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Shankaracharya Swaroopanand Saraswati passes away at 99; PM Modi, Yogi grieve

Team Absolute | Madhya Pradesh

Dwarka Peeth Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati passed away on Sunday at Narsinghpur in Madhya Pradesh. The seer was 99 years old. The top religious leader breathed his last at the Shridham Jhoteswar Ashram in Narsinghpur around 3:30pm, said Swami Sadanand Maharaj, second-in-command (known as Dandi Swami) of the Dwarka Peeth. According to reports, he died of a minor heart attack. The seer's funeral will take place on Monday. Swaroopanand was the Shankaracharya of Dwarka, Sharda, and Jyotish Peeth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was deeply saddened by the demise of Swaroopanand. "My condolences to his followers in this time of grief. Om



Shanti!" he wrote. Union home minister Amit Shah also expressed his grief. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said the seer's passing away is an irreparable loss to the

community of religious leaders. His Madhya Pradesh counterpart Shivraj Singh Chouhan also extended his condolences and spoke about his contribution towards Indian tradi-

tions. In her tribute, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Swaroopanand devoted his life to religion, spirituality and charity. And her tribute, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said Swaroopanand devoted his life to religion, spirituality and charity. She also recalled her meeting with the seer in 2021 in Prayagraj. Vadra further said that the late seer had done the 'graha pravesh' of their house in 1990 in the presence of her father Rajiv Gandhi. She also recalled her meeting with the seer in 2021 in Prayagraj. The Shankaracharya had been ailing for a long time and was undergoing treatment in Bengaluru. Recently he had returned to the ashram. Swaroopanand was born as Pothiram Upadhyay at Dighori village in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh in 1924. He had left his home at the age of nine and was incarcerated during the freedom movement.

I don't promise restoration of Article 370: Azad

Srinagar | Agencies

Former senior Congress leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad said on Sunday that he has not promised restoration of Article 370 in his new political agenda because he doesn't believe in making false promises.

Addressing a public meeting in north Kashmir's Baramulla town, Azad said, "To restore Article 370 would need around 350 votes in the Lok Sabha and 175 votes in the Rajya Sabha.

"This is a number no political party has or is likely to ever get. The Congress has shrunk to less than 50 seats and if they speak of restoring Article 370, they are making false promises."

He said his political agenda includes restoration of statehood, land and jobs for the locals as these are achievable objectives. "Some people have blamed me for voting in favour of the Article 370 abrogation motion brought in by the home minister.

"I have voted against the abrogation and these people who have no idea about the working of Parliament are saying that I voted against Article 370," he said.

He said when he was the chief minister of the state, he arrested 13 police personnel for staging a fake encounter in which three persons were killed.



"The arrested persons are in jail for the last 15 years," he said.

He spoke of the developmental works and creation of districts during his tenure as the chief minister.

"Four new districts were created in the Valley and three in the Jammu division during my tenure as the chief minister. I got new medical colleges during that period.

"Whether I get four votes or lakhs of votes during the elections, I will never deceive the people," he assured the public gathering.

This was Azad's first public meeting in Kashmir after he resigned from the basic membership of the Congress party.

On holiday, people throng Kartavya Path

New Delhi | Agencies

Many people on Sunday thronged the Kartavya Path and were seen clicking pictures. The Central Vista was opened for public after the recent inauguration of Kartavya Path, formerly known as Rajpath. On Sunday, on the occasion of holiday, tourists from far and wide along with their families visited the Kartavya Path to have a glimpse of it.

Delhi Traffic Police personnel have been deployed on the roads leading to India Gate, so that the situation of traffic jam does not arise. Following the installation of the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose on Kartavya Path, people are reaching India Gate in large number.

Tejas Singh, who arrived with his friends from Old Delhi, said: "We had earlier come when the work for it had started during Corona time. After that we have arrived now and it looks more beautiful than before. I had come to India Gate once again before this, but



we could not be photographed here due to restrictions." "Today, I have come here with four or five of my friends and we posed for a picture at India Gate as well as saw the statue of Subhas Chandra Bose, we had only heard the news of this statue on TV till now."

The 3.2-km long area from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in New Delhi is called Central Vista.

IAF carries out post midnight mission to evacuate injured BSF jawan

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Kolkata | In a late night operation past midnight, the Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted a seriously injured Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from Krishnanagar in the Nadia district of West Bengal to Kolkata on Sunday.

Constable Shabir Ahmad Wani of the 141Bn BSF was on duty on a Char (large sandbank) along the India-Bangladesh border in Jalangi, Murshidabad, when a tractor toppled on its side, trapping him underneath.

"He was rescued and rushed to the Behrampur Medical College and Hospital. Doctors there detected multiple fractures and spine injury. They said that he should be shifted to Kolkata immediately. It was evening by then. We contacted the IAF immediately. They told us to start moving towards Kolkata by road with the patient while preparations for the airlift were made. When we



reached Krishnanagar, the IAF informed us that a helicopter had been assigned to pick him up from there," a senior BSF official of the South Bengal Frontier said.

Meanwhile, a Mi-17V5 helicopter from the 157 Helicopter Unit of the IAF, based at Barrackpore, took off with an air ambulance configuration with a qualified medical team on board.

"This was at night and we had to land and take off from an unfamiliar heliport. The experienced pilots accomplished the mission using

Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) and other aids. It was after midnight when Wani was handed over to a medical team waiting at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The transfer from Krishnanagar took a few minutes. By road, it would have taken several hours," an IAF official said.

Constable Wani has been admitted to the state-run SSKM Hospital in Kolkata where doctors said that his injuries are serious. He is stable though.

PM MODI TO VISIT UZBEKISTAN FOR SCO SUMMIT

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Uzbekistan on September 15-16, at the invitation of its President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to attend the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

The SCO Summit will be attended by leaders of SCO member states, observer states, the SCO Secretary General, the Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), the President of Turkmenistan and other guests.

During the Summit, the leaders are expected to review the organisation's activities over the past two decades and discuss the state and prospects of multilateral cooperation in the future. Topical issues of regional and global importance are also expected to be discussed at the meeting.

The Prime Minister is also likely to hold a few bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit.

PAWAR IS NOT PM FACE, OPPN UNITY PARAMOUNT: PRAFUL PATEL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

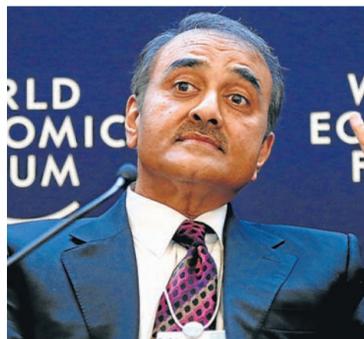
After the national council meeting of NCP on Sunday, party general secretary Praful Patel said that Sharad Pawar was not a contender for the prime minister's post, and the opposition unity was paramount.

He said Pawar was going to play an important role to bring many forces together.

Patel said, "Sharad Pawar was never and will never be the PM face. He only speaks about the real issues of this country. Some workers of the party expressed their views but Sharad Pawar is not aspiring for the PM post.

"We know our limitations and he is not the opposition's face but will play an important role."

Patel said the NCP was going to play a key role in the upcoming General Elections. But the party's stand was clear that there was a need for the Opposition to unite.



"We were also a part of the UPA government. We don't have any such issue with the Congress," he

said. Sharad Pawar was re-elected as the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President on Saturday unopposed during the party's national executive meeting.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who was in the national capital recently met scores of political leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, CPI-M Secretary General Sitaram Yechury, CPI's D. Raja and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Nitish Kumar's purpose of visit was to talk about the opposition unity. He is likely to meet Sonia Gandhi when she returns from abroad. Kumar had also met RJD leader Lalu Prasad and TRS Chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao. A

Nitish Kumar officially denied any prime ministerial ambition, but the political commentators feel that the target is PM's chair. However, the biggest obstacle is the Congress, which is maintaining that being the biggest political formation it's going to be the fulcrum of any alliance.

Redmi battery explosion allegedly kills Delhi-NCR woman, Xiaomi probing incident

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After a YouTuber claimed on social media that her aunt allegedly died after her Redmi 6A smartphone exploded near her on the bed while sleeping, Xiaomi said it was probing the unfortunate incident.

The YouTuber, who goes by the name MD Talk YT, shared screenshots of the exploded phone as well as her aunt lying in a pool of blood on the bed, claiming that an alleged battery explosion killed her relative who was living in the Delhi-NCR region.

"Yesterday in night my aunt was found dead, she was using a Redmi 6A, she was sleeping and she kept the phone near her face on the pillow side & after sometime her phone blasted. It's a bad time for us. It's a responsibility of a brand to support," the

tweet read. Xiaomi replied in a tweet, saying the company is working to reach out to the impacted family and investigate the situation.

"At Xiaomi India, customer safety is of utmost importance and we take such matters extremely seriously. Our team is trying to get in touch with the affected family and determine the cause of the incident".

The YouTuber from Haryana further posted that the victim's son is serving in the Indian Army and the family lives a very simple life.

"Her family is so simple, her son is in the Indian Army. They don't know so much. She only uses her phone just for calling & watching YouTube. Now if brands don't accept their mistakes, don't take responsibility directly, if a family has to fight for justice then what's the use," the YouTuber said in a tweet.

DELHI POLICE VAN RAMS INTO SCOOTY, INJURES TWO WOMEN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

CCTV footage of an incident has surfaced in which a Delhi Police van could be seen hitting a scooter due to which two women suffered grievous injuries.

After the incident, the police personnel allegedly tried to convince the women for a compromise.

The incident took place at around 2 a.m. in Dwarik's Bindapur on September 4.

The women have alleged that the police personnel were in an inebriated condition. "Both the women were on their way home from office on a scooter when they were hit by a police van. The women have alleged they



were offered money to not to lodge any complaint in this regard," the source said.

The women have alleged that the police destroyed the evidence by wiping off the blood stains from road.

When contacted, the police said that they were unaware about the incident.

"This incident is not in our knowledge," said a senior police official.

KCR discusses agenda of proposed national party with Kumaraswamy

Hyderabad | Agencies

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and and JD-S leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday discussed the agenda of the national party proposed to be launched by the former.

The Janata Dal-Secular leader met KCR, as the Telangana Rashtra Samiti leader is popularly known, at the latter's official residence and they discussed a wide range of issues relating to national politics during the three-hour long meeting.

KCR told Kumaraswamy that the formation of the national party and formulation of policies will soon take place after continuing discussions with intellectuals, economists, and experts from various fields and

reaching a consensus on an alternative national agenda.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, they discussed the threat of a political and governance crisis in the country if the BJP's "destructive political moves are not stopped". They felt that people of the country are waiting for an alternative political platform that will carry on the spirit of the Indian Constitution by integrating all communities irrespective of castes, religions and regions, it said.

The two leaders arrived at a consensus that they should put an end to the BJP rule, which is exploiting emotional issues, and use the upcoming general elections as a platform for that.

Kumaraswamy asserted that the immense experience of KCR, who achieved Telangana state by uniting



all sections and moving forward in a democratic and peaceful manner, is required by the country in the present situation.

He felt that KCR should move forward to constitute an alternative front in the national politics and

play a key role and assured his full support. He added that the country urgently needs a senior leader like KCR in the wake of the space for an alternative in the current national politics.

Kumaraswamy congratulated

KCR saying that the entire country is discussing the development achieved by Telangana in just a span of eight years and the whole nation also wants to have similar development.

The TRS leader stressed the need to collectively thwart the conspiracies to create division among people. The two leaders discussed the "dangerous and selfish political path" adopted by the BJP government at the Centre and its consequences and expressed serious concerns.

They arrived at a consensus that they will protect the country from being pushed into dangerous religious hatred in any situation. In this direction, they stressed the need for unity of all alternative political forces to safeguard the spirit of the country's democratic federalism.



RS 50L SOLATIUM TO KIN OF MARTYRED K'TAKA FOREST PERSONNEL: BOMMAI

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

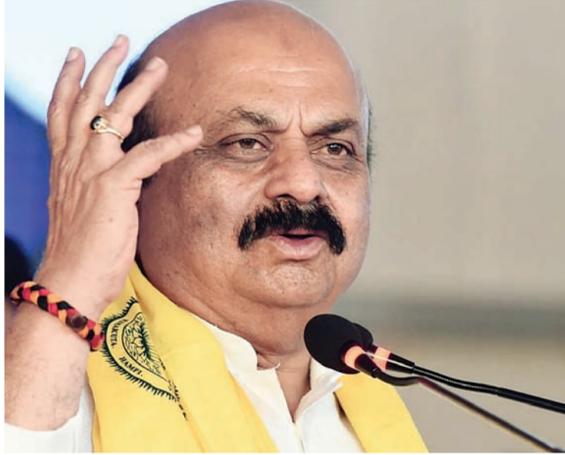
Karnataka has decided to significantly hike the solatium provided to the families of forest department personnel who lose their lives while on duty. Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai announced on Sunday that the state government will raise the solatium amount from the existing Rs 30 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

He was speaking after paying respects to martyrs as part of National Forest Martyrs Day-2022 organised by the Forest Department here on Sunday.

Bommai said his predecessor, B.S. Yediyurappa had hiked the solatium paid to martyrs from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.

The incumbent government will further hike from Rs 30 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

Now, the government will ensure appointment of martyrs' family members on compassionate grounds and



their welfare with utmost sympathy. "You protect the forest, the government will protect you." The chief minister also said that

the government plans to increase the forest cover from 21 per cent to 30 per cent. He pointed out that Karnataka has over 4 lakh hectares of barren land and afforestation can be taken up to increase the forested area. Pointing out that Karnataka is the first state in the country to present an environment budget, Bommai said the department is formulating the environment budget and the government has already given its approval for the action plan.

"This year, an afforestation programme will be taken up at a cost of Rs 100 crore. A special plan has been chalked out by the forest department to conserve the ecologically sensitive areas. The Department of Forest and Environment has taken special interest to protect natural resources and to minimise loss to the environment. By implementing the action plan this year, a new model will be prepared and increase the forest cover," Bommai stated.

Haryana CM suspends additional SHO over dereliction of duty

Gurugram | Agencies

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar while presiding over the District Grievance Redressal Committee meeting on Sunday suspended an additional station house officer (SHO), sub-inspector (SI) Satinder, who was then posted at Sohna Sadar police station over allegations of dereliction of duty.

The SI has been placed under suspension with immediate effect and transferred to police lines, Gurugram.

According to the police, the SI was investigating a case related to the fraudulent extortion of money in the name of a Group-D job in the Prime Minister's Office.

In connection with the matter, a case was filed by one Anil Kumar, a resident of Sohna in which he alleged that he had given Rs 3.5 lakh



to the accused person. Sohna police, during the investigation, had told it to be a case of mutual money transaction saying that there is no evidence or instrument of money transaction between the complainant and the accused.

The Deputy District Attorney (DDA), appointed by the Police Commissioner, Gurugram, had prima facie considered it to be a civil matter between the two parties. The CM has also

ordered to take action against the DDA for giving the wrong opinion to the police in this matter. The DDA of the Police Commissioner's Office had described the corruption case as a civil case of money transactions.

Apart from this, in the meeting, 19 complaints were placed before the Chief Minister, out of which after hearing all the parties, 16 complaints were settled on the spot.

Man kidnaps girl to raise her as his child, held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A man, who kidnapped a four-year-old girl, was arrested, and the victim was rescued from his possession within 24 hours by the Outer District Police.

A senior police official said that the accused was identified Sunil alias Bhura. He kidnapped the girl as he had no children.

The official said that on September 9 at around 5 p.m. they got a call regarding the kidnapping of a girl. A complaint in this regard was later on lodged with Raj Park Police Station. The official said that they lodged an FIR and formed a team to look into the matter.

"We scanned a number of CCTV footages and in one of the footages a man could be seen taking away a girl. With the help of local intelligence, the man was identified as Sunil alias Bhura who lived in Bagpat district of UP. We sent a team to his village and found that the accused had abandoned in Rogarh area and had fled," the police said.



The police team rescued the girl from a nearby area of a police station in Bagpat. Later on, the accused was also held from his native place.

"The accused is a divorcee and a drunkard. He kidnapped the girl as he has no children. He wanted to raise her as his own. But he got scared and had abandoned her on the way," the official said. The girl was handed over to her family and the accused was lodged in judicial custody.

TN YOUTH KILLED WHILE TRYING TO WAVE ATOP TRAIN ENGINE

Chennai | Agencies

A youth, who had reached Tamil Nadu's Paramkudi on Saturday to pay respects to iconic Dalit leader Immanuel Sekaran, was electrocuted to death while he was trying to wave a flag from atop a train engine he had climbed, police said.

The youth, later identified as Vijay, was electrocuted when the pole of his flag got in contact with the overhead high power lines.

September 11 is the death anniversary of Sekaran and people from all walks of life reach Paramkudi to pay respects to the late Dalit leader at his memorial.

Senior political leaders from all parties, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's son and DMK youth leader Udaynidhi Stalin, had reached Paramkudi on Sunday morning to pay respects to Sekaran.

Police and railway officials said that a few youths barged into the Paramkudi railway station and Vijay came forward and jumped on top of the engine of the Tiruchi-Rameswaram Express train that had just reached the railway station but suffered the shock. He was rushed to General Hospital, Paramkudi where he was declared dead.

Two TN police stations get ISO 9001 certification

Chennai | Agencies

The Tindivanam and Brammadesam police stations in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district have received ISO: 9005 certification.

Both stations also have a garden, reception, mini library, and surveillance camera system.

The certification document of ISO: 9005 states that the two police stations' record in enforcement of laws, prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes, maintenance of law and order, and response to emergencies meets the requirement of the certification.

The two stations also won the Quality Council of India award for Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH), for ensuring safety and hygiene in workplace. The two stations have added up facilities to make them more accessible to the public. Villupuram District Superintendent of Police, S. Shreenatha told media persons that the two stations received the certification for



streamlining station records, maintenance of cleanliness, and also creating a visitor-friendly atmosphere.

Petrol, diesel prices regulated by election dates, not by global rates: Cong

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Sunday alleged that petrol and diesel prices were regulated by the election dates and not due to the global rates.

Addressing a press conference, party spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh alleged that retail inflation, GDP growth, and a depreciating rupee are some of the examples that paint a concerning picture of how the economy was being managed.

He alleged that the BJP government was creating new lows with more data points released by its own government. The middle and lower-income groups suffer the most due to the callousness and incompetence of the government.

"Retail inflation has been above RBI's upper band of 6 per cent for the last seven months. Commodities such as food, vegetables, and fuel hurt the middle and lower-income groups most. The government has been primarily the most inconsiderate towards the fuel prices. Since they have a cascading effect



across all economic activities, the government's inactions speak of its cluelessness and misguided focus," he said.

The party leader said the prices of crude oil have been consistently on a downward spiral for the last few months and are at a seven-month low.

"But the prices of petrol and diesel in our country don't seem to reflect this trend, even after deregulation, which means that the prices of petrol and diesel should change as per the global prices." As per the Petroleum

Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC, Government of India), Crude Oil Indian Basket as on September 8 was USD 88.00 per bbl.

On May 21, the government announced a cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 8 and Rs 6 a litre, respectively, leading to a reduction of petrol rates by Rs 9.5 per litre and diesel by Rs 7 per litre "After elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, the petrol and diesel prices were increased 9 times in 10 days between March 20 and March 31," Vallabh said.

Tension in AP town as TDP stages protest over ex-minister's remarks

Vijayawada | Agencies

Tension prevailed in Gudur town of Andhra Pradesh's Krishna district on Sunday during a protest by the leaders of opposition TDP against former minister Kodali Nani over his remarks against TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu, general secretary Nara Lokesh and women leaders of the party.

Police detained Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders who reached Gudur and were proceeding to the police station to lodge a complaint against Nani, MLA from Gudur.

Soon after the leaders left the TDP office, the police arrested them. They included former minister Uma Maheswar Rao and former chairman of RTC Varla Ramaiah. The arrested leaders were shifted to Gudur police station.

Some more TDP leaders reached the town either by APSRTC buses or on two-wheelers



to stage the protest. They were on their way to One Town police station to lodge the complaint but they were stopped by the police, who had erected barricades.

The police officers told TDP leaders to give them their complaint. However, the TDP leaders

insisted that they be allowed to go to the police station and lodge the complaint. There was heated argument between the two sides, leading to pushing and jostling.

In the melee, some of the leaders managed to remove the police barricades. Raising slogans against

Nani, they reached the police station but found its gate locked. They questioned the police officers over locking the gate instead of receiving their complaint. The police officers allowed four leaders to enter the premises. They lodged a complaint against the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and demanded action against him.

The TDP has taken strong exception to certain remarks made by Nani against women leaders of the party and also against Chandrababu Naidu and his son Nara Lokesh.

Earlier, a delegation of TDP leaders from Krishna district lodged a complaint with Tadepalli police against Nani.

Cautioning the YSRCP MLA to control his mouth, the TDP leaders said Nani would be chased away from Gudur soon.

Women leaders of TDP had also tried to lay siege to the house of Nani in Gudur on September 6.

SALMAN KHAN WAS ON TARGET LIST OF BISHNOI GANG: PUNJAB DGP

Chandigarh | Agencies

Bollywood actor Salman Khan was on the target list on instructions from jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who orchestrated the killing of famed Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Sunday.

The preliminary interrogation of Moosewala murder accused Kapil Pandit revealed that he was approached by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang through Sampat Nehra and Canada-based fugitive Goldy Brar to carry out the killing of Salman Khan, the state police chief told the media here.

Santosh Jadhav, who was arrested in Maharashtra in the Moosewala killing, and Sachin Thapan, who has been detained in Azerbaijan, was also part of the module to allegedly target Salman Khan.

Salman Khan had received a threat days after Moosewala murder in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29.

"They had done an elaborate recon and they spent a lot of time in Mumbai and we will also verify this angle in the investigation," Yadav said, adding that "the disclosures on targeting Salman Khan were preliminary and yet to be corroborated. We can even send a team to Mumbai".

Pandit, during interrogation, revealed that earlier also, he had carried out recon for several times with intention to kill Moosewala at the behest of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang to avenge the killing of youth Akali leader Vicky Middukhera's murder, the DGP added.



Pandit got parole to attend the last rites of his mother and has been absconding since then for the murder of a person in his native Bevad village in Rajasthan's Churu district.

The DGP said concerted efforts are being made to arrest the gangsters who had escaped overseas. As a result, gangster Thapan has been detained in Azerbaijan, and soon he will be extradited to India. The police have submitted a challan against 24 accused in this case, he added.

Punjab Police on Saturday arrested the sixth and last shooter -- Deepak Mundi -- in the Moosewala murder case along with his two aides Kapil Pandit and Rajinder Joker from the Indo-Nepal border in West Bengal when they were attempting to escape to Nepal.

The operation was carried out jointly by the Punjab Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) along with Delhi Police and central agencies.

Pandit and Joker provided logistical support, including weapons and hideouts to the accused.

A team of AGTF led by AIG Gurmeet Chauhan and DSP Bikram Brar brought Mundi and his two aides to Punjab by air on Saturday night.

With these three arrests, the total number of arrests in the Moosewala murder case rose to 23, and two shooters identified as Manpreet Singh alias Manu Kussa and Jagroop Singh alias Roopa were neutralized during an encounter in Bhakna village of Amritsar.



CM CHOUHAN CHECKS PREPARATIONS FOR SHG CONFERENCE IN KARAHAL

Team Absolute | KARAHAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today took stock of the preparations for the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Karahal in Sheopur district and the orientation-cum-conference of Self-Help Groups. After discussing with the administrative officers about the preparations, he also gave instructions. The Chief Minister seemed satisfied with the arrangements. Chief Minister Chouhan sought information from senior officials of the Forest Department about the entire process of the relocation of cheetahs from Namibia (Africa) in the Kuno National Park. He also discussed with the officers involved in this important responsibility. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Forest and Environment Bhupendra Yadav, MP V.D. Sharma, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture and Sheopur district in-charge Bharat Singh Kushwaha, MLA Sitaram Adivasi, Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department Umakant



Umrao, Commissioner of Gwalior and Chambal divisions Ashish Saxena, ADGP Rajesh Chawla, Collector Sheopur Shivam Verma, Superintendent of Police Alok Kumar Singh and officers of the concerned department were present. Gwalior and Chambal divisional commissioner Ashish Saxena, ADGP Rajesh Chawla, Collector Chief Minister Chouhan discussed about the stage, meeting arrangements, drinking water, emergency services including medical facilities and security arrangements in connection with Prime Minister Modi's visit to

Karahal on September 17. He also inquired about the work being done in the direction of orientation of self-help groups. He also reviewed in detail the arrangements made at the venue and the transportation of members of the Self-Help Group to and from the orientation program. The Chief Minister directed the administrative officers to complete all the preparations within the time limit. He also saw the tents and other arrangements put up at the venue for the visit of the Prime Minister. Chief Minister Chouhan also gave important suggestions and instructions to

the administrative officers to make all the arrangements effective. Chief Minister Chouhan also discussed the media plan with the administrative officers. Conference of women of Self Help Groups. Chief Minister Chouhan sought information about the orientation of the women of the Self-Help Groups associated with the MP State Rural Livelihood Mission and the preparations for the co-conference to be held at Karahal in Sheopur district. He directed the departmental officers the necessary arrangements should be made for the women participating in the conference. The groups also sought information about the activities of vegetable and milk production, incense sticks, handwash, soap making, agriculture and animal husbandry based livelihood activities and operation of Aajeevika Poshan Vatika. Prime Minister Modi will seek information about the entrepreneurship of the members of the group. Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Mahendra Singh Sisodia and Sheopur district in-charge minister Bharat Singh Kushwaha welcomed Chief Minister Chouhan with a bouquet on his arrival at Karahal Helpad.

PM visit to MP expected to set in motion BJP's 2023 campaign

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Madhya Pradesh on his birthday on September 17, during which he will attend a series of programmes, and sound the poll bugle for his party in the state, where elections will be held next year. The PM's visit comes ahead of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entering the state. Prime Minister Modi's visit is being considered very important politically, because the Assembly elections are to be held in the state next year and the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. Overall, through this visit, he will give a direct message to the people because the elections in the state are going to be fought with the face of the Prime Minister. After this visit of the Prime Minister, many more events are likely to take place in the state. Among them is the Investors Summit to be held in Indore, apart from a programme to inaugurate the corridor of Ujjain. The BJP is excited about the Prime Minister's visit. While discussing with the officials all the aspects related to the preparations for Modi's visit, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the Prime Minister's visit would mainly include the releasing of cheetahs, brought from from Namibia in the Palpur Kuno National Park and a programme with the women self-help groups in Karahal. A development exhibition will also be organised on this occasion. Presentation of the works being done to give impetus to the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme in the various districts of Madhya Pradesh will also be included. The ODOP projects related to mustard oil in Morena district, groundnut

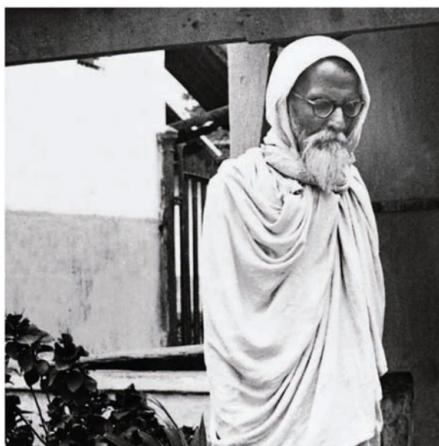


oil in Shivpuri district, angavastra made in Chanderi, jackets made in Shivpuri, Gond painting of Dindori and activities related to millet products and their production and manufacturing, etc, will be mentioned before the PM. The BJP also wants to make the Prime Minister's tour special. Party's state President Vishnudutt Sharma said, "It is a matter of pride for the workers of Madhya Pradesh that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is coming on September 17 for the shifting of eight African cheetahs to the Kuno National Park. All the party workers are excited by his visit and are preparing to welcome him. From September 17, the birthday of the Prime Minister, till October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the BJP will celebrate Seva Pakhwada. Under this, many campaigns of public service including blood donation camps will be run."

CM Chouhan pays tribute to Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today paid floral tributes to the leader of the land donation movement Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his 127th anniversary, in the CM's residence hall. Chief Minister Chouhan also reminisced his works. Vinayak Narhari Bhave (Acharya Vinoba Bhave) was born on September 11, 1895 in a village of Konkan region, he was a very learned and thoughtful personality. He also made a deep study of modern theories of economics, politics and philosophy. He was the first Indian to receive the International Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1958. With the aim of bringing about social change in the nation through non-violent



measures, Vinoba Ji established Sarvodaya Samaj. He passed away on 15 November 1982 in Wardha. In 1983, he was posthumously awarded the country's highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna".

Train mishap averted at MP's Beena

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A stunt by a biker on railway track could have resulted a major mishap in Madhya Pradesh, but the alertness of loco pilot, who had timely reduced the speed of train, averted the incident. The stunt could have led to derailment of the train, jeopardizing lives of passengers on board. The incident reported near Beena railway station under Sagar district on Saturday afternoon. A biker, who later identified as Brijesh Shukla was attempting stunt on railway track, in the mean time, Kerala Express (New Delhi-Trivandrum Express) was heading towards the platform. Biker (Shukla) bounced off while his motorcycle got crushed as the train rammmed into it. It got stuck into the cattle guard at the bottom of the engine's front, said a railway official. The mishap was averted as the train was moving at a low speed at the time of the accident, the official added. The railway staff immediately swung into action and pulled out the crushed bike from the engine. Official



said that it took around 45 minutes to complete the process to clear the track. Due to which, several trains including Shaan-e-Bhopal Express got delayed by one and half hours.

The railway safety department officials said that the speed of a train arriving on a platform is reduced to 30 km per hour. However, the loco pilot of the express train had spotted

the bike and had reduced the speed further. Biker has been arrested and was sent to railway police custody for further inquiry into the matter, officials added.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS SAPLINGS WITH PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today planted saplings in the Smart Garden located in Shyamla Hills and also offered Shramdaan. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, public representatives and members of voluntary organisations planted saplings of Neem, Gular and Moulshree. Members of Lions Club Rajesh Bhatt, Mahesh Sharma, Bhupendra Patel, Jyoti Sharma, Pratik Chakradhar among others participated. The Bhopal unit of the club has been



working for environmental protection for many years. Dheeraj Soni and Anil Agarwal 'Lily' planted saplings along with Chief Minister Chouhan on his birthdays. Krishna Mohan Soni and Preeti Agarwal were also present.

Importance of plants : Moulshree planted today is a medicinal tree, it has been used in Ayurveda for centuries. Rich in antibiotic elements, Neem is known as the supreme medicine. The fruits of Gular are like figs, it is also an important tree from the point of view of Ayurveda.

Speedy work is being done in MP towards realizing the resolutions of PM Modi - CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Indore

CM Chouhan has said that PM Narendra Modi is an extraordinary and unique personality. Under his able leadership, India has achieved new heights in the world, the country's prestige has increased at the international level and all-round development is taking place. Work is being done at a fast pace in the direction of realizing the resolutions of Prime Minister Modi in M.P.

CM Chouhan was addressing the function after unveiling the book "Modi@20" in Indore. This

book is a compilation of thoughts and experiences of 22 subject-matter experts, eminent professional personalities and intellectuals. Ministers, MLAs, public representatives and citizens were present.

CM Chouhan said that Prime Minister has set new paradigms in the governance system. Under his leadership, the country's prestige has increased at the international level. Under his Chief Ministership, during the earthquake of Gujarat and under his Prime Ministership during Corona period, better works of disaster management have been done. Be it

the earthquake or the crisis of Corona, etc., have stood with the citizens with a sense of belongingness Today India has become the 5th economic power in the world. Notable work has also been done in the military field. India's security has been strengthened. Enemies have been taught a lesson with rigor. Special attention is being paid towards industrial development in the country. Swadeshi is being brought into the lives of citizens by Prime Minister. He also said that everyone must read the book "Modi @ 20" and move forward towards realizing his resolves.

ASSISTANCE OF RS ONE LAKH EACH TO DEPENDENT MEMBERS OF 4 BRAVE FOREST MARTYRS

Bhopal: Rs one lakh each and citation was given to dependent members of 4 martyrs of the State Forest Department who lost their lives in extreme circumstances like encounter with the criminals during forest and wildlife protection work, attack of wild animals, fire accidents. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Abhay Kumar Patil gave them financial assistance and citation on the occasion of National Forest Martyrs Day held at the Forest Rest House Complex at Char Imli, Bhopal.

It may be noted that National Forest Martyrs Day is celebrated every year on September 11 by the Forest Department. Financial assistance and citation are given to the forest personnel martyred during the last one year through 'Close to My Heart' campaign of Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society. Brave martyr forest worker

Samrat Singh Maravi, who was posted as a daily wage laborer and permanent worker in Kanha Tiger Reserve, died due to an elephant attack while on duty. Sukhdev Paraste, a Contingency Fund worker in Kanha Tiger Reserve itself, was shot dead by left-wing extremists while on duty at Parsatola Sannapur Van Marg in Mukki area on 23 March 2022.

FACTIONALISM INTENSIFIES IN MP BJP AHEAD OF 2023 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Even as the clamour around factionalism, disputes and disagreements among the seasoned leaders of the Congress Madhya Pradesh unit over the highest post in the party which used to be in the public domain, has considerably toned down following intervention by the state's party chief Kamal Nath and Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi in view of the upcoming state assembly elections in 2023, not everything seems to be in proper order in the house of the party's key rival the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The state's ruling BJP, where talks surrounding factionalism and political aspirations used to be behind the curtains, is now grappling with issues such as groupism, with sources claiming things getting escalated as the days for assembly elections are inching closer. The state's top BJP leaders, aspiring to be named as replacement of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, have directly or indirectly began exhibiting strength through their supporters. The fresh round of power show seems to have started after Chouhan was removed from the party's decision making bodies -- parliamentary board and



the central election committee recently -- a development which fuelled enough speculation around change of leadership in Madhya Pradesh. In fact, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's name as replacement of Chouhan -- a

BJP veteran, has already started making rounds in the political alleys. The new Scindia-Vijayvargiya chemistry Scindia, who joined BJP after quitting Congress in March 2020, and seasoned politician from Indore division and BJP's

national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya were often seen as arch-rivals so far -- not only in politics but in the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association (MPCA) as well. However, the "new chemistry" between them throws hints towards the two having shaken hands together to play a new innings in state's political field. At least three such instances within a month's span indicate that. First -- Scindia's meeting with Vijayvargiya at the latter's home in Indore. Second -- Scindia coming down from dais and taking Vijayvargiya on stage during an annual award function of MPCA in Indore; and the third -- power show by Scindia's supporters during his visit to BJP headquarters in Bhopal for a meeting last week. Even as, Vijayvargiya, though often could be heard reiterating that the BJP will stand behind Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and the party will contest the next assembly elections under his (Chouhan) leadership, his political rivalry with Chouhan is not hidden.

Vijayvargiya was among those senior BJP leaders, who were earlier vocal against the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government and remained out of Madhya Pradesh's politics for years.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Mamata in no hurry to bet on Nitish

As Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar is fast emerging as the principal face of the opposition for the 2024 polls, two questions are floating around in the political circles and the corridors of power in West Bengal.

Will Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee be able to bring her party out of the current multiple crisis chain and emerge as a key player in determining terms in the opposition space at the national level for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Will she accept Nitish Kumar as the most accepted face of the Opposition?

On Thursday afternoon while addressing party workers and leaders at Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee remarked about the need for opposition unity against the BJP in 2024, without making it clear whether she would accept Nitish Kumar as the principal face of the opposition.

BJP's national vice-president and party MP, Dilip Ghosh feels that the ambition to be a key player to remove the saffron party from power in New Delhi is an unachievable dream for the Trinamool Congress in the present political situation. The CPI(M) leadership feels that accepting Nitish Kumar as the main opposition face in 2024 is not a problem for them, since the Left Parties in Bihar are already backing the Janata Dal (United) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal alliance government there.

In fact, despite having separate meetings with leaders of political parties like the Congress's Rahul Gandhi, AAP's Arvind Kejriwal, CPI(M)'s Sitaram Yechury and TRS's K Chandrasekhar Roy, the Bihar chief minister is yet to hold any meeting with Mamata Banerjee or any other Trinamool Congress leader.

OPPN CHALLENGE: TOO MANY STATE STALWARTS WHO CAN'T AGREE ON A NATIONAL LEADER

DEEPIKA BHAN

The churn in the opposition camp in view of the general elections that is to happen in less than two years can throw up several possibilities.

It may be too early to predict whether a phoenix emerges or the churn ends in scattering stars. The question is who will challenge Narendra Modi and does any opposition leader have an alternative to 'sabka vishwas' ... and the power of Hindutva?

Presently, the opposition is disjointed, with each party in their own realm, weaving their own webs to stay afloat. According to the Election Commission of India, the total number of registered parties is 2,858 -- eight national parties, 54 state parties and 2,796 unrecognised parties. (This data dates back to September last year.) From time to time, some of these parties come together to form one or the other front.

The country has seen several coalition governments at the Centre as well as in the states. At the Centre, the experiment began in 1977 with the short-lived Janata Party government headed by Morarji Desai.

Then there was the National Front government, first headed by V.P. Singh, followed by the United Front government, first headed by H.D. Deve Gowda in 1996, followed by the BJP-led coalition headed by A.B. Vajpayee in 1997, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 1999, which was followed by the Manmohan Singh-led United Progressive Front in 2004 and 2009. In 2014, the NDA under Narendra Modi took over.

Being out of power for 10 years at the Centre and increasingly losing the states as well, the opposition has been finding itself on the backfoot and almost waning in political influence across the country. But will it be able to come together to take on the BJP? That is the million-dollar question.

After the drubbing in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the opposition was at a loss to figure out how to counter the Modi wave, which remained more or less the same even in the 2019 elections. In between, elections in a number of states have been good off and on for the Opposition. Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and now Maharashtra are examples where the opposition lost despite forming governments initially.

The BJP has been far ahead in its political strategies before and after elections. The opposition, most of the time, has been in a



state of utter disarray with weak strategies and also lacking the will to take on the might of Modi or the BJP.

For any thriving democracy, it is essential to have a robust opposition that can make the people see through the government's policies and decisions, and take up issues meaningfully. This may be an ideal situation, but the fact remains that the opposition, most of the time, has failed to rise to occasion. Whether it is inside Parliament or outside, the general feeling is that despite grave issues confronting the government, and the many sticks to beat the government with, the opposition has not been able to do much, except for Modi bashing.

The opposition has several stalwarts and mass leaders who have individual areas of influence. Such as Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, M.K. Stalin in Tamil Nadu, K. Chandrashekar Rao in Telangana, Nitish

Kumar in Bihar, the Left in Kerala, the Congress in MP and Chhattisgarh, Naveen Patnaik in Odisha, Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra, and the AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal. Besides them, there are the Gandhis and the other dynasts, such as those of Sharad Pawar, Mulayam Singh, Lalu Prasad, Deve Gowda, the Abdullahs and the Muftis. The list is long. The majority of them tasted power for a long time and now want the pie at the Centre.

Most of these leaders dream of taking up the top job of the country. Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee, KCR, Sharad Pawar, and the latest in the list, Arvind Kejriwal, all have made their aspirations known.

The contenders are many, which has perhaps been one of the big hurdles in the way of opposition unity. There is no political party at the national level which can single-hand-

edly take on the Modi-led BJP. The Congress, over the past eight years, has been going downhill, so much so that other parties are shying away from forming alliances with it.

To recover lost ground, the Congress has been betting on its Bharat Jodo Yatra. Rahul Gandhi is aiming to rebuild his party and salvage his image. But more than creating influence, Rahul Gandhi seems to be generating other controversies that threaten to overshadow the Yatra's intent.

Mamata Banerjee finds herself on shaky ground after ministers and leaders from her party have been caught in scams. As stacks of cash recovered from the premises of the leaders of her party get flashed in the media, her image takes a beating.

KCR and Stalin do not carry the same popularity in the rest of the country as they do in their respective states. Their area of influence outside their states is limited.

That leaves two names -- Nitish Kumar and Arvind Kejriwal.

Kejriwal has been gradually increasing his party's footprint across the country. Slowly, he is trying to take over the space vacated by the Congress. His area of influence across the country is rising.

His party is projecting him as PM material, but he may not be ready for the top job in 2024, as a lot will depend upon AAP's performance in Gujarat and Himachal Assembly polls. In case, the BJP takes a hit from the AAP, then Kejriwal will prove to be the biggest contender from the entire opposition.

Nitish Kumar's activism after severing his ties with the BJP in getting the Opposition unified has propelled him to the national stage. Though he has been reluctant to admit that he is a claimant for the top post, his meetings with several other opposition leaders have been enough to make his aspirations public. It is too early to predict whether the Opposition will get united before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The unity to a large extent depends upon the Congress, which insists on being the centre of the alliance. It has been proving to be a speed-breaker in the unity efforts. With several opposition leaders trying to make individual efforts towards some sort of unity, the political game has already begun. With less than two more years to go, the country seems to be entering into a poll mode.

international

S. KOREA'S OPPN LEADER VOICES REGRET OVER N. KOREA'S NUCLEAR POWER PROCLAMATION

Seoul | Agencies

The Chief of South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party (DP) expressed regret on Sunday over North Korea's declaration of a nuclear weapons state and vowed bipartisan efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Lee Jae-myung's comment in a Facebook message came as the North's official News Agency reported on Friday that the country has passed a new law declaring itself a nuclear weapons state and enshrining a right to use preemptive nuclear strikes for self-protection, a move the North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-un called "irreversible". "It is very shocking and wor-



risome. Such a move does not help peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula at all. It will rather make things worse only to cause fatal damage to both South and North Korea and bring tragic results," Lee said. Pyongyang's latest move shows that sanctions and pressure cannot resolve the matter, the chief said, calling on the Seoul government to lead practical action in a proactive manner to achieve peace, news agency reported. "The DP will make bipartisan effort to improve the inter-Korean relations and to achieve the peaceful resolution of the North's nuclear weapons programme," he added.

HINDU TEMPLE IN PAKISTAN BECOMES REFUGE FOR FLOOD

Quetta | Agencies

Tucked in the Kachhi district of Balochistan, the tiny village of Jalal Khan is still reeling from the flooding that destroyed houses and left mass destruction in its wake, Dawn reported. The village was cut off from the rest of the province due to inundation in the Nari, Bolan, and Lehri rivers, leaving the residents of the remote area to fend for themselves. During these testing times, the local Hindu community opened the doors of the Baba Madhoda Mandir to the flood-hit people and their livestock, Dawn reported. According to locals, Baba Madhoda was a pre-partition Hindu dervish (saint) equally cherished by Muslims and Hindus of the area. "He used to travel on camel," says Itaf Buzdar, a frequent visitor to the village from Bhag Nari tehsil. Buzdar says as per the stories narrated by his parents, the saint transcended religious boundaries. "He would think of people through the prism of humanity instead of their caste and creed," he quotes his parents, Dawn reported. The worship place -- frequented by Hindu



worshippers from across Balochistan -- is made of concrete and covers a large area. Since it is located on high ground, it remained relatively safe from the floodwaters and could serve as a sanctuary to the flood-hit people in their bleakest hour. Most members of the Hindu community in Jalal Khan have migrated to other cities of Kachhi for employment and other opportunities, but a couple of families remain on the temple premises to look after it. Rattan Kumar, 55, a shopkeeper in the Bhag Nari tehsil, is in-charge of the temple at present. "There are over one hundred rooms in the temple as a large number of people from all over Balochistan and Sindh come here for pil-

grimage every year," he tells Dawn. It's not like the temple did not bear the brunt of abnormal rains. Sawan Kumar, Rattan's son, told Dawn a few rooms were damaged, but overall the structure remained safe. At least 200-300 people, mostly Muslims, and their livestock were given refuge on the premises and looked after by the Hindu families, Dawn reported. Initially, the area was completely cut off from the rest of the district. The displaced said they were provided rations via helicopter sorties, but after they moved to the temple, they were being fed by the Hindu community. Israr Mugheri is a doctor in Jalal Khan. Since his arrival, he has set up a medical camp inside the temple. "Besides locals, Hindus have also housed the goats and sheep along with other domesticated animals," he told Dawn. "There were announcements on the loudspeaker by the local Hindus, calling upon Muslims to rush to the temple to take refuge," he adds, Dawn reported. Those who took refuge there say they are indebted to the local community for coming to their aid and providing them food and shelter during this difficult hour.

GREEK PM ANNOUNCES MORE MEASURES TO TACKLE ENERGY CRISIS, INFLATION

Athens: Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has announced a package of measures including raising the minimum wage and pensions to further help households and businesses tackle the energy crisis and high inflation. The package, consisting of 21 measures, includes more subsidies for power bills and heating costs in addition to the 8 billion euros (\$8.12 billion) allocated in recent months, news agency reported. Greece will also cut taxes and raise the minimum wage and pensions, which will come into effect by the end of this year and in 2023. Pensions will see for the first time in over a decade an increase, and the gross minimum monthly salary will also further rise, he announced. "They are all necessary measures to support society to get through the heaviest winter in many decades," he said at the opening ceremony of the 86th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), an annual trade fair held in the port city of Thessaloniki in northern Greece.

Turkey says Greek coast guard fires on cargo ship in Aegean

ISTANBUL | Agencies

Greek coast guard ships opened fire on a cargo vessel sailing in international waters in the Aegean Sea, the Turkish coast guard said, escalating tensions between the regional rivals that have mounted in recent weeks. There were no casualties in the shooting 11 nautical miles (13 miles) southwest of the Turkish island of Bozcaada on Saturday, the Turkish statement said. It added that after "harassment fire" from two Greek coast guard vessels, two Turkish coast guard ships went to the area and the Greek boats left. Calls to the Greek Embassy in Ankara went unanswered Sunday, and it wasn't clear why the gunfire occurred. The neighboring countries have been embroiled in disputes for decades and frictions have ratcheted up in recent weeks, with both sides alleging airspace violations. Greek



officials have raised concerns about another outbreak of conflict in Europe, following Russia's war in Ukraine. Turkey says Greece is breaking international agreements by keeping a military presence on islands close to Turkey's Aegean coastline. It also has

accused Greek air defenses of locking on to Turkish fighter jets during NATO exercises over the eastern Mediterranean. Greece says it needs to defend its eastern islands - including tourist hotspots Rhodes and Kos, which are much closer to Turkey than to

the Greek mainland - against its larger and militarily stronger neighbor. Video footage from Saturday purportedly shows a Greek coast guard ship alongside the Comoros-flagged ship Anatolian as the sound of about a dozen gunshots are heard.

China legislator criticizes sanctions on visit to Russia

BEIJING | Agencies

Chinese state media say the country's top legislator decried sanctions against Russia during a recent visit to the country, underscoring China's backing of Moscow in its war on Ukraine despite claims of neutrality. The official News Agency said Li Zhanshu urged greater cooperation on "fighting against external interference, sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, among others," in a meeting with Russian lawmakers Thursday. Li also held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin ahead of an expected meeting this month between Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at a regional gathering in Uzbekistan. That would mark Xi's first trip outside China since the pandemic began in early 2020. Li is a member of the Communist Party's all-powerful Politburo Standing

Committee and is considered one of Xi's closest confidants, the two having worked together for decades. Ranked third in the Communist Party hierarchy, Li is the highest-level official to travel abroad since the start of the pandemic. The meeting at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization - a political, economic and security forum that China and Russia dominate - comes as Putin faces setbacks in his attempt to conquer Ukraine and Xi prepares for a congress of the ruling Communist Party that is expected to grant him a third five-year term as leader. Russia also backed Beijing's condemnation of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last month to Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that China threatens to annex by force. "Li thanked the Russian side for firmly supporting China on the Taiwan question reported.



PM MODI IS THE SOUL OF INDIA, HE'LL NEVER LOSE: MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Minister Suresh Khade has claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the "soul of the country" who resided in the hearts of the people and was "undefeatable". His effusive praise for the Prime Minister came while answering a query on Nationalist Congress Party chief Jayant Patil claiming it was impossible to defeat the latter's party supremo Sharad Pawar and his relative from Baramati area in the state. Mr Patil had said the sun may rise in the west but a political defeat in the Baramati home turf for the Pawars was not possible. The state minister for social justice was speaking to reporters in Pandharpur, some 360 km



from Mumbai, on Saturday. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the soul of this country. He is undefeatable. (Former PMs) Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Indira

Gandhi lost elections in their time, but Modi will never lose," Mr Khade asserted. He went on to say that Bharatiya Janata Party patriarch LK Advani had also lost polls,

though this was factually not correct as the party stalwart has won every Lok Sabha poll he contested between 1977 and 2014. He did not contest the 2019 general elections. Responding to Mr Patil, Suresh Khade said the electorate decided on victories and defeats in politics and such statements did not mean much. However, when queried about Prime Minister Modi also being at the mercy of the voters like others, Mr Khade said, "Modi is the soul of India. He is there in the hearts of people. He cannot be defeated." Indira Gandhi lost the Lok Sabha polls of 1977, while Atal Bihari Vajpayee lost a bypoll in 1955, was defeated from one of the two seats he contested in 1957, and then lost in 1962 and 1984 as well.

12 KG GOLD WORTH 5.38 CRORE SEIZED AT MUMBAI AIRPORT

Mumbai: Twelve-kilogram gold valued at 5.38 Crore has been seized by the officers of the Mumbai Airport customs on Sunday. The gold was seized from a specially designed belt worn by a Sudanese passenger. According to the customs, some passengers at the airport created commotion to help the accused escape but were overpowered. The customs officer added, "A total of 6 passengers have been detained and 6 others are being deported." Further information is awaited. Earlier, in another case, the Mumbai Airport Customs seized 1.3 kgs of cocaine valued at 13 crore at the Mumbai International Airport. The police arrested one passenger from Ghana who was intercepted on August 28. According to the information received from the police, the accused had concealed cocaine drugs inside his stomach.

Fake Invoice Racket Worth 132 Crore Busted In Mumbai, 1 Arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bhiwandi Commissionerate of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) in Mumbai Zone busted a fake invoice racket worth 132 crore and availing/passing on Input Tax credit of 23 crore. The main accused of the syndicate has been identified as Hasmukh Patel and was arrested. He is at present in judicial custody till September 23. According to the reports of CGST, the anti-evasion wing of CGST Bhiwandi Commissionerate was investigating various fake firms namely Mectech Steel Trading Private Limited UGSK Trader, M/s World Enterprises, M/s Rolex Enterprises and M/s HHT Enterprises and Yesh Enterprises wherein various direct and indirect links were established between these firms and Hasmukh Patel. Based on specific intelligence,



an anti-evasion wing of CGST Bhiwandi Commissionerate conducted a search operation at the residential premises of the accused who was wanted in eight of the ongoing investigation cases for his alleged role in GST fraud. "A probe revealed that the accused Hasmukh Patel allegedly created a web of these fake firms, through which they generated fake invoices of 132 crore and availed/passing on fake ITC of 23.16 crore without supplying any goods and services."

CGST reports stated. "The accused confessed that he has floated 36 fake GST firms and established a network to pass on fake Input Tax Credit which is spread across various GST Commissionerate," also stated. Based on material evidence gathered during the investigation, the aforesaid accused mastermind was arrested on September 9, 2022 under section 69 of the CGST Act, 2017 for contravention of section 132 of the CGST Act, 2017.

Five arrested from Uddhav's faction of Shiv Sena over controversial social media post

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Five people from the Uddhav Thackeray faction were arrested by the Mumbai police over a controversial social media post. Cases were also registered against 30-40 others from the same group. Santosh Talvane, a party worker from the Shinde faction had lodged a complaint against some people from the Uddhav group, acting upon which the cases were registered. The matter started when the workers of both factions of Shiv Sena (Uddhav and Shinde) came across each other during the Ganesh Visarjan on Friday. The crossover was followed by an argument and ruckus on Saturday night. Workers from the Uddhav faction gathered outside MLA Sarvankar's building and



started shouting slogans against him. People from the Shinde faction also reached the spot leading to the ruckus kind of situation between the two factions. The Shinde faction led by MLA Sada Sarvankar complained against the MLAs of the Uddhav faction in the Dadar Police station regarding a social media post. On the other hand, Sunil Shinde, the



MLC from the Uddhav faction accused Savrankar of opening fire and taking the law into his hands. The police are investigating the truth behind the allegations of opening fire. The Police are also registering the statements of the people from the Uddhav faction. Further course of action will be decided based on the recorded statements.

DEPOSIT RS 12,000 CRORE FOR FAILURE TO TREAT SOLID, LIQUID WASTE

NAGPUR | Agencies

The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi passed an order two days ago directing the Maharashtra government to pay a compensation of Rs 12,000 crores for failure to treat solid and liquid waste generated in the state. The amount will be utilized for taking up restoration measures. Judges Adarsh Kumar Goel and Sudhir Agarwal directed the state to deposit the amount within two months in a separate "ring-fenced account" (for a specific purpose) to be operated as per directives of the chief secretary. "In respect of gap in treatment of liquid waste/sewage - 5420.33 million litres per day (MLD) - compensation works out to Rs 1,08,40.66 crores and for un-remediated legacy waste to the extent of 3,94,19,287 (measure not specified) works out roughly to be about Rs 1,200 crores. We round off the compensation



amount at the rate of Rs. 12,000 crores," NGT said. Following orders dated September 2, 2014 of the Supreme Court, the NGT is monitoring the issues of solid as well as liquid waste management. "Restoration measures with respect to sewage

management would include setting up of sewage treatment and utilization systems, upgrading systems/operations to ensure utilization of their full capacities, ensuring compliance of standards, including those of fecal coliform and setting up

of proper fecal sewage and sludge management in rural areas. With regard to solid waste management, the action plan would include setting up of required waste processing plants and remediation of left out 84 sites," the NGT stated. The NGT coram, with expert A Senthil Vel as the third member, added that bioremediation/bio-mining processes need to be executed as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines and the stabilized organic waste from biomining as well as from compost plants need to comply with laid down specifications. "Other material recovered during such processes are to be put to use through authorized dealers. This restoration plan needs to be planned and executed in a time bound manner without further delay. If violations continue, liability to pay additional compensation may have to be considered. Compliance will be the responsibility of the chief secretary," NGT ordered.

Sena vs Sena Fight In Mumbai During Ganesh Idol

During the Ganesh immersion in Mumbai's Dadar, a clash broke out between the two Shiv Sena factions. Both the factions accused the other of starting the scuffle on Friday night in the Prabhadevi area of Mumbai.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Supreme Court bench is currently hearing the battle between Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on claim over the party. Santosh Talvane, a local leader in the Shinde faction, claimed that the Thackeray camp workers attacked and threatened them during the immersion procession. The Thackeray faction, meanwhile, claims that a leader from the rival camp fired at their leader Mahesh Sawant. The police are conducting an investigation and have not



released an official statement yet. Dussehra is expected to be the next flashpoint between the two factions. Both sides claim to be the "real" Shiv Sena and have sought permission to hold the party's annual Dussehra rally in Mumbai's Shivaji Park. Mumbai's civic body has said it had received applications from the Uddhav Thackeray and Shinde-led factions of the Shiv Sena to "book" the sprawling Shivaji Park for the party's Dussehra rally in October. In June, a rebellion by Mr Shinde and 39 of 55 MLAs of the Shiv Sena led to the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

Reliance Capital bidders seek extension

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reliance Capital bidders have sought an extension of time for submission of binding bids. According to sources, Piramal Finance has sought extension by 12 weeks, while Advent has sought time till January 30, 2023, i.e., 16 weeks extension for submission of binding bid, as the company has not yet done due diligence. There are other bidders also who have sought a similar extension of timeline for filing of binding bids. IndusInd has sought 10 weeks extension, Oaktree has asked for 12 weeks and Zurich has requested for 8 weeks extension. As per the current timeline, the last date for submission of binding bids is 29 September, along with an EMD of Rs 75 crore. COC will be meeting in the coming week to decide on a time extension



to maximise the value for lenders and ensure maximum binding bids for RCAP assets. The timeline for filing of final Resolution Plan with NCLT is November 1, 2022. Reliance Capital had received 6 bids under option-1, i.e., for Reliance Capital as a company. Torrent, IndusInd, Oaktree, Cosmea Financial, Authum Investment, and B Right Real Estate have submitted bids in the range of Rs 4,000 crore to Rs 4,500 crore for Reliance Capital's entire assets. For

Reliance General Insurance business, Piramal Finance has bid Rs 4,000 crore, while Zurich Insurance's bid is Rs 3,500 crore. The third bidder, i.e., Advent has bid Rs 7,000 crore for Reliance General Insurance. Jindal Steel and Power and UVARC have submitted bids for Reliance Capital's ARC business. For other assorted assets of Reliance Capital, three bidders -- Choice Equity, Global Fincap and Grand Bhawan have submitted the bids.

India only major country to grow in smart personal audio market

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India was the only country that bucked the global negative trend in the smart personal audio shipments in the second quarter (Q2) this year, registering a huge 55 per cent growth. The worldwide smart personal audio shipments fell by 1.7 per cent year on year to 98.1 million units, according to market research firm Canalsys. India, the world's third largest smart personal audio market, increased shipments by a massive 55 per cent. But growth in India was insufficient to offset the overall global decline, with the US down 1 per cent and China down 13 per cent. TWS was the only smart personal



audio category to grow, recording 8 per cent growth at 63 million units, and India is the key driver behind the

TWS growth. "Without India's impressive growth, the global TWS market would have gone into a decline," said analyst Ashweej Aithal. "India's massive appetite for smart personal audio devices is for local and global players to tap into. But vendors must rethink their strategies in this highly competitive market in an increasingly challenging economic environment," Aithal added. Consumers in India are quickly moving to TWS, leading to growth in the wireless earphones category slowing to 11.1 per cent. TWS shipments in India grew 217.9 per cent to 7 million units, an 11 per cent global share, its highest ever.

Unions seek 'forensic audit' of UTI-AMC's 'Rs 2,000-cr exposure' in DHFL scam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a new dimension to the Dewan Housing Finance Ltd. (DHFL) fraud, an apex banking union and the staff of the UTI-AMC have demanded a "forensic audit" into their company's purported "Rs 2000-crore exposure" into the scam-hit group of Dheeraj R. Wadhawan and Kapil R. Wadhawan. The staffers' groups are: the Mumbai-based All India UTI-AMC Officers' Association (AIUTI-AMCOA) and the external but influential Chennai-based All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA). The AIUTI-AMCOA and AIBOA have shot off separate letters to various entities while a top leader has sought Central government's directions to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) Department to probe the matter thoroughly as it involved "huge public funds". AIUTI-AMCOA Chairman Vishwas Utagi and General Secretary Pawan K. Abrol have written to the Joint Secretary,

Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance and the SEBI Chairman on the losses allegedly suffered by the UTI Treasury Advantage Fund in the DHFL imbroglio. On its two letters (November 2019 and January 2020), Utagi and Abrol said that the UTI-AMC gave a vague reply (November 25, 2019) that the "UTI Mutual Fund (UTI MF) had taken a prudent exposure of 3.5 per cent-4 per cent in UTI-IAF Scheme when DHFL was AAA rated". Abrol said this implied that there were no subsequent investment/s by UTI-AMC, particularly after September 2018 when DSP Mutual Fund sold off their exposure to the Wadhawan brothers' DHFL securities. However, ex-officials of UTI-MF - who were privy to sensitive information - later revealed that the UTI-AMC was quietly investing in the DHFL Securities to bail out redemption of earlier securities, even after the scam tumbled out and leading to the arrest of the Wadhawans, said Utagi. "When the entire MF industry had exited

DHFL Securities, the UTI-AMC's exposure had grown to a staggering Rs 2,000-crore. The UTI-AMC Director and CEO Imtiazur Rahman must internally probe to find out who authorised such illegal investments, with or without his knowledge, make it public and hand over the matter to the CBI-ED for further investigations," Utagi demanded. In a separate missive to T.K. Pandey, Secretary, DIPAM, the AIBOA General Secretary S. Nagarajan has called for a proper "forensic audit" into the UTI-AMC's investments in DHFL Securities. "As we live in a world of transparency and the Government at the Centre is pursuing the 'zero tolerance' in all matters, we request you to initiate the 'forensic audit' of investments made by the UTI-AMC Ltd," Nagarajan urged Pandey. Utagi and Abrol pointed out that since the DHFL fiasco is under investigation by various probe agencies, "the AIUTI-AMCOA seeks a 'forensic audit' of each and every investment transaction of UTI MF to verify the authenticity of the UTI-AMC's claims".



SHIRA HAAS, TIM BLAKE IN 'CAPTAIN AMERICA: NEW WORLD ORDER'

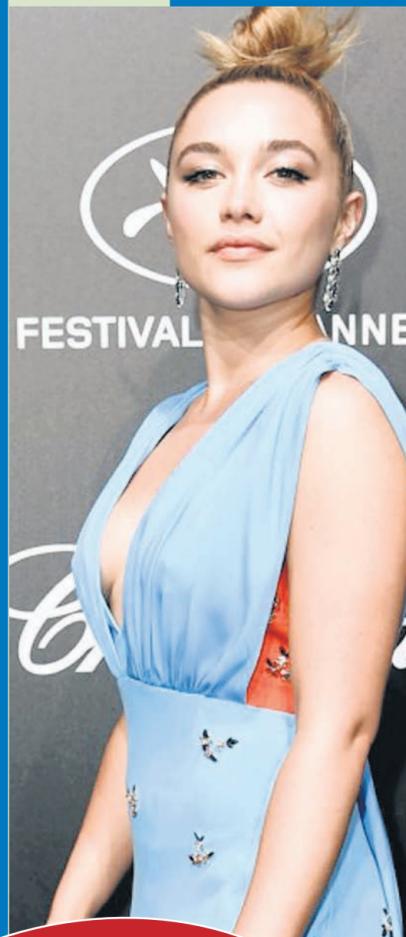
Los Angeles | Agencies

The cast of Captain America: New World Order' has been revealed at Marvel's D23 Expo presentation. Anthony Mackie, who has played superhero Sam Wilson, aka the Falcon, in the Marvel Cinematic Universe since "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," is leading the film as the new Captain America for the first time. The cast of the fourth 'Captain America' movie will also include Shira Haas as Sabra, Tim Blake Nelson as The Leader, as well as Danny Ramirez and Carl Lumbly, who appeared in "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier" series, as Joaquin Torres and Isaiah Bradley, respectively. Nelson's The Leader was last seen in the 2008 film "The Incredible Hulk" as Samuel Sterns, beginning his transformation into the iconic Hulk villain. As the "New World Order" team took the stage, director Julius Onah called the film a "paranoid thriller." The show co-starred Sebastian Stan as Bucky Barnes, aka the Winter Soldier, and Emily VanCamp as Sharon Carter, a former CIA agent from the 'Captain America' films. 'Captain America: New World Order' is one of the upcoming Phase Five films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Florence Pugh, David Harbour to join 'Thunderbolts'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige announced an A-list crew of familiar cast members for the upcoming team-up film 'Thunderbolts' during Marvel's D23Expo panel. The 'Thunderbolts' cast includes Florence Pugh as Yelena Belova, Sebastian Stan as Bucky Barnes aka the Winter Soldier, David Harbour as Red Guardian, Julia Louis-Dreyfus as La Cotessa Valentina Allegra de la Fontaine, Wyatt Russell as John Walker aka U.S. Agent, Olga Kurylenko as Taskmaster and Hannah John-Kamen as Ghost. Louis-Dreyfus' scheming villain (with an outrageously long name) recruited US Agent at the end of 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier', and she sent Yelena on a mission to kill Jeremy Renner's Hawkeye in the post-credits scene of 'Black Widow'. Harbour's Red Guardian and Kurylenko's Taskmaster were both introduced in 2021's 'Black Widow' along with Pugh's fan-favourite Yelena. John-Kamen's Ghost debuted back in 'Ant-Man and the Wasp', and the last time we saw Stan's Bucky was in 'The Falcon and the Winter Soldier'. "It's good to be back as the most boring Avenger," Russell said on stage, while Stan joked "Listen, these are my kinds of people."



I felt like I had come out of this cocoon with Ariel," Halle Bailey

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Lawrence says leaving home at 14 inspired her performance in 'Causeway'

Actress Halle Bailey evolved right alongside her character Ariel while making 'The Little Mermaid'. The 22-year-old singer transforms into the underwater Disney princess in the upcoming live-action re-imagining, which had its first teaser trailer out recently. Bailey told to a website at the D23 Expo about how the role changed her, and why she broke down in tears after completing the anticipated movie. "I'd definitely say coming into this film I was a lot more, I think, just young-minded and a bit more not sure of myself so much," she says. "The whole experience of filming, in more ways than one, mirrored Ariel's journey of finding herself and her voice." "I remember at the end of filming, wrap day, I was

just sobbing because I truly felt like I had come out of this cocoon with Ariel," says Bailey. "This story has done so much for me and the filming process has really kind of changed my life. I'd definitely say it mirrored what Ariel goes through in the film." Bailey adds that the film has "changed my perspective on everything" and "impacted my life in so many ways." "The fact that now it's getting to be played by me, a person who looks like me, woman of color, I'm just like, wow, I'm so grateful what it will do for all the other little Black and brown boys and girls who will see themselves in me," she says. "Because I know if I had seen myself when I was younger, I think my whole perspective would've changed."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Jennifer Lawrence brought serious star-power to the Toronto International Film Festival, appearing at the world premiere of her new film 'Causeway'. But despite the big, Hollywood name, 'Causeway' was a quieter character study. Lawrence stars in and produces the film, in which she plays a soldier returning to civilian life in New Orleans. The film also stars Brian Tyree Henry, Linda Emond, Stephen McKinley Henderson and Russell Harvard. 'Causeway' is the feature directorial debut of theatre veteran Lila Neugebauer, with a script written by Elizabeth Sanders, Luke Goebel and Otessa Moshfegh. Her character in the film, Lynsey, is desperate to redeploy. When asked what drove her towards the decision, Lawrence said she found a common ground. "I felt something in my gut when I read this," she said. "That kind of immediate, 'We have to make this'. I identify with that feeling of trying to find your home. And trying to find where you have purpose. I left home when I was 14. My relationship with home has always been complicated."

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Gabrielle Union faced some challenges in making her upcoming movie "The Inspection". Speaking at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival about the film, Union explained her difficult decision to play a character she didn't relate to. "As an actress, I normally look for characters that have some chunk of me in them. I did not see that in Inez," she says of her character, Inez French. The character, a homophobic prison guard, can't come to terms with the fact that her son Ellis French (Jeremy Pope) is gay because of her strong religious

background. She ultimately disowns him, setting him on a path to join the Marines. Asked if "The Inspection" was difficult for her to participate in as a parent to a transgender daughter (Zaya, 15), Union said she was first drawn to the overall "beautiful story." "Ultimately she found that 'my darkness defined the common space with Inez, which is a very vulnerable place, to know that I too am capable'." "It's not going to manifest itself in the same way, but when you are centering an oppressor's idea of who you need to be to be considered worthy of all of the things, everybody is on the chopping block."



Gabrielle Union about playing a homophobic character

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Paige Spira



Asia Cup 2022:

SRI LANKA BEAT PAKISTAN BY 23 RUNS IN FINAL TO WIN TITLE

Dubai | Agencies

Sri Lanka produced a clinical all-round performance to beat Pakistan by 23 runs in the final to win the Asia Cup 2022 title at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, here on Sunday.

This is Sri Lanka's sixth Asia Cup title. After losing their opening game against Afghanistan, they beat Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and then again Pakistan to clinch the 2022 Asia Cup.

An impressive fighting fifty by Bhanuka Rajapaksa (71 not out off 45) and an attacking knock by Wanindu Hasaranga (36 off 21) propelled Sri Lanka to 170/6 in 20 overs. Apart from Rajapaksa and Hasaranga, Dhananjaya de Silva (28 off 21) and Chamika Karunaratne (14 not out off 14) also played vital knocks for Sri Lanka, during their stay at the crease. For Pakistan, Haris Rauf (3/29) was the pick of the bowlers with three wickets to his name while Iftikhar Ahmed (1/21), Shadab Khan (1/28) and Naseem Shah (1/40) were the



other wicket-takers. Chasing a challenging total, Mohammad Rizwan hit a decent half-century (55 off 49) and along with Iftikhar Ahmed (32 off 31) to keep Pakistan alive in the game before getting out. However, there weren't many contributions from other batters as Pakistan were bowled out for 147 in 20 overs, losing by 23 runs. Pramod Madushan (4/34) and

Wanindu Hasaranga (3/27) were the highest-wicket takers for Sri Lanka while Chamika Karunaratne (2/33)

and Maheesh Theekshana (1/25) also chipped in with a crucial wicket.

Brief scores

Sri Lanka 170/6 in 20 overs (Bhanuka Rajapaksa 71 not out, Wanindu Hasaranga 36; Haris Rauf 3/29) beat Pakistan (Mohammad Rizwan 55, Iftikhar Ahmed 32; Pramod Madushan 4/34, Wanindu Hasaranga 3/27) by 23 overs

Indian F2 racer Jehan Daruvala makes F2 podium return at Monza

Monza (Italy) | Agencies

Indian racer Jehan Daruvala has returned to the podium with a third-place finish in the Formula 2 Sprint race at Italy's historic Monza race track. The 23-year-old, who started fifth on the grid on Saturday evening, crossed the line seven seconds behind winner Juri Vips and runner-up Frederik Vesti. "It feels good to be back," said Jehan, after taking his seventh top-3 finish of the season. "It's been a tough few weeks before this. I feel alive again and it feels nice to be back at the front." Jehan's podium, his fifth at Monza, was founded on a lightning start. The Red Bull-backed driver went wheel-to-wheel with Logan Sargeant right off the line, with the pair going side-by-side in a heart-stopping battle all the way through the first chicane and the long, high-speed Curva Grande. Jehan, on the inside, defended doggedly going into the second chicane to come out ahead. A brief safety car followed, and while Jehan held his position at the restart,



Sargeant slipstreamed past him soon after. The Prema Racing driver, however, fought back, getting past the American racer and setting his sights on fellow Red Bull junior Ayumu Iwasa. He made short work of Iwasa to move up to third and comfortably held on to the final podium spot to the end of the race. "We had the pace once again to fight at the front and we showed what we could do," Jehan added. "We're starting in a similar position for tomorrow and

we can draw a lot of encouragement from the result today to aim for another strong finish tomorrow (Sunday)." Jehan now heads into Sunday's main 'Feature' race for which he will start sixth. The Indian has a strong record around the hallowed racetrack, and took his second Formula 2 win there last year. With his Prema Racing team back on form for their home race, Jehan has his sights set on making it two podiums from two races this weekend.

'In just a few days, I've learnt a lot from him', Manchester United's Antony on Ronaldo

London | Agencies

Manchester United's new signing Antony said that he has learnt a lot from Cristiano Ronaldo in just a few days and hailed the Portuguese star as the best in the world. "Words can't describe Cristiano, the best in the world. In just a few days, I've learnt a lot from him. He has an extraordinary mind and, whenever I talk to him, I take a lot from it. I'm sure that we have a strong attack and it's very promising for the future," Antony said. The Brazilian star has expressed the great respect he has for Ronaldo and pledged to learn as much as he can from the iconic Portugal international. Antony made way for Ronaldo after marking his Premier League debut against Arsenal with the opening goal in the 3-1 victory last weekend and admits it is such a pleasure to be working with a player he describes as the best in the world. During an exclusive interview with Manchester United's official website, Antony was asked about the attacking line-up he is joining at Old Trafford and spoke



about his excitement at adding to the armoury at Erik ten Hag's disposal for the challenges ahead. The South American forward also pledged to continue entertaining the crowd after his positive start to life with the Reds. "I've always done this. Not just here but for all the teams I've played for. I've been doing it ever since I was a child. I've always done it - it's one of my characteristics. I am adapting and getting used to things here already. Entertaining is something I've always liked and I'll continue doing it," he said in reference to his skills and tricks.

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER NAMED 2022 PGA TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Florida | Agencies

Scottie Scheffler has been named the 2022 PGA TOUR Player of the Year. He was voted for the honour by the TOUR's membership for the 2021-22 season. Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the Official World Golf Ranking, led the TOUR with four victories this season, including his first major championship title at the Masters Tournament. Scheffler, who spent four years on the men's golf team at the University of Texas, received the Jack Nicklaus Award for winning PGA TOUR Player of the Year during an appearance on ESPN's College GameDay before the Longhorns football team hosted No. 1 Alabama in Austin. In receiving 89 per cent of the votes, Scheffler was selected for the honor over the other two nominees: Rory McIlroy and Cameron Smith. Scheffler, 26, was the Player of the Year on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 and won the Arnold Palmer Award as PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year in 2020. By being named PGA TOUR Player of the Year, he is the first player to win those



three awards, doing so in the span of four seasons. The awards were established in 1990. "On behalf of the PGA TOUR, congratulations to Scottie on his remarkable season and his unprecedented achievements," said

PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. "Undoubtedly, one of the highest compliments a player can receive is the endorsement from his peers, and the fact that Scottie's season was both dominant and consistent

spoke volumes to the membership. And as gratifying as it has been to see his development on the course over the last several years, we are equally thankful that Scottie has embraced the role as an ambassador of the PGA TOUR and the game of golf. With young stars like Scottie leading the way, the PGA TOUR is in great hands for many years to come." Scheffler's four victories came at the WM Phoenix Open, Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play and the Masters. He collected all four in the span of six starts, becoming the first player to win four times in a six-start stretch since Jason Day during the 2014-15 season. Only Tiger Woods (eight times) had previously won four times, including a major and a WGC, in the same season. Scheffler totaled 11 top-10 finishes in 25 starts on the season, including runner-up finishes at the Cadence Bank Houston Open, Charles Schwab Challenge, the U.S. Open and the TOUR Championship.

LEWANDOWSKI'S HAT-TRICK INSPIRED ME: ANJU TAMANG

Kathmandu | Agencies

The day after scoring a record four goals against Maldives, Indian midfielder Anju Tamang admitted that she took inspiration from Robert Lewandowski's hat-trick in the UEFA Champions League. The Indian team maintained their winning streak in the ongoing SAFF Women's Championship 2022, clinching a 9-0 victory against Maldives in their second match of the SAFF Women's Championship Nepal 2022, ensuring the smooth passage to the semis. Anju Tamang was the star of the show, netting four goals, as Dangmei Grace scored two. Priyangka Devi, Soumya Guguloth, and Kashmina added one each to make it 9-0 in India's favour. "Prior to any game I generally go through football videos of players whom I adore. I need to admit that prior to going to the game against Maldives, I was watching Robert Lewandowski's hat-trick in the UEFA Champions League. It inspired me a lot. The moment I scored my first goal, I wanted to go on, and score more," she said. However, she was quick to dedicate her



feat to the team. "It's not my record. It is of the

team, for team, and by the team," she said, amidst loud cheers from her teammates. "It surely is an amazing feeling to score four goals in an international match for the first time. I am happier as it paved the victory for my country. But as I said, it's a team game, and it's for all of us," Anju stated. "We were trying to play good football, and score goals. Against Maldives, we were able to achieve our aim. Communication on the pitch was the key. We played as a team," the 26-year old midfielder said. "There was contribution from everyone - right from the ones on the pitch to the bench to the coach, and all support staff." While growing up in Sikkim, Anju played football with the local boys, and met her first professional coach at 17. At the age of 19, she progressed to an Academy and played in the inaugural Indian Women's League for Rising Student Club. "I started playing when I was 12 years old. I was into athletics, and went to play with the boys. All of them encouraged me to play football, and that's how it all started. My brother-in-law got me the boots, and I never looked back," she smiled.

Deepak Chahar would be beneficial for the Indian team in T20 World Cup: Sunil Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar feels that including pacer Deepak Chahar will be beneficial for the Rohit Sharma-led side in the Men's T20 World Cup to be held in Australia in October-November. Chahar, who had recently returned from a long injury layoff in the ODI tour of Zimbabwe in August, was named as fellow fast bowler Avesh Khan's replacement ahead of India's final match in Super Four stage of 2022 Asia Cup, going wicketless for 28 runs in his four overs. Chahar featured in two of India's three matches on tour of Zimbabwe, picking five wickets, including 3/27 in his comeback match at Harare. He was named as one of the standbys in the squad and had travelled to Dubai with the Indian team for the tournament, where he was seen putting the hard yards in practice sessions. "I would say Deepak Chahar. He is the one I would certainly look at because it will be Australia and



there will be extra bounce. And with the kind of movement that he generates with the new ball." "He is somebody who's got to factor in if you know we've always picked about 4-5 bowlers for the Australia or South Africa tour and one if they get wasted. But in a fast-paced tournament like the T20 I think to go with Deepak Chahar would be beneficial for the Indian team," said Gavaskar.

Iga Swiatek overcomes Ons Jabeur to lift maiden : US Open

New York | Agencies

Polish tennis star and world No. 1 Iga Swiatek added a third Grand Slam singles trophy to her cupboard, defeating Tunisia's Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6 (5) to win the US Open crown for the first time on Sunday (IST). Following Ashleigh Barty's surprise retirement in March this year, Swiatek was thrust into the role of No. 1 at the age of 20 then, but she has since handled the pressure very well, proceeding to win 37 straight matches, including the French Open. On Sunday at the Flushing Meadows, rather than being intimidated by the No. 1 ranking, the Polish tennis ace -- now 21 years old -- seemed quite inspired. "I needed to stay composed and focus on the goals," Swiatek was quoted as saying by WTA. "It's New York -- it's so loud, it's so crazy. It's really mind-blowing for me. I'm really proud I could handle it mentally." Against Tunisia's Jabeur in the final, the match came down to a tight second-set tiebreak. Down 4-5, the Pole fired a forehand winner that hit the line. When Jabeur's forehand sailed long two points later, she had closed another deal. Swiatek's success on hardcourts has come as a revelation



this season as the player, considered a clay court specialist, has won three successive WTA 1000 events on the hardcourts in Doha, Indian Wells and Miami.

Durand Cup: HYDERABAD, RAJASTHAN UNITED BATTLE FOR LAST SEMIFINAL

Kolkata | Agencies

After a commanding performance that saw them finish atop Group C in the Durand Cup, reigning ISL champions Hyderabad FC will start as the favourite against I-League side Rajasthan United, in the last quarter-final at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan, here on Monday. HFC registered three wins in the group stage and will look to make it to the Semifinals of the prestigious competition for the first time in their history. Head Coach Manolo Marquez believes that his side is determined to do the distance. "We are currently in pre-season and are getting ready for the Indian Super League (ISL). But we respect this competition and want to go all the way. So, we will want to be at our best in this game against a tough side in Rajasthan United," said the Spaniard. Rajasthan United, who



pipped Kolkata giants ATK Mohun Bagan and East Bengal from their group, have been the surprise pack-

age in the Durand Cup this year. The I-League side has lost just one game in the competition so far,

scoring six goals with their most impressive result coming against the Mariners.



Shweta Tiwari in love with Palak's photoshoot



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bijlee Bijlee' fame Palak Tiwari shared a glimpse from her ethnic photoshoot which left her actress-mother Shweta Tiwari in awe.

Palak took to her Instagram, where she

shared a reel of her posing in a pink-gold Kanjeevaram saree for the first time. She completed her look with gold jewellery and tied her hair into a braid.

Reacting to the video, Shweta Tiwari wrote: "Oh my god! My Babyyyy," with heart emojis.

She then shared Palak's video on her Instagram story and wrote: "Kitni sundar meri bacchi!! (My

daughter is so beautiful)."

On the acting front, Palak will be seen in Salman Khan-starrer 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'. She also has an upcoming film titled 'Rosie'.

Shweta will be seen sharing screen space with actor Manav Gohil after twenty years in the upcoming 'Main Hoon Aparajita.'

PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT YOUNGER MAN DATING OLDER WOMAN: GAURAV SAREEN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

TV actor Gaurav Sareen, who is known for his roles in 'Udaan' will soon be seen in the short film 'Love Has No Age' and he says that he enjoys being part of the project as it sends out a strong message. "The experiences were incredibly refreshing as I got to work with some exceptionally talented people on the set. I had worked with the crew before, so the environment was very positive and comfortable," he says.

'Love Has No Age' is about an older woman who falls in love with a man, younger than her.

"The concept is not very common in our society yet. There is a specific section of people who have evolved enough not to think of it as an issue, but most people still struggle to accept the notion of a younger man dating an older woman." "I cannot relate much to it for obvious reasons. Still, as the title suggests, I am pretty sure it would feel the same as any other relationship with an age difference our Indian society considers 'normal,'" he adds.

Gaurav had no apprehension about working on a story like this. "It always feels good to be part of something completely new and not explored much. Besides, I strongly believe in the idea of love regard-



less of age," he says.

He asserts that compared to previous TV shows, substantial roles are being made for male actors. "Earlier, TV shows focused mainly on the issues faced by the women of our country, but now, things have changed. People are now curious to learn about male perspectives too, which has encouraged the writers to write good roles for male actors," he concludes.



I WILL LEARN A LOT FROM MY STINT IN THE SHOW: GAURAV DUBEY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Comedian Gaurav Dubey has been part of several comedy shows and now the actor is seen playing the character of Kapil Sharma's mother-in-law Roommati.

Talking about his role, he reveals: "I feel lucky to be a part of the show. I have been enjoying myself a lot, especially because I am experiencing the company of some great people, whether it be Kapil sir or even the whole creative team. I feel proud that I got the chance to be in the show. I have a feeling that I will learn a lot from my stint in the show. I am playing the character of Roopa, Kapil sir's mother-in-law and I have a very distinct UP-Bihar accent although my personality is very calm."

The latest season of 'The Kapil Sharma Show' included many new comedians and a new theme. The host has lost his memory and he cannot recognise his wife Bindu (Sumona Chakravarti). To bring his memory back, his father-in-law, Sunder Das, mother-in-law, Roommati (Gaurav Dubey) and brother-in-law, Goli (Satinder Soni) have moved into his house.

Dubey adds how his character is different from what he had played before: "Previously I have played loud and energetic characters, this character is very subtle in behaviour and very sweet in nature. The character has been sketched brilliantly by the team. Till now, our gags have been fun and entertaining. It's subtle and cute. Along with being Bindu's mother, Roopa's character has a husband, and a son Goli; their camaraderie is great; making for an interesting watch."

Suhani Dhanki talks about her cameo with Akshay Kumar



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nothing could be more exciting for TV actress Suhani Dhanki than to make a cameo in the Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Cuttpudi'.

"This was during the pandemic when a lot of films seemed to have been shot in the UK. I was approached by the brilliant casting team because they were looking for a UK-based actor for this role. I auditioned, and after a few months, I got the part."

"Fortunately, I played the role of an RJ who is pregnant and helps Akshay find the lead in the thriller," shares Suhani, who was last seen in the TV show 'Porus', where she played the role of the protagonist, Laacchi. Calling her experience of working with Akshay absolutely memorable, she adds: "He is absolutely brilliant. I have never seen a more disciplined actor. He didn't leave the set at all and was giving cues. He was so chill to work with. I love him in his cop avatar and his poker-faced comedy."

Even though she is based in London, Suhani wants to focus on her career both in India and the UK. "I'm very keen on focussing on my career as an actor both in India and in the UK. I'd love to explore a range of roles, especially those of strong, powerful women."

Dhanki, who is a trained Bharatnatyam dancer, asserts that though many movies are released on OTT, watching a film with friends in cinema halls has altogether a different charm and fun.

Suhani explains: "I think watching a movie in a cinema had its charm, it was more of an experience that we enjoyed with friends or family. However, now, given the pandemic where people got used to consuming content rapidly and keeping in mind the entire subscription-driven model, people have become increasingly comfortable watching films in their homes".

'KHAU GALLI' SEQUENCE WAS MY CHEAT DAY: RACHANA MISTRY

Team Absolute | Mumbai



'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' actress Rachana Mistry enjoyed munching on different kinds of street food while shooting for a sequence in the show. She said: "I'm a big foodie in real life. I love eating and exploring new cuisine, restaurants and street food. When I was told about this sequence I was very happy personally because I couldn't resist trying street foods. Chole bhature is one of my guilty pleasures and I just couldn't resist it. During the shoot we had so many items present and I was so keen to try on everything. In fact I also made Iqbal (Khan) Sir try each dish present during the shoot."

The 'Barrister Babu' asserts that despite being health conscious, she cannot control her love for food and many times, she cheated on her diet.

Mistry added: "Although most of the actors have to maintain a certain body and take care of their appearance, when it comes to food I'm a total rebel and eat what makes me happy. I try to remain as healthy as possible but sometimes it's fun to have cheat days and this khau galli sequence was one of my cheat days."



ESSHANYA S MAHESHWARI

Sachin-Jigar reminisce about working with SSR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Music composer duo Sachin-Jigar, who worked in late actor Sushant Singh Rajput-starrer 'Shuddh Desi Romance', said that it was a fulfilling experience working with Yash Raj Films on the romantic comedy with a vast genre of songs.

'Shuddh Desi Romance' has completed nine years of its release in Hindi cinema. The film received rave reviews and

the cast of Sushant, Parineeti Chopra and Vaani Kapoor were appreciated for their roles. Music composer duo Sachin Sanghvi and Jigar Saraiya, popularly known as Sachin-Jigar gave music for the film and they recall being part of the film. Sachin said: "It was a very fulfilling and overwhelming experience working with Yash Raj Films on this romantic comedy where there is such a vast genre of songs. It was an incredible experience examining the music while taking into

account the essence of the land, especially since a significant portion of the plot was filmed in Rajasthan."

It has some beautiful tracks including 'Tere Mere Beech Mein', 'Gulabi' and the title track. The success of the movie largely depends on its out of the box storyline and moving ahead of typical Bollywood style romance, touching more relevant topics like live-in relationship and meaning of commitment and marriage for the younger generation.

