

absolute india



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India now has over 396mn gamers, 2nd largest in world

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India now has the second largest gamer base in the world with 396.4 million gamers, a new report has shown. India now makes up 50.2 per cent of all gamers in the top 10 Asian countries' list, according

to the data provided by market research firm Niko Partners. "India is also the fastest growing market with a 5-year growth rate of 21 per cent for revenue," mentioned the report titled 'The Asia-10 Games Market'. Niko Partners projects the Asia-10 PC and mobile game

market will generate \$35.9 billion in 2022, reaching \$41.4 billion in 2026. "Gamers are increasing at a much faster rate than revenue. Niko Partners projects the Asia-10 PC and mobile gamers will total 788.7 million in 2022, reaching 1.06 billion in 2026," the

report said. India, Thailand, and the Philippines are the fastest growing markets for games revenue and number of gamers. Japan and Korea are the most mature markets in the Asia-10 region, accounting for over 77 per cent of revenue, said the report.

YOUNG OPPN LEADERS SET AN EXAMPLE BY JOINING HANDS AGAINST BJP

ADITYA THACKERAY VISITS PATNA AND MEET TEJASHWI YADAV

Team Absolute | Maharashtra/ Patna

Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray's visit to Patna and meeting Tejashwi Yadav was an unexpected development, beyond the comprehension of the common people of Bihar and Maharashtra. It happened this week and the event has a big political implication not only for the BMC election, but also for the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Shivanand Tiwari, the national vice president of RJD believes that political barriers are falling in the country and youth leaders are setting examples to defeat the common political opponent - BJP.

"BJP is a common political opponent not only for the political parties but also for the common people. If you scan the data of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), 12 persons committed suicide per one lakh people in the country in year 2021. Majority of them are low earning people, labourers, daily wages employees, lower and middle class people. Why they are committing suicide? The simple answer is: wrong financial policies of the centre," Tiwari said. "The Narendra Modi government brought demonetisation in the country which broke the backbone of lower and middle class people. They have not come out of it and hence, they are against the BJP government. The inflation is at the highest level and the centre is selling all assets to



private companies. The life of common people is extremely difficult now. If such a situation continues for 5 years after 2024, anything can happen. People may revolt violently. You cannot squeeze poor people to death," Tiwari said. "A reflection is seen in the Bharat Jodo Yatra of Rahul Gandhi. People are supporting him in a large number. The youth leaders are also coming together, interacting with each other. Aditya Thackeray in Maharashtra, Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar, Abhishek Benerjee in West Bengal, M.K. Stalin in Tamil Nadu seek to defeat BJP. Hence, the unexpected political decision is taking place in

the country and it is a healthy sign," Tiwari said. Madan Mohan Jha, the state president of Congress Bihar unit and MLC said: "The Constitution of the country is under threat. Hence, everyone is making an effort to save it. Aditya Thackeray coming to Bihar and meeting Tejashwi Yadav and Nitish Kumar is a big development. It is not related to the BMC election. The idea is to make a strategy to save the country and save the Constitution. At present, every constitutional and non constitutional institution and media is captured by BJP and RSS. They are not even allowing freedom of speech. Those who are against them are sent

to jail. They have created an atmosphere of fear where people are not comfortable and hence, they are supporting opposition parties in the country." "I am quoting Rahul Gandhi who says that Bharat Jodo Yatra has nothing to do with political campaigns. It is just a medium to connect with common people. Bharat Jodo Yatra is not a political rally; still people are coming with him in large numbers. They are looking at him to save the Constitution and the country," Jha said. "Aditya Thackeray came to Patna to secure Bihar vote bank in the BMC election but his party would not benefit from it. The real Shiv-Sena which is walking on the ideology of Bala Saheb is with BJP (Shinde Unit) and running the government. The people are with him," said Sushil Kumar Modi, BJP Rajya Sabha MP. National General Secretary of BJP OBC Morcha and Bihar BJP Spokesperson Nikhil Anand objected to Aditya Thackeray's meeting with Nitish and Tejashwi and said: "Nitish and Tejashwi shook hands with Aditya Thackeray to hurt Sushant's soul." "Nitish-Tejashwi insulted the sentiments of Bihar and Biharis for their superficial politics. These leaders of Bihar forgot that these very same people of MVA alliance used to abuse and beat the Biharis in Maharashtra and drive them away by snatching their jobs," Anand said.

CENTRE TO SCRAP OVER 15-YEAR-OLD GOVT VEHICLES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Aiming to decongest Indian roads of millions of worn out government vehicles, the Centre has issued a draft notification proposing mandatory non-renewal of registration of government vehicles older than 15 years. This will be applicable from April 1, 2023, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said. Also, it would be mandatory for buses and vehicles of corporations and transport department to scrap vehicles older than 15 years. Suggestions have been sought on the notification within 30 days, the ministry said. Last week, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had said all vehicles belonging to the Central government that have completed 15 years will be scrapped, and a policy to that effect has been sent to states. On September 14, he had announced plans of having at least three registered vehicle scrapping facilities in every district of the country.

Bihar school students manage bank to imbibe saving habit

Team Absolute | Gaya (Bihar)

A unique, and rather unconventional bank -- "Children Bank of Nawadih" -- wholly managed by students, functions at a school in Gaya district of Bihar with an aim of inculcating the habit of saving among students. The bank provides 'loan' to the children to buy articles such as pencil, books, notebooks, etc. Located about 3 km from Banke Bazar Block headquarters, the bank has been set up by the Headmaster for the students of Nawadih Middle school. Only students' accounts are opened in the bank and loans are given to the students belonging to underprivileged families for items pertaining to their education. All 'staff' of the bank including 'cashier', and also the 'customers' are students. Headmaster Jitendra Kumar said that the school has a total of 420 students studying in Class 1-8. He added the bank was opened in August with an aim to provide financial assistance to the students hailing from economically weaker families and facing difficulties in buying essentials for the school. Kumar said the students deposited the pocket money received from their parents in



the Children bank instead of spending them elsewhere following which they are allowed to withdraw it as per their needs. He said that loans up to Rs 1,000 are provided by the bank. He apprised that the students operated the bank in their lunch break and used deposit and withdrawal slips that are used while conducting the transactions. The supplies can be bought at wholesale prices from the stalls set up by students in school. Kumar added the students who leave the school after Class 8th can get their accounts closed. The students are reportedly happy with the bank and said that they get access to study materials on time without facing any difficulties. Block Education Officer, Banke Bazar, Dev Dayal Rekha appreciated the initiative and said that along with the habit of saving, it would develop responsibility, social skills and discipline among the students.

THREE STUDENTS DETAINED FOR HARASSING TEACHER, SAYING 'I LOVE YOU'

Meerut (Uttar Pradesh): Three minor students have been booked and detained for allegedly making obscene remarks and attempting to molest a woman teacher in an intermediate college in Kithore area of Meerut. The students also made a video clip and posted it on the social media. In the clip, the students can be heard addressing the teacher as 'jaan' and saying 'I love you'. According to a police officer, the woman teacher in her early 20s lodged the complaint on Friday alleging that three students of Class 12 have been troubling her for the past few weeks. They had been making obscene comments on her way to school and back home several times. The police officer said the teacher informed that she lodged a complaint with the parents of the students but they did not take any action. Circle Officer, Kithore, Suchita Singh said: "The case has been registered under Section 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 500 (defamation) of IPC and relevant section of IT act against three students following the complaint by the teacher." "The three students have been detained and are being questioned," a police source said.

MINOR CREATES FAKE IDS OF TWO DELHI GIRLS ON FB, INSTA TO TAKE REVENGE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The cyber team of North Delhi Police has apprehended a juvenile for allegedly sending vulgar messages to defame a minor girl and her sister by creating their fake IDs on Facebook and Instagram to take revenge for insulting his mother. The juvenile had been nursing a grudge against the girls for the past two years. Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of North Delhi, Sagar Singh Kalsi said that a complaint was received at Police Station Cyber North regarding harassment on social media by an unknown person. "Inspector Pawan Tomar apprehended the juvenile on the basis of technical surveillance," said Kalsi. During inquiry, a statement of the minor girl was recorded in which she alleged that someone has created fake IDs on Facebook and Instagram in her and her sister's name. "They told the police that they were being harassed by posting their photographs and videos. Vulgar messages were also sent to the complainant from these alleged Instagram IDs. On the basis of complaint, we lodged a case at PS Cyber North and investigation was taken up," the police said. During the course of investigation, details of the alleged Instagram and Facebook profiles were obtained, including the IP addresses and mobile number used in the registration of the



alleged profile. The details of these IP addresses were further obtained from the concerned mobile operators, from where, the mobile number and IMEI No. used in the offence were found and the identity of the alleged person was ascertained. Inspector Pawan Tomar finally apprehended the juvenile. "In 2020, the mother of the juvenile had a quarrel with one Shahid Malik. The juvenile told us that his mother was scolded by Malik and his daughters. He then decided to take revenge and created fake Instagram and Facebook IDs. He used to follow the complainant and her sister on their Instagram IDs from where he used to take pictures and videos of both of them and post them on fake ID," the police said. The police said that the accused had made several IDs of both sisters which he later deleted. Right now, only two Facebook IDs are running. Recently he had chatted with the complainant on her Instagram ID in which he had written vulgar messages to the complainant, the police added.

Google, Microsoft to use renewable energy in data centers

San Francisco | Agencies

Google and Microsoft have both announced new agreements to lower their IT operations' carbon footprint by using renewable energy sources in their data centers. According to 'The Register', Google has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Engie, a French utility company, for 100 MW of energy generated by the Moray West offshore wind farm in Scotland to power its UK operations. Meanwhile, Microsoft announced PPAs supplying more than 900 MW of renewable energy in Ireland for its data centers. While Microsoft did not disclose its renewable energy suppliers, other sources identified Statkraft and Ireland's Energia Group as two that are involved, with a mix of wind and solar projects, according to the report. Google claimed that the new agreements will bring the company closer to its goal of running its UK offices and cloud regions entirely on carbon-free energy sources by 2030. The company stated that with the most recent PPA signed with Engie, it expects to be at or near carbon-free by 2025. Matt Brittin, President of Google EMEA, said that people in the UK and Europe are increasingly concerned about climate change. The move follows earlier agreements by both companies to buy renewable energy in the US, said the



report. SoftBank subsidiary SB Energy signed a deal with Google for 900MW of solar power to power a Texas data centre, while Microsoft recently entered into a 20-year agreement with AES Corporation to supply its data centers in California with renewable energy from 110 MW solar and 55 MW four-hour storage projects. In addition to expanding its data centers to meet customer demands, Microsoft has also increased its commitment to reducing carbon consumption and contributing to climate change solutions, the report added.



"WE ASKED CONGRESS TO TARGET TERRORISM, BUT THEY TARGETED ME INSTEAD": PM MODI

Team Absolute | Kheda (Gujarat)

In a scathing attack on the Congress ahead of the Gujarat Assembly election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said terrorism was at its peak during the Congress rule and the party targeted him instead of terrorists because of vote bank politics.

Addressing a public meeting in Kheda, Prime Minister Modi said, "Gujarat had long been a target of terrorism. The people of Gujarat were killed in explosions in Surat and Ahmedabad. Congress was at the Centre then, we asked them to target terrorism but they targeted me instead. Terrorism was at the peak in the country."

The Prime Minister said Congress considers terrorism as its vote bank, adding that several other parties indulging in appeasement politics also have arisen.

"During the Batla House encounter, Congress leaders cried in support of the terrorists. Even terrorism is a vote bank for Congress. It is not just Congress now, several such



parties have risen who believe in politics of shortcut and appeasement," he said.

The Prime Minister said Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has been acting towards eliminating the menace of terrorism.

"Your one vote in 2014 has created a lot of difference in killing terrorism in the country. Terrorists have to

think a lot even before attacking our borders. But Congress questions our surgical strike. The youth of the state, aged up to 25 years, have never seen what a curfew looks like. I have to save them from the bomb explosions, only BJP's double-engine government can do this," Prime Minister Modi added.

The Assembly elections in Gujarat

are scheduled to be held in two phases on December 1 and December 5, whose results will be declared on December 8, which coincides with the result date of the Himachal Pradesh polls.

In the 2017 Gujarat polls, the BJP was halted at 99 out of a total of 182 seats. The party has been in power for the last 27 years with Modi being the longest-serving chief minister of the state.

This time, the party under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and CR Patil is aiming at getting its highest seat tally exceeding 140.

The state has been a BJP stronghold for long and the party has set its sights on returning to power for the seventh term. PM Modi has been Gujarat's longest-serving chief minister from 2001 till 2014.

However, it faces a stiff electoral challenge from the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which has named Isudan Gadhvi as its chief ministerial candidate. The Congress also hopes to put its best electoral foot forward to unseat the BJP.

We are not nursery students to not talk to each other, says Tharoor

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Senior leader of the Congress party, Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said the party leaders in the state were not nursery students who did not talk to each other. He was answering reporters on the question of whether he would be communicating with the opposition leader V.D. Satheshan and other leaders. He also said that he did not have any issue with any Congress leader and that he had spoken to state Congress president K. Sudhakaran on Sunday morning.

Tharoor spoke to the mediapersons during his arrival for the one-day conclave of the All India Professionals' Congress at Kochi. In his speech, he said that the state of Kerala was in a deep financial crisis and debt-ridden. He also called upon the professionals to be more active in politics and added that the entry of professionals in politics was the



need of the hour.

Addressing the programme virtually, KPCC president, K. Sudhakaran said that the Congress needed the advice of professionals and called upon them to be proactive in the party.

The state Congress has been facing a crisis for the past few weeks after Shashi Tharoor jumped into the bandwagon of active politics and has been crisscrossing the state attending party programmes and public programmes. Tharoor had a four-day tour of North Kerala

wherein he met the supreme leader of the Indian Union Muslim League, Sadik Ali Shihab Thangal as also party senior leader P.K. Kunhalikutty MLA.

Tharoor's forays have not gone down well with state PCC president, K. Sudhakaran and leader of opposition in Kerala, V.D. Satheshan. Member of Parliament from Kozhikode constituency and senior leader, M.K. Raghavan is being seen as the main person behind Tharoor entering actively into Kerala politics.

Two held at IGI with gold valued at over Rs 94L

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Customs officials on Sunday said two air passengers have been arrested at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here for allegedly smuggling 1,849 gm gold valued at over Rs 94 lakh.

The accused have been identified as Amit Bhandari and Rohit Chhugani. Both hail from Rajasthan. Nisha Gupta, Joint Commissioner of Customs IGI, said that they were held on the basis of intelligence.

"They arrived at IGI on November 25 from Dubai. Both the passengers were intercepted after they had crossed the green channel. Detailed examination of their baggage was done through X-Ray in which suspicious images were observed. When the baggages were opened, the Customs officials recovered gold jewellery worth Rs 94,80,667," the official said. The gold was seized under Section 110 of Customs Act. Both the passengers were placed under arrest in terms of violation of Section 104 of the Customs Act. Both the accused were produced before a competent authority which has remanded them to 14 days' judicial custody.



Tension in Kerala as protests against port project turn violent

Thiruvananthapuram | Agencies

Tension prevailed at Vizhinjam area in Kerala capital on Sunday after a group of protesters -- opposed to the Vizhinjam port project, overturned police jeeps and also injured two policemen.

The protesters surrounded a police station, demanding release of five persons who were taken into custody following clashes on Saturday.

The protesters are led by the fishermen of Latin Catholics -- a dominant community in the coastal area of Vizhinjam.

Some media personnel were also injured when the protesters allegedly assaulted those who were filming the demonstrations. The police have registered an FIR against the Archbishop of the Latin



Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram, Thomas J. Netto, naming him as the first accused. Fifty priests including Auxiliary Bishop, Christudas, and Vicar General, Yujin Pereria are also charged in the new FIR. The protesters want the port project to be called off even as the Kerala High Court has directed the work on the project be resumed. The state government is keen to com-

plete the Vizhinjam port work.

The CPI-M, BJP, and the influential SNDP of the backward-class Ezhava community are backing the port project.

They have also staged demonstrations in support of the port project. Thiruvananthapuram City Police have deployed more than 200 police personnel to face any eventuality at the Vizhinjam police station.

KERALA POLICE TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA AFTER GROUP CLASHES

Thiruvananthapuram: The St Mary's Cathedral Basilica in Kerala's Ernakulam district witnessed a clash between two groups of believers on Sunday over the issue of unified Holy Mass following which the police decided to shut down the premises till matters were resolved. The clash occurred after an argument whether the priest should face the churchgoers or the altar during the Holy Mass. The Thrissur Archbishop Mon Antony Thazhath, who is deputed by the Vatican to look after the affairs of Ernakulam diocese, was not allowed to enter the cathedral by a group of people. The rebel group took control of the church and closed it from inside while the official faction also shut the gates of the church from the outside. With Sunday mass turning into a place of sloganeering and fisticuffs between the two groups, police intervened and dispersed the crowd by a small measure of caning. Police have now apprised the district administration to take control of the Church unless the situation turns normal and until then the police have decided to close down the Basilica. A heavy police presence was deployed at the cathedral as the police were expecting a further escalation in the violence.

TN FOREST DEPT TO ERECT SIGN BOARDS AFTER CROCODILE ATTACK KILLS BOY

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu forest department will erect sign boards across rivers in the state after an 18-year-old boy was killed in a crocodile attack on Saturday. The incident occurred at Old Kollidam River in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu when the boy was grabbed by the crocodile while he was taking his bath in the river.

Local people said that they had seen a crocodile a couple of days ago in the river and had erected sign-boards, warning people but despite that some people were going to bathe and wash their clothes in the river.

Unaware of the presence of the crocodile, the 18-year-old, P. Thirumalai, an ITI student had gone to take bath in the river. After the boy was reported missing in the river, the forest department launched a search operation and by late evening his body was retrieved.

The forest department has already handed over an interim compensation of Rs 50,000 to the family of the deceased. Officials in the forest department of Tamil Nadu said that the balance compensation of Rs 3.5 lakh would be handed over to the family after the postmortem report is made available.

Fluorescent paint strips must for vehicles carrying sugarcane in UP

Pilibhit | Agencies

The Uttar Pradesh government has made mandatory the use of fluorescent paint strips on all sugarcane-laden vehicles to check road accidents due to winter fog.

Additional chief secretary (Sugarcane) Sanjay R Bhoosreddy said fluorescent paint that glows when exposed to shortwave ultraviolet radiation will ensure clear visibility of vehicles in hazy weather conditions from the front and the rear sides.

"The new preventive measure has been applied with immediate effect. District cane officers and sugar mills across the state have been entrusted with duty to ensure compliance," he added.

Sugar mills and the cane officials will lay six-inch-long strips of red and yellow at both corners of tractor trolleys and trucks at the front and rear sides. The fluorescent paint would be subject to application regardless of whether the cane vehicles were equipped with reflectors or not, Bhoosreddy said.

This process would be replicated at least thrice during the six-seven month-old crushing season to ensure that the paint does not fade. The service



would be provided free of cost in public interest, he added.

District cane officer in Pilibhit, Jitendra Kumar Mishra, said, "Best time for painting the strips is when trucks and tractor-trolleys unload sugarcane at sugar mill yards or cane procurement centres. For this, our teams will be ready at the centres and yards."

Smoke on Duronto Express in Andhra triggers panic

Team Absolute | Amaravati

Smoke in one of the coaches of Duronto

Express near a railway station in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district on Sunday sent panic among passengers.

However, there were no casualties. The smoke was noticed in one of the coaches of Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal-Howrah Duronto Express

when it was approaching Kuppam Railway Station. As soon as the train was stopped, some passengers

deboarded in panic. However, South Western Railway (SWR) has clarified that there was no fire on the train and the

smoke was due to friction of the brake block. "On train no 12246, Sir M Visvesvaraya



Terminal-Howrah Duronto Express while approaching Kuppam Station, Chittoor Dist (Bengaluru division/SWR), the Train Manager (Guard) noticed

smoke coming in from one of the coaches at about 12.50 p.m.," SWR said in a statement. "As per standard SOP, the train was stopped and

checked by the train crew. It

was found that there has been a brake binding and smoke had come due to friction of the brake block in coach SE LWSCN 193669/S9," it added.

The railway officials said the train crew attended it immediately and the train resumed its journey at 1.33 p.m. "There has been no injury/casualty to any passenger," they said.

DAY-DREAMING HAS A LIMIT, MEHBOOBA CROSSES THAT TODAY: BJP SPOKESMAN

Team Absolute | Srinagar

Lashing out at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for saying that "whatever BJP snatched on August 5, 2019 would be brought back with interest", senior BJP leader and the party's J&K spokesperson Altaf Thakur said on Sunday that Mehbooba Mufti is day-dreaming.

"She is perhaps unaware of the fact that over 350 MPs voted in favour of rollback of Article 370 (which granted special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir), and the PDP can't even win one single Parliamentary seat," Thakur said.

Reacting to the remarks made by the PDP chief during a youth convention in Srinagar, Thakur said that day-dreaming too has a limit and that has been crossed by Mehbooba Mufti by making false promises about bringing back Article 370, which was "buried several feet under the ground on August 5, 2019".

He added that no power on earth can bring back Article 370, let alone PDP.

Thakur said that when over 350 MPs voted in favour of rollback of Article 370 in the



Parliament, how could the PDP chief claim to bring back the same.

"Gone are the days when Mehbooba Mufti would swear by the green colour, raise green handkerchiefs and wear green gowns to deceive people with hollow slogans," Thakur said, adding that Article 370 is history. "Dead people don't return and Mehbooba Mufti should understand the universal truth," he said.

Punjab withdraws order to mark red entry in land records for stubble burning

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Punjab's Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal said on Sunday that an order to withdraw red entries in land records of farmers for stubble burning has been issued.

The government won't let any farmer suffer losses, he said.

Dhaliwal said the red entries are not in the interest of the farmers of the state. Due to the red entry, the farmers would be deprived of taking loans, government facilities and subsidies, etc.

The minister emphasised on the need for farmers to adopt alternative methods for stubble management and this is the need of the hour that farmers support the government in making the state pollution free.

Talking about alternative methods of stubble management, the minister said the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed a solution for stubble burning in the form of a bio-enzyme called Pusa.

He said the state government this year provided 19,393 machines to the farmers on subsidy for stubble management, while in the last four years 90,433 machines were given.



He said a total of 109,815 machines are available with the farmers. According to the satellite information, from September 15 to November 26 in 2020,

2021 and 2022; 76,619, 71,122 and 49,876 cases of stubble burning, respectively, have been registered, which is 30 per cent less than the last year.



MP leg of Bharat Jodo Yatra raises political temperature in poll-bound state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Even as Assembly poll in Madhya Pradesh is about one year away, the political temperature here has risen after former Congress President Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra entered the state. In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress won 114 out of 230 seats, while the BJP bagged 109 seats - there was a difference of only five seats between them. Since both the parties could not get absolute majority in the elections, they have been working on a new strategy for the polls to be held in 2023.

Bharat Jodo Yatra, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi has reached Malwa-Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh. Gandhi attacked Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia without taking his name, accusing the BJP of forming the government by spending crores of rupees to buy 20-25 'corrupt' MLAs. While the Congress had formed the government by winning in the polls, he added. Expressing happiness over the Yatra



gaining people's participation and appreciation, Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath said that the enthusiasm shown by the people in greeting Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi showed that the campaign would create history in the state.

The BJP, on the other hand, has been organising Tribal Pride Yatras in tribal areas including Nimar-Malwa region.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma have been visiting areas with tribal population and apprising them of the work being done by the government for them and the benefits of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act. Sharma took a jibe at Gandhi and asked him to think why leaders like Ghulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal left the Congress. He added that the present day Congress had been reduced to being a party of one family.

FATHER ATTACKS HIS 14-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, ARRESTED IN FOUR HOURS BY POLICE

Bhopal: Father attacks his 14-year-old daughter in family dispute under Nishantpura police station on said Sunday, said police. Police station in-charge Rupesh Dubey told the media that a complaint was filed to the police in which it was alleged that his niece was allegedly assaulted by his father when she was alone at home on Sunday morning. The girl had received cuts on her fingers and on her neck, and she was admitted to the hospital and undergoing treatment. The police added that the husband and wife are living separately for the past two years. The wife is living with her two daughters and earning daily bread by doing small work. The husband is a pujari, in one of the temples, and earns his daily bread, but on other hand, he is liquor addicted and creates a problem for the family. On Sunday the husband approached the house and asked his daughter to come with him, but the girl refused. The police registered the case under section 307, 294, 506 of IPC and started the investigations. The senior police officers formed the team and launched the manhunt. The police arrested the accused in four hours.

CM attended Manipur's Sangai Festival as chief guest

Team Absolute | Imphal (Manipur)

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended Manipur's Sangai Festival on Sunday, said a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Sangai Festival is the biggest tourism festival of Manipur. Manipur and Madhya Pradesh are partner states under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative. CM Shivraj Chouhan is the chief guest of this festival. Traditional dances of Madhya Pradesh were presented at the Sangai Festival. Mao tribe Naurata dance, Thai dance troupes, Maring tribe and Vaiphai tribe performed traditional dances of Manipur by Navodit Art Institute of Madhya Pradesh.



Badhaai Dance by Sagar's Durga Namdev and Apumba Inat Sindam Shangleen by Sugnu Laibau Jagoi was performed. Before this, Imphal had participated in the Lokrang Mahotsav of Bhopal and now Bhopal is participating in Sangai Mahotsav of Imphal.

The theme of this festival is the 'Festival of Oneness.' Sangai is the state animal of Manipur, which is found only in Manipur and this festival has been organised in grand manner this year after the COVID-19 pandemic. Under 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharata', Government of India has been organizing such programs since October 31, 2016. These programs will help in establishing cultural and social relations with the North-Eastern states of India from Central India.

Armed gang robs gold worth Rs 5 cr from bank

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Six members of a gang from Bihar allegedly decamped with gold worth nearly Rs 5 crore and Rs 3.5 lakh in cash from a bank offering gold loan in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district, a police official said on Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday. The six robbers, masked and armed, came on motorbikes and looted the valuables and cash from the bank at gunpoint, Katni Superintendent of Police (SP) SK Jain said over phone.

The bank, located in Bargawan area, did not have proper security arrange-



ments, he said.

Jain said according to bank officials, the robbers took away gold worth Rs 4 crore to Rs 5 crore and Rs 3.5 lakh in cash.

Asked about some reports claiming the robbers decamped with 16 kg gold worth Rs 8 crore, the SP said bank officials did not inform

them about the weight of the precious metal looted.

The robbers, in the age group of 25 to 30, hailed from Bihar, Jain said, adding the gang members have criminal records in that state. The accused were not much educated, he said. Efforts were on to arrest the accused, he added.

BJP busy tarnishing Rahul Gandhi, people saw his real face during BJY: Venugopal

Team Absolute | Indore

Slamming the BJP for "trying to invent something" against the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress General Secretary- Organisation KC Venugopal on Sunday accused the party of authorising miscreants to "create mischief" during the march. Venugopal said that the BJP is doing so as it knows the "real outcome of this yatra".

The Congress leader's remarks came in response to the allegations of "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans being raised in the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh.

He alleged that the BJP is attempting to "tarnish" the image of Rahul Gandhi, who is leading the 150-day-long march that began from

Kanyakumari. Moreover, he added that people have seen Gandhi's "real face" during the yatra.

"The issues raised by Rahul Gandhi in the Bharat Jodo Yatra are being accepted by everyone.

Unemployment, inflation, hatred, and people are taking all these issues seriously. People are realising the amount of sacrifice Rahul Gandhi is making from day 1 onwards. For the last few years, BJP has been busy tarnishing the image of Rahul Gandhi. But now, people are seeing the real face of Rahul Gandhi. He is educated, compassionate and takes a stand," he said while speaking to Reporter. "The



BJP is trying to invent something against this yatra from day 1. They authorised some people to do mischief during the yatra. They know the real outcome of this yatra. But

people are not going to believe them. We don't give much value to the criticism. It is very rare, risky and challenging what Congress is doing now," the Congress leader added.

Venugopal said that the Yatra, which began in Kerala and travelled across several states, has garnered "unprecedented" responses from the people of the country.

Stating that the youth of the country are disappointed over issues like unemployment and inflation, the Congress leader said that there was "urgency" for the Bharat Jodo Yatra type of March in the country. "The youth of the country are totally disappointed. The BJP government has not provided enough jobs. People are losing their jobs instead. BJP is trying to polarise this country on religious grounds. They are misusing religion to cover up their failure. Those who try to tell the truth face difficulty from this government. ED, CBI and other agencies cannot work independently. Even the people in the judiciary are saying that they cannot work independently. There is pressure on them. This state of affairs shows clearly urgency for this type of Yatra," Venugopal said.



THREE EMPLOYEES OF FOREST DEPT KILLED AS CAR HITS TREE

Team Absolute | Khandwa

Three staffers of the Madhya Pradesh forest department were killed while another person was injured on Sunday when their car rammied into a tree in Khandwa district, officials said. The incident occurred near Kumtha village under the Piplod police station limits, about 40 km from the Khandwa district headquarters, in the afternoon, said Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivek Singh. Three employees of the Forest Department were killed while the driver of the car was injured, he said. Chief Conservator of Forest, RK Rai, said the deceased included a forest ranger and two guards. "The incident occurred when the Forest staffers were travelling in the car to take action against an encroachment in the Navra range of Napanagar. The incident occurred when their vehicle hit a tree in a bid to save a cow," he added.

Team Absolute | Indore

The Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by congress leader Rahul Gandhi entered Indore from Mhow on Sunday morning. The yatra started from Dusshehra Maidan in Mhow at 6.15 am and took a stop for rest in Rau at 9.45 am. The yatra covered a distance of over 15 kilometres in the morning schedule in which a large number of people welcomed the yatra and walked with Rahul Gandhi on the stretch till Rau.

Gandhi accompanied by former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, Rau's MLA Jitu Patwari, former minister Jayvardhan Singh, and others were walking the road while waving at the people who were standing on both sides of the road only to take his glimpse. Gandhi also took a tea break at Mamaji Ka Dhaba near Rau Square where he and all the leaders



took tea and moved forward to reach the scheduled stop at Rau. Hundreds of people welcomed the yatra between Mhow and Rau and congress leaders had also placed stages for the same.

All those walking with Rahul Gandhi in the yatra were taken by surprise when

the congress leader accepted the request of a follower Rajat Parashar who asked him to drive his bike. Gandhi drove the bike for a few metres along with strapping the helmet on his head. MLA Jitu Patwari had to run behind the bike while people were expressing surprise at seeing

Gandhi on the bike.

Virendra Singh Bagoria was walking in the yatra with a national flag. He had joined the yatra from Kanyakumari and decided to hoist the flag in Kanyakumari. Congress leader Jai Ram Ramesh was seen walking ahead of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh did Yoga in the camp of Bharat Jodo Yatra.

VIOLENT CLASH DURING WEDDING PROCESSION BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES IN GUNA, 2 INJURED

Guna: Two groups belonging to different communities clashed while one of them was leading a wedding procession here on Saturday. Locals informed some people entered a wedding procession which was passing through Jagatpur area and started dancing and misbehaving with the 'baratis'.

When they were asked to leave the procession, an argument broke out between the two groups which turned violent, as both parties took out sharp weapons to attack each other.

Reports say one person was grievously injured in the incident by the police. Both sides later filed complaints following which a case was registered. "We will add more sections once our investigation is done," said a police official.

MP bags bronze medal in 41st India International Trade Fair

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh has won the Bronze Medal for its special presentation at the 41st India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2022 in New Delhi. Public welfare policies, achievements, cultural heritage, art and culture of the state government along with the road map of Atma-Nirbhar Madhya Pradesh were displayed in the fair. Along with this, a glimpse of the art and cultural richness of the state was presented with the live demonstration of Chhatarpur's Mati craft and Bhopal's Zari-Zardozi art craft. On behalf of Madhya Pradesh Government, Director of Madhya Pradesh Mandap Shri B.N. Tiwari received the award.



NCC creates citizens dedicated towards the nation: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that NCC is the largest uniformed youth organization in the world. It helps builds character, leadership potential along with developing values of selfless service. He said that National Cadet Corps (NCC) produces citizens dedicated to the nation. Important work is being done by the NCC officers to make the youth aware of military activities by giving them military training and to develop a sense of patriotism while maintaining discipline. Governor Patel said that the dedication and hard work of NCC cadets are seen as excellent examples of social service during calamities as well as in normal times. Governor Patel was addressing the NCC Foundation Day function at Shaurya Smarak Bhopal. Governor congratulated and extended best wishes to all on the 74th anniversary of NCC Foundation Day and the beginning of 75th year. Governor paid floral tributes



to the statue of Bharat Mata. Governor Patel has expressed happiness that 6 girl battalions are being operated by the NCC directorate. He expected the parents to give maximum encouragement to the girls to get them admitted in NCC, so that the girls do excellent work and bring glory to the state and the country. He informed that NCC academies are being set up in Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Sagar in the state.

Adequate funds have also been allocated for this. Governor Patel congratulated the 75 NCC cadets of 5 teams participating in the 1900 km Cycle for Unity starting from 19th November. He said that there is no substitute for hard work and dedication for success. Governor expressed hope that all the cadets will bring laurels to the state and the country by moving towards achieving the goals with the same enthusiasm.

Last leopard in cheetah's enclosure now into the wild

Team Absolute | Sheopur

The sixth and last leopard roaming in a larger enclosure meant for cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) has come out and sneaked into the wild, an official said. Six leopards had entered the acclimatisation enclosures before the arrival of eight cheetahs from Namibia in September. Five of the leopards were evacuated earlier and the last one left the enclosure on Friday.

"The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has informed as per camera traps that the last leopard came out of the enclosure on Friday," Kuno's Divisional Forest Officer Prakash Kumar Verma said on Saturday. He said the leopard was roaming in enclosure number six. At present, cheetahs have not been released in this enclosure, sources said. The eight cheetahs were flown to MP from Namibia on September 17 under an ambitious initiative to reintroduce the fastest animal in the country. They were released into the KNP quarantine zone by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Earlier this month, three cheetahs - Obaan, Alton, and Freddie - were shifted from the quarantine area to the acclimatisation



enclosure, according to officials.

Obaan was released into the larger enclosure, spread over an area of 5 sq km, on November 18 while Elton and Freddie were moved to the acclimatisation enclosure on November 5, an official had said.

The other five cheetahs would also be shifted to the large enclosure this month, officials said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Police power and BJP's love jihad policy

The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Bill, 2021, was passed after a voice vote in the state assembly in February 2021. Under this Act, any couple intending to solemnise an inter-faith marriage has to inform the district magistrate two months before getting married. The bill allows action against conversions through marriage, deceit, coercion or enticement. This, without doubt, gives the police unlimited powers which, going by past history, will in all probability be abused. It is well known that the police in India have been acting as the hatchet men of the ruling party. What prevents the police from fabricating an intelligence report that a proposed conversion violates the provisions of this law? Section 12 of the UP law is also 'amusing'. Police do not bother to ask the person who has converted -- his or her opinion does not matter at all. The government seems to be more interested in prosecuting and harassing the 'converter'. Significantly, the anti-conversion law is the manifestation of a promise made by chief minister Yogi Adityanath shortly after he took over as UP chief minister. The love jihad theory politically suits the BJP which has reaped rich dividends through its Hindutva plank. Even though there have been reports of Muslims being targeted unnecessarily, the opposition parties have not gathered the courage to raise their voices against the law because they stand the risk of being termed anti-Hindu. "The BJP has played its cards well on the love jihad issue. Police excesses have largely gone unreported because the opposition parties have not touched the subject for the fear of losing out on Hindu votes. Fringe right-wing outfits are taking advantage of the situation by openly targeting the accused - Muslims in this case," says a senior political analyst.

ISLAMOPHOBIA OR GENUINE CONCERN: NAVIGATING THE HEADWINDS OF 'LOVE JIHAD'

Kavya Dubey

The expression 'love jihad' is based on the assumption that there's an alleged campaign by Muslim men to target and convert Hindu women using deception, abduction, and marriage on the pretext of 'love'.

The proponents of this divisive theory also believe in the notion that Muslims are waging a bigger demographic 'war' against Hindus by multiplying their numbers in a manner that will allow them to eventually replace the majority community.

Critics of 'love jihad' point out that it is a conspiracy theory founded on Islamophobia and propounded by the Hindutva right-wing across India.

The modern love jihad conspiracy in India has its roots traced back to the Partition in 1947. However, an older example goes further back to 1924, when a Muslim bureaucrat in Kanpur was accused of "abducting and seducing" a Hindu girl and forcefully converting her to his faith.

Lately, several incidents country-wide of not just social sensation but heinous crimes have been linked with love jihad. In politics, this phenomenon has been closely associated with Hindu nationalism, particularly with the more extremist form Hindutva that came to prevail after the Narendra Modi government took the reins in 2014.

Love jihad is arguably a product of patriarchy and chauvinism resting on the assumption that the 'Hindu' women are but possessions of men, and defiling their purity amounts to territorial conquest. Hence, there is a need to control Muslims and protect Hindu women from them. The matters of will and consent do not figure in this scheme of ideas.

Allegations of 'love jihad' first attracted nationwide attention in September 2009.

The term 'love jihad' is said to have originated in Kerala. As per the



Kerala Catholic Bishops Council, by October 2009, nearly 4,500 girls in Kerala had been targeted. Hindu Janajagriti Samiti, a right wing Hindu organisation, claimed that 30,000 girls had been converted in Karnataka alone.

These developments fanned the perceptions that the 'conspiracy' points to enforced protection of Hindu women from Muslim men who appear attractive but are actually on the prowl to meet their sinister targets.

After 2009, the phenomenon flared up again in 2010, 2011 and 2014.

On June 25, 2014, then Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy brought to the attention of the state legislature that 2,667 young women converted to Islam in the state between 2006 and 2014. He stated, however, that there was no evidence for the conversions to be happening per force, and that the apprehensions of love jihad were "baseless".

Islamic organisations such as the Popular Front of India and the Campus Front have been accused of inciting such developments.

This conspiracy theory and the events surrounding it came to high-light most significantly in Uttar Pradesh by 2014 and even contributed to the success of BJP there.

The prevalence and alleged and established evidence of love jihad has resulted in incidents of vigilante assaults, murders and other kinds of violent episodes.

In 2013, the riot in Muzaffarnagar has been described as "the worst violence in Uttar Pradesh in recent history", in the wake of which, the Army was deployed in the state for the first time in 20 years. The clashes between the Hindu and Muslim communities there in August-September of 2013, led to at least 62 deaths (42 Muslims and 20 Hindus), injured 93 and left more than 50,000 people displaced. The curfew lasted till September 17.

The concept of love jihad was institutionalised in India after BJP took over the reins of power in 2014.

Legislation against this purported conspiracy was initiated in several BJP states and has been implemented in Uttar Pradesh by the Yogi Adityanath government, where it also functions as a means of repression of Muslims by the state and crackdown on interfaith marriages.

On a smaller scale, disruption of weddings and harassments on the pretext of "investigating" in case of love jihad are also prevalent mal-practices garbed as checks.

In May 2017, the Kerala High Court annulled a marriage of a con-

verted Hindu woman Akhila alias Hadiya to a Muslim man Shafeen Jahan on the grounds that the bride's parents were absent, nor consented for the marriage. The decision of the court was challenged by Shafeen Jahan in the Supreme Court of India, which overturned the annulment of Hadiya's marriage by the Kerala HC.

In September 2020, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called for a strategy to prevent "religious conversions in the name of love" and even considered passing an ordinance for the same, if needed.

Some call this turn of events a result of patriarchy and attitudes towards women's choice in marriage, and allegedly using women's rights as a cover for so-called Hindu nationalism.

Shortly before the love jihad law was passed, the Allahabad High Court pronounced that the "right to live with a person of his/her choice, irrespective of their religion professed by them, is intrinsic to right to life and personal liberty."

Despite the prevalence of anti-conversion laws in India since 1967, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh were the first states that introduced a clause regarding marriages.

Uttarakhand's Freedom of Religion Act, 2018, prohibits conversion by misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence, coercion, allurement or marriage. Its punishment may vary from a jail term of 1-5 years and a fine, making it a non-bailable offence. Himachal Pradesh too passed a similar law in 2019.

The UP Vidhi Virudh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Aayadsh 2020 (Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance), infamously called the 'love jihad' law, states among other things that a marriage will be declared null and void if the "sole intention" of the same is to "change a girl's religion".

Certain peculiarities and features of

the love jihad law include marriage with the intent of changing a girl's religion will be declared null and void, with a punishment of up to 10 years in prison; forceful conversion will be punishable with a jail term of one to five years with Rs 15,000 penalty.

If the woman is a minor or belongs to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, the jail term will be between 3 years and 10 years and the penalty would go up to Rs 25,000.

Further, mass conversions will be punishable with a jail term of 3-10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000 on the organisations conducting it. If someone intends to change their religion after marriage, they are required to submit an application to the District Magistrate two months in advance.

Under the new law, it is incumbent on the person seeking conversion to prove that it is done voluntarily and not forcefully or fraudulently. In case of any violation under this provision, one is liable to face a jail term from six months to three years and a fine of at least Rs 10,000.

India is not the only country to host this phenomenon.

In Myanmar, there is a notion propagated by the Ashin Wirathu-led 969 Movement that alleges Islamisation of Buddhist women through deception (Muslim men pretend to be Buddhists and lure Buddhist women into Islam) and in order to counter that, justify the military oppressing the Rohingyas. Legislation is introduced to safeguard Buddhist women from love jihad.

Similar incidents surfaced among the U.K's Sikh diaspora. In 2014, the Sikh Council allegedly received reports that girls from British Sikh families were falling prey to love jihad. They were reportedly exploited by their husbands, some of whom were later abandoned in Pakistan.

international

S.Korea President to announce roadmap for 'future space economy'

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea President Yoon Suk-yeol will announce a roadmap this week for a "future space economy," including plans to establish an aerospace agency similar to the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, his office said on Sunday.

The roadmap, to be unveiled by Yoon on Monday, will include six major policy areas that will help transform the nation into a "space economy" power, deputy presidential spokesperson Lee Jae-myung said during a press briefing. Establishing an aerospace agency was one of Yoon's campaign promises, and the government will push to launch the agency next year through legislation of a special bill, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The new agency would be established under the science ministry and be headquartered in the southern coastal city of Sacheon with affiliated centres across the nation.

"A space economy sounds like something in the distant future, but in the course of



developing Nuri, more than 300 businesses discovered a new space economy sector and made profits," Lee said, referring to the home-grown space rocket launched in June.

"We will lay a cornerstone so that it becomes an engine for the future growth of the Republic of Korea," he said.

In June, South Korea launched its first homegrown rocket, Nuri, becoming the seventh country in the world to develop a space launch vehicle that can carry a satellite of more than 1 tonne.

OVER 100 AL-SHABAB MILITANTS KILLED IN SOMALIA



Mogadishu: Over 100 al-Shabab militants were killed during planned operations by Somali National Army and its international partners at the border of Middle Shabelle and Hirran regions of central Somalia, a senior government official confirmed to local media.

Abdirahman Yusuf Al-Adala, the Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, and Tourism, said on Saturday that among the deceased were 10 ringleaders, adding that the military offensive against the al-Shabab group had intensified as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

Bomb blast kills five soldiers in Yemen's oil-rich Shabwa

Aden (Yemen) | Agencies

At least five members of Yemen's government forces were killed in a bomb explosion in the country's southern oil-rich province of Shabwa, a security official said.

"Suspected al-Qaida gunmen targeted vehicles of the government forces with an Improvised Explosive Device in the western part of Shabwa, causing a huge blast in the area located near oil fields," the local security official said on condition of anonymity on Saturday.

He confirmed that a total of five soldiers, including a senior officer, were killed and a number of others injured in the terror attack, Xinhua news agency reported.

The bomb blast destroyed a military vehicle of the newly-recruited Shabwa's Defence Troops which are largely backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, the source said.

The Aden-based Southern Transitional Council said in a brief press statement that their forces defused another explosive device in



Shabwa. Attacks carried out by militant groups against the pro-government southern troops surged in various regions of Yemen just two months after the expiration of an UN-brokered truce on October 2.

The terror attacks occur as the Yemeni government forces backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition are sporadically striking the hideouts of the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch mainly in the mountainous areas of

Shabwa and neighbouring provinces. The Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) network has been responsible for many high-profile attacks against the security forces in the country's southern provinces.

The AQAP has exploited years of deadly conflict between the Yemeni government and Houthis rebels to expand its presence in the war-ravaged Arab country.

Iran's top leader says negotiation won't solve problems with US

Tehran | Agencies

Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said that the country's problems with the US will not be solved through negotiation.

Making the remarks while addressing members of Iran's Basij voluntary force on Saturday, Khamenei explained that only through "holding Iran to ransom permanently" can the United States allow the problems to be solved, since Washington can't be satisfied and demands a new ransom each time, according to the official news agency IRNA.

The US, under the framework of a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, had agreed to lift the sanctions in return for Iran's reduction of its nuclear activities.

However, America later dropped such commitments, which is another proof that negotiation with Washington is futile, added the Iranian top leader.

The US departure from the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in



2018 and its reimposition of the sanctions on Iran had prompted the latter to reduce some of its nuclear commitments under the deal. In April 2021, the talks on the deal's revival began in Vienna. No breakthrough was achieved after the latest round of

talks in early August, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Speaking of a track record of US insatiable demands, Khamenei said the US firstly asked Iran to stop 20 per cent uranium enrichment, then called for a halt to 5-per cent enrich-

ment, and after that they wanted Tehran to shut down its entire nuclear industry. Following all these, he noted, they demanded a change in Iran's constitution and later sought to restrict the country within its borders and close its defence industries.

Khamenei said Washington wants the Iranian nation to cross all its red lines, and no devoted Iranian is willing to let the country be held to ransom in such a way.

Calling for awareness in the face of the enemy, he noted that spreading "fake news and lies" is the "enemy's most important strategy," which needs to be confronted through providing accurate and true accounts of the realities on the ground.

Khamenei said the "enemy" seeks to dominate the people's minds so that a nation will hand over its land to the enemy by its own hand. He urged the country's people and officials to remain vigilant and prepared from being caught by surprise when the foe tries to clamour in one place but attack somewhere else.

Covid protests widen in China with calls for Xi Jinping to step down

Beijing | Agencies

Protests against Covid restrictions in China appear to have intensified in the wake of a fire which killed 10 people in an apartment block in Urumqi, local media reported. Thousands of people took to the streets of Shanghai to remember the victims and demonstrate against restrictions. Many were heard calling for President Xi Jinping to resign, BBC reported. The BBC has seen at least three people being bundled into police cars. The lockdown of blocks of flats has been blamed for deaths in the fire.

While Chinese authorities deny it was the cause, officials in Urumqi did issue an unusual apology late on Friday, and pledged to "restore order" by phasing out restrictions.

At the protest in Shanghai - China's biggest city and a global financial hub - some people were seen lighting candles and laying flowers for the victims. Others were heard shouting slogans such as "Xi Jinping, step down" and "Communist party, step down". Some also held blank white banners. Such demands are an unusual sight within China, where any direct criticism of the government and the



president can result in harsh penalties, BBC reported. One protester said he felt "shocked and a bit excited" to see people out on the streets, calling it the first time he'd seen such large-scale dissent in China.

He said lockdowns made him feel "sad, angry and hopeless", and had left him unable to see his unwell mother, who was undergoing cancer treatment.

A female demonstrator told the BBC police officers were asked how they felt about the protests, and the answer was "the same as you". But, she said, "they wear their uniforms so they're doing their job."



CM Shinde announces Assam Bhavan to come up in Maharashtra; Sanjay Raut says it already exists

Team Absolute | Mumbai

CM Eknath Shinde on Sunday said he has approved of his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma's request for the construction of an Assam Bhavan in Navi Mumbai. Similarly, a Maharashtra Bhavan will come up in Assam, Shinde said after a meeting with Sarma in Guwahati.

However, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut said the Assam Bhavan already exists in Navi Mumbai and while every state wants a land here, Maharashtra does not have a place in other states.

The meeting between the Maharashtra CM and Sarma took place on Sunday in the same hotel in Guwahati where Shinde and other rebel MLAs from the Shiv Sena stayed for 11 days before toppling the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra.

A statement from Shinde's office said the two leaders discussed



strengthening mutual cooperation between the two states in the field of industries, trade and tourism.

Shinde, his ministers and MPs along with their families visited Kamakhya Devi temple on Saturday and later attended a get-together with Sarma.

The statement said Shinde thanked Sarma for his support during the power struggle in Maharashtra. Shinde also invited Sarma to Maharashtra.

The statement said Shinde approved of Sarma's request for the construction of the Assam Bhavan in

Navi Mumbai, while the Assam government will provide land to set up the Maharashtra Bhavan in the north-eastern state.

The statement quoted Sarma as saying that when Shinde had realised his party's (Shiv Sena) path was wrong and he wanted to correct it, all assistance was provided.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters here, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut said the Assam Bhavan already exists in Navi Mumbai.

"Every state wants a land in Mumbai. But, Maharashtra doesn't have a place in other states. Its industries are taken away and even claim is staked on its own land," he said.

Raut said "the Assam CM is a former Congressman and Shinde is a former Shiv Sainik. Both became chief ministers after switching sides. So, the turncoats are getting along well."

People from Assam live happily and peacefully in Mumbai and elsewhere in the state, he further said. "Kamakhya Devi is known as the Goddess of justice, we are sure she will do justice," Raut added.

Railway cop saves elderly woman from slipping under train

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A railway policeman's quick thinking saved the life of an elderly woman at a Mumbai railway station on Saturday. The incident was captured on a CCTV camera on the platform.

The Railway Protection Force official jumped into action after seeing the woman being dragged along a moving train while trying to board it at the Akola Station on the Nagpur-Mumbai line. The CCTV video of the incident shows the cop patrolling the station in the evening when he sees the elderly woman being dragged. As the train picks up speed, the woman is seen hanging from the door. The cop sprints and grabs the woman, pulling her away to the platform after which the train stops. A small crowd gathers to help the cop and the woman is escorted away by other railway policemen. Earlier this month, another railway police officer had saved the lives of a woman and her child at a Mumbai railway station. The police officer jumped into action after the woman and her child slipped and almost fell between the tracks while trying to board a moving train. Another Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel saved the life of a girl at Kerala's Tirur railway station in similar fashion this month. A video of the incident showing the RPF official saving the little girl from slipping between the platform and the train was shared by Railway Protection Force's Twitter account.



Money laundering case: ED summons Shiv Sena leader Anil Parab's close aide Sadanand Kadam

Mumbai | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Sadanand Kadam, a close aide of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader and former Maharashtra minister Anil Parab in connection with a money laundering case. An FIR has also been registered against Kadam in the illegal resort case of Anil Parab in Dapoli, Ratnagiri. Sadanand Kadam is the brother of former Sena MP Ramdas Kadam.

The probe agency had earlier questioned Kadam in the money laundering case registered against Parab and others in connection with the Dapoli resort fraud case.

Anil Parab has a resort in Dapoli which is allegedly illegal and Parab has also indulged in corruption to build it. ED also intensified the investigation regarding this resort of Anil Parab.

The ED had called Parab in the alleged money laundering case in the Dapoli resort case.

It is alleged that the rules of the Union Environment Ministry have been ignored to build the resort, due to which the Environment Ministry declared it illegal and also complained about this in the Dapoli Court.

Based on the same complaint, ED registered Enforcement Case Information Report



(ECIR) and started an investigation into the matter. In connection with the case, ED had earlier conducted raids at seven locations of Parab.

Earlier, BJP leader Kirit Somaiya had informed that Dapoli Police agreed to consider his complaint and search for evidence against the unauthorized resort. The government has declared its fraud forgery in the illegal construction of Dapoli Resort, Somaiya had informed.

In 2021, Kirit Somaiya lodged a complaint with then Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar against Parab accusing him of illegally constructing a resort in Ratnagiri during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Belagavi back at the centre of a high-decibel war between Maha, K'taka

Team Absolute | Mumbai/ Bengaluru

Belagavi for Kannadigas and Belgaum for Maharashtrians -- the border district in Karnataka is yet again hogging the headlines as politicians from Karnataka and Maharashtra are engaged in a high-decibel war of words over its ownership.

Belagavi is the second largest district of Karnataka by population. Nearly 60 per cent of the populations in the district are Marathi-speakers while the rest are Kannadas.

Maharashtra, however, has been demanding the return of Belgaum apart from the towns of Karwar, Nippani, and around 800 villages -- totalling 7,000 acres -- of Karnataka territory on the grounds that they are Marathi-speaking areas, a claim that Karnataka has been stoutly rejecting.

Even as it recommended the transfer of 264 villages to Maharashtra, the Mahajan Commission instituted by the Central government in 1966 ruled that Belagavi and 247 villages be retained in Karnataka. Predictably, Maharashtra rejected the report while



Karnataka welcomed it. The report is yet to be implemented.

For many years the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), which campaigned for merger of Marathi-majority areas in Maharashtra, was a dominant player in the region. MES candidates used to routinely win Assembly elections to the Karnataka Assembly from several constituencies.

The MES also controlled the Belagavi municipality. However, over the past several years it has lost steam and has been overtaken by the BJP. In 2007, Maharashtra approached the Supreme Court where the matter is pending.

The region often sees conflicts between Kannada and Marathi activists. However, this time, the stakes are high as the war of words is raging between Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, both from the BJP.

Currently, the political dispensation in both the states is headed by the BJP, which is the ruling party in Karnataka and also a senior partner in the coalition government of Maharashtra. The party is also ruling the Belagavi city corporation.

The issue flared up again in the

third week of November when the Maharashtra government began renewing efforts to buttress its claims in the Supreme Court as well as lobby with the Central government. The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government also extended several social benefit schemes to people in the disputed region.

Reacting to Maharashtra government's moves, Bommai declared that his government is prepared to battle it out in the Supreme Court.

"There is no question of leaving even one inch of our land," Bommai declared while reiterating that there is no dispute since the Mahajan Report is very clear and it should be implemented.

In a tit-for-tat move, the Karnataka Chief Minister demanded that Kannada-speaking areas of Maharashtra such as Solapur be merged in Karnataka as per the recommendation of the Mahajan Report. He has also called for an all-party meeting to discuss the matter in the coming week. The last word, clearly, hasn't been spoken on the lingering dispute.

TWO ZIMBABWEANS HELD BY DRI WITH DRUGS WORTH RS 50 CRORE AT AIRPORT

Mumbai: Two Zimbabweans were arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) with 7.9 kg of heroin worth Rs 50 crore at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, an official press release by the DRI said on Sunday. According to the DRI, based on specific information, the Mumbai zonal unit of the agency had laid a trap at the Mumbai airport on Friday and intercepted a man and a woman who were travelling from Addis Ababa.

It said, on searching their baggage, the team found packets containing light brown powder that had been concealed in their trolley bags.

"On checking, the powder was found to have presence of heroin. The contraband weighed around 7.9 kg. The value of the seized drug is Rs 50 crore approximately in the international market," an official said. Following the seizure, the accused were arrested under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The duo has been remanded to judicial custody by a special court, the release said.

The DRI is investigating the matter further to bust the drug syndicate involved in the case, it added.

SHRADDHA WALKAR MURDER CASE: AFTAB POONAWALLA TO BE SENT TO TIHAR JAIL, WILL BE MONITORED 24/7

Mumbai | Agencies

Delhi Court sent Aftab Poonawalla, accused in the Shraddha Walkar murder case, to 13 days of judicial custody after police interrogation. He was produced through video conferencing from Ambedkar Hospital. Sources in the Delhi police said that since he is a threat, he will be kept in a high-security prison at Tihar Jail no. 4. His cell will also be monitored 24/7 through CCTV cameras. The Delhi police had also moved



for his narco test as his police custody ended on Saturday. He was taken to the Ambedkar Hospital for the test. While Poonawalla had undergone a marathon polygraph session, it remained inconclusive, said sources, as he had refused to cooperate. He deliberately didn't answer some specific questions related to the murder and disposal of the body. The police also asked him if anyone else was involved with him, but he didn't respond to that question.

SHELTER HOME OPERATOR ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY RAPING MINOR

Nashik: A 14-year-old girl was raped by the operator of the shelter home at Gyanpede Gurukul Aadarshram located at Mhasrul Shivra, informed the Nashik police on Sunday.

The police also recorded statements of other girls living in Aadarshram. "The police also recorded statements of other girls living in Aadarshram and found that even they were raped by the accused," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) Kiran Kumar Chavan.

According to this statement, the police have started the process of registering more cases against the suspect, Harshal.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Kiran Kumar Chavan said that the accused Harshal alias Sonu was interrogated by senior police officers till late night on Saturday at Mhasrul police station. The police have registered a case against the accused under the POSCO act and Child Atrocities act.

Further investigation is underway, and details are awaited.

Restoration of Mumbai's 100-year-old museum wins UNESCO award

Mumbai | Agencies

The restoration of the 100-year-old Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya in Mumbai has won a top award from UNESCO, with the jury hailing it as a project that "sets a standard" for the conservation of world heritage monuments. The museum, part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property, has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation that was announced recently. UNESCO Bangkok, in a statement, said, "The jury applauded the museum project for restoring a major



civic institution in the historic city of Mumbai." "The jury noted, 'impressive in its scale, the project addressed extensive deterioration through well-informed architectural and engineering solutions, overcoming major challenges during the pandemic,'" it said. The "heroic" restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya has received the Award of Excellence in this year's UNESCO Asia-

Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, the statement said. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922. Thirteen projects from six countries - Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Nepal and Thailand - have been acknowledged for awards by an international jury in this year's awards programme. Jury delib-

erations were carried out in November 2022 when members reviewed 50 entries from 11 countries from the Asia-Pacific region.

Besides, the Domakonda Fort of Telangana, and Byculla Station of Mumbai, are among the winners in the Award of Merit category, while the stepwells of Golconda in Hyderabad has won an award in the Award of Distinction category.

Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has been recognising the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving, and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region.

OVER 40 EXPENSIVE PHONES STOLEN DURING CONCERT AT BKC, COPS LAUNCH PROBE

Mumbai: Over 40 expensive mobile phones were allegedly stolen by unidentified persons during a concert at the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai, police said on Sunday. Many people who were at the concert approached the BKC police with complaints saying that their mobile phones were allegedly misplaced or stolen during the concert. A concert was organised at MMRDA ground on Saturday night. Hundreds of people had attended the event after booking their tickets online and the venue was packed, an official from BKC police said.

On the complaints, the police registered four to five FIRs under section 379 (punishment for theft) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the official said.

The police are examining the CCTV footage from the area to identify and apprehend the accused, he added.

POLICE, BMC SET NEW RULES FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION ON MAHAPARINIRVAN DIWAS

Mumbai | Agencies

Anyone who is willing to distribute food to people coming to Chaitya Bhoomi, Dadar West, to observe the death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on December 6, needs to inform the police and the BMC beforehand. The authorities have fixed four spots for the same. Every year, lakhs of people gather at Shivaji Park to pay homage to Dr Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas. With a break of two years due to the pandemic, the authorities are anticipating a large number of followers this year and are making arrangements accordingly. There are also NGOs, and other institutions

that provide food to people coming to Shivaji Park between December 5 and 7. The Mumbai Police and BMC had a meeting to arrange the logistics, and as per the decision taken in the meeting, there will be four spots near Raja Badhe chowk, the north side footpath of MB Raut Road, the footpath in front of Senapati Bapat statue and footpath behind West Side on Thakkar Road-where food can be distributed.

"There will be a control centre at Raja Badhe Chowk for food distribution," said an official from G North Ward of BMC. Those who intend to participate in food distribution will need to inform the Shivaji Park police station and BMC's G North Ward office.



IT'S ABOUT DOING THINGS THAT I REALLY WANT TO DO:

MARIAH CAREY

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Mariah Carey's life is quite layered. The singer, who is working on a TV series based on her memoir, believes her route to superstardom has been more complicated than people realize. Mariah, who released her memoir, 'The Meaning of Mariah Carey', in 2020, shared that her life in general is actually much more layered than what people know or what is even in the book, as per the reports.

She said: "People who have been friends with me for years were like, 'How come you never told me all of this happened to you?' At this point in my life, it's about doing things that I really want to do."

Mariah has also written a children's book called 'The Christmas Princess'. The story centers on a young girl named Little Mariah, and the chart-topping star has likened the character to "Pippi Longstocking or Harriet the Spy".

She told a magazine: "Little Mariah is a mixed-race girl with no money and no one to come do her hair. She's like Pippi Longstocking or Harriet the Spy, but she's biracial."

"A lot of people who are my actual fans feel that they are 'other', whether they're white, black, and brown, whatever it is - you know, any race, creed, or colour. If you feel 'other', it's just a different thing," she added.

Reports states that Mariah previously admitted that she's felt under pressure to identify as either being black or white. The 'Always Be My Baby' hitmaker explained that people have wanted her to make a choice about her own identity. She said: "I always thought it should be OK to say I'm mixed, like it should be OK to say that, but people want you to choose."



Mick Jagger wanted to star in 'The Clockwork Orange': Malcolm McDowell

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Torino Film Festival, under the direction of Steve Della Casa, launched its 40th edition at the sumptuous Teatro Regio not with a film screening, but with an evening devoted to

music, reports. To evoke the links between cinema and music, a talk was organised around the theme of the Beatles versus the Rolling Stones, and the bands' love of cinema, which led them to work with Jean-Luc Godard and Martin Scorsese, among others. The guest of honour, Malcolm

McDowell, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the release of 'A Clockwork Orange', spoke about how Mick Jagger wanted to star in the film, and the time when Paul McCartney almost composed the score to another one of McDowell's films, 'The Raging Moon'.



Hugh Grant hated doing 'excruciating' dance scene

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Hugh Grant's dance scene is one of the most remembered scenes from 'Love Actually'. Although many remember this sequence with nostalgia, for Grant it was quite an "excruciating" experience. "I saw it in the script and I thought, 'Well, I'll hate doing that,'" Grant told Diane Sawyer 'The Laughter & Secrets of Love Actually: 20 Years Later'. "I didn't fancy doing the dance at all, let alone rehearsing it." In the 2003 British holiday film, Grant plays the prime minister and he dances around 10 Downing Street as The Pointer Sisters' 'Jump' plays in the background.



According to the reports, Richard Curtis, the writer and director of the film, said that Grant initially "kept saying no" to filming the scene and was "grumpy" the day of the shoot. "I think he was hoping I'd get ill or something and we'd say, 'Oh, well, what a shame, we'll have to lose that dancing sequence,'" Curtis added. Grant said that it was "a contractual guillotine" and pointed out that at the beginning of the scene he was out of rhythm, "especially at the beginning when I wiggle my ass." The actor also noted that it was his idea to have the prime minister's secretary come into the room he was dancing in to end the moment. "And to this day, there are many people, and I agree with them, who think it's the most excruciating scene ever committed to celluloid. But then some people like it," Grant joked.



Adele cracks jokes, tells fans to order drinks during her Vegas act

Los Angeles | Agencies

British singer Adele said that she has worked her "absolute a*** off" to create her Las Vegas show. The singer previously postponed her entire residency, just 24 hours before the opening night, after her team were hit by Covid-19 outbreak, and Adele has now confessed that her fans "wouldn't have liked" the show, reports.

She said on stage: "I worked my absolute a*** off for this. I couldn't have done that other show and you wouldn't have liked it either, I'm telling you that." The 'Easy on Me' hitmaker, who is one of the world's best-selling artists, also joked that her fans will enjoy her show more after they've had a few drinks.

According to a newspaper, she told fans: "Go and order some drinks...the drunker you are, the better I am."

The source said at the time: "Adele has revised her plan for the show, has stripped it back. The production will be very classy; the show is centred on her energy and vocals."

Reports further states that the London-born star also apologised to her fans, but insisted that it was "impossible to finish the show."

Adele said on Instagram at the time: "I'm so sorry, but my show ain't ready. Half my team has COVID and it's been impossible to finish the show." Adele also confessed to feeling "embarrassed" about the situation. She said: "I'm sorry, it's last minute. I'm so upset and I'm really embarrassed and I'm so sorry to everyone that's travelled again."

Jennifer Grey has signalled her movie's sequel is "happening"

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood actress Jennifer Grey has signalled that the long-awaited 'Dirty Dancing' sequel is "happening" - and will feature some familiar faces. Months after helping announce details about the movie during Lionsgate's presentation at CinemaCon in Las Vegas earlier this year, filled 'Extra' in on some new developments and said that filming for the project kicks off in the spring, reports.

"I would say that you can count on it being at Kellerman's, returning to Kellerman's," Grey said of the setting from the 1987 original.

Then noting that her character of Frances "Baby" Houseman is also going to be "quite a few years older," Grey teased that a few "other characters from the original" will be joining her as well. "It's tricky, and also exciting," Grey told.

The capacity of Grey's role has been kept relatively under wraps since the announcement, and the actress told in November 2020 that the film won't attempt to recapture her chemistry with Swayze, who died in 2009 of pancreatic cancer at age 57.

"All I can say is there is no replacing anyone who's passed - you never try to repeat anything that's magic like that," she told People magazine at the time. "You just go for something different."

Grey, who released her memoir 'Out of the Corner' in May, will also executive produce the sequel, and explained at the time that the original film's "appeal was that it was very genuine and simple."

Sir Elton John has vowed to support his sons in music industry

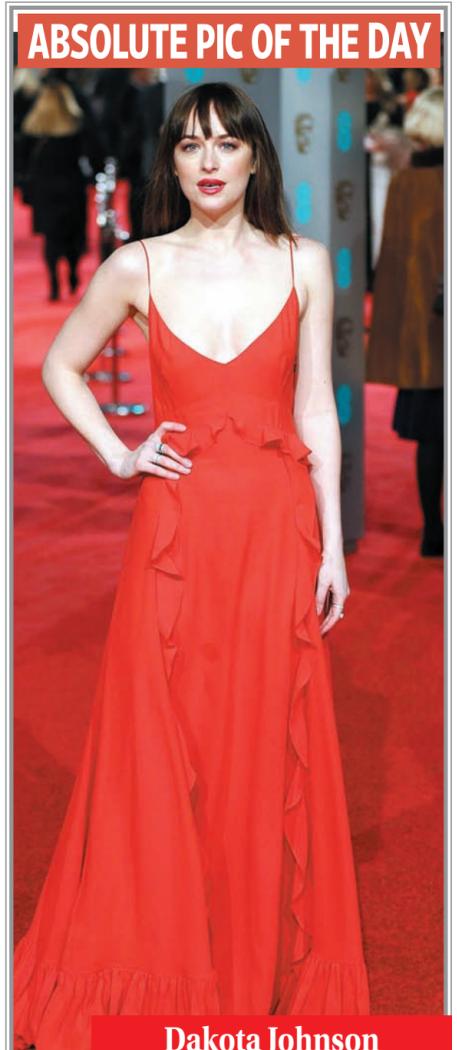
Los Angeles | Agencies

British singer-composer Sir Elton John has vowed to support his sons if they follow him into the music industry. The singer has two sons Zachary and Elijah, with his husband David Furnish, and Elton has promised to support his kids in whatever careers they choose, says reports. He told: "They are still so young, so not entirely sure [what they want to do]. But of course, whatever their dreams and ambitions are, my husband David and I will fully support them." Sir Elton recently finished the American leg of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour, and he's now looking forward to spending more time with his kids.

He said: "I am of course looking forward to spending more time with my sons. I am also looking forward to being able to dedicate more of my time to other projects, like the Elton John AIDS Foundation."

Earlier this year, Sir Elton revealed that he was stopped from adopting a Ukrainian orphan because of his sexuality. The award-winning star and his husband tried to adopt a child from an orphanage that they visited.

The 'Rocket Man' hitmaker said: "I was carrying this little boy around for hours. We had a press conference at the end and they said 'You seem very fond of this little boy. Would you think of adopting him?' and I went 'I'd actually love to!' Of course, not thinking about social media, it went around the world straight away. It was 'Elton John wants to adopt two children.' And ultimately, Elton and David weren't allowed to adopt the boy. He said: "Because I was gay I wasn't allowed to anyway."



Dakota Johnson



FIFA WORLD CUP

MOROCCO 2-0 WINS OVER BELGIUM



Doha | Agencies

Morocco were denied a goal on the stroke of halftime for offside when Hakim Ziyech's free kick ended up in the back of the net, and they went into the break locked at 0-0 with Belgium in their World Cup Group F fixture at Al Thumama Stadium on Sunday. Belgium had the better chance up to that point, after Morocco made a mystery change of goalkeeper minutes before kick-off when they replaced Yassine Bounou with Munir El Kajoui, who made a smart early save to deny Belgium forward Michy Batshuayi.

Hakim Ziyech feds in Zakaria Aboukhmal from the right and the latter finds the top corner to beat Courtois and effectively end it all for the Belgium Red Devils. Just as we told you, the numbers put forward by Belgium and their old legs in the defence always meant Morocco had the chance to punish them with another on a break.

Abdelhamid Sabiri scores from a free kick on the left and Morocco have their first goal at these finals!

Sabiri scored for the set-piece to put Morocco in the lead against the World No. 2 side Belgium. The free-kick was very close to the corner flag on the left. And the substitute Sabiri curled it at pace towards the near post for the goal. Belgium keeper Courtois was again put off by the presence of Saiss, but this time the Moroccan was onside.

COSTA RICA STRIKE LATE TO STUN JAPAN



ended a seven-match winless run at the World Cup, with their last World Cup victories dating back to the 2014 group stage, against Uruguay (3-1) and Italy (1-0) respectively and they have beaten Japan for the first time.

Doha (Qatar) | Costa Rica recovered from the 7-0 hammering they got at the hands of Spain to pull off a shocking 1-0 win over Japan to leave the Group E qualification race wide open in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. In Sunday's first of the four matches, Keysher Fuller took full advantage of a defensive lapse to score in the 81st minute and keep their dream of reaching the last 16 knockout stage alive. Japan failed to maintain the same level of play that fetched them the stunning win over Germany, who faces Spain later in the evening. Costa Rica's win is another big shock at the World Cup and nobody had fancied the Central American country Costa Rica's comeback after the hammering they got at the hands of Spain in the last match. Their comeback win is one of the many great stories of the World Cup. Japan were the better team but were unable to break down Costa Rica, who scored through their only shot on target of the match and of the tournament. The win



Messi, Fernandez goals guide Argentina to a 2-0 win over Mexico

Doha | Two-time winners Argentina kept their FIFA World Cup knockout stage qualification on course with a 2-0 win over Latin American rivals Mexico at Lusail Stadium in Qatar.

On Saturday, in the last match of the day, Argentina, which lost their first match to Saudi Arabia, scored in the 64th minute through Lionel Messi to register their first win and three points.

La Albiceleste struck a second time in the match through a gem of a goal from Endo Fernandez with three minutes left for the normal period of play to end. Argentina now have three points after two matches and now are second in Group C with three points, tied with Saudi Arabia and one point behind leaders Poland, who beat the Saudis 2-0 in the earlier game. Both Argentina and Mexico meant business right from kick-off but could not create scoring chances and it was left to the brilliance of Messi to open the floodgates of the Mexico defence.

It was Messi's eight goals in the World Cup, having netted one in the first match against Saudi Arabia in the 2-1 loss to Saudi Arabia. Messi's eight goals equaled Diego Maradona's record of eight goals and only Gabriel Batistuta with 10 goals remains ahead of him in the all-time leading goal scorers for Argentina.

YOUTH WORLD BOXING

Ravina strikes gold as India end campaign with 11 medals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reigning Asian Youth Champion Ravina showcased splendid tenacity to emerge victorious in her finals bout and added another gold to India's total medal tally of 11 at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.

Ravina (63kg) was up against Megan deCler of Netherlands in her finals bout. In spite of not getting off to the best of starts, the Indian pugilist utilised her technical ability and quick movement to mount an impressive comeback against her Dutch opponent. The fiercely contested bout finished in favour of the 2022 Asian Youth gold medalist who won 4-3 by split decision after the bout was reviewed.



In the other final, Kirti (81+kg) went down fighting against the 2022 European Youth champion Cliona Elizabeth D'Arcy of Ireland and secured silver after suffering a 0-5 defeat.

India was a dominant force at the event as the 25 member contingent bagged a total of 11 medals which include four gold, three silver and four bronze medals. Overall, 17 Indians had qualified for the quarter finals of the tournament which was

more than any other country at the 2022 edition of the tournament.

The women pugilists' total tally of eight medals was the highest among all countries at this year's edition of the championships followed by Kazakhstan (5) and Uzbekistan (4).

Ravina (63kg), Devika Ghorpade (52kg) clinched the gold, Kirti (+81kg), Bhawna Sharma (48kg) won silver while Muskan (75kg), Lashu Yadav (70kg), Kunjarani Devi Thongam (60kg) and Tamanna (50kg) claimed the bronze medal.

In the men's category, Youth Asian champs Vanshaj (63.5kg), Vishwanath Suresh (48kg) grabbed gold while Ashish (54kg) attained silver.

This year's championships in La Nucia witnessed participation of close to 600 boxers from 73 countries.

IND V NZ 2ND ODI

Match abandoned due to rain



Hamilton | Agencies

Rain had the final say as a spot-start second ODI between India and New Zealand in Seddon Park was abandoned due to rain on Sunday. There were some predictions of rain threatening to disrupt the proceedings, but it washed off the match.

Before rain eventually prevailed, 12.5 overs of play was possible as India were pushed into batting first by New Zealand, who won the toss for the second time in as many matches of this series. Shubman Gill and Suryakumar Yadav entertained the crowd with some scintillating stroke-play on a pitch which was aiding fast bowlers. Suryakumar hit three glorious sixes in his unbeaten 25-ball 34, while Gill was crisp in his timing and placement of shots to be 45 not

out off 42 deliveries. Now reduced to 29-overs-a-side, India needed to up the ante from the word go. In a bid to do so, Shikhar Dhawan mistimed his chipped drive of Henry to mid-on on the second ball after the resumption of play.

But Gill continued to be strong, pulling Henry powerfully over deep backward square leg for six. Suryakumar joined the party by upper-cutting a rising delivery from Lockie Ferguson over keeper's head for a boundary.

The washout means India cannot win the series now as New Zealand are still 1-0 ahead and their best chance now is to square the ODI series in the final match of the tour at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Wednesday.

The abandonment also means New Zealand and India shared five points each on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League Standings. New Zealand are now third in the standings with 125 points, just below England, while India are at the top and have already qualified for the 2023 ODI World Cup on account of being tournament hosts.

Brief scores

India 89/1 in 12.5 overs (Shubman Gill 45 not out, Suryakumar Yadav 34 not out; Matt Henry 1/20) against New Zealand, match abandoned due to rain.

Shubman Gill is a quality player: Ravi Shastri

Hamilton | Former India head coach Ravi Shastri believes that young opener Shubman Gill is a quality cricketer who will be around for a long time in the international cricket arena. Shastri's comments come after Gill sparked in the 12.5 overs of play in the second ODI at Hamilton, which was abandoned due to rain. Gill drove elegantly past mid-on twice and cut Tim Southee fiercely through cover before the first spell of rain stopped play for nearly three-and-a-half hours. "His emphasis today was in the timing of the ball. Sometimes when you are out of your depth, you want to get on with it by trying to hit the ball hard. He was in good control with good footwork. It is great to watch him play." "There is something regal about him. He is a quality player and he's going to be around for a long time (decade's time). He has good work ethics, he trains hard, he's hungry and he loves this game. He will continue to play because his grooming is good, he is always grounded," said Shastri after abandonment of the match. "Shubman's strike rate has improved in international cricket. He is averaging a healthy 70 plus in international cricket so, you are looking at a player who is developing. I was listening to Ajit Agarkar earlier on the show and he said, 'we have quality here and while Suryakumar Yadav was going the way he does, but let's not forget Gill, because he has found how he wants to play in international cricket'" said former India cricketer Anjum Chopra.

VOOTY MASTERS GOLF

Nerveless Manu Gandas earns record fifth title of the season

Vikarabad (Telangana) | Agencies

Manu Gandas of Gurugram sealed a thumping four-shot win after a nerveless final-round display of six-under 66 at the inaugural Vooty Masters here on Sunday.

Gandas (63-68-67-66), the overnight leader by one shot, totaled 24-under 264 for the week to register his fifth win of 2022 and thus match the PGTI record for most wins in a season, a record previously jointly held by Yuvraj Singh Sandhu (2022), Gaganjeet Bhullar (2009) and Ashok Kumar (2006-07).

Gandas took home the winning cheque worth Rs. 15,00,000 to consolidate himself in second position in the TATA Steel PGTI Ranking as his prize money earnings for the season moved to Rs. 65,78,938. Om Prakash Chouhan (66-63-73-66) of Mhow finished runner-up at 20-under 268 following his last round of 66. Delhi's Shamim Khan shot a fine 64 on Sunday to secure third place at 16-under 272.

Gandas, who set the course record of 63 on day one, had a mixed start to round four with a birdie-bogey on the first two holes.

Gandas said, "I took one shot at a time and stayed in the present. I had a bad start on the back nine but was steady thereafter and set up a lot of



birdie opportunities for myself. Overall, it was a solid round barring a couple of mistakes.

"I tend to get a bit aggressive as the round progresses but I managed to keep that tendency in check. I kept my composure well," said Gandas.

"I kept the intensity going after I got my first birdie on the back nine. I'm quite pleased with the records added to my name but my focus is more

on taking my game to the next level. This win gives me the momentum for the final two events of the season.

"It was an amazing experience playing here at the world-class Vooty Golf County for the first time. The course conditions were immaculate. I thank the Dream Valley Group for supporting this event," he added.

IPL 2022 FINAL SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR BIGGEST CROWD ATTENDANCE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

BCCI secretary Jay Shah on Sunday tweeted that the IPL 2022 final, which was held earlier this year, has set a Guinness World Record for the largest attendance in a T20 match.

"Extremely delighted & proud to receive the Guinness World Record for the largest attendance at a T20 match when 101,566 people witnessed the epic IPL final at GCAMotera's magnificent Narendra Modi Stadium on 29 May 2022. Big thanks to our fans for making this possible! BCCI", tweeted Shah. In the final which was played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, a determined Gujarat Titans, led by all-rounder Hardik Pandya, made their maiden IPL season an unforgettable one by lifting the title at their home ground in a seven-wicket win over Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan



Royals. "A proud moment for everyone as India creates the Guinness World Record. This one is for all our fans for their unmatched passion and unwavering support. Congratulations to GCAMotera and IPL," tweeted the BCCI.

By finishing off a chase of 131 with 11 balls remaining and defeating Rajasthan for the third time in IPL 2022 after losing the toss, Gujarat

capped off a season where they exceeded everyone's pre-tournament expectations to become champions in their debut season of the competition.

Pandya led the Gujarat Titans from the front with an all-round performance, picking figures of 3/17 in his four overs with the ball and making 34 off 30 balls with the bat, and picked the Player of the Match award in the final.



SUMBUL IS TOO YOUNG TO BE ON THE SHOW : SUBUHII JOSHII

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Subuhii Joshi, who was last seen in 'Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai' is currently seen in the reality show 'Bigg Buzz' which features actor Krushna Abhishek and Kashmera Shah. She feels that Sumbul Touqeer is too young to be on the show.

She said: "For Sumbul, this is not the right time as she is very young. She was doing exceptionally well in her life but I do feel that she is pretty young to go to 'Bigg Boss'. You need to see a lot of things in life before going to the show. It's not her fault.

"I don't know how anyone can be obsessed with Shalin. Maybe she likes him as a person but using the word

obsessed is wrong. Yes, there are some people who show their love and concern for their friends, so maybe she is like that."

There has been a huge hue and cry about the current Sumbul-Tina-Shalin situation in the 'Bigg Boss 16' house. Last week, on Weekend ka Vaar, superstar host Salman Khan even confronted Sumbul on being obsessed with Shalin but she disagreed with him. In fact, Subuhii said that Shalin is to blame as well. "If he is older then why can't he understand what is going on? Even if she has a crush on you and you don't, why do you go behind her? You hug Tina on the other side and then you just are around Sumbul. He is just pretending to be very innocent but he is not and he is equally responsible for what is happening," she said.

Ask her if she wants to be part of Bigg Boss and she said: "I really wanted to be part of 'Bigg Boss' but I am happy that I am not there this season as it's not doing that great. If I get a chance in the next season then I am pretty prepared for it. In a recent clip, I saw that Tina is complaining to Shalin that she is sitting and not taking my side. I mean why would she take your stand? You insulted her in front of the nation."



I have learnt a lot from Vikram Gokhale: Gautam Rode

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Veteran film and television actor Vikram Gokhale is no more. The actor, who was 77 years old, passed away on 26 November 2022. He was admitted to Pune's Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital due to prolonged illness. Several celebrities have offered condolences on his demise.

Actor Gautam Rode, who shared screen space with him in the TV show, Mera Naam Karegi Roshan, shares his experience working with him.

He says, "Actually I have worked with Vikram Gokhale in 2009 for a show. He was a thorough gentleman, a jovial cooperative person on set. He never showed that he is such a senior actor and he always used to mingle around with all of us. I have learnt a lot from him in terms of his performances and the way he used to take the character forward in that particular show. It's a sad moment for all of us and the industry as well as for all the people who have seen his work and respected his work. Deepest condolences to his family and may god rest his soul in peace."

On the work front, Gautam Rode is popularly known for his stunts in Saraswathichandra and Suryaputra Karn. He was last seen in the music video 'Sun Le Zara' with his wife Pankhuri Awasthi.



Sunny Deol pens a heartfelt note for Karan on his birthday

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Karan Deol turns a year older today, his father Sunny Deol has shared a message for his son saying that as a director, he always admired his hard work and dedication to his craft. Born on November 27, 1990, Karan made his film debut with the 2019 movie 'Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas' and is all set for his next 'Apne 2' alongside Sunny Deol, Dharmendra, and Bobby

Deol. He called his father the best guide he could have in his life. As the 'Yamla Pagla Deewana 2' actor celebrates his birthday, his father and Bollywood actor Sunny wrote: "As a director I pushed your limits, and made you do everything. You rapped off of high peaks in the Himalayas, jumped into frozen lakes, swam in Grade 6 Rapids water streams, got stuck between rocks, got hurt, but kept going on and on without a second thought...just because you believed in me!"

"When I was making you do all this, as a father my heart was always in my mouth, as a director my admiration for you was scaling mountains! You will succeed in your life my son because you take no shortcuts. I know it's a lot of hard work, keep going, respect elders, be kind and stand up for what is right! Happy Birthday, son!" His family poured in heartfelt wishes for him. Bobby Deol posted a picture on Instagram wishing Karan on his special day.



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Prateik Babbar, who made his mark in the entertainment industry with his work in 'Dum Maaro Dum', 'Darbar' and 'Brahmastra', is all set for his upcoming film 'India Lockdown', directed by Madhur Bhandarkar. He talked about his role and what makes the film worth watching. He is seen playing the role of Madhav, a migrant worker forced to walk back with his wife to his village because of the lockdown. Speaking about his role, Prateik said: "My role is that of a migrant worker whose life comes to a standstill and he is stuck in a dilemma between whether he should try and survive in a city away from home or will it be wise to go back home and live within your means."

On the question of how he prepared for his character, the 'Baaghi 2' actor added: "We had a lot of prep going for this character. I met a few migrant workers and had heart-to-heart conversations with them. I was a keen observer of everything they shared and did. Right from their body language and how they lived their mundane life. All these day-to-day observations gave me insight into playing Madhav." The actor said that another challenging task was learning the dialect and for perfection, he took coaching and watched movies.

"The dialect was different. It is Hindi but more like Bihari Hindi. The pronunciations were very different. We had a dialogue coach on set who helped us through every word, dialogue, and emotion. That was a little bit about the prep. I also watched reference films, 'Chakra', 'Aakrosh', 'Ankur', 'Do Bigha Zamin' which had characters similar to the migrants. Understanding their struggle and angst was a very important insight into preparing for Madhav."

Prateik Babbar is all set for his upcoming film

Nushratt Bharuccha starts shooting for sequel of her horror film

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Bollywood actress Nushratt Bharuccha kickstarted the shooting of 'Chhorii 2' on Sunday. The film is a sequel to her 2021 horror movie which released during the same time of the year.

On Sunday, the actress also took to the story section of her Instagram to mark the start of 'Chhorii 2' shoot as she shared the pictures from her make-up session and the set in which she can be seen in the company of her director Vishal Furia.

Talking about the commencement of 'Chhorii 2', she said, "It's really uncanny how 'Chhorii' released last year around the same date and we started the shoot of the sequel for the same today. 'Chhorii' is a film which has given me so much, I can't thank the universe enough.

She added: "For me, 'Sakshi' (her character in the film) was an extremely challenging and tough character to crack. It was one of my toughest characters so far, as not only I was playing a pregnant woman in a world of horrors like this, but also someone who has to fight for hers and her child's survival, whilst dealing with the social practice of female foeticide on screen, which is still prevalent in some parts of our country. It was a big responsibility, and I had to give full justice to it."



Ishita Raj Sharma