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VAX EFFICACY WANING AS MORE VACCINATED PEOPLE NOW DIE FROM COVID

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Covid virus has changed and immunity from previous Covid-19 vaccination has waned, putting the health of even the double-vaccinated people at great risk.

There are several factors, including waning immune protection and low uptake of boosters, along with changes in immunity among the unvaccinated.

FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf said last week that the more people who keep up to date on Covid-19 vaccinations, "the more benefit there will be for individuals, families and public health by helping prevent severe illnesses, hospitalisations and deaths."

The advice came as a Washington Post analysis last month found that more vaccinated people are now dying of the Covid disease and 58 per cent of coronavirus deaths in August in the US "were people who were vaccinated or boosted".

The report added: "In September 2021, vaccinated people made up just 23 per cent of coronavirus fatalities.



In January and February this year, it was up to 42 per cent."

Deaths among vaccinated people is increasing due to waning efficacy of Covid vaccines and "increasingly contagious strains of the virus being spread to elderly and immunocompromised people" among those who have taken at least one vaccine dose.

"We can no longer say this is a pandemic of the unvaccinated," said Kaiser Family Foundation vice president Cynthia Cox, who conducted

the analysis on behalf of the Washington Post.

Although some researchers, like Dr David Weber, an infectious disease specialist at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, said "it's a true but inaccurate statement". Dr Weber added: "It would be like saying most deaths in car crashes come with people wearing seat belts. That's because almost everyone wears seat belts. The correct statement is, how many lives do seat belts

save? And that would be the correct statement for the vaccines." He was quoted by www.cbs17.com.

Outgoing White House Chief Medical Adviser, Anthony Fauci has emphasised the safety and efficacy of the approved Covid vaccines in preventing severe illness and deaths, encouraging people to get vaccinated and boosted as soon as possible.

"My message, and my final message, maybe the final message I give you from this podium, is that please, for your own safety, for that of your family, get your updated Covid-19 shot as soon as you're eligible to protect yourself, your family and your community," Fauci said.

Older people were always especially vulnerable and now make up a higher proportion of Covid fatalities than ever before in the pandemic, reports Scientific American.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported a nearly 90 per cent drop in recent Covid-19 deaths globally compared to nine months ago, but still urged vigilance against the pandemic as new variants continue to rise.

CBDT issues circular on TDS on salaries for current fiscal



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a circular related to TDS deduction from salaries has said that any person responsible for paying salary must deduct income tax while paying the amount.

The circular said that the tax should be deducted at the

average rate calculated, based on the rates in force for the current financial year, on the estimated salary income of the recipient for that year.

The circular was issued last week by CBDT.

The circular basically explains the obligation of employers with regard to the deduction of tax at source from salaries under section

192 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for Financial Year 2022-23.

As per Section 192, the person responsible for paying salary income must provide the recipient with a statement giving correct and complete particulars of perquisites or profits in lieu of salary provided to him and the value thereof.

Twitter back to life after brief outage as Musk speeds up platform

Team Absolute | New Delhi

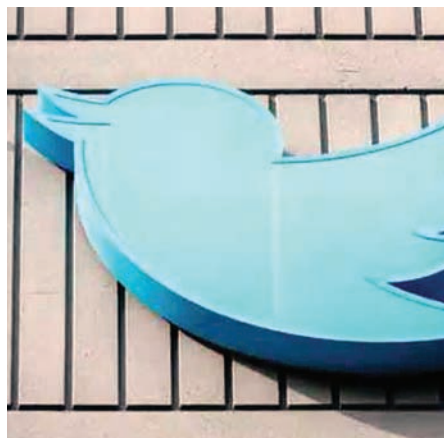
Twitter came back to life after suffering a brief outage globally, including in India, on Sunday as Elon Musk said "Twitter is speeding up".

Website outage tracker Downdetector reported several outages across the globe as users had issues with page loading.

The outage hit both the Twitter mobile app and the desktop version. "Yes, Twitter is Down for some people. Not Working on Jio But Working on Airtel," tweeted one user.

"Elon musk try to fix twitter when twitter is down," another posted. Twitter or Musk were yet to comment on what caused the outage.

This was the second time when Twitter went down under its new CEO. The microblogging platform was down for several hours earlier last month. Meanwhile, Musk said that Twitter Files on the company's approach to handle Covid misinformation are coming soon. "It is coming big time," said Musk. He



also revealed that Twitter is set to increase the character limit from 280 to 4,000. "The bots/trolls generate fake activity, so Twitter may seem a little less lively, but actually it's just that the fakery is gone," he tweeted.

Russia offers to help India overcome crude price cap: Reports

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Russia is said to have offered to help India overcome the oil price cap, which has been imposed by Western nations on the world's largest country.

"In order not to depend on the ban on insurance services and tanker chartering in the European Union and Britain, Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexander Novak has offered India cooperation on leasing and building large-capacity ships," reports quoting the Russian embassy in New Delhi said.

Novak met Indian Ambassador to Moscow Pavan Kapoor on Friday, as per the statement. "In the first eight months of 2022,



Russian oil exports to India grew to 16.35 million tonnes in the summer, Russia ranked second in terms of oil

shipments to India," it added. The G7 nations, the European Union (EU) and Australia last week

agreed to a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil, as part of its sanctions on Russia, owing to its invasion of Ukraine.

Western nations have not warmed up to India's stance of continuing to buy oil from Russia despite its war with Ukraine.

India, on its part, has made it clear that it will continue to buy crude oil from any country, which offers it a good deal.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had echoed these sentiments in Parliament on December 7, saying that the government has not asked oil marketing companies to buy Russian crude, however it is a sensible policy, keeping in mind the interest of people.

Nitish reveals the two people on whose advice he broke alliance with BJP

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday revealed that he had broken alliance with the BJP on the advice of two persons - JD-U national President Lalan Singh and cabinet minister Bijendra Yadav.

"When the things went wrong while we were in NDA, Lalan Singh and Bijendra Yadav suggested to me to break the alliance. We have taken the suggestions from our party workers from the entire country and they

have suggested that I break the alliance with BJP and go with the seven party alliance to form the government," he said, while addressing the gathering of JD-U workers on the second day of the open session of the party in Sri Krishna Memorial Hall at the Gandhi Maidan.

"Now, we have a seven party government in Bihar and we will jointly develop the state. Lalan Singh is the national President of the party and I ask all of you to support him," Nitish Kumar said.

Nitish Kumar's statement came soon after the defeat of his candidate in Kurhani bypoll, and its timing is important for the RJD and other parties from the Mahagathbandhan's point of view.

The JD-U candidate lost despite having support of 7 parties and political pundits believe that is why Nitish Kumar made such a statement three months after the formation of the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar. There is buzz that Nitish Kumar wants to open the gate of dialogue

with the BJP by blaming Lalan Singh and Bijendra Yadav for breaking the NDA in Bihar.

After the formation of a new government in Bihar, the Mahagathbandhan contested three bypolls and lost two, and Nitish Kumar may not be pleased with its performance. The Nitish Kumar-led government is also facing criticism of rising incidents of crime and he may not want that his government gets a tag of letting "Jungle Raj" return to Bihar.

Dermatologists advise against the use of fairness creams

Lucknow | Agencies

Leading dermatologists have advised against skin whitening creams to look fairer and better.

Dr Parul Verma, of the department of dermatology at the King George's Medical University (KGMU), said, "Many patients come into the OPD having suffered adverse effects of using products that do not suit their skin type. Use of steroid-based creams often causes



skin trouble."

She explained, "The base colour of skin never changes. So, instead of trying whitening creams or chemicals, give your skin a healthy and natural glow, which is long lasting

too." Dr Swastika Suvirya, Head of Department, dermatology said, "Pollution, pesticide and poor eating habits are also key factors for skin trouble. It is good to take medicine as per the expert advice." Head of pathology department, Prof U.S. Singh explained the role of pathology in diagnosis of skin ailments. He said that a coordinated effort by dermatology and pathology departments gives better results in diagnosis and treatment.

Board exams may be held from Feb 15, practicals from Jan 1: CBSE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations will begin from February 15, as per the tentative date notified by the Board. The official datesheet has not been released yet.

CBSE released an official notice stating that practical exams for classes 10 and 12 would start from January 1, 2023. Students can visit the CBSE website for detailed information. Class 10 examinations of ICSE will start from February 27 and examinations for Class 12 will commence from February 13. The CBSE issued guidelines to students as well as to its schools spread across the country, according to which the students will be required to appear in schools as per the schedule of practi-



cal. It notifies that students who are absent in the practical will not be provided another chance. All the students will be given complete information about the practical dates and process by their schools. During the pandemic, the board examinations of classes 10 and 12 were conducted in two different sessions. Along with this, CBSE has issued clear instructions to the concerned schools to complete the practicals within the stipulated time limit. CBSE said that the datesheet for board exams of both the classes will be released soon on their website.

Pollution, changing weather making kids below 5 vulnerable to pneumonia

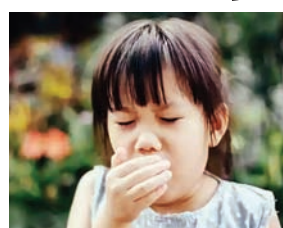
- ▶ Most children below the age of five face difficulty in breathing and drinking milk due to pneumonia.
- ▶ They are susceptible to various other problems like fever, ear infection, diarrhoea and measles which is a highly contagious disease caused by measles virus.
- ▶ Vaccination is highly effective in preventing measles.

Pawan Tripathi | Noida

Be it children, the elderly or the young, everyone's health is getting affected these days. Common cold, which usually got cured within three to five days, now takes longer to cure.

Due to increasing pollution, the amount of people reaching hospitals complaining of difficulty in breathing has increased by about 15 per cent.

Vaishnavi, a resident of Noida's Sector 93, said that her 7-year-old son has been sick with cold, and faces difficulty in breathing since the past few months. She added that they visited several doctors who prescribed different medicines but to no avail.



Children are falling prey to pneumonia due to increase in cold and pollution. Those who have not been vaccinated are at a greater risk of falling ill. Pediatrician Dr D.K. Gupta said that children suffering from pneumonia are being admitted in the OPD and that identification of its symptoms in time can ensure treatment to save them. Gupta said that children need special care in the winter season as they are at a larger risk of pneumonia.

He suggested that some preventive measures that can be taken to ensure children's safety are to keep them fully clothed and to keep their ears covered to protect them from cold. He added that wheezing in the chest can be a sign of pneumonia in children. Droplets spread in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. When a healthy person breathes them in, they become infected. Regular vaccination of children was affected during the pandemic which resulted in their course of vaccine remaining uncompleted. Lung infection is caused by bacteria, virus and fungal infection. Cold, on the other hand, is a type of allergy, which results in a runny nose and mucus in the throat.

Sukhu takes oath as 15th Himachal CM

Shimla | Agencies

Risen from the ranks with no political dynasty, but wide organisational experience, four-time Congress legislator Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, 58, who throughout his political career was not on the same page with the party's tallest leader Virbhadra Singh, took oath of office on Sunday as the 15th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh amidst huge crowd.

Four-time legislator Mukesh Agnihotri, 60, took the oath of office as the Deputy Chief Minister at a ceremony that lasted less than 10 minutes. Both took the oath in Hindi.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the historic Ridge here, which was delayed by 20 minutes from scheduled



at 1.30 p.m., was attended among others by party's national President Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Ministers Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, former Union ministers Anand Sharma and Pawan Bansal, besides Congress in-charge for Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Hooda. Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to them. This will be Sukhu's maiden term as the Chief Minister.



BJP STARTS PREPARATION FOR 2024 ELECTION IN UTTARAKHAND, CALLS MPS MEETING

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janta Party had started preparation for 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with its Uttarakhand in charge Dushyant Gautam calling a meeting of all MPs of the hill state in Delhi on Monday for discussions, sources said. "In-charge Dushyant Gautam will hold a meeting with all the MPs of Uttarakhand in Delhi tomorrow (Monday). Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will also attend the meeting. The meeting will be held at the house of former CM Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' before 8 p.m.," a party source said. "Brainstorming will be done regarding the programmes



decided in the recently-held national office bearers meeting regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections." After landslide win in the Gujarat Assembly election, the BJP has started staking

claim to win the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The saffron party has also started preparations for the Assembly elections to be held in 2023, as these will determine which party may have an edge in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Delhi liquor case: CBI questions Kavitha for over 7 hours

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) questioned Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K. Kavitha in Delhi liquor scam case for more than seven hours at her residence in Hyderabad.

A team of CBI officials examined the Member of Legislative Council (MLC) of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) at her Banjara Hills residence about the facts she may be acquainted with in the case.

The officials, including a woman, arrived in two vehicles amid tight security around 11 a.m. and the questioning started soon after.

The CBI recorded Kavitha's statement under Section 160 of Criminal Procedure Code.

The central agency team left the place after 6 p.m. There was no official word about the questioning. Kavitha's office is likely to issue a statement.

The surroundings of Kavitha's house were deserted before the arrival of the CBI officials as she had requested her supporters and BRS leaders and workers not to gather there. Barricades were erected to prevent any gathering. BRS sources said this was done as a gathering might be seen as an attempt to create hurdles in the CBI investigation.

The CBI, in its notice to Kavitha, had mentioned that the case was registered on the basis of written complaint received from Praveen Kumar Rai, Director in the



Union Home Ministry against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia and 14 others regarding the allegations pertaining to excise policy of Delhi for 2021-22.

"During the course of investigation of the subject cited case, certain facts have emerged which you may be acquainted with, hence your examination on such facts is required in the interest of investigation," reads the CBI notice. On November 30, Kavitha's name had surfaced in the remand report filed by the ED in a Delhi court on Wednesday for remand of businessman Amit Arora in Delhi liquor policy scam. According to the remand report, businessman Vijay Nair, who has already been arrested in the case, received kickbacks of

Rs 100 crore on behalf of AAP leaders from a group, called 'South Group', controlled by Sarath Reddy, Kavitha and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy.

Sarath Reddy, one of the directors of pharma major Aurobindo Pharma, has already been arrested.

Srinivasulu Reddy is a member of Parliament belonging to Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Kavitha had initially agreed to the CBI's request to meet them on December 6. However, she later wrote a letter to the agency seeking copies of the complaint from the Union Home Ministry and the FIR. In reply, the CBI informed her that a copy of FIR and complaint is available on the website. Kavitha, in her response on December 5, conveyed to the central agency that she had carefully gone through the content of the FIR, list of accused persons as well as the contents of the complaint but found that her name does not figure in any manner whatsoever. She had conveyed to the central agency that she is not in a position to meet them on December 6 and proposed alternate dates.

The CBI informed Kavitha on December 6 that a team will visit her residence in Hyderabad on December 11 for her examination and recording of her statement in connection with the investigation in the case. The central agency has asked her to confirm availability on the said date and time. Kavitha sent a reply the same day confirming her availability on the day.

Cannons dug out by Navy in Kolkata could be over two centuries old

Kolkata | Agencies

The Indian Navy may have dug up cannons nearly 250-year-old from the Hooghly riverbank in Kolkata. Two of these cannons are presently on display at INS Netaji Subhas, the Navy office in the city. Two more will be mounted soon while the fifth is still in the process of being dug out. "We have acquired some land near Dahi Ghat in the city. While excavating the riverbank there, we found the five cannons. It is possible that a ship-building facility existed there. It seems that the cannons were meant to be mounted on ships. We have not yet sought expert advice but these could be of World War I vintage or older," Captain Joydeep Chakraborty, Executive Officer, INS Netaji Subhas said.

According to experts on the subject, the cannons unearthed by the Navy predate World War I by at least a century. These are apparently from an era when armies and navies began standardising the dimensions and calibres of their artillery. The British seem to have begun this process in the early



18th Century.

"From the photographs published, it seems that the cannons are Armstrong Pattern ones. In 1725, John Armstrong, as British surveyor general of ordnance, developed a standard design cannon with

specific dimensions. These cannons were robust without any decorations. Due to the specific dimensions, these cast iron 24-pounders could be built in any foundry," one of the experts said.

In 1794, the Armstrong pattern was replaced by Blomefield Pattern guns. The cannons unearthed at Dahi Ghat could also be of this pattern. Only experts on the subject can determine this after closer scrutiny. A few years ago, two similar pieces of artillery were found on the Hooghly riverbank on Strand Bank Road. After a bit of restoration and a fresh coat of paint, they are now mounted outside the Jorabagan Police station in Kolkata.

But how did these cannons reach the Hooghly riverbank? Historians say that they may have been set up there for shore defences. Sometimes, when British ships berthed along the shore, they brought down the cannons mounted on board and placed them on shore or even buried them to be retrieved later as and when required. As it is, ships entering Calcutta had to deposit their gunpowder at the Barood Ghar or magazine near Moyapur, Budge Budge so the cannons would be of no use anyway.

Delhi L-G grants sanction to prosecute main accused in 'Sulli Deals' case

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Lt. Governor V.K. Saxena has granted sanction to prosecute the main accused in the 'Sulli Deals' case, Aumkareshwar Thakur u/s 196 CrPC, said a source on Sunday.

After the order from the L-G, Delhi Police will now be able to prosecute Thakur who had allegedly created the Sulli Deals App and Sulli Deals Twitter Handle that indulged in virtual auctioning of Muslim women on social media platforms, with the aim of derogating and insulting them and the Muslim community, added the source.

The accused has prima facie committed an offence punishable u/s 153A/354A(3) IPC and 66/67 IT Act. PS Special Cell had registered the case FIR No.175/2021 dated on July 7, 2021.

According to the source, the L-G has noted that he is "of the considered view that a prima facie case is made out against the accused, and therefore sanction is granted for prosecuting the accused for the commission of the offences" detailed in the FIR. The episode of 'auctioning' Muslim women



on social media platforms in 2021 had created massive outrage and earned severe criticism from all sections of the society.

Man takes pregnant wife to hospital on vegetable cart in Bihar's Nalanda

Patna | Agencies

The reality of 'Mission 60' of Bihar health department was exposed in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's home district Nalanda on Saturday when a pregnant woman reached the Sadar hospital on a vegetable cart. The patient's husband Rajiv Prasad, a resident of Kamruddin Ganj locality of Bihar Sharif, called for an ambulance on Saturday after his wife came under labour pain.

"I repeatedly called the hospital on a toll free number for the ambulance but the employees refused to send the same. Eventually, I brought a vegetable cart to take her to Sadar hospital. After reaching the hospital, the employees did not give



stature. Hence, I took the vegetable cart inside the emergency ward," Prasad said. Such a situation is common in Bihar where people carry the dead bodies on shoulder, bicycles after the government hospital refuses to provide ambulances. Keeping this in view,

Tejashwi Yadav, the health minister of Bihar started Mission 60 to provide every district hospital with proper beds, stretchers, ambulance, oxygen cylinders, medicines, tests and other equipment free of cost to reduce the burden of medical hospitals of the state.

PRIYANKA TO LEAD ALL-WOMEN MARCH IN EACH STATE CAPITAL

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will lead an all-women march in each state capital and read out a 'women's manifesto' as the Congress gears up to take Bharat Jodo Yatra to booth level.

The party will start its preparatory meetings for this from December 15 at the state level and then district and block level.

Apart from Priyanka's women march, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will start at the booth level in one month's time. The yatris will distribute a letter written by Rahul Gandhi and a charge sheet against the BJP government to every person.

After the Yatra, a block level convention will be held in each district to be attended by the state president and senior state Congress leaders.

After all the districts in the state have convened the meetings, there will be a state level workers' conven-



tion followed by rallies in each state to be addressed by the state Congress President and former Congress

President.

The party's 'haath jodo' programme will start from January 26 for

the next two months as the party has called the plenary session in Raipur in February.

The Congress programme will be telecast live on giant screens and will be shown at important places across each state. The UP Congress has begun the 'Bharat Jodo Yatras' to mobilise the cadres for party leader Rahul Gandhi's yatra, which is scheduled to enter the state early January, party sources said.

The yatra will begin from Barabanki on Sunday and will reach Lucknow on Monday.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Zonal President Nakul Dubey, in a press statement, said the UPCC would be taking out six state-level yatras from different places in the state.

"The yatra from Barabanki will culminate in Hardoi on December 21 after covering various districts," he added. The Congress plenary is planned for three days in Raipur followed by a mega rally.

Cyclone 'Mandous' effect: 5 dead, thousands find refuge in shelter homes

Chennai | Agencies

With heavy rain pounding many parts of Tamil Nadu after Cyclone 'Mandous' touched the land, five people were left dead and 10,000 people were lodged in shelter homes.

Tamil Nadu revenue department officials told IANS that around 300 houses were damaged in the rain after Cyclone 'Mandous' struck, and 169 shelters have been set up in Chennai and its suburbs.

The red alert announced in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu continued for Sunday also. The Tamil Nadu government is likely to declare a holiday for the schools and other educational institutions, including colleges on Monday also considering the heavy damages caused by the cyclone.

More than 500 trees were uprooted during the cyclone and the Greater Chennai Corporation officials removed them by Sunday morning. The Hindustan Petroleum Outlet on Pantheon Road, Chennai was damaged after a huge banyan tree crashed on it. However, workers were unhurt as the banyan tree crashed on the outlet just after the workers had closed the pump and left.

The Greater Chennai Police were



also involved in clearing the trees that were uprooted during the cyclone. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Chief

Minister M.K. Stalin told the media persons that proper preparation and planning for the Cyclone 'Mandous'

has led to the concerned departments swinging into action and thus reducing the damage.

Police arrest Sharmila, taken to Hyderabad hospital

Hyderabad | Agencies

Hyderabad Police have arrested YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) president Y.S. Sharmila, who was on indefinite fast, and shifted her to a hospital.

With the condition of Sharmila deteriorating, the police entered her residence at Lotus Pond in Jubilee Hills around 1 a.m. on Sunday and took her to Apollo Hospital.

Sharmila was on indefinite fast since Friday to protest against the denial of police permission for her Praja Sangram Padyatra.

YSRTP said Sharmila, who was on an indefinite fast since Friday morning, did not even consume water, which resulted in her health deteriorating rapidly.

Doctors from Apollo Hospital, who were earlier monitoring her health stated that Sharmila's blood pressure and glucose levels have fallen down to alarming levels, and expressed concern over dehydration which could lead to electrolyte imbalance, potent enough to pose danger to her kidneys.

Telangana Police forced the media personnel, party



leaders and cadres to move away from the location before she was forcefully shifted.

The YSRTP leader had earlier made it clear that she would continue her fast till the police gave permission for the padyatra.

Sharmila was detained by the police on Friday after she sat on the fast at Dr

Ambedkar's statue at Tank Bund in the heart of the city. She was dropped at her residence. She along with her supporters began the fast on a road near their residence.

She was detained again and was forced to move into the house. The YSRTP leader then started her fast in the house. Her mother also joined her in solidarity.



WHO BACKS PLAN TO TURN CITY OF LAKES INTO A 'HEALTHY CITY'



Sundeep Pouranik | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal is called the 'city of lakes', for which, the World Health Organization (WHO) has started preparations to make it a 'healthy city'.

According to WHO, the concept of a healthy city is native to the countries in Europe, but will be implemented in many cities of India, if deemed successful here.

Collector Avinash Lavania said that the Bhopal Health City Programme is based on five pillars, namely: water, sanitation, environment, food and health and is being implemented in collaboration with National Health Mission (NHM), Madhya Pradesh, Swasthya System Parivartan Manch (HSTP) and Swasti.

A meeting of the departments and social workers was held wherein it was said that Bhopal had better health indicators than other cities.

The health organisation, Swasti, found in a research that the city was the one with maximum potential one for the project.

According to the criteria set to achieve the target, alongside work on the set goals, the quality of the city's food and the identification and prevention of diseases caused by them will be worked on.

While the plan may take up to eight years to complete, those present at the meeting called for improving the

quality of street food. Emphasis was laid on improving the sewage system, drinking water supply and making the citizens aware of cleanliness.

The city faces many challenges including Tobacco and alcohol consumption, prevalence of malnutrition and obesity, road safety and civic sense, air pollution and behavioural aspects which will be tackled in the project. Abbas Hafeez, Congress' Media department Vice Chairman took a jibe at BJP and said that the party was all talk and did not care about implementing their announcements. He added that the city's unfortunate condition in 18 years of BJP rule was apparent and could not be hidden.

He expressed doubt on whether and for how long the capital would be able to hold on to its identity of being the city of lakes. Hafeez stated how long would the saffron party continue looting the public in the garb of the project. A BJP leader said that the condition of the state before 2003 was known to everyone, where the roads had turned into potholes and cries for water were omnipresent.

He added that his party emphasised on ensuring better facilities for the public and claimed that the roads and the electricity system at present in the state had made people's lives comfortable.

He accused the Congress party of false allegations.

Whether you get credit or not, don't stop giving your best: Shivraj Singh Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that whether credit is received or not, do not stop giving your best. A person can achieve everything by his vow and continuous effort. Srimad Bhagvat Gita and Swami Vivekananda have been the main sources of inspiration for us. Swami Vivekananda's thoughts 'Man is a part of God and a storehouse of immortal powers' fill us with enthusiasm and enthusiasm. Addressing the 'Pride of Madhya Pradesh-2022' program of a media group at Kushabhau Thackeray Auditorium, Chief Minister Chouhan said, "The state has made remarkable contri-

butions in the fields of social service, education, health, employment, small scale industries, infrastructure development etc. 41 participants from the donor state were felicitated.

Chief Minister Chouhan told the respected participants that your contribution is helpful in the progress and development of the people of the state and the state. The achievements made by you are a matter of pride and pride for the state. The state will progress only if people like you, who belong to villages, towns and small towns, move forward.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the country has created its own special image in the world. Today no power in

the world can ignore India. India has got a wonderful opportunity to chair the G-20. Some meetings of this conference will also be held in Madhya Pradesh. Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan and Global Investors Summit are also going to be held in the state in January-2023. This is an important opportunity for the state to leave its mark at the global level and determine the path of the future. The state government is committed to make the best use of these opportunities.

Chief Minister Chouhan honored the participants of Sagar, Ujjain, Chhatarpur, Khandwa, Mhow, Narmadapuram, Khargone, Mandasaur, Vidisha, Burhanpur, Gwalior, Ratlam, Jabua and Javra with awards.

Indore Municipal Corporation will issue green bond public issue

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's commercial city Indore has made its mark among the cleanest cities of the country, in this city now a 60 MW solar project is being set up at Jalud Pumping Station for better use of solar energy. Green bond public issues are being issued by the Municipal Corporation for this project. Regarding the green bond public issue to be issued by the Municipal Corporation, Indore Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the residence office and informed about the initiative of IMC. Bhargava said that this bond issued by any urban body would be the first green bond in the country.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was told that at present about Rs 25 crore per month is spent on electricity, drinking water pumping and supply by the Indore Municipal Corporation. To reduce this, Indore Municipal Corporation is setting up a 60 MW solar project at Jalud Pumping Station at a cost of about Rs 305 crore. These bonds will be issued at the



rate of about 8.25 percent. This is a green project, the cost of which will be met by issuing green bonds. It is proposed to be done through public issue. Bhargava informed that the proposed bond has been assigned AA+ rating by India Ratings and AA rating by CARE Ratings, which is considered best in the category. An interest subsidy of Rs 20 crore will be received from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which is approximately 1.5 per cent. The proposed solar project is also registered in the Carbon Mechanism, due to which the corporation will also earn an additional income of about Rs 84 lakh annually.

CONTROVERSY OVER FARMER LOAN WAIVER AGAIN IN MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Even though less than a year is left for the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the phase of political maneuvering has already started. On the statement of loan waiver, even the political dispute has intensified. The Congress got power in the state assembly elections held in the year 2018 and the main reason for this was the announcement of loan waiver for the farmers. Kamal Nath's government lasted for about 15 months and the government fell due to the rebellion of the MLAs under the leadership of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Now that the elections are round the corner, Congress state president and former chief minister Kamal Nath has once again made a bet of loan waiver for farmers.

Former Chief Minister Kamal Nath has said that the farmer loan waiver scheme, which was stopped by the Shivraj government, will be started



again as soon as the Congress government is formed in Madhya Pradesh.

Politics has heated up in the state after the former Chief Minister's loan waiver statement and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reminded

Rahul Gandhi's statement in which Gandhi had announced to change the Chief Minister if loan waiver was not done within 10 days. Chief Minister Chouhan says that he had promised to waive the loan in 10 days, when he was given a chance for

a year and a half, he could not do it, now he has come again to say that he will do it. The wooden pot is raised once, not again and again, the public knows their truth.

He further said in a poetic way, don't talk here and there, tell why the loan was not waived in 10 days.

In the last elections in the state, the Congress had promised to waive the loan of farmers up to two lakhs, but the government fell within 15 months. After that the figures regarding loan waiver have come out, it has been said that loans of 27.5 lakh farmers were waived off. This figure was presented in the House by Kamal Patel, the Agriculture Minister of the state government.

Now once again both the political parties are face to face on farmer loan waiver and have also started trying to reach out to the farmers. The BJP has even started the Kisan Gaurav Yatra, while the Congress is preparing to go from village to village.

Chief Minister Chouhan plants saplings with mountaineers on International Mountain Day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Vikram Award winner Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha and other mountaineers planted saplings on International Mountain Day on December 11. CM Chouhan planted saplings of Kadamba, Banyan and Sarika Indica in the Smart City Garden. Among the mountaineers, Bhavna Daheria, Anjana Yadav, Sarvshri Bhagwan Singh, Ankit Sen, Ankit Kumar, Aditya Narang, Saurabh Kushwaha, Ritesh, Amit Kushwaha, Neeraj Daheria and Amit Vishwakarma also planted



saplings. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, girl child Sandhya Chouhan planted sapling on her

birthday. Girl's father Brijendra Singh Chouhan and sister Sandhya were also with her.

ANUBHUTI PROGRAM IN VAN VIHAR

Bhopal : Anubhuti program will be held on December 12 at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal. 120 students and their teachers are participating in it. In the Anubhuti program, students will be made to experience the ecological process while being face-to-face with nature.

Anubhuti program will start at 7 am. In this, with the help of Madhya Pradesh Eco Resource Person, important information about bird watching, trees and plants will be given. By giving information about butterfly and snake, they will be introduced to various activities of the forest by taking them on a nature tour. Various ecological processes such as food chain migration and exchange of messages between animals and birds will be made aware through sports activities.

BJP should adopt Gujarat model in Madhya Pradesh also: MLA

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP MLA Narayan Tripathi, who has always been in discussions for controversial statements in Madhya Pradesh, has written a letter to the party's national president JP Nadda, demanding the state to move forward on the lines of Gujarat. In a letter written to Nadda, Tripathi congratulated the party for its historic victory in Gujarat and urged that the small workers in Madhya Pradesh are always



well-wishers of the party and want the state to form a government again on the lines of Gujarat. For this, there should be a complete change in the power and organization so that a new era can

begin in the state.

Tripathi has said in his letter that there is 'anti-incumbency' in the state and new people should be given an opportunity to end it. Along with this, the power and the organization should be operated with the new methodology. He has further said that a complete change in power and organization is necessary for the BJP government to be formed again in the state and the pace of development and public welfare can continue uninterrupted.

State government committed for the welfare of tribals: Chief Minister Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad and Ashram are doing wonderful work for the tribals. Tribal society is our integral part. This is a wonderful society. Chief Minister Chouhan was inaugurating the building of Educational and Multipurpose Skill Development Center located at MP Nagar of Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad, Bhopal. Chief Minister Chouhan also unveiled the statue of Tanyta Mama in the campus.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the state government is committed for the welfare of the tribals. PESA Act has been implemented in the state with social harmony. Statues of all our tribal heroes are being installed. Recently the statue of Tanyta Mama has been installed in Indore Bhanwarkuan. Conspiracy regarding religious conversion will not be allowed to run on the land of the state. Tribal land will not be allowed to be grabbed by conspiracy.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the tribal society is being empowered by implementing the PESA Act in the state. The right has been given



for the produce of the forest along with the land. If someone is taken out for wages, then the Gram Sabha will have to be informed. Many similar powers have been given to the Gram Sabha. To

implement the PESA Act, cooperation of Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad and Ashram is required. Social, economic, educational empowerment is being done. The help given by Indian Oil will be put to

full use. If the government and society work together, better success will be achieved. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan expressed gratitude to Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad and Ashram. Sir Karyavah Dattatreya Hosabale said that the tribal community has an invaluable contribution in the development of the country's culture. Vanvasi Parishad is inaugurating the building of very useful skill development center for tribal society, which will be useful in the upliftment of tribals. In the history of India, the contribution of tribal society in every field has not been less than any other society. There is no dearth of talent among the forest dwellers. The knowledge of agriculture, tantric knowledge, health etc. is abundant in the tribes. Exhibition of works of tribal class should also be organized in different areas. He said that we stood for the tribal brothers and sisters and were ready to provide all kinds of help to them. Try to preserve and develop their art, folk art and tradition, which will help them to connect with the society with self-confidence. We have to move forward by taking all the societies along. Madhya Pradesh green and clean by making zero carbon emissions.

LIST OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION OF PRIMARY TEACHER CANDIDATES WILL BE RELEASED TILL DECEMBER 30

Bhopal : The online recruitment process of the candidates found qualified in the Primary Teacher Eligibility Test, 2020 has been started from 17 November 2022. For the recruitment of primary teachers, 7,429 posts of School Education Department and 11,098 posts of Tribal Affairs Department are to be employed through joint counseling. Commissioner Public Education Abhay Verma informed that the proposed list for document verification of candidates found eligible for primary teacher planning 2022-23 will be uploaded on the portal by December 30, 2022. Candidates can keep checking the portal trc.mponline.gov.in for updated information.

In relation to this online recruitment process, the Madhya Pradesh State School Education Service (Academic Cadre), Service Conditions and Recruitment Rules 2018 and detailed rules for filling the vacant posts of primary teachers in accordance with the amendments made in these rules from time to time. All details of instructions, process, vacancies, reservation qualification etc. M.P. The online portal is available at



EDITOR'S SPECS

With Sukhu's elevation Congress tries to cull nepotism charge

With Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu taking oath as the Chief Minister in Himachal Pradesh, the Congress has tried to emerge out of the shadows of Virbhadra Singh's family that had been at the forefront in the party's state politics for decades. Sukhu's swearing-in ceremony was attended by senior Congress leaders including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He said, "the government will try to fulfill all the promises made at earliest." The elevation of Sukhu is seen as the party's efforts to cull nepotism and the charge of promoting families. The newly sworn-in Himachal chief minister comes from a very humble beginning and has risen from the ranks. That is why the party chose Sukhu in place of Pratibha Singh, who is from the royal family and wife of Late Virbhadra Singh, said sources. With no political dynasty, but wide organisational experience, four-time Congress legislator Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, 58, throughout his political career was not on the same page with the party's tallest leader Virbhadra Singh. Four-time legislator Mukesh Agnihotri, 60, took the oath of office as the Deputy Chief Minister at a ceremony that lasted less than 10 minutes. Both took the oath in Hindi. Anand Sharma in his tweet mentioned the humble beginning, "Congratulations to Sukhvinder Sukhu on becoming the next Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Richly deserved recognition of his life long commitment to the Congress party and acknowledged contribution." Sharma said he was grateful that the party leadership had taken a democratic decision and chosen the one who has risen from the ranks.

SHEHBAZ SHARIF INSULTS POJK PM: LEGACY OF COLONIAL OCCUPATION

On Monday, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) premier Tanveer Ilyas got into a verbal spat in Mirpur at an event which was held to mark the completion of refurbishment of Units 5 and 6 of the Mangla Dam hydroelectric power plant.

Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza

Ilyas interrupted Sharif's speech complaining that the latter did not mention about the sacrifices of the people of Mirpur who had been displaced to give land for the construction of Mangla Dam in 1965. After concluding his speech, Sharif left the venue in a hurry and when Ilyas tried to get close to him he was manhandled and pushed by the Pakistan Prime Minister's security personal. This has led to widespread protests all over PoJK. During the early hours of morning on December 6 youth from Jammu & Kashmir Students Lives Matter (JKSLM) began to gather outside the Central Press club in Muzaffarabad. At around 11 a.m., JKSLM students started raising slogans against Sharif demanding an apology for his 'colonial' behaviour. By around 1 p.m. large crowds of civil society members as well as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers arrived at the Central Press Club and set tires on fire. At about the same time protests of similar nature began to spread across PoJK. Ilyas held a press conference in which he accused his Pakistani counterpart of being irritable and irrational claiming that Sharif "did not even put in a good word for the people of Mirpur who had submerged the graves of their near and dear ones twice for the construction and raising of Mangla dam... instead of offering anything he made announcements for development projects in (Khyber Paktunkhwa)". This is not the first time that a head of state of PoJK has been snubbed of given a shut up call by a Pakistani head of state. Sardar Ibrahim, the first president of PoJK, was also arrested in 1950s on



charges of treason. During the 1960s when the land in Mirpur was being marked for the construction of Mangla dam the then military dictator of Pakistan General Ayub Khan and PoJK president K.H. Khurshid surveyed Mirpur during a helicopter ride. Khurshid asked General Ayub Khan if it was possible to shift the construction site away from Mirpur to save the most fertile land in the region. Ayub Khan told the PoJK president to

mind his own business. Khurshid, who also happened to be the first elected head of state of PoJK, was later forced to resign through an engineered vote of no-confidence and on August 5, 1964 when his presidency came to an abrupt end. Later he was arrested and sent to Dalai camp. He was stripped and kept naked for 15 days. Khurshid died in 1988 in a road accident. Another president of PoJK,

Sardar Qayyum, was arrested in Kotli by the Bhutto government and kept in Panderi jail. He was charged with treason. Chaudhary Noor Hussain, former president of PoJK and father of the current President Sultan Mahmood, was arrested and accused of writing a letter to India for help. Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas of the Muslim Conference, who was made the supreme head of PoJK in 1949, was also arrested at one point during the 1950s by Pakistan. Hence, the treatment that PoJK's current prime minister has been given is nothing alien to the political history of the occupied territory. It is a manifestation of a cruel and ugly reality that confirms that my people are living under the legacy of colonial oppression of Pakistan. The irony is that even after being treated like dirt the ruling classes of PoJK still try to win the favour of their occupier. Therefore, even after the recent spate of insult that Ilyas has been awarded with, he still claims that Pakistan is dear to him than his own life. Despite derogatory treatment being received from Pakistan from Khurshid to Ilyas all heads of states of PoJK were and remain loyal to the hateful jihadi ideology of Jinnah's two-nation theory. The only social force that can help liberate PoJK from shame, humiliation and the continuous occupation of Pakistan is therefore the common people of the occupied land. (Dr Amjad Ayub Mirza is an author and a human rights activist from Mirpur in PoJK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.)

international

HUGE HUMAN TOLL IS FEARED AS ZERO-COVID CONTROLS DISMANTLED IN CHINA

London | Agencies

Beijing's abrupt dismantling of zero-Covid controls has been welcomed by economists, even as the country braces itself for the human impact of letting the disease spread through a vulnerable population, media reports said. The leadership's abrupt U-turn on how it handles the pandemic appears to have been triggered by protests against controls that began last month, a nationwide show of discontent on a scale China had not seen in decades, The Guardian reported. Nearly one in five young people in cities are unemployed. Small and medium businesses have been particularly badly hit by the uncertainty, and the impact of unpredictable and often long-lasting shutdowns of entire cities. But almost no one has been exempt. The founder of Foxconn, a key Apple supplier, had warned



Beijing that controls threatened China's place in the global supply chain, the Wall Street Journal reported. The IMF's Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva, welcomed the "decisive" steps by Chinese authorities in "recalibrating Covid policies", and said they could boost the regional international economy. "This can be very good for the Chinese people and economy, and also good for Asia and the world economy," she said after a summit in China's eastern Huangshan city. Premier Li Keqiang, who hosted the

discussions, had conspicuously abandoned masks and social distancing, The Guardian reported. On social media, public information videos showed smiling men and women taking off the face coverings that have been compulsory for years. It was a whiplash-inducing reversal from years of messaging that the only way to stay safe was to avoid Covid, through extreme lockdown measures if necessary. For years, an increasingly fierce system of controls held increasingly infectious strains of disease at bay. Medical experts say that was a wasted window of opportunity to protect the population and prepare the healthcare system for a wave of sick patients, The Guardian reported. The big challenge facing the leadership now is whether it can limit case numbers and deaths. China is an ageing country, with vaccination and booster rates lagging far behind what is needed to limit severe illness.

5 killed, 28 injured as bus turns turtle in Afghanistan

Kabul | Agencies



Five passengers were killed and 28 others injured as a passenger bus turned turtle in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province on Sunday. The road accident occurred

outside the provincial capital city of Kunduz early morning due to reckless driving, Xinhua News Agency reported quoting police. Confirming the accident, provincial head for information and culture Matiullah Rohani told reporters that the injured travellers had been taken to the hospital for medical treatment. While blaming carelessness of the driver for the deadly traffic accident, Rohani said related authorities would take steps to ensure highway traffic safety.

8 DEAD, 1 INJURED AFTER FLOOD SWEEPS PASSENGER CAR AWAY IN PHILIPPINES

Manila | Agencies



Manila: Eight passengers, including a five-year-old girl, died in Rizal province of the Philippines after a flash flood swept a passenger car. Patrolman Jason Benitez of the Tanay town police told Xinhua that the accident happened before 9 p.m. local time on Saturday, while the jeepney carrying 25 passengers was crossing a river travelling north to a village from the town. Norberto Francisco Matienzo, chief of the Tanay Municipal Disaster Reduction Management Office, said the jeepney got stuck in the middle of the river when it was swept away by a flash flood, Xinhua News Agency reported. He added that seven others who died from the accident were over 60 years old while another one was injured. The elongated, flatbed passenger jeepneys are the most popular mode of public transport in the Philippines. These iconic vehicles have been plying on the streets of the Philippines since World War II. However, many accidents in the Southeast Asian country are blamed on these poorly maintained vehicles made up of second-hand car parts.

INDIAN 'PLOGGER' ON MISSION TO CLEAN 30 UK CITIES

London | Agencies

An Indian environmentalist, who founded the world's first community-led plogging campaign -- an eco-movement where people pick up street litter as they jog -- is on a mission to clean up 30 cities in 30 days across the UK. Over the past year, Vivek Gurav and his team of volunteers picked up 5,000 kg of rubbish, including 3,000 kg of plastic, all while out running in Bristol. "I have only been plogging in Bristol but I kept getting asked by people in Manchester, Leeds, Derby, to come plogging there," Vivek, a student of University of Bristol, said in a statement. "So I decided to do a plogging challenge across 30 UK cities," said Vivek, who started his plogging tour on December 10, beginning with Cardiff



and Swansea cities. The former app developer began plogging in Pune in 2018 and didn't want to stop when he left India in September 2021, to take up a University of Bristol scholarship. Since then, the 26 year-old has covered 420 miles on 120 plogging 'missions', and has been joined by volunteers from 180 countries. His efforts saw him featured on the BBC One Show and pick up the "Points of Light Award" from then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson. In October, he was invit-

ed to 10 Downing Street by PM Rishi Sunak and in November he spoke at COY17 -- the youth version of COP27. Vivek, who is studying for a masters degree in environmental policy and management, said he wants to inspire people so they could "start their own groups". "Ultimately, I want to set-up a UK-wide plogging community like I did back in India. So, if I can go out plogging across the UK, orientate people, give them a blueprint, then they can start their own groups," Vivek said in a statement released by University of Bristol. He hopes to be joined by fellow ploggers, environmentalists and keen runners as he visits each city via public transport. Vivek will be plogging in Derby, Nottingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Leicester, Birmingham and Worcester.

6 IS militants, civilian killed in clash in Iraq

Baghdad: Six Islamic State (IS) militants and a civilian were killed during a clash in Iraq's Salahudin province, north of the capital Baghdad, the Iraqi military said. Iraqi soldiers, paramilitary fighters from the government-backed Hashd Shaabi, and civilians teamed up in the clash with the IS militants besieging them in the Tulul al-Baj area in northern Salahudin, the media office of the Iraqi Joint Operations Command said in a statement on Saturday. The six IS militants killed in the clash included two suicide bombers, it added. Over the past months, Iraqi security forces have conducted operations against extremist militants to crack down on their intensified activities, Xinhua news agency reported.

Chile issues alert after Lascar volcano spits ash

Santiago | Agencies



Chile authorities issued an alert after Lascar volcano in the Andes belched ash 6,000m (almost 20,000ft) into the sky. Lascar, which rumbled into action on Saturday triggering minor earth tremors, was first noticed around midday by residents of Talabre, a small town located less than 12 km from the volcano, The BBC reported. Though Lascar emitted giant cloud of smoke comprising volcanic ash and hot gases, no damage has been reported. However, an initial green warning was raised to yellow which means that the volcano is unstable. According to Chile's National Geology and Mining Service (Sernageomin), the classification also means experts are monitoring a site for minor explosions and appearances of smoke.



PM MODI LAUNCHES INFRA PROJECTS WORTH RS 75K CRORE IN NAGPUR

Team Absolute | Nagpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched infrastructure projects worth Rs 75,000 crore in Nagpur on Sunday and asserted that this has been "possible due to the efforts of the double engine government".

Prime Minister Modi, addressing a huge public gathering after inaugurating the ambitious Samruddhi Mahamarg connecting Nagpur and Shirdi, said that the development projects were "stalled but the new government took them up seriously and laid the roadmap for a prosperous state".

He called for a permanent solution with long-term vision for the overall development of the country.

The Prime Minister termed the outcome of Gujarat assembly elections as the victory of the present government's long-term vision to develop the country.

Ridiculing the Opposition, he cited the Hindi phrase - 'Aamdani Athani Kharcha Rupaiya', and said, "If this principle is followed in our politics, the consequences would be a bleak picture of the economy of the coun-



try. The country today does not believe in the concept of shortcuts. Voters know the implications of shortcuts and they also know what is good for them in the long run."

He also appealed to all to "expose" such parties and politicians who are "trying to damage the country's economy".

Prime Minister Modi virtually blamed the previous government for delaying the projects. Citing example of Inter-District Irrigation Project of

Gosikhurd which was conceived for a mere Rs 400 crore, is "now worth Rs 18,000 crore due to inordinate delay of thirty years". The Central government upgraded it to a National Irrigation Project and funded it, he said. Referring to landslide victory in Gujarat, he said there are no shortcuts and there should be permanent stability for the development.

"Shortcut is not the way for development. Some people are indulging in shortcuts to achieve power. It is not a

solution." Chief Minister Eknath Shinde described the Expressway (Samruddhi Mahamarg) as a game changer and green corridor where even wildlife movement has been taken care off.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that he is "proud to be associated with the establishment of Maharashtra State Road Development Authority (MSRDC)" which was entrusted with the construction of the expressway.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis announced on the occasion that a plan is ready for laying the expressway from Nagpur to Goa via Marathwada and modernisation of Nagpur Airport in the immediate future. The Prime Minister will be invited within a month for Airport modernisation, he said.

Fadnis also thanked the Prime Minister Office for speedy disposal of files related to various projects in Maharashtra.

He further said that land has been kept reserved to lay railway lines for running semi-high speed freight trains from Nagpur to Mumbai which will reduce the time.

Man Wanted In 30-Year-Old Rioting Case Arrested

The Mumbai police have arrested a 47-year-old man wanted in connection with a riot case of 1992, an official said on Sunday.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Based on technical inputs, the police laid a trap and apprehended the accused from Dindoshi bus depot in the western suburb of Malad on Friday, the official said.

The accused was wanted in a case of rioting that occurred in the jurisdiction of Dindoshi police in 1992, he said.

The police had named nine accused in the first information report (FIR) registered at the time and filed a chargesheet.

Two of the accused were acquitted and one had died, the official said.

The remaining six accused did not appear



before the court and were declared missing and a warrant was issued against them in 2004, he said.

The arrested accused had been living in various

places in the suburbs by changing his identity for the last 18 years, the official said, adding that further probe is underway.

Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta Elevated To Supreme Court

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Justice Dipankar Datta was on Sunday elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Once he takes oath, the number of judges in the top court will go up to 28. The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice of India, is 34.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju announced Justice Datta's elevation to the top court on Twitter.

Born on February 9, 1965, Justice Datta turned 57 this year and will have a tenure till February 8, 2030, in the top court where the retire-



ment age is 65.

His name was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium then headed by Justice U U Lalit (now retired) in September last year.

CENTRE, STATE GOVERNMENTS "HAVE KEPT MUM": AADITYA THACKERAY ON BORDER ROW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena leader (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and former minister Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday targeted the Maharashtra government and the Centre over the ongoing Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute.

He also accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of failing to resolve the matter as the war of words over the status of the disputed interstate border in Belagavi continues between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

"Our vehicles (with Maharashtra registration) were vandalised at the Maharashtra-Karnataka border areas and people are being attacked, while the governments in both the states and the Centre have kept mum over the issue," alleged Aaditya.

He said that the BJP is in power in both Karnataka and Maharashtra as well as in the Centre, but it does not care to interfere and resolve the dispute. "From farmers and women to industries, everyone is bound to face a range of issues and problems because of this border dispute. There is no action taken by the Centre so far," he complained.

After the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute escalated, many untoward incidents took place in Belagavi, after which as a precautionary measure, police presence was tightened



along the border, in Belagavi's Chikkodi. Belagavi is currently part of Karnataka but is claimed by Maharashtra. As per media reports, the long-running Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute started in 1953, after the Maharashtra government objected to the inclusion of 865 villages, including Belagavi, in Karnataka.

The villages are spread across Belagavi and Karnataka's northwestern and north-eastern regions - all bordering Maharashtra. After the implementation of the State Reorganization Act, of 1956, the Maharashtra government

demanding the readjustment of its border with Karnataka. Following this, a four-member committee was formed by both states. Maharashtra government had expressed willingness to transfer 260 predominantly Kannada-speaking 260 villages, but it was turned down by Karnataka.

Now, both Karnataka and Maharashtra governments have approached the Supreme Court to expedite the matter, and the matter is still pending.

Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray also targeted the ruling state government on pending transfer of IPS and IAS and said there is a long list of pendency of senior IPS officers' transfer.

"There is a clear interference from the MLAs. Officials in the municipal corporation and other departments are being transferred thrice, and around 70 people are transferred at once. While the transfer of several IPS and IAS officers is still pending. It's only because of internal politics and groupism," alleged Aaditya Thackeray.

He also targeted the ruling Eknath Shinde government on the recent incident in which a cab driver allegedly molested a woman in a moving car and threw her toddler out of the vehicle in Palghar district, and said that there is an increase in crime against women in the state. "We must respect women. We will not tolerate this," he added.

WOMAN DIES BY SUICIDE IN PUBLIC TOILET

Thane: A 65-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by setting herself on fire in a public toilet in Thane city of Maharashtra on Saturday, police said.

The woman has been living with her daughter in Sainath Nagar after the death of her son last year.

She set herself on fire in the public toilet in the locality around noon. Local people saw smoke coming out of the toilet and rushed to the spot only to find the burnt body of a woman, the official said.

The motive behind the extreme step is under investigation, police said.

The official said the woman had attempted suicide in the past.

"I Changed My Shirt And Moved Ahead": Maharashtra Minister On Ink Attack

Team Absolute | Pune

Ink was thrown at BJP leader and Maharashtra cabinet minister Chandrakant Patil on Saturday in Pimpri Chinchwad city of Pune district over his alleged remark on Dr BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule.

A video showed that a man suddenly comes in front of Patil and throws ink at his face as the minister comes out from a building.

While addressing media persons after the incident, Patil said, "I went to distribute certificates at a university in Paithan in Devgiri district on completion of the course. They asked for more funds. Rs 12 crore is already given to them and they asked for more Rs 23 crore from the government. While sanctioning it, I said the government will surely give but you should try and collect funds from other sources. With due respect, I said that in Maharashtra, schools were started by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule and Maharshi Karve. When did I criticize Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Phule? I said they did not wait for the government's financial aid but they begged



(bheek) to start a school," he said. Giving clarification of what he meant by beg-

ging, the BJP leader said, "I come from 'dehat' (rural area), they have a problem with it. In 'dehat', even a mother says (to her child) after your father's death I begged to raise you. Does it mean she was standing with a begging bowl? When someone goes to the court and pleads to the judge for justice and says "I beg for justice", is it wrong? Is 'bheek' the wrong word?"

He said that Ambedkar and Phule did not seek government grants for educational institutions and started schools and you should also do the same. "What did I say wrong?" he asked.

Patil further said that the incident did not impact him. "Nothing can happen by splashing ink on my face. Doesn't impact me. I changed my shirt and moved ahead," he said. The Maharashtra minister further appealed to his party workers not to take law and order in hand while protesting and asked if they want to protest, then protest democratically.

He also urged Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to not to take any action against any police personnel and not to suspend them.

Kangana can't stop praising Musk as she trains guns on 'wokes'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut again heaped admiration on the new Twitter chief and second richest businessman in the world, Elon Musk, on Sunday.

The actress, who is currently busy with multiple projects in different stages of production, took to the story section of her Instagram on Sunday afternoon and posted a screenshot of Musk's tweet which showed morphed images of the old Twitter head Jack Dorsey and US President Joe Biden. The screenshot read, "Just one more lockdown my king".

Hitting at left-leaning liberals derogatorily referred to as 'wokes', Kangana wrote on the picture, "Elon alone stands against ruling government but gets no support from wokes, Wokes want you to believe that they are rebels who support an individual in a fight



against the system/state."

She then recalled the Bombay Municipal Corporation's action against her office and home in Mumbai when the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray was in power.

The actress further wrote on the picture, "When I

fought against Shiv Sena, wokes celebrated illegal demolition of my house. Wokes everywhere are the same dub and moronic."

On the work front, Kangana has a bunch of projects on hand, including 'Emergency' directed by herself, 'Tejas' and 'Tiku Weds Sheru'.

GOA'S NEW AIRPORT NAMED AFTER MANOHAR PARRIKAR

Team Absolute | Panaji

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first phase of the international airport at Mopa in north Goa today. He named the airport after late Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. Mr Parrikar died in March 2019.

"The state-of-the-art airport in Mopa will significantly improve connectivity as well as boost tourism in Goa. Manohar Parrikar International Airport is proof of the changed government thinking and approach towards infrastructure in the country today. We took the initiative to take air travel to the smallest cities in the country," PM Modi said.

The airport at Mopa in north Goa, being built at a cost of Rs 2,870 crore, will be the second facility in the state in addition to the existing airport at Dabolim.

The airport will have the capacity to handle 44 lakh passengers a year in the first phase and it will go up to one crore passengers a year after the entire project is complete.

Dabolim airport has a capacity to handle 85 lakh passengers a year, but it does not have a facility for cargo transportation, which the new airport will have.



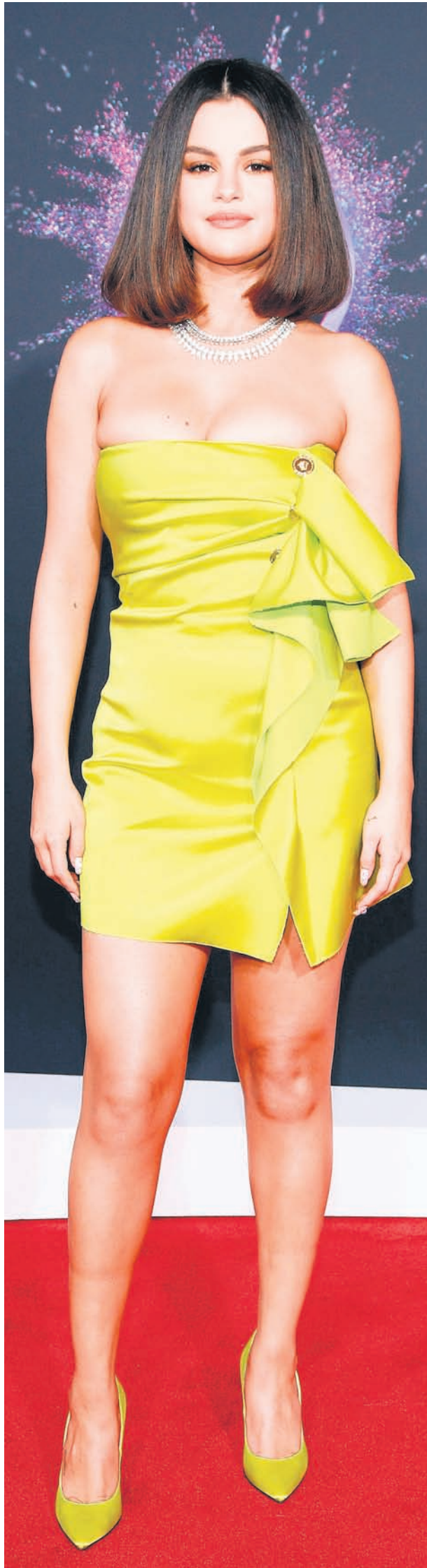
The new airport in Mopa will promote the local economy and be a major boost for tourism, as north Goa is already a popular tourist destination. Utpal Parrikar, the son of the late Chief Minister, earlier said it would be a "happy moment" if the airport was named after his father.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the airport in November 2016. GMR Goa International Airport Limited, in a series of tweets, said the facility will boost the socio-economic development of the state.

The company said 3-D monolithic precast technology has been used for

the construction of aviation skill development centre and a police station.

"5G compatible IT infrastructure has been created for better connectivity," it said, adding there is option for self-baggage drop for faster check-in.



SELENA GOMEZ OPENS ABOUT HER BATTLE WITH ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

Los Angeles | Agencies

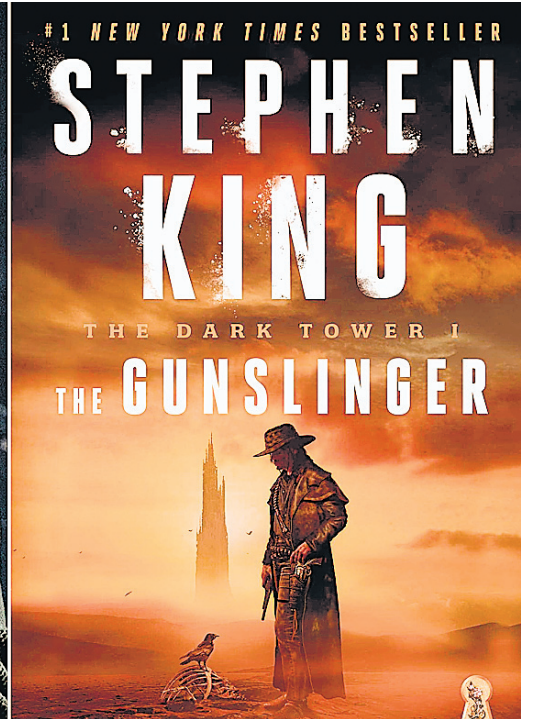
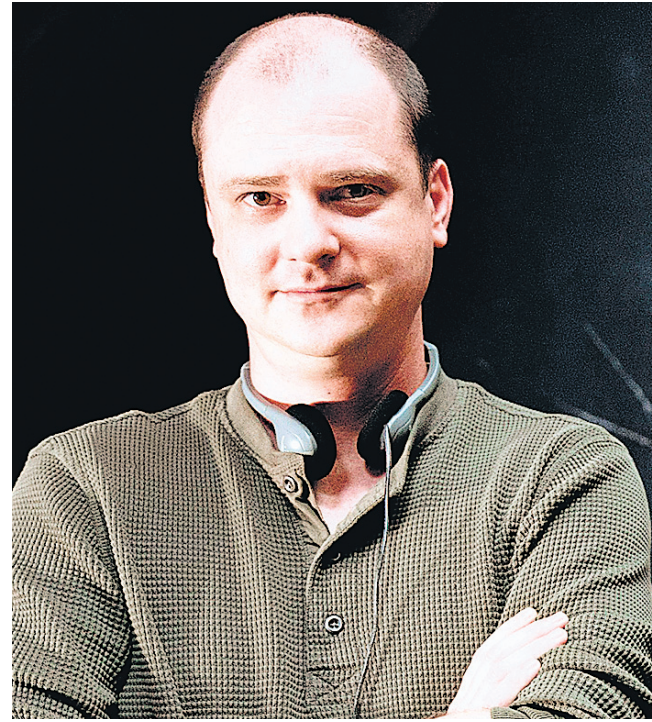
Actress Lindsay Lohan had taken a break from acting in recent years and explained it was "refreshingly exciting" to return to movies with festive romcom 'Falling for Christmas'. "It's a great movie. I wanted to make this movie because I missed being on set and I really miss bringing characters to life, and this was just the perfect script full of love, family, romance and joy all in one. I wanted to get to the point where I was craving being on set. It felt really refreshingly exciting," she said, reports.

The 'Just My Luck' star went on to add that 'Falling for Christmas', in which she plays the role of a spoiled hotel heiress who loses her memory in a skiing accident, has a "great message" which she loved being able to bring to the screen.

She added, "And it has a great message, which is that you don't really need all of the material things in life. It's good to just focus on the simple things, and I really love that."

As part of the film's soundtrack, Lindsay has recorded a version of 'Jingle Bell Rock' and explained that she was "nervous" about performing the song because she hoped fans of 'Mean Girls', which features a memorable scene in which she performs the Christmas classic in a high school talent show alongside Rachel McAdams, Lacey Chabert, and Amanda Seyfried - would enjoy it just as much. She said, "I was (nervous) because I haven't recorded in a long time and felt the pressure of doing it in a way that people who had seen 'Mean Girls' would like it the same."

"With 'Mean Girls', we had the dance behind it and I had all the other girls with me. This was just my voice. So, it was nerve-racking. But the outcome was incredible. I'm really, really happy."



Mike Flanagan to adapt 'The Dark Tower' into a series

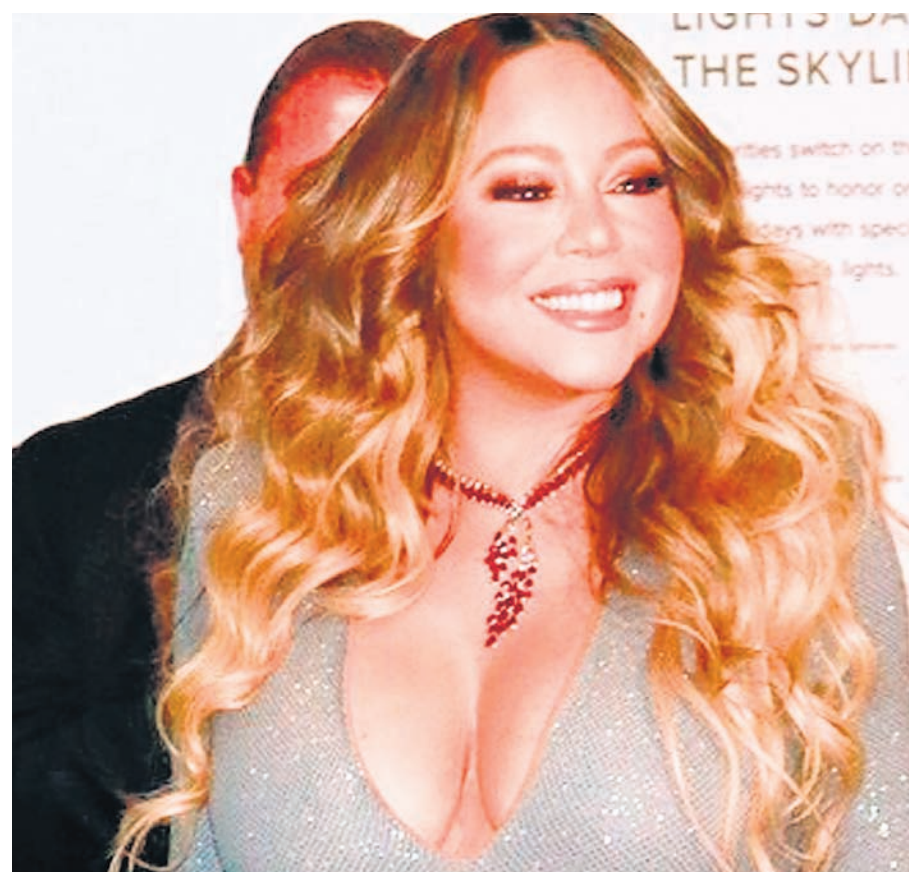
Los Angeles | Agencies

'Oculus' helmer Mike Flanagan, who is known for his knack for long-form storytelling, and has long wished to tackle Stephen King's novel saga 'The Dark Tower', is finally putting up the adaptation together, reports. In a new interview, Flanagan confirmed the news everyone's been waiting for: he's officially working on a series adaptation of 'The Dark Tower' under his Intrepid Pictures banner.

Now, this coincides with various shifting spheres in Flanagan's world -- he recently ended his deal with Netflix (set to close out with his upcoming 'The Fall Of The House Of Usher' series), and has set up a new deal at Amazon.

"Predating our deal with Amazon, we acquired the rights to 'The Dark Tower', which if you know anything about me, you know has been my Holy Grail of a project for most of my life," he said. "We actually have those rights carved out of our Amazon deal, which doesn't mean that they can't or won't get behind it at some point -- you don't know. But that's something we've been developing ourselves and are really passionate about finally getting it up on its feet at some point."

Flanagan concludes by noting: "A project like this, I wouldn't want to be involved in it at all if we were taking it in a direction that was going to be blasphemous to the Stephen King material, but he's been very, very supportive and very excited about what we'd like to do with it."



Mariah Carey's daughter joined her on stage for their first-ever duet

Los Angeles | Agencies

American pop icon Mariah 'Mimi' Carey's daughter Monroe joined her on stage for their first-ever duet of the classic hymn 'Away in a Manger' at Mimi's 'Merry Christmas to All' show. She even harmonised with Mariah as she whistled, as per reports. The performance, taking place at the Scotiabank Arena, saw the pair go back and forth with verses, as Monroe proved that she might've just picked up a few tricks from her Grammy-winning mother.

According to the reports, the heartfelt bonding moment took place on stage in front of thousands, as Mimi and Monroe -- twin sister of Moroccan, both of whom Mimi shares with former husband Nick Cannon -- sat surrounded by Christmas decorations and delivered the classic hymn. Mariah looked into her daughter's eyes throughout the performance and gave her a sweet kiss as she walked offstage.

In a video circulating on Twitter, fans can be heard cheering on Mariah's daughter. Of course, this isn't the first time Monroe has joined Mariah on stage. When she and her brother were younger, they'd join Mariah to perform 'Always Be My Baby' during her Number 1 to Infinity Las Vegas residency and at a few other shows around 2017 and 2018.

It certainly took more convincing to get the kids to sing then, but now Monroe is starting to find her sound with Carey's help.

P Diddy surprises his fans by welcoming home a baby girl

Los Angeles | Agencies

American rapper P Diddy has made a shocking announcement about his family and revealed that he recently welcomed a baby girl named Love Sean Combs.

The rapper, whose real name is Sean Combs, took to Twitter to share the amazing news with followers, reports.

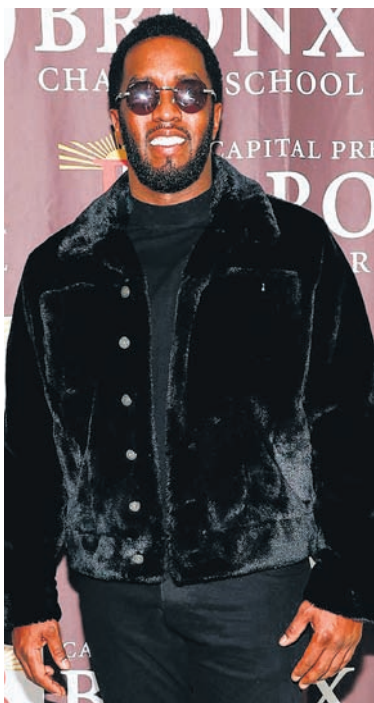
"I'm so blessed to welcome my baby girl Love Sean Combs to the world," he tweeted. "Mama Combs, Quincy, Justin, Christian, Chance, D'Lila, Jessie and myself all love you so much! God is the greatest!"

According to the reports, Love is the music producer's sixth child. He has five other children with different women. Fans were shocked by the news and took to the comment section to congratulate him and question him.

"The last season of 2022 just keeps getting better," one user said while another added: "Uhhhh congrats!"

Reports further states that it's not known who the mother of his most recent child is. His first biological child, Justin, was born in 1993 to designer Misa Hylton-Brim. He attended UCLA on a football scholarship. He had an on-off relationship with the late Kimberly Porter, which lasted from 1994 to 2007.

Diddy raised and adopted Quincy, who was born in 1991, Kim's son from a previous relationship. Kim and Diddy had a son named Christian in 1998 as well as twin daughters D'Lila Star and Jessie James.



Britney smears herself with cake

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears shared a sexy Santa dance with fans as she made a dramatic return to social media -- before adding a "disturbing" birthday cake smearing scene into the mix.

"The One More Time" singer bounced back to Instagram with a bang as she suggestively swooshed along to classic Christmas tune "Santa Baby" wearing a figure-hugging red suit paired with white knee high boots, reports. But her low-quality phone footage took a bizarre turn as she cut to a shot of her face planting a birthday cake -- before smearing the cream down the front of her outfit. The singer, who turned 41 last week, then opened up to her 41.4 million Insta followers about her absence. According to the reports, her husband Sam Asghari had previously said the platform could be "traumatising" for the star but warned fans to be wary of being "overprotective".

Breaking her silence, Britney wrote a caption that said: "30 sec to mars !!! Yep it's my b-day all week and I know my Instagram has been down a few times but honestly I did the last two times myself !!! Oops... I accidentally pressed the wrong button ... damn that stupid button."

In the caption she hinted she's already looking ahead to next year as she also reflected on her 'equal' status since being released from a controversial Conservatorship which restricted her freedoms.

Britney celebrated her birthday on December 2 and appeared to be making the most of the celebration as she planted her face in cream before continuing to 'perform' for the camera.

Fraser needed 5 ice bags daily to cool him in the suit for the movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Brendan Fraser's transformation in 'The Whale' is part of one of the most talked-about performances of the year. In the Darren Aronofsky-helmed film, Fraser plays Charlie, a house-bound 272 kg English teacher who teaches students virtually with his camera blacked out. He's also working to salvage his relationship with his estranged daughter, played by Sadie Sink, reports. Fraser gained some weight for the role, but prosthetics makeup designer Adrien Morot was tasked with transforming the actor much more dramatically. Morot relied on 3D printing technological advancements to print the suit. According to the sources, the application process eventually whittled down to four hours. For the latest Creative Collaborators, Fraser and Morot discuss their collaboration and how ice bags and a racecar driver cooling suit system kept the actor cool during the intense shoot.



Maya Jama



INDIAN BOY ARYAVER WINS SILVER IN BANGKOK RAPID CHESS MEET



Mumbai Eight-year-old Mumbai boy, Aryaveer Pittie of the American School of Bombay (ASB) won a silver medal in the Bangkok Rapid Chess Championship that concluded today at Prasarnmit Plaza Sukhumvit, Bangkok. Players across seven countries have participated in this Junior Rapid Chess Championship conducted by Red Knight Chess club, in the under-8 category. Aryaveer secured the silver medal with a creditable score of four points out of a possible six, while Suthiponpaisarn Prouditcha of Thailand secured gold with a score of 5/6, a release from the South Mumbai Chess Academy (SMCA) said.

Elated over her son's victory, Neesha Pittie, mother of Aryaveer, said they are proud of his victory and he indeed played this championship extremely well and look forward to more victories in the future. Aryaveer is a student of the South Mumbai Chess Academy (SMCA) and is currently preparing for International Rating Chess Championships to be held in New Delhi early next year.

FIFA World Cup

Giroud nets match winner as France edge England 2-1 to reach semis

Doha | Agencies

An Olivier Giroud goal twelve minutes from end helped France edge England 2-1 in a fast-paced game to set up a FIFA World Cup semi-final clash with Morocco, who sensationally beat Portugal in the other quarter-final of the day.

Aurelien Tchouameni put France ahead with a blistering long-range shot in the 17th minute at Al Bayt Stadium in Qatar on Saturday. England fans were left particularly aggrieved after calls for two suspected fouls against Bukayo Saka were dismissed in the seconds before the defending world champions opened the scoring and went into the half-time break leading 1-0.



But there wasn't much to see from France during the rest of the first half and the Englishmen returned from the break as the better team. Their pressing was rewarded with

a penalty after Saka was brought down inside the box.

Captain Kane fired a power-packed effort from the spot to level the game in the 54th and net his 53rd goal for England, equalling Wayne Rooney as the joint-highest scorer for the Three Lions.

Harry Maguire could have put England ahead in the 70th but narrowly missed the target. On the other side of the pitch, Giroud also missed from close range in the 77th, but didn't waste the next chance and headed into the net a cross from Griezmann just a minute later. A last-minute free-kick gave England a final beacon of hope but Marcus Rashford's effort beat the top corner of the net by a few centimetres.

WE CAN BE PROUD OF THIS ENGLAND TEAM: WAYNE ROONEY

Doha | Legendary footballer Wayne Rooney backed England after their quarterfinal loss to France and said the game deserved to go into extra time.



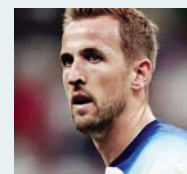
France reached the FIFA World Cup semifinal, where they will face Morocco. Rooney said that England has a young squad and should look ahead.

"It was always going to be a tight game. England showed that they are a very good team. They certainly deserved to take it to extra time," said Rooney. He added, "France have that know-how of winning the tournament and getting results maybe, when they are not at their best. So, it is a shame, for some moments, certainly for Harry Kane. He has been a leader for so many years. He will be feeling really down tonight. But we can be proud of this England team. They gave everyone hope. They still have a really young squad and should look forward to the next tournament."

I'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH PENALTY MISS, BUT I'M PROUD OF THE TEAM: KANE

Doha | England captain Harry Kane accepted responsibility for his side's defeat in the quarterfinal of the World Cup against France.

Kane, who had already levelled the score with a penalty in to cancel out Aurelien Tchouameni's 17th minute opener for France and in the 83rd minute he had another opportunity to level from the spot after Mason Mount was bundled over by Theo Hernandez, reports. This time however, Kane sent his effort high into the night sky and France held on for the win. "I can't fault my preparation or the details before the game. I felt confident taking it, just didn't execute it the way I wanted to. It will be something I have to live with and take on the chin," Kane told the BBC. "It's tough to take for me personally and the team," he added, praising England's performance which saw them have more possession and more shots on target than the French. "I couldn't be prouder of the boys. We had better spells, better chances but football comes down to small details - as the captain and the one who missed the penalty, I take responsibility for that," said Kane, who is optimistic for the future of a young squad. "The team is in a really good place and there will be highs in the future."



ENG vs PAK 2nd Test Day 3

Imam, Shakeel fifties keep Pakistan in the hunt against England



Multan | Agencies

Defiant half-centuries by Imam-ul-Haq (60) and Saud Shakeel (54 not out) revived Pakistan's chase and kept them in the hunt as they reached 198 for 4, chasing a target of 355 runs, at the end of the third day's play in the second Test, here on Sunday.

Imam and Shakeel added 108 runs for the fourth wicket before the former fell late in the day to set up an interesting finish to the second Test. At stumps, Saud was unbeaten on 54 with Faheem Ashraf on three with Pakistan still 157 runs short of their target.

Earlier, England added 73 runs to their overnight score of 5-202. Ben Stokes (41) needed 43 balls to score his first boundary and was the first to fall, holding out in the deep to trigger a collapse. Spinner Abrar Ahmed picked up his 11th wicket in his debut Test by bowling Ollie Robinson through the gate.

Overnight batter Harry Brook (108) reached his second hundred of the series before leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood (3-52) polished off the English tail to bowl out visitors for 275 in their second innings.

Chasing a 355-run target, Pakistan

had to rejig their opening pair following a hamstring niggle to Imam. They promoted the struggling Mohammad Rizwan, who hit a flurry of boundaries early in his knock to transfer the pressure back on England.

James Anderson removed Rizwan for 30 immediately after lunch with a peach of a delivery that angled in and beat the outside edge to hit off stump. Robinson produced a similarly stunning ball to dismiss Pakistan captain Babar Azam for one.

Abdullah Shafique made 45 but could not protect his off-stump from the pace and movement of Mark Wood. Imam came in at number five and revived Pakistan's chase with Saud. Having added 53 runs before tea, they continued to keep the English bowlers at bay for most of the final session, before Leach finally bagged his first wicket of the innings by removing Imam.

Thereafter, Faheem Ashraf and Shakeel dropped anchor to see through the remaining period of the day's play safely.

Brief scores: England 281 & 275 (Harry Brook 108, Ben Duckett 79; Abrar Ahmed 4-120, Zahid Mahmood 3-52) lead Pakistan 202 & 198/4 (Imam ul Haq 60, Saud Shakeel 54 not out) by 156 runs.

NEERAJ CHOPRA STARTS TRAINING IN ENGLAND AHEAD OF 2023 SEASON



New Delhi | After a successful 2022, Tokyo Olympics javelin throw gold medalist Neeraj Chopra has begun his training at Loughborough University in England, ahead of the 2023 season.

The Indian javelin throw ace took to Instagram to share a video of him sweating it out on Sunday from the University's high-performance centre. "Working hard to get back in shape for the new season," Chopra wrote along with his picture and video. Chopra landed in England a few days ago and will be camped at Loughborough University, which is known for its state-of-the-art sports gym and training facilities, for 63 days. He is accompanied by his coach and biomechanics expert Dr. Klaus Bartonietz and physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha.

Australia with a dominant victory over the West Indies

Adelaide | Agencies

Australia have moved one step closer to cementing their spot at next year's ICC World Test Championship final with a dominant 419-run victory over the West Indies in the second Test here on Sunday.

The World Test Championship pacesetters wrapped up the 2-0 series sweep late in the first session on the fourth day of the clash, with pacer Michael Neser completing proceedings by dismissing Marquino Mindley for a duck.

It means Australia moves further ahead at the head of the World Test Championship standings, with the Aussies now boasting an impressive 75 per cent win-percentage for the current period.

Pat Cummins' side can increase their lead at the top when they host South Africa in a three-match series that commences in Brisbane later this week, before they embark on a difficult four-Test series in India during February and March that may decide which two teams



qualify for next year's final. Cummins himself missed the demolition in Adelaide due to a quad injury, but is expected to recover in time to lead Australia in the first Test against the Proteas that starts at the Gabba on Saturday.

Fellow pacer Josh Hazlewood is in doubt for the clash with his side strain, with Scott Boland and Neser both performing well against the West Indies and a chance to retain their place in Australia's XI. The series was bitterly dis-

appointing for the West Indies, who now slip out of the race for next year's World Test Championship final as a result of the two disappointing losses.

While the Caribbean side put up a fight for much of the first Test in Perth, the second Test in Adelaide was a different story and the 77 the West Indies mustered during the second innings was the lowest total they have managed in Test history in Australia and their second lowest against the Aussies overall.

BWF World Tour Finals YAMAGUCHI BEATS TAI TZU-YING TO CLINCH WOMEN'S SINGLES TITLE

Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

Japan's Akane Yamaguchi beat Tai Tzu-Ying of Chinese Taipei 21-18, 22-20 in the final to clinch the women's singles title at the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals, here on Sunday.

While the score was close Yamaguchi, who last won the season-ender five years ago, was unmistakably in the driver's seat during the 46-minute contest.

With this, the Japanese became the first women's singles player since Ye Zhaoying in 1997 to claim the All England Open, World Championships and end-of-season finals all in the same year. "She kept coming at me, to put pressure on me. But I wanted to be aggressive to hold on to the lead. I don't know if it's the best I've ever played but I did have a good week here," said Yamaguchi after her win.

"I thought I defended well in the second game. I didn't panic and waited for my opportunity to attack. I'm not tall so the speed is important to me. Without it I don't think I stand a chance," she added. Her opponent Tai, who



missed her third WTF title, admitted to struggling to keep up with the ferocious speed.

"I thought she was slightly faster than me. I wanted to attack because my defense wasn't great today. But unfortunately, I couldn't cut down on my errors and her net play was very good," said Tai.

"I did quite OK this season. The new season will start quickly in January so I won't get much time to rest. I hope to recover and get back in good condition. There will be many competitions starting from April," she added.

IND vs BAN Test Series

K.L. Rahul to lead India in the absence of Rohit Sharma

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Opener K.L. Rahul will lead India in the first of two Test matches against Bangladesh in absence of Rohit Sharma, who has been ruled out of the opening match due to his left thumb injury, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed on Sunday.

The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Abhimanyu Easwaran as Rohit's replacement for the first Test while Cheteshwar Pujara has been named as the vice-captain.

The board also stated that Mohd. Shami and Ravindra Jadeja are yet to fully recover from their respective shoulder and knee injuries and are ruled out of the Test series.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Jaydev Unadkat has also been added to India's squad for the Test series.

The player is receiving just the second call-up in his playing career to the Indian Test squad. His only appearance so far in Tests came almost 12 years ago, in the first Test of the 2010/11 tour of South Africa in Centurion. India's updated squad: KL Rahul (c), Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara (VC), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer,



Rishabh Pant (WK), KS Bharat (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Mohd.

Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Navdeep Saini, Saurabh Kumar, Jaydev Unadkat.

LPL

Kandy Falcons beat Jaffna Kings by 3 wickets



Colombo | Agencies

In a nail-biting contest, which went right down to the last bowl, Kandy Falcons beat defending champions Jaffna Kings by 3 wickets in the Lanka Premier League.

Batting first, the Jaffna Kings posted a competitive total of 147 for the loss of 7 wickets. For Kandy Falcons, Pathum Nissanka and Andre Fletcher opened the innings. At 18, Zaman Khan dismissed Andre Fletcher for 11 runs from 11 balls. His innings was laced with 2 boundaries. Meanwhile, Pathum Nissanka scored 29 runs from 24 balls including 2 boundaries. However, it was Ashen Bandara's 44 from 39 balls which helped the Kandy Falcons register a win. His

innings was laced with 3 boundaries. He was well supported by Chamika Karunaratne, who made a quickfire 26 from 16 balls including 2 boundaries and 2 sixes. For Jaffna Kings, Dunith Wellalage was the pick of the bowler as he scalped 2/17 from his 4 overs. Meanwhile, Maheesh, Zaman, James and Vijayakanth all took one wicket each. Earlier, after winning the toss, Kandy Falcons elected to bowl first. For Jaffna Kings, Avishka Fernando was highest scorer with 31 runs from 26 ball. His innings included 4 boundaries. Shoaib Malik and Dunith Wellalage pitched in with 28 and 20 runs respectively. For Kandy Falcons, Fabian Allen, Wanindu Hasaranga and Isuru Udana picked two wickets each.



Managing family and work is always a tight rope walk: Shreyas Talpade

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Shreyas Talpade is a renowned name in the entertainment industry, recently garnering a lot of appreciation for his work in 'Kaun Pravin Tambe', and now the film has been nominated for Filmfare Awards.

In a conversation about his career and reaching out to people, he said: "Every artist dreams of reaching out to maximum people worldwide and to have people start recognising you."

"It is definitely a dream come true and the kind of love I have been receiving for my work from all over the world is truly a blessing for me. In fact, I love it when people come up to me even when I'm out somewhere to appreciate me."

Sharing how difficult it is for an actor to balance work and family life, he said: "Managing family and work is always a tight rope walk for any artist or professional. But you have to make time for both work and family."

"I'm very grateful to my wife and my family for giving me my space and understanding. I think what is

more important is to spend quality time with your family as opposed to just hours and hours with no meaningful connection."

The 'Iqbal' actor added: "I don't think I can choose between all my films and pick out just one because all were my favourite. It's like choosing between your kinds, you just can't, you love them all."

"But yes, I had a great time in my last film 'Kaun Pravin Tambe' and the ongoing ones like 'Single Salmaa', 'Kartam Shuktam'. I love being a part of these because they are giving me something new, they are challenging my skill set as an actor."



Paritosh Tripathi ties knot with his love Meenakshi Chand

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Paritosh Tripathi surprises everyone after he ties knot with his lady love Meenakshi Chand

On December 10, anchor comedian Paritosh Tripathi astonished everyone by getting married. At a resort close to Dehradun, Paritosh, better known as "mamaji" on Super Dancer, married model-actress Meenakshi Chand. Pankaj Tripathi, Ritvik Dhanjani, and Geeta Kapoor were among the attendees at the wedding. Mehndi and saangeet were done prior to the wedding, and there will be a reception in Delhi and Mumbai soon.

Meenakshi and Paritosh have been friends for 14

years. They first connected while attending Delhi's college. He said, "Meenakshi and I dated each other in college in 2007 but for some reason, we drifted apart. Then after many years, I bumped into her again in Mumbai when she was acting in a TV show. She also runs her own travel business. We reconnected and found our way back into each other's lives. I proposed to her last month and we kept the marriage simple and sweet with close friends and family members."

Paritosh has also shared the pictures from the wedding with a caption, "Aankh bhar jaati hai Jab dil muskurata hai."

Sach hai jodiyan uper wala hi banaata hai Love u meri Meenakshi chand tripathi"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor and host Abhilash Thapliyal, who is currently seen in Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari's series 'Faadu', talked about playing an alcoholic and how he was given a bottle of glycerin for his role. 'The Aspirants' actor is playing the character of a poor drunkard Roxy in the web series. He appeared on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' as a special guest along with the team of the web series, including Saiyami Kher, Pavail Gulati, and Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari.

During a conversation with the host, Kapil Sharma, when asked if he was given a bottle of alcohol by the producers, he replied: "Yes, I did get a bottle, but that was of glycerin not alcohol."

Pavail Gulati jokingly added about how Abhilash had a separate budget for glycerin as he never entered the set without glycerin.

Abhilash continued: "My character is an alcoholic but on the other hand, I am a teetotaler. And Ashwiny ma'am was very precise about how the character looked, so I made it a point to personify the look on screen. My character looks very tanned and shabby, he drinks a lot, so even before the wine shop opens, he is waiting at the gate. His eyes have a slight shine so to get that, I used glycerine."

While complimenting him, co-star Saiyami shared: "Abhilash plays the role of an alcoholic so whenever we used to sit in Pavail's vanity, people on set would not recognise him and would try to throw him out thinking he is some random man, his look was that realistic."



Avneet Kaur



Mira Rajput invites Alia Bhatt for a cup of coffee

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mira Rajput Kapoor, the wife of Shahid Kapoor, has invited 'Brahmastra' star Alia Bhatt over a cup of coffee through social media. Mira recently took to her Instagram to share a picture of her evening brew from her sea-facing apartment. In the caption, she admitted to being a Gujarati in her past life. She wrote: "Undhiyu (a Gujarati delicacy) for life. I'm pretty sure I was Gujarati in my last life." Taking to the comments section, Alia, who is experiencing the bliss of motherhood currently, wrote: "I want that cuppa tea" with a tea and saucer emoji. To this, Mira replied: "Alia Bhatt mummy it's time for you to cross the sea link." Mira is known for advocating for healthy living and it reflects in her social media posts. She once shared a selfie flaunting her post-workout glow.

However, the post had a twist as Mira revealed that for the early morning workout and glow, she wanted to thank her alarm clock and not her husband, Shahid Kapoor. She wrote in the caption: "Early morning workout. I would like to thank my noisy alarm and not Shahid Kapoor who is bright and shiny at 5 a.m. but forgot about me."



TINA IS BACK IN THE REALITY SHOW

Team Absolute | Mumbai

As 'Bigg Boss 16' contestant Tina Datta, who was recently evicted from the house, returned after Shalin Bhanot pressed the buzzer as told by Bigg Boss by losing the prize money of Rs 25 lakh. Tina, though, not happy with him and got into an argument with him, calls him a fake friend.

She told him: "That day I was going to leave the house so you did not press the buzzer and today suddenly you pressed it. Why did you take so much time to decide to support me, if I would be at your place I would have pressed it on the third count and saved you."

She also added that she saw him dancing after she left the house. "I saw you singing songs."

Salman said that Shalin will be able to save one only after Rs 25 lakh gets deducted from the cash prize or he could get his prize money and one of the contestants gets evicted.

When Shalin didn't press the buzzer and Tina was evicted. The strangest part was when he told Sreejita De and Archana Gautam that he never liked Tina and only liked her for chicken and was with her for food.

"I never liked Tina, it was only because of the chicken that I liked her. I was only worried about my food and she used to do it so that is the only thing I am missing right now because who will make chicken for me now? I won't even talk to that girl after I leave the house because there I would have my restaurant for it," he told Sreejita.



Abhilash spills on-set secrets of playing an alcoholic

