shia militias of Hashd Shaabi, garnered only 17 seats compared with 47 seats in the 2018 parliamentary elections.



'WANKHEDE VIOLATED SERVICES CONDUCT RULES, RUNS A BAR IN NAVI MUMBAI:' NAWAB MALIK

Wankhede is holding a hotel liquor license since 1997-98 and is running a bar in Navi Mumbai, he said.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) minister Nawab Malik on Friday made another allegation against narcotics control bureau (NCB) zonal director Sameer Wankhede. He claimed that the NCB officer violated central civil services (conduct) rules 1964 by conducting business despite being in service.

Wankhede is holding a hotel liquor license since 1997-98 and is running a bar in Navi Mumbai. He said that the license was issued when he was a minor back in 1997-98, which again was illegal. It was issued when his father, Dnyandeve Wankhede, was in the state excise department service. The information was concealed while joining the central government serv-

ices. Only in 2017, Wankhede declared that he owns the inherited property along with his father, which is a hotel but is on a lease, alleged Malik.

Wankhede, however, said he had furnished details of his properties to his department and nothing was concealed. Malik also shared documents to corroborate the claims which comprise a report from the state excise department that states that a license to serve liquor in a hotel was issued in the name of Sameer Dnyandeve Wankhede on October 29, 1997. The documents further show that the license was renewed every year till February 3, 2021. At the time when the hotel liquor license was issued, Wankhede was a minor and his age was 17 years and 10 months, said

Malik. The NCP leader said he will file a complaint with the department of personnel and training (DoPT), the state excise department and with all the concerned departments saying that Sameer Wankhede has no right to stay in the central government services. "It is a clear case of forgery, despite him being a minor, a hotel liquor license was issued in Sameer Wankhede's name. For the last 24 years, the business has been operated on that license in the name of Sameer Dnyandeve Wankhede. The information was concealed while joining the central government services and afterwards because no central government officer can conduct a business while being in services according to the central civil services (conduct) rules 1964," Malik stated.

"He is running a bar but again in 2017, he shared false information with the central government that the hotel property, which he owns along with his father, is on lease. I have also given one of my properties on lease to a hotel operator and all the licenses required for operation are in the name of the operator. I can provide the land on lease, but the license for conducting business will have to be obtained only by the operator," Malik said adding, "I believe facts are being suppressed in this case as well. He has no right to remain in service. We will follow this up so that Wankhede can be punished." "We have nothing to conceal. I have furnished all the details with my department, right from the properties I own and income," Wankhede said in response.

Nawab Malik, going to Dubai, asks probe agencies to 'keep an eye' on him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Minorities Affairs Minister Nawab Malik on Friday announced that he would be travelling to Dubai for four days after taking all requisite Central and State governments' clearances.

In a tongue-in-cheek farewell tweet, Malik formally requested "all government agencies keep an eye on me and track my movement" while he is abroad. The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) National Spokesperson has been in the limelight for carrying out an unprecedented 'in-depth investigation' against the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Mumbai Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede on various issues.

Among other things, the minister has gone hammer-and-tongs after the narcotics sleuth for allegedly producing fake documents to usurp a plum job in the Indian Revenue Service from the reserved category.

Through his series of media briefings since early-October, Malik has also slammed Wankhede of questionable links, carrying out a "fraudulent" (farzi) raid on the luxury ship Cordelia Cruise on October 2, allegedly letting off certain select persons or his friends and specifically "targeting" film personalities like



Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, to get maximum publicity with little recovery of drugs.

Once, he had even accused Wankhede of going to Maldives allegedly to finalise extortion deals with glamour world personalities, which the officer had vehemently denied.

Finally, the cornered Wankhede family moved the Bombay High Court with a defamation suit of Rs 1.25 crore and sought 'interim relief' to gag Malik's defamatory statements in public, which will be decided upon on Monday (November 22).

Nine Bangladeshi nationals arrested for illegal stay in Bhiwandi

Thane | Agencies

Nine Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Bhiwandi of Maharashtra's Thane district, for allegedly living in the country without any valid documents, an official said on Friday.

Offences under the Indian Passport Act and Foreign Nationals Act has been registered against the accused, who were employed in a textile unit at an industrial estate in Saravali, the station house officer of Kogaon police station said.

Based on a tip-off, the police conducted a raid at Saravali industrial estate late on Thursday night and nabbed the accused, he said.

The arrested men have been identified as Salim Amin Shaikh (30), Rasal Abul Hasan Shaikh (27), Mohammad Shain

Mohammad Akbaralai Shaikh (24), Mohammad Masoom Sheidulla Islam (21), Tarunmaniram Tripura (21), Suman Maniram Tribupra (25), Ismail Abu Tahir Khan (19), Azam Yusuf Khan (19) and Mohammad Amir Abu Sufia Khan (26), it was stated.

In a similar action couple of days ago, the MBVV police had arrested nine Bangladeshi nationals from Govind Nagar locality of Bhayander, an official said.

Offences were registered against them with the Naya Nagar police station, he said.

In a related matter, the Navi Mumbai police on Thursday issued instructions to foreign nationals to register themselves with the local police when they reside in the limits of the commissionerate.

Violating the regulations will invite police action, the order stated.

Massive fire breaks out at Prime Mall in Vile Parle West

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A massive fire broke out on the first floor of Prime Mall in Vile Parle West in Mumbai on Friday morning. The fire broke out on the first floor of a four-storey mall. Fire fighting operations are underway.

As many as 13 fire engines are present at the spot. No injuries were reported. Further details about the incident are awaited. So far, there is no report of injury to anyone in the blaze that erupted at Prime Mall around 11 am, the official said.

"At least 13 fire engines, eight water tankers and other fire brigade vehicles have rushed the spot and the fire-fighting operation is on," the official said. This is the third incident of major fire reported in the city so far this week.



This comes a day after fire erupted in the garage of an automobile showroom in suburban Powai on hursday. The blaze erupted in the garage of Sai Auto Hyundai

Showroom, located on Saki Vihar Road in Powai, around 11 am. Earlier this week, a huge fire erupted in the service centre of a multinational electronic goods company in

Kanjurmarg area of Mumbai. However, no one was injured in that blaze, which was doused after more than five hours of hectic efforts.

MAHARASHTRA TO SHOWCASE ITS TRILLION-DOLLAR VISION AT EXPO 2020 IN DUBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The state of Maharashtra will showcase its trillion-dollar economic vision and business attractiveness along with its cultural heritage when it launches its presence in the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai from Friday. Maharashtra's two-week participation (Nov 19 - Dec 2) will start with the inauguration of the state's pavilion by Subhash Desai, Minister of Industries, Gov of, he will be joined by Smt. Aditi Tatkare, Minister of State Industries and Tourism and Dr Anbalagan CEO, MIDC and Nodal Officer, Dubai Expo, and others. Several investor meetings to encourage investment opportunities in the state and efforts to open a channel of collaboration

with global investors will form the core of the state government's outreach as it exhibits opportunities in key sectors such as Film & Entertainment, Textiles, Environment & Energy, Agriculture, Culture & Tourism, Infrastructure. among others to push its core vision of achieving a trillion-dollar economy. The state will also sign some key investment initiatives as well as Bi-lateral agreements of economic cooperation with stratehan Mobility, Connecting India & the World, Fashion Forward, Future Workforce, Resiliency and Climate Change, Stronger Together and Bollywood & Beyond.

Future Workforce, Resiliency and Climate Change, Stronger Together and Bollywood & Beyond.

Five ICICI Bank officials face EOW Probe for cheating Mumbai hotelier

The case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged on July 13, 2021 by Vishal Sharma, 48, director of Hotel Horizon Pvt Ltd, located at Juhu Tara Road.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) department of the Mumbai Police has begun a probe into charges of alleged cheating by five ICICI Bank officials in a case filed by an hotelier.

The case was registered on

the basis of a complaint lodged on July 13, 2021 by Vishal Sharma, 48, director of Hotel Horizon Pvt Ltd, located at Juhu Tara Road.

Sharma alleged that the accused bankers, ARC and others caused the loss of Rs 12 or a loan of Rs 351 crore. EOW officers had said Sharma

tried to avail the loan by mortgaging properties worth Rs 1,200 crore. As per the economic times report, one of the bank officials, who is now employed by another institution, was recently summoned by the EOW to provide details of transactions.

"The senior executive was called in to explain certain banking procedures pertaining to sanctioning of loans, functioning of the credit committee and the process of roping in an ARC. The said executive joined the probe on Tuesday," a senior official with the Mumbai police said.

The EOW has maintained that the executive is not being

treated as an accused and was summoned only to explain the banking procedures, however, the FIR registered by the complainant Sharma with the BKC police station alleges fraud.

Sharma had alleged in the complaint that the accused bankers informed him that his loan was sanctioned, and that the amount would be disbursed in phases. He was informed of getting of Rs 25 crore in the first phase, but the bank deducted Rs 15.5 crore from the loan amount as processing fees and Sharma only received Rs 9.5 crore. In June 2016, Sharma alleged that he was coaxed by the bank offi-

cial to pay Rs 47.37 crore. "In the event this amount isn't paid then the processing fee amount and interest won't be returned," the FIR accessed by the daily reads.

Later, in September 2016, the loan was sold to an ARC. "The accused bank officials doctored minutes of the credit meetings, issued false statements and subsequently sold the loan to an ARC without my knowledge. While my liability was of Rs 9.5 crore, the ARC in connivance with the bank officials staked a claim of Rs 120 crore from my mortgaged assets which is worth over Rs 1200 crore," Sharma told the daily.

DPR being made for Mumbai, Nagpur bullet train project

The project is aimed at reducing the travel time between the two cities by over 50 per cent.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed 766-km bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Nagpur. The DPR is expected to be submitted to the government in early next year. Officials said a series of surveys, including the lidar survey, aerial survey, social impact assessment (SIA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA), have been completed for the Mumbai-Nagpur bullet train project. "The data collected is being analysed for the DPR," said an official. The bullet train project will pass through 10 districts. Land would be needed to be acquired



in some districts, said officials. The project is aimed at reducing the travel time between the two cities by over 50 per cent. "Currently, by road, it takes around 12 hours to reach Nagpur from Mumbai, and the bullet train is expected to reduce the time to four hours," said an official. "Once the government sanctions the project, the further procedure will be decided," the official added. The possibility of running bullet trains parallel to Mumbai-Nag-pur Samruddhi Mahamarg are being also explored, said officials. The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation is constructing a six-lane 700 km of expressway between Mumbai and Nagpur.

1,500 KM FROM SINGHU BORDER, CELEBRATIONS ERUPT IN MAHARASHTRA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nearly 1,500 km away from the epicentre of the year-long farmers' agitation, celebrations erupted in Maharashtra on Friday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi abruptly announced the yanking off of the three contentious farm laws, taking the nation by surprise akin to the demonetisation broadcast-blast.

Farmers and local leaders trooped out in places like Sangli, Palghar, Thane, Nashik, Satara, Kolhapur and other places to cheer the Prime Minister's declaration -- coming barely a week before the upcoming first anniversary of the peasants' protests -- by lighting fireworks, distributing sweets, dancing, hugging each other with joy, playing drums, offering thanksgiving prayers, and general revelry.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, currently convalescing, could not contain his excitement and said the farmers who are the breadwinners of the country deserved "3 Salutes" after their long struggle ended in victory.

"I welcome PM Modi's announce-

ment on Guru Nanak Jayanti. There was an atmosphere of strong opposition to the 3 laws all over India. But the breadwinners, who were victimised, showed their strength," Thackeray said.

Chiding the Central government, he said the government should take into confidence all stakeholders including the Opposition before taking such decisions, and this would have prevented the "humiliation" of today.

Thackeray, the Shiv Sena President, also expressed optimism that the technicalities of the repeal process of the laws would be expedited since "the farmers' agitation has still not ended".

Maha Vikas Aghadi ally and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar said he "salutes" the spirit of the peasants who braved the heat, cold, rains, labelled as 'terrorists' and inflicted other forms of humiliation, with many lives lost, but they finally achieved victory.

"The government rushed through the bills in Parliament without heeding to the Opposition demands for discussion... The government will



have to pay the price for its mistakes... Elections are coming to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and people were bound to question them on the three farm laws," Pawar pointed out.

"We said in Parliament that agriculture is the soul of this country and economy... to solve the problems of hunger, and it (3 laws) must discuss

in details while enacting the laws relating to the farmers," Pawar said.

State Congress president Nana Patole said that it was the fear of defeat in the coming elections that forced the "arrogant and dictatorial" government to bow before the united strength of the farmers.

"Not only the elections, the growing disenchantment among the

masses has brought the BJP government to its knees. They are withdrawing the 3 laws. It is a historic victory for the farmers' struggle. But the BJP will have to face the consequences," Patole warned.

He said, in Maharashtra, the Congress had collected over six million farmers' signatures and sent a memorandum to the President, the peasant protested on the border for a year under trying circumstances, but the Prime Minister had no time to meet them though over 700 lost their lives.

Patole said after the recent string of defeats in bypolls, the BJP reduced the petrol-diesel prices, now the farm laws, but the battle ahead will continue for other farmer-centric issues also.

Shiv Sena's farmer-face and Vasant Naik Sheti Swavalamban Samiti President Kishore Tiwari accorded an MoS status said that after the 12-month long struggle, the farmers and people of the country have understood the "real motives" of the BJP government and how it is working for a handful of big industrialists.

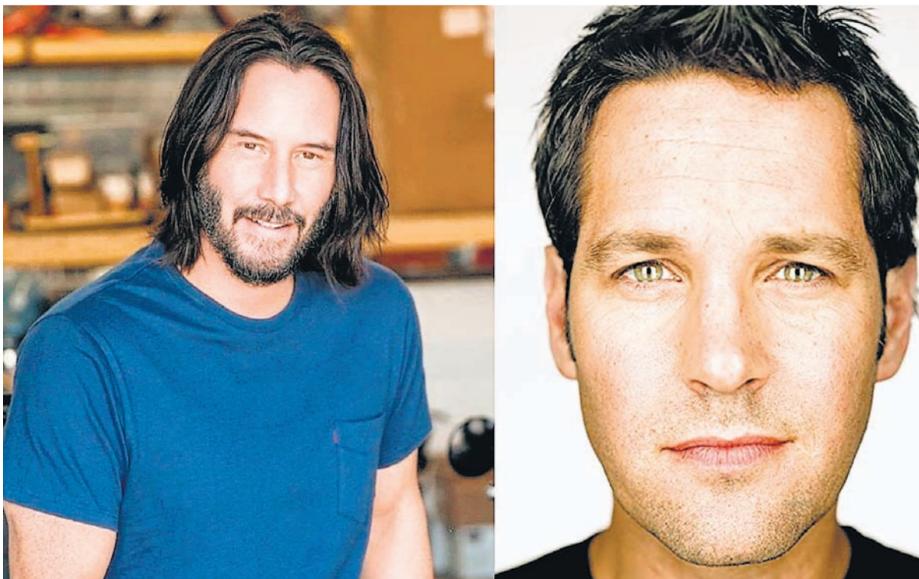
"Hundreds of farmers have been

martyred to the cause. The country has lost faith in the Narendra Modi government, they will show the BJP its place in the next elections. The historic agitation has served its purpose, the government has suffered a huge setback," Tiwari said.

However, he said that the unending farmers suicides will not end Maharashtra being the highest in the country, as per official data till the BJP government takes this opportunity to bring about fundamental changes in the existing setup to genuinely benefit the peasantry as a long term solution to the end bloodshed in farmlands.

Top leaders of MVA from Shiv Sena, NCP, Congress, Samajwadi Party, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana, All India Kisan Sabha, farm activists and others have hailed Modi's move, urging that now "it's time to get back to business" and do something long-lasting for the cause of the country's ryots.

Incidentally, Maharashtra had contributed by sending several busloads of people at various intervals to the farmers protesting outside Delhi borders, and many top leaders visiting and addressing



My wife would've chosen Keanu Reeves as 'Sexiest Man Alive': Paul Rudd

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Paul Rudd, who has been crowned as the 'Sexiest Man Alive' earlier this week, thinks his wife Julie Yaeger would have chosen 'The Matrix' star Keanu Reeves for the title. Asked by Extra if she would have voted for him if she'd had the chance, Rudd quipped: "No, she would have voted for Keanu Reeves; 1/2 Come on, he's Keanu, I'd vote for him!"

The 'Ghostbusters: Afterlife' star recently said his wife was "stupefied" by the news and initially laughed at her husband, reports femalefirst.co.uk. He said: "She was stupefied. But you know she was very sweet about it. After some giggling and shock, she said 'Oh, they got it right.' And that was very sweet. She was probably not telling the truth, but what's she going to say?"

Rudd is expecting his friends to give him "so much grief", but he doesn't care as he plans to boast about his new title as much as possible. He said: "As they should. I would. I mean I'm going to lean into it hard. I'm going to own this. I'm not going to try to be like 'Oh, I'm so modest.' I'm getting business cards made. But all of my friends will destroy me and I expect them to. And that's why they're my friends."



ON MY WAY

Jennifer Lopez releases piano ballad, soundtrack for her upcoming romantic comedy *Marry Me*

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lopez released the first single off her upcoming romantic comedy *Marry Me* soundtrack, called *On My Way*, on Thursday. The piano ballad, which can be heard on her YouTube channel, is about finding one's soulmate through every 'heartbreak' and wrong turn. "I was on my way to you/ Every tear drop fell so heavy/ Hurt like hell but

you,' the pop star, 52, sung. In another verse, she continues: 'And every heartbreak was a yellow brick road/ Pointing me straight/ Just taking me home I was never lost I was passing through/ On my way to you.' Earlier, *Marry Me*'s first official trailer dropped, showing Lopez as Kat Valdez, who is set to wed boyfriend Bastian (played by Maluma) on stage in front of their fans to their hit song entitled *Marry Me*.



Kim and Pete's romance is officially on!

Los Angeles | Agencies

Kim Kardashian and Pete Davidson have confirmed their relationship. In a bold public display of affection, Kim, 41, and Pete, 28, were seen holding hands on Wednesday while celebrating his birthday in Palm Springs, California, DailyMail.com's exclusive photos reveal. Neither Kim nor Pete could hide their beaming smiles as they took a stroll near her momager Kris Jenner's \$12m mansion where they have been staying together, leaving little doubt their relationship is more than a passing fling. It is the first romantic partner for the reality star since she filed for divorce from estranged husband Kanye West in February this year, as she made a bold statement with Pete - who showed his support for the star by wearing pyjama bottoms from her SKIMS underwear line. Kanye, 44, who has now legally changed his name to Ye, was briefly linked to model Irina Shayk in June before seemingly going public with Instagram model Vinetria, 22. Meanwhile, Pete, who turned 28 on Tuesday, has previously been romantically involved with a slew of celebrities including *Bridgerton* star Phoebe Dynevor, Kate Beckinsale, and his former fiancé Ariana Grande.

New couple caught holding hands as mom-of-four rebounds from Kanye West with SNL lothario known for his naughty reputation



JAMES BLUNT CALLS IN EXPERT HELP TO DEAL WITH GHOSTS!

London | Agencies

Singer James Blunt turned to experts to deal with a ghost problem at his London pub. An insider told The Sun newspaper's Bizarre column: "James and his team at the Fox & Pheasant called in specialists to have a look at their resident ghoul. As well as solving their problem, they all had a laugh and some of it was filmed for a new project that James is working on." The problem has also been posing a workplace hazard as the staff were "totally freaked out" by the suspected supernatural presence, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The employees now hope that the experts will be able to "put an end to it". Earlier this month, meanwhile, Blunt shared that he fulfilled a "dream" by rescuing his local pub. The singer bought the pub in 2017, and Blunt is thrilled that he managed to stop it from being turned into a house. The 'You're Beautiful' hitmaker said: "It was run-down and unloved. I never thought it would come up for sale. I didn't imagine owning a pub in the first place, it wasn't an ambition. But when I heard it was going to be turned into a house and developed, I thought 1/2 well it's the dream of a minor pop star to save the local.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Presenting the brand new poster for Academy Award winning director Steven Spielberg's much awaited film adaptation of the musical "West Side Story". From 20th Century Studios, Disney India will release "West Side Story" in cinemas on December 10, 2021. Directed by Academy Award winner Steven Spielberg, from a screenplay by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Tony Kushner, "West Side Story" tells the classic tale of fierce rivalries and young love in 1957 New York City. This reimagining of the beloved musical stars Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler, Ariana DeBose, David Alvarez, Mike Faist, Josh Andrés Rivera, Ana Isabelle, Corey Stoll, Brian d'Arcy James and Rita Moreno. Bringing together the best of both Broadway and Hollywood!



STEVEN SPIELBERG'S 'WEST SIDE STORY' to release in December 21

Will Smith bares his soul: 'I was tormented by my father'

Los Angeles | Agencies

With the launch of his memoir titled 'Will', actor-producer Will Smith has laid bare several moments from his life that have left a mark on him. The memoir in the form of an audiobook, talks about his (complicated) relationships with his parents, his wife Jada Pinket Smith and his former-wife, Sheree Zampino. Talking about his relation-

ship with his father Willard Carroll Smith, Sr., also known as Daddy O, Will says: "I was afraid of my father. When I was nine years old, I watched my father punch my mother in the side of her head so hard that she collapsed. I saw her spit blood." That moment, in that bedroom, probably more than any other moment in my life, has defined who I am today." The actor mentions that despite the anger issues, his father taught him some important life lessons.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne



2ND T20I:

OPENERS, HARSHAL LEAD INDIA TO 7-WICKET WIN OVER NZ

Team Absolute | Ranchi

A superb bowling performance by debutant Harshal Patel (2/25), followed by fantastic fifties by KL Rahul (65 off 49) and Rohit Sharma (55 off 36) guided India to a convincing seven-wicket win over New Zealand in the second T20I at the JSCA International Stadium, here on Friday, giving the hosts an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.

Chasing a challenging target, India got off to a good start courtesy of some fine shots by openers KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma. Rahul was the aggressor while captain Rohit was happy to play second fiddle as India reached 45/0 after 6 overs.

Soon after the Powerplay, the opening duo continuing their brilliant form completed another fifty-plus stand. It was the 5th successive 50-run stand between Rohit and Rahul in T20Is.

After Rohit, now it was Rahul's turn and he hit Adam Milne for a six and a boundary in consecutive deliveries to get to his fourth fifty in the last five T20I innings and 16th overall. With two back-to-back big overs, India were in complete control of the run chase and soon the opening batters took India past the 100-run mark.



Earlier, batting first, openers Martin Guptill and Daryl Mitchell gave New Zealand a solid start. Among the two, Guptill was the more aggressive and targeted Bhuvneshwar Kumar, taking his team to 42/0 after four overs.

Deepak Chahar gave India the much-needed breakthrough by removing the dangerous Guptill (31 from 15) in the fifth over. Mark Chapman joined Mitchell in the middle and took New Zealand to 64/1 at the end of the Powerplay.

After the first six overs, the Indian bowlers slowed the run rate with their disciplined length and line. Both Chapman and Mitchell were not able to free their arms and relied on strike rotation.

The pressure brought another wicket for India as Mark Chapman (21 off 17) got out to Axar Patel. The left-arm spinner dished out a flighted delivery and pitched it up as Chapman launched it straight to the fielder in the deep, leaving New Zealand to 79/2 after 8.5 overs.

GUPTILL SURPASSES KOHLI TO BECOME LEADING RUN-SCORER IN T20IS

Ranchi: New Zealand opener Martin Guptill on Friday leapfrogged Virat Kohli to become the highest run-scorer in the T20 Internationals during the second match of the three-match series against India at JSCA International Stadium, here. Guptill has surpassed Kohli's tally of 3227 to become the leading run-scorer in T20Is. Rohit Sharma, the newly-appointed T20I skipper, sits at the third spot with 3086 runs. Australia's white-ball skipper Aaron Finch (2608 runs) and Ireland's Paul Stirling (2570 runs) are ranked 4th and 5th spots, respectively.



Brief scores:
New Zealand 153-6 in 20 overs (Glenn Phillips 34; Harshal Patel 2/25; Ravichandran Ashwin 1/19) lost to India 155-3 in 17.2 overs (KL Rahul 65, Rohit Sharma 55; Tim Southee 3/13) by seven wickets.

ASIAN ARCHERY C'SHIPS

India's campaign ends with seven medals

Team Absolute | Dhaka

India's campaign at the Asian Archery Championships 2021 ended with seven medals as the recurve women's and men's teams settled for silver on Friday. Both the men's and women's teams lost their respective finals to the Koreans.

In the women's recurve final, the Korean team of Ryoo Su Jung, Oh Yejin, and Lim Haejin defeated the Indian trio of Ankita Bhakat, Ridhi Phor, and Madhu Vedwan 6-0, while in men's final, the Korean trio of Leo Seungyun, Kim Pil-Joong, and Han Woo Tack outclassed the Indian team of Pravin

Jadhav, Parth Salunkhe, and Kapil 6-2.

In the bronze-medal match, the mixed recurve team of Ankita Bhakat and Kapil clinched bronze after a 6-0 win against Uzbekistan.

Earlier, Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched the gold medal in the women's individual compound while 2017 Asian champion Abhishek Verma won silver in the men's event.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Rishabh Yadav also had to settle for silver in the compound mixed team, losing 155-154 to South Korea's Choi Yonghee and Kim Yunhee.



Third straight win for Daniil Medvedev in Nitto ATP Finals

Turin | Agencies

Russia's world No. 2 Daniil Medvedev kept his record in the Nitto ATP Finals clean with a third consecutive win in the 'Red Group' -- a 6-0, 6-7(5), 7-6(8) victory over local favourite Jannik Sinner -- as he aims to defend the elite year-end title he won in London last year.

The World No. 2, who secured qualification for the semifinals on November 16 itself when he beat Germany's Alexander Zverev, saved two match points as he edged home favourite in front of a packed Pala Alpitour here. "It was tough," Medvedev said in his on-court interview on Thursday night. "Mentally it was tough knowing the match was dead. But I did not want to lose my rhythm. I won the first set quite easily and I was like, let's continue this way. The second set was

about an hour or so and then it is the third set. But you're not going to not play the third set because I like to win, I don't like to lose. I am happy I won," Medvedev told atp.com.

Medvedev has now won his past eight matches at the season finale, having defeated Austria's Dominic Thiem to lift the trophy when the event was held in London last year.

In an entertaining match, the Russian hit with consistent depth against Sinner as he used his flat groundstrokes to pin the Italian



back. Medvedev recovered from a break down in the third set and saved match points at 5/6 and 7/8 in the third-set tie-break to extend his ATP head-to-head series lead against the 20-year-old to 3-0.

AUSTRALIA TEST SKIPPER TIM PAINE QUILTS AMID OFF-FIELD SCANDAL

Hobart | Agencies

With barely three weeks to go for the Ashes series, Tim Paine relinquished



Australia's Test captaincy in a bombshell announcement on Friday, which has shaken the Australian cricket establishment to the core. In a hurriedly-convened press conference in Hobart, a tearful Paine, who was recovering quickly from an invasive neck surgery and was looking forward to the Ashes, announced he was quitting after an off-field scandal was reportedly unearthed by News Corp.

Test vice-captain Pat Cummins looks set to become the first pace bowler to lead the Test side in 65 years.

"It's an incredibly difficult decision, but the right one for me, my family, and cricket," Paine was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au on Friday.

"As a background on my decision, nearly four years ago, I was involved in a text exchange with a then-colleague. At the time, the exchange was the subject of a thorough CA Integrity Unit investigation, throughout which I fully participated in and openly participated in," added Paine.

PAKISTAN BEAT BANGLADESH, TAKE 1-0 LEAD IN SERIES

Dhaka | Agencies

Pakistan survived a scare before holing on their nerve to beat Bangladesh by four wickets and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Friday.

Chasing 128 for the win, Pakistan were in a spot of bother at 24/4 inside the Powerplay. Fakhar Zaman and Khushdil Shah steadied the ship with a 56-run stand.

Despite a valiant effort from the Bangladesh bowlers, Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz eventually finished the game off in style with a stunning 36-run



scores
Bangladesh 127/7 in 20 overs (Atif Hossain 36, Nurul Hasan 28, Mahedi Hasan 30*; Hasan Ali 3-22, Md Wasim 2/24) lost to Pakistan 132/6 in 19.2 overs (Fakhar Zaman 34, Khushdil Shah 34, Shadab Khan 21*; Taskin Ahmed 2-31, Mahedi Hasan 1/17) by 4 wkts.

partnership off just 15 balls. Openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were back in the dugout with just 22 runs on the board, Babar made only 7 while Rizwan scored 11. Things turned to worse when Haider Ali and Shoaib Malik were both out for zero as Pakistan slumped to 24/4. But Fakhar Zaman (34) and Khushdil Shah (34) rescued them before Shadab (21 not out) and Nawaz (18 not out) saw them through to victory.

Earlier, Bangladesh too struggled but Afif Hossain, Nurul Hasan, and Mahedi Hasan helped them post a respectable total of 127/7 on the board.

Savita to lead India women's hockey team as Rani Rampal rested

New Delhi | Agencies

An 18-member Indian women's hockey team under new captain, Savita, was named on Friday for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held between December 5-12 in Donghae, South Korea.

Regular India captain, Rani Rampal, who led India to a historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics, has been rested to undergo rehabilitation for an old injury.

India begin their campaign on the opening day and will battle it out against China, hosts Korea, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia in the single-pool tournament for top honours.

Savita, who was named the FIH Goalkeeper of the Year, will be assisted by experienced defender Deep Grace Ekka who will be her deputy.

The team includes goalkeeper Rajani Etimaru and defenders Udit, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur, who were all part of the Tokyo Olympics squad. The mid-field includes Sushila Chanu Pukhrabam, Nisha, Monika, Neha, Jyoti who played for India at the Tokyo Olympics.

Namita Toppo, who was the alternate player at the Tokyo Olympics as well as her state-mate from Odisha Lilima Minz, are also part of the team. The forward line will see two-time Olympian Vandana Kariyala lead the charge with Navneet Kaur who was part of the Tokyo Olympics squad. Forwards Rajwinder Kaur, Mariana Kujur and Sonika too have

been named in the team.

Navjot Kaur and youngster Suman Devi Thoudam have been chosen as alternate players (AP), who will be permitted to play only if there is an injury or someone in the 18-member squad is ruled out of the tournament due to Covid-19.

While India will play their opening match against Thailand on December 5, they play Malaysia on December 6 and hosts and defending champions Korea in their third match on December 8. India plays China on December 9 and Japan on December 11. The final will take place on December 12 between the topper of the pool and the team that finishes second in the pool.

In the previous edition held in 2018, India finished runners-up behind Korea.

Indian men's basketball team wins sixth SABA Championship title

Dhaka | Agencies

The Indian men's basketball team won the South Asian Basketball Association (SABA) Championship 2021 after defeating hosts Bangladesh 106-41, here on Friday.

This was India's sixth SABA title in as many appearances having also won the competition in 2002, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Against Bangladesh, the Vishesh Bhriguvanshi-led India were on the front foot early in the match and led the opening quarter 33-11. Continuing their scoring rate in the second and third quarters, adding 54 points while Bangladesh managed just 21. At the final whistle, India were up by 65 points, ending 106-41 to win the title.

Earlier, India topped the table with three wins in three matches and a points difference of +188. Sri Lanka came



second with two wins and a loss. India had defeated the Maldives 88-31 and Sri Lanka 114-48.

This was the eighth edition of the SABA Championship, organised by the South Asia Basketball Association (SABA).

Prior to FIBA's new qualification system for the Continental cups, enforced in 2017, this competition served as a means of qualification for India to important FIBA events such as the FIBA Asia Championship and the FIBA Asia Cup.

AB DE VILLIERS RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET, SAYS 'DHANYAWAAD'

"Today I will be going to make a big and emotional announcement. I am finished with all formats and all cricket. I do have a smile on my face as I did make a right decision. But deep in my heart, I am incredibly sad and have lots of emotions and thoughts going through my mind. All the years of playing cricket, there's a lot of mixed emotions."

Pretoria | Agencies

The recently-retired AB de Villiers made the announcement of retiring from all forms of cricket, by saying thanks in three different languages.

In his post on Twitter on Friday, apart from 'thank you', its Afrikaans version 'Dankie' and 'dhanyawaad' written in Hindi script featured as well.

The 37-year-old played in 184 IPL matches, firstly for Delhi Capitals (formerly Delhi Daredevils) for three seasons followed by a successful decade with Royal Challengers



Bangalore, where he formed a formidable partnership with Virat Kohli.

Overall, he scored 5,162 runs at an average of 39.70 and strike rate of 151.68, including three centuries and 40 half-centuries while being a member of the RCB side which entered IPL playoffs five times.



Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Animal' to release in August 2023



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming directorial film 'Animal' starring Ranbir Kapoor is slated to have a worldwide release on August 11, 2023. 'Animal' was earlier slated to release on Dussehra 2022. The film also stars Anil Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Parineeti Chopra. 'Animal' marks Vanga's first association with Ranbir. The crime drama film, 'Animal' is produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan

Kumar's T-Series, Pranay Reddy Vanga's Bhadrakali Pictures and Murad Khetani's Cine1 Studios.

The film marks Vanga's return as director after the 2017 Telugu blockbuster 'Arjun Reddy' and its equally popular Bollywood remake 'Kabir Singh'.

'Animal' is a gangster drama that revolves around the ever-changing nature of the relationship shared by the characters where the protagonist becomes like an animal in nature.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sushmita Sen has called her web-series 'Aarya', which has earned an International Emmy Awards nomination, a rewarding experience as she says it changed her life on many levels. Sushmita talked about her journey of 'Aarya', calling the show her reward for all the challenges. She said: "I feel that prior to 'Aarya', I was kind of an actor, on the personal front also, I faced quite a lot of challenges, and a challenging 5 years period at the end of it. I felt like the Universe had to reward me because I've worked so hard to get there! And I can call

'Aarya'
a rewarding
experience:
Sushmita Sen



'Aarya' that reward! It came at the right time, not just on a professional level." The actress and former beauty queen added: "Playing 'Aarya' has been a worthy experience and to do so successfully, showcasing the relationship of a mother and of a woman who can hold the family together, even if the family belongs to the underworld and drug mafia, you glue it all together. "I think 'Aarya' changed my life on many levels. It was an exciting and lovely series as an actor to be a part of. I think it was an all-round experience which has changed my life for the better, for sure." The second instalment of the show will soon make a comeback on Disney+ Hotstar and tell the riveting story of a woman who goes against all odds for the sake of her family and avenges her husband's killing.

on Disney+ Hotstar and tell the riveting story of a woman who goes against all odds for the sake of her family and avenges her husband's killing.

KIDZCINEMA 2021 TO COMMENCE ON UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

KidzCINEMA is back with its 2nd edition starting this November on Universal Children's Day, which is celebrated on 20th November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. The festival's theme this year is "stories of positivity," and the festival will be available virtually for a month (20th November to 19th December) through MovieSants, the streaming partner. This festival is supported by CIFEJ (Centre International de Film pour l'enfance et La Jeunesse i.e. The International Centre of Films for Children and Young People), which was established in Brussels in 1955 and is among the largest global organizations supporting children's cinema. Praveen Nagda, Festival Director, KidzCINEMA informed, "In the second edition of KidzCINEMA, we received 1519 film entries from 93 countries, making it almost one-third of the world participating in this children's cause. After meticulous detailing and careful curation, we selected 51 films as a part of our Official Selection, which will also compete for GAJA Awards, which will be announced on 30th November." The festival has 5 categories of competition viz. Animation (Short), Live Action (Long), Live Action (Short), Kidz Made Films (Juniors), and Kidz Made Films (Youth). Out of these 2 categories of Kidz Made Films are the films made by children across the world between the age group of 6 to 20 years, while the earlier 3 categories are films made by adults for children. This festival will give opportunities to young kids as well as teenagers to watch movies from across the globe and to know more and learn about the process of filmmaking. Children will also get to interact with directors, actors, and participate in various workshops on Filmmaking, Animation, Scriptwriting, Acting, Anchoring, and Theatre.



Team Absolute | Chennai

The 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which opens on November 20 in Panjim, Goa, will be held in a hybrid format because of the Covid-19 situation, Festival Director Chaitanya Prasad has said.

Addressing a press conference jointly with Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) Vice Chairman Subhash Phal Dessai and CEO Tariq Thomas, Prasad said the 52nd IFFI will feature 148 films from 73 countries in the International Section and will have 12 world premieres.

Pointing out that IFFI had received 624

**52nd IFFI,
to be held
in hybrid
format**

films from 95 countries this time, up from 69 nations in the previous edition, Prasad said this was an indication of the festival's growing popularity.

'Semkhor', a film made in the Dimasa dialect and directed by Aimee Baruah, will open the Indian Panorama segment this year. This is the first-ever film made in Dimasa -- a dialect spoken by the ethno-linguistic community after whom it is named in parts of Assam and Nagaland, to get featured at IFFI. 'Ved...The Visionary' (English), directed by Rajiv Parkash, will open the non-feature film segment of the Indian Panorama.

'Bunty Aur Babli 2': A family entertainer that's short on novelty



FILM
REVIEW

BY TROY RIBEIRO

(Showing in Theatres)

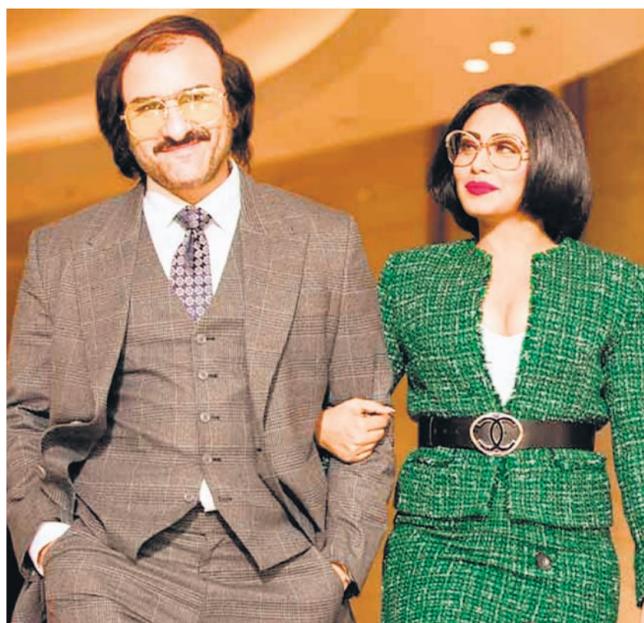
Direction: Varun V. Sharma

Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Rani Mukerji, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Sharvati Wagh, Pankaj Tripathi, Yashpal Sharma and Asrani.

Ratings: ***1/2

'Old wine in a new bottle' is how one can sum up 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' in one phrase. The second part of the immensely popular 2005 movie, 'Bunty Aur Babli', starring Abhishek Bachchan and Rani Mukerji, is a frothy comedy with its share of light-hearted moments, but it is essentially a rehash of the earlier film and does not score high on either originality or novelty. Except for the introduction of the new Bunty (Siddhant Chaturvedi) and Babli (Sharvati Wagh), there is not much newness that this film offers.

The new duo, who are engineering students, are jaded and let down by the system. They are on the prowl and succeed in their kind of con games with ease. Vexed by their success, Police Inspector Jatayu (Pankaj Tripathi), who is gunning for a promotion, hires the original Bunty (Saif Ali Khan) and Babli, (Rani Mukerji) to nab the new con duo. Rakesh Trivedi (Saif Ali Khan) and Vimmi Trivedi (Rani Mukherji) are now settled in domestic bliss at Fursatganj, UP, as a ticket collector in the Railways, and she is a housewife. How the original twosome chip in to trap the new Bunty and Babli by delv-



ing into their minds forms the crux of this film. Some of the situations offer elements of humour, but are mostly oft-seen and repetitive. The dialogues are somewhat funny with a forced attempt at humour. With no exciting twists or turns in the plot, or even an engrossing climax, the film fails to deliver excitement in any form.

Saif Ali Khan makes a sincere effort, but does not fit into Abhishek Bachchan's shoes. Rani Mukerji does not leave half the impact she did in the original film.

Siddhant Chaturvedi has a strong screen presence and adds chutzpah to his character with his suave demeanour. He is a delight to watch. Sharvati Wagh too contributes ably and essays her character confidently and with conviction.

Pankaj Tripathi sleepwalks through his role as there is a sense of déjà vu seeing him in a UP set-up and in uniform.

Overall, 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' falls short of one's expectations and seems like a feeble attempt at recreating the first film.

ABHISHEK BACHCHAN: 'BOB BISWAS' IS ONE OF THE COOLEST FILMS I'VE WORKED ON

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Abhishek Bachchan is all geared up for the release of 'Bob Biswas', which he says is one of the coolest films he has worked on.

The makers of the film on Friday treated their fans with the trailer of the crime thriller, where Abhishek looks every-inch convincing as a contract killer.

The over two minute long nail-biting trailer encapsulates the journey of Bob Biswas, a middle-aged hitman-for-hire who comes out of a prolonged coma not being able to remember any details about his life and his past including his own family.

As he tries to remember his identity, episodes from his past come alive, putting him in a moral dilemma between the history of his own deeds versus his newly developed sense of right and wrong.

The character of Bob Biswas, a cold-blooded serial killer who poses as an insurance agent, was first seen in the Vidya Balan-starrer 'Kahaani', which released in 2012. It was played by veteran actor Saswata Chatterjee. The character had a small role but was very impactful.



Mrunal Thakur