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'SHOCKING FOR A RELIGION-NEUTRAL COUNTRY': SC CALLS FOR SUO MOTO ACTION ON HATE SPEECH CRIMES

STOP HATE MONGERING

The Supreme Court on Friday issued a slew of directions to curb hate speeches and directed the Delhi, UP, and Uttarakhand Police to take suo motu action, even without complaint, in cases related to hate speeches. The top court emphasised that action needs to be taken, without looking at the religion of the accused, to preserve the secular character of the country, and also orally observed that it is tragic, what we have been reduced to in the name of religion.

- ▶ THE BENCH SAID THAT POLICE SHOULD ENSURE THAT WHEN AN INCIDENT OF HATE SPEECH OCCURS, EVEN WITHOUT ANY COMPLAINT, SUO MOTU ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AND THE AUTHORITIES SHOULD PROCEED AGAINST THE OFFENDERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.
- ▶ IT ADDED THAT ANY HESITATION TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS DIRECTION WILL BE VIEWED AS CONTEMPT OF COURT AND APPROPRIATE ACTION SHALL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE ERRING OFFICERS.
- ▶ IT CLARIFIED THAT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IRRESPECTIVE OF THE RELIGION OF THE PERSON WHO MADE THE SPEECH, SO THAT THE SECULAR CHARACTER OF THE COUNTRY IS PRESERVED.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said this is the 21st century, while condemning the incidents of hate speeches. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Nizam Pasha, representing the petitioner, sought formation of an SIT in the matter connected with hate speeches. At this, Justice Joseph asked Sibal, "Are Muslims also making hate speeches, why only?...people are from both sides, we are saying." Sibal said they should not be spared. Justice Joseph orally remarked, it is tragic, what we have reduced to in the

name of the religion, and emphasised on the importance of scientific temper in the 21st century. In reference to hate speeches brought on record by the petitioner, the bench said that these statements are certainly very shocking for a country that is to be religion neutral, and such kind of statements by anyone is condemnable. The plea contended that there should be complete harmony in the country. The bench said the country should live in harmony and the matter deserves attention of this court. Sibal, representing petitioner Shaheen Abdullah, cited a speech made by BJP MP Parvesh Verma in Delhi as one of the hate speeches as he said: Such kind of hate speeches are made, what are they

propagating?" The top court, in its order, noted that plea relates to the atmosphere of hate in the country which, according to the petitioner, has led to hate speeches, despite suitable provisions in penal law and also lack of action by authorities concerned. It said there cannot be fraternity unless members of different communities live in harmony, and asked police forces of Delhi, UP, and Uttarakhand to file a report on action taken in connection with hate speech incidents in the petition. Petitioner moved the top court also seeking direction to the Centre and states to initiate independent, credible, and impartial probe into the incidents of hate crimes and hate speeches across the country. The plea claimed that Muslim

COURT HAS THE RIGHT TO LOOK INTO GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS: KERALA HC

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Friday held that the courts can look into the actions of the Governor. The court made this observation when a petition, filed by 15 nominated senate members of the Kerala University stating that they were removed by the Chancellor, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, without giving them a hearing, came before the court. After accepting the petition, the court directed the Chancellor that no new senate members should be appointed till further notice and posted the case for further hearing on October 31. It was last week that Khan, in his powers as Chancellor, dismissed 15 Senate members for not taking part in a senate meeting called specifically directed by him to nominate one member to a three member selection panel to select the next Vice Chancellor of the Kerala University.

community is being "targeted and terrorised" by the participation of the members of the ruling political party in delivering the hate speeches.

Amid row over "Jihad Also In Gita" remark, Ex Congress Minister clarifies



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Home Minister and Congress veteran Shivraj Patil, facing bitter criticism by the BJP for "Hindu hatred" over his recent remark that the concept of jihad was not just in Islam but also in Bhagavad Gita and in Christianity, today sought to firefight the controversy saying jihad is an act of killing anyone who speaks the truth. Lord Krishna also taught lessons of jihad to Arjun in a part of Gita in the Mahabharat, he had said. "If you kill Mahatma Gandhi, it is jihad. The act of killing him is jihad," the 87-year-old leader said, dismissing allegations that he said Lord Krishna taught lessons of jihad. "Who killed Mahatma Gandhi?" he asked reporters. When asked if that person was a jihadi, he said the act of that murder was jihad. Patil had made the controversial remark at a book launch event in the national capital on Thursday, drawing flak from the BJP, which hit out at the Congress for "Hindu hatred" and "vote bank politics." "It's said there is a lot of discussion on Jihad in Islam religion...Even after

all efforts, if someone doesn't understand clean ideas, then power can be used. It is not just in the Quran Sharif, but also in the Mahabharata, of which Gita is a part," Patil had said. "Shri Krishna also talks to Arjuna about jihad. It is not like this is only in the Quran Sharif or the Gita but in Christianity also it is written...Christ has said that I have not come here to establish peace, but I have come here with sword," he had said. Speaking in Hindi, the Congress leader had said that "if even after explaining everything, people do not understand, and they are arriving with weapons then you cannot run, you cannot call that jihad, and you cannot call it wrong, this is what must be understood, there should not be this concept of making people understand with weapons in hand." Patil who was Union home minister from 2004 to 2008 and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996 was addressing the audience at a book launch of Congress leader and former Union Minister Mohsina Kidwai. Meanwhile, the BJP hit out at the "votebank politics" of the Congress.

Mumbai police nab drunk for giving threats to blow up Hotel Grand Hyatt

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have swooped in to arrest an alcoholic who allegedly made a call to blow up the Hotel Grand Hyatt in Santacruz east, an official said here on Friday. The caller rang up the police control room at 8.49 p.m. on Thursday threatening to blow up the five-star hotel and the police immediately launched investigations. A thorough check of the entire hotel premises and outside was conducted before an all-clear signal was given while the police scanned the call detail records and pinpointed the mobile tower



location to track the caller and arrested him within 18 hours. As per preliminary probe, the accused is said to be an alcoholic and had made the alleged calls under the influence of liquor. The police said that in the past few days, there have been similar calls threatening to blow up the University of

Mumbai, an Andheri mall, a multiplex in Juhu and another luxury hotel near the Mumbai Airport, sending the police into a tizzy, but all were found to be hoaxes. Several cases have been lodged against the suspect with the Vakola, BKC, Azad Maidan, Navi Mumbai and other police stations.

RIL POSTS RS 15,512 CRORE NET FOR Q2

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Major Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Friday said it had closed the Q2 of FY23 with a consolidated profit of Rs 15,512 crore on a higher revenue. For the period ended September 30, 2022, RIL had posted a gross revenue of Rs 253,497 crore up from Rs 191,532 crore logged for the period ended September 30, 2021. The company had registered a net profit of Rs 15,512 crore for the period ended September 30, 2022 up from Rs 15,479 crore posted for same period the previous year. Commenting on the results, Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh D. Ambani said: "I am pleased with the record performance of our consumer businesses which continue to scale new milestones every quarter."



Maha reverses MVA's 'CBI needs consent to probe' order

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government has reversed the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation's decision of withdrawing the general consent to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate cases in the state. The Eknath Shinde government restored the general consent given to the central probe agency, an official said. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde cleared the proposal of the home department headed by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to reverse the decision of MVA government to withdraw the general consent to the CBI to probe cases in the state, the official from



the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) told media. With the reversal of this decision, the CBI will no longer require permission of the state government to step in, he said. On October 21, 2020, the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government had withdrawn the general consent to the CBI under the contention that the central government was misusing central probe agencies to settle political scores.

TRUMP AIDE BANNON SENTENCED TO FOUR MONTHS IN JAIL

Washington: Steve Bannon, a top adviser to former President Donald Trump, was sentenced to four months in jail on Friday by a Washington DC court for defying a subpoena from a congressional committee investigating the riots at the US Capitol on January 6. But the court did not order Bannon to start the jail term right away. It left him free instead to appeal the order, which Bannon and his legal team said they will. Bannon joins a growing team of former Trump officials sent to jail one time or the other. Trump had issued presidential pardons to many of them, when in office, such as longtime adviser Roger Stone, one-time campaign manager Paul Manafort and former national security adviser Michael Flynn. Bannon had left the Trump White House just a few months after serving as a senior adviser to the President but the two remained close. But he had claimed the cover of Trump's presidential privilege to defy the subpoena issued to him by the House committee on January 6. Bannon sat quietly and did not react as US District Judge Carl Nichols delivered the sentence - four months in jail and \$6,500 for criminal contempt of congress.

Army chopper crashes in Arunachal, four bodies found

Itanagar | Agencies

An Advanced Light Combat helicopter of the Indian Army crashed in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Siang district on Friday, and bodies of four of the five people on board have been recovered so far, officials.



A search is on to locate the remaining missing soldier. A defence spokesman said that the cause of the crash at this stage is not known, and details are being ascertained. The crash took place on Friday morning in Migging village, around 25 km from the district headquarters. The helicopter, which took off from Lekabali, was on a regular sortie. Since the site of the crash is not connected by road, more details are still awaited. Upper Siang's Superintendent of Police, Jummar Basar, said the crash site is a mountainous region, and it would take time to complete the search operation.

Pak Army's new ploy - 'WhatsApp terror'

A 2012 UN document had pointed out that "explicit threats of violence, including in relation to the use of weapons" using the internet could induce anxiety, fear or panic in a population or subset of the population. In 2019, a well-known US expert on terror and internal security, Peter Chalk, had warned of ISI leveraging encrypted social media sites, secure telecommunication platforms and online mapping technology to carry out or monitor terrorist attacks.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Pakistan has launched a new terrorist game face weaponising social media tools to spread terror psychosis in India and prompt the Indian government to go on high alert during the coming festival season. Early in August this year, a WhatsApp message was received by Indian security agencies from Pakistan warning of a Mumbai attack repeat this year. Although the Mumbai police went on high alert, the government made all efforts to stem panic from spreading. The Mumbai attacks that took place in November 2008 had caused extreme alarm across the world. Since then, there has always been an apprehension of Pakistan carrying out a similar attack despite global scrutiny and sanction. Although Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a known global ter-



rorist outfit closely linked to Pakistan Army, was found to be involved in the attack, none of its leaders or cadres have been tried or prosecuted for the Mumbai

attacks. The latest message, therefore, sparked considerable concern among security agencies which have apparently traced the WhatsApp message to an office in Lahore. The WhatsApp account was created for a few days to send out the threat. It is believed that the account was operated by a person known to be close to the ISI. It is said that this could be the beginning of a new kind of threat from Pakistan against India. Till now, social media tools like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and others have been widely used to recruit and generate funds for terrorist activities. Using social media outlets to create terror panic could perhaps be one of the first attempts by a sponsoring agency like the ISI. The notorious agency has been using several thousand fake Twitter and Facebook accounts to spread disinformation about India. But using the same tools to create terror is a copycat adoption of what global terrorist groups have been doing.



JOLT TO BJP IN TELANGANA AS TWO LEADERS RETURN TO TRS

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a big jolt to the BJP in Telangana ahead of the by-election to Munugode Assembly seat, two leaders on Friday quit the party and rejoined the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS).

Senior leader Dasoju Sravan and former chairman of Telangana Legislative Council, K. Swamy Goud joined the TRS.

It was a homecoming for both the leaders as they were associated with the TRS earlier. Sravan had quit the TRS in 2014 to join Congress while Swamy Goud had resigned from the TRS in 2020 to join the BJP.

This came a day after former MLA Bhismaiah Goud also quit the saffron party to return to the TRS fold.

Their return is likely to give a boost to the TRS in its campaign for the November 3 by-election. The development is seen as a counter-attack by the TRS after it lost former MP B. Narsaiah Goud to BJP three days ago.

After joining the TRS, Sravan called on Chief Minister and TRS President K. Chandrababhan Naidu. He



and Swamy Goud were earlier welcomed into the TRS by party's Working President K.T. Rama Rao.

Sravan resigned from the BJP in protest against what he called the distribution of money, meat and liquor by the party among voters in Munugode.

His resignation came less than three months after he quit the Congress and joined the saffron party.

Sravan, a former national spokesman of Congress, wrote a letter to BJP's Telangana unit President Bandi Sanjay Kumar explaining the

reasons for his decision to resign from primary membership of the party. He alleged that the BJP is distributing money, meat and liquor among voters in Munugode Assembly constituency.

Sravan wrote that he had joined the BJP with many expectations but was disappointed over the directionless politics pursued by the party. He said BJP promised to do alternative politics but its approach in the Munugode by-election was disgusting.

He alleged that the BJP with no social responsibility was resorting to distribution of money bags, encouraging big contractors, and pursuing investment politics. "In such a situation it has become evident that there is no room for a leader like me coming from a weaker section of the society," he said.

It was on August 5 that Sravan had resigned from the Congress. Alleging that there is total disorder in the party under the leadership of state unit President A. Revanth Reddy, he had said that he was not ready to live like a slave in the organisation and hence decided to resign.

Noida: Police caught between society residents and dog lovers

Noida | Agencies

The fight for and against stray dogs has not ended yet, as while the residents of a posh housing society in Noida Sector 100 are in favour of removing all the dogs, an NGO does not want them removed until they get temporary arrangements for their dietary needs.

In the midst of all this, the police became active in the area when the authorised dog catching vehicles reached the society to capture the animals, days after a one-year-old child was reportedly mauled to death by a stray dog.

However, the dog lovers present there started opposing the capture, following which the police had to persuade them for several hours but to no avail. Simultaneously, the police also had to face the ire of the residents, who wanted the authorities to capture the dogs at the earliest.

"We face a big dilemma. On one hand, we get orders to maintain law and order and to probe thoroughly into



the incident. On the other hand, we have to bear the pressure of the local people, opposition from the NGOs, as well as the pressure of the media," said a police officer on condition of anonymity.

He added that till now, no temporary arrangement has been made by the authority for the street dogs, due to which these problems have become more common.

Complaints of stray dog attacks are received every day from different societies. The

attacks almost always lead to some disputes between two groups of people, which has to be solved by the police.

These problems will keep arising unless a permanent solution is found.

The officer said that the police cannot take any action against anyone in these situations because it is the commoners who protest after being affected by the situations. Therefore, efforts are made to pacify the people.

Punjab restores old pension scheme for employees

Chandigarh | Agencies

In a major decision, the Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday approved restoration of the old pension scheme for the government employees.

A spokesperson for the Chief Minister's Office said a decision to this effect was taken in meeting of Cabinet, with Mann in the chair, here.

The spokesperson said the employees will be given option for adopting the old pension scheme or the new pension scheme. The old pension scheme was discontinued in 2004 and ever since then the employees are being given the new pension scheme. However, the employees have been since long demanding the restoration of the old pension scheme.

Keeping in view the well-being of the lakhs of employees, the Cabinet has decided to restore the old pension scheme, a major relief to the employees. Realising that the employees are the backbone of the government, the state



has taken this historic decision which is likely to benefit all category of the employees, the spokesperson said. Also, the Cabinet decided to give six per cent dearness allowance (DA) to government employees and pensioners with effect from October 1. The Council of Ministers opined that the employees were a critical segment of the state administration and safeguarding their interests was the government's top priority, the spokesperson said.

AIIMS withdraws SOPs issued for medical care arrangement of MPs

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Amid a controversy and protest by doctors associations, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Friday withdrawn the SOP issued for the medical care treatment of members of parliament at the premier health institution.

In a letter to the Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, the AIIMS said that the letter issued should be treated as withdrawn. "Letter dated 17 Oct 2022 on the subject may be treated as withdrawn with immediate effect," said the letter, signed by Chief Administrative Officer Deo Nath Sah.

According to the order issued by AIIMS Director Dr M Srinivas on October 17, the Duty Officers, who



are qualified medical professionals, from the Department of Hospital Administration, will have to be avail-

able in the control room round the clock for OPD and emergency consultation and inpatient hospitalisa-

tion of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members. It had also said all other patients who are referred to AIIMS for consultation or treatment by the MPs will also be provided due assistance by its Media & Protocol Division.

"The duty officer will be the Nodal Officer to coordinate and facilitate requisite medical care arrangements for hon'ble sitting MPs," said the order adding those on shift will ensure their hassle-free admission.

Dr Manish Jangra, of the Federation of All India Medical Associations, said: "We welcome this... we will always fight against VIP culture and will never compromise on this matter. We are against VIP culture since beginning."

UP hospital sealed after patient given fruit juice instead of platelets

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

A private hospital in Prayagraj where a dengue patient died after he was allegedly transfused fruit juice instead of blood platelets, has been sealed after a preliminary inquiry by the district administration into the incident revealed lapses on the part of the hospital authorities.

The family of the patient has appealed to the state government to take strict action against those responsible.

The relatives of the 32-year-old patient were allegedly supplied sweet lime juice in a bag marked as 'plasma' at the Global Hospital and Trauma Centre in Prayagraj.

The patient's family alleges his condition deteriorated after transfusion from one of the bags supplied by the hospital.

The patient was shifted to a second



private hospital, where he died, the family said, adding that doctors at this second hospital told them the 'platelet' bag was fake and actually a mix of chemicals and sweet mosambi juice.

The family of the man has demanded strict action against the hospital staff. "My 26-year-old sister is a widow. I want the Yogi Adityanath government to take strict action against the hospital for the lapses,"

Saurabh Tripathi, a relative of the patient, said.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said, "Taking cognisance of the viral video at the hospital where a dengue patient was transfused with sweet lemon juice instead of platelets, on my directive the hospital was sealed and the platelet packets have been sent for testing. If found guilty, strict action will be taken against the hospital."

The hospital was sealed on the instructions of the chief medical officer and will remain so till the sample is tested, the Additional Chief Medical Officer of Prayagraj said in a statement to the media.

The hospital in question has refuted the allegations, saying the platelets were procured by the relatives of the patient themselves.

The owner of the hospital said that the patient's platelet level dropped to 17,000, following which his relatives were asked to arrange blood platelets. "They brought five units of platelets from a government hospital. After transfusion of three units, the patient had a reaction. So, we stopped it," the hospital owner said in a statement, adding that he also supports an investigation.

Prayagraj District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri, said, "An inquiry is underway and the platelets will also be tested."

TN: One dies, 275 houses inundated as heavy rain lashes Erode

Chennai | Agencies

A 65-year-old woman, who was sleeping at her residence, drowned to death when water gushed into her house after heavy rains in Tamil Nadu's Erode district on Friday.

Rangammal (65) of Ashokapuri was drowned to death at 1.30 a.m. This, according to district officials was due to the flooding in the Perumpallam canal in the district and water entering around 75 houses located in low-lying areas near the canal.

The body of the deceased Rangammal was sent to the Government Hospital, at Erode for post-mortem.

Water also entered 200 houses in Rangampalayam, Sathya Nagar, Moolapalayam, Senathipalayam and Cehittipalayam in the morning. People were shifted to



relief camps set up by the district administration.

Many people complained that their household equipment were damaged as water entered their residences. Several people also complained of water entering shops leading to destruction of material including grains.

Some shops selling electronic equipment including televi-

tion sets, refrigerators and other appliances also complained that sudden water flow into their shops had led to these materials being damaged and demanded compensation from the district administration.

Heavy rains accompanied by thunder and lightning lashed many parts of the district leading to inundation of

SC junks plea seeking fact-finding inquiry into Taj Mahal's history

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday junked a plea seeking a direction for a "fact-finding inquiry" into Taj Mahal's history and also a direction for the "opening of 22 rooms" on the monument's premises. The monument is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

A bench comprising Justices M.R. Shah and M.M. Sundresh said the high court was not in error in dismissing the petition. Terming it a 'publicity interest litigation', the top court dismissed the plea.

In May this year, the Allahabad High Court declined to entertain a plea by one Rajneesh Singh, who claimed to be the media in-



charge of the BJP's Ayodhya unit. The high court noted that the petitioner failed to establish which of his legal or constitutional rights were being infringed.

The petitioner had argued before the high court that many Hindu groups have claimed that Taj Mahal is an old Shiva Temple which was known as Tejo Mahalaya. He contended that this theory was supported by many historians as well.

Major accident averted as Sapt Kranti Express hits pole

Patna | Agencies

Passengers on the New Delhi-Muzaffarpur Sapt Kranti Superfast express had a narrow escape after its engine hit a iron pole abandoned on the tracks in East Champaran district on Friday, officials said.

The train, after leaving the Motihari railway station, was on full speed and heading toward Muzaffarpur, when the incident occurred at Kunwarpur Chitwanpur halt in east Champaran.

Due to the impact, the wheels of the engine got struck in the tracks. Railway officials removed the engine and repaired it, while railway operations were affected due to the incident for two hours.

According to an East Central Railway official, a team headed by a Permanent Way Inspector was on the job of repairing the track but did not put a red flag. When the driver of the train, which was approaching at high speed, saw employees working on the track, he applied an emergency brake. Meanwhile, seeing the speeding train approaching, the labourers, who were shifting the iron pole, left it on the track and fled from the spot. The engine collided with the pole. Due to the sudden brake



applied by the driver, it creates panic among passengers as they felt a strong jolt.

A rumour spread among passengers that the train caught fire, and many started jumping from the train. RPF jawan Mayank Kumar ran through the coaches and informed passengers that the train did not catch fire, and that the emergency brake was applied by the driver to save an accident.

Leopard spotted in Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant, still to be traced

Gurugram | Agencies

Panic has gripped the Maruti Suzuki plant in Manesar here after a leopard was spotted on the premises and is still ranging free, a senior forest official said on Friday.

The big cat was first spotted in the factory at around 7.15 a.m. on Wednesday by a worker who raised an alarm. Images of the animal were also captured in the CCTV cameras installed in the factory.

A number of people, including workers, guards and transporters, were inside when the leopard was seen. Fearing an attack by the big cat, the management immediately issued a safety advisory for the workers and others.

The forest official said police reached the plant and cordoned off the area, while Forest Department officials rushed there to rescue the animal. "In the CCTV footage, the leopard was seen coming inside the factory from a cow shelter of Kasan



village which is adjoining the factory, IMT Manesar SHO, Inspector Subhash told reporter.

"The police received the call around 7.25 a.m. on Wednesday and we immediately alerted the forest officials but after a 2-3 hour-long search operation, we could not find the animal. Probably the leopard left the factory," the SHO said.

He added that the production was not affected as the area where the animal was spotted was far away from the manufacturing area.



STATE HAS IMMENSE POTENTIAL FOR ALL INDUSTRIAL SECTORS: CM CHOUHAN

- ▶ LAND BANK OF 1 LAKH 22 THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND AVAILABLE IN THE STATE.
- ▶ STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT.
- ▶ MADHYA PRADESH IS BECOMING THE CENTRE OF ATTRACTION OF INVESTORS.
- ▶ CHIEF MINISTER ADDRESSES "INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MADHYA PRADESH" PROGRAMME IN PUNE



including textile, food processing, pharmaceutical sector. Here with the single window system, it is possible to complete the process of setting up the industry in a smooth and time-bound manner. Madhya Pradesh is also one of the most prosperous states of the country in terms of tourism. The state government is committed to promote investment in Madhya Pradesh to fulfill the resolve of making India a \$5 trillion economy by the year 2026. Land bank of one lakh 22 thousand acres, adequate water, electricity, road network, skilled human resources and peaceful environment are available in the state. All investor friends are wel-

come in Madhya Pradesh. Investors will not have to face any kind of problem. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the programme "Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh" at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Pune. It is noteworthy that this programme was organised in Pune on the second day of the two-day visit to promote investment and invite industrialists to the summit for the Global Investors Summit to be held in Indore in January 2023. A day earlier on October 20, Chouhan had interacted with investors in Delhi. CM Chouhan also held one-to-one discussions with potential investors.

Inviting potential investors to invest to the state, Chief Minister Chouhan said that e-vehicle is the need of the future. It has been decided to build a park for e-vehicle companies in the state. We have laid a network of roads in Madhya Pradesh. Two expressways are being constructed in the state. Connecting the ravines of Chambal, the Atal Expressway and the Narmada Expressway from Amarkantak directly to the border of Gujarat are being built. The irrigated area in Madhya Pradesh was 7.5 lakh hectares, which we have increased to 45 lakh hectares. The irrigated area will be 65 lakh hectares in the next 3 years. For ten consecutive years, we have registered an agriculture growth rate of more than 18 percent, which is a miracle. Infrastructure, health-education, good governance and economy and employment are the priority areas for the state government. Chief Minister Chouhan said that during the Covid period, I too got infected with Corona. Madhya Pradesh is continuously moving towards industrial development. The state is also one of the prosperous states of the country from the point of view of tourism.

Dream of housing for all is being realized in Madhya Pradesh

PM Modi will conduct griha pravesh for 4.51 lakh beneficiaries of the state on Dhanteras

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The dream of four and a half lakh families of the state is going to come true before Diwali. On the day of Dhanteras, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will conduct virtual griha pravesh of houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana to these rural families. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will attend the state level program of Griha Pravesham from Satna. The program will start on 22nd October at 3 pm. Madhya Pradesh is one of the leading states of the country in the construction of Pradhan Mantri Awas (Gramin). Not only is the housing construction going on fast in the state, but the construction quality is also being taken care of. Earlier only 20 to 25 thousand houses could be completed per month, now the number of houses constructed per month has reached to one

lakh. In the last financial year, 2 lakh 60 thousand houses were completed. In the first 6 months of this financial year, more than 4 lakh 30 thousand houses have been completed. So far 48 lakh rural houses have been approved under the scheme in the state, out of which 29 lakh houses have been completed. More than Rs 35 thousand crores have been spent on these houses. Under the special project, 18 thousand 342 houses have been approved in Guna and Sheopur districts. **400 percent increase in budget** In the budget of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), a historic increase of 400 percent has been made in this year's budget as compared to the last financial year. For the implementation of the scheme in this financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs 10 thousand crore for the state, in which Rs 6 thousand crore will be given

by the central government and Rs 4 thousand crore by the state government. **Awas Samagri app** Awas Samagri app has been created to make housing construction material sand, iron, brick, ballast, cement, wood etc. easily available to the beneficiaries under the scheme at affordable rates. On this app, 14 thousand 850 material sellers and 32 thousand service providers, masons, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters etc. have been registered. The rates of material in the districts have also been controlled by the administration. **51 thousand masons trained** Under the scheme, more than 51 thousand masons have been trained for construction of good quality houses. Among them, there are 9 thousand women masons. At present, training of 8,000 masons is going on.

POWER MINISTER GIVEN UP FOOTWEARS

Team Absolute | Gwalior

Power Minister of Shivraj Singh Chouhan government of Madhya Pradesh, Pradyuman Singh Tomar has given up shoes and slippers for the sake of road, now he will walk barefoot. Minister Tomar is counted among the supporters of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.



Minister Tomar is an MLA from Gwalior and he remains on the target of the public for the roads in his area. Tomar says that he has not been able to get many roads built in the city, for which he apologizes to the public. At the same

time, he said that he will not wear footwear until Laxman Talaiya, the rhinoceros road and the road of JAH become walkable. Tomar is always in the discussion about his style, before that he has cleaned the toilets with his own hands, while he has even gone down

to the drain to take out the garbage from the dirty drain. Energy Minister Tomar inspected the road by foot from Laxman Talaiya in his constituency to Shabd Pratap Ashram and expressed displeasure over the slow pace of construction work.

GUARD KILLED WHILE TRYING TO ROB ATM MACHINE IN PITHAMPUR

Dhar: In Pithampur, an industrial area of Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, the robbers who came to rob an ATM killed the guard. Police has started searching for the accused. According to the information received, the ATM of State Bank of India is located on the Mhow-Neemuch road of Pithampur's Sector No. 1 police station, where the blood-soaked body of security guard Gajraj Singh was found on Friday morning. It is feared that the accused may have tried to rob the ATM, during which the guard was killed. Based on the evidence found from the spot, it is being said that while the security personnel was sitting on the chair, he was attacked from behind with a sharp weapon.

Food grains of ration reached the merchant's warehouse in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

Complaints of dacoity on food grains of poor and needy are coming to the fore in Madhya Pradesh. In Indore, during the action of the administration, food grains of ration have been recovered from the warehouse of a trader. According to the official information, the district administration team raided a godown of Pappu Agarwal in Malharganj. Additional Collector Abhay Bedekar, in-charge of the food branch of the Collector's office, said that 600 bags of rice, 17 bags of moong, two bags of wheat, one sack of millet and other items have been recovered.



Food grains including rice purchased by a trader named Pappu Agarwal from the government ration shop were kept in the godown here. It is noteworthy that earlier action has been taken by the district administration against a person named Manish Singhal. Singhal has also been detained under

Rasuka. Earlier, action has been taken against the ration mafia in Mhow also. During investigation, it was told by Pappu Agarwal that Public Distribution System (PDS) rice is procured from consumers and also from other districts. Seal pack samples of the seized material were also taken on the spot. M.P. against Pappu Agarwal As a result of violation of Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2015, black marketing of rice, wheat, moong salt, millet by PDS has been registered under Essential Commodities Act 3/7. Apart from this, M.P. Action is also being taken under the Prevention of Thieves Market and Supply of Essential Commodities Act 1980.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings with representatives of social organisations



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem, Mulberry (Shahtoot) and

Cassia saplings with the members of Team Tigress Sanstha Bhopal and Prayas Multipurpose Social Organisation Nagpur in Smart City Park at Shyamla Hills. The organi-

sation is active in the works of making girls aware about cleanliness, self-defence training and training women for self-employment.

Vaishali Takkar's eyes were donated before cremation

Team Absolute | Indore

Late actress Vaishali Takkar's family fulfilled her wish and donated her eyes before her cremation on October 16. Sharing details about the same, her brother revealed how the Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata Hai fame used to often talk about donating eyes post her death. "Vaishali loved her eyes and often used to say that she would like to donate her eyes after her death. She had told the same to her mother as well. The family before her cremation on Sunday donated her eyes to the district health authorities so that someone else could see this world with her beautiful eyes," her brother said as quoted by E-Times. For the unversed, Vaishali Takkar died by suicide and was found dead at her Indore home on October 15. A suicide note was also recovered from her place which suggested that she was stressed and being harassed by her neighbour. Later, the prime accused in the case - Rahul Navlani was arrested.



Both, Rahul and his wife Disha Navlani have been booked under section 306 (Abetment of suicide) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal

Code. "Rahul, who is Vaishali's neighbour, his name was mentioned by the victim in her suicide note recovered by the police during the investigation. The victim has mentioned that Rahul was harassing her, because of which she took this extreme step. She was about to get married and Rahul troubled her for that," Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Moti-ur Rehman said earlier. Meanwhile, actor Vikas Sethi who worked with Vaishali in Sasural Simar Ka revealed how the actress was planning to tie the knot soon and had planned to visit Mumbai soon for shopping. "She partied with us a week before May 12 to celebrate my birthday in advance, as she was leaving for her hometown, Indore. She was the life of every party. She was jovial and a lot of fun," he told E-Times. Vaishali became a household name after she featured in several popular shows including Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata Hai, Sasural Simar Ka and Yeh Hai Aashiqui among others.

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EDITOR'S SPECS

Covid-19 still int'l health emergency

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday that Covid-19 is still a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the WHO's highest alert level. The announcement came although the number of weekly deaths is almost at its lowest level since the pandemic began, Xinhua news agency reported. The WHO's International Health Regulations Emergency Committee said after its quarterly assessment meeting last week that despite a decline in severe cases of Covid-19, and the falling number of weekly deaths, deaths from Covid-19 nevertheless remain high compared with other respiratory viruses. It also warned of Covid-19-related complications and post-Covid-19 conditions, with the full impact of these still not completely understood. The outbreak could also evolve during the upcoming winter season in the Northern Hemisphere, the committee said. Meanwhile, the current gaps in global surveillance of Covid-19 have hindered early identification and evaluation of the virus' evolution. With the virus expected to continue evolving, the committee said that the genetic and antigenic characteristics of future variants cannot yet be reliably predicted. Evolving variants may pose challenges to current vaccines and therapeutics, the committee warned. "Given the above considerations, the committee concurred that continued coordination of the international response is necessary," and considered that "the situation remains dynamic and requires frequent reassessments, and that the termination of the PHEIC, when considered feasible, should be implemented as safely as possible." The committee recommended that there should be three key priorities in the future: strengthening surveillance and achieving vaccination targets for at-risk groups; continuing to increase access to affordable therapeutics; and strengthening pandemic preparedness planning, while continuing to protect the most at-risk groups.

THE RAYS OF LIGHT LAMPS ILLUMINATE THE SOUL

Lalit Garg

Diwali is the time of grand celebration as it is the biggest Indian festival. Nevertheless, it should become a festival not only to remove the outer darkness, but also to remove the inner darkness. We can remove the darkness of attachment and unconsciousness by lighting the lamp of self-awareness within us. On the occasion of Diwali, everyone usually tries to clean and decorate their homes. In the same way, if the negative residues of karma accumulated in the courtyard of consciousness are cleaned by sweeping it, efforts are made to decorate it with restraint and the eternal flame of the lamp of the soul is ignited in it, then one can attain eternal happiness, peace and bliss. Rows of lights; it is the real meaning of Deepawali festival. Continuity is essential for making a row or queue and scaled-down sequence for continuity. When the lamps are in line, they become a sign of joy. As if there is a silent festival - but of light. The rows of lights are a sign of glee. Being a lamp is inspiring. A wick, a jug-full of oil, and a path-a-light. Nothing can be simpler than that of a simple Diwali lamp. This victory flag keeps away the whole night of darkness of Kartik Amavasya. On the night of Diwali, every lamp makes a wave of light, contributing to the ocean of light. Shakespeare's famous line is - 'If light is the life of holiness, then illuminate the world and receive it abundantly. It was sacred and with many meanings, this expression is closer to the clarity of real life practice. This is also the announcement of the festival of Deepawali and the vision of lights associated with it. The symbol of celebration, the symbol of expressing happiness, the symbol of success. If we immerse this thought deeply, then these hymns can become the blood vessels of our life and the rays of good behaviour can erupt from it. May the flame of the lamp meet with the sun'. The whole festival of Deepawali is one energy, one power, one type of movement. The relentless, unrelenting movement from one truth to another is the vibrancy of Diwali. Diwali is the time of many experiences of life.



In the journey from one experience to another, which is the speed of the wonderful and wonderful moments of Diwali, that is the reality of life. Life is a journey, a continuous journey. Similarly, Diwali is also a journey, a departure, to find something new, to do something unique. Time is passing, life is passing. Year on year, month on month, day on day and moment on moment are passing, the ways of breathing are decreasing. Diwali is the festival of making these diminishing breaths meaningful, living fully and usefully. Trees also live, animals and birds also live, but the real life is lived only by those whose mind is the result of contemplation. The wealth of contemplation is readily available to human beings. It is expected that by making proper use and development of it, give a meaningful direction to life and welcome the lights. The sky descends on the land of India on the night of Diwali. As the stars twinkle in the sky, so that the lamps on the earth also twinkle. Every side of this night is bright like the moon. No one remembers it by calling it Amavas. There is so much light in it. It is said that a lamp should be kept on a deserted road, at the door alone, on the lonely ridge of

the well and even in the desolate. If someone goes on a path somewhere by mistake, then he should not find darkness. Lights are gathered for everyone on this night. Now in the wake of this unusual and supernatural festival of lights, the soil of lamps is less and the pollution of electricity and firecrackers is more. The feeling of happiness does not change with time, but they get separated through its influx. On the occasion of Deepawali, the bright lights raised in front of them stand in front of them; it is a timeless declaration of victory. To get this victory and remove the darkness of attachment, the lamp of religion has to be lit. Where the sun of religion has risen, the darkness cannot stand there. Once darkness complained to Brahmaji that the sun follows me. He wants to destroy me. When Brahmaji spoke to Sun about this, Sun said - I do not even know darkness, far from eradicating it, you must first present it in front of me. I want to see his face. When Brahmaji asked him to come in front of the sun, darkness said - how can I come to him? If it comes, my existence will end. The real light of life is no clothes, no food, no language

and no means and facilities. The real light is only the fragrance of his spiritual qualities pervading man, which make human, which we see in the form of compassion, kindness, service-feeling and benevolence. In fact, this quality is the foundation of the light, the foundation on which a man makes his life meaningful by standing. Those who have the presence of these qualities, their dignity remain immortal. To spread light in the society, it is necessary to have humanity in the human being. Just as a lamp burns with a lamp, in the same way love grows by giving love and there is a great need of love and humanity in the society today. The conversational threads for the decline and growth of life are darkness and light. Darkness is not nature, it is nature. It is a symbol of our personal weaknesses, of crippled dreams and resolutions. Depressed, inactive, aimless lifestyle. Accepted meaningless thinking. Loss of loyalty to the values of life, lack of thought, deed and conduct. Till now the light has liberated man from the darkness, on the strength of these lights he realized the knowledge i.e. brought the theory into practical life. This is the reason why his fame has not been erased till date. In his view, virtue is not empty knowledge, virtue is not empty conduct. There is a coordination of both. Whose words and deeds do not differentiate, that is the sum of respect in the society. Let us identify the true light, explore ourselves, remove our inner lusts, anger, greed, attachment, madness etc. and walk on the same path which is the path of humanity. We should understand that human life is very rare, it is not found again and again. Society worships only those who live not for themselves but for others. With this Goswami Tulsidasji has said - 'Parit Saris Dharam Nahi Bhai'. Remember that this is the salutation to the light and this light is the meaning of our life. Whatever is true, what is right should not be accepted blindly. It should also be seen and tested with open eyes. When the euphoria breaks down, the resistance power awakens in the person. He puts an end to evils.

international

PAKISTAN ELECTION COMMISSION DISQUALIFIES IMRAN IN TOSHA KHANA CASE

Islamabad | Agencies

In a major legal victory for the ruling coalition government in Islamabad, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in a consensus verdict on Friday, disqualified former Prime Minister Imran Khan and ruled that the PTI chairman is no more a member of the National Assembly. The ECP stated that Khan submitted a false affidavit and found involved in corrupt practices, Geo News reported. Rejecting the ruling, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry said that it is an attack on 220 million Pakistanis. The verdict was announced amid tight security in the capital city's Red Zone where at least 1,100 police officials were deployed under the command of a senior superintendent of police to control the law and order situation in the area. The officer was assisted by five superintendents of police, six deputy



superintendents of police. Geo News reported that the law enforcement agency was given teargas shells in case the party workers launch a protest. According to a notice, the ECP had ordered all the relevant parties or their counsels to appear before the commission at its secretariat.

The poll body had reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana case on September 19 after arguments were completed from both sides. A five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the case. Toshakhana is a word of Persian origin that literally translates into "treasure house". A department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division, it stores precious gifts given to the head of states, MPs, bureaucrats and officials by heads of other governments, states and foreign dignitaries. According to Toshakhana rules, gifts and other such material received by persons to whom these rules apply shall be reported to the Cabinet Division. During the last hearing of the case, which took place on September 19, Khan's counsel Ali Zafar admitted that his client had sold at least four presents he had received during 2018-19.

US Senate has no objections to F-16 deal with Pak: State Dept

Washington | Agencies

The US State Department has said that the Pakistan F-16 programme was an important part of the broader Washington-Islamabad bilateral relationship, as the American Senate did not object to the proposed \$450 million deal with the South Asian nation. "The proposed sale will sustain Pakistan's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet," a State Department official told Dawn news. The proposed sale would also "ensure Pakistan retains interoperability with the US and partner forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations", the



official added. Media reports on Wednesday said that the US was all set to provide \$450 million F-16 sustainment package to Pakistan as "there has been no objection to the deal from the Senate within the mandatory 30-day notice period". On September 7, the State Department notified Congress, through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, about the Biden Administration's decision to offer this deal to Pakistan under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme, Dawn reported. "Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed," Senate Foreign Relations

Committee Chairman Senator Robert Menendez told the Senate days later on September 13. Diplomatic sources in Washington told Dawn news that Congress "does not need to take action to positively approve" a proposed deal. After the completion of the mandatory 30-day period, the deal would be considered approved, the sources added. The next step is for Pakistan to conclude a Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the US Department of Defence (DOD). If and/or when an agreement is concluded, it usually results in the DOD issuing a contract several months later. The delivery timeline for the deal is determined by both governments.

SPAIN, FRANCE AND PORTUGAL AGREE ON GAS PIPELINE LINK

Madrid: A gas pipeline is to be built connecting Iberia to France and the rest of Europe, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has confirmed. Spain, France and Portugal have agreed to cooperate on the project, Sanchez was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. Speaking on his return to Spain on Thursday after attending an EU summit on the energy crisis, Sanchez said that the pipeline will hugely increase the volume of the two existing links between Spain and France. It will also help to transport green hydrogen and gas during the transition period Europe needs until it increases its capacity for renewables. The "Green Energy Corridor" will connect Barcelona to Marseilles in southern France. It replaces the "MidCat" scheme, which was dropped in 2019 due to concerns over costs and regulations. The ongoing energy crisis, caused by the conflict in Ukraine and uncertainties over supplies from Russia, has led to the revival of plans to ship gas through Portugal and Spain (which is connected by pipeline to Algeria).

Canadian city pays tribute to Moosewala, plants a tree

Ottawa | Agencies

In the memory of late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, who was killed earlier this year, the Canadian city of Brampton planted a tree. Brampton was a second home to Moosewala, who went there in 2016 as an international student, and soon became a behemoth in the music industry delivering chart-topping hits. "We planted a tree in the memory of the late Sidhu Moosewala earlier today at the Susan Fennel Sportsplex. His legacy lives on in our City," Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown said on Thursday. The tree was planted near a plaque, which read: "In loving memory of Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu / 'Sidhu Moosewala' / Legends never die". Brown, along with Moosewala's friends, remembered the late singer



and said that the world lost him too soon. "Moosewala was a legend... He was always interested in the issues of common people, he tried to make this world a better place. Unfortunately, god wanted something else," Bhopinder Sahu, a family friend, told a local media channel. "Planting a tree in his memory would be the best thing for him, in his memory because it is going to stay here forever," Remedie Brar, a Brampton resident, said.

TEHRAN REJECTS EU CLAIM ON USE OF IRANIAN DRONES AGAINST UKRAINE

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister has rejected the claim of the European Union (EU) that Iran had sent missiles and drones to Russia to be used against Ukraine. In a phone conversation with Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stated Iran's policy of opposing the Russia-Ukraine conflict and its escalation, Xinhua news agency reported, citing a tweet by the Iranian top diplomat. "Although Iran has defense cooperation with Russia, sending drones and weapons against Ukraine is not Iran's policy," he tweeted, adding "the claim of sending Iranian missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine is baseless." On Thursday, the EU agreed on sanctions against three Iranian individuals and one entity for the alleged "use of Iranian drones by Russia against Ukraine in their ongoing conflict."



5.1-MAGNITUDE QUAKE JOLTS JAPAN, NO TSUNAMI WARNING ISSUED



Tokyo | Agencies An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale struck off Japan's Fukushima prefecture on Friday, the national weather agency said, although no tsunami warning was issued. According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the temblor, which occurred at 3.19 p.m. (local time), was centred offshore with its epicentre at a latitude of 37.4 degrees north and a longitude of 141.3 east, reports Xinhua

news agency. The JMA also said the quake occurred at a depth of 30 km. The earthquake logged lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale which peaks at 7 in some areas of Fukushima, according to the weather agency. There have been no immediate reports of major damage or injuries as a result of the quake. Japan's nuclear watchdog has not reported any abnormalities at any nuclear power stations, including the tsunami-stricken Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima.



AHEAD OF CIVIC POLLS, MARATHI MUSLIMS CM Shinde's hometown Thane THROW LOT BEHIND SHIV SENA-UBT rocked by 2 shootings

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a booster ahead of the upcoming civic polls in the state, the Marathi Muslims Seva Sangh (MMSS) on Friday threw its full weight behind former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

A delegation of prominent Marathi Muslims and NGOs called on Thackeray and extended their full support to the Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray.

The delegation comprised MMSS President Faquir M. Thakur, Nuruddin Naik, Ismail Samdule, Dr A.R. Khan, Capt. Akbar Khalifa and other key members from all over the state.

"We expressed our deep sense of hurt at the manner in which Uddhav Thackeray ji was forced out as the CM in June and the attempts made by the group of selfish rebel leaders out to destroy the teachings of the late



Balasaheb Thackeray," Thakur said after the meeting. After holding discussions among all its members and

other affiliated organisations, the MMSS decided to meet and express unconditional support to Thackeray

for all his initiatives in the interest of the state's pride, unity and politics of development and progress, he added.

Thackeray accorded a warm welcome to the MMSS delegation, interacted with them and conveyed his gratitude for the gesture of support.

The MMSS leaders also said they are confident that in the upcoming civic elections, the people will give their full support to the Shiv Sena-UBT and its allies in the interest of defeating the communal politics being played in the state and country, said Thakur.

Founded in 2014, the MMSS has around 80 big and small NGOs under its banner with many social-cultural-educational initiatives involving thousands of members of the minority community including women and youth, across Mumbai, Konkan, western and northern Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha and major cities.



Team Absolute | Thane

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's hometown Thane was rocked by two shooting incidents which left two persons injured, including one critically, police said here on Friday.

In the first incident, property dealer Ashwin Gamle was shot at and sustained bullet injuries at Ghantali Road around 5.30 a.m.

Heavily bleeding with at least one bullet piercing

through his body, Gamle was rushed to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital in Kalwa while the Naupada police are probing the matter.

The second shootout took place near the Mama Bhanja hills locality of Vartak Nagar around dawn, in which local ruffian Kala Ganya was injured. At least one bullet found its mark on Ganya's chest and he has been rushed to the Vedanta Hospital where his condition is described as "critical". The Vartak Nagar police has launched a probe.

Taking serious note, the Thane police and Crime Branch have formed multiple teams to investigate and track the shooters involved in both the incidents, said top officials.

Though the exact motives are being ascertained, preliminary enquiries point to business rivalries or previous enmities culminating in the firing incidents in open public places in Thane city, where Shinde's private residence is located and is also his political stronghold.

Missing food delivery agent found dead in drain

Team Absolute | Pune

A 31-year-old food delivery executive, reported missing since earlier this week, was found dead in a nullah in Maharashtra's Pune city on Friday, police said.

Sanjay Kumar Yadav, an employee of an online food aggregator app, had accepted the last food delivery order around 10.45 pm on October 17 and had since been missing, an official said.

Pune received heavy rainfall on October 17 and several parts of the city were inundated.

"Today, we found Yadav's body in a nullah near a housing society in Mohammadwadi. It is suspected that he might have fallen into a flooded nullah near Sanskriti School in the same vicinity and got washed away in the strong water current," senior inspector Sardar Patil of Kondhwa police station said.

The victim's family filed a missing person's complaint after two days, he said. "It is suspected that in order to deliver food at the time, Yadav might have ventured into the flooded area

on his motorcycle on the road adjacent to the nullah and got washed away," the official said.

Pune city received 104 mm of rainfall in five hours late on Monday night and early hours of Tuesday, which led to water logging and inundation.

Social media was abuzz with pictures of cars and vehicles getting washed away in the rain.

Municipal Commissioner Vikram Kumar had said that this year's rainfall in the month of October has been unprecedented.

FOUR MUMBAI TEENS DROWN DURING BIRTHDAY PARTY SWIM IN THANE

Team Absolute | Thane

In a tragic incident on Diwali eve, a group of young students, celebrating a birthday party with a swim, drowned in a temple pond in Ambemath town here on Friday afternoon, police said.

The tragedy occurred around 1.30 p.m. at the Kondeshwar Shiv Temple water tank where the Mumbai boys - all aged 19 - had gone to celebrate the birthday of their friend Akash R. Zinga.

According to Kulgaon Police Station, this afternoon, three of them, birthday boy Zinga, along with Suraj M. Salve and Linus B. Uchchappawar, had dived into the temple tank for a swim. However, they failed to anticipate the depth of the water and got pulled inside even as their friends Pratik A. Hate and Swayam B.



Manjrekar jumped into the tank to save them. As the drowning trio struggled, even the saviour Manjrekar was dragged into the waters and they all drowned, while Hate managed to

return to safety and informed the locals who summoned the Kulgaon police. "All the deceased four were residents of Ghatkopar suburb in eastern Mumbai and were college

students. We have registered an accidental death report and are probing further whether they were intoxicated in any manner and related aspects," an official said here this evening.

The work of fishing out the bodies of the boys from the tank was completed this evening and after their autopsy, they will be handed over to the respective families, he added.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom fell over Ghatkopar with thousands preparing to celebrate the first day of the auspicious Diwali festival.

The scenic Kondeshwar Shiv Temple, nestling among lush green hills in Thane, is a popular day-picnic spot with a large water tank with streams and monsoon waterfalls in the vicinity, frequented by people from Mumbai, Thane, Palghar and other places.

Techie gets life imprisonment for plotting attack at American school

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A computer engineer has been sentenced to life in jail by a local court for plotting attacks on US establishments, including the American School, in Mumbai after being inspired by the terror group ISIS. Anees Ansari, arrested in October 2014 by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad, has been in jail since.

The Facebook chats of Ansari, whose office job at a

multinational software firm involved designing navigation maps, allegedly hinted at a plot to target US establishments including the school in Bandra, police said.

He used the company computer to set up a Facebook account in a false name and posted threats and other posts. His Facebook chats with one Omar Elhaji showed he wanted to carry out a 'lone wolf' attack on the American School, said the prosecution.

MAHARASHTRA MAKES RULES TO STOP DISHONOUR KILLING, KHAP PANCHAYAT DIKTATS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government has framed rules to prevent honour killings, 'khap panchayat' diktats, mob lynching as well as violence, and asked the Director General of Police to apprise personnel across the state force of their implementation, an official said on Friday.

The rules, which have been mentioned in a government resolution (GR) issued on Thursday, are in keeping with the recommendations of the Supreme Court on the issue, he added.

The GR has directed that police stations across Maharashtra should exercise alertness if an incident of inter-caste or inter-religious marriage is reported in their respective jurisdictions.

It also laid down that 'khap panchayat' and similar organisations should be reported to district and police authorities, and law-enforcing agencies must get in touch with the members of these



outfits and tell them such meetings are not allowed as per law. Local police must be alert and, if necessary, ban such meetings, the GR stated, adding that if a meeting is held despite a ban, then

the deputy superintendent of police must be in attendance and participants must be told no decision should be taken that harms the couple in question or their kin. Police will be required to video-graph such meetings and people who take decisions violative of rules will be liable to be booked for criminal offences, the resolution added. If the meeting of a khap panchayat or any such outfit cannot be banned as per law and if there is a possibility that the couple's lives are at risk, prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) should be issued and participants must be arrested, as per the GR. Apart from arrests under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) provisions, remedial measures will include protection to the couple and their families. The district magistrate, police commissioner or superintendent should handle the threats given to the couple and their families sensitively, and it must be checked if the couple are adults, so that, if needed, they can be helped to get their marriage registered.

Ortho-cruncher: 75% women ignorant of bone issues, dietary supplements

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In a shocker, a study of over 4,000 women at a medical camp here revealed that 75 per cent of them were blissfully ignorant of bone problems and were not taking any dietary supplements, experts said here on Friday.

The preliminary report emerged from a 'Bone Mineral Densitometry Osteoporosis Detection' camp organised by the 88-year-old Mumbai Obstetric & Gynaecological Society (MOGS) as part of the World Osteoporosis Day on Wednesday.

"This was the biggest-ever free camp of its kind in the country and we examined over 4,000 women patients for bone mineral density at 38 locations in Mumbai. A tentative analysis has thrown up some disturbing facts which the medical fraternity should take strong note of," MOGS President Dr. Niranjan Chavan told correspondent.

Of the total women patients examined in the camps, 200 (5.2 per cent) were detected with the dreaded osteoporosis, and another 1,700 (47.6 per cent) had osteopenia with a T-score of (-1.0 to -2.5), sounding alarm bells for them, he said.

"The bigger concern was that a staggering 75 per cent of all the women patients had virtually no knowledge of bone diseases or any dietary supplements to curb them, while the rest (25 per cent) were partly aware and already taking Calcium and Vitamin D supplements, besides sticking to a proper and nutritional diet," said Dr. Chavan.

Surprisingly, a majority of the ignoramus patients (91.2 per cent) were well-educated -- 41.2 per cent are either graduates or pursuing a degree course, 28.9 are secondary school level pass-outs - while 17.3 per cent had acquired primary edu-

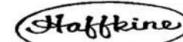


cation and only the remaining 8.8 per cent were illiterates.

"In such a scenario of wide-spread ignorance even among the literate classes, it's imperative for the general practitioners (family doctors) to step in, recommend bone mineral densitometry (BMD) tests -- at least every 3-4 years for people above 40 -- prescribe Calcium and Vitamin D supplements in addition to the regular B-Complex tablets," urged Dr. Chavan. With the theme of 'Vision For HER - Heal Her, Educate Her & Respect Her', the MOGS head said the aim of the camp was to screen the Vitamin D levels in the bones of women in all age groups, different academic, social and economic backgrounds to ascertain the calcium levels in their body which is critical for strong and healthy bones.

"As age advances, the bones become brittle as calcium reduces in

the body leading to bone deformities, stress fractures and affecting the day-to-day life of women. It can be taken care of with extra supplementation apart from a nutritional and dietary intake of calcium available in our daily sources of vegetables and non-veg foods," said Dr. Komal Chavan, who coordinated the mega-camps. Department of Medical Education & Research Director Dr. Dilip Mhaisekar, who is also former Vice-Chancellor of Maharashtra University of Health Sciences felicitated the MOGS team and 38 centres convenors on Thursday where the findings of the camp were also shared. Dr. Komal Chavan added that the entire data collected will be thoroughly analysed by expert teams and later submitted to national and international medical journals for the attention of the larger medical fraternity.



HAFFKINE BIO PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATION LIMITED
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Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai 400 012 (INDIA)

TENDER NOTICE

Date : 19/10/2022.

Managing Director, (Procurement Cell), Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from eligible bidders for following items for various Health Institutions in Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Description	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	Period of Sale and Preparation of bid & bid submission	Bid Opening
1)	RT-4516	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	28.10.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	From 25.10.2022 10.00 am to 01.11.2022 up to 14:00 hrs.	03.11.2022 at 14:00 hrs.
2)	RT 1-984	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	03.11.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	From 25.10.2022 10.00 am to 24.11.2022 up to 14:00 hrs.	28.11.2022 at 14:00 hrs.
3)	RT-4825	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	03.11.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	From 27.10.2022 10.00 am to 07.11.2022 up to 14:00 hrs.	10.11.2022 at 14:00 hrs.
4)	RT-4824, RT-4826	Purchase of Instrument & Equipment	03.11.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	From 31.10.2022 10.00 am to 04.11.2022 up to 14:00 hrs.	07.11.2022 at 14:00 hrs.

For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.
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Email - eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in

Dr. Sunil Pundge

Dr. Sunil Pundge
Manager Equipment,
Haffkine Bio Pharmaceutical Corporation
(Procurement Cell), Mumbai Ltd.,



Jessica Chastain lends her support to Iran's 'women-led revolution'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jessica Chastain insists it is "really important" for her to raise awareness about the ongoing protests in Iran and she has hailed the "women-led revolution" taking place in the country.

The 'Good Nurse' actress used her Twitter account in September to shine a spotlight on the tragic death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was murdered by the country's morality police for not wearing her hijab correctly, and she is closely following the ongoing reaction to the shocking incident, which has sparked waves of women cutting their hair or shedding their head coverings in protest, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "It's really important for me to use my platform to amplify anyone's struggle for freedom and peace and safety. And what's happening in Iran right now is heartbreaking to me. I'm following the news every day as I hope everyone is, and my heart's with those girls."

Chastain praised the "strength" of the women in speaking out and hailed their actions as "incredible".

She added: "This is a women-led revolution. And I have such belief in them, and I send them so much strength and love and support. And I think it's incredible what they're doing."

Chastain's new movie, 'The Good Nurse', sees her play Amy Loughren, a nurse who was forced to turn detective when she discovered one of her colleagues was responsible for the murder of dozens of patients across nine hospitals over 16 years.

John Stamos rejected offer to play bisexual hooker

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor John Stamos, who is best known for starring as Jesse Katsopolis in 'Full House' nearly portrayed a hooker. He revealed he once had a lunch meeting with 'Glee' creator Ryan Murphy to discuss the potential of playing a prostitute who helps to "work on" a couple's marriage.

"I remember going to lunch with him at The Ivy and we order, and I said: 'So what's the show?' And he's like, 'Well...' And this was again, like now if he offered me the show, I'd do it in two seconds. But it was like, 'Okay, you play a male hooker and you fix the, you sleep with the husband, sleep with the wife, and you kinda work on their marriage,'" he said, reports aceshowbiz.com.

However, the former "General Hospital" star went on to explain that he soon realised he was not interested in the idea as soon as their appetisers had arrived and Ryan had jokingly compared the potential show - which never came to fruition - to 'Charlie's Angels'.

Speaking on 'The Jess Cagle Podcast', he said: "And then he said, 'And plus you have a really cute black guy and there's a cute blonde guy. You're like 'Charlie's Angels', but you're hookers. 'Charlie's Hookers'. And then the appetizer just sat down, you know, got sit. I was like, 'Oh God, I gotta sit another hour with this guy with Charlie's Hookers.' I should have done it though!"

Meanwhile, Stamos starred alongside late comedian Bob Saget, who was found dead in a hotel room back in January at the age of 65 after accidentally hitting his head, on the ABC show and recently mused about how much he longs to see his former co-star again.



NETFLIX CLARIFIES 'THE CROWN' IS A 'FICTIONAL DRAMATISATION'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Streaming giant Netflix has clarified that 'The Crown' is a fictional dramatisation for viewers by adding a logline to its YouTube trailer for Season 5, which is set to launch on November 9.

In the description for the trailer, posted by the official Netflix account, the logline reads: "Inspired by real events, this fictional dramatisation tells the story of Queen Elizabeth II and the political and personal events that shaped her reign."

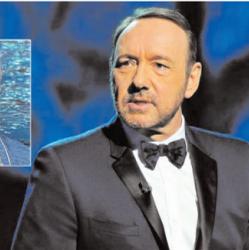
A spokesperson for Netflix told Variety: "'The Crown' has always been presented as a drama based on historical events. Series five is a fictional dramatisation, imagining what could have happened behind closed doors during a significant decade for the Royal Family - one that has already been scrutinised and well documented by journalists, biographers and historians." The addition of the logline follows much discussion in the UK over whether viewers will perceive events in "The Crown" as absolute re-enactments of real events. The British press has reported that sources within Buckingham Palace are particularly worried about the show's depiction of King Charles' affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles while married to Diana, Princess of Wales, especially given that he has just acceded to the throne.



I've had sex with ghosts and never got pregnant: Joy Behar

Los Angeles | Agencies

TV star Joy Behar, who has been married to Steve Janowitz since 2011 but has daughter, Eve, 51, with late ex-husband Joseph Behar, was appearing in her regular role as a host on 'The View' alongside her co-stars and was discussing a Texas woman who worries that her home is "haunted" by apparitions because it was once the site of a brothel. The 'Ugly Betty' actress, 80, quipped: "So, let me help you out here. She's having a sexual hallucination, which, you know, we all have them. I've had sex with a few ghosts and never got pregnant!" Fellow panellist and 'Sister Act' star Whoopi Goldberg was unsure how many of the studio audience managed to catch Joy's quip but was just going to "let it ride," reports femalefirst.co.uk. She said: "I'm just gonna let that ride. I don't know how many of you heard what Joy just said but I'm gonna let it ride." Meanwhile, the former 'Say Anything!' host, who has appeared almost continuously on 'The View' since its inception in 1997, recently rejected claims made by actress Dame Judi Dench that Netflix hit 'The Crown' is "cruelly unjust" for failing to disclose to viewers that the drama series is not an entirely accurate depiction of the history of the monarchy.



Kevin Spacey trial

Anthony Rapp loses \$40 million sexual battery lawsuit

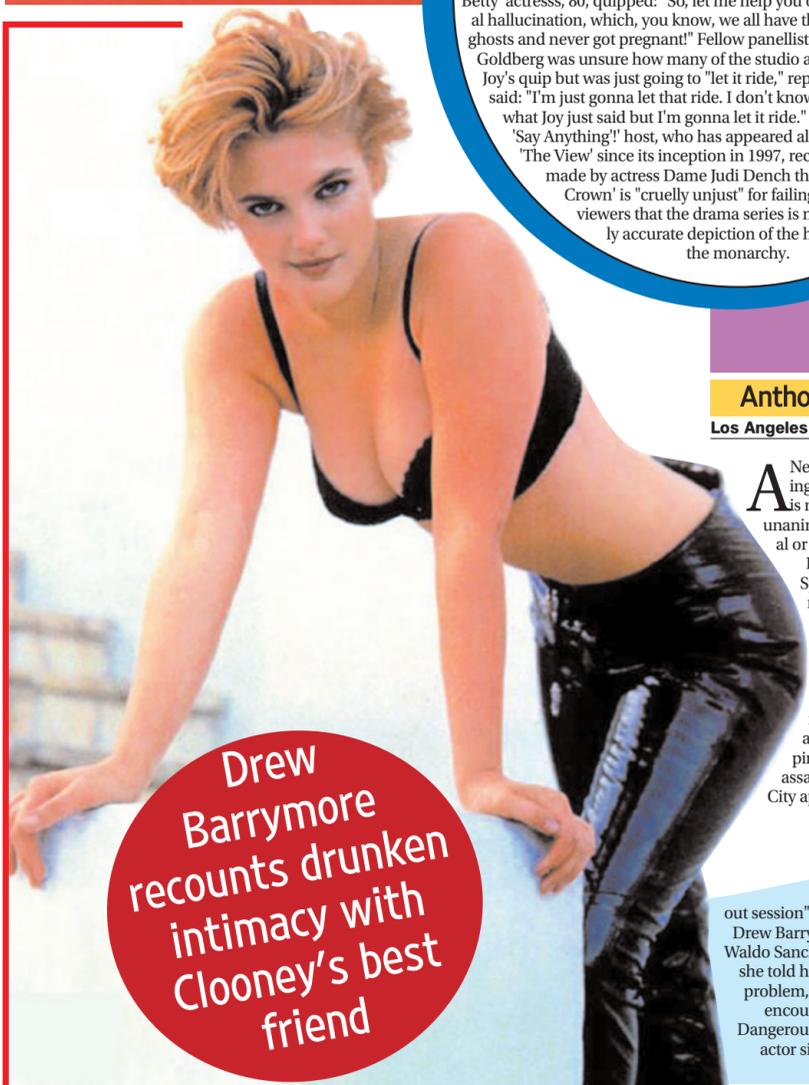
Los Angeles | Agencies

A New York jury has sided with actor Kevin Spacey in a \$40 million civil lawsuit, finding that the Oscar-winner did not molest Anthony Rapp when he was a teenager and is not liable for battery. After roughly 80 minutes of deliberations, jurors reached a unanimous decision that Rapp's lawyers had failed to prove that Spacey "touched a sexual or intimate part" of Rapp, reports Variety.

Rapp looked impassive as Judge Lewis Kaplan formally dismissed the case, and Spacey dropped his head briefly. He later stood up and hugged Chase Scolnick, a member of his legal team. In a statement on social media, Rapp made no direct mention of the verdict, but thanked the jury for hearing the case. "Bringing this lawsuit was always about shining a light, as part of the larger movement to stand up against all forms of sexual violence," he wrote. "I pledge to keep on advocating for efforts to ensure that we can live and work in a world that is free from sexual violence of any kind. I sincerely hope that survivors continue to tell their stories and fight for accountability." Rapp first made his claims in a 2017 BuzzFeed article, in which he said that Spacey lifted him up, placed him on his bed, and pinned Rapp down in a sexually aggressive manner. The alleged assault took place after a party at Spacey's New York City apartment in 1986.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Drew Barrymore seems to have a hard time controlling herself when she's drunk. She has revealed that she had a "drunken make-out session" with actor George Clooney's best friend. In the Friday, October 21 episode of 'The Drew Barrymore Show', the 47-year-old host unveiled that she had an intimate moment with Waldo Sanchez, George's hairstylist friend. "I feel like good times follow you wherever you go," she told her guest Clooney, reports aceshowbiz.com. "Yes, well, that's 'cause I drink. That's a problem, really, it does become a problem," he responded. Barrymore then segued into her encounter with Clooney's friend. "I got so drunk while we were making 'Confessions of a Dangerous Mind' I made out with Waldo," she admitted. In response, the 'Ticket to Paradise' actor simply said: "I remember." Barrymore then shared the backstory with the audience.



Drew Barrymore recounts drunken intimacy with Clooney's best friend

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Khloe Kardashian



T20 WORLD CUP

IRELAND ENTERS SUPER 12 WITH NINE-WICKET DRUBBING OF WEST INDIES



Hobart | Agencies

Playing in his seventh Men's T20 World Cup, veteran Ireland opener Paul Stirling stood up when it mattered the most, slamming a sensational 66 not out to take Ireland to the Super 12 stage of the ongoing tournament with a nine-wicket drubbing of West Indies in their final Group B match in the first round at Bellerive Oval on Friday.

After leg-spinner Gareth Delany picked career-best figures of 3/16 and kept things tight to keep the West Indies to 146/5 in 20 overs, Stirling came out all guns blazing in his unbeaten 48-ball knock, hitting six fours and two sixes to make a mockery of the chase, hunting down the total with 15 balls remaining.

He stitched a blazing 73-opening stand with captain Andrew Balbirnie and then put on 77 runs for the unbroken second wicket stand with Lorcan Tucker (45 not out) for Ireland to enter the Super 12 stage after failing to get past the first round in their last five T20 World Cup appearances and knock out the clueless two-time champions out of the competition.

After getting off the mark with a top-edge flying over slip off Obed McCoy in the opening over, Stirling fiercely swept Akeal Hosein for four while captain Andrew Balbirnie swept

the left-arm spinner for six to take 16 runs off the second over.

While Stirling powerfully clobbered Alzarri Joseph for six over deep mid-wicket, Balbirnie upped the tempo by hitting two fours and a six on the first three balls of Odean Smith. He then brought up the fifty of the opening partnership with an inside-out loft over vacant slip cordon and on the very next ball, sliced through backward point to make it back-to-back fours. Stirling gave a glimpse of his innovative stroke-play, moving across and scooping Joseph over short fine leg for four. Tucker finished off the chase in style, dancing down the pitch and converting a half-volley from McCoy into a loft over cover for four to give Ireland the ticket to Super 12.

Brief scores
West Indies 146/5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 62 not out, Johnson Charles 24; Gareth Delany 3/16, Simi Singh 1/11) lost to Ireland 150/1 in 17.3 overs (Paul Stirling 66 not out, Lorcan Tucker 45 not out; Akeal Hosein 1/38) by nine wickets.

ZIMBABWE BEAT SCOTLAND BY FIVE WICKETS



Hobart: Captain Craig Ervine played a captain's knock of 58 off 54 balls while Sikandar Raza smacked a cameo of 40 as Zimbabwe beat Scotland by five wickets in the first round of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Bellerive Oval to end up as winners of Group B and clinch the final Super 12 spot.

After Tendai Chatara and Richard Ngarava picked two wickets each in a clinical bowling performance to restrict Scotland to a paltry total of 132/6 in 20 overs, Zimbabwe were in trouble at 42/3 in eight overs.

But Ervine and Raza shared a 64-run stand off 43 balls, followed by Milton Shumba and Ryan Burl applying finishing touches for Zimbabwe to chase down the total with nine balls to spare.

PKL 9: GUMAN SINGH LEADS U MUMBA TO A THRILLING VICTORY OVER HARYANA STEELERS



Bengaluru | Agencies

Star performers Guman Singh and Jai Bhagwan helped U Mumba to register a thrilling 32-31 victory against the Haryana Steelers in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 9 at the Shree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

While Guman Singh picked up the first points for U Mumba, it was Meetu Sharma who got the Haryana Steelers off the mark. U Mumba's defensive unit didn't allow the Steelers to edge ahead as Jai Bhagwan and Co inflicted an All Out to give U Mumba a good lead as the midway stage of the first half approached. U Mumba pressed home their advance and continued to pick up points quickly as the Steelers' task became tougher, in what was a pacy game. However, Nitin Rawal and Manjeet's Super Tackle kept the Steelers in the hunt. At the midway point, U Mumba led 17-15, but, the momentum was firm with the Steelers. U Mumba regained the momentum and surged ahead in the early part of the second half to widen their lead further. But Amirhossein Bastami and Sushil led the fightback for the Steelers as U Mumba's lead continued to be reduced by the play. The Steelers took the lead with less than seven minutes to go when Jaideep Dahiya helped his team inflict an All Out.

Sabalenka, Kasatkina qualify for 2022 WTA Finals

St Petersburg (USA) | Agencies

Aryna Sabalenka and Daria Kasatkina qualified for the 2022 WTA Finals, joining World No.1 Iga Swiatek, Ons Jabeur, Jessica Pegula, Coco Gauff and Caroline Garcia in the singles draw, and Caroline Garcia in the doubles draw, the WTA announced on Thursday.

Sabalenka will be making her second appearance at the season-ending tournament in singles. She contested the group stages in 2021. She also qualified in doubles with Elise Mertens in 2019. Kasatkina earned her debut qualification for the WTA Finals this season. She served as an alternate in 2018.

Sabalenka reached two finals this season, at the WTA 500 Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart and the WTA 250 Libema Open in 's-Hertogenbosch. She reached the semifinals at two WTA 1000 events, at the Internazionali BNL d'Italia (Rome) and Western & Southern Open (Cincinnati) and also made the last four at the US Open, her joint-best singles Grand Slam result.



Kasatkina has triumphed at two tournaments in 2022 to secure her place in Fort Worth, winning the WTA 500 Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic in San Jose and the WTA 250 Championnats Banque Nationale de Granby. She boosted her qualification chances further through semifinal runs at the WTA 250 Melbourne Summer Set, WTA 500 Sydney Tennis Classic, WTA 1000 Internazionali BNL d'Italia (Rome) and Roland Garros, which marked her best Grand Slam result.

Easy win for Barcelona as they recover from Clasico defeat

Madrid | Agencies

Three goals in eight minutes saw FC Barcelona claim a comfortable 3-0 win at home to Villarreal on Thursday night which helped them recover from Sunday's defeat to Real Madrid.

Two goals from Robert Lewandowski in the 30th and 34th minute set Barca on their way, and Ansu Fati netted from close range after Ferran Torres had hit the post in the 38th minute to wrap the game up.

Lewandowski's first goal saw him control a pass from Jordi Alba before striking home, while his second was a measured shot into the far corner of the Villarreal goal, reports Xinhua.

Barca coach Xavi Hernandez rang the changes with Marcos Alonso playing in central defence, while Torres, Gavi and Fati all came into the side, with Sergio Busquets and Eric Garcia among those dropping to the bench.

The home side began by control-



ling the ball, with Fati bringing Villarreal keeper Geronimo Rulli into action, but Villarreal also threatened on the break with Jackson Martinez and then Arnaut Danjuma giving the home fans some nervous moments.

Barca's next game is on Sunday against Athletic Bilbao.

In Thursday's other games, Almeria survived a second-half fight-back to cling on for a 3-2 win at home to Girona. Almeria looked to be cruising to an easy win after first-half goals from Leo Baptistao, El Bilal Toure, and Adrian Embarba, but were left clinging on after Rodrigo Riquelme pulled a goal back in the 47th minute and Cristhian Stuani netted a penalty with seven minutes to play.

Girona thought they had snatched a point in injury time, but Yangel Herrera's 96th-minute effort was ruled out for offside.

Elsewhere, Ante Budimir's 55th-minute header gave Osasuna a 1-0 win at home to Espanyol to end their run of three games without a win.

GUADALAJARA OPEN

GAUFF OVERCOMES TREVISAN TO REACH QUARTERFINALS



Guadalajara (Mexico): American tennis player Coco Gauff cruised to a 6-0, 6-3 Round 3 win over Martina Trevisan at the Guadalajara Open Akron on Thursday to reach her third quarterfinal of a WTA 1000 event this year, here.

The No 5 seed Gauff won the first nine games against Trevisan in a rematch of their semifinal at Roland Garros, which was also won by Gauff in straight sets. She staked an early lead thanks to a crucial hold of serve in the first set at 2-0. Trevisan led 0-40, and had four break points in total, before Gauff held. The American saved the first seven break points she faced, and though she was broken on the eighth, she denied Trevisan any sustained momentum. Gauff broke again, for a fifth time in the match, and served out victory in 61 minutes after saving another break point.

Gauff is 0-2 this year in quarterfinals at WTA 1000 events, having lost to Iga Swiatek in Doha and Simona Halep in Montreal.

With neither of those players entered this week, she'll face either Victoria Azarenka or compatriot Madison Keys for a spot in her second career WTA 1000 semifinal.

Tom Moody picks Shami, Bhuvni, Arshdeep for pace attack against Pak at the MCG

Melbourne | Agencies

Renowned coach and former Australia cricketer Tom Moody has picked Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Arshdeep Singh as his choice of fast-bowling options in India's bowling attack in their Super 12 opener of the ICC T20 World Cup against Pakistan at the MCG on Sunday.

While Bhuvneshwar and Arshdeep have been regular fixtures in India's matches since July, Shami made a late entry into the squad as a replacement for an injured Jasprit Bumrah. Shami, who missed out on bilateral T20Is against Australia and South Africa due to Covid-19 infection, took three wickets in the final over, including bowling consecutive pin-point yorkers



on the last two balls, for India to win their first warm-up match by six runs in Brisbane.

"I'd be going with Shami. I'd just go with his experience. Obviously, Bhuvni and Arshdeep are the first two. I just think that in big tournaments, you back

big players. And he's a big player with a lot of experience."

"He may be short with some volume in his bowling, but that one over he bowled against Australia would have gone a long way with regards to not so much the physical side of things, but definitely the mental side of things," said Moody on 'Game Plan' show on Star Sports.

Further talking about the India-Pakistan match, Moody felt that the Rohit Sharma-led side need to be careful with the bat in the first six overs against Pakistan's new-ball bowlers. "I think it's an intriguing contest, because to me, India are a batting strong side while Pakistan, I think, are a bowling-strong side. So, for me it's a real contest as to how well India bat against a very strong new ball attack.

RONALDO MUST FACE CONSEQUENCES, SAYS ERIK TEN HAG

London | Agencies

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag on Friday confirmed that Cristiano Ronaldo refused to come on as a substitute in the game against Tottenham on Wednesday, saying that there "has to be consequences" for the star footballer.

The 37-year-old exited Old Trafford before full-time after leaving the bench and walking down the tunnel in the 89th minute of United's 2-0 win. He has been dropped for Saturday's game at Chelsea and is training alone. Asked directly whether Ronaldo refused to come on, Ten Hag said: "Yes." The manager added that the Portugal international did the same at half-time of the friendly against

Rayo Vallecano in pre-season and he felt he had to act.

"The talk is between Cristiano and me. The statement is clear. It is also in the statement that he remains an important part of the squad," Ten Hag was quoted as saying by BBC.

"I am the manager, I am responsible for the culture here. I have to set standards and values and have to control them. We are in a team."

"After Rayo Vallecano, I said it was unacceptable, but it wasn't just him. The second time there has to be consequences. That is what has happened."

"We miss him tomorrow, that is a miss for us and the squad, but I think it is important for the attitude and mentality of the group and now we have to focus on Chelsea -- that is the most important," he added.

Pro League to provide direct berths to World Cup, Olympic Games from 2024-25 season

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has made major changes in the FIH Pro League format, making it available two direct qualifying berths each for the subsequent World Cups and Olympic Games to winners in both men's and women's sections for the seasons starting from 2023-24 season.

"Winner of the Men's and Women's Pro League season 5 and season 6 will qualify for the World Cup in 2026 and the winners of seasons 7 and 8 will get direct entry into the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles," the CEO of International Hockey Federation (FIH), Thierry Weil told the media in an online interaction on Friday.

From the fourth edition to be conducted in the 2022-23 season, the FIH will introduce relegation and promotion with the



last-placed team at the end of the season in both men's and women's competitions dropping down to the Nations Cup while winners of the Nations Cup getting promoted to the

respective conducting Pro League tournaments, the FIH CEO said. The fourth season of the FIH Men's Pro League, to be conducted as mini-tournaments 3-4 teams to reduce the amount of travelling for players, starts on October 28 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar with hosts India taking on New Zealand, who return to the Pro League after staying away for a season because of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

Spain is the third team for this cluster of matches and the hosts will play both opponents twice between October 28 and November 4, with The Black Sticks playing Spain on October 29; India taking on Spain on October 30 and will end this cluster of matches with a clash against New Zealand on November 4.

The Indian men's team will play its matches at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, which will act as test events for the newly-constructed stadium here before the World Cup in January 2023.



PARIS HILTON GOES DESI FOR HER PERFUME LAUNCH EVENT IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

American socialite and international jet-setter Paris Hilton was busy promoting her fragrance, Ruby Rush, here on Thursday evening. For the product launch at the Phoenix Palladium mall in the Lower Parel area of Mumbai, Hilton chose the perfect attire -- a red jumpsuit with a plunging neckline and sheer silver gloves, thereby bringing out the best of desi and chic moods.

She rounded off her look with emerald jewellery, red sunglasses, and open tresses. Prior to the event, she took to her Instagram to share a video of her trying different outfits. What's interesting is that all the outfits in the video are Indian attires, designed by Indian designer, Shubhika of

Papa Don't Preach fashion label, as Paris wanted to bring out the essence of the Indian culture.

She sought help from her followers to choose the outfit for the Thursday evening launch event.

She wrote in the caption: "Love wearing and supporting local designers when I travel. India In love with these gorgeous looks from Indian designer @PapaDontPreachByShubhika styled by @Marta.DeL.Rio. Which one should I wear to my @ParisHiltonFragrances Launch today?"

Paris touched down in Mumbai on Wednesday night for her stay of two days in the city. She was welcomed by scores of paparazzi, who were waiting for her at the arrival gate at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.



Kantara to become first Kannada movie to be screened in Ho Chi Minh City

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

The sleeper-hit Kannada movie 'Kantara', which has created an unprecedented buzz at the box office, will set a new record on November 1, when it becomes the first Kannada film to be ever screened at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

This has been made possible because of the community's initiative to celebrate the state's formation day on November 1 in the Vietnamese capital. It was on this day in 1956 that the state of Mysore was created. It was renamed Karnataka in 1973.

The screening will take place at the prestigious Institut d'Echanges Culturels avec la

France in Ho Chi Minh City. The Kannadiga diaspora also congratulated the entire team of

'Kantara' for making a movie that captures the true essence of the traditions and beliefs of the state.

Dignitaries from the Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM) will also be invited for the screening and so will the consulate officials. The idea behind the screening is to promote the language and culture of Karnataka.

I inherited my love for books from mum: Shweta Tiwari

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular face of TV industry, Shweta Tiwari, who is currently seen in 'Main Hoon Aparajita' playing the role of a mother of three daughters, revealed her interest in reading books and said that reading a good novel for her is like a stressbuster.

She said: "I enjoy reading a good book whenever I have free time. Even if I have a hectic shoot schedule, reading an interesting novel always makes me happy and stress-free."

The actress made her place in the entertainment industry with the role of Prerna in 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' and also acted in a number of daily

soaps, films and web series. She was also the winner of 'Big Boss 4' and then participated in 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 11'. She made her digital debut with 'Hum, Tum and Them'.

Apart from acting, Shweta makes sure to take out some time for her hobby of reading books and said about inheriting this habit from her mother.

She spoke: "As a child, I loved reading books, and I believe I inherited love for books from my mother. My collection of books has been growing since I was a child, they really make me happy. I haven't really kept track of how many books I own, but enough to redesign my house to adjust the bookshelf to store them."

Furthermore, she opened up about the kind of books she is interested in reading: "I love reading about Indian and European history. If you ask me about my current favorites, they are 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho, 'Sapiens' by Yuval Noah Harari, 'The Immortals of Meluha' by Amish Tripathi and many more."

The 42-year-old actress added: "I also love reading novels written by Kristin Hannah and Colleen Hoover. In every book I read, I connect with the character, and it's like living another life."

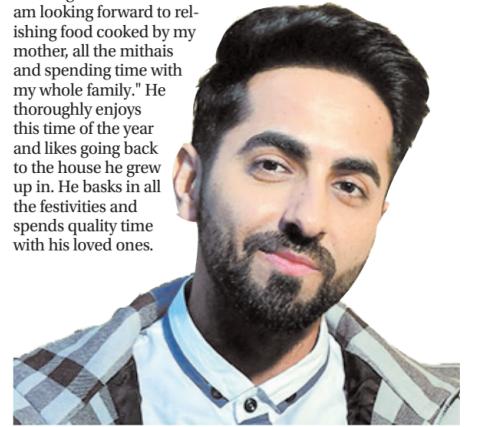
AYUSHMANN BURNS THE MIDNIGHT OIL TO FINISH WORK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has been burning the midnight oil as he is juggling between shooting for 'An Action Hero', 'Dream Girl 2' and his brand commitments. The actor has been working double shifts to ensure he finishes everything on his platter before he travels to his hometown, Chandigarh to celebrate Diwali with his parents.

It will be a two-day trip that Ayushmann is looking forward to. Talking about the same, Ayushmann shared: "Diwali is one of my favourite festivals and I truly look forward to it. I have been in a hectic shooting schedule for Dream Girl 2 and An Action Hero but I have somehow managed to get 2 days off during which I am planning a quick trip to my hometown, Chandigarh." He further said: "I am looking forward to relishing food cooked by my mother, all the mithais and spending time with my whole family."

He thoroughly enjoys this time of the year and likes going back to the house he grew up in. He basks in all the festivities and spends quality time with his loved ones.



Team Absolute | Chennai

Actress Ritika Singh, who shot to limelight with director Sudha Kongara's Tamil film on boxing, 'Irudhi Suttru' ('Saala Khadoos' in Hindi), says that looking at the night sky makes her feel small in a very beautiful and hopeful way. The actress recently took to Instagram to say that she was trying her hand at writing and that she was posting something that she had written just that instant.

She said,

Night sky makes me feel happy: Ritika Singh

"Just a little something I wrote just now. I have a few notes like this saved in my drafts, but I don't feel confident enough to post them. This one is going up only because I was finally able to summarise my thoughts about the sky full of stars. Hope you like reading it!"

Her post read, "I love looking up at the night sky and letting my thoughts flow. But with the flow comes a lot of chaos and my thoughts start wandering in all directions."

"And yet, even in all that randomness, I somehow find a little clarity and I find myself getting one step closer to the answer that I'm always looking for, which is 'Why am I here? What is my true purpose? What is the meaning of all this?'"

Avinash Tripathi honoured at the Qatar International Art Festival

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Avinash Tripathi, a renowned film writer, lyricist, and director, was recently honoured at the Qatar International Art Festival. Avinash was the sole panellist representing India at this international art festival in Doha, Qatar. Qatar is currently the world's largest centre for artists and sports enthusiasts due to FIFA World. In such time, Art and sports activities are in prime focus. The global art market is undergoing rapid transformation. Digital art now has a larger market than traditional art. Representing India on the prestigious Art Panel talk show on the future of art, Avinash referred to cinema as the most complete art form and stated that cinema is, combining both traditional and digital mediums, incorporates all art forms. This Art Talk was attended by artists from eleven countries, including Sweden, Romania, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Portugal. In addition to representing India on talk shows, Avinash has moderated the master classes of sixteen internationally renowned artists. Avinash was recognised for his artistic and cinematic contributions.



Niharika Gandhi