

absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 264, NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 03, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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FOOD INFLATION SOARED ACROSS THE GLOBAL MARKETS CAUSES' ECONOMIC CRISES

LEADING FACTORS IN INDIA

Food inflation has soared across much of the developing world since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has trapped several richer countries in a cycle of rising prices, a report by the World Bank has found, the media reported. The Washington-based development organisation said the war in eastern Europe would hit many countries with an increase in food bills worth more than 1 per cent of their annual national income (GDP), while others would fail to contain the impact and be plunged into a full-blown debt crisis, The Guardian reported.

Fuel
Crude oil prices were the biggest contributors to the rise in inflation because it accounts for more than 40 per cent of the total CPI index. India imports nearly 80 per cent of the crude oil for the country's demand. Therefore, high crude oil prices leads to increase in cost of other goods due to rise in raw material, production, and transportation cost. Fuel and light inflation in June rose to 10.39 per cent as compared to 9.54 per cent in May.



Food
Food prices are essential and play a major role in calculating CPI inflation. Similar to fuel, food prices also have a great weightage in the over CPI index. The food inflation in June was at 6.73 per cent as compared to 7.92 per cent in the previous month.

EXPERT'S COMMENT
"A 25 bps hike will indicate that inflation has peaked and though high will not go up significantly. Any aggressive move of say 50 bps will indicate that inflation peak has not yet been achieved and hence that can send a different signal to the market," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist Bank of Baroda.

NOBODY IS IN DENIAL ABOUT PRICE RISE: SITHARAMAN
"We are not running away, we are here to discuss and nobody is saying and nobody is in denial about the price rise. 4 is the median point considered generally for inflation, sometimes minus two or plus two is what is normally accommodated. And, we are at 7 with some efforts or it can be slightly more than 7 but we have made sure with Reserve Bank and government put together or taken enough steps to make sure that it is kept at 7 or below 6 ideally."

Government Measures

To control inflation, the Central government had earlier this year announced several measures including a sharp cut in central excise duty on petrol and diesel. Custom duties also reduced on the some plastic products and steel to support local industries. The cut in excise duty on fuel came after the retail inflation hit an eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April. Similarly, the government has also waived customs duty on the import of some raw materials, including coking coal and ferronickel, used by the steel industry.

Companies to borrow more

Rising inflation has forced the central bank to raise interest rates two times in a month this year. This has resulted in banks and financial institutions rising rates on their loan products. Companies are borrowing funds to meet their working capital needs and not for capex. So, rise in interest rates are increasing borrowing costs for companies, impacting their bottom line. Working capital loans are short-term loans, which have a high interest rates than long-term loans.

Social audits uncover nearly 4.92L instances of financial misappropriation in MGNREGS funds



NEARLY 4.92 LAKH INSTANCES OF FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION HAVE COME OUT IN THE SOCIAL AUDITS OF MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME (MGNREGS) FUNDS. SOUTHERN STATES INCLUDING ANDHRA PRADESH AND TAMIL NADU ACCOUNT FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH CASES.

DATA FROM THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DISCLOSED THAT ALL THESE INSTANCES OF FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION INVOLVE AN AMOUNT OF RS 1102.9 CRORE. THE DATA SAID ANDHRA PRADESH AND TAMIL NADU TOP THE LIST OF STATES WITH 1,59,570 AND 1,59,027 CASES OF FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION.

ment of wages, lack of transparency etc. "Since the responsibility of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is vested with the state/UT governments, all complaints received in the ministry are forwarded to the concerned state/UT governments for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law," the ministry said in a Parliament reply on Tuesday.

"Auditing standards for social audit have been issued and states/UTs have been advised to establish independent Social Audit Units (SAU), conduct social audit as per Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011 and training of village resource persons for conducting social audit. States/UTs have been advised to recruit adequate manpower under SAU to ensure the rigour and quality of social audit," it said.

Steps have been taken to strengthen transparency and accountability which include geo-tagging of assets, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), National electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS), Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS), Software for Estimate Calculation Using Rural rates for Employment (SECURE) and establishment of independent social audit units and appointment of Ombudsman(s) in the states/UTs.

State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors also visit various districts to oversee the performance of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India has been witnessing a sharp rise in the inflation rate since September last year due to spike in crude oil prices in the international market and increase in commodity prices due to disruption in the supply chain after the start of Russia-Ukraine war. Retail inflation tracked by the

Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the changes in prices from a retail buyer's perspective. The CPI Inflation has been rising since September last year and remained above upper tolerance band of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for straight six months starting from January this year. CPI numbers has seen a sharp rise in April at 7.79 per cent, followed by 7.04 per cent in May this year.

Defying Beijing's warnings, US House Speaker Pelosi arrives in Taiwan

Beijing had warned the United States that there would be a "very serious situation and consequences" if Pelosi visited. Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told the press in Beijing on Monday that such a visit would be a "blatant interference in China's internal affairs. The Chinese side is comprehensively prepared for all eventualities."

PELOSI'S FLIGHT PATH AVOID-ED THE CONTESTED SOUTH CHINA SEA AND WAS ESCORTED BY EIGHT US AIR FORCE FIGHTER JETS AS WELL AS TAIWAN AIR FORCE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

CHINESE SU-35 FIGHTER JETS FLEW INTO THE NARROW TAIWAN STRAIT, WHICH SEPARATES THE ISLAND FROM THE MAINLAND. SHORTLY AHEAD OF PELOSI'S ARRIVAL, CHINESE STATE TELEVISION REPORTED.

CHINA'S LEADERSHIP REGARDS TAIWAN AS PART OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC AND REJECTS OFFICIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN ITS DIPLOMATIC PARTNERS AND THE GOVERNMENT IN TAIPEI.

Taipei | Agencies

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Taiwan on Tuesday, despite stern warnings from Beijing, making her the highest-level US official to visit the island in 25 years. Pelosi's US Air Force-operated Boeing C-40C landed at Taipei's Songshan Airport on Tuesday, marking the start of the third -- and the most controversial -- leg of her five-country Asia tour, dpa news agency reported. Pelosi and her delegation of Democratic party lawmakers were met by Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and Sandra Oudkirk, the director of the American Institute in Taiwan, which serves as Washington's de facto embassy.

The trip has drawn outrage from Beijing, which views the self-governing island as a breakaway territory that will one day be reunited with the mainland.

Pelosi is the third-highest ranking official in the US government, behind President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.



For days, she has declined to confirm news reports that she would visit the island and Taiwan was not on her official itinerary.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has heightened fears that China could annex the democratic island republic by force. Tensions over Taiwan have not been as high since the 1990s. Also on her schedule are meetings with Chinese, Hong Kong and Taiwanese human rights activists. She is expected to depart for Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday evening.

ED raids multiple locations in connection with 'National Herald' Probe

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday carried out searches at various locations in the national capital in connection with the National Herald money laundering case.

NDTV has reported that at least 12 locations, most linked to the Associated Journals Limited - including the offices of the National Herald newspaper which AJL ran, on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg - were searched. Unnamed sources were quoted by the news outlet as having said that some property is likely to be attached.

Officials said the searches are being carried out under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to "gather additional evidence with regard to the trail of funds".

The ED recently questioned Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and her son and



party leader Rahul on the case. The two Gandhis are the board of directors of Young India Ltd, a charitable company that was tasked with the recovery of Associated Journals Limited's debt.

Congress workers and leaders have demonstration across the country, alleging that the ED is harassing the Congress brass as they are in the opposition. Several party MLAs and MPs were detained during these protests. The Congress condemned

Tuesday's raids too as "vendetta politics" and said the action was part of the continued attack on the country's principal opposition party.

"The raids on Herald House, a part of the continued attack against India's principal opposition - Indian National Congress," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet.

"We strongly condemn this vendetta politics against those who speak up against the Modi Govt. You cannot silence us!" he said.

UBER LOST \$707 MN IN ZOMATO INVESTMENT THIS YEAR

New Delhi: Ride-hailing major Uber on Tuesday revealed that it lost about \$245 million in its Zomato investment in the second quarter (Q2) this year, along with a total of \$707 million loss in the first six months of 2022. Uber had sold its food delivery business Uber Eats in 2020 in an all-stock transaction to Zomato for a 9.99 per cent stake in the online food delivery platform, and currently holds 7.78 per cent in the Deepinder Goyal-run company. According to reports, Uber is now likely to sell its 7.8 per cent stake in Zomato for around Rs 2,938 crore (\$373 million). The offer is expected to come with a price range of Rs 48-54 per share, equivalent to 612 million or 7.8 per cent of total outstanding shares. As of June 30, Uber owned 612 million (61.12 crore) shares of Zomato.

EX-MUMBAI TOP COP SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY



New Delhi: A court here on Tuesday sent former Police Commissioner of Mumbai Sanjay Pandey to judicial custody till August 16 in connection with a money laundering case pertaining to the phone tapping of the employees of National Stock Exchange (NSE) between 2009 and 2017, allegedly on the instructions of NSE's former CEO and MD Chitra Ramkrishna. Pandey, who was arrested on July 19 in the case, was produced before Special Judge Sunena Sharma at the Rouse Avenue Court Complex following expiry of his custody. Special public prosecutor on behalf of the ED, sought more time from the court as the probe in the matter is ongoing. Ramkrishna is already in the custody of ED in the same case on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI. The case was lodged by the probe agency on the directions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

A SEPARATE CUT-OFF WILL BE RELEASED BY ALL 44 CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY ACCEPTING CUET SCORES. STUDENTS WHO HAVE APPEARED IN THIS EXAMINATION FOR ADMISSION IN ANY PARTICULAR UNIVERSITY WILL GET ADMISSION ON THE BASIS OF CUT-OFF ISSUED BY THAT UNIVERSITY AND ITS COLLEGES.

THIS CUT-OFF WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF MARKS SECURED IN CUET. ON THE BASIS OF THESE MARKS, THE MERIT LIST OF THE STUDENTS WITH HIGHEST MARKS WILL BE PREPARED. DIFFERENT COLLEGES OF DELHI UNIVERSITY WILL PREPARE THE CUT-OFF LIST LIKE BEFORE.

AFTER THIS PROCESS, DELHI UNIVERSITY WILL RELEASE THE CUT-OFF LIST. SIMILARLY, OTHER CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES OF THE COUNTRY WILL ALSO PROCEED WITH THE ADMISSION PROCESS.

UNDER GRADUATE ADMISSION

Cut-off to be based on CUET marks, not Class 12

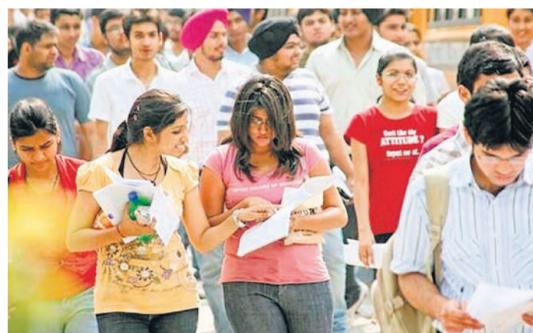
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) examination that has to be cleared by the candidates to seek admission to under-graduate (UG) courses in colleges is scheduled to begin from August 4.

This year it has been made mandatory to clear the CUET exam for seeking admission in colleges affiliated to central universities.

All central universities such as Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Banaras Hindu University have been included in this programme.

Like earlier, this time also, the merit list will be prepared by different universities and their respective



colleges. However, the only difference this time is that the merit list will be made on the basis of marks

obtained in CUET exam, and not on the basis of Class 12 exam marks.

The UGC has clarified that the CUET exam is being conducted for undergraduate courses in colleges on the basis of Class 12 syllabus only. No questions will be asked in the entrance test for admission in colleges based on the syllabus of any other class.

The Union Ministry of Education, with the help of UGC, has also encouraged private universities to be a part of the CUET.

The UGC has appealed to all state governments and private universities to adopt the CUET for admitting students.

As per the decision taken by the UGC, all the central universities in the country will have to conduct the CUET for admission to the undergraduate courses.



QUALITY OF EDUCATION CAN'T BE COMPROMISED BY 100% RESERVATION FOR TEACHERS FROM DISTRICT: SC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the quality of education of the school-going children cannot be compromised by giving 100 per cent reservation in favour of the teachers of the same districts and prohibiting meritorious teachers' appointment.

The top court quashed a 2016 notification issued by Jharkhand to provide for 100 per cent reservation for local residents in district cadre Class III and Class IV posts in the 13 scheduled districts of the state.

A bench of Justices M.R. Shah and B.V. Nagarathna said: "If the candidates belonging to other areas (non-scheduled areas/districts) are given an opportunity to impart education (who may be more meritorious than the candidates belonging to the scheduled areas/districts), then it will be more beneficial to the students belonging to the scheduled areas and their quality of the education shall certainly improve. The quality of education of the school-



going children cannot be compromised by giving 100 per cent reservation in favour of the teachers of the same/some districts and prohibiting the appointment to more meritorious teachers." The bench, in its 107-page judgment, said notification making 100 per cent reservation for the local residents of the concerned scheduled area/districts (reservation on the basis of resi-

dence) is ultra vires to Article 35 read with Article 16(3) of the Constitution.

"100% reservation provided for the local residents of the concerned scheduled districts/areas only would be violative of Article 16(2) of the Constitution of India and affecting rights of the other candidates/citizens of non-scheduled areas/districts guaranteed under Part III of

the Constitution of India," Justice Shah, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said.

The bench noted that it may be true that so far as basic education (at the level of primary section) is concerned, it may help students at the primary level (while providing basic education) to be taught in their own tribal language. But the same principle may not be applicable when the question is of providing education at higher level viz. above Class 5, it added. The top court judgment came on a batch of appeals filed by Jharkhand and some individuals against the Jharkhand High Court judgment, which quashed the notification. Holding the notification unconstitutional, the high court quashed the appointments of the trained graduate teachers made pursuant to the advertisement in the scheduled districts relating to the local residents of those districts. The original respondents - candidates belonging to the 13 scheduled districts have preferred present appeals.

BJP misusing ED, CBI to suppress voice of Oppn: Sachin Pilot

Jaipur | Agencies

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Centre, saying that the BJP is misusing government agencies such as the ED, Income Tax Department and the CBI to suppress the voice of the Opposition leaders.

The former Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan said that "democracy is our asset and we have to preserve it and make it strong".

Addressing a public gathering after unveiling construction works worth Rs 43 crore at his constituency in Tonk, Pilot accused the Centre of misusing the central probe agencies to stifle the voice of the Opposition.

"All the promises made by the BJP government, such as bringing back black money, controlling inflation and



reducing unemployment, have turned out to be false. Inflation is skyrocketing under the BJP rule. The common man is not getting any help. The anti-farmer Central government introduced three 'black' agricultural laws, which it was forced to withdraw.

"The farmers are completely disappointed with the BJP's rule. The Centre has now come up with the Agnipath scheme, which has shattered the dreams of the scores of youth who were waiting to join the army for years. Now those joining the

army will be thrown out after four years," Pilot said.

He also said that for establishing direct communication with the people, he has chalked out a programme to visit the villages of his constituency instead of going to the panchayat headquarters.

"Today there is no election, no festival... I have only come to meet you people, to take stock of the development works going on here. Whatever you have asked for will be fulfilled. There will be no shortage of resources for public works," Pilot said.

J&K Lt Governor requests Amarnath Yatris to have darshan by Aug 5

Srinagar | Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday requested Amarnath Yatris to complete darshan by August 5 amid forecasts of adverse weather thereafter.

He took part in Chhari puja in presence of Mahant Charri Mubarak, Deependra Giri at the Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhada, on the auspicious occasion of Shraavan Shukal Panchami. It is one of the important rituals prior to the culmination of the annual pilgrimage.

Talking to media persons, Sinha said: "Over 3 lakh Yatris have had Darshan so far. Hot weather has affected the size of the Holy Lingam and we have weather reports of heavy rains after August 5.

"Yatris are requested to complete the Yatra by August 5 in light of the adverse weather advisory



thereafter."

The Amarnath Yatra 2022 started on June 30 and was scheduled to end after 43 days on August 11 on Shraavan Purnima.

In light of the Lt Governor's announcement, it is likely that the Yatra this year would be open for the pilgrims till August 5 only.

MUMBAI BUSINESSMAN SAYS DUPED IN TOP MINISTER'S NAME, FIR LODGED

New Delhi | Agencies

New Delhi: A Mumbai-based businessman has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police, alleging he was duped of Rs 2 crore after being promised railway contracts, "in the name of Union Home Minister Amit Shah".

The businessman has accused BJP leader and Railway Passenger Service Committee Chairman Ramesh Chandra Ratn's son Brajesh Ratn, saying that he, on the pretext of providing railway contracts valued at Rs 100 crore, took Rs 2 crore as advance from him. The BJP leader denied the allegation.

According to sources, based on the complaint of a businessman, the Delhi Police's Special Cell has registered an FIR under the relevant sections of the IPC including cheating, criminal breach of trust, and criminal conspiracy, and has started investigations.

'Vacancies at the top level': Law Commission, CVC share the same story

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two significant institutions - the Law Commission and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) - are functioning without full strength at the top level, for a while now.

The Law Commission, which is mandated to make recommendations to the government on complex legal issues having an impact on society, has been without a Chairperson since August 2018. Although, on February 19, 2020, the Centre approved the constitution of the twenty-second Law Commission, however it has not appointed the Chairperson and members so far.

Similarly, the CVC, which should have been a three-member autonomous body according to the provisions of the Central Vigilance Act, 2003, has been functioning with only a Central Vigilance Commissioner. These institutions play a significant role in keeping checks and balances on elected governments, and help in further



strengthening the democratic ethos. These institutional pillars aid the functioning of a large and complex democracy. On July 27 this year, the Supreme Court agreed to consider listing for hearing a PIL, filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay in 2020, seeking a direction to the Central government to declare the Law Commission as a "statutory body" and appoint the Chairperson and members to the panel. Upadhyay argued before the top court that the tenure of the 21st Law Commission ended on August 31, 2018 and still, the government has neither extended the tenure of its Chairperson and

members, nor notified the 22nd Law Commission. In December last year, the Centre had told the court that the appointment of the members of the Law Commission of India and its chairperson was under consideration with the authorities concerned, and there is no proposal under consideration to make it a statutory body.

The Centre termed the PIL frivolous and devoid of merits and added that the petitioner has raised an issue which falls out of the doctrine of separation of powers. The government further added that it is seized of the matter in connection with the appointment of the Chairperson and

the members of the Commission. For the CVC, the story has not been much different from that of the Law Commission. The commission last functioned as a three-member body, a Chairperson, along with two members, in October 2020.

Annual report of the CVC for 2002 says: "The Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioners hold office for a term of four years from the date on which they enter office or till attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. Sanjay Kothari, IAS (Retd.) joined as Central Vigilance Commissioner on 24.04.2020 and Suresh N. Patel, MD & CEO (Retd.) Andhra Bank joined as Vigilance Commissioner on 29.04.2020. Sharad Kumar, IPS (Retd.), Vigilance Commissioner demitted office on 27.10.2020. One post of Vigilance Commissioner is vacant since then."

Kothari retired in June 2021. Since then, both Vigilance Commissioners' posts have been vacant. Patel, who was a banker, remains the only Commissioner.

I was offered Rs 25 cr & Rs 60 cr during RS polls & rebellion: Raj Minister

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan Minister of State for Sainik Welfare Rajendra Gudha has once again brought the horse-trading issue to the fore by claiming that he was offered crores of rupees during the Rajya Sabha elections as well as the political crisis in the Congress.

"At the time of the Rajya Sabha elections, an offer of Rs 25 crore was given for casting one vote. Two years ago, during the political crisis at the time of the rebellion in the Congress, an offer of Rs 60 crore was made," Gudha, who was in the BSP and later joined the Congress, said while addressing a school programme. However, he did not take anyone's name.

Gudha, while answering the questions of the children of a private school in Udaipurwati in Jhunjhunu district, said "When the last Rajya Sabha elections were held, I was offered Rs 25 crores at that time for casting one vote for one person. I asked my wife that Rs 25 crores are being offered for casting just one vote. However, she said that we do not want money, your image will be tarnished." "Even during the rebellion in the Congress, I had an offer of Rs 60 crore. My son, daughter and wife



said that we need respect, not money." Gudha is constantly making statements and official sources said that he is annoyed at getting a portfolio of less importance. Along with it, two MLAs who left the BSP and joined the Congress have expressed displeasure over not getting any post.

Over 8k village panchayat executive heads on indefinite strike

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Around 8,500 village panchayat executive heads Tuesday declared an indefinite strike to press for their long pending demands which include pay revision and recruitment.

Their demands include making them permanent employees on fixed salary, not to burden them with additional work and to give benefits of revenue talatis to panchayat talatis.

In a letter to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the State Talati Mantri Mahamandal had said that these demands have been pending for nine long months. Despite reaching a settlement with the government, no concrete steps have been taken till now, it lamented.

According to them, while interacting with the media, Panchayat Minister Brijesh Merja in Rajkot had promised to make new recruitment soon and that the government is keen to resolve the issues of pan-



chayat officials.

Since the approval of the finance department is mandatory on the issue of grade pay, the panchayat department is negotiating it, they were told.

Vice-President of Gujarat State Talati Mahamandal Chirag Geraiya said that there are approximately more than 10,000 panchayat employees are working in the state. For the last many years, no positive

approach is being shown by the government regarding our various demands. In 2018, when the strike was called off by the panchayat employees, after being assured that the issues would be resolved.

In 2021, when Bhupendra Patel was appointed as the new Chief Minister, the strike was called off by the government saying that the issues would be resolved. And at the Rajkot Taluka Panchayat office, throwing the keys of the Gram Panchayat office on the ground, we are staying away from work.

Scores of letters were written to the authorities highlighting their plight. When all their requests and demands fell on deaf ears, a meeting of the Talati Mantri Council was held on July 9. In the meeting, the executive heads decided to go on an indefinite strike from August 2. They will boycott all programmes except paying full respect to the national flag in the 'Ghar Ghar Tiranga Yatra' from August 13 to 15.

MOSQUE'S DEMOLITION NEAR HYDERABAD TRIGGERS PROTEST

Hyderabad | Agencies

Demolition of a mosque by the municipal authorities at Shamshabad on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday triggered protests.

Masjid-e-Khaja Mahmood in Green Avenue colony was demolished by the municipal staff early morning amid heavy police presence.

The incident led to strong protest by local Muslim residents and leaders of various parties.

Leaders of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and the Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) lodged their protest.

MBT leader Amjedullah Khan said the mosque was constructed three years ago and daily five times namaz including Friday prayers were being performed regularly.

He pointed out that Green Avenue Colony on 15 acres of land was plotted and sold after due permission from Shamshad Grampanchayat. Two plots of 250 square yards were marked as a site for masjid.



A person, whose house is beside the mosque, had, along with some other residents, complained to Shamshad Municipal

authorities against the construction of the mosque. The MBT leader said though the case was in the court, the municipal author-

ities resorted to demolition, hurting the religious sentiments. AIMIM's local leaders also staged a sit-in at the municipal office. They demanded action against the officials responsible for demolition and immediate reconstruction of the mosque. Police later arrested the protesters who were led by AIMIM incharge of Rajendra Nagar Assembly constituency, Mirza Rahmath Baig. Muslim leaders have condemned the demolition and urged the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government to take immediate action against those responsible.

MBT leader Khan said that the TRS government headed by KCR has been following in the footsteps of BJP's Yogi government. He alleged since the TRS party came to power in 2014, six mosques were demolished in Telangana.

He questioned the silence of those Muslims organisations and politicians who claim KCR as a secular leader. He said the demolition was carried out by the Municipal Department headed by KCR's son K.T. Rama Rao.

WE WIN LIMITED
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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of We Win Limited is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, the 10th August 2022, inter alia to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the company for the quarter ended on 30th June 2022.

The said notice may be assessed on the company's website at www.wewinlimited.com under investor tab and also on the website of stock exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com.

Place: Bhopal For We Win Limited
Dated: 02/08/2022

Sd/-
Ashish Soni
(PAN: HCOPS6623A)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer



FORM SEEKING DETAILS OF MC MEMBERS TRIGGERS ROW; CONG ALLEGES BJP BEHIND IT

▶ AFTER THE PROCESS OF ELECTING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN PANCHAYAT BODIES (ZILA AND JANPAD) GOT OVER LAST WEEK, POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE GEARED UP FOR GRABBING THE POSTS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ADHYAKSH AND UPADHYAKSH) IN MUNICIPALITIES AND CITY COUNCILS.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After the process of electing presidential candidates in panchayat bodies (Zila and Janpad) got

over last week, political parties have geared up for grabbing the posts of president and vice-president (Adhyaksh and Upadhyaksh) in municipalities and city councils.

These elections (panchayats) are held without parties' symbols and members have been elected during three-phase polls held recently. Now, the members of municipalities and city councils will vote to elect the president and vice president.

Meanwhile, the officials in municipalities and city councils have received a form, which sought detailed information of elected members (parishads/councillors). The officials have been asked to fill these forms with the information of elected members, such as what type of business they operate? Are they involved in criminal activities? With whom are they in touch with?

This form seeks information such as the name of the member, mobile number, occupation, information

regarding whether anyone has indulged in illegal encroachment, any FIR against member, and under whose influence the particular member is etc.

But, what is surprising is that form (IANS has accessed through its sources) clearly mentioned that, "Submit details of members, except BJP supported members." Also, it does not specify which department has sought these details.

It mentioned that the officials of each municipality have to fill in these details and submit it by July 31. The officials were asked to submit these details on WhatsApp number (9111132011) or via email - (ministerphoneoperator@gmail.com).

The Madhya Pradesh Congress alleged that the ruling BJP has sought this information to pressurise members to support its supported candidates for the president posts. A delegation of the MP

Congress leaders had also approached the State Election Commission (SEC) on Monday.

"This an attempt to pressurise elected members to vote for BJP supported president and vice-president. Why were BJP supported members exempted from it, because they will be exposed," MP Congress media in-charge KK Mishra said.

Besides a total 16 municipal corporations, Madhya Pradesh has 75 municipalities and 255 city councils.

Correspondent contacted the MP BJP office for a reply on this issue. An office-bearer said, "MP BJP is not aware of such a form."

However, when contacted on given number (9111132011), a person replied claiming he is Ravi Dangi, an agent of LIC in Bhopal. He said that he has received several calls in the last two days regarding the same.

Tribal woman's body carried on cot for post-mortem in Singrauli

■ In one more shocker which exposed lucrative approach of medical system and apathy on the part of officials, the body of a tribal woman was carried on a cot for post-mortem in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district. The deceased identified as Jagmati Pando died after being allegedly bitten by a poisonous insect



woman was carried on a cot for post-mortem in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district. The deceased identified as Jagmati Pando died after being allegedly bitten by a poisonous insect in forest area. The incident was reported from a locality around 25 km away from district headquarters in Singrauli on Monday. Following her death, family took the body for post-mortem on a cot due to unavailability of hearse vehicle at the time.

However, apathy doesn't end here. The family alleged that they had to wait for over 12 hours to get the post-mortem done.

In a similar incident on Monday, a man was forced to carry her mother's body on bike due to unavailability of an ambulance from a government-run hospital in Shahdol district. The man had to drive for over 50 km to take her mother's body for cremation.

CM PLANTS SAPLINGS OF PEEPAL, NEEM, BELPATRA AND KARANJ

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Neem, Belpatra and Karanj in the Smart City Garden at Shyamla Hills. Dr. Rajesh Sharma of Narmada Trauma Hospital and social worker Ranjit Singh Chouhan planted sapling on their birthday. Ravindra Chouhan, Pushpraj and Ajay Patidar also accompanied during the plantation. Along with CM Chouhan, Shashi Kumar Keswani, son of freedom fighter, writer and journalist Late Laxman Das Keswani, also planted a sapling in his memory. Anshika Keswani and Kumari Mudra Keswani were also present during the plantation. Virendra Singh Rajput, Harish Rathore, Ajit Rai, Pranav Shrivastava, Amit Rania, Manish Kumar Dubey and Krishnan of Fortune Divine City Welfare Society also planted saplings.



Peepal planted is a shady tree. It purifies the environment. It has religious and Ayurvedic significance. Abounding in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. Karanj plant is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. It is also used in religious rituals. Belpatra has an important place in worship rituals.

Chief Minister greeted for employee welfare decision

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Several officer-employee organisations of the state reached the CM residence today and expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the decision taken by him for employee welfare. These organisations included the Madhya Pradesh Rajpatrit Adhikari Sangh and the Rajya Karmchhari Sangh along with the employee unions of corporations and boards. Chief Minister Chouhan was felicitated with bouquet of flowers and garlands.

On behalf of the representatives of the officers-employees, Patron of the Employees Union Sudhir Nayak said that Chief Minister Chouhan has recently decided to give 3% dearness allowance. Now the employees of the state will get the same dearness allowance as the central government. Even before this, the decision to give 8% dearness allowance has been



implemented. Chief Minister Chouhan takes appropriate decisions on time after understanding the needs of each section. This is the benevolence of CM Chouhan. He has also taken employee-welfare decisions in the past. While expressing gratitude, General Welfare Commission Chairman Shiv Choubey, Sultan Singh Shekhawat, Ajay Shrivastava Neelu, DK Yadav, Hemant Shrivastava, Hemant Kapoor, OP Katiyar, Anoop Bhargava, Ashish Soni, Sunil Shrivastava, Abhay Pradhan, Rajkumar Singh, Faujdar and officers-employees, members and office bearers of other organisations were present.

Agriculture Minister gifts CM with trophy received from Gol

State gets first prize for best work in Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Kamal Patel presented the trophy received from the Government of India to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the Cabinet meeting. It may be noted that Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the first prize of the Best Performing State by the Government of India for the best work in Agriculture Infrastructure Fund in the country. Officers of the state led by Additional Chief Secretary Farmers Welfare and

Agriculture Development Ajit Kesari, the received trophies and certificates from Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in a dignified programme held in New Delhi on July 30.

Financial facility of Rs 7,400 crore was allocated to the state by the Government of India, out of which 40 percent was to be spent by the end of the year 2022-23. In Madhya Pradesh, 96.84 percent target was achieved by getting approval of cases worth Rs 2,882 crore out of 2,976 crore till the beginning of the financial

year 2022-23. Of the total distribution of funds in the entire country, 36 percent distribution has taken place in Madhya Pradesh alone. So far, 612 farmers, 2,721 agricultural entrepreneurs and 32 startups have got the benefit of the scheme. In addition, cases worth Rs 37 crore 59 lakh have been approved for 160 primary agricultural credit societies. For speedy disposal of cases, a special team has been formed in the state, which constantly reviews the applications in coordination with banks and departments on each case.

CM ATTENDS AKHAND RAMAYAN PATH



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan performed worship rituals after having a darshan at Shri Sankat Mochan Bal Hanuman Temple located at Shyamla Hills police station premises.

The CM also listened to the Akhand Ramayana Path starting from the third Somwar (Monday) of Sawan in the temple



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

अभूतपूर्व विस्तार...

सबके लिए, सब जगह



सम्पूर्ण कायाकल्प अभियान

शासकीय अस्पतालों में नागरिकों को इलाज की अत्याधुनिक सुविधाएं सुलभ कराने के उद्देश्य से मध्यप्रदेश सरकार का अभियान

- ▶▶ पैथोलॉजी जांच के लिये मरीज को न कहीं बाहर जाना पड़ेगा, न ही जांच पर पैसा खर्च करना पड़ेगा।
- ▶▶ अब उप स्वास्थ्य केन्द्रों से लेकर जिला अस्पतालों तक उच्च तकनीकी उपकरणों से सभी आवश्यक जांचें निःशुल्क उपलब्ध।
- ▶▶ हर जिला अस्पताल में 132 प्रकार की जांचें तथा हब एवं स्पोक मॉडल पर 45 प्रकार की जांचें निःशुल्क उपलब्ध।
- ▶▶ शुगर के लिये HbA1C, हॉर्मोन की जांच, कोविड की जांच, कैंसर मार्कर, सिकिल सेल, थैलेसीमिया जैसी महंगी जांचें भी सभी जिला अस्पतालों में निःशुल्क उपलब्ध।

आपकी सेहत, हमारा संकल्प

लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश

D 11067/22

आकल्पन : मध्यप्रदेश माध्यम/2022



EDITOR'S SPECS

Self Discipline

In view of the hooch tragedy, that has claimed 18 lives till date in Rojid village of Gujarat's Botad district, the villagers passed a resolution to strictly implement prohibition in the area. The decision was taken in a condolence meeting organised by the villagers. Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee's former president Amit Chavda and Dhandhuka sitting MLA Rajesh Gohil were also present in the meeting. When village Sarpanch J.D. Dugrani put up a resolution that liquor sale, trading, drinking and manufacturing in the village is strictly prohibited, if any one is found violating the act and resolution, village panchayat will take action against such person. Entire village in one voice passed the resolution. Village Sarpanch Dugrani said not only villagers have taken oath to abide by the resolution but will also stand united against those who violate it. Amit Chavda has promised to bear the education cost of children, whose fathers have died after drinking illicit liquor. Chavda said Borsad-based an education trust, that also runs Ashram Shala, will bear the cost of students from Class I to XII. Now, many villages are joining the movement to ban sale and consumption of liquor in their villages. The Nirali gram panchayat of the Kheda district has banned liquor in the district from August 1. Village Sarpanch Juvansinh Parmar told the local media that the Panchayat will lodge a criminal complaint against violators. OBC and BJP leader Alpesh Thakor, who paid a visit to the hooch tragedy victims' families to condole, also demanded strict implementation of prohibition. Instead of writing letters, elected representatives with support of local residents should carry out Janta Raid on such liquor dens. This too should be a regular exercise and not symbolic.

EXTERNAL THREATS TO INTERNAL SECURITY

D.C. Pathak

The contemporary national security scenario of India is conditioned by the reality of friendly relations built by this country all across geopolitical boundaries on one hand and the acceleration of cross-border covert offensive of the two hostile neighbours - Pakistan and China - acting in concert for long, on the other. India's comprehensive strategy of combining military, diplomatic and security initiatives is working well, however, it calls for stronger measures on the domestic front to counter the mischief of the adversaries. The threat of 'radicalisation' has multiplied at present and the 'lone wolf' phenomenon may be on the rise requiring a deeper study. Sino-Pak axis is showing its military dimension as Chinese drones are used by Pakistan to surreptitiously drop arms, ammunition and narcotics in bulk from across the border in Kashmir and Punjab, in aid of terrorists. There is an increased threat to economic targets and establishments of strategic importance - this is part of the continuing 'proxy war' against India. Anti-India lobbies are working overtime to build narratives against the Modi regime in alignment with many elements of political opposition here to create internal conflicts and divides in the country on the issues of human rights, status of minorities and alleged 'authoritarianism'. There is a campaign about 'unconstitutional' methods being adopted by the BJP government at Centre and in the states even though no policy measure of the Modi government has so far failed judicial scrutiny. Some individual cases of action by the Police authorities being struck down by higher judiciary stand on a different footing - they will no doubt yield a learning for the concerned administration. In any case the country needs at this juncture a firm and prompt legal prosecution of those who indulged in speeches that hurt the religious sentiments of a community or damaged national unity under

the excuse of freedom of speech. There was too much of fun-making of Hindu Gods going on from before. In a multi-religious setting this has to completely stop. What is of deepening concern on internal security front is that there is a rapid rise of militancy borne out of communal conflicts and a determined push of this militancy towards faith-based terrorism, manoeuvred by ISI. Short-lived tensions between the two communities at local levels were known to be a familiar feature of Indian scene after Independence; they were a manageable law and order problem. Three developments, all linked to Pakistan, have, however, created a new level of threat to the internal security of India. First, at the beginning of this year, Imran Khan, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, announced the National Security Policy (NSP) of his country - which was projected as a first time event of this kind. While talking of the need for building economic security for Pakistan, NSP identified India with its 'Hindutva politics' as the principal adversary of Pakistan, contended that the Muslim minority of India was not secure and reiterated that Kashmir was the 'core issue' between India and Pakistan. Imran Khan put India-Pakistan relationship in a Hindu-Muslim framework and even his successor Shehbaz Sharif is playing this card. Sharif is, in particular, raising allegations of human rights violations by India in Kashmir, to gain the attention of Biden administration and draw closer to the US once again in the backdrop of the damage earlier done to Pak-US relationship by the Imran Khan regime. The second development that has greatly strengthened the capability of Pak ISI to create internal instability in India is the success that Pakistan achieved in mediating for peace between Taliban and the US in a situation where President Biden was desperately wanting to fulfil the commitment of pulling out American soldiers from the messy battleground of Afghanistan. In a somewhat tentative agreement in Doha, US seemed to rely on

Pakistan's good offices in believing that Taliban would not let Afghan territory be used for another 9/11 type of terror attack on US. In return, Pakistan got all that it wanted to have - it fully supported the reinstatement of Taliban Emirate at Kabul, secured the opportunity of inducing Islamic radicals represented by Taliban, Al Qaeda and ISIS, into the 'proxy war' against India without feeling inhibited by the earlier US stance of making a distinction between 'good terrorists' and 'bad terrorists', and planned to extend 'radicalisation' beyond Kashmir to the rest of India. The role of Pakistan in getting Taliban to rule Afghanistan again, enabled the former to retain the support of China on Afghanistan on the strength of a give and take between the two countries on the question of treatment of Muslim minority in China. It may be recalled that it is the pro-Pak Jamaat-e-Islami which had taken the lead in fostering militancy in Kashmir valley in the name of Islam through its front Hizbul Mujahideen, to further the plan of ISI to replicate the success of Afghan Jihad in Kashmir. In the rest of India also, Jamaat's front - Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) - was spreading militancy and by the time it faced a ban it had already created an offspring called Indian Mujahideen (IM) to undertake acts of terror. This phenomenon of the transition of a communal militant platform into an instrument of faith-based terror under external guidance has made its covert appearance again and on a wider scale, coinciding with the Pak-sponsored narrative that there is rise of 'Hindutva' in the Modi regime at the cost of security of Muslim minority of India. This in fact is the third Pak-linked development that is threatening India's internal security the most: Pakistan is exploiting both Deobandi and Bareilvi extremists for stepping up radicalisation in India. Bareilvis accept Sufi 'Silislahs' but are more assertive than other sects when it comes to upholding 'Unity of God' in Islam and not tolerating blasphemy.

The recent cases of terror in the name of Islam occurring in Amravati and Udaipur, reveal links with ISI-backed radical organisations functioning under cover like the PFI in India - with stray links with SIMI - as well as the Karachi based Dawat-e-Islami that had an outreach to Sufi shrines on one hand and the Jamiatul Ulama Pakistan on the other. What is revealing is the fact of social media having been used as an instrument for radicalisation and as a weapon of 'proxy war' against India. Some of the accused in these cases not only visited Pakistan but joined with WhatsApp groups run by Pak ISI. Interestingly, even as they were evidently not products of Islamic Madrasas, they were wedded to a 'political cause' that was ultimately rooted in faith - avenging the 'insult' to Prophet caused under a 'Hindutva dispensation'. This is a telling illustration of the known fact that there was no distinction between 'politics' and 'religion' in Islam. Many of the Ulema and the elite guiding the minority community politically, continue to breed communal 'separatism' among Muslims who, left to themselves, will draw confidence from the secular principle of 'one man one vote' on which Indian democracy rests and like to remain engaged in the pursuit of livelihood availing the opportunities that were there for all communities to look for. The influence now being exerted on the minority community here by Pakistan is designed to instil in it the thought that Muslims are first and foremost an integral part of Ummah, beyond the national identity. This became evident in the attempt of Pakistan to use the platform of OIC against India following the abolition of Art 370 of the Constitution by Indian Parliament and more recently to get that forum to voice the demand of a 'national' apology from India for the alleged insult caused to Prophet Mohammad by a 'party' spokesperson in a TV debate. The danger of a

Pak agent motivated by the idea of Jihad carrying out suicide bombing in India should not be underestimated. Our Security and Intelligence set up are closely watching the doings of the two prime adversaries of India on the borders. The threat of radicalisation spreading slowly in various parts of the country because of the covert plans of ISI calls for closest coordination among the external, internal, technical, Police and Military Intelligence agencies. Constant scanning of social media and cyber communications, activation of District Intelligence units to read suspicious activities at the ground level, prompt legal action against speeches ridiculing Gods of any religion, watch over subversive activities of foreign-funded civil society forums and modernisation of Madrasa education with the support of community's leadership and municipal assistance - all these together will effectively counter the Pak mischief of fishing in India's troubled waters. Representative Muslim organisations should be persuaded to take a public stand that there was no place for advocacy of Jihad in today's world, and democratic means of grievance redressal should be adopted instead. Local administration in minority pockets should enhance its connectivity with public through Collector's town hall meetings to be held periodically. Muslims are used as a political fodder by their community leaders, a closer interaction with local authorities will reduce their dependence on communal leaders and so will be the case if initiatives are taken by non-Muslims to provide leadership to the minority community on citizen's issues. Meanwhile, using diplomacy, India should build a world opinion against injection of religion into international politics. (The writer is former Director Intelligence Bureau)

international

FIRST COAL PLANT IN GERMANY RESUMES OPERATION AMID GAS CRISIS

San Francisco | Agencies
The Mehrum power plant in Germany is back in operation due to the current gas supply crisis, becoming the first hard-coal-fired power plant in the country to do so, sources said. The plant, previously in reserve mode, has been operational since midday Sunday local time, managing director of Kraftwerk Mehrum Armin Fieber told Xinhua news agency on Monday. The plant has a capacity of around 270 megawatts. Germany is the only industrialised country to phase out coal and nuclear energy. But as gas flows from Russia via the strategically important Nord Stream 1



pipeline have been reduced to 20 per cent, the German government is considering halting the country's nuclear phase-out and preparing further legislation to bring back lignite-fired power plants to

the electricity market. A gas-saving ordinance is currently being prepared to prevent the "unnecessary generation of electricity from natural gas", the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck. "We have to save energy and find alternative sources." Climate Action announced recently. It "will come into force when it becomes clear that even more gas savings are needed in electricity generation", the Ministry said. In order to prepare for the coming winter, the energy ministers of the European Union (EU) agreed last week on a voluntary savings target of 15 per cent compared to a country's average consumption over the past five years, until the end of March 2023. "We are doing everything we can to ensure that there is no gas shortage," said Germany's Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck. "We have to save energy and find alternative sources."



696 migrants cross English Channel in single-day record high
London: At least 696 migrants have crossed the Channel to the UK in a single day, a record for the year so far. The migrants made the journey in 14 boats on Monday, dpa news agency quoted the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as saying. Large groups of migrants, including young children, were seen being brought ashore in Ramsgate before leaving the Kent port on double-decker buses. More than 17,000 people have arrived in the UK after navigating busy shipping lanes from France in small boats such as dinghies in 2022, according to British government figures.

Chinese investment drying up in Pakistan, Russia

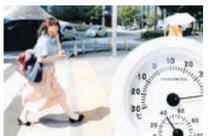
Shanghai | Agencies
New investment in Russia through Chinas Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) fell to zero in the first half of 2022, while Chinese outlays in Pakistan dropped by 56 per cent during the same period, the media reported. According to the RFE/RL, these are the findings of a new report from the Green Finance and Development Center at Fudan University in Shanghai, which point to growing headwinds facing Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy venture that he once dubbed "the project of the century". Both Russia and Pakistan have been among the top beneficiaries of Chinese development spending through the BRI. Moscow signed deals worth about \$2 billion in 2021 alone and Islamabad hosts a \$62 billion collection of infrastructure and energy projects known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Fudan University report highlights the changing nature of the BRI as it adapts to a combination of a strained global economy, China's shifting position in the



world, and many countries who inked deals and took out loans through the initiative now grappling with a growing debt crisis, RFE/RL reported. BRI spending has been declining for several years as Beijing becomes more risk averse. The report shows a total of \$28.4 billion in Chinese investment across 147 BRI countries over the first half of 2022, down from \$29.6 billion over the same period last year. The BRI's rapid expansion since 2013 has helped China become the world's largest source of development credit, and how Beijing navigates the programme's future will have global consequences.

Japan bakes under scorching heat as mercury soars to 40 degrees

Tokyo: The mercury across Japan skyrocketed on Tuesday with sweltering heat baking wide swathes of regions from the east to west, with temperatures hitting near-record highs of around 40 degrees Celsius. Due to the sudden rise in temperature, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a warning that people should take preventative measures to avoid succumbing to heat-related illnesses, reports Xinhua news agency. People were also warned by a government alert, urging them to stay hydrated, refrain from making unnecessary trips or exercising outdoors and to use air conditioners to avoid heatstroke and heat exhaustion. The weather agency said that temperatures were expected to soar to 41 degrees Celsius in Kumagaya, 39 degrees Celsius in Nagoya and 37 degrees Celsius in Tokyo. The JMA said a high pressure system over Japan started sending temperatures soaring on Tuesday. Meanwhile, as weather systems become unstable, Tohoku and Hokkaido regions are experiencing heavy downpours. This is owing to hot and humid air blowing into a low pressure system and the fronts in Japan's northern regions, public broadcaster NHK said. Due to high daytime temperatures and humid air, atmospheric conditions may become highly unstable in the Kanto-Koshin region later on Tuesday, said NHK, adding that some areas may be hit by thunderstorms, and downpours bringing more than 50 mm of hourly rain may occur.



New global alliance created to end AIDS in kids by 2030

Montreal | Agencies
A new Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030 was announced at the 24th International AIDS Conference here to ensure that no child living with HIV is denied treatment by the end of the decade and to prevent new infant HIV infections. The alliance is made up of Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Unicef, World Health Organization (WHO), civil society groups, governments, and international partners, reports Xinhua news agency. Twelve countries have joined the alliance in the first phase. "No child should be born with or grow up with HIV, and no child with HIV should go without treatment," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "The Global Alliance to End AIDS in Children is an opportunity to renew our commitment to children and their families to unite, to speak and to act with purpose and in soli-



arity with all mothers, children and adolescents." A UNAIDS report showed that globally only 52 per cent of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment, far behind adults where 76 per cent are receiving antiretrovirals. "The wide gap in treatment coverage between children and adults is an outrage," said UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima. "Through this alliance, we will channel that outrage into action. By bringing together new improved medicines, new political commitment, and the determined activism of communities, we can be the generation who end AIDS in children. We can win this -- but we can only win together." The five-day conference taking place in the Canadian city of Montreal will end on Tuesday. According to the Unicef, about 2.8 million children and adolescents are currently living with HIV, nearly 88 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Only 54 per cent of infected children and adolescents were on HIV treatment as compared to 85 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV. In 2020, at least 300,000 children were newly infected with HIV, or one child every two minutes. That same year, 120,000 children and adolescents died from AIDS-related causes, or one child every five minutes.

ENERGY BILLS IN UK FORECAST TO HIT \$4,401 AMID COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

London: Households across the UK have been warned they could face an annual energy bill in excess of 3,600 pounds (\$4,401) this winter. Energy consultant Cornwall Insight said a regular gas and electricity bill in England, Wales and Scotland could reach 3,615 pounds in the new year, which is hundreds of pounds more than previous predictions, reports dpa news agency. In May, the British government announced an energy costs support package, worth 400 pounds per household, in response to predictions that bills would rise to 2,800 pounds for the average household in October. Last month, Cornwall Insight predicted that annual energy bills would typically rise to 3,244 pounds from October and 3,363 pounds from January 2023, but circumstances have changed significantly since then. The company told the BBC on Tuesday that such a bill is now likely to rise to 3,358 pounds from October and 3,615 pounds from January 2023. Cornwall Insight's principal consultant, Craig Lowrey, said surging gas prices and concerns about Russian supply had prompted the increase. "However, while the rise in forecasts for October and January is a pressing concern, it is not only the level - but the duration - of the rises that makes these new forecasts so devastating," he told the BBC. "Given the current level of the wholesale price, this level of household energy bills currently shows little sign of abating into 2024." Lowrey joined other experts in saying government support will "only scratch the surface" for households. Charity National Energy Action last month predicted that, should the average bill reach 3,250 pounds per year, 8.2 million UK households will be in fuel poverty, or one in three.



MAHA GOVT PARALYSED SANS CABINET, FLOOD VICTIMS DENIED RELIEF: AJIT PAWAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Opposition Leader Ajit Pawar on Tuesday slammed the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for the delays in cabinet expansion which has severely paralysed the administration and hit relief work for the victims in flood-hit regions.

Speaking to mediapersons after a 4-day tour of the flood-ravaged districts, Pawar slammed the Shiv Sena break-away faction leader Shinde and Bharatiya Janata Party's Fadnavis for neglecting the plight of farmers affected by the recent spell of heavy rains and floods in Marathwada, Vidarbha and others parts of the state.

He accused the Chief Minister of remaining busy attending his felicitation functions while the state suffered on account of delay in the cabinet even 34 days after he was sworn-in on June 30.

"The two-man government (Shinde-Fadnavis) holds marathon meetings without allocating portfolios



to other ministers in the cabinet hall with 43 chairs (of ministers) with the chairs looking at them and asking when they will get their occupants," said Pawar in a swipe at the ruling duo. He called upon Shinde to attend to the crucial administration rather than going around attending his felicitations and reach out help to the

flood-hit farmers and villagers, expand the cabinet and convene the long-delayed monsoon session of the Maharashtra Legislature.

Pawar said that the absence of a cabinet for a prolonged period has hampered coordination of various departments, impacted the recording of 'panchnamas' for the damages suf-

fered by the peasantry and to provide them with other relief and rehab measures.

"Suicides are again increasing in the areas hit by the agro-crises and the government must immediately declare a 'wet-drought' to provide urgent assistance to the victims," he demanded.

Referring to the monsoon session of the legislature, he said it was scheduled for July 18, then postponed and was expected from July 25 and again delayed and it failed to take place even on August 1.

"The monsoon session must be immediately convened to enable a discussion of the major issues confronting the state, the need for a comprehensive financial relief package, and other burning problems," Pawar said. He has even shot off a detailed letter to Shinde-Fadnavis seeking declaration of a 'wet-drought' with a list of demands for assistance to the farmers, affected villagers, students, repairs to the damaged roads, power lines, mobile towers and other infrastructure in the flood affected areas.

Raut's arrest a 'political conspiracy', attempt to silence opponents: Priyanka Chaturvedi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi has condemned party leader Sanjay Raut's arrest, terming it a "political conspiracy" and an attempt by the government to silence big leaders.

Shiv Sena MP Raut was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Patra Chawl land scam and has been sent to a four-day ED remand by a Special court in Mumbai on Monday.

Apart from Shiv Sena, other opposition parties also slammed the Centre over Raut's arrest. Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi said, "The message of the 'Raja' (King) is clear- 'whoever speaks against me will suffer'. Efforts are on to break the morale of political opponents and silence the truth by using the government agencies... Well, in the end the 'truth' will win, and the ego will lose."

Chaturvedi told reporter, "We raised the issue in Rajya Sabha and also demonstrated against the arrest. He (Raut) is our leader and we will continue to raise our voice for him."

"ED was seeking remand for eight days, but the court has given the remand of four days to the agency. This proves that he is just being harassed, the allegations against him are wrong. We won't sit quiet," she added.

Responding to a question about the opposition's unity on the issue, Chaturvedi said, "ED is taking action against Sonia Gandhi and Sanjay Raut, we all leaders of the opposition



party are united in the Parliament. We are protesting. Be it Satyendar Jain or Manish Sisodia in Aam Aadmi Party, action is also being taken against them. Thus all political parties have to understand that this fight is not of any party alone, but it is everyone's fight."

"Today if they acting against us, tomorrow they will do the same with you," she said, claiming that soon this fight would happen within the BJP and the ED would be taking action.

I-T dept detects unaccounted transactions over Rs 1k crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Ahmedabad

The Income Tax department has said that its searches on a leading business group in Gujarat, engaged in Textiles, chemicals, packaging, real estate and education sector, has led to detection of unaccounted transactions involving over Rs 1,000 crore so far.

The searches, conducted at 58 premises spread over Kheda, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata, lasted for about four to five days, the I-T department said in a statement on Tuesday.

During the search, Rs 24 crore in cash and Rs 20 crore worth bullion (gold biscuits and other metals) and gold ornaments were also unearthed.

Officers have found that the group was booking profits by manipulating share prices of its own listed companies.

The officers have found substantial evidence in this connection.

For evading tax, the group was raising fake bills, and making payments. Even in the real



estate sector, benami transactions were found.

Company has created a shell company in Kolkata. In huge amounts, cash withdrawals were made and black money was generated. Even the group's public limited companies' account books are shady, the statement added. Investigation is on.

DRUG PEDDLING GANG OPERATING IN METRO CITIES BUSTED

Bengaluru/Mumbai | Agencies

The Karnataka police on Tuesday claimed to have busted a drug peddling gang which procured and supplied drugs at the clients' doorsteps by using dark net, crypto currency and messenger applications such as Instagram, Telegram in the metro cities.

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the City Central Crime Branch (CCB) had carried out an operation in Marathalli and Whitefield and seized Rs 2 crore worth drug substances and arrested five persons from Delhi and Bihar, police said.

MDMA crystals, MDMA ecstasy pills, LSD strips, cocaine, hashish oil, charas and ganja were also seized from the accused. The police have got five bank accounts of the accused frozen. Investigations have revealed that the accused from New Delhi purchased drugs through crypto currency



from foreign drug mafia.

Unemployed youth from across the country were lured with higher salary. The accused kept hired agents in PGs in Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. They got the drugs parcelled to their rooms through Indian Postal

Service and International Courier Services. The accused gave details of price and drugs through Telegram, Instagram, Briar, Confide and Session messenger applications to contact customers and lure gullible individuals. They got the orders through the

Telegram app and got the money through online payment mode. The drugs were delivered in the form of birthday gifts, medical emergency kits and courier envelopes through Dunzo and porter logistics services to the door steps of customers.

INDIANS SHARPLY DIVIDED OVER SANJAY RAUT'S ARREST

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case. The fire-brand leader from Maharashtra was arrested by the probe agency after day-long raids at his residence and questioning in money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of a Mumbai's Patra Chawl.

The ED sleuths raided Sanjay Raut's home after the leader skipped summons twice. After his arrest, Sanjay Raut was produced before the special sessions court. The court sent the Rajya Sabha MP to the ED custody till August 4. Sanjay Raut, the most vocal face of Shiv Sena has alleged that a false case has been prepared against him to weaken his party. The arrested leader got all the support from party president Uddhav Thackeray, who praised Sanjay Raut saying that he was proud of the journalist-turned-politician. Also, the former Maharashtra chief minister attacked the ruling BJP for indulging in vendetta politics.

A nationwide survey conducted to



know people's perception about the arrest of Sanjay Raut. The survey revealed that people were sharply divided in their views about the ED's action against the Shiv Sena leader. During the survey, while 52 per cent respondents said that the investigating agency had done the right thing by arresting Sanjay Raut, 48 per cent respondents shared a completely

opposite opinion.

Predictably, the NDA and opposition voters were divided on political lines in their views on the issue.

During the survey, while the majority of NDA voters - 67 per cent said that the ED action against the Shiv Sena parliamentarian was correct, the majority of opposition supporters - 58 per cent viewed the arrest as vendetta.

The survey further highlighted that both the urban and rural voters were also divided in their views about the arrest of Sanjay Raut. During the survey, while 53 per cent urban voters justified the action of the investigating agency, 47 per cent did not share the sentiment. Similarly, while 51 per cent rural voters upheld the ED's action against the Shiv Sena MP, 49

upGrad acquires Noida-based test prep provider Exampur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

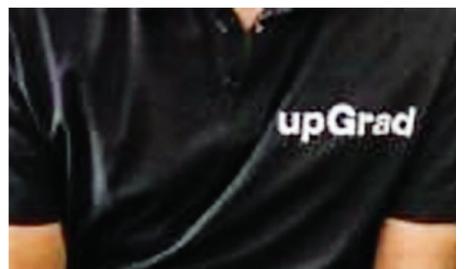
Higher edtech platform upGrad on Tuesday said it has acquired Exampur which is a test-prep provider for government jobs, for an undisclosed sum.

Noida-based learning platform Exampur aims to reach Rs 70 crore (nearly \$7.5 million) in revenue this fiscal.

Co-founded in 2018 by Vivek Kumar and Vardan Gandhi, the platform has a user base of over 10 million students.

"We've created an integrated learning portfolio for our learners and within that matrix, we see test-prep as a high potential growth driver," said Gaurav Kumar, President, Corporate Development, upGrad.

"I'm confident that their day-on-day live delivery capabilities with 200+ teachers through its channel are set to redefine vernacular



learning for a larger base of youth," Kumar added. Exampur offers over 200 test-prep courses for govt. jobs where most of the content is delivered through its YouTube channels for the UPSC, SSC, defence, banking, teaching and other state-level government jobs.

Cumulatively, Exampur has a growing subscriber base of over 12 million with an average viewership of 2.5 million students.

Ninety per cent of paid users of Exampur are from tier 2, 3 and 4 markets.

"We want our learners to walk that extra mile to understand the key to cracking such competitive exams and this is where we have created a hybrid learning model through our digital presence," said Kumar and Gandhi. Additionally, Exampur offers online test series, free quizzes and live scholarship tests.

'IF RUPEE CONTINUES TO BE UNDER PRESSURE, RBI MAY LOOK AT ALTERNATE MEASURES'

Manish M. Suvarna | Mumbai

Rahul Singh, Senior Fund Manager, Fixed Income, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Ltd, said that if the rupee continues to be under pressure, the RBI may look at alternate measures. The recent fall in 10-year US yield and dollar index may also have provided some respite for the time being.

Excerpts from the interview:

Q. How much repo rate hike do you expect in the upcoming monetary policy and what will be the stance?

A: We expect 35-50 bps repo rate hike in the upcoming policy. The MPC stance however may not be changed from the last policy.

Q. What will be the inflation and growth outlook by the RBI?

A: The RBI may continue to maintain that they see inflation around 6 per cent mark by Q4 FY23. Inflation has softened considerably from the levels we have seen in the 1st quarter. Further global commodity prices have corrected to a great extent which is good news considering India is a big importer. Plus, monsoon till now has been good. All this may give comfort to the RBI maintaining its Inflation level of 6 per cent by end of this fiscal year. The RBI may also be positive on their growth numbers and would at least maintain (if not

revise upwards) the numbers projected in the last policy. GST numbers, credit growth and PMI numbers have been encouraging.

Q. Will the RBI continue to support rupee on the near term?

A: The RBI has always maintained that they would not want too much volatility in INR and may continue to maintain the same stance, though there might be direct intervention, our reading says they may not be too comfortable in letting reserves slip. It has come down from 650 billion to 572 billion as per latest data. If Rupee continues to be under pressure, the RBI may look at alternate measures. The recent fall in 10-year US yield and dollar index may also have provided some respite for the time being.

Q. Where you see bond yields if the RBI hikes rate in the August policy?

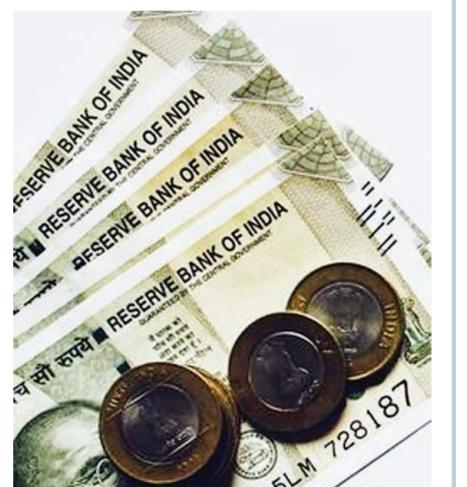
A: Rate hike is a certainty which the market may have factored in. The movement will play on what RBI says on their inflation forecast and how much of the impact they see on rupee movement. If the statement is like last policy with no major deviations in the projected numbers from last policy, we may see 10-year G-Sec yield falling further to 7.20 levels.

Q. Now FII's net investment turned positive after nearly 9 months and indices are rising, do you think this trend will sustain?

A: While it is difficult to predict the future FII flows, it is fair to assume that FIIs may not wish to remain away from India for a long time. Rising domestic demand, attractive valuations and favourable macroeconomic factors may catch FIIs interest.

Q. What are your views on US Fed hinting that they are looking to slow the pace of rate hikes in the upcoming meetings?

A: If FED is convinced that Inflation is cooling down going forward, then this statement certainly makes sense. It could have originated looking at certain statistics which shows softness in crude and other commodities prices, weakening Chinese economy, Q2 GDP numbers and the talks regarding recession going ahead. However, the question remains that if PCE price index is 6.8 per cent and core PCE is 4.8 per cent, then is inflation softening going ahead? The weak GDP numbers majority owe to lower US government spending and higher inventories rather than indicating falling demand. Similar dovish statements were made earlier as well when there were rumours of 75 bps rate hike, however we saw two back-to-back 75 bps hike. My understanding is that as long as Inflation shows a declining trend, FED needs to be aggressive in controlling that otherwise it may unnecessarily elongate the entire hike cycle impacting the growth cycle going ahead.





ANA DE ARMAS DEFENDED BY MARILYN ESTATE OVER HER 'BLONDE' ACCENT

Los Angeles | Agencies

The official Marilyn Monroe Estate has come to the defence of Ana de Armas, who is playing the Hollywood icon in Andrew Dominik's upcoming drama 'Blonde'. An official trailer for the film premiered online July 28 and left

many viewers outraged over de Armas' casting because her accent did not entirely match Monroe's iconic tone. The film is not authorised by Monroe's estate, but the group stands by de Armas' casting nonetheless, reports 'Variety'. "Marilyn Monroe is a singular Hollywood and pop culture icon that transcends generations and history," said Marc Rosen, president of entertainment at Authentic Brands Group (ABG), which owns the Marilyn Monroe Estate. "Any actor that steps into that role knows they have big shoes to fill. Based on the trailer alone, it looks like Ana was a great casting choice as she captures Marilyn's glamour,

humanity and vulnerability. We can't wait to see the film in its entirety!" De Armas previously told The Times of London that she spent nearly an entire year working on her Monroe accent for 'Blonde' before filming started. The actor said: "It took me nine months of dialect coaching, and practicing and some ADR sessions. It was a big torture, so exhausting. My brain was fried." 'Blonde' is based on the novel by Joyce Carol Oates. The drama reimagines the life of Monroe, from her volatile childhood as Norma Jeane through her rise to stardom. The supporting cast includes Bobby Cannavale, Adrien Brody, Julianne

Nicholson, Xavier Samuel and Evan Williams. The film will debut in competition at the Venice Film Festival. The majority of complaints about de Armas' casting noted that she maintained her Cuban accent, which is not how Monroe sounded. De Armas told Vanity Fair in 2020 that Dominik's decision to cast a Cuban actor as an American icon was "groundbreaking". "I only had to audition for Marilyn once and Andrew said It's you," but I had to audition for everyone else," de Armas told the magazine. 'Blonde' will release on Netflix on September 28.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Beyonce's seventh studio album 'Renaissance' debuted last month to universal acclaim, but one lyric in the song 'Heated' left many listeners angry on social media. The song includes the word "spazz" during a verse in which Beyonce sings: "Spazzin' on that a**", spazz on that a**."

Beyonce to remove offensive 'Renaissance' lyrics after Ableist backlash

In the medical field, "spastic" refers to a disability that makes it difficult for people to control their muscles, especially in their arms and legs. The singer's team confirmed to Variety that the lyric will be removed. "The word, not used intentionally in a harmful way, will be replaced," a statement from Beyonce's team reads. The lyric was criticised as ableist and offensive on social media, and it even inspired an essay published on The Guardian in which writer Hannah Diviney wrote, "Beyonce's commitment to storytelling musically and visually is unparalleled, as is her power to have the world paying attention to the narratives, struggles and nuanced lived experience of being a Black woman.... But that doesn't excuse her use of ableist language."

According to 'Variety', Beyonce's decision to remove the ableist lyric follows Lizzo's decision to do the same. Lizzo used the same term in her song "Grrrls" off her latest album, 'Special'. In the original track, Lizzo sang: "Hold my bag, b***h, hold my bag/ Do you see this s***? I'm a spazz." The new version of the song finds Lizzo singing "Hold me back."



Sting slams Ukraine war, calls it 'absurdity based upon a lie'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Englishman in New York' hitmaker warned the invasion of the country from Russia is proof that democracy is under attack around the world as he took to the stage in Warsaw, Poland, reports aceshowbiz.com. The 70-year-old singer brought out Polish actor Maciej Stuhr to translate his statement, in which he said: "(Democracy is) in grave danger of being lost unless we defend it. The alternative to democracy is a prison, a prison of the mind. The alternative to democracy is violence, oppression, imprisonment and silence. The war in the Ukraine is an absurdity based upon a lie. If we swallow that lie, the lie will eat us."

Due to its proximity to Ukraine, Poland has seen more refugees flock there since the war began on February 24 than any other country. Sting isn't the only musician to use his platform to protest against the war. Last month, 60-year-old Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose branded Russian President Vladimir Putin a "callous, lying, murderous little man". He tweeted: "I'd like to thank everyone for showing such love and support during the tour for the people of Ukraine and their noble and horrifying fight for freedom against an increasingly totalitarian regime ran by a callous, lying, murderous, little man with outdated ambitions and no regard for human life."

Priyanka Chopra meets Ukrainian refugees in Poland

Los Angeles | Agencies

Part from being a versatile actress, Priyanka Chopra is also known to know her philanthropic activities. Be it the Covid crisis or recently the Russia-Ukraine war, the actress came forward and made sure to help the needy.

Russia and Ukraine are currently in the headlines due to the war-like situation that took place over there. The citizens suffered a lot and were forced to evacuate their abode taking shelter in safe places.

Recently, the actress who has been associated with UNICEF for a long time now visited Poland to meet the refugees of the Ukrainian war.

The global icon shared a video montage of hers interacting with the kids and women in the refugee centre. Along with it, Priyanka penned a long note talking about the crisis. Taking to her Instagram Story handle, she wrote, "The invisible wounds of war are the ones we don't usually see on the news. Yet, they were so evident to me today as started day 1 of my @unicef mission in Warsaw. 2/3 of Children from Ukraine have been displaced (internally and externally). This HUGE number is the devastating reality of war where 90% of the people crossing the border are women and children."

The note continued, "70% of those who have fled, crossed the border into Poland, and large government supported Reception Centres have been set up to make the transition as easy as possible. @unicef responded to this emergency by setting up Blue Dot Centres in 11 locations across Poland and 37 across the region together with @refugees." This is not the first time Priyanka Chopra spoke up for the refugees of war. A couple of months back, she posted a news clipping of Ukraine in February 2022. She had called the situation "terrifying".



Cyndi Lauper to star as private investigator in 'Horror of Dolores Roach' series

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Girls Just Want Have Fun' hitmaker Cyndi Lauper has signed on for a recurring guest role in the upcoming Amazon series 'The Horror of Dolores Roach'. According to 'Variety', Lauper will appear in the show opposite previously announced lead Justina Machado as well as cast members Alejandro Hernandez, Kita Updike, K. Todd Freeman, Marc Maron, Jean Yoon, Judy Reyes, and Jeffery Self. The series is based on the

Gimlet podcast of the same name. Amazon has given the half-hour show an eight episode order. Lauper is best known for her stellar music career, with her worldwide record sales exceeding 50 million. She is also the first woman in history to have four top five singles from a debut album. She is a Grammy, Emmy, and Tony Award-winner. She is also no stranger to acting, having appeared on shows like 'Mad About You', 'That's So Raven', 'Bones', and the CBS reboot of 'Magnum P.I.'





Commonwealth Games 2022

WOMEN'S FOURS BAG HISTORIC LAWN BAWLS GOLD FOR INDIA

Birmingham | Agencies

The Indian women's fours team of Lovely Choubey, Pinki, Nayannoni Saikia and Rupa Tirkey scripted history by winning the gold medal in lawn bowls at the Commonwealth Games 2022, here on Tuesday.

The Indian team beat South Africa 17-10 in the final to win gold at Victoria Park in Royal Leamington Spa.

It was an even start to the final, as India took the lead after the first end but South Africa went ahead after the second. Thereafter, in-form Indian surged ahead to a 8-2 lead by the seventh end. But, it could not score a single point over the next four ends as South Africa roared back into contention, levelling the scores 8-8 after the 10th end.

On the 11th end, India seemed to be ahead with three bowls to go but Nayannoni Saikia rolled too accurately, hitting the jack, which took it away from the Indian bowls and closer to the South Africans', which gave them a 10-8 lead.

India were in danger of losing fur-



ther ground on the 12th end but skip Rupa Tirkey, with her two rolls, managed to push one South African bowl away, which gave India two points and got them level at 10-10.

On the next end, India took a potentially decisive 12-10 lead. With the jack rolling shorter than normal, the bowlers had to measure their rolls accordingly and a South African bowl hit the jack, taking it closer to

two Indian bowls.

The 14th end saw India open up a 15-10 lead as South Africa tried, and failed, to get closer to the jack or push any Indian bowls away. The distance between South Africa's closest bowl and India's farthest was barely a few centimetres but the Indian bowl was adjudged to be nearer to the jack, giving them three crucial points.

The 15th and final end saw India consistently get closer to the jack and when South Africa's final bowl missed the jack, it gave India two more points and confirmed a historic gold medal.

On the other hand, it was South Africa's second-consecutive silver medal in the women's fours at the CWG.

Earlier in the day, the India versus New Zealand rivalry, which began in the women's fours semifinal, added three more chapters at Birmingham 2022. The trio of Pinki, Rupa Tirkey and Tania Choudhary beat New Zealand 15-11 in their first sectional match of the women's triples.

However, the Kiwis got back in the women's pairs as the duo of Lovely Choubey and Nayannoni Saikia lost 18-9 in their first sectional match.

Mridul Borgohain also began his men's singles campaign with a 21-8 loss to New Zealand's Shannon McLroy in section D. The women's triples team will be in action against England later tonight while the men's fours team will play their first match in lawn bowls at CWG 2022.

Indian men's table tennis team defeats Singapore, clinch gold medal



Birmingham | Agencies

Indian men's table tennis team defeated Singapore 3-1 in the finals to win the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022 here on Tuesday.

Achanta Sharath Kamal lost for the first time in the tournament but Harmeet Desai and G Sathyan first won doubles and then registered victories in their respective singles matches as India beat Singapore 3-1 in the CWG 2022 to defend their gold medal from 2018.

Earlier in the match G Sathyan defeated Koen Pang

12-10, 7-11, 11-7, 11-4 to make it 2-1 in the favour of India. Sathyan made a strong comeback after losing the 2nd game of the third match. He won the 3rd game 11-7 against Pang.

Sathyan has provided India the lead after Sharath Kamal lost his match against the World No. 133.

The veteran TT player Sharath Kamal, however, lost the second match against Clarence Chew 11-7, 12-14, 11-3, 11-9. With this win Singapore levelled the score 1-1.

Defending champions India reached the semifinals

on Sunday with a 3-0 clean sweep of Bangladesh in the quarterfinals.

The Indian men's team fielded its top-ranked players Sathyan Gnanasekaran and Harmeet Desai for the first doubles match against Ramhilmian Bawm and Mohutasin Ahmed Ridoy at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre.

The Indian duo of Sathyan and Harmeet was clinical and won the opener 3-0 (11-8, 11-6, 11-2) against Bangladesh team, which doesn't have any table tennis players inside the top 600 in the ITTF singles rankings.

India's Vikas Thakur wins Silver in Men's 96 kg weightlifting

Birmingham | Agencies

Indian heavyweight lifter Vikas Thakur added yet another Commonwealth Games medal to his kitty, winning a silver in the men's 96kg here on Tuesday. The seasoned Thakur lifted a total of 346kg (155kg+191kg) to finish second and claim his third CWG medal across three editions. It was Thakur's second silver, having finished second in the 2014 Glasgow edition as well. In Gold Coast, he had returned with a bronze. Samoa's Don Opeloge 381kg (171kg+210kg) bettered his 2018 silver by clinching gold with a record breaking performance.

Fiji's Taniela Tuisuva Rainibogi walked away with the bronze with a total effort of 343kg (155kg+188kg). Thakur, a five-time Commonwealth Championships medallist, had three clean lifts of 149kg, 153kg and 155kg to be in joint third-position after the snatch round. In the clean and jerk section, Thakur started off with a 187kg lift, which he executed perfectly. His second attempt was of 191kg, which took some effort but the Punjab lifter



was able to pull it off and celebrated it with a 'high-five' made popular by Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan. With a silver assured, Thakur went for 198kg, a kilogram more than his personal best, in his third attempt but was unsuccessful. But the event belonged to Opeloge, who smashed the Games record in snatch, clean and jerk and total lift.

The 23-year-old Samoan celebrated his stellar show with a groovy dance at the end.

It was heartbreak for home favourite Cyrille Tchatchet who failed to register a single legal lift in clean and jerk.

HARJINDER KAUR WINS BRONZE FOR INDIA

Birmingham: Indian weightlifter Harjinder Kaur claimed a bronze medal in the women's 71 kg competition at the Commonwealth Games here despite not lifting her best in an event in which England's Sarah Davies broke a plethora of records to storm to the gold medal.

The 25-year-old from Mehas village near Nabha in Punjab lifted 93 in snatch and 119 in clean and jerk for a below-par total of 212 kg in the competition and at one time thought that she had lost out on a medal as Alexis Ashworth of Canada, the eventual silver medallist, lifted her season's best of 123 kg in clean and jerk to shoot up to 214 in the standings. Harjinder was also lucky as Joy Ogonne Eze of Nigeria suffered a washout, failing to lift 125 kg in clean and jerk in three attempts. As she had lifted 100 kg, seven kilos more than Harjinder, the Indian would have been relegated to the fourth position if the Nigerian had succeeded. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced a cash prize of Rs 40 lakh for weightlifter Harjinder Kaur, who bagged a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Britain's Birmingham.



Asia Cup 2022 schedule announced, India to face Pakistan on August 28

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The schedule of the 2022 Asia Cup has been announced with Sri Lanka taking on Afghanistan in the tournament opener on August 27 in Dubai, which will be followed by the high-profile clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan on the next day.

Ten out of the thirteen games including the final on September 11 are set to be played in Dubai, with the rest to take place in Sharjah. UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and Hong Kong will play a qualifying round with the winner joining India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in the main tournament.

The main tournament will feature six teams divided into two groups. India, Pakistan



and the qualifier are in Group A while Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan form Group B. Each team plays within the group once. The top-two teams from each group will further play in a 'Super 4' round, meaning there is a high probability of at least another India-Pakistan game in the second round before the final where the top two would feature.

Full schedule:

Aug 27	-	Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, Dubai
Aug 28	-	India vs Pakistan, Dubai
Aug 30	-	Bangladesh vs Afghanistan, Sharjah
Aug 31	-	India vs Qualifier, Dubai
Sep 1	-	Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh, Dubai
Sep 2	-	Pakistan vs Qualifier, Sharjah
Sep 3	-	B1 vs B2, Sharjah
Sep 4	-	A1 vs A2, Dubai
Sep 6	-	A1 vs B1, Dubai
Sep 7	-	A2 vs B2, Dubai
Sep 8	-	A1 vs B2, Dubai
Sep 9	-	B1 vs A2, Dubai
Sep 11	-	FINAL, Dubai

Indian women's hockey team lose to England 1-3

Birmingham | Agencies

The Indian women's hockey team found England a tough nut to crack once again as it went down 1-3 to their old nemesis in a Pool A round-robin match at the 2022 Commonwealth Games here on Tuesday.

The Indian team, which has lost to England in the Olympic Games bronze medal match also, conceded early goals and were down 0-3 before getting a lone consolation goal in fourth quarter.

Giselle Ansley (3'), Tess Howard (40'), Hannah Martin (53') found the back of the net for England, while, Vandana Katariya (60') was the only scorer for India.

The defeat means India are places third in the group behind England (9 pts) and Canada (6) with points same

as Canada but third on goal difference.

The English side started the game aggressively and earned back-to-back Penalty Corners in the second minute of the first quarter. Giselle Ansley converted the second Penalty Corner and helped England take the lead at 1-0 in the third minute.

Sophie Hamilton produced a terrific ball and Tess Howard deflected it into the goal in the 40th minute to help England extend their lead at 2-0. In the 53rd minute, Hannah Martin converted a Penalty Corner and helped England extend their lead even further at 3-0. In the last minute of the match, India obtained a Penalty Corner and Vandana Katariya tapped the ball into the goal to ensure that England don't walk off the field with a clean sheet.

MANDHANA MOVES TO CAREER-BEST 3RD POSITION IN T20I RANKINGS FOR BATTERS

Dubai: India opener Smriti Mandhana has moved up one spot to a career-best third position among batters in the ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings after a stroke-filled half-century against

Pakistan in the ongoing Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Mandhana, who followed up a knock of 24 against Australia with an unbeaten 63 off 42 balls with eight fours and three sixes, has overtaken New Zealand's Sophie Devine and reached within two rating points of Australia's Beth Mooney. Meg Lanning continues to lead the rankings after regaining the top spot last week. Mandhana, formerly a top-ranked batter in ODIs, has been ranked third in T20Is in the past too, reaching that position for the first time in 2019 and having last held third position in October last year.



44th Chess Olympiad

India B clinch fifth win in row

Mamallapuram | Agencies

Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh caused a biggest upset of the Round 5 at the 44th Chess Olympiad by defeating former World Championship Challenger Alexei Shirov as India B shocked Spain by 2.5-1.5 score here on Tuesday.

Exhibiting a brilliant game-play, Gukesh not only extended his unbeaten run at the prestigious event but also helped India B register an impressive victory against fourth-seeded Spain-team's fifth successive win in the open section.

It was Gukesh's fifth victory on the trot in this event. Incidentally, after this victory, he overtakes Vidit Gujrathi in live ratings to be the third high-



est rated player in India after Viswanathan Anand and

Pentala Harikrishna. Adhiban B was also in fine

fettle, downing GM Eduardo Iturrizaga in a strategic master piece while Nihal Sarin held Anton Guijar to a draw.

India A and India C also notched up identical wins against Romania and Croatia respectively in other open section matches.

Meanwhile in the women's section, India A also registered their fifth consecutive victory with Tania Sachdev once again bringing the winning point for her team. They beat France by 2.5-1.5 margin after Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli Harika and R Vaishali had drawn their encounters.

Indian women's B team, on the other hand, lost to fancied Georgia with a 0-3 score while Team C held Brazil to a 2-2 draw.

CITI OPEN: VENUS WILLIAMS LOSES TO REBECCA MARINO

Washington: Playing her first singles match in nearly a year, former World No. 1 Venus Williams suffered an opening-round defeat against Canadian qualifier Rebecca Marino at the Citi Open, here. The seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus lost 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to Rebecca in a 1-hour and 52-minute clash on Monday night. In the clash between two excellent servers, superiority of the first delivery was the determining factor. Williams grabbed the one-set lead by winning nearly three-quarters of her first-serve points in the opener, where she never faced a breakpoint.



SAFF U20 Championship

INDIA BEAT MALDIVES, BOOK SPOT IN FINAL WITH B'DESH

Birmingham | Agencies

Ten-man India U20 booked their slot in the final of the SAFF U20 Championship after defeating Maldives in their last league match played at the Kalinga Stadium here on Tuesday. India, who finished on 9 points will take on Bangladesh U20 in the final which is slated on August 5. In a previous match, Bangladesh U20 played a 1-1 draw with Nepal U20.

Substitute Gurkirat Singh made the difference between the two teams, banging it into the net in the 89th minute. Parthib Gogoi's grounder found a deflection, and Gurkirat's rasper bulged the net from inside the box. For all their domination and penetration which saw chances fall their way in both halves, the Indian colts who had scored 8 in their last encounter against Nepal U20, stayed guilty of not being able to capitalise on the chances they created. They even hit the crosspiece in the 67th minute. The Indian colts, however, suffered a jolt when forward Parthib Gogoi, the highest goal scorer in the tourna-



ment so far was given marching orders in the 90th minute. An unchallenged Maheshon Singh had another opportunity in added time when he latched on an Amandeep cross but failed to place it into the net as both teams headed to the interval locked goalless. Changing over, India immediately made an inroad but Himanshu's shot sailed over. The Indians by then were attacking in numbers, but the wait for the goal continued. Shubho Paul came in as a substitute in the 67th minute replacing Sibajit Leimapokpam. Gurkirat scored the winner in the 89th minute.

AFC announces qualification format for 2026 FIFA World Cup, 2027 Asian Cup

Beijing | Agencies

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Executive Committee has announced Asia's pathway to the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

According to the announcement, the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament will comprise four rounds, in which 22 teams, ranked 26 to 47, will be drawn to play in a home-and-away format in the Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 1, where

the 11 winners will progress to the Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2.

In Round 2, 36 teams, ranked from 1 to 25 as well as the 11 winners from the first round, will be divided into nine groups to compete in a round-robin, home-and-away format, after which the top two teams from each group, a total of 18, will advance to the AFC Asian Qualifiers for the World Cup as well as the 2027 Asian Cup, Xinhua reports.

During the Asian Qualifiers, the 18 teams will be divided into three groups

to compete in a round-robin, home-and-away format, with the top two teams from each group -- six in total -- qualifying directly to the 2026 World Cup.

The final round will feature all six teams that finished third and fourth from all groups of the Asian Qualifiers. They will be divided into two groups to compete in a single round-robin format, with the two first-placed teams advancing to the 2026 World Cup, while two second-placed teams competing for a berth in the Intercontinental Playoff.



AMY JACKSON FURIOUS OVER SLAUGHTER OF 100 DOLPHINS ON FAROE ISLANDS

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Amy Jackson, who has acted in several Tamil films, has expressed her anguish and anger at the brutal slaughtering of 100 Bottle Nose dolphins on the Faroe Islands. Taking to Instagram, the actress wrote, "Every summer on the Faroe Islands, somewhere around 800 whales and dolphins lose their lives, through a brutal and barbaric ritual of mass slaughter. Once upon a time the tradition was that their meat was used and eaten, but nowadays, they choose to leave the meat rotting in the sun, just taking the lives of sea creatures for some kind of sick satisfaction justified by a cultural tradition."

"Sea shepherd, the conservationist group who are trying hard to fight the annual massacre, recorded 63 pilot whales were killed by Faroese hunters, including

10 pregnant mothers and their unborn calves. "Later that month, a further 119 pilot whales were killed. The WDC says dolphin hunting is not traditional in the Faroes, but this weekend, the slaughter of 100 Bottlenose dolphins took place.

"These beautiful and intelligent creatures are herded into shoreline inlets and brutally killed by laughing fishermen. Metal hooks are driven into the stranded mammals' blowholes before their spines are cut. The animals slowly bleed to death.

"Whole families are slaughtered, and some whales and dolphins swim around in their family members' blood for hours."

Expressing frustration at not being able to do anything else but sign petitions and repost to raise awareness, she urged her followers to help Sea Shepherd gain political clout in order to put serious pressure on Faroe Islands.

Janhvi feels odd to work with 3 khans

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Janhvi Kapoor is on a roll right now. The actress is extremely busy with her work schedule and is juggling multiple projects. Janhvi is currently enjoying the success of her recently released film, Good Luck Jerry. It is a remake of the Tamil film Kolamaavu Kokila, which was released in 2018. During the promotional tour, Janhvi was asked if she wanted to share screen time with SRK, Salman and Aamir Khan. In response, actress said, "They are the biggest stars and everybody wants to work with them but thoda odd hoga agar main unke opposite kaam karungi toh (it would be a little odd to star opposite them) but I will love to work with them" Janhvi was also asked to name a male celebrity she would look good with onscreen. To which she said Varun Dhawan and Ranbir Kapoor's names. She also stated that Alia Bhatt has been a huge inspiration to her.

Meanwhile, Janhvi is getting ready to reunite with Rajkumar Rao after Roohi for Mr And Mrs Mahi. Then she'll star in Mili, a remake of the Malayalam film 'Helen,' opposite Sunny Kaushal. This will be her first collaboration with her father, producer Boney Kapoor, on a film. Janhvi also has Bawaal with Varun Dhawan, which will be released next year on April 7, 2023.



Kareena gives a 'minus' to Aamir's fashion sense on Karan's show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan and superstar Aamir Khan will be seen as guests in filmmaker Karan Johar's popular tongue-in-cheek show 'Koffee With Karan'.

Raising the laughter quotient in the new episode, Aamir and Kareena, who will be seen together in the upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' will be seen opening up and letting their funny side out.

In the latest promo, Karan is seen asking Kareena: "Quality sex after babies myth or reality?" Kareena funnily gives it back and says: "You wouldn't know." Karan then replies: "My mother is watching this show and you all are talking badly about my sex life" To which, pat comes a cheeky reply from Aamir: "Your mother doesn't mind you talking about



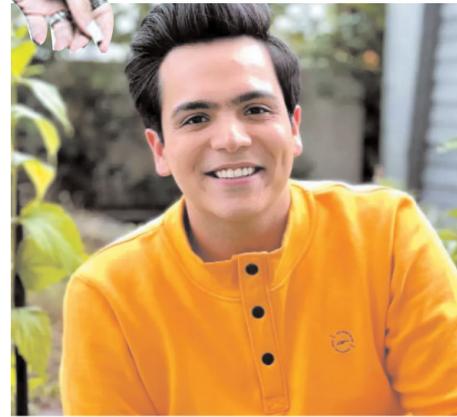
other people's sex life".

In a segment, Aamir asks Kareena what do you tolerate about me that you wouldn't tolerate in others. Kareena says: "Taking 100-200 days (to make a film) - Akshay Kumar finishes in 30 days." Aamir then asks Kareena to rate his fashion

sense, to which the actress channels her inner iconic character Poo from 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' and says: "Minus".

Shocked by the response, Aamir funnily says: "Whenever you do your show, someone or the other cries".

'TMKOC' star Raj Anadkat to make his music video debut



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Raj Anadkat, popularly known as Tapu from "Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah", is all set to make his music video

debut along with Kanika Mann in 'Sorry Sorry'. He talked about doing the music video for the first time and working with the singer, composer and director Ramji Gulati. "When Ramji approached me for this song, I got so excited and happy. I have always wanted to work with him. When I first listened to this song, I was like paaji. I want to do this. And it was fun shooting with the entire team. We shot this song in Dubai and it was a whole different experience for me altogether". While sharing about a memorable experience with Kanika from the shoot, he added: "It was amazing working with her. Kanika and I really had such a good time working together." "I remember we shot this song till 2.30 a.m. and during the last shot Kanika had dozed off in the car. On the other hand I was roaming around and trying to keep myself awake. So it was really fun working with her," he concluded.

Song is all set to release on Aug 3 on United White Flag's YouTube channel.

Nishant Singh Malkhani

South is creating stuff that can be compared with Hollywood

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Popular television actor Nishant Malkhani, who rose to fame with the show Ram Milaye Jodi, later went on to entertain us with his stint in shows like Guddan Tumse Na Ho Payega and Rakshabandhan... Rasal Apne Bhai Ki Dhal among others. The actor is currently gearing up for his next show Control Room in which he will essay the role of a cop.

In an exclusive interaction with Absolute India News, the actor spilt beans about apprehensions about playing a cop, change of choice, South wave in Bollywood and much more. Excerpts:

▶ **You are playing a cop for the first time. Were there any apprehensions when you took up this role and how did you prepare for it?**

Yes, there were apprehensions as there is a certain kind of responsibility to fulfil when one wears the uniform. I did a lot of research about the Mumbai Police Protocols, Uniform and post. I even took references from films like Aamir Khan's Sarfarosh and Ajay Devgn's Gangaajal as they were close to reality.

▶ **Have your process of choosing projects evolved over the years?**

Yes, it has. Earlier I was fine doing any kind of role but now I look forward to doing something that challenges me to the core. I also see that the character has the responsibility of running the show on the should as I possess that talent, hard work, and dedica-



tion.

▶ **Are you looking forward to taking up web shows and Bollywood films?**

One of my web shows is out and I have shot for two which are currently in the post-production process. In the past, I did 2-3 films which tanked since the makers were not established. But later I realised doing a film with a renowned filmmaker is a wise decision as your efforts don't go in vain.

▶ **On that note, is any director on your wishlist?**

I would love to work with Rohit Shetty as he is an amazing director and I look up to him. Now that I am in a cop uniform and he is touted to be the king of the cop universe, I wish he sees the promo of the show as somewhere he will definitely want me to be a part of his cop universe.

▶ **Do you feel that the audience viewing pattern has**

altered post-pandemic?

I think post-pandemic people have got the taste of the web and realistic cinema. So if you see films down south, the presentation is undoubtedly over-the-top, but the realism of the story is maintained. This is one essence that Bollywood ceases to maintain, which is why films fail to fare.

▶ **What are your views on the South wave hitting Bollywood?**

It's an alert that we need to improve the content so that audience doesn't get bored watching our cinema. South has somewhere done that and is creating stuff that can be compared with Hollywood. So now even Bollywood needs to buck up as it will carve opportunities for talented actors, directors and producers.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Adah Sharma