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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI

NATION >02
NIA conducts raids at over 50 places; arms seized...



HOLLYWOOD > 06
Camila couldn't figure out people's "intentions", deleted dating app...



SPORTS > 07
India beat Australia 3-2 at BWF World Junior Mixed Team...



TOP COURT IS NOT HAPPY WITH GUJARAT GOVT REPLY IN BILKIS BANO CASE

VERY BULKY COUNTER

A BENCH, HEADED BY JUSTICE AJAY RASTOGI, ORALLY OBSERVED THAT HE HAS NOT COME ACROSS A COUNTER AFFIDAVIT WHERE A SERIES OF JUDGMENTS HAVE BEEN QUOTED.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that Gujarat government's response to petitions challenging the remission granted to 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case is "very bulky", where, instead of factual statements, a series of judgments have been cited. "A very bulky counter. Where is the factual statement, where is the application of mind?" he asked.



CONVICTS RELEASE WITH EYE ON ELECTIONS: CONGRESS

New Delhi: Congress on Tuesday questioned the Gujarat government for the preferential treatment given to the Bilkis Bano case convicts, alleging that it has been done for elections. Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesper-

son Abhishek Manu Singhvi said that the Gujarat government affidavit "proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the release was a political decision made with not just the concurrence of those in the highest echelons

of power in the Modi government". He questioned why the Modi Government, despite the objections of senior officials, sought to grant preferential treatment to individuals convicted of such a reprehensible, horrific, and heinous crime.

hearing on November 29.

In an affidavit, the Gujarat government told the Supreme Court that it decided to release the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case as they had committed heinous, grave and serious, hence they cannot be released prematurely.

"The Government of India conveyed the concurrence/ approval of the Central Government under section 435 of the CrPC for premature release of 11 prisoners vide letter dated July 11, 2022," it added.

The affidavit said the state government considered the opinions of

'NO DIRECTION CAN BE ISSUED TO PARLIAMENT TO FRAME UNIFORM CIVIL CODE'

New Delhi: The Law Ministry has told the Supreme Court that the court cannot direct Parliament to frame or enact any law, as it sought dismissal of PILs seeking a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country.

It added that citizens belonging to different religions and denominations following different property and matrimonial laws are an affront on a nation's unity, and to have legislation or not is a policy decision and the court cannot give any direction to the executive.

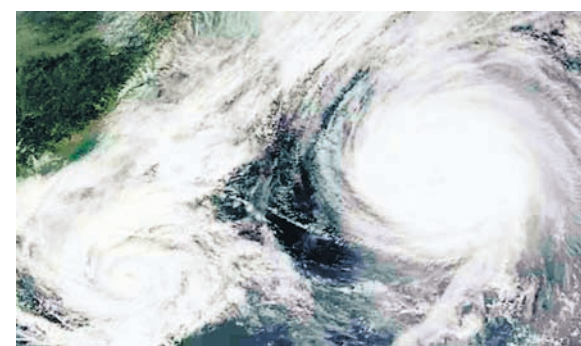
In a written response, the ministry said: "It is submitted that the present writ petition is not maintainable in the eye of law since the petitioner, inter alia, seeking direction against the Union of India to remove the anomalies in the ground of divorce and make Uniform Civil Code."

seven authorities --the Inspector General of Prisons, Gujarat, the Jail Superintendents, the Jail Advisory Committee, the District Magistrate, the Police Superintendent, the CBI, the Special Crime Branch, Mumbai, and the sessions court, Mumbai.

Tropical cyclone likely to form over west central Bay of Bengal: IMD

Team Absolute | Bhubaneswar

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said that a tropical cyclone is likely to form over west central Bay of Bengal around October 23 or 24. In a statement, the IMD's Bhubaneswar Centre said that cyclonic circulation formed over south Andaman Sea and the neighbourhood on Monday now lay over north Andaman Sea and neighbourhood. Under its influence a low pressure area is likely to form over south-east and adjoining east central Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours, it said. The system is likely to move west-north westwards and concentrate into a depression by October 22 morning over central Bay of Bengal. It is very likely to intensify further into a cyclonic storm over west-central Bay of Bengal subsequently, the Met Centre pre-



dicted. There will be no major weather but there is possibility of isolated rainfall activity over Odisha up to October 23 morning. Speaking to reporters, IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said the prevailing weather system is likely to take the shape of a cyclone around October 23 or 24. However, he said: "We have not predicted the intensity and possible area of land-fall of the impending cyclone as it is yet to take the shape of a low pressure area."

The IMD is closely monitoring the system, he added. Under the influence of above mentioned anticipated system squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph over deep sea areas of westcentral adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal from October 22 morning. So, the weather office has advised fishermen not to venture into deep sea areas of westcentral adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal from October 22 morning onwards till further notice.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN PATNA VARSITY AFTER CLASH BETWEEN STUDENTS

Patna | Agencies

Ahead of the elections to the Patna University Students Union, residents of four varsity hostels were involved in a violent clash on Tuesday, leaving at least six injured. The students of Minto, Iqbal, Jackson, and Nadvi hostels, in a bid for supremacy, clashed, pelting stones on each other and also lobbed half a dozen crude bombs, leaving six students injured. The victims were admitted to Patna Medical College and Hospital for treatment.

The clash in Patna university is not new here. There is a student union poll coming up in the next few weeks. The violent clash on Tuesday is a result of it.

Roger Binny replaces Sourav Ganguly as BCCI president

Mumbai | Agencies

The former India all-rounder Roger Binny on Tuesday was elected as the new president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) during its 91st Annual General Meeting, here.

Binny, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, replaced former India skipper Sourav Ganguly in the post.

The 67-year-old Binny has a lot of experience in cricket administration. He has served in different positions at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) over the years and has been its president since 2019. Prior to that, he also was part of the KSCA administrations led by Patel and Anil Kumble (2010-12).

Along with Binny, there are two first-timers in the new administration -- Ashish Shelar and Devajit Saikia. The Maharashtra BJP leader Ashish Shelar who served as Mumbai Cricket Association president between 2017 and 2019, has become the treasurer while Saikia is the new joint secretary.

Meanwhile, Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was elected as the BCCI



Secretary for a second consecutive term. The Congress leader Rajiv Shukla was also re-elected as the board's vice-president.

NOT SATISFIED WITH SISODIA'S ANSWERS, CBI MULLING TO SUMMON HIM AGAIN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Sources in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have suggested that the agency sleuths were not satisfied with the questioning of Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in connection with the excise policy case, and they are mulling over summoning him again. Sisodia was grilled by the CBI officials for about nine hours on Monday, during which about 50 questions were asked. However, the CBI sources said that the agency sleuths didn't get satisfactory answers from the Deputy CM. Now there are chances that Sisodia is likely to be summoned again. After the questioning on Monday, Sisodia had alleged that he



was pressured to quit the Aam Aadmi Party and join the BJP at the agency headquarters.

"I was pressured to join the BJP. These cases will go on like this... They will make you CM, I was told," Sisodia said, adding that the officials even suggested that in case of a switch, he would be offered the Chief

Minister's post. Refuting Sisodia's allegations, the CBI had said in a statement, "Some sections of the media have aired a video in which, after leaving the CBI office, Manish Sisodia has stated on camera that during his questioning, he was threatened to leave his political party and similar such insinuations."

"The CBI strongly refutes these allegations and reiterates that the examination of Shri Sisodia was carried out in a professional and legal manner strictly as per the allegations against him in the FIR. The investigation of the case will continue as per law."

In second round of questioning, Sisodia can be confronted with some video evidences.

Over half of Tory members want Truss to quit, Boris Johnson favourite to take over

London: Liz Truss suffered a fresh body blow on Tuesday as a poll found more than half of Tory members want her to quit, with Boris Johnson emerging as the favourite to take over, a media report said. A bombshell YouGov survey revealed that four in five party activists think the PM is doing a bad job and 55 per cent are convinced she should go, compared to just 38 per cent who back her staying, Daily Mail reported.

Her predecessor Johnson is the preferred option as a replacement, with 32 per cent supporting him while 23 per cent said Rishi Sunak and 10 per cent Ben Wallace.

The brutal findings emerged as the PM held two hours of talks with the Cabinet. Transport Secretary Anne-Marie Beale risked setting another hare running by appearing to answer 'probably' when asked if ministers have confidence in the premier, Daily Mail reported.

MPs are considering whether and how to stage a coup in the wake of Jeremy Hunt's extraordinary demolition of her flagship economic plans. Having stubbornly failed to do so when she sacked Kwasi Kwarteng on Friday, Truss belatedly apologised for the debacle on Monday night in a BBC interview, conceding she had made 'mistakes' and gone 'too far too fast'.



Researchers found that the rate of warming in the upper 2,000 metres of the ocean in 2010 more than doubled that of 1960, and predicted that if actions were not taken, the rate of ocean warming would be four times larger than the current level by 2090, with dire consequences for all life on Earth, Xinhua news agency quoted the study published in Nature Reviews journal as saying.

Coastal regions are increasingly vulnerable in association with rising sea levels, storm surges and adverse impacts on ecosystems, the study showed.

'Ocean warming rates to quadruple by 2090 if climate change not mitigated'

WELLINGTON | Agencies

A new comprehensive review of global ocean temperature data has allowed researchers to paint a clear picture of ocean warming since the 1950s, and predict future warming scenarios, according to a study released on Tuesday. Authors from the University of Auckland, the National Center of Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, and research institutes from China, France, Australia and the UK, said that if the world succeeds in limiting global surface temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as per the Paris Agreement, the acceleration of ocean warming will stop at around 2030. As humans emit greenhouse gas into the atmosphere, it causes the Earth to warm. The vast majority of the heat ends up in the ocean. Therefore, to understand how fast the Earth's climate is changing, people must look to the ocean and track ocean heat con-



tent change. Ocean warming also connects energy, carbon, and water cycles, as it is a key component of the Earth system, according to the study.

A warmer ocean brings tremendous consequences to the Earth. Not just to sea life but to the weather patterns across the planet and to the food chain. A warmer ocean leads to more

intense storms, more deadly rainfall and flooding, and more powerful typhoons and hurricanes, it said.

A consequence of warming is that parts of the planet will become drier, with more heat waves and droughts. Other parts will become wetter as rain-falls happen in bigger downbursts, according to the study.

'High time the world comes together to defeat all threats', PM Modi at Interpol meet

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India is one of the top contributors in sending brave men and women for United Nations' Peacekeeping operations and the country has been combating trans-national terrorism for several decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday while addressing the 90th Interpol General Assembly.

The Prime Minister noted that terrorism, corruption, drug trafficking, poaching and organised crime are some of the most harmful globalised threats that the world faces today.

"The pace of change of these dangers is faster than earlier. When the threats are global, the response cannot



be just local. It is high time that the world comes together to defeat these threats," Modi said.

He added that "long before the world woke up to it, we knew the price of safety and security. Thousands of our

people made the ultimate sacrifice in this fight. But it is no longer enough that terrorism is fought only in the physical space. It is now spreading its presence through online radicalisation and cyber threats".



NIA CONDUCTS RAIDS AT OVER 50 PLACES; ARMS SEIZED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted searches at over 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi-NCR to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers and traffickers based in India and abroad, sources said.

According to the information, a few of the most desperate gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad, who are spearheading and carrying out such terror and criminal activities were identified, and two cases were registered by the NIA in August against them.

"Today was the second round of the searches which were conducted by the centre agency," an NIA official said.

"The second round of raids and searches is part of the NIA crackdown on top gangsters, their criminal and business associates based in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, and arms suppliers based in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Their associates involved in illegal liquor supply mafia were also raided today. Premises of Rajesh a.k.a. Raju Mota -- a resident of



Sonepat was also searched, he is a drug peddler," the NIA official said.

According to the information, "the raids were carried out in Abohar, Bhatinda, Muktsar Sahab, Moga, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Mohali districts of Punjab, east Gurugram, Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar, Sonapat, Mahendragarh, Manesar, Rewari, Rohtak and Jhajjar districts of Haryana, Churu, Bharatpur and Alwar districts of Rajasthan Noida, Bulanshehar and Sonhadra districts, and Dwarka, outer-north, central, outer and north-east districts of Delhi-NCR". During the searches, five pistols have been seized,

along with ammunition, which includes a cache of 4 pistols from the house of an advocate, Asif Khan who lives in north-east Delhi. He was connected with various gangsters of Haryana and Delhi.

Few weapons in semi-knocked down condition have also been recovered. Apart from the above, incriminating documents, digital devices, details about benami property created through proceeds of crime, cash, gold bars and gold jewellery from Khurja, Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), threat letters, etc., have also been seized by the NIA. "Investigations have revealed

that these gangs were carrying out targeted killings and were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons. The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gangsters to businessmen, professionals, including doctors etc., had created a widespread scare among the people. These gangs were using cyber-space to publicise these crimes to create terror among the public at large," the official said.

The NIA has also learnt that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy among terrorists, gangsters and drug smuggling cartels and networks, who were operating from both within and outside the country.

Many gang leaders and members had fled India, and have been operating from foreign countries including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, etc. Ongoing probe by the NIA in cases being investigated by the agency, such as the killing of Shaurya Chakra Awardee Comrade Balwinder Singh in Punjab also revealed that most of these conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different states and were being executed by an organised network of operatives based in abroad.

Over 2,300 kg firecrackers recovered in separate raids, six held

Team Absolute | New Delhi
In separate operations across the national capital ahead of Diwali, Delhi Police have arrested six men and recovered more than 2,300 kg of banned firecrackers.

The police said that most these firecrackers were kept in shops while a tempo was also seized which was used for delivering the firecrackers banned in the city.

From Dwarka district, the police nabbed three men on Monday after specific inputs were received regarding the trio, who stored huge quantity of firecrackers at their shops located on Hastals Road near Uttam Nagar, main Najafgarh road and Dabur Enclave in Rawta Mor.

"Acting on the inputs, the police raided the locations and the trio was nabbed in different raids. The police also recovered over 224 kg of illegal firecrackers from their shops. Accordingly, three cases under the Explosive Substances Act and the Indian Penal Code have been registered against the accused persons who have been

placed under arrest," said M. Harsha Vardhan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka.

The accused have been identified as Shanky (33), a resident of Hastals Road, Suresh Tareja (59), a resident of Jupiter Apartment in Jukaspuri, and Rakesh Kumar (40), a resident of Rawta Mor.

In another case, the Delhi Police in South district held two men in separate operations from Madangir area, and recovering large quantity of firecrackers from their possession. "On Monday afternoon, a police team near the Central Market in Madangir noticed a person, identified as Sanjay Kumar, carrying a plastic bag. While checking the bag, the police found banned firecrackers inside it," said Chandan Chowdhary, DCP, South.

"After sustained questioning, 1,193 kg of banned firecrackers were recovered from his shop in Madangir. A case under relevant sections of the IPC has been registered at the Ambedkar Nagar police station and the accused has been placed under arrest," the DCP said.

The South district narcotics squad on Monday also arrested a 27 year-old man named Sagar, a resident of Madangir, after a raid was conducted at a shop in the Central Market, leading and 283 kilograms of banned firecrackers were recovered.

Meanwhile, in the north-east district, the police have arrested a 27 year-old man and recovered 13 cartons containing 611 kg of firecrackers from near the Welcome area.

"After receiving specific inputs, a trap was laid on Monday near the Welcome area. At around 10.30 pm, a tempo was seen near a gym, which was signalled to stop. During checking, the police found 13 cartons containing a total of 611 kg of firecrackers," said Sanjay Kumar Sain, DCP, North-east. "The accused has been identified as Kapil, a resident of Burari. He along with others used to buy firecrackers from different states using parcel services and further delivered the same to the different shops in Delhi-NCR," said the DCP.

Drugs valued at Rs 31cr seized in Mizoram; 1 held

Aizawl | Agencies

The Assam Rifles troopers on Tuesday have seized 92,550 highly addictive methamphetamine tablets valued at around Rs 31 crore, and arrested one person in this connection in Mizoram, officials said.

Since Saturday, the Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police personnel have seized foreign cigarettes valued at Rs 2.72 crore, drugs valued at Rs 34.18 crore and rescued 140 exotic animals and arrested four persons in this connection.

Assam Rifles sources said that the para-military jawans along with Excise and Narcotics Department on



Tuesday seized 92,550 methamphetamine tablets valued at around Rs 31 crore and arrested one person at Falkland Veng in Aizawl district.

A statement by the Assam Rifles said the ongoing smug-

gling of methamphetamine tablets and other drugs are a major cause of concern for the state of Mizoram.

The Assam Rifles have been guarding Mizoram's 510 km unfenced border with Myanmar.

Who is running Raj govt when 91 MLAs have resigned, asks BJP memorandum to Speaker

Jaipur | Agencies

Amid the political crisis in Rajasthan, Leader of Opposition Gulabchand Kataria, BJP state president Satish Poonia, Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathod along with other leaders submitted a memorandum to Speaker CP Joshi on Tuesday requesting him to take an appropriate decision in the matter of mass resignations submitted to him by around 91 MLAs.

The memorandum says that even after two weeks, the decision on the resignations of around 91 MLAs is under consideration. Those who submitted the resignations also include state ministers who are still living in government bungalows and utilising government vehicles, security and staff.



There is a state of confusion over the running of the government when 91 MLAs have resigned, it said adding that the Assembly Speaker should accept the resignations as per the rules of procedure of Rajasthan assembly rule 173 (2) which says that if a member gives his/her resignation

to the Speaker personally and informs that the resignation is voluntary and genuine, the Speaker may accept the resignation.

Our question is that who is running the government in Rajasthan when 91 MLAs have resigned, said Poonia adding "If we think to decide

on a majority, then not even 20 MLAs are running the government in the state, as out of a majority of 102, 90-91 MLAs resigned and the government is reduced to a minority," he added.

The Congress has to decide whether it was political hypocrisy, if it was not hypocrisy and the resignations were true, then we have come to the Speaker. He had said that this is a constitutional issue, so he got enough time for 2 weeks. Now when this time is over, we have knocked at his doors to find out who is running the government in Rajasthan?

The people of Rajasthan want to know about the failure of the constitutional machinery in Rajasthan, now the Speaker has to decide. The state government is being seen as a minority and the government seems divided, he added.

SC stays removal of Manik Bhattacharya as WBBPE president

Kolkata | Agencies

The Supreme Court on Tuesday put an interim stay on an earlier order of the Calcutta High Court on the removal of Trinamool Congress legislator, Manik Bhattacharya as the president of West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBBPE).

However, the division bench of the apex court did not pass any order on the reappointment of Bhattacharya for that chair considering that the state government has already replaced him after the Calcutta High Court order.

While putting an interim stay on the earlier order of the Calcutta High



Court on this count, the Supreme Court's division bench of Justice Anuruddha Bose and Justice Vikram Nath said that the apex court cannot

pass any order regarding his reappointment. At the same time, the division bench also put an interim stay on the termination of 269 primary teach-

ers as per the order by Calcutta High Court earlier on grounds that they secured the job illegally against payment of money. The apex court on Tuesday gave these 269 primary teachers an opportunity to get their versions heard by the court in the matter. Explaining the legal side of the order, CPI-M Rajya Sabha member and senior advocate of Calcutta High Court, Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya said since the apex court has not passed any order on his reappointment despite the interim stay there is no chance for him to reassume the chair at this moment. "As regards to termination of services of 269 primary teachers, they have a chance to present their case in the court," he said.

DU to release first cut off list for UG admissions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi University (DU) is going to release its first cut off list for Under Graduate (UG) courses on Tuesday evening.

Registered candidates can check the list on DU's official website and can accept the allotted seat from October 19 to October 21. The various colleges affiliated with DU can verify and accept the online applications from October 19 to October 22.

The seats awarded on the basis of the first merit list can be accepted till 5 p.m. on October 21. The process of

document verification will end on October 22 and candidates will be given time till 5 p.m. on October 24 to make the payment.

The vacant seats for round 2 will be released on October 25 and the second merit list will be released on October 30. The third merit list will be released on November 10.

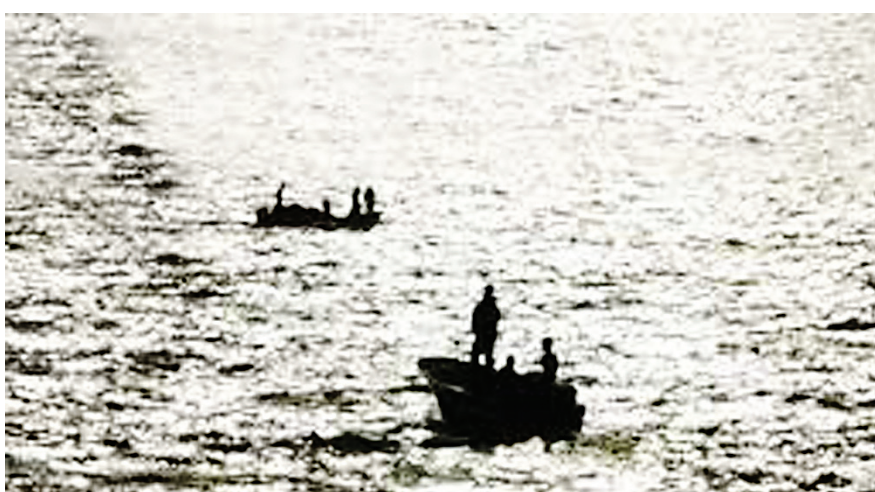
After the merit list of the last phase, online fees can be paid in the last round till November 26.

This time the Common Seat Allotment System (CSAS) has been constituted for admissions in the UG programmes of DU. The second

phase of the system began on September 26 and ended on October 10.

On the basis of CUET (UG) exam candidates successfully completed their application process through the CSAS portal starting from September 12 in the first stage, and chose the courses and colleges of their choice in the second stage. The students will get admission in their preferred colleges and courses if their names appear in the merit lists decided there. This year, DU affiliated colleges will have three phases of admission, said DU officials.

Six missing after boat capsizes in Meerut



Meerut | Agencies

Six persons are reportedly missing after a boat carrying about 17 people capsized in the Bhimkund Ganga Ghat in Meerut on Tuesday.

Eleven persons have been

rescued, while rescue operations are underway to locate the missing, which include two government teachers.

People cross the river by boat after a bridge over the Ganges canal broke.

Six motorcycles were also on the capsized boat and of

the 17 people, six to seven were teachers. As soon as information of the accident was received, the police and administrative officials reached the spot. According to district officials, a PAC motorboat has been called to search for the people.

DGCA begins probe into Kedarnath chopper crash, death toll rises to 7

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aviation regulator DGCA has launched a probe into the Kedarnath helicopter crash in which seven people, including the pilot, were killed on Tuesday.

A senior DGCA official said that a team will be sent soon to the crash site to do a detailed probe.

The helicopter, carrying pilgrims, crashed after take-off from the Kedarnath shrine near Garud Chhatti in Rudraprayag at around 11.40 a.m.

"Aryan Aviation Bell-407 helicopter VT-RPN with passengers took off from Kedarnathji Dham for Guptkashi. The weather was cloudy over Garud Chhatti. In a valley near Garud Chhatti a loud noise was heard and the helicopter caught fire," said the DGCA official.



"As per the preliminary information received, a Bell 407 helicopter VT-RPN belonging to a Delhi-based NSOP holder M/s Aryan Aviation crashed on the way from Kedarnath to Guptkashi, possibly due to

bad weather..." said the official. Earlier, in August this year, five helicopter operators, who were carrying pilgrims to Kedarnath shrine, were each fined Rs 5 lakh each by the aviation regulator Directorate General of

Civil Aviation (DGCA). The operators were fined for not maintaining correct flying records. The regulator also suspended officials from two other operators for flouting safety rules.

SIX KILLED IN UTTARAKHAND CHOPPER CRASH

Rudraprayag: A helicopter carrying Kedarnath pilgrims crashed in Uttarakhand's Garud Chhatti on Tuesday, killing all six onboard. The victims comprised two pilots and four pilgrims. The chopper is reported to belong to Aryan Aviation and was taking the pilgrims to Kedarnath. A police official said they were awaiting more information. Teams of SDRF and NDRF have rushed to the crash site.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MADHURI is legally wedded spouse of No. 14645226L NK MOHITE SOMNATH SARJERO presently Resident at Vill/Post Mandwad Teh Nandgaon Dist Nashik, maharashtra Pin-423106 have changed my name from MADHURI to MADHURI SOMNATH MOHITE vide affidavit No. 18AA 735646 date 13/09/2022.



Maha Gram Panchayat polls

DESPITE LOSING POWER MVA CLAIMS GAINS; BJP SINGLE-LARGEST PARTY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Despite losing power nearly four months ago, the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) claim to have made huge gains while the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the single-largest entity in the recent Gram Panchayat elections held in 18 districts.

The elections were held to 1,079 of the total 1,165 Gram Panchayats (DPs) where the Maha Vikas Aghadi has claimed to have trumped the ruling BJP-Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena combine, based on the purported political affiliations of the winning candidates.

However, authoritative sources in the Maharashtra State Election Commission (SEC) reiterated that "the GP elections are not contested on party symbols" and declined to comment on the claims of various parties.

After the final results emerged late on Monday, the BJP has contended it has bagged more than 230 GPs, while ally Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's



Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena got some 110 seats, totalling to 340.

On the other hand, the NCP claimed to have bagged 155, Shiv Sena (UBT) 150 and the Congress 140 - tal-

lying to 445 seats, and the remaining seats went to independents and others. Additionally, candidates in 86 GP's were declared elected unopposed and the polls were held for the remaining

1,079 GPs on Sunday. Trashing the BJP's assertions, NCP's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar asked sharply, "How did they arrive at their so-called victory figures... when the polls are not fought on party-lines, adding that all such claims are 'false'."

Referring to the rebels led by Shinde, Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said the 'gad-daars' (traitors) have been taught a sound lesson in the GP elections.

Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londe said that the party has been on a constant winning spree in the past few months in all the local elections, including the Nagar Panchayat, Panchayat Samitis and now the GPs.

NCP Chief Spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said that the MVA allies have made inroads even into areas where they had no presence till now.

"The people have totally dumped the leadership of the Shinde Group MLAs in their own constituencies in the GP polls... The MVA has performed exceedingly well and the NCP has picked up around 190 GPs," Tapase said.

Ahead of Diwali, BMC recommends face-masks, issues Covid-19 warning

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With new stronger sub-variants of Omicron detected in Maharashtra, the Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday issued an advisory ahead of Diwali to prevent any spread of Covid-19, including wearing of face-masks in public areas.

The state has reported sub-variants like Omicron-Q.1 (US variant), BA.2.3.20, plus XBB, which is a recombinant of BA.2.75 and BJ.1 - all of which have a growth advantage over other Omicron BA.2.75 variants and immune evasive properties.

Given the increasing trend of Covid-19 cases from the second week of October, coupled with the upcoming Diwali season, "this is a critical period as there may be a tendency to abandon Covid-safe behaviour, especially in crowded areas or non-ventilated spaces", the BMC said.

The BMC Executive Health Officer has stressed the need



to adhere to Covid Appropriate Behaviour during Diwali, wear masks in public or crowded areas, get vaccinated, maintain good ventilation indoors, wash hands frequently, avoid contact with symptomatic patients, use kerchief/tissues while sneezing/coughing, get tested when symptoms are noticed, and take proper treatment if found positive, to break the Covid-19 chain in the interest of fellow citizens. Till date, Mumbai has

recorded 19,738 deaths due to Covid-19 - just below Pune's 20,601 fatalities.

In terms of total infections till now, Pune has notched 15,03,152 cases followed by Mumbai with 11,51,782 cases, with a recovery rate of 98.14 per cent.

The state Covid-19 figures are: 81,28,258 infections and 1,48,374 fatalities till date - both the highest in the country - while Mumbai and Pune regions remain among the worst-affected.

After 6-hr post-monsoon makeover, Mumbai Airport operational

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After remaining closed for 6 hours for post-monsoon runway maintenance works, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport became operational again at 5 p.m., officials said on Tuesday.

The planned maintenance which would also facilitate seamless aircraft movement and ensure passenger safety was taken up from 11 a.m. -- 5 p.m. on both the intersecting runways -- RWY 14/32 and RWY 09/27.

Mumbai has recorded over 400-mm rainfall this year which made the inspection of the runways critical to enhance safe departures and landings of aircrafts.

The makeover included



installation of the runway edge lights on RWY 14/32, trenching work for underground cables for segregation of Aeronautical Ground Lights at the beginning of RWY 09/27, validation of the strength of the runway end safety area on the intersection besides repairs for normal wear and tear.

A team also inspected over 5,000 aeronautical lights installed; drain pits and chambers adjacent to the runway strip, cables for critical lighting and navigational aids.

Among the busiest in the country, the CSMA witnesses around 800 flight movements daily.

Maximum terrorists killed in UPA govt, BJP broke terror spine: RTI

Pune | Agencies

Previous Congress-led UPA regime killed the maximum number of terrorists in 10 years compared with the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government which succeeded in arresting border terrorism, as per latest data revealed through RTI, here on Tuesday.

The details on the terrorist incident in the country from 2004-2022 - sought by Pune-based businessman Praful Sarada - were provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs, CPIO for Jammu & Kashmir, Kabiraj Sabar.

The statistics say that between 2004 and 2013 (UPA 10-year rule), there were 9,321 terror strikes with 4,005 terrorists killed and another 878 nabbed. From 2014 till August 2022 (NDA's eight-and-half years' regime), there were 2,132 terror incidents with 1,538 extremists eliminated and 1,432 arrested.

This totals up to a staggering 11,453 terror strikes,



5,543 terrorists killed and 2,310 extremists arrested in the last 18-and-half years by the Indian Army and other security forces, said Sarada.

Sarada said that the figures - purportedly pertaining to only Jammu & Kashmir region - are shocking and point to how vulnerable the country's western

borders are, while the details of the other terror incidents on the northern and north-eastern borders are not provided. "As per the RTI reply, maximum numbers of terrorists were killed by the Indian Army and security forces which battled the highest number of terror strikes in the UPA government. After the 'surgical strike', the BJP regime has apparently succeeded in breaking the backbone of terrorism as attacks receded with a sharp drop in the killings," Sarada said.

Pointing to the government's stated "zero tolerance" towards terrorism, the RTI activist wonders at the logic behind 'capturing' extremists - 1,432 compared with the UPA's 878 arrests.

"The armed forces deserve the full credit for their valour at the borders, killing 4,005 in the UPA rule and 1,538 during the NDA tenure. With the fresh targeting of Kashmiri Pandits, the security forces will again remain busy gunning for the terrorists lurking around in the western borders," concluded Sarada.

Gang of women pickpockets from MP on prowl in Malad market

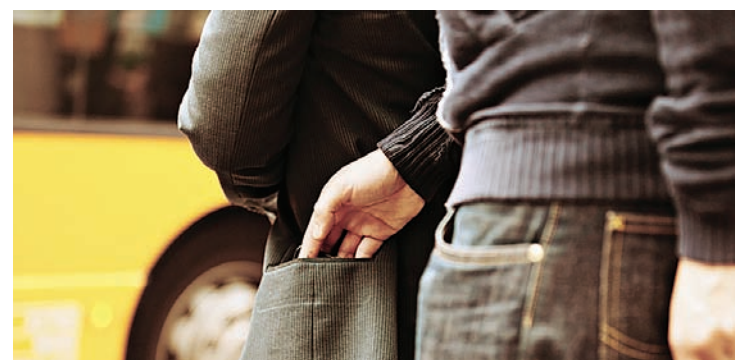
Team Absolute | Mumbai

A gang of young girls and women pickpockets from Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, are on the prowl in the busy Natraj Market of Malad West, one of the favourite Diwali shopping destinations for Mumbaikars. The police said they caught two minor girls for shoplifting on Saturday, but they were let off with a warning.

The Malad police said they received seven to eight complaints of pickpocketing and shoplifting daily last Diwali, hence they increased security in Natraj Market this year.

"We had to let the shoplifters go, as the shop owner refused to file any complaint. But we got a valid tip off with their detention and we have alerted our people," an officer from Malad police station said.

A police banner alerts the shoppers of thefts at Natraj Market in Malad



West, on Monday. "While questioning the two girls, we learnt that a group of over a dozen women and girls are at Natraj market from Ujjain, MP, to make some quick money," said the cop. Ravindra Adane, senior inspector, Malad police station, said, the two girls were let off with a warning.

A few days back, the Malad police

received several complaints of mobile, wallet and gold chain theft incidents. Officers said that 25 cops in plain-clothes were deployed at the market last week. Police have also put up posters and banners in Natraj Market, asking shoppers to be alert of pickpockets. Automated loudspeakers have also been installed to sound

alert. This year, the crowd at Natraj Market has doubled than the previous year, as Mumbaikars are celebrating the festivals without any curbs for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020.

Police said they have rounded up around 15 people, including women, from the market in the past one week. These are habitual offenders and many theft cases are filed against them, they added. The cops, who have photos of the habitual offenders, caught them roaming in the market and warned them from visiting the area again. The police are also using the footage of CCTV cameras in the market to keep an eye on any suspects. "This year the theft number is under control, as our officers are deployed inside the market in plain-clothes. We are receiving merely one complaint a day from the market," Adane said.

Ranveer Singh accused of driving luxury car with expired registration

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood livewire star Ranveer Singh, who was recently seen driving a bright blue luxurious Aston Martin at the Mumbai airport, was accused of using expired registration on social media.

A video of Ranveer driving his favourite luxury car went viral as an online user accused the actor of driving when his licence expired. The user even went on to mention Mumbai police in his tweet and tagged them.

The user wrote: "Mumbai Police, Please take strict action on Ranveer Singh. Insurance Failed car he drove yesterday!!" The date on Ranveer's licence plate, according to the photo circulated on social media, is June 28, 2020.

The Mumbai Police replied to the user that they have notified the Mumbai Traffic police. However, the actor has not commented.

According to media reports, Ranveer's fans started trolling the user, who made the com-



plaint as the traffic police got the details. Upon learning that the expired licence news was wrong, the user deleted his tweet and apologised to the actor on micro-blogging.

IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT RAHUL GANDHI & LORD RAM'S NAMES BEGIN WITH R: NANA PATOLE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Backing Rajasthan Minister Parsadi Lal Meena's remark that likened Lord Ram's foot journey from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka to Rahul Gandhi's padyatra, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Tuesday said that it is, however, a "co-incidence" that both of their names begin with "R".

The remarks of the Maharashtra Congress chief came after Meena on Monday said that Rahul Gandhi is walking even more than Lord Ram did from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka.

"Rahul Gandhi's padyatra will be historic. Lord Ram too had gone from Ayodhya to Sri Lanka on foot. Rahul Gandhi is walking even more than that, from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir," Meena had said.

Reacting to the statement, Patole said that it is a "coincidence" that both the names Rahul and Ram begin with "R", but the Congress party does not compare Rahul Gandhi with Lord Ram.



"Even Lord Sri Ram also walked (PadaYatra) from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and even Shankaracharya walked the same way, and so is Rahul Gandhi doing in the form of padyatra. People are joining him, so it's not a comparison with Lord Ram but a coincidence that both Lord Ram and Rahul Gandhi's names begin with 'R'. But we don't compare Rahul with Lord Ram while BJP leaders compare their leaders with God. God is God and Rahul Gandhi is a human being and he is working for humanity and it can be seen by everyone," Patole said.

Patole has organised a meeting to discuss the Bharat Jodo Yatra which is likely to pass from Maharashtra on November 7. The agenda of the meeting is to prepare for the yatra so that people can join it.

France, India to speed up Jaitapur nuclear plant

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Laying the groundwork for President Emmanuel Macron's proposed visit in early 2023, France and India on Tuesday discussed ways to revive and speed up the massive nuclear power plant at Jaitapur in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, languishing for several years now, officials said.

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh met visiting French Minister Chryssoula Zacharopoulou with her high-level delegation in this regard in New Delhi and discussed Indo-French collaboration in the nuclear energy sector.

The two countries also discussed ways to speed up the Jaitapur nuclear power plant in Maharashtra, part of an umbrella nuclear deal signed between India and France in September 2008.

The agreement envisages setting up six European Pressurised



Reactors (EPRs) of 1,650MW each, making it the largest nuclear power generation site in the world, to come up with French technical collaboration - but stuck owing to various hurdles for the past nearly 15 years.

While India has accorded its 'In Principle' approval for the project in December 2021, French company EDF submitted its binding techno-

commercial offer to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) last year, followed by meetings in May.

Jitendra Singh assured Zacharopoulou that the technical, financial and civil nuclear liability issues would be resolved at the earliest by both sides well before the scheduled visit of the French President to India, preceded by French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire's trip in mid-December.

The two sides reaffirmed the commitment to the success of the strategic Jaitapur project for reliable, affordable and low-carbon energy, and resolved to clear out all pending issues on priority. Dr Singh said that the net zero targets are expected to be met through a combination of various clean energies like nuclear power, and currently the country's nuclear power capacity of 6,780 MW is planned to be increased to 22,480 in the next 10 years after various ongoing projects are sanctioned and completed.

MAHA CONGRESS LEADERS INVITE PAWAR, THACKERAY FOR BHARAT JODO YATRA

Mumbai: As the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra is slated to enter Maharashtra next month, a delegation of the party met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray to invite them to be part of the initiative. The delegation comprised party in-charge for Maharashtra H K Patil, former chief minister Ashok Chavan, former state chief Balasaheb Thorat, Mumbai Congress chief Bhai Jagtap and party leaders Vishwajit Kadam, Amar Rajurkar, Naseem Khan and Sandeep Tambe. The Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to cover a distance of 3,570 km in 150 days.

Notice for Tender

Supply of Bullet Proof Tyre/Runflat System/Rims to Police Motor Transport Section, Mumbai Addl. Commissioner of Police, Motor Transport, Mumbai invites proposals from reputed and experienced Primary/Original manufacture or Authorised Dealer, Authorised distributor, in the competitive Bidding process to supply of Bullet Proof Tyre/Runflat System/Rims.

For the detailed Tender Document, interested bidder should visit <http://www.maharashtra.gov.in> or <http://mumbai.police.maharashtra.gov.in>

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 27.10.2022 up to 11:00 a.m.

Sd/ (Nishikant More) Addl. Commissioner of Police, Motor Transport, Mumbai

ROC-2022-23/No.5/C 3446



EDITOR'S SPECS

GUJRAT VILLAGE TO BOYCOTT POLLS

The residents of Ahmedabad's Nana Chiloda have decided to boycott the Assembly elections whenever they are held to protest against the government apathy. Two years ago, Nana Chiloda was a village until it was merged into the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). The villagers alleged that the Corporation has failed to provide them with the basic amenities, forcing them to come to the decision. The people have put up posters and hoardings in the village. Rahul Thakor talking to the media persons said, "Since the last two years villagers are demanding drinkable water, new school buildings, as present building is in a dilapidated condition, drainage lines, but none of these demands have been met by the corporation. So the villagers have unanimously decided to boycott the Assembly elections and will not allow any political party or their workers or leaders to campaign here. He complains that in the girls' schools there is a classroom shortage, because of which 60 to 70 students of two to three classes have to sit together. For the primary school building, a tender was passed and a contract was allotted, but work has not yet begun even after two years. "It is the decision of the village that we will not vote for any candidate till the basic amenities are not provided to the village," said Thakor. Even Sardarnagar area corporator Chandraprakash Khanchandani admitted before the media that "seven to eight months ago, foundation stone was laid for the primary school, but the building contract was cancelled, so school building work is delayed, drainage laying work is going on".

US BROKERED ISRAEL-LEBANON MARITIME AGREEMENT

Asad Mirza

After decades of enmity, Israel and Lebanon last week signed a historic agreement agreeing to demarcate their maritime boundaries and also demarcating the disputed area in Qanaa prospect, which is believed to be rich in oil and gas reserves. Further, it has in a de-facto manner, forced Lebanon to accept Israel as a sovereign nation, which it has refused to do so till now, as it maintains no diplomatic relations with Israel. The disputed 860 sq.km area of the Mediterranean Sea potentially holds billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas. Tensions between Israel and Lebanon worsened earlier this year when, in June, a London-based vessel arrived to develop a gas field for Israel. Though at present the deal seems to be a win for both sides, future security threats can't be ruled out after this maritime agreement. **Welcome by Lebanon** Lebanese Deputy Speaker Elias Bou Saab has described the maritime border agreement as a "game changer" with hope that "People will start talking to Lebanon again," adding that the deal will give Lebanon's youth "hope". For Lebanese government it may prove to be a shot in the arm to bolster its flailing economy and workout a package, which puts the nation back on the tracks for economic recovery and attracting potential investors. Under the US-brokered deal, Lebanon would be able to begin gas exploration in the Qanaa prospect, which lies within Lebanon's exploration block but crosses over into Israeli waters. The Qanaa gas field is yet to be explored, but Lebanon believes it is rich with resources. It is currently estimated to be worth around \$3 billion altogether. That could bring Lebanon between \$100 and \$200 million a year. However, the immediate economic benefits from Qanaa for Lebanon, seems to be too far fetched, as its current infrastructure is in poor or at nascent stage and it'll not be able to start extracting natural gas and oil immediately. At the earliest it may take another four to five years. If TotalEnergies does indeed begin exploration for the Lebanese, it could also offer incentives for other companies to get involved, with these prospects in mind, it is yet to be seen what the direct economic impacts will be. For Israel also, the potential earnings may start after four to five years, once it signs agreements with France's TotalEnergies to explore the whole block. **Israeli response**



As for the Israeli politicians, they have started hailing it as a decisive victory against Iran-backed and Lebanon-based Hezbollah. These politicians led by Prime Minister Yair Lapid seem to be in a hurry to get the agreement approved by the government and thus be able to mobilise the votes in their favour in the upcoming general elections in the country on November 1. But the right-wing elements in Israel, led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have described the agreement as a failure of the centrist-Lapid government and describe this as conceding ground to Hezbollah, which may get further bolstered after this agreement. But the US negotiator Amos Hochstein dismissed Netanyahu's criticisms as campaign rhetoric, saying the fact that two enemy countries managed to reach agreement on maritime border is 'enormously significant'. Overall a regional security crisis seems to have been averted due to economic interests of both sides. Following the deal's approval by the cabinet, the agreement was presented to the Knesset for a review over the next two weeks, but not asking for the parliament's approval. Israel's Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara, has opined that the current government is legally entitled to sign the maritime border agreement, and did not need to hold a referendum on the issue and suggested it would be preferable for the government to allow a Knesset vote on the issue, though it's under no legal obligation to do so. Members of the Likud and other right-wing parties approached Knesset speaker Mickey

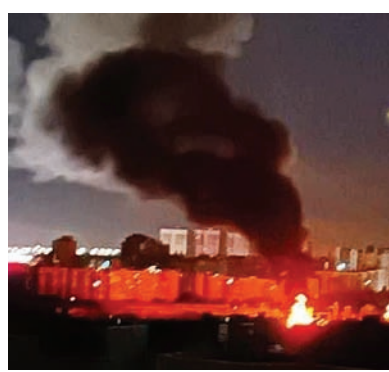
Levy, demanding that the agreement be put to a parliamentary vote. Countering Netanyahu's criticism Defence Minister Benny Gantz has said the talks started under his leadership, and if he were prime minister, he would probably "rush to sign the deal right now". Gantz also said that the deal also "has the potential to reduce Iran's influence on Lebanon". Meanwhile discounting allegations of Lebanon gaining an upper hand in the agreement, Israel's National Security Adviser Eyal Hulata said though Lebanon received almost all of the waters under dispute with Israel, it did not receive what it was really after. **Behind the scene negotiators** This brings out into the open the real negotiators behind the deal. The negotiations started months before at the US insistence and brokered by France. French diplomats helped US negotiator Amos Hochstein to stitch the deal together. Thus, apart from political gains for the ruling coalition in Israel, the agreement also brings political benefits for the US President Joe Biden, who also faces mid-term elections for both the houses, next month. US mediation efforts were key to achieving the deal and it may bolster the Biden administration ahead of the mid-term elections next month. He might use this agreement to assuage the rising resentment amongst American public due to constantly increasing prices of oil and gas in America. Meanwhile, Europe's gas crisis is increasing day by day. European governments are

doing all they can to shield consumers from price shocks, but the crisis took a further dip after explosions damaged Nord Stream 1 and 2 last month. The Nord Stream 1 pipeline was Europe's main source of Russian gas. Israel has said that, once the maritime deal is signed and delivered, it can begin extracting oil and gas from its Karish field and export it to Europe within weeks. Lapid has repeatedly spoken about the role Israel can play to help Europe as Western countries try to wean themselves off Russian energy. This development comes in the background of worsening US-Saudi relations, which hit a new low last week when the OPEC+, led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, defied the US with the largest output cut since the pandemic, bringing added pressure for Biden Administration. But, it is also a regional victory for the Biden administration, which lately has seen diplomatic tensions rise with some of its Middle Eastern allies. With the possibility of much needed gas from the Mediterranean and averting a potential security crisis between historic enemies, the US notched an important win in a region where its influence has seemingly diminished. (Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs)

international

RUSSIA HAS DESTROYED A THIRD OF UKRAINE'S POWER STATIONS

Russian air strikes have destroyed about 30 per cent of Ukraine's power stations in just one week leaving the country's energy situation 'critical', President Volodymyr Zelensky revealed, the media reported. Bombing raids once again rocked energy facilities in Kiev and urban centres across the country this morning, causing blackouts and disrupting water supplies, just one day after the capital was peppered with a swarm of suicide drones, Daily Mail reported. The strikes in the early hours of Tuesday hit Kiev, Kharkiv in the east, Mykolaiv in the south and central regions of Dnipro and Zhytomyr, where officials said hospitals were running on backup generators, Daily Mail reported. Drones bombarded Kiev on Monday, destroying a residential building in the centre and killing five people in what the



presidency described as an attack of desperation. It was the second Monday in a row that Russia launched punitive strikes which military observers have said appear to be Moscow's response to battlefield losses. Zelensky described the repeated targeted of energy infrastructure as 'another kind of Russian terrorist attacks'. "Since October 10, 30 per cent of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed, causing massive blackouts across the country," the Ukrainian leader said on Twitter. He said the attack meant that there was 'no space left for negotiations with (President Vladimir) Putin's regime'. Zhytomyr, located 80 miles west of Kiev and with a population of 230,000, was completely without power and water early Monday, according to the city's mayor, Daily Mail reported. President Zelensky, speaking overnight, said Russia 'doesn't have any chance on the battlefield and is trying to compensate for its military defeats with terror. "They continue to do what they do best -- terrorise and kill civilians," he added on Telegram. "The terrorist state will not change anything with such actions."

13 KILLED IN MILITARY PLANE CRASH IN RUSSIA

Moscow: The death toll due to the crash of a Russian Su-34 fighter jet in the Krasnodar region has increased to 13, local media reported on Tuesday. Citing the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the state-run TASS News Agency said that rescuers found 10 more bodies at the scene of the accident in Yeysk city, raising the death toll to 13, including three children. Nineteen others were injured and sent to hospital for treatment, Xinhua news agency quoted the TASS report as saying. During the rescue process, 68 people were rescued, and 360 people were evacuated to safety. Earlier reports said the aircraft collapsed while it was gaining altitude during a training flight from an airfield of the Southern Military District, and the pilots were able to eject safely before the crash. The crew had reported that an engine caught fire during take-off. TASS reported that the plane burst into flames, spreading to a nine-story residential building nearby. It also said that the accident caused damage to 17 apartments, with the fire reaching an area of 2,000 square metres.

Russia releases 108 captive Ukrainian women

Kiev | Agencies Russia has released 108 Ukrainian women as part of the latest prisoner exchange between the two warring countries, authorities in Kiev have confirmed. In a social media post on Monday, Andriy Yermak, head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's staff, said that it was the first all-women exchange since the war began on February 24, reports Ukrayinska Pravda. "There were mothers and daughters in captivity, who were eagerly awaited by their relatives," he added. According to Yermak, of the 108 women, 37 were reportedly captured



after surrendering at the siege of the Azovstal steel works in Mariupol, which ended in May. He added that all of them except 12 are servicewomen. Yermak further said that among those released were young women "illegally imprisoned in temporarily occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, who were captured even before the large-scale invasion". He added that all the women will now undergo medical examination and rehabilitation. Meanwhile, the State Border Guard Service told Ukrayinska Pravda that four of the women freed from Russian captivity were border guards.

Hindu-American Tulsi Gabbard compares Biden to Hitler

New York | Agencies Fresh off announcing her departure from the Democratic Party, Tulsi Gabbard, who was the first Hindu member of the US Congress, compared President Joe Biden to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. She made the remarks during her first weekend on the campaign trail for the November 8 mid-term elections. Speaking at a town hall event in a town outside Manchester recently, the former Hawaii Congressman and the 2020 Democratic presidential candidate stated she is "pretty confident" that both Biden and Hitler share a "mentality" of good intentions to be authoritarian, justify behaviour, according to audio obtained by The Daily Beast on Sunday. "I'm pretty sure they all believe they're doing what's best," Gabbard continued. "Even Hitler thought he was doing what was best for Germany, right? Gabbard, who once was vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, announced last week she was leaving the party, claiming it is now under the "control of an elitist cabal of warmongers". According to media reports, Gabbard had found herself increasingly estranged within the Democratic Party after her failed presi-



dential candidacy bid in the 2020 primary. A staunch critic of President Biden, Gabbard has lambasted him for "pouring fuel on the flames" of the division in the country. "Today's Democratic Party racialises everything and blatantly stokes anti-white racism, reducing each of us as God's children to the color of our skin, using identity politics to tear us apart for their own political gain," she said in a tweet. A military veteran, who served in the Iraq war between 2004 and 2005 for the Hawaii Army National Guard before she entered Congress, Gabbard has long been critical of US intervention overseas and has also blamed Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Biden's failed foreign policy.

WORLD BANK STEPS IN TO MEDIATE INDIA-PAK WATER DISPUTE

Islamabad | Agencies The World Bank announced the beginning of two parallel legal processes to address Pakistans concerns over two hydropower projects on the western rivers by India in violation of the Indus Basin Treaty, breaking a six-year-old gridlock. The World Bank, which brokered the 1960's Indus Basin Treaty took a complex path after Islamabad and New Delhi could not build consensus on any single mechanism for the dispute resolution, given in the treaty, The Express Tribune reported. "In line with its responsibilities under the Indus Waters Treaty, the World Bank has made the appointments, in the two separate processes requested by India and Pakistan in relation to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants," the bank said in a statement. India had requested for appointment of a 'Neutral Expert', while Pakistan opted for Court of Arbitration. In response, Michel Lino has been appointed as the Neutral Expert and Professor Sean Murphy has been appointed as Chairman of the Court



of Arbitration, according to the World Bank. They will carry out their duties in their individual capacity as subject matter experts and independently of any other appointments they may currently hold, it added.

"The Court of Arbitration has the authority to give a stay order, while the Neutral Expert does not have such powers," Syed Meher Ali Shah, Pakistan's Indus Commissioner, told The Express Tribune. "The World Bank acted after

Pakistan and India could not develop consensus on any single process," he added. In 2016, Pakistan asked the World Bank to facilitate the setting up of a Court of Arbitration to look into its concerns about the designs of the two hydroelectric power projects. India asked for the appointment of a Neutral Expert for the same purpose. The matter remained lingering for the past six years. The requests from both Pakistan and India came after the Permanent Indus Commission remained engaged in discussions on the matter for a while, The Express Tribune reported. In recent months, Pakistan's Executive Director to the World Bank, Naveed Kamran Baloch, also played an effective role in convincing the bank to accept Islamabad's position. Earlier, in 2018, the World Bank had asked Pakistan to withdraw its request for the Court of Arbitration. "The World Bank continues to share the concerns of the parties that are carrying out the two processes concurrently posing practical and legal challenges," said the statement.



INAUGURATION OF LADLI LAXMI YOJANA 2.0 SHOULD BECOME A MATTER OF CURIOSITY AND DISCUSSION: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that better preparations should be made for the inauguration program of Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0. The state level program will be held in Bhopal on November 2. In this, all the Ladli Laxmi Path should also be connected virtually. The program should be full of curiosity. CM Chouhan was reviewing the preparations for the launching program of the scheme.

CM Chouhan said that journey of Ladli Laxmi Yojana in video film and booklet "17 years-43 Lakh Ladli Laxmi" would be released in the program. Incentive money will also be distributed to the girls taking admission in the colleges.

CM Chouhan directed that Ladli Laxmi Path should be selected in



Bhopal. Their selection should also be completed in all other districts of

the state. CM Chouhan will send soulful letters to the parents and

guardians of the Ladlis. CM Chouhan said that publicity of the program should be exceptional and make it a topic of discussion. CM Chouhan also asked to select the venue of the program soon.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that daughter is not a burden but a boon. Hoardings and posters should be made such that they should remain permanently installed in Anganwadis, Panchayat buildings. Make a painting based on Ladli Laxmi on Ladli Laxmi path. It was told that the program of distribution of incentive amount to the Ladli Laxmi girls admitted to the college would be done on November 2. Seating arrangements will be made for about 1500 girls and 600 parents in the program. Apart from this, 52 Ladli Laxmi Path and 52 Ladli Laxmi Vatika will be dedicated.

Create sports environment in the state: Chief Minister

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that preparations for Khelo India Youth Games to be held in the state in January should be made better. Cities should be selected for different games. To create enthusiasm among the players of Madhya Pradesh, a playful environment should be created. Sport is also important from the point of view of health.

Chief Minister Chouhan was reviewing the Sports and Youth Welfare Department in Mantralaya. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Manoj Govil and Principal Secretary Sports Deepthi Gaur Mukherjee were present.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the players of the state are performing well in all the competitions. This enthusiasm and sportsmanship is needed to be maintained. He said that playgrounds should be made for children in every village. Rural development department should cooperate in this. Better maintenance and use of playing fields is also must. Sport is also necessary for enjoyment. Hence various sports activities should be carried out with the help of Anand department. Sports infrastructure should be developed on PPP model. He also said that sportspersons who win medals in sports should get priority in government services. He told to complete the unfinished works of the new Multipurpose Indoor Sports Complex and Indoor Hall on priority. To maintain a sports environment in the state, programs related to sports should be organized regularly.



Uma Bharti fears attack from liquor mafia

▶ FORMER MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER AND BJP'S FIREBRAND LEADER UMA BHARTI FEARS THAT LIQUOR MAFIA CAN ATTACK HER. UMA BHARTI'S ATTITUDE, WHICH HAS BEEN DEMANDING PROHIBITION OF LIQUOR IN THE STATE, HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY TENSE.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In this sequence, on Monday, she reached a liquor compound located on the Ayodhya bypass of the capital and got the curtains installed there. Not only this, she sat on a dharna in front of that shop.

Uma Bharti says, "Ayodhya Bypass, in front of the shop where I reached, 40 years old Hanuman ji, Durga ji's temples have been built. For the last six months, I have been talking to the government to close this shop. The shop was closed in September for three days he came with a stay from the court. It hurt me a lot that liquor is being served where temples have



been built. At least it should be stopped." It is to be known that Uma Bharti has been continuously demanding prohibition of alcohol.

VIDEO OF GIRLS DANCING IN MAHAKAL TEMPLE WENT VIRAL, PROMPTS A PROBE

Ujjain: Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Tuesday took note of girls who shot an Instagram reel on the temple premises in Ujjain.

The matter pertains to girls who shot Instagram reels combining Bollywood songs on the temple premises and the sanctum sanctorum of Mahakal temple in Ujjain. The uploaded video on social media went viral. "I have instructed the Collector and the SP to investigate the matter. Messing with religious beliefs in any way would not be tolerated," said Mishra. According to the viral video, a girl shot it while performing Jalabhishek in the sanctum sanctorum of the Mahakal temple. The other girl shot the video while roaming around the temple premises. After the video went viral, the priest of Mahakal Temple, Mahesh Guru demanded action against the girls, citing the video as derogatory and contrary to the Sanatan tradition. "This type of video destroyed the sanctity of the temple. The employees of Mahakal temple were also not fulfilling their responsibility," said the priest.



Dhanteras will be celebrated as Diwali by 4.5 lakh families of state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For about 4.5 lakh families of Madhya Pradesh, it will be Deepawali on Dhanteras, because on this day these families are going to get houses and they will also have their home entry. On the day of Dhanteras in the state, it is going to be special for about 4.5 lakh families of the state, who do not have their own house yet, because these families are going to get a new house on that day. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually join the Griha Pravesh program of Satna district under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana on 22 October.

This is also important for the state because this will be the third program of Prime Minister Modi directly and virtually in about one and a half months. Prime Minister Modi had reached Ujjain on October 11 to worship the grand and divine Shri Mahakal Lok. Earlier, on his birthday on September 17, he had come to Madhya Pradesh to gift four cheetahs in the Kuno National Park. Along with this, he also interacted with the sisters of Self Help Groups in Sheopur district. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the initiative to bring cheetahs from other continents



became a topic of discussion in the country and the world. A large number of people are having darshan in Shri Mahakal Lok every day. Special activities will be conducted with the aim of providing darshan of Shri Mahakal Lok to the people of every village of the state. Such a program can be made in which people from each village come out with water and offer water in the Rudrasagar located in Shri Mahakal Lok and reach their village with the water of Rudrasagar. That water should be put in the village well, stepwell or other water sources. CM Chouhan said that a social revolution has been started in the state by starting medical education in Hindi. It is our responsibility to make this work a success.

Man thrashes cop, asked to take out tinted glass from car windows; injures himself after scuffle

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A cop who was merely delivering his duty at the traffic check post was brutally assaulted by a man for a minor reason. A 31-year-old man reportedly thrashed a traffic constable after the latter asked him to remove the tinted glass from his car windows.

According to the police, the accused then hit his own head with a stone when he saw other police personnel approaching him following the incident. The incident occurred in Indore on



October 17 evening, the police said. The cops have arrested the man, Firstpost reported. During a vehicle checking drive, a traffic police team stopped a sports

utility vehicle (SUV) having its windscreen and window glasses covered with a black film, police said. As per the traffic norms, black glass or tinted screen is prohibited.

The SUV owner resident of Morar in Gwalior was asked to remove the tinted glass and deposit a penalty for violation of rules, the police further said. However, the SUV owner got violent and allegedly thrashed a police constable on duty.

Later, when the accused saw other police personnel coming towards him, he injured himself, police asserted. A case has been registered against the accused on charges of threatening and thrashing the police staff and obstructing government work, police added.

A child reports mother to cops, 'theft of his candies'

Team Absolute | Burhanpur

A three-year-old child in Madhya Pradesh approached the police with a complaint against his mother that she doesn't let him eat candies, and urged the officials to arrest her.

Miffed with his mother, the child, Saddam, asked his father to take him to the police station because his mother "stole" his candies and slapped him. The video of the incident, which is in wide circulation now, shows Saddam narrating his ordeal to the sub-inspector in Burhanpur's Deditalai. "Ammi stole my candies, put her in jail," he tells sub-inspector Priyanka Nayak.



Nayak, struggling to control her laughter over the child's innocence, asks him some questions and jots down his concerns, pretending to have registered his complaint. The child is seen signing that piece of paper. Nayak then assures him that his mother would be arrested soon. Saddam's father told the police that his mother petted on his cheek gently when he asked for candies. "Then Saddam, asked me to take him to the cops," he said. After the video clip went viral, state Home Minister Narottam Mishra spoke to the child over a video call and promised him that he will send him chocolates and a cycle on Diwali.

12 year old asked to pay 2.9 lakh for Ram navami clashes

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 12-year-old boy in MP has received a notice to pay a compensation of 2.9 lakh for damages during the violence in Khargone during Ram Navami. The boy's mother said he has been traumatised since and fears that he would be arrested. His father Kalu Khan, a labourer, has been asked to pay ? 4.8 lakh by the Claims Tribunal. The family's neighbors have issued the demand under a new law.

The MP Prevention and Recovery of Damages to Public Property Act law was passed in December last year. The law enables recovery of compensation for willful damage to public and private property during strikes, protests and group clashes. The Tribunal has received 343 complaints after Ram Navami, of which it accepted only 34. So far, it has settled six claims-four by Hindus and two by Muslims. Around ? 7.46 lakh have been recovered from 50 people. The complainant in the boy's case, a woman, had claimed that her property was damaged when a mob went on the rampage during a Ram Navami procession on April 10.

The notice sent to the boy clearly mentions he is 12 years old and holds



him responsible for damages to the tune of ? 2.9 lakh. The neighbours claim that he robbed and vandalised their home. Besides the boy and his father, notices have been sent to six others, who are adults. "My son is a minor. We were sleeping when the riots happened. We want justice," said Kalu Khan. His wife Ranu said her son is "constantly under fear that the police will arrest him." The family had filed an appeal

before the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court, seeking that the notice be scrapped. But on September 12, the court dismissed the petition, saying any objections should be filed with the Tribunal. "If the objection is filed, the same shall be considered and decided by the tribunal in accordance with the law," the order read. The family's advocate Ashhar Ali Warsi said that the Tribunal had acted "arbitrarily without applying

the essentials of law". "The definition of the act has a clear interpretation -- that the whole act is depended upon the criminal status based upon Indian Penal Code and while the boy filed his objection before the Tribunal, it was rejected on vague grounds of civil procedure," he said.

Also, while the Tribunal said this was a civil recovery, "it is strange because the act is following criminal procedure, claims are being awarded," he said.

In this context, he added that the Act "does not have a clear definition on whether it will be governed under Civil law or Criminal Law".

"The recoveries ought to be made within this act in question is criminal in nature. The tribunal has issued notice without any serious investigation pertaining to the role of the boy. The claims tribunal is fining those not yet pronounced guilty," he added.

People connected to the tribunal disagreed. "The tribunal is dealing with cases of civil nature. If it was a criminal case, the child would have got the protection of Juvenile Justice Act," an official said. "This is about the fine. The money will be recovered from his parents as they are responsible for him," he added.

Boy Dangled From Well On Mobile Theft Suspicion



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 12-year-old boy was dangled down a well on the suspicion of mobile theft in state. Clinging on to the sides of a well in a viral video, the boy was heard claiming his innocence and begging for his life as a man holding him precariously threatened to drop him down.

The boy was heard reiterating that he didn't steal any mobile phone but the claims

fell to deaf ears, in the video shot in Atkhona village of Chhatarpur district. The accused held one of his hands in a dangerous manner that could have led to the boy's death by drowning. The accused was arrested after the police filed a case against him for culpable homicide and under SC/ST Act, said Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma.

The action came after a 14-year-old boy, who shot the video, informed the victim's

parents and they approached the police. The boy claimed that filming the incident landed him in trouble as the police summoned him to the outpost and thrashed him for allegedly complicating the matter.

An official told him the matter could have resolved if the video was not shot, the boy claimed. However, Lavkush Nagar police station in-charge Hemant Nayak has denied the boy's claim.



OLIVIA FLAUNTS HER INCREDIBLE FIGURE IN BLACK PUFFBALL GOWN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Wilde is reportedly planning to relocate to London with her boyfriend Harry Styles. But Olivia Wilde was back in Los Angeles, as she donned an eye-catching black puffball gown for the star-studded ELLE Women in Hollywood event. The actress and director flaunted her incredible figure in the plunging black satin dress with a dramatic skirt as she attended the swanky awards. Olivia slipped her incredible figure into the plunging black satin dress, with its dangerously low-cut front flashing plenty of cleavage. The gown flowed into a dramatic oversized skirt with a puffball bottom as Olivia posed up a storm at the glitzy ELLE party. Olivia was among a slew of female stars who were honored at ELLE's Women In Hollywood event, with the actress taking to the stage after being lauded for her filmmaking style in a male-dominated industry.

She said: "Wow. I've learned so much from all of you tonight mostly that there are apparently other covers with other women on them. Which is a real curveball."

"I was so honoured and, frankly, shocked that you all showed up for my cover party, but this makes more sense. It tracks; it's fine. 'I've known some of you for a really, really long time; I believe it's been 20 minutes. Some of you I could've even met when I was a casting assistant; I was the one who over-served you coffee for three hours and then told you we had no bathroom or parking validation. Sorry about that. 'You were great; we just went another direction. So, for those of you I've known forever, hi again. Still me. For those of you I haven't met yet, it's a pleasure. I am Olivia, member of the Sigourney sisterhood."

"I was an actress who started producing and then finally got the courage to start directing, and I wouldn't have started any of it at all if I knew Twitter would be invented. 'But here I am. It's a real thrill to have what is undeniably the greatest job on the planet."



Camila couldn't figure out people's "intentions", deleted dating app in a day

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Havana' singer Camila Cabello says she deleted a dating app after just 24 hours because one message made her question people's "intentions".

The 'Havana' hitmaker, who split from ex Shawn Mendes in November 2021, gave online dating a try but she decided to scrap the idea because she couldn't figure out people's "intentions" when it came to her life in the spotlight.

Appearing on 'The Drew Barrymore Show', she said: "I was on a dating app for, like, 24 hours then I left. The first guy that DM'd me was like aspiring singer-songwriter from Nashville and I was just like, I feel weird because somebody could be using me... You don't know their intentions."

The singer admitted she prefers a different method of making a connection with potential flames.

She added: "When you are just trying to make friends, you're gonna meet guys that are vetted by your friends, which is amazing."

Meanwhile, Camila recently admitted she wants to "reconnect" with her Latin heritage by embracing the huge family occasions that her own parents and grandparents grew up with, and hopes to offer her own children similar experiences one day.

I feel good in my skin; don't mess with your face: Jamie Lee on getting plastic surgery

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jamie Lee Curtis feels comfortable "in (her) skin, in (her) mind" and "in (her) body" in her 60s. The star at the age of 63 is glad to be growing old gracefully and not succumbing to Hollywood pressures to get plastic surgery and dye her grey hair so she can adhere to some invented beauty ideal. Speaking to a local paper, she insists she is at her happiest now she is in her seventh decade of life.

"I think over the years of trial and error, a lot of therapy, a lot of sobriety, that now I am made for Jamie. I feel good in my skin, in my mind, in my body," she said.

Jamie - who has reprised her role as Laurie Strode, a survivor of serial killer Michael Myers, in her latest horror role - is delighted that her age positive attitude has led to her being cast in many interesting movies, such as murder mystery 'Knives Out'.

She said, "Maybe the more movies I get to make where people go, 'Oh, she looks like an old lady,' okay, it's all good. Aging is what happens. We're human."

Jamie and her husband Christopher Guest have two grown-up daughters, Ruby and Anne, and she has always told them not to get any sort of cosmetic procedure, and will continue to relay that message to them both.

She said, "My advice is don't mess with your face. I did plastic surgery. I put Botox in my head. Does Botox make the big wrinkle go away? Yes. But then you look like a plastic figurine."



Rihanna reportedly records 2 new songs for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'

Los Angeles | Agencies

It has been rumoured that singer Rihanna will contribute to the soundtrack of 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'. According to reports, the Barbadian beauty has recorded two new songs for the upcoming Marvel superhero picture.

The new songs she's dropping reportedly include the end credits song, but this should be taken with a grain of salt as neither Marvel nor Rih has confirmed her involvement in the potential blockbuster.

Further fueling the speculation of her new music, Rihanna has just changed her TikTok profile picture.

The actress updated her page on the video-sharing platform with an image of her wearing a bright yellow sweatshirt along with sporty sunglasses.

The avatar shows the new mother with her long dark hair arranged over one side of her shoulders.

While Rihanna has 5.7 million followers on the platform, she has not posted any video so far. Typically when entertainers change their social media profile icon, they're gearing up for a new project, which has the Navy excited for what's ahead.

The 'Black Panther' sequel is directed by Ryan Coogler, with Lupita Nyong'o, Letitia Wright, Angela Bassett, Danai Gurira, Winston Duke and Martin Freeman among the returning cast.

Tenoch Huerta is cast as the new villain Namor, the leader of the underwater kingdom of Talocan.

Following Chadwick Boseman's shocking passing in August 2020, Marvel has confirmed that it has no plans to recast the role of T'Challa. The movie is set to open in U.S. theaters on November 11.

As for Rihanna, she has been spotted hitting the studio after she was announced to perform at Super Bowl LVII Halftime Show on February 12, 2023, at State Farm Stadium. She has not released any solo songs in years, with her eighth and last studio album 'Anti' arriving in 2016.



JAMES CORDEN 'APOLOGISED PROFUSELY' AFTER BEING BANNED FROM NYC RESTAURANT

Los Angeles | Agencies

After he "apologised profusely", talk show host James Corden will now be welcomed again at New York City's Balthazar restaurant after he was banned by the owner.

The 71-year-old restaurant owner, Keith McNally, said the late-night talk show host issued an apology to him after he slammed Corden for his alleged behaviour in the restaurant.

"James Corden just called me and apologised profusely," McNally wrote alongside a photo of Corden on Instagram. "Having f***ed up myself more than most people, I strongly believe in second chances."

He then joked that Corden is allowed back at his restaurant under one condition, writing: "So if James Corden lets me host his Late Show for 9 months, I'll immediately rescind his ban from Balthazar." "No, of course not. But... anyone magnanimous enough to apologise to a deadbeat layabout like me (and my staff) doesn't deserve to be banned from anywhere. Especially Balthazar." He ended by addressing Corden directly, writing: "So Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Corden, Jimmy Corden. All is Forgiven. Xx."

A representative for Corden did not immediately respond to People's request for comment. "James Corden is a hugely gifted comedian, but a tiny Cretin of a man," he said earlier on Monday. "And the most abusive customer to my Balthazar servers since the restaurant opened 25 years ago." "I don't often 86 a customer, (but) today I 86'd Corden. It did not make me laugh."

He went on to describe what he called the "funny man's treatment of my staff" from two times Corden came into his establishment and claimed Corden had similar behaviour at McNally's previous restaurant, Cafe Luxembourg. The first account, McNally said, dated back to June, when Corden was seated at table 61 and found a hair in his food.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Chloe Ferry



DEEPTI VERMA, SMRITI MANDHANA ABOUT TO BE NO.1 IN ICC WOMEN'S T20I PLAYER RANKINGS

Dubai | Agencies

Indian women cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana and off-spinning all-rounder Deepti Sharma are about to be the top spot for batters and bowlers after the latest weekly update to the ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings.

Mandhana, who has been a top-ranked batter in ODIs, has moved up one slot to a career-best-equaling second position in T20Is after scoring an unbeaten 51 off 25 balls that guided her team to an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the final of the Asia Cup in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Mandhana is on 730 rating points, 13 points separating her from top-ranked Beth Mooney of Australia.

Sharma has also moved to a career-best second position after conceding only seven runs off four overs in the final, following a haul of three for seven against Thailand in an earlier match of the tournament. Deepti, who finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 13 scalps, has reached 742 rating points, 14 less than England spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

India opener Shafali Verma (up



one place to seventh) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (up three places to 14th) have also gained in the latest update while left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (up 15 places to 17th) has progressed in the

bowlers' list. Former Sri Lanka captain Inoka Ranaweera is joint-15th with Rana while Pakistan spinner Nashra Sundhu has gained 15 slots to reach 29th position. Thipatcha Putthawong



of Thailand and Sadia Iqbal of Pakistan are other bowlers to gain while the United Arab Emirates' Theertha Sathish and Thailand's Naruemol Chaiwai have progressed in the batters' list.

Karim Benzema wins Ballon d'Or, Putellas retains women's trophy

Paris | Agencies

French striker Karim Benzema claimed the 2022 Ballon d'Or here after a dazzling season with Real Madrid which saw the Spanish giants win both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.

Spain's Alexia Putellas won the women's trophy for the second year in a row following another stellar season with Barcelona.

The first French player to win the prestigious individual football prize since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, Benzema had his best season ever at Madrid, finishing with 44 goals in 46 matches and becoming the top scorer in both domestic and continental tournaments, reports Xinhua. A highlight for the 34-year-old came in the knockout stages of the Champions League when he grabbed two consecutive hat-tricks against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16, and Chelsea in the quarter-finals.



"It's a collective victory. It's an individual trophy but without your teammates, you can't score. Sometimes you might get a screamer but, for me, football is a collective sport and I will always be a team player," Benzema said.

For the first time in the award's history, the Ballon d'Or was awarded based on the performance of the past season, not according to achievements in a calendar year. Senegalese forward Sadio Mane, who moved to Bayern Munich from

Liverpool this summer, came second, while Manchester City playmaker Kevin De Bruyne of Belgium was third.

Barcelona's summer signing Robert Lewandowski was named the best striker for the second year in a row, with the Pole also ranking fourth in the overall Ballon d'Or list. Fellow Barcelona midfielder Gavi won the Kopa Trophy for the best young player.

Benzema's club teammate Thibaut Courtois was given the Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper.

India won't travel to Pakistan for 2023 Asia Cup: Jay Shah

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah confirmed that the Indian cricket team will not travel to Pakistan and will insist on a neutral venue for next year's Asia Cup on Tuesday after board's Annual General Meeting.

The 2023 edition of the continental championship -- Asia Cup -- has been allotted to Pakistan as per the International Cricket Council's Future Tours Programme.

However, the BCCI after their AGM, arrived at a conclusion that it will not travel to its neighbouring country for the tournament and demanded that the tournament be moved to a neutral



venue. "Neutral venue for the Asia Cup is not unprecedented and we have decided that we will not travel to Pakistan," Shah, who is also the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz. "I have decided by that we will play at a neutral venue,"

he added. Notably, the 2022 edition of the Asia Cup was also played in a neutral venue after an economic and political crisis engulfed host nation Sri Lanka. The tournament was held in UAE, where Sri Lanka emerged as the champions after beating Pakistan in the final.

Hemanth Kommu, Mayank Prajapati to represent India at Global Esports Games 2022

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reigning eFootball national champion Hemanth Kommu and top street fighter V athlete Mayank Prajapati are going to represent India in the world finals of the Global Esports Games 2022 which is scheduled in Istanbul from December 14 to 18.

Reigning national champions Mayank and Hemanth have received direct entries for the prestigious event. India's DOTA2 team, on the other hand, couldn't make it to the world finals after they crashed out of the Asia-Pacific region qualifiers.

Mayank, popularly known as MiKeYROG, clinched the title at the National Esports Championships (NES) 2022, conducted by the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) in April this year and will also rep-



resent India at the Asian Games which is scheduled next year. "I am super excited to represent India at GEG 2022. It's a huge opportunity for me to play at such a big event with the top players from different countries competing. I've been practising a lot by playing against players in ranked games

and the battle lounge and devising strategies against different characters. I don't know who my opponents are going to be but I'm prepared to face the challenge. I'm also thankful to ESFI for giving me this opportunity. I am really looking forward to it and hopefully, if all goes well, this will definitely put the

Indian fighting gaming community's name in the world," said an elated Mayank Prajapati.

Hemanth (Peshemak7), an IIT alumnus, clinched the title at the NES 2022 and secured his berth. Besides Global Esports Games, Hemanth will also represent India at the 14th World Esports Championship, which will be held in Bali from November 27 to December 7. While expressing his joy at getting the chance for representing the country, Hemanth said: "It's a great feeling and an honour to represent India once again this year. Its sheer dedication and hard work which resulted in getting the spot for the GEG 2022 world finals. I am grateful to all the people who are supporting me. With the right mentality and proper grind, I will be aiming for good results at the world finals."

Denmark Open: Srikanth reaches second round with hard-fought win

Odense (Denmark) | Agencies

Kidambi Srikanth, former World Championship runner-up won the first game and advanced to the second round of the Denmark Open as did the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Pulella Gayatri Gopichand.

Srikanth reached the Round of 16 by beating Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in three games at the Jyske Bank Arena here on Tuesday. Treasa and Gayatri defeated Alexandra Boje and Amalie Magelund of Denmark 21-15, 21-15 in just 35 minutes.

The 29-year-old Srikanth fought back



strongly after losing the first game to overcome his 28-year-old opponent from Hong Kong 17-21, 21-15, 21-12 in a 56-minute encounter in the men's singles section of the BWF World Tour Super 750

tournament. Srikanth, ranked 11th in the BWF Rankings, will next take on seventh-seeded Loh Keon Yew of Singapore, the same player to whom he had lost in the final of the 2021 BWF World Championship in Huelva, Spain. The winner of that encounter will make it to the quarter-finals. Tuesday's victory in the Round of 32 matches will be a continuation of their recent performances by the young Indian women's doubles pair Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand. The pair had won a bronze medal in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and have also done well on the BWF Tour.

DIOGO JOTA RULED OUT OF WORLD CUP

London | Agencies

Diogo Jota is ruled out from the 2022 World Cup finals with Portugal due to a "calf muscle issue".

The forward was carried from the pitch in stoppage time of the 1-0 win at Anfield and will subsequently miss Liverpool's remaining eight fixtures prior to the international break in November, as well as his country's participation in the FIFA World Cup.

"That is the first diagnosis, which was pretty clear, and all the rest will now follow in the next few days. It is very sad news for the boy, and for us as well of course for Portugal." Klopp did not put a timescale on Jota's return to action, adding: "It will have a big impact. So now we can say that because he will not be in for a long time; we talk about months. So, we will see. I don't want to put a number on it now because I always hope in the middle of the rehab there is a very positive development and we can cut days off the rehab phase, but it will be long." Asked how the 25-year-old had reacted to the news, Klopp said: "It's Diogo and he's surprisingly OK, so far. He is an incredibly smart boy and very reflective." "I think he knew it when we carried him off the pitch when I spoke to him for a second. When I came out, we passed each other after the game and he explained what happened."



India beat Australia 3-2 at BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships

Santander (Spain) | Agencies

The Indian team beat Australia 3-2 in its Group B tie at the World Junior Mixed Team Badminton Championships 2022.

The men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Abhinav Thakur lost India's first match of the tie 12-21, 17-21 to Ricky Tang and Otto Xing de Zhao.

The 14-year-old Unnati Hooda, ranked junior world No. 5 in the badminton world rankings, then brought India level with a comfortable 21-6, 21-9 victory over Sydney Go in the women's singles.

In the third match of the day, which was the men's singles contest, India's Bharat Raghav won 19-21, 21-16, 15-21 to Jack Yu. However, India drew level once again as Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag beat Dania Nugroho and Catrina Chia-Yu Tan 21-8, 21-8 in the women's doubles.

In the fifth and deciding match on the day, the mixed doubles pair of Vignesh Thathineni and Srinidhi Naryanan registered a 21-12, 21-16 win over Otto Xing de Zhao and Yuelin



Zhang to help India to victory.

With this, the Indian team now sits second in Group B with two points from three ties. The team blanked Iceland 5-0 before losing by a similar scoreline to China on the opening day. India will now have to beat Slovenia in their final group tie on Wednesday and hope that China loses to either Iceland or Australia to have a chance of making the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships quarter-finals.

Improving pitches, reducing player injuries are top priority for Roger Binny

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former India all-rounder Roger Binny and the newly-elected BCCI president, underlined two primary areas of focus - reducing player injuries, improving pitches for domestic cricket in the country.

In his first interaction with the media, the 1983 World Cup winner called the injuries to premier India cricketers a "concern" and said he wants to get to the bottom of it and figure out ways of reducing them.

"We will look to improve on what we can do to reduce the injuries to players. Players getting frequently injured is a concern, and we wish to get to the bottom of it all and see how it can be changed for the better," Binny told reporters after BCCI's annual general meeting, where he was elected.

"We have excellent doctors and trainers at the National Cricket Academy [in Bengaluru], but we must look to reduce the injuries and improve recovery," he added. India will miss the services of pace spear-



head Jasprit Bumrah and star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja due to injuries. On the other hand, Deepak Chahar -- who had torn a quadriceps muscle in February and then picked up a back issue during rehabilitation, made only a brief comeback before another back injury ruled him out of travelling as a

reserve player to Australia. Apart from the issue of player injuries, Binny also stressed on the importance of improving pitches used for domestic cricket in India. "There needs to be more life on the wickets at home so that our teams would not have the problem of adjusting when travel-

ling abroad -- like in Australia, where there is more pace and bounce," he said.

The 67-year-old Binny has a lot of experience in cricket administration. He has served in different positions at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) over the years and has been its president since 2019. Before that, he was part of the KSCA administrations led by Patel and Anil Kumble (2010-12).

He has become only the third cricketer to become BCCI president, after the Maharajah of Vizianagram and Sourav Ganguly.

Meanwhile, the BCCI formally approved the women's office bearers to formalise its due processes. The board also authorised the office-bearers to decide on the BCCI representative to the ICC and announced that the Apex Council would elect the cricket advisory committee and the next selection committee. The office-bearers have also been tasked with improving the fan experience at matches by improving the stadium infrastructure across the country.

Men's T20 World Cup : Sri Lanka beats UAE by 79 runs

Geelong (Australia) | Agencies

Sri Lanka's fast bowling attack crushes United Arab Emirates by 79 runs in a Group A match of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 and steps ahead in the points table.

After their defeat against Namibia, Sri Lanka bounced back in style and the margin of victory takes their NRR (+0.60) past Netherlands' (+0.15).

Put into bat first, the opening partnership worth 42 runs between Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis got the Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka off to a great start. Despite the wicket of Mendis in the fifth over, Shanaka's men were the happier side at the end of the Powerplay with over 50 runs.

Sri Lanka were cruising towards a big total but leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan

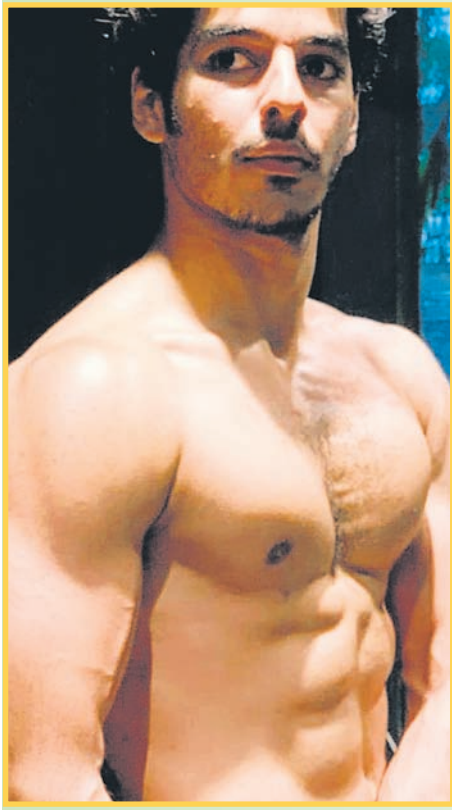
turned the tables completely with his hat-trick. Meiyappan came into the bowl the 15th over, with Pathum Nissanka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa at the crease.

The over triggered a middle-order collapse, putting the pressure back on Sri Lanka. Bhanuka Rajapaksa's attempt to go inside-out saw him hole out in the deep to Kashif Daud. Charith Asalanka departed for a golden duck as he nicked the ball to Viriitya Aravind. Meiyappan became the first player to claim a hat-trick for UAE in T20Is. It was also the first hat-trick of the tournament. Chasing a par total, three of UAE's first four victims were cleaned up as Dushmantha Chameera and Pramod Madushan put on an exhibition of fast bowling, swinging and seaming the new ball around.



I cherish Shahid's opinions and presence in my life:

Ishaan Khatter



Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

With his exemplary performances, Ishaan has proved himself to be a talent house. He will next be seen in horror-comedy Phone Bhoot alongside Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi which is all set to release theatrically on the 4th of November. Ahead of the release, Ishaan divulged in a freewheeling chat with the media. On being star-struck by Katrina Kaif

The actor spoke about getting starstruck by Katrina Kaif. He said "I very seldom get starstruck, it's just not who I am. But I recently recalled working with her as a background dancer, so it was like full circle for me to be sharing screen space with her in that capacity. It was great fun. She doesn't bring the weight of her seniority or anything on set. Instead, she has a wicked sense of humour."

On equation with mom Neelima and brother Shahid

The actor shared that his mom Neelima Azeem and brother Shahid Kapoor are his go-to persons. "My

mom comes first, then my brother. I definitely share everything with him. Our relationship has grown over the years. I cherish his opinions and his presence in my life. He has also inspired me on the dance front as well, with useful recommendations. When we dance together there is no exchange of words, it's only through movements. I hope we get a lot more opportunities to dance together", shares Ishaan.

On the tendency of people to get offended Talking about the tendency of people to get easily offended by certain kinds of humour, Ishaan quipped, "If you can't say something and have a sense of humour about it then how will society progress forward? I think that we need more laughter in the world. I don't think that comedy should be banned, cancelled or suppressed."

On dealing with trolls
On a parting note, the actor revealed how he responds to trolls. "I have had my phases with it. There was also a time when I was always aware of how I felt about it. But recently I have been taking it even less seriously", shared Ishaan.

TEJASSWI PRAKASH IS DEBUTING WITH MARATHI CINEMA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With the release of the movie "Mann Kasturi Re," Tejasswi Prakash will make her acting debut in Marathi cinema. The actress discussed regional film and how its producers are attempting to produce more daring and genuine material.

She said: "Today the regional cinema landscape has changed drastically - the makers are more experimental and are taking bold steps when it comes to content. I'm really excited for my fans to see this film."

Tejasswi had made her mark in the TV industry with her participation in reality shows like 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 10'.

Now as she is going to start a new journey by being part of a Marathi film, the actress said that being a Maharashtrian it is perfect for her to take up the project and she can connect well with it.

"I grew up watching Marathi movies. Being a Maharashtrian myself, it just felt right to take up 'Mann Kasturi Re' since it was a nostalgic moment for me," she added.

'Mann Kasturi Re' is releasing on November 4



Pratik Gandhi says his Gujarati film is a wholesome family entertainer

Team Absolute | Mumbai

With his performance in "Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story," actor Pratik Gandhi won over the public. He is now back with his new Gujarati film, "Vaahlam Jaao Ne." The actor describes the movie as a good, clean family movie.

The film tells the story of Sumit Gandhi (Pratik Gandhi), a music direc-

tor in love with Reena (Deeksha Joshi), a fashion designer who wants to be stylist to film star Ranveer Singh.

On playing the lead protagonist, Pratik Gandhi said in a statement, "'Vaahlam Jaao Ne' is a perfect romantic drama with a mix of comedy of errors which will keep audiences glued to

their seats."

He elaborated, "It's a wholesome family entertainer and the ensemble cast has made sure with their comic timing that everybody in the theatre will enjoy the movie and there will be unlimited laughter. I had great fun shooting with the entire team and I am sure the audience too will be equally entertained"

'Vaahlam Jaao Ne' will release in theatres on November 4, 2022.



EVERY DAY IS NEW LEARNING FOR ME: NEEHARIKA ROY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neeharika Roy was seen doing a stunt in a show 'Pyaar ka Pehla Naam Radha Mohan'. She expressed that she is not familiar with the action

scenes but this is what she likes. The actress, who is currently seen playing the female lead Radha in the show, stated: "I have performed many stunts in the show and all for the first time in my career. But I must say, every day is new learning for me. I learned how to rock climb, I shot a sequence in a borewell and pit." The show which is a love story of Radha (Neeharika) and Mohan (Shabir Ahluwalia) will have an action sequence performed by Radha. In the upcoming episode she will be seen being pushed by Damini (played by Sambhabana Mohanty) into a fire to stop her marriage with Mohan. Neeharika said performing these stunts is never easy for her but she always tries to give her best while doing them. Neeharika said performing these stunts is never easy for her but she always tries to give her best while doing them. "My first reaction to most of these stunts is 'How will I do it?' Then I took a deep breath and gave it my all. Recently, I shot a sequence with fire, and it was challenging for me. It was a small room that was lit by fire on all sides, it was scary yet exciting," she said.

Good content has no barriers & language is never a hurdle: Sunny Leone

Chennai | Agencies

Actress Sunny Leone, has done three films in three different languages which are about to be released in a span of two months, expresses that good content has no barriers and that language is never a hurdle.

While the actress's Kannada film 'Champion' has already hit screens, the actress has a Telugu mass entertainer 'Ginna', opposite Vishnu Manchu, releasing on October 21.

That's not all, her Tamil film 'Oh My Ghost' is all set for a November release. What's more, the actress is currently in Goa shooting for the next season of the popular reality show 'Splitsvilla' in

Hindi.

Earlier in the year, Leone featured in a web series in Hindi, titled 'Anamika'. There are very few actors who have the ability to work across genres of content not to mention a variety of languages as well. As the concept of pan-India films intensifies and the audience is fast lapping up south content, Leone, who had taken the leap of faith a while ago, has a first mover advantage in tapping into the core south market Talking about it, the actress says, "I have always believed that good content has no barriers and language is never a hurdle. I have always wanted to try new things. And it so worked out that this month, my Kannada film 'Champion' released. Later this

month, my film with Vishnu Manchu - 'Ginna' - which is a massive Telugu movie, releases. Next month, my horror comedy made in Tamil 'Oh My Ghost' will release. "I am never afraid to learn new things. It is crucial to make sure that I never stop trying to be versatile and show my range as an actor. It enables me to culturally learn different aspects of our diverse country and connect with a whole new audience."



Deepika and Mahesh Babu starring in Rajamouli's next film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After "RRR" achieved unprecedented popularity, renowned director S.S. Mahesh Babu, a star in Telugu cinema, will play the protagonist in Rajamouli's upcoming film.

The film, written by Rajamouli's father K.V. Vijayendra Prasad, is said to be inspired by real life events and the latest buzz is that it will star Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone opposite Mahesh Babu. Tentatively titled 'SSMB29', the film is an adventure drama and will most likely go on floors by the first half of 2023. According to the reports, this will be the first time when Deepika and Mahesh will be working together. Meanwhile, Deepika is currently busy with another pan-India film titled 'Project K', where she will be seen along with Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Suniel Shetty. The film, which got delayed by a year due to Covid-19 pandemic, is being directed by Nag Ashwin. Earlier, Deepika fell ill on the sets of 'Project K' and was rushed to a hospital after her heart rate spiked.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sharvari Wagh