



ASSAM GOVT TO REFUND FEES OF UNSUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT EXAM CANDIDATES

Guwahati | Agencies

The Assam government on Sunday declared results of the written exam that was held to recruit nearly 11,000 employees in grade 3 jobs in various departments in the state.

While around twice the numbers of candidates were selected for those vacant posts and will appear for a second round of interviews, the state government has decided to refund the fees paid by the unsuccessful candidates in the exam.

At least 8-10 lakh candidates took the written test for the grade 3 state government posts.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the state government will keep



the fees of only successful candidates.

"For all those who could not pass the written examination, we will refund the fees they paid to appear in the exam. It will be done through the bank accounts that they used during the fee

payment," he added.

The examinations were held on August 21 and 28 this year. In total, there were 26,442 vacant posts, out of which 13,300 are grade 3 and 13,341 grade 4 posts. The results for grade 4 posts were declared earlier.

NIA arrests man involved in ambush on Assam Rifles Commandant's convoy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday said that it has arrested an accused, who was absconding, since an ambush on the convoy of the Commandant of Assam Rifles.

The accused has been identified as Machukring Zamshim Shimray alias Ningkham.

The case pertains to the attack on the convoy of 46th Battalion Assam Rifles on November 13, 2021, by a group of armed militants near Sialsih village of Churachandpur district in Manipur.

Due to the attack, seven persons, including Commanding Officer Colonel Vipul Tripathi, his wife and minor son, and four other Assam



Rifles personnel were killed and six other personnel were injured. Initially an FIR in this case was

lodged at Singnat police station, Churachandpur district under sections 121, 121A, 302, 307, 326, 34 of

the IPC, Section 25 (1-C) of Arms Act, Sections 10, 16, 18, 20, 39 of UA(P) Act and Section 5 of Explosive Substances Act.

Later, on the probe of the matter was taken over by the NIA.

"On November 5, based on secret information, a joint team of the NIA, Assam Rifles and Assam Police conducted a special operation and arrested Machukring Ningkham from Yaingangpokpi, Imphal East district, Manipur, against whom NIA had declared a cash reward of Rs 4 lakh.

The accused was an active cadre of Manipur Naga Peoples' Front and was directly involved in the ambush," a NIA official said.

Further investigation in the matter is underway.

Three arrested for honey-trapping Delhi-based cricketer in Kolkata

Kolkata | Agencies

Three persons were arrested for honey-trapping, blackmailing and extorting money from a Delhi-based cricketer, the police said on Sunday.

The three were arrested late on Saturday night.

The police did not disclose the name of the victim for the sake of protecting the cricketer's reputation. However, the three arrested in this connection have been identified as Rishav Chanda, Subhonkar Biswas and Shiva Singh.

At the same time, the investigative officials concerned have confirmed that the principal mastermind of the honey-trapping racket was still absconding and the police were trying to track him. The police did not disclose the identity of the absconding accused. It is learnt that the said cricketer came from Delhi to participate in



some matches in Kolkata at the end of October. He had put up in a posh hotel in the Salt Lake area. There through a dating app he came in touch with the accused who promised association with someone of the opposite sex of his choice.

On November 1, he met the four accused, which included the arrested and one absconding, at a bus-stop in the Baguati area which comes under the Bidhannagar City Police. There the victim was shown some photographs and was asked to choose from

them. After he selected one of those shown in the photograph, he was introduced to her. But he was unaware that while he was spending time with the girl, his intimate moments with her were video-recorded secretly.

Thereafter on the same day, the four accused contacted the victim, showed him the videos and demanded a hefty sum of money. To save his social prestige, he immediately transferred Rs 60,000 to their accounts through net-banking and also handed them over his gold chain and costly mobile phone.

However, as he started receiving more ransom calls, finally on November 2, he contacted the local Baguati Police Station and narrated the details. The police started investigating and finally on Saturday, three accused were arrested from the Baguati area, while the fourth accused is on the run.

RETIRED IB OFFICER'S MURDER: MYSURU POLICE SETS UP SPECIAL PROBE TEAM

Mysuru | The Karnataka Police has set up a special team to probe the murder of a retired Intelligence Bureau officer in Mysuru city.

Former IB officer R.K. Kulakarni, 82, was killed on Friday, while walking on Manasa Gangothri campus of Mysuru University, in what was seen initially as a hit and run case.

However, the CCTV footage showed clearly that he was mowed down by a car. The family had suspected the role of a local person who had property dispute with him.

Mysuru Police Commissioner Dr. Chandra Gupta stated that the motive behind the murder is not clear.

Kulkarni had retired 23 years ago. The car which was used to commit the crime did not have registration numbers and police are seeking to trace it.

Police said that the suspects have disappeared after Kulkarni's family members suspected their role, and investigations are on.

Delhi: Wanted criminal turned online shoe seller, held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A wanted criminal who became online shoe seller, and had been absconding after being accused in an attempt to murder case, was arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch, police said on Sunday.

Ravindra Singh Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), said that the accused was identified as Sahil Chaudhary alias Tiger.

The police official added that during questioning, the accused was also a vagabond in the Krishna Nagar police station.

Two years' externment order against the accused was issued by the police. The official said that on



October 23, Chaudhary had a heated altercation with his friend Furkan in Geeta Colony area and in a fit of rage the former opened fire on the latter. The bullet hit one Munazir alias Paina (also their friend) on his forehead.

The victim was rushed to the GTB Hospital immediately where he is undergoing treatment. Chaudhary was absconding since then.

The official added that the accused was allegedly involved in 11 criminal cases.

"He is a very desperate criminal who controls Krishna Nagar and adjoining area. He passed class 8 and entered the world of crime. He worked as a driver and now he sells shoes through online platforms. He is addicted to alcohol also," the official said.

Man accused of molestation tries to flee away, killed in accident

New Delhi | An auto-rickshaw driver was crushed to death when he was allegedly running away from the police station to avoid his arrest in a molestation case in Delhi's Civil Lines area, police said on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Rahul.

According to official information, the police received a call about the incident at 11.15 p.m. on Saturday.

A 40-year-old woman, who called the police control room, alleged that the accused auto-rickshaw driver allegedly misbehaved with her. She told us that the accused was at the Civil Lines

Metro station. A police team was sent to the spot. The auto-rickshaw driver was held, who was found to be in an inebriated condition. The police took him to the police station," the police added.

A police official said that after reaching the police station, the victim became aggressive while auto-rickshaw driver was parking his auto at the police station premises. The police staff tried to pacify the complainant.

Meanwhile, the auto-rickshaw driver Rahul escaped from the gate and ran towards the main road during which he was allegedly

hit by an unknown vehicle and was killed on the spot.

The police said that they have lodged two separate FIRs in this connection, one of molestation against Rahul and the second against unknown persons under sections 279 and 304A of the IPC.

After getting information about the fatal accident, the relatives of the deceased started gathering before Civil Lines police station and stayed there for nearly three-four hours protesting against the police.

Later on, the relatives of the deceased were pacified by the senior police official.

Air quality improves slightly in Delhi, GRAP Stage IV measures may be reviewed

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After three consecutive days of Air quality remaining into Severe category, the quality index improved slightly in the national capital city on Sunday morning following which the GRAP Stage IV measures may be reviewed.

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the overall AQI of the city improved further on 331, however in the very poor category.

The concentration of both PM 2.5 and PM 10 was recorded at 331 under the very poor category and 211 under the poor category respectively this morning.

Delhi's AQI returned to the 'very poor' category after a change in wind direction due to southeasterly, while local winds speeds also picked up. "The AQI will start improving faster now as surface wind will pick up to enhance dispersion and the direc-



tion of stubble transport wind also is changing. The AQI will be very low to mid part of very poor by the 6th of November," said Prof. Gufran Beig, Founder Project Director, SAFAR.

However, Prof Beig also added that the relief is short lived. "The AQI will start deteriorating from the 8th evening as the stubble wind will again turn from the burning side," he said.

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR, is likely to hold a review meeting on Sunday in the light of improving air condition. The CAQM had imposed Stage IV measures of the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) on Thursday evening that bans the entry of diesel vehicles that were not BS VI in Delhi.

The Delhi government on Friday banned the entry of trucks other than essential services in the national capital following the introduction of GRAP IV. The government has also constituted a six-member committee to monitor truck entry in the national capital city. "Only CNG, petrol and electric vehicles will be allowed to enter Delhi. There will also be a ban on medium and heavy vehicles of diesel registered in Delhi, which are not connected to the essential services. Small vehicles with diesel engines which are not BS6 compliant will also be banned," Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Friday.

Four years have passed, but Bengal's anti-lynching Bill yet to be made a law

Kolkata | Agencies

The West Bengal (Prevention of Lynching) Bill, 2019 was passed by the Assembly in August 2019, and has provisions for a death sentence and jail terms, spanning three years to life, for those involved in assaulting or injuring a person, depending on the extent of crime.

However, till date, the law has remained at the non-implementation stage, following certain factors where its provisions might contradict central acts on similar issue.

Although West Bengal does not figure among the places where major cases of lynching were reported during the last few years, reports keep on coming from different corners of the state on such expression of aggression by public, causing death or severe injuries.

In Shyamnagar, of North 24 Parganas district in August this year, a youth, trying to flee after snatching a mobile phone, was caught by locals and severely beaten up. He was taken to a hospital where he was declared dead.

In July this year, a man, fleeing after killing his wife, was nabbed and lynched in Birbhum district. In June, the same fate was received by a suspected thief after he was lynched by local people at Baruipur in South 24 Parganas district. Even on September 4, a suspected thief was severely beaten up at Daspur in West Midnapore district and sustained



severe injuries, before the police rescued him.

Now this reports of lynching or mob-bashing have raised certain questions in the society.

Is the loss of trust in the judicial system encouraging people to take law in their own hand and resort to vigilante justice? Will new laws on this count help in reducing instances of people venting their pent-up anger on those they assume to be guilty of a crime?

We tried to find an answer by speaking to certain psychologists and legal

experts. According to Dr Tirthankar Guha Thakurta, visiting faculty with the Department of Psychology of the University of Calcutta and faculty of KPC Medical College and Hospital, the crave for vigilante justice had always been there in any society.

"The face of the reflection of that vigilante justice is at times, personal, and at times, the mass. Obviously, the reflection gets a more violent shape when the mass is involved. For me, these are reflections of the people losing faith in the administration or the sloth-like movement of the

judicial system.

However, Calcutta High Court counsel Jyoti Prakash Khan feels blaming the angst on the slothful movement of the judicial system is too simplistic a logic.

"There are several cases of lynching where it was masterminded by some evil brains with ulterior motives - which, in many cases, related to property matters. What is required is effective, judicious and prompt implementation of the existing legal clauses by the executives of administration, which, in cases of lynching, are the police," Khan said.

Vulgar American slang not used in Indian society: Delhi Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Court has observed that the usage of "F**K off" is a vulgar American slang and a "sexually coloured" remark which is not used in Indian Society when asking anyone to leave.

"The said word is an American vulgar slang. The said word is an offensive word," Additional Sessions Judge Sanjay Sharma of Tis Hazari Courts observed recently while dealing a sexual harassment case.

"...In Indian society, schools or colleges, this word is not used to ask anyone to leave or go away. Moreover, given the facts and circumstances of the incident, it cannot be said that the petitioner was merely intending to ask the complainant to leave or go away. In ordinary sense, the said word is abusive, offensive and humiliating," the order said.

The court was dealing a revision petition, which was challenging a Mahila Court order that framed charges against a man (petitioner) under Sections 354A (sexual harassment), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 509 (insulting modesty of a woman) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

As per the woman's complaint, the accused man used abusive language, including 'f**k off' and 'bazaru aurat' -- a woman of bad character -- and threatened her. The petitioner's counsel argued that he did not make any 'sexually

coloured remark' and merely asked the complainant to leave the premises by stating the said word.

He contended that the meaning of the said word is defined in Cambridge Dictionary (UK) as "...To leave or go away, used especially as a rude way of telling someone to go away..."

After the submissions, the court held that it cannot find any merit in the contention of the petitioner that the dictionary meaning of the said word is defined as 'to leave or go away'.

The said word is a 'sexually coloured remark', the court stated. "There is a prima facie case that the petitioner used the said word with the intent to insult modesty of the complainant," the court averred.

The complainant has specifically stated that the petitioner asked her to shut up and sit in a corner. She has specifically stated that the petitioner along with other persons threatened her and her family and also threatened to throw them out of the house.

"There is sufficient ground for proceeding against the petitioner for offences under Section 354A/509 (Sexual harassment and punishment for sexual harassment and insult the modesty of a woman) and 506 IPC (Punishment for criminal intimidation)," the order read. Accordingly, the criminal revision petition filed by the petitioner was dismissed.

मध्यप्रदेश स्थापना दिवस कार्यक्रम
श्रृंखला अंतर्गत

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



शिवराज सिंह चौहान, मुख्यमंत्री

राज्य एवं जिला स्तरीय
पुरस्कार वितरण
समारोह
वर्ष 2022

मुख्य अतिथि

मंगुभाई पटेल

राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश

अध्यक्षता

शिवराज सिंह चौहान

मुख्यमंत्री

मध्यप्रदेश

7 नवम्बर 2022, सायं 6:30 बजे
रवीन्द्र भवन, भोपाल



EDITOR'S SPECS

After 30 yrs three-cornered contest in Gujarat Assembly polls

After more than 30 years, Gujarat is all set to witness a three-cornered contest in the forthcoming Assembly elections to be held in two phases on December 1 and 5. As per the poll, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has emerged as a formidable force in the state and is projected to gather a vote share of more than 20 per cent in the forthcoming elections. This makes the Gujarat Assembly elections a three-cornered contest like what was witnessed in Uttar Pradesh during the last three decades before popular support for the Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) collapsed in the 2022 Assembly elections. The last time Gujarat witnessed a similar three-cornered contest was in 1990. In that election, the erstwhile Janata Dal had polled almost 30 per cent the vote share while the Congress' vote share had slumped to 31 per cent. An ascendant BJP had then polled about 27 per cent of the vote share. The popular sentiment in Gujarat that is leaning towards a three-cornered contest will inflict maximum damage on the Congress, just as it had done in 1990. According to the projections made by the opinion poll, the vote share of Congress is expected to crash by 12.5 per cent to 29.1 per cent this time, as compared to the 2017 Assembly elections. In 2017, the Congress had given a close fight to the BJP in a bipolar contest by winning 77 seats in the 182-member state Assembly. But the change from a bipolar to a three-cornered contest would hurt the Congress as it is projected to win between 31 and 39 seats this time. Gujarat will go to the polls in two phases on December 1 and 5. The results will be declared, along with that of Himachal Pradesh, on December 8.

With its history of bridge collapses, Morbi an eye-opener for West Bengal

Sumanta Ray Chaudhuri

The collapse of a suspension cable bridge in Gujarat's Morbi, which killed around 140 people, has evoked strong political slur from West Bengal's ruling party Trinamool Congress, but has also turned out to be an eye-opener for the state government considering the state's record of the bridge collapses.

In the words of a senior engineer with the state public works department (PWD), who refused to be named, "while politics is in its place, the thoroughly undesirable tragedy at Morbi has at least pressed the panic button for the department to have a fresh review of the conditions of the bridges and flyovers in the state."

On Tuesday, the state PWD minister, Pulak Roy called an emergency meeting of the top bureaucrats and engineers of the department to have a review of the conditions of the bridges and flyovers.

According to Roy, in the meeting spot decision was taken to thoroughly rebuild two major bridges in the state. The first being the Birendra Sasmal Bridge over Kangsabati River connecting Midnapore and Kharagpur towns in West Midnapore district and the second being the Coronation Bridge, also known as Sevoke Roadway Bridge over the Teesta River connecting Darjeeling and Kalimpong Bridge in north Bengal.

At the same time, the minister has also ordered that the health of all the bridges and flyovers in the state be checked and a report be tabled within a month. He also sought details on the bridges where plying of heavy vehicles can create hazards or tragedies.

While that is the official decision of the meeting and the official versions on this count, there had been some revelations that transpired during the course of the review meeting. Sources said that as per



the preliminary findings there are around 45 to 50 bridges in different corners of the state, which are between 50 and 60 years old, where simple patchwork or even thorough renovations will not work out and need to be thoroughly rebuilt to make them safe for vehicle movement.

"The estimated cost of doing that will be around Rs 3,000 crore, which is currently a big amount for the state PWD department considering the financial constraints imposed on the department," a department official present in the meeting said.

IANS talked to a couple of structural engineering experts to have a clear understanding of the technical factors where and when a bridge or a flyover needs to be thoroughly rebuilt instead of undergoing renovation or patch-work.

According to founder-director of Citius Infracon Private Limited and

structural engineering specialist, Anindita Moitra Das, generally the life span of a bridge or flyover is determined on various parameters of Indian Standards (IS) which start from 35 years.

"This duration of the life span is dependent on various parameters like weight varying capacity and the quality of material used, among others. At the same time, there are different parameters by virtue of which it has to be decided where plying of heavy vehicles would be allowed and where not. The monitoring, maintenance and renovation should be an ongoing process starting from the day of its inauguration till the end of its life span as per the IS parameters concerned, when the bridge needs to be thoroughly rebuilt. Unfortunately, in India such detailed processes are not followed in most cases," she said.

Another city-based structural engineer, Pradipta Mitra said that

the factor that determines the weight-carrying capacity of a bridge or a flyover is the base-strength of that bridge or flyover.

"Certain major and traditional bridges like Howrah Bridge, Second Hooghly Bridge, Nivedita Setu or even some smaller bridges like Dhakuria Bridge or Gariahat Bridge have extremely strong bases and hence can carry the weight of heavy goods vehicles or passenger vehicles. On the other hand, Maa flyover that connects the city with the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass might be an extremely long one, but does not have that strong a base for allowing movement of heavy vehicles. Again, the strengths of the bridge or flyover bases depend on the quality of materials used. And yes, whether strong base or not, constant monitoring and maintenance of the bridges

and flyover are necessary during the entire interim period till such constructions come to the end of their life-spans" Mitra added.

On March 31, 2016 just before the West Bengal Assembly elections a steel span of the under-construction Vivekananda Road Flyover at Girish Park in North Kolkata collapsed killing 27 people.

On September 4, 2018, the Majerhat Bridge in the southern outskirts of Kolkata collapsed killing three people.

On March 3, 2013 a huge portion of the Ultadanga flyover in the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass that connects VIP Road with the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. However, no one was killed in the mishap.

international

FIVE COPS KILLED AS OVER 150 DACOITS ATTACK POLICE CAMP IN PAKISTAN

Karachi: A group of armed bandits attacked a police camp in the Kacha area of Ronti, Ghotki in Pakistan's Sindh province, killing five cops and leaving two injured, local media reported.



According to DIG Javed Jaskani, the police camp was set up in Kacha for an operation to recover hostages in the area.

More than 150 dacoits attacked the police post, killing five policemen including a DSP and two SHOs, The Express Tribune reported. DSP Abdul Malik Bhutto, SHO Abdul Malik Kamangar, SHO Deen Muhammad Leghari and two police constables, Saleem Chachadar and Jatoi Patafi were killed in the attack. "After the attack, heavy firing has taken place from both sides," said DIG Jaskani, adding that a "heavy contingent" of police has been dispatched to Kacha.

He maintained that the operation to recover the hostages in the area is continuing.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari condemned the attack on the police. He recognised the "unparalleled" sacrifices made by the Sindh police to provide security to the lives and property of citizens and to maintain peace and order in the region. He expressed confidence that the accused involved in the incident would be held accountable.

SKorea participates in Japan's fleet review for 1st time in 7 year

Tokyo | Agencies

A South Korean naval vessel took part in Japan's international fleet review on Sunday for the first time in seven years amid escalating nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

South Korea was one of 12 countries, including the US, Canada and Australia, to take part in the review that took place in Sagami Bay off Kanagawa Prefecture, about 40 kms southeast of Tokyo, Yonhap news agency reported.

Sailors aboard South Korea's 10,000-ton logistics support ship Soyang saluted toward Japan's helicopter carrier Izumo carrying Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, as sailors from other participating countries do while passing the carrier.

The Japanese vessel was flying the flag of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF). The flag looks similar to the Rising Sun Flag viewed by many Koreans as a symbol of Japan's imperialist past. It marked the first time since



2015 for the South's Navy to participate in Japan's fleet review.

The Navy took part in Japan's fleet review in 2002 and 2015, while the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force joined the South's fleet review in 1998 and 2008.

Since 2018, when tensions between Seoul and Tokyo rose over historical and other disputes, the

two sides have not participated in each other's fleet reviews.

Following the review, the Navy ship Soyang plans to join a multinational search and rescue exercise. The exercise will bring together service members from the United States, Britain, France, Australia, Canada and other countries.

Sri Lanka Navy arrests 15 Indian fishermen

Phnom Penh | Agencies

Colombo: The Sri Lanka Navy arrested 15 Indian fishermen who were allegedly poaching in the northern waters of the Island nation and seized two trawlers on Saturday evening.

The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) said that the arrests were made during "a special operation in seas north of Talaimannar to chase away Indian poaching trawlers from Sri Lanka's waters".

"Sri Lanka Navy remains ever alert to foil illegal fishing practices of foreign fishing trawlers in Sri Lanka's waters and regularly conducts patrols and operations to prevent such activities. As an extension of these efforts, the North Central Naval Command mounted a special operation, having spotted a cluster of Indian poaching trawlers in Sri Lanka's waters, in seas north of Talaimannar," SLN said in a statement.

Two Fast Attack Craft of the 4th Fast Attack Flotilla (4 FAF) attached to the Northern Naval Command had been deployed for the operation. The seized trawlers together with Indian fishermen have been brought to Talaimannar and they were handed over to the Mannar Fisheries officials for onward legal proceedings, the navy stated.

The SLN also said that it continues to remain vigilant and conducts operations to prevent illegal fishing, taking into account the consequences of such activities of foreign fishermen on the livelihood of local fishermen and the biodiversity of the marine environment.



Australia announces bid to host UN Climate Change Conference in 2026

Canberra | Agencies

The Australian government has announced it will bid to co-host the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference in 2026 with Pacific nations.

Chris Bowen, minister for Climate Change and Energy, recently said the government has decided against bidding to host the 29th session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2024, and will instead focus on 2026, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Our delegation at COP27 and our COP31 bid will go a



long way to help drive Australia's economic transformation to a net-zero economy, and strengthen green trade partnerships and secure jobs for Australian

workers," he said in a media release on Saturday.

He said the upcoming COP27, slated for November 6-18 in Egypt, is an opportunity to showcase Australia's

renewed climate leadership, "as we demonstrate our potential as a renewable energy superpower."

The announcement has been welcomed by environmentalists.

Dermot O'Gorman from the World Wide Fund For Nature said hosting COP31 would "revive" Australia's reputation on climate issues. "This is an Olympic moment -- a huge opportunity to host a nation-building global event," he told the Australian Associated Press.

At the COP27 in Egypt, Australia's delegation will demonstrate the government's commitment to action on climate change, according to Bowen.

'N. KOREA FIRES FOUR SHORT-RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES TOWARD YELLOW SEA'

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea fired four short-range ballistic missiles (SRBM) toward the Yellow Sea on Saturday, the South Korean military said. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said it detected the launches from Tongrim County in North Pyongan Province between around 11:32 a.m. and 11:59 a.m., Yonhap news agency reported.

The missiles flew about 130 km at an apogee of 20 km with a top speed of Mach 5, it added.

The North Korea's latest "provocation" came on the last day of the extended large-scale combined air drills of the South Korea and the US.

On Saturday two B-1B strategic bombers joined the Vigilant Storm exercise alongside four South Korean F-35A stealth fighter jets and four US F-16 fighters, the JCS said.



It marked the first time the B-1B Lancer has been deployed to the Korean Peninsula since 2017, in a demonstration of Washington's firm commitment to extended deterrence for South Korea and the allies' combined defense posture, JCS added.

The North has launched a barrage of ballistic missiles into the East Sea and the Yellow Sea, including an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), apparently in protest against the Vigilant Storm.

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 15 IN SOMALI CAPITAL MOGADISHU

Mogadishu: A suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a military training camp in Mogadishu, killing at least 15 people.

Civilians and new recruits were among the casualties, the Garowe news portal quoted a military official as saying, adding that scores of people were wounded.

The Islamist militant group Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the Saturday evening's attack. Xinhua news agency reported quoting other local media.

Somali National Army forces backed by pro-government militia killed more than 100 Al-Shabab militants on Thursday evening during an offensive at a village in Hiran region of central Somalia. A week ago in Mogadishu, twin car bomb explosions targeting Somalia's Education Ministry building killed at least 100 people and injured more than 300 others.

Al-Shabab has been fighting for more than a decade to topple Somalia's central government and to establish its own rule based on its strict interpretation of Islamic law.



TWO CHEETAHS AT MP'S KUNO RELEASED INTO LARGER ENCLOSURE, PM MODI SHARES VIDEO

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two out of the eight Cheetahs that were brought from Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh have been released into a larger enclosure, the officials associated with the state wildlife department said. The big cats were released on Saturday. Both are male and are named as 'Elton' and 'Freddie'. Notably, since their arrival at Kuno National Park, all big cats (five male and three female) have been kept inside quarantine enclosures, where they completed 51 days on November 5.

Officials monitoring the daily movement and the health condition of the Namibian cheetahs at their new habitat at Kuno, said that one more big cat will be released into a larger enclosure by Sunday evening.



The development came after the officials at the Kuno National Park held another round of meeting with

the members of the Cheetah Task Force of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to

review the preparation for transportation of the cheetahs on Friday, sources said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his happiness over the release of the two cheetahs. "Great news! I am told that after the mandatory quarantine, 2 cheetahs have been released to a bigger enclosure for further adaptation to the Kuno habitat. Others will be released soon. I'm also glad to know that all cheetahs are healthy, active and adjusting well," Modi posted on Twitter along with a video.

The cheetahs were flown from the African country and released in the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district with much fanfare on September 17 by PM Modi as part of a project to revive the population in India, seven decades after the cheetahs were declared extinct.

Of 346 MP river bridges over 25 years old, 14 need urgent restoration

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least 364 bridges built on different rivers across Madhya Pradesh are over 25 years old and need to be redeveloped by the state Public Work Department (PWD). Of these, at least 14 bridges need special attention.

Officials at the state Public Work Department (PWD) say that the safety audit has been conducted and the process of redevelopment of these bridges has begun.

"The aerial survey of all bridges has been conducted and it was found that 14 of them would require special attention. In fact, out of these 14, the redevelopment works of eight bridges have commenced, even some of them are already completed, while the work on six remaining bridges will be started soon," said a senior PWD official.

The official said that three of the six bridges where redevelopment work will start soon are located in Gwalior while two are in Bhopal.

A British-era bridge built on the Sukhtawa river on National Highway 46, which connects



Bhopal to Nagpur (Maharashtra), had collapsed in April when a multi-axle lorry loaded with around 130 tonnes of weight (electric machines) was crossing over it. Before the lorry could cross, a portion of the bridge collapsed leaving the lorry hanging and the machines fell on the dry Sukhtawa river. The bridge was built around 1865, at a height of 25 feet above the river. Two months back, the broken bridge was redeveloped by a team of Army engineers. The team has set up a 90-foot long bailey bridge. Similarly, in July, a newly constructed bridge on the highway connecting Bhopal to Jabalpur collapsed due to heavy rainfall, however, no casualty was reported.

CM Chouhan plants saplings with Padma Shri Dr. Kiran Seth



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Karanj, Teak and Pithoriya along with Padma Shri Dr. Kiran Seth in Smart City Garden. Dr Kiran Seth, a 73-year-old retired professor from IIT Delhi, is cycling from Srinagar to Kanyakumari. This yatra is

being undertaken with the aim of promoting Indian classical music and culture among the youth. Dr. Seth was accompanied by his team.

Along with Chief Minister Shri Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Finance Development Corporation Chairperson Nirmala Barela also planted saplings.

As momentum builds up for state polls, MP BJP chief may get extension

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The two-year tenure of Madhya Pradesh BJP President V.D. Sharma will end by February 2023, just around eight months before the next Assembly elections, which are scheduled in November next year - and it remains to be seen if he will remain at the party's helm till then.

With Madhya Pradesh bracing for a heated Assembly elections, both the BJP and the Congress are preparing fervently.

The state BJP recently shifted its party headquarters to a new temporary venue, where it will plan strategies for 2023 elections, as its existing old office is to be demolished and a multi-storey building will come up in its place, and this will take at least two years. Thus, the speculations rife here in Madhya Pradesh that the headquarters has changed, whether the state President will also be changed ahead of Assembly elections or Sharma's tenure will be extended for the two years?

While the decision would be taken by the BJP's central leadership, indications are that Sharma is most likely to remain as state President at least till the Assembly elections are over.

Political observers and BJP sources claim there are marginal chances that the party would replace Sharma, especially when the elections are just few months away. Speculation about the change had gained momentum after Sharma was included in the BJP's advisory committee on foreign issues.



He had also played a crucial role during the inauguration of newly-developed 'Mahakal Lok' in Ujjain, and hundreds of NRIs had witnessed the inauguration live when it was

unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 11. "No one can make a claim whether V.D. Sharma would continue leading the party or a new face will be seen after his tenure gets over, as uncertainty always remains in politics... but observing the situation, there are several reasons which indicate that Sharma will get extended tenure," said a political observer.

Sources note that in the last two years, Sharma has won confidence of the central leadership, especially BJP President J.P. Nadda and in the state, he has support from Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"Shivraj Singh Chouhan wasn't replaced by the central leadership probably because of elections getting closer and therefore, the party won't take a risk by introducing a new face when the elections are just few months away," said a senior BJP leader requesting anonymity.

Another factor why Sharma likely to remain as state President, say political observers, is that in the last two years, he has also established as a prominent Brahmin face of the party.

A Chouhan remark during the 2018 Assembly elections had was one of the key factor why upper caste voters, specifically Brahmins, had shifted toward the Congress.

Secondly, as political observers note that in the last elections, Sharma was appointed as in-charge for the Vindhya Pradesh region and the party had won 24 out of 36 seats there. Rewa used to be a stronghold of the Congress but the BJP had won all eight seats in 2018.

Woman hits man with slippers in crowded market in Khurai district for kidnapping, assaulting her daughter

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A video of a woman, along with her two daughters, beating a man with slippers in a crowded market in Madhya Pradesh's Khurai district is going viral. According to the reports, the women, residents of Khurai, were taking the man to the police station while thrashing him all the way.

In the video, two of the women are seen hitting him with slippers, and the third woman is dragging him throughout the crowded market in Sagar town. The woman accused Virendra of kidnapping her daughter. After this, they handed him to the police. According to the Khurai police station in charge, the woman and the



two girls reached the police station to complain about the man. The woman alleged that the accused kidnapped her daughter between 2 and

3 pm on November 2. She said she reached the police station to file a complaint, but the officers denied registering the complaint. She

said her daughter was in the clutches of the man for three days.

She further alleged that on Saturday, her daughter somehow took someone's mobile and informed the family members about her whereabouts. The family then reached the place and rescued her. The woman claimed that her daughter was in his possession for three days. The women also accused him of assaulting the victim. During interrogation, the man claimed that she was his wife and had come to Bhopal today. At the same time, Khurai's city police station in-charge, Ravendra Singh, said a case of a missing girl was registered in Bhopal on October 12. He said this matter is going on in the Bhopal Police.

STATE LEVEL AWARD DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY ON NOVEMBER 7

Bhopal With Governor Mangubhai Patel as chief guest and with the chairmanship of CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the state level prize distribution ceremony will be held on November 7 at 6:30 pm at Ravindra Bhavan, Bhopal. In the series of awards, Madhya Pradesh Gaurav Samman for outstanding and exceptional works and Chief Minister Excellence Awards for excellence in innovation and government schemes will be given.

A series of creative activities of various departments are going on continuously from November 1 on Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day. After the main function on November 1, Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0 on November 2, sanitation and cleanliness on November 3, One District-One Product and Employment Day on November 4, competitions centred on the pride of Madhya Pradesh on November 5 and on November 6 water conservation and wildlife protection awareness programmes were organised.

Sailana Patwari caught in video taking bribe, suspended



Team Absolute | Sailana (Rajasthan)

Ratlam district collector Narendra Suryawanshi has ordered a suspension of a patwari of the revenue department after a video went viral on social media in which the official could be seen taking a bribe (money) from a man.

In the video that went viral, it has been claimed that Rajesh Soni, Patwari posted at Halka no 16 and 21, Sailana town, Ratlam district, has resorted to corrupt practices and took money from

the man for clearance of some files.

In the suspension order, it was mentioned that the accused Patwari demanded a bribe from a man for making a correction in the revenue record pertaining to his agricultural land in Sarwan.

Taking note of the video, the district Collector has ordered the immediate suspension of Patwari pertaining to his corrupt practices. It was alleged that the above-said Patwari has demanded and accepted a bribe of Rs 50,000 for the clearance of some files.

UNION MINISTER GADKARI TO DEDICATE VARIOUS ROAD PROJECTS IN JABALPUR AND MANDLA

Bhopal Under the chairmanship of Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate 13 road projects of 543 km length in Jabalpur and Mandla worth Rs.5315 crore.

Union Minister Gadkari and CM Chouhan will lay the foundation stone of 5 road projects of 329 km length at Police Ground, Mandla in the forenoon worth Rs.1261 crore. This includes construction of 2-lane road from Kundam to Shahpura, Shahpura to Dindori, Dindori-Sagar Tola-Kabir Chabutra and Dindori to Mandla road construction and Samnapur-Bajaj road construction under CRIF.

Union Minister Gadkari and CM Chouhan will lay foundation stone and inaugurate 214 km long 8 road project costing Rs 4054 crore at Veterinary College Ground in Jabalpur at 1 pm. Among them, 4-lane road widening of Hiran-Vindoor river section will be inaugurated along with Jabalpur Ring Road - Barela to Manegaon, Manegaon - NH-45, NH-45 to Kushner and Kushner-Amjhar Road. Foundation stone will be laid for 2-lane (with paved shoulder) from Jabalpur to Kundam and Kundam Niwas road construction work under CRIF along with expansion work of Damoh Naka ramp in Damoh Naka - Ranital Chowk-Madan Mahal flyover.

British-era bridges working, newer ones raise concerns

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After Gujarat's Morbi Bridge tragedy, concern over the condition of bridges over rivers and streams have emerged across the country. In Madhya Pradesh, where many cases of recently-built bridges getting damaged have been recorded, over a 100 bridges, built in pre-Independence era, are still being heavily used.

However, the state government and agencies are keeping a strict check on the condition of the bridges after the Gujarat tragedy.

About a decade and a half ago, the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MPSTDC) developed tourist picnic spot 'Sair Sapata' in the state capital and installed a suspension bridge there.

When reports of the bridge not being tested regularly came to the fore, Mayor Malti Rai wrote a letter to the MPSTDC, seeking the bridge be got checked and a fitness certificate be provided.

A large number of tourists visit the spot on Saturdays and Sundays. The condition of a similar bridge in Indore is also being questioned.

Many such cases of concern over the status of bridges came to light because of recent heavy rains. In Gwalior's Chambal area, more than half a dozen bridges were damaged, while, even in Bhopal, a part of a bridge located near the capital



collapsed. These instances testify to the sorry condition of the bridges built after Independence.

On the other hand, more than 100 such bridges, built during the British rule, are still in a condition to allow smooth flow of traffic.

Experts say that during the British era, bridges were built through arch technology - which is no longer used. On the problems in newly-built bridges, officials of Madhya Pradesh Public Works Department and Road Development Corporation lament that they are unable to take strict actions against the flaws and irregularities by big contractors, due to political pressure. Even if such companies get blacklisted, they soon resume their work as usual, added officials.

Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra to enter MP on November 20

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by party leader Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Madhya Pradesh on November 20 and cover various districts of the state before entering Rajasthan on December 3, a party leader said on Sunday.

Speaking to reporters in Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief J P Agrawal said the march is scheduled to enter the state from Burhanpur district on November 20.

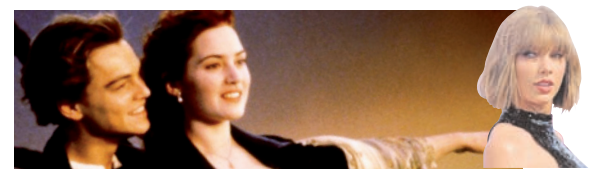
Agrawal, along with former MPCC chief Arun Yadav and other Congress leaders, earlier inspected the areas where the yatra is scheduled to enter and reviewed the arrangements.

According to the available schedule as of now, the yatra will enter Bodarli village of the district from



neighbouring Maharashtra and move to other districts on November 22 after a day's rest, Yadav said. The yatra will enter Rajasthan on December 3 after passing through various districts of Madhya Pradesh, he said.

Earlier on Saturday, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath and leader of opposition in the state Assembly Govind Singh met the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan about the arrangements for the yatra.



'JOHN WICK' SPIN-OFF MOVIE 'BALLERINA' STARTS ROLLING

Los Angeles | Agencies

Fans of the John Wick franchise are in for a treat as the Ana de Armas-led spin-off 'Ballerina' will start rolling the cameras in the coming week.

The announcement was made by Lionsgate CEO Jon Feltheimer during the latest investors' call, reports 'Collider'. The future prospect for the franchise looks good as among other franchise-related news, it has been announced that Colin Woodell-led three-part prequel series 'The Continental' will stream internationally on Amazon Prime outside the US. TV Line reported about the starting of shoot for the spin-off.

What's interesting is that the studio is also 'fielding proposals' for a big video game based on the Keanu Reeves movies. The news came out last year that the 'No Time To Die' star has been tapped for the lead role in 'Ballerina' movie, which will follow a young assassin trained at the ballet school seen in 'John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum'.

According to Collider, the story follows her quest for revenge against those who killed her family. The feature will be helmed by 'Underworld' director Len Wiseman who directs from a script by Shay Hatten, who is known for features like Zack Snyder's 'Army Of The Dead' and 'John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum'.

De Armas had earlier disclosed that Emerald Fennell, the Oscar-Winning writer-director behind 2020's 'Promising Young Woman', has provided the final touches to the script from a woman's point of view.

First released in 2014, the success of Reeves-led 'John Wick' catapulted into two sequels, 'John Wick: Chapter 2', and 'John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum'. After Parabellum became the highest-grossing film of the franchise in just 10 days garnering \$326 million worldwide, a fourth and fifth installment were announced.



HBO series 'Westworld' has been cancelled after four seasons

Los Angeles | Agencies

HBO series 'Westworld' has been cancelled after four seasons, the network announced on Friday. The news comes barely within three months after the series aired its Season 4 finale.

It is told that a multitude of factors went into the decision to end the sci-drama, including the production's hefty price tag, combined with dwindling viewership and an ongoing evaluation of programming across the board at HBO's new parent, Warner Bros Discovery, reports.

"Over the past four seasons,

Lisa and Jonah have taken viewers on a mind-bending odyssey, raising the bar at every step," HBO said in a statement on Friday. "We are tremendously grateful to them, along with their immensely talented cast, producers and crew, and all of our partners at Kilter Films, Bad Robot and Warner Bros Television. It's been a thrill to join them on this journey."

Nolan and Joy added in their own statement through banner Kilter Films: "Making 'Westworld' has been one of the highlights of our careers. We are deeply grateful to our extraordinary cast and crew for creating these indelible characters and brilliant worlds. We've been privileged to tell these

stories about the future of consciousness - both human and beyond - in the brief window of time before our AI overlords forbid us from doing so." In October, Nolan and Joy told that they had hopes for a fifth and final season to conclude the show as they had planned. "We had always conceived of a fifth and final season," Nolan said during an interview about his and Joy's new Amazon Prime Video series, 'The Peripheral'. "We're still in conversations with the network," says reports.

'Westworld' first debuted in October 2016. The series centred on the titular technologically advanced amusement park filled with A.I. 'hosts' in a wild west setting. The show expanded its

scope outside of Westworld in Season 2 to neighbouring theme parks owned and operated by the same fictional dystopian company, then ventured into the 'real world' in all its futuristic glory in its third season.

The eight-episode fourth season of 'Westworld' premiered June 26.

Based on the 1973 film of the same name written by Michael Crichton, HBO's 'Westworld' was executive produced by Nolan and Joy alongside Abrams, Alison Schapker, Denise, Athena Wickham, Richard J. Lewis and Ben Stephenson.

The series has been nominated for 54 Emmys and scored nine wins, including Newton's trophy for outstanding supporting actress in a drama series in 2018.



SELENA GOMEZ'S CONSIDERS TAYLOR SWIFT HER "ONLY TRUE HOLLYWOOD FRIEND"

Los Angeles: Singer-actress Selena Gomez considers fellow singer Taylor Swift her "only true Hollywood friend."

The actress admitted that she had a hard time fitting in with the "cool group" of celebrities, because she struggled with her identity, says reports. As Selena, stars in her Apple TV+ documentary, 'Selena Gomez: My Mind and Me', she told 'a magazine': "I never fit in with a cool group of girls that were celebrities. My only friend in the industry really is Taylor [Swift], so I remember feeling like I didn't belong."

After doing some soul searching, Selena said: "I felt the presence of everyone around me living full lives. I had this position, and I was really happy, but ... was I? Do these materialistic things make me happy?"

But she realised that she "didn't like who she was" and said that she also "didn't know who she was".

After 'Selena Gomez: My Mind and Me' dropped on Friday, Taylor showed her support for her friend's new movie in the story section of her Instagram.

She shared a snippet from the trailer and wrote: "So proud of you @selenagomez Love you forever."

Selena, who started her career when she was just 15 years old, has spoken about how she often considered taking her own life during a dark period.

Rachel Zegler wraps up her shoot

Los Angeles | Agencies

Golden Globe winning actress, Rachel Zegler, who impressed the audience with her work in Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story', has wrapped up the shoot of her upcoming sci-fi action movie - the prequel to 'Hunger Games'.

The actress, celebrated the final day of filming with some behind-the-scenes photos as she wrapped 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes', based on Suzanne Collins' 2019 novel of the same name, according to the reports.

Taking to her Twitter, she shared pictures of herself holding the clapperboard with a glimpse of the set in the background. She wrote in her tweet: "I have loved every second. And that's a wrap."

In a follow-up tweet, quoted by People, she added: "Many many many more words come to mind, but I shan't bore you by pretending I have anything new to offer you with my thoughts. Just know I am thankful. Just know I love telling stories. Just know I am so happy with real life. Happy wrap, my songbirds."

According to the source, she was announced in May to star in the adaptation as Lucy Gray Baird, a District 12 tribute in the 10th Hunger Games.

Others playing important roles in 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' include Viola Davis, Hunter Schafer, Peter Dinklage, Jason Schwartzman and Zegler's boyfriend Josh Andres Rivera, with whom she previously made her film debut last year in Steven Spielberg's remake of 'West Side Story'.



AARON CARTER PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 34

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Aaron Carter, the brother to Backstreet Boys' member Nick Carter passed away at the age of 34.

The death of Aaron, who released his self-titled 1997 debut album at the age of nine, was confirmed by Taylor Helgeson. A statement from his family and management is awaited, says reports.

Alejandra Parra, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy, confirmed officers were responding to a 10:58 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time) call regarding a suspicious death at Carter's residence in the 42000 block of Valley Vista Drive. Parra said: "A deceased person" was found at the home, but the identity had not been confirmed. Investigators are still at the site.

According to the source, Carter got his start in music by landing a record contract after serving as the opener for the Backstreet Boys in 1997. His debut studio album, featuring the hit track 'Crush on You', went gold in December 1997, launching him into the spotlight at a young age.

Carter's second album, 'Aaron's Party (Come and Get It)', was released in 2000. Featuring hit tracks like 'That's How I Beat Shaq' and 'I Want Candy', the album went triple-platinum, leading the teenage Carter to serve as the opening act on tours by Britney Spears and the Backstreet Boys.

The star also made appearances on Nickelodeon and Disney Channel programmes, such as 'Lizzie McGuire' and 'All That'.

Two more albums followed: 'Oh Aaron' in 2001 and 'Another Earthquake' in 2002. Carter also starred alongside his siblings in the short-lived reality series 'House of Carters' on E! and starred as Jojo in the Broadway production of 'Seussical the Musical'.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jodie Comer



T20 World Cup

I THINK SKY HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR IN HIS PROCESSES: RAHUL DRAVID

Los Angeles | Agencies

After India's 71-run win over Zimbabwe at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, head coach Rahul Dravid attributed Suryakumar's scintillating run to the absolute clarity he has had in his processes as well as strategies ever since he burst on the international scene.

"It's incredible. That's why he is the No.1 T20 player in the world at the moment, because of that consistency in a format where scoring at a strike rate that he does. It's not easy to be consistent with the kind of strike rate he's going at. So, it's just fantastic the way he's playing. I think he's been very clear in his processes. He's very clear about his tactics.

"He's been absolutely phenomenal for us. He's just a joy to watch. It's a pleasure to watch him bat when he's in that kind of form. Every time it's like he puts on a show, without a doubt," said Dravid in the post-match press conference.

The legend of Suryakumar Yadav bailed India out of tough situations and propelling them to a massive total added another chapter at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

"The atmosphere in the team is



very nice, and the build-up to the knockouts has been very nice. My plan is always clear. I'm not trying anything different. I bat the same way in the nets as well," said Suryakumar after getting the Player of the Match award.

He signed off by saying starting afresh in every match will always be the key for him. "Feels really good, but coming out and starting from

zero is what I always think when I come out to bat, and I'll keep doing that. It's good to see people come out and support us like this even after we've qualified."

Head coach Rahul Dravid also expressed that giving Rishabh Pant an opportunity to have game time through Sunday's match was really important to keep various options in hand.

"Everyone is available for selections; just because somebody missed out on this game doesn't mean that we can't go back to him and we can't decide on. We might go the same way. We might go a different way, as well. We just wanted to ensure that we have our options open, giving Rishabh an opportunity to have game time, which was really important," said Dravid.

Asian Elite Boxing: Hussamuddin steps ahead to the semis

Los Angeles | Agencies

Mohammad Hussamuddin advanced to the semifinals and further increased India's medal count at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan on Sunday.

Hussamuddin (57kg) was up against South Korea's Haengseok Lee in the quarterfinal bout. The South Korean started on the front foot in the first round, landing clean punches and keeping his Indian counterpart at bay for the majority of the first round.

With the prospects of an upset looming, the 2022 Commonwealth bronze medalist utilised his experience to make an inspired comeback and dismissed any such possibilities. Hussamuddin went all out in the next two rounds to dominate his way to a 5-0 win and guaranteed yet another medal for India.

Hussamuddin will face the 2021 World Championships silver medalist Serik Temirzha in the semifinals bout on November 10.

Later on Sunday night, five-time Asian Championships medalist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Amit Kumar (67kg), Govind Kumar



Sahani (48kg), Monika (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (60kg) will all be in the quarterfinals action.

Late on Saturday night, Anikushita Boro (56kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75 kg) prevailed against Tsubata Arsia of Japan and Valentina Khalzova of Kazakhstan respectively in their quarterfinal bouts and progressed to the semifinals.

Lovlina, who is contesting in the 75kg weight category for the first time at an international tournament, had to

work hard in what was a fiercely-contested bout to earn a 3-2 split decision victory against the 2016 World Champion Khalzova.

Five Indian men pugilists - Narender (+92kg), Naveen Kumar (92kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Sumit (75kg) and Sachin (71kg) will take to the ring on Monday to compete in the quarterfinals stage.

The competition is witnessing the participation of 267 boxers from 27 top boxing nations.

T20 World Cup

CRICKET IS A FUNNY GAME: BABAR AZAM

Adelaide | Agencies

Pakistan captain Babar Azam called cricket a 'funny game' after his team grabbed the opportunity with both hands and booked the semifinal berth at the Men's T20 World Cup 2022 with a five-wicket win over Bangladesh in their last super 12 game.

Pakistan got a golden opportunity to make it to the last-four stages after South Africa choked in front of a spirited Netherlands to crash out of the T20 World Cup ahead of the clash between Pakistan and Bangladesh at the same ground.

Thereafter, left-arm pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi's four-wicket haul (4/22) helped Pakistan restrict Bangladesh to 127/8 in 20 overs in a virtu-



al quarter-final. In reply, Pakistan chased down the total with 11 balls to spare and five wickets in hands despite some wobbles along the way to complete an entry into the semi-final after losing their first two matches in the tournament. "It's a team game. Cricket is a funny game. Appreciate all my team the way they played all matches," said Babar at the post-match presentation. Taking further about their run chase, the

Pakistan skipper said that the pitch wasn't easy to bat on, adding that his team is excited to play semifinals.

"Pitch wasn't easy to bat on. Little bit two-paced. Me and Rizwan decided to go long, but unfortunately it didn't work out. Haris showed aggression, good to see him play. Looking forward to the semifinals. All of us are excited to play," he said.

Left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi, who got the Player of the Match award, said he is improving day by day after his injury layoff. "I am improving day by day. Not easy to bowl at 140 after coming back from injury. We have played good cricket in the last few games. Team needed me to bowl well. We are looking forward to the final actually," said Afridi.

WTA FINALS: GARCIA ENTERS SEMIFINALS, BEATS KASATKINA

Fort Worth (Texas) | Agencies

French tennis player Caroline Garcia returned to her usual best and won a memorable match, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(5) in 80 minutes against Russian Daria Kasatkina and advanced to semifinals in the WTA Finals here on Sunday.

Amid all the scenarios and permutations of round-robin play at the WTA Finals, this match was a black-and-white, winner-take-all situation. Garcia is the third French player to reach the semifinals in her first two WTA Finals appearances after Francoise Durr (1972 and 1973) and Mary Pierce (1993 and 1994).

"It's definitely a great achievement. I was already really proud to be in the Top 8. I don't really know if I realize that this is the semifinal tomorrow. It proves that this year was definitely a good year. I started very far from the Top 10, the Top 8, and I make my way to it. Today, its one more thing that proves my game style is working and I



have to keep going that way," Garcia quoted. "I tried to stay very positive, keep fighting, try to play aggressively, even if she is probably the best defensive player in the world and such a fighter," Garcia said in her on-court interview. "We have kind of very opposite games, so it made some great rallies." "I had a crisis of panic, I think I lose my mind a little bit," Garcia said. "Obviously, she was bringing back a lot of balls and I went for too much. Second set was very good. Third set was a battle."

Down 3-4, Garcia prevailed in a 14-point game that ran nearly nine minutes when she hit an emphatic ace. The ninth game, at 4-4, lasted more than 13 minutes and was epic. There were nine deuces, four double faults and six break chances for Garcia -- and yet, Kasatkina escaped when a Garcia forehand sailed long.

Appropriately, it was reduced to a tiebreaker, where Garcia was that one shot better, finishing it off with a match point to remember.

Defeat to Netherlands the worst of my coaching career says South Africa's coach

Adelaide | Agencies

Mark Boucher conceded the 13-run defeat to the Netherlands in the ICC T20 World Cup was the worst in his stint as South Africa coach, adding it wasn't a great feeling to be leaving the job on such a dismal note.

Asked during the post-match press conference if this was the worst loss for him, Boucher said, "Probably as a coach, yes. I think it is quite frustrating because as a player you can at least still have a say in the game. As a coach, you're sort of left to leave it up to other individuals to go out there and try and perform. Yeah, certainly as a coach, yeah, it's up there (among the worst defeats).

He said the energies of the players coming into the match were quite low, indicating they hadn't been able to quite adjust to the time zone.

"I think if you look at the way that we started the game, our energies were low. Whether that's



because it's a half-past-10 game, times have been quite difficult, I don't know, I haven't really put my finger on it. Haven't had a chance to speak to the

guys yet and find out where they sort of feel it went wrong.

"I think our plans were there, but we didn't quite use them well enough. I thought if you look at the game as a whole, I think Netherlands out-bowled us. They bowled with good plans, bowled to the longer side of the field, and they were just able to create more pressure on us than we were able to put pressure on them."

Boucher added that leaving on such a dismal note was not a great feeling. "It's not great, but as I said, I can honestly look at my coaching staff, and we ticked every single box that we needed to tick. As I say, sometimes you're in control of things, sometimes you're not. I thought the guys were in a very good space. I think we played some good cricket over a long period of time, especially T20 cricket. We stepped up the other night against Pakistan, and we just -- yeah, we looked a little bit flat today.

PKL 9

Neeraj controlled the defense unit very well against U Mumba: Patna Pirates coach Shetty

Pune | Agencies

The Patna Pirates have attained prime form during the Pune leg, winning three consecutive matches against U.P. Yoddhas, Gujarat Giants and U Mumba respectively.

The Pirates played a close contest for most part of the match against U Mumba, but the Patna Head Coach Ravi Shetty was confident his team would be on the right side of the result, "I was confident that

We were going to win the match. We played according

to our plans against U Mumba. I discussed each and every situation with the Captain and eventually we succeeded. We definitely want to continue our winning streak."

Shetty also shed light on the main reason behind Pirates' success against the Mumbai side, "Our Captain Neeraj Kumar controlled the defense unit very well against U Mumba and that was the main reason behind our team emerging victorious in the end. We'll make a strategy for Haryana Steelers and look to play

according to our plans."

U Mumba will be looking to bounce back into form when they take on Jaipur in their next match. However, the Pink Panthers are high on confidence after registering a 45-40 victory over Dabang Delhi K.C. in their last game.

The Patna Pirates will be hoping to extend their five-match unbeaten run when they go up against the Haryana Steelers. However, raider Meetu Sharma has been setting the stage on fire for the team from Haryana.

Alphonso Davies out for next two games: Bayern Munich

Munich | Agencies

Star footballer Alphonso Davies is not going to play Bayern Munich's next two Bundesliga games after suffering a hamstring injury, the club said in a statement on Sunday.

However, Bayern insisted that the injury of the Canada international is not so severe and he is not in danger of missing the World Cup.

Davies was taken off just after the hour mark in Bayern's 3-2 win at Hertha Berlin on Saturday.

"FC Bayern will be without Alphonso Davies for the two remaining Bundesliga games prior to the winter break. The 22-year-old full-back suffered a hamstring strain in the 3-2 win at Hertha BSC on Saturday," the club said.

"The diagnosis was confirmed by the German record champions' medical unit. The Canada international's participation in the



World Cup in Qatar is not at risk," it added. Canada is placed in Group F with Belgium, Croatia and Morocco. Davies is one of Canada's key players at the World Cup, where the country will be making its first appearance since 1986.

Aaron Finch to play BBL

Melbourne | Agencies

Australia's T20 captain Aaron Finch won't rush into taking a decision over his international future after his team's exit from the Men's T20 World Cup and will take part in this season's BBL to give himself a chance to assess things.

The 35-year old, who retired from ODIs in September, will have no international commitments until next August when Australia has T20s in South Africa. The next T20 World Cup is in West Indies and the USA in mid-2024 when Finch will be 37.

"No, I'm not going to retire. Not just yet. I'll play Big Bash and see where we sit after that, but I'm still enjoying playing cricket, playing T20," Finch told seven as he arrived back at Melbourne airport on Sunday. However, it's very unlikely that



Finch will pad up again for Australia and if that's the case he will finish with 3120 T20I runs at 34.28 and a strike-rate of 142.53 including a top score 172.

The right-handed batter struggled for form at the World Cup with a painful innings against Sri Lanka. However, he rebounded somewhat with 63 off 44 balls against Ireland in what may have been his last international innings after a hamstring injury kept him out of the Afghanistan game.

"There's not another international T20 until August, so there's quite a long break. Still plenty of time to be able to weigh all that up. It's been a pretty good ride regardless of what happens," he said.

Finch's BBL season with Melbourne Renegades will start on December 15 against Brisbane Heat.



'What a magical girl': Alia Bhatt



ALIA-RANBIR BLESSED WITH A "BABY GIRL"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor welcomed their first child, a healthy girl, into this world on Sunday. Alia was taken to the H.N.

Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre at Gurgaon in Mumbai around 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. She went into labour around 12 noon, with Ranbir and mothers-in-law Neetu Kapoor and Soni Razdan waiting outside.

Alia shared the happy news on Instagram along with a sweet picture of a lion family. She wrote on the picture: "And in the best news of our lives - our baby is here... and what a magical girl she is (heart emoji). We are officially bursting with love - blessed and obsessed PARENTS!!! Love love love Alia and Ranbir."

Alia and Ranbir had tied the knot on April 14 at an intimate ceremony and only recently, Alia had her baby shower with friends and family members.

Bollywood celebrities also showered the couple with their best wishes and congratulatory messages. Riddhima Kapoor Sahni uploaded a picture of Ranbir and Alia and wrote on the picture: "Oooofffff!!! Happiest today (heart emoji). Proud parents to the most adorable baby girl. Bua (aunt) loves her already." Kareena, whom Alia has idolised over the years, took to the comments section of Alia's post and wrote: "Uffffff my mini Alia. Can't wait to meet her." Akshay Kumar commented under Alia's post almost immediately after becoming a mother: "Congratulations!!! alia, Ranbir. No bigger joy in the world than to have a daughter. Bless you all."

Madhuri Dixit Nene, said: "Warmest wishes and congratulations on the birth of your sweet little baby girl."

Ayushmann Khurrana wrote: Reacted by saying: "Congratulations darling girl! Can't wait to see your princess."

Riteish Deshmukh wrote: "Many many congratulations!!!! Dearest alia & Ranbir - the bestest journey of your life begins today - big love."

In June, Alia took the world by surprise by announcing her pregnancy with a picture featuring Ranbir on her Instagram handle. She has also launched a line of maternity wear named Edamama.

Telugu star Mahesh Babu also shared his joy by reposting Alia's post in Instagram Story and wrote on the picture: "Daughters are indeed special! Congratulations alia and Ranbir".

Anupam Kher shared how Big B changed his attitude to work



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Anupam Kher, who will be seen working with megastar Amitabh Bachchan in the movie 'Uunchai', recalled a few lessons that he learned from him while shooting

for the 1986 film 'Aakhree Raasta' and how it changed his attitude towards work.

Anupam shared: "I remember when I was shooting for 'Aakhree Raasta', that was the first time I was meeting Bachchan Sahab. During those days, I featured in almost 25-30 films and I would feel I had achieved a lot. So on the set, I was like, and I need AC or a fan wherever I go. For the film, we were shooting in Chennai, there was no AC in the room and I was like I cannot act without having an AC room. It was really hot."

"Then, I got to know that my first scene was with Bachchan Sahab, so I went to the set and saw him sitting with a beard, mustache, wig, shirt, and pant and wrapped up in a blanket reading a book. I went to greet him and he asked me to sit with him. I thought that I have to start the conversation from somewhere so I asked him if he was not feeling hot as he was wearing so much. He had an interesting response that

changed my perspective for good, he said that if I will think about the hot temperature then I feel it, so I don't think about it and I don't feel hot. That man at the age of 80 is still the same. He is such a big inspiration for us," he added.

Anupam further told the host, "Our film has a lot of eating scenes. Because the food used to get cold and in general I prefer having hot fresh food, so I would only eat an apple but Bachchan Sahab will have the daal served irrespective of the number of retakes. There is so much to learn from that man that I can't even list down," he concluded.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Big Boss 16' contestants Sumbul Touqeer Khan and Archana Gautam get into an ugly spat as Archana taunts her for not listening to her father's advice of staying away from Shalin Bhanot. This infuriates Sumbul and she asks Archana not to bring her father into the conversation.

Sumbul says: "It hardly matters if I am inside the house or not. Don't bring my father into the conversation."

Archana agrees and says: "Yes it doesn't matter if you stay inside or not. And if you can't listen to your father, if you do not belong to your father, who would you be?"

The 'Imlie' actress asks her again and again not to bring her father into their fight but Archana keeps repeating. This infuriates Sumbul and she jumps onto her bed and almost gets into a physical fight with Archana while Archana continues to shout at Sumbul.

I have been a fitness enthusiast:

Shweta Gulati

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tv actress Shweta Gulati, opens up about her fitness regime and how she follows intermittent fasting to keep herself fit. She says: "I have been a fitness enthusiast and always believe in working out to stay fit, but due to my hectic schedule, I don't get much time to go to the gym regularly. Hence, I have decided to follow intermittent fasting. I am a Punjabi, and my appetite is not really very small, but to stay fit, I eat only for 10 hours in the day, and in that window, I try to eat mindfully."

"I start my day with a protein shake and fruit, then, my second meal is either salad or something light from the set, and I carry my coffee and little munchies with me always to go through the day." The actress has been part of several TV shows including 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main', 'Shaadi Mubarak', 'Crime Patrol' and many more. She reveals further about her diet plan and how she prefers to have home-cooked once a day to keep herself healthy. She asserts that to keep one fit, it is necessary to follow a strict diet schedule.

"At the end of the day, I go home and have my home-cooked dinner which is my only proper balanced solid meal. I personally believe that if you want to look a certain way, then you have to follow a particular diet. There are a lot of foods sacrifices that you need to make and in fact, you have to control your taste buds a lot. Since I am not able to follow the daily workout routine, I must say intermittent fasting is the best way for me to stay fit," she concludes.



MANIESH PAUL DID AN IMPROMPTU GIG IN LONDON STREETS

Chennai: Anchor-singer-actor Maniesh Paul, who has carved out his identity across platforms and borders, recently delighted fans in London by choosing to join a local performer and doing an impromptu gig.

Maniesh Paul, who is on a visit to London, was strolling on the streets of the city, when a local performer identified him and could not contain his excitement. The crowd of fans also was pleasantly surprised to see the 'Jugg Jee' actor, which inspired Maniesh, who's known for his melodious voice, to join the local performer and sing a few songs. The fan took to Instagram to thank the star saying, "Thank You superstar Maniesh Paul for joining in and singing with me! So happy that India's no. 1 host blessed my mic! So lovely to meet you. Love you bro!" Maniesh Paul also posted the video to his story, expressing his gratitude towards the overwhelming love and response.

The video instantly spread like wildfire on the Internet and the anchor-cum-actor's timeline was inundated with comments from fans who were impressed with this humble demeanour.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Diipa Buller Khosla