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Finally someone has got China's map as it really is: Ex-Army Chief...



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ICC Men's ODI Rankings: Shubman Gill rises to career-best second ...



Congress, BJP's "Fake" vs "Witch Hunt" barbs amid Police case against Hindi news channel

Bengaluru | Agencies

A police case has been filed against a senior journalist and a Hindi news channel on charges of spreading misinformation about a subsidy scheme launched by the Karnataka government to benefit minority communities. The charges against Aaj Tak and its Consulting Editor, Sudhir Chaudhary include 'promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion'.



BJP's Response

Firebrand Lok Sabha MP Tejasvi Surya has also pitched in, accusing the Karnataka government of a "witch hunt".

"For asking legitimate questions about implementation of government scheme, Congress government of Karnataka is going on a witch-hunt against Aaj Tak and Sri Sudhir Chaudhary by filing FIRs. This state led witch-hunt is a direct assault on the freedom of press. Whether it's political opponents or independent media that asks uncomfortable questions, the Congress government is going after everyone by abusing the law..." he declared.

Swavalambi Sarathi Scheme

The Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation is offering a 50 per cent subsidy, or up to Rs 3 lakh, to young men and women without jobs to buy commercial vehicles and become self-employed. Pointing to this and other such schemes, the KMDC said "These schemes were not only for the minority community... but also available for the Hindu community's unemployed youths." It was also pointed out these schemes had, in fact, been implemented by the former government, which was led by the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was defeated in the May election. "... but the news channel twisted this, saying it had been meant only for minorities in general, and Muslims in particular, thereby doing injustice to the Hindus. This was false and malicious..."

Priyank Kharge Leads Congress' Charge

The row over Chaudhary's claim has spilled over into a slugfest between the Congress (in power in Karnataka) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (trounced in the May Assembly election). From the former camp, Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge has been active on X, taking on the news channel in question and the BJP. Late Tuesday night - after the police case was filed - the channel seemed to delete the video of Chaudhary's programme from all of its social media accounts.

Undaunted, Kharge shared a screenshot and said, "Anchor of Aaj Tak is deliberately spreading misinformation on government schemes first started by BJP MPs... is being amplified by sections of media. This is deliberate and malicious..."

Kharge took aim at the BJP's state unit, pointing out what he saw as multiple electoral and organisational challenges and taunting it for being "more worried about a news anchor who is tarnishing the image of Karnataka".

This was in response to the BJP Karnataka X account accusing the state of "harassing and threatening journalists exposing Siddaramaiah government's rabid minority appeasement..."



CASTE CENSUS, JOINT PUBLIC MEETING, SEAT SHARING DISCUSSED IN 1ST MEETING OF COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF INDIA'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) decided to hold its first joint public meeting in Bhopal and also discussed the seat sharing and caste census in the country during the first meeting of the coordination committee here on Wednesday, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal said.

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, the Congress General Secretary, Organisation, said: "A total of 12 members of the coordination committee today attended the meeting as Trinamool Congress's Abhishek Banerjee could not attend the meeting, due to summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate arising out of the vendetta politics of the BJP and the Prime Minister."

He said that during the meeting it was decided to start the process for seat sharing and that the member parties will hold the talks and decide at the earliest.

Venugopal said, the coordination committee also agreed to take up the issue of caste census.

tee also agreed to take up the issue of caste census.

He said that it was also decided to hold the first public meeting of the INDIA bloc in Bhopal in first week of October and in several parts of the country subsequently.

He said that the first public meeting will be held on the issue of inflation, unemployment and corruption of the BJP government.

The coordination committee authorised sub group of media to decide on the name of the anchors on whose shows none of the INDIA parties will send the representative.

Besides Pawar and Venugopal, the meeting was also attended by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, JD-U's Sanjay Jha, in place of party chief Lalan Singh, CPI's D. Raja, DMK's T.R. Bалу, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, Shiv Sena-UBT's Sanjay Raut, Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali, AAP's Raghav Chadha, JMM's Hemant Soren and NC's Omar Abdullah.

INDIA bloc, during their third meeting in Mumbai, had formed the 14 member coordination committee. CPI-M is yet to name any party leader for the committee.

BJP projected to retain power in MP; Raj, Chhattisgarh goes to Congress

New Delhi | Agencies

The BJP is projected to retain power in Madhya Pradesh in the Assembly elections scheduled later this year with a tally of 116-124 seats, as per IANS-Polstrat Opinion Poll 2023.

The survey had a sample size of 7,883 with the timeline between September 1 and September 13.

The BJP got 109 seats in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly in the 2018 elections. The Congress is projected to get 100-108 seats in Madhya Pradesh.

There is not much to demarcate the main parties in terms of vote share. While the BJP is projected to get 42 per cent votes, the Congress is projected to get 40 per cent vote share. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the most popular CM candidate with 39.9 per cent rating, followed by Kamal Nath of the Congress at 35.5 per cent.

As many as 46.8 per cent respondents rated Chouhan's performance as good, as per the survey, while 28.8 per cent rated it as poor.

Unemployment was rated as the most important issue at 50.7 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, followed by electricity, power, roads at 11.8 per cent, and farmers' issues at 13.8 per cent. In Rajasthan Congress is projected to retain power in the Assembly elections



scheduled later this year with a tally of 97-105 seats The BJP is projected to get 89-97 seats in the upcoming elections.

The Congress is enjoying a positive vote swing of 2 per cent and is projected to get 41 per cent of the vote share, while the BJP will get 40 per cent votes.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is the most popular CM candidate with a score of 37.9 per cent, followed by Vasundhara Raje of the BJP at 25.5 per cent, and Sachin Pilot of the Congress at 25.4 per cent.

Whereas, Bhupesh Baghel is projected to storm to power in Chhattisgarh with the Congress projected to win 62 seats in the Assembly elections. The Congress currently has 71 MLAs in the 90-member Chhattisgarh Assembly. The BJP is projected to get 27 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls.

56 killed in Vietnam apartment fire, country's deadliest in 20 years

Hanoi, Vietnam:

Fifty-six people died in a fire at an apartment block in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, police said Wednesday, with witnesses reporting screams from inside and a small boy thrown from the building. Vietnam's deadliest fire in 20 years started just before midnight on Tuesday (1700 GMT) in the parking floor of the 10-storey building, an area packed with motorbikes, witnesses said. "56 people have been killed and 37 people injured," Hanoi police department said in a statement. At least three children were among the dead, state media reported. The owner of the apartment block has been arrested on suspicion of violating fire prevention regulations, Hanoi police said.

Photos by AFP photographers on the scene showed flames and smoke billowing from barred balconies.

The blaze was out by Wednesday morning but rescuers still struggled for hours to get into the building, which is down a narrow alley in a residential area of southwest Hanoi.



Rajasthan HC bans appointment of 50,000 Seva Preraks, issues notice to government

Jaipur | Agencies

In a setback to the Rajasthan government, the High Court on Wednesday banned the appointment of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Preraks being done on a contract basis.

This recruitment was being done for a year on 50,000 posts in the entire state.

Issuing notice to the state Peace and Non-Violence Department, the court has said that although the government can continue the recruitment process, appointment letters will not be given.

The hearing on the matter was completed on Tuesday and orders were issued on Wednesday.

A candidate, named Lachchiram, has filed a petition before a bench of Judge Arun Bhansali.

In the petition filed through advocate PR Mehta, it was said that there is a provision to give priority to such candidates who have the experience of participating in the Mahatma Gandhi Darshan training camp organised by the state government. However, this camp was



for only one day.

In such a situation, no legislation is being taken into account in this recruitment process, it argued, adding that there is no mention of the terms and conditions of work in the release and the guidelines issued in this regard.

Provisions like setting merit related priority for selection have also not been mentioned.

The petition also said that the state government has invited a

large number of applications for temporary appointments for one year in view of the Assembly elections, which is in violation of the legal provisions of appointment and also amounts to misuse of public money.

The petitioner has said that he has experience of working as a Prerak for many years, but his experience has been ignored.

Issuing a notice to the department, the single judge bench has banned any appointment.

The Department of Peace and Non-Violence had started the process of recruiting Mahatma Gandhi Seva Preraks on a temporary basis for one year. Applications for this were given till August 31 and the minimum qualification was 12th pass. Interviews for this have also started in different cities and villages from September 12.

The Seva Preraks selected in this will get an honorarium of Rs 4,500 per month and their main work was to disseminate the schemes of Rajasthan government to the public and to carry out library and other literary activities.

Police officer killed, two Village Defence Volunteers injured by armed attackers in Manipur

Imphal: A police sub-inspector was killed and two Village Defence Volunteers (VDV) injured by unidentified armed attackers at Chingphai in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Wednesday, police said.

The police sub-inspector, identified as Onkhomang, was shot in the head and succumbed to his injuries at the Churachandpur district hospital while two VDV sustained bullet injuries and are undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

According to police, the SI, after his duty, was talking with the VDV at the Chingphai village when the unidentified attackers opened fire on them.

Senior police officials along with reinforcement have rushed to the area and launched a combing operation to nab the assailants.

BJP's CEC approves 2nd list of candidates for MP Assembly polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The second round of Central Election Committee meeting was held on Wednesday at BJP headquarters in New Delhi for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. According to sources, a total of 39 candidates for Madhya Pradesh were discussed in the meeting, out of which the names of 36 candidates have been approved by the Election Committee.

A decision on the names of three candidates will be taken after discussion with some leaders of the state. Home Minister Amit Shah has been given the responsibility of deciding the names of three candidates after discussion. The BJP's Central Election Committee meeting was attended by PM Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other senior leaders.



Among the prominent candidates whose names were approved by the BJP election committee, Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath's Chhindwara city

assembly seat in Chhindwara district is included. Vivek Sahu has been given ticket from here. Raghuraj Kansana has been given ticket from Morena assembly seat. Kansana is considered to be from the Scindia camp. Sources told ABP News that Amrish Guddu has been given ticket from Lahar assembly of Bhind district against Congress leader of opposition Govind Singh. Jyotiraditya Scindia's close aide Imarti Devi has been given ticket from Dabra assembly of Gwalior district.

According to sources, Kal Singh from Thandla assembly seat of Jhabua, Manoj Patel from Depalpur in Indore district, Arvind Pateria from Rajnagar seat of Chhatrapur district, Brij Bihari Pateria from Deori seat of Sagar district, Mohan Singh Rathore from Bhitwar assembly seat of Gwalior district. Has been given ticket. An official announcement is yet to be made.



COLONEL, MAJOR, DSP KILLED IN ANANTNAG GUNFIGHT

Srinagar: A colonel and major of the Indian Army and a Deputy Superintendent of Police were killed as an encounter raged between terrorists and security forces at Kokernag in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said.

The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area.

After security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding started firing, drawing retaliation by the security forces. Additional security teams have reached the spot to zero in on the hiding terrorists and to neutralise them.



BJP PASSES RESOLUTION LAUDING PM MODI FOR SUCCESS OF G20

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The BJP on Wednesday passed a resolution lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the success of the recently concluded G20 Summit.

BJP said that the summit stands as a monumental chapter in India's diplomatic annals. "We, BJP Karyakartas, extend our deepest appreciation and warm congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government for the successful G20 Summit held in New Delhi on September 9 to 10. "We note with great pride the impeccable leadership and unwavering commitment showcased by PM Modi at the Summit," read the BJP G20 resolution passed by the party's Parliamentary Board on Wednesday. "The G20 Delhi summit stands as a monumental chapter in India's diplomatic annals, marking a transformative moment in how our nation is perceived and engaged with on the global stage. India's G20 has brought the world together on a wide range of issues, be it economics, geo-politics, technology, and more.

"We compliment PM Modi for his efforts in ensuring an extensive and visionary G20 New Delhi Declaration. The declaration is a testament to foresight, acting as a guiding beacon for our times and beyond. We are delighted to note the level of participation witnessed - it was both unparalleled and unprecedented, resonating with the world's affirmation of India's capabilities and visionary approach. It also shows the world's recognition and



confidence in India's potential and Prime Minister Modi's dynamic leadership." The resolution further said: "We compliment PM Modi for showcasing to the world a human-centric model of development, moving beyond the conventional GDP-focused growth trajectory taken in the previous years. This model, emphasising sustainability, inclusivity, and shared prosperity, resonated deeply among participating nations, reaffirming India's stance as a champion for the collective good of humanity. India was also at the forefront of championing paradigms like DPI and Mission LIFE, which will be

guiding factors for policymakers while framing their policies."

"The coming generations will remember the 2023 Summit as the one in which the African Union was given full membership of the G20. This is in line with PM Modi's vision to ensure that the Global South has strong representation in such bodies. PM Modi's desire to deepen engagement with Africa was seen during the 2015 India-Africa Summit in New Delhi," it said. "It has equally gladdened us to see India take the lead in the Global Biofuels Alliance, which will go a long way in furthering sustainability. The birth of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor ranks as a watershed moment for the world." "In summation, we reiterate how the success of the G20 summit has filled the heart of every Indian with a profound sense of pride. As representatives of the people, we stand resolute in our belief that under PM Modi's leadership, India will persistently chart a course marked by growth, cooperation, and global leadership, crafting a legacy that future generations will look upon with hope and positivity," the resolution said. On Wednesday evening, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a warm welcome at the BJP headquarters here for the grand success of the G20 Summit. On his arrival, BJP President JP Nadda presented him a bouquet, amid 'Modi, Modi chants by the party workers.

Senior party leaders including Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah also welcomed the Prime Minister.

Kids in Maha's Aurangabad 'row to school' in thermocol boats, HC cracks whip on govt

Team Absolute | Aurangabad (Maharashtra)

Taking strong cognisance of media reports of children forced to row to school in thermocol rafts, the Bombay High Court's Aurangabad Bench has ordered the Collector to provide proper facilities to the kids within 12 hours.

A division bench of Justice Ravindra Ghuge and Justice Y. G. Khobragade on Monday has asked the Collector to provide at least two boats for the children on the Jaykavadi Dam backwaters with a specialised operator, life-jackets and rescue air tubes to ferry the pupils to and from school safely.

The court said that the boat or a motorboat if possible, should be operated in multiple shifts to enable not only serve the students during their school timings, but also provide a round-the-clock transportation for the people in the area.

The court's directives came in a suo moto PIL after it took cognisance of a media report on August 27, highlighting the plight of the children of Bhiv Dhanora village living around the dam.

The students were forced to use makeshift rafts from thermocol sheets and bamboo sticks, called locally as 'chappus', and used square pieces cut out as paddles with which they rowed across the dam to and from school daily.

The village is barely five kms away from the busy Pune-Aurangabad national highway, but is surrounded by the Jaykavadi dam's backwaters and two local rivers, Lahuri and Shivana.



The court also appointed advocate Pushkar Shendurnikar as the Amicus Curiae for the case and lauded the grit of the students, girls and boys, some below 10 years, who fought all odds to get education.

"We have no words to express our appreciation for the girl and male students coming from farmers' families... who have shown their grit and determination in pursuing their education by travelling to school from the backwaters and returning back," noted the judges.

The court also said the children deserve compliments for undertaking such a journey twice daily for the pat over a year though its an everyday threat to life, with snakes and other creatures lurking around.

Besides, pregnant women, elderly or ill persons needing medical attention have also been relying on these 'chappus' to travel to the nearest health care centres.

Finally someone has got China's map as it really is: Ex-Army Chief



Team Absolute | New Delhi
amid the furor over China releasing a new map, former Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Naravane (ret'd) on Wednesday shared a map of China and took a dig saying "finally someone has got the map of China as it really is." In a post on X, Naravane said, "Finally someone has got the map of China as it really is."

He also attached a multi-

colored map demarcating several regions as 'occupied' areas including Tibet. The apparent dig was in response to China releasing a map on August 28, what it called the "2023 edition of the standard map of China" showing Aksai Chin and whole of Arunachal Pradesh within its territory, according to reports quoting local Chinese media. The map was released by China's ministry of natural resources, they said.

Govt building DPI to skill young Indians for jobs of the future: MoS IT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, on Wednesday said that digital skill is the key and the government is building Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) towards that goal to prepare millions of young Indians for the tech-driven jobs of the future.

Addressing the Skill India Digital event, where the government launched the Skill India Digital portal to benefit every citizen of the country, especially the students and youth above 15 years of age, the minister said that after the global recognition of DPIs during the G20 Summit, the government is now building DPIs in digital skilling for young Indians.

"This DPI is at the intersection of two of the most important components of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision -- Skill India and Digital India," he said.

"In this post-Covid world, there is tremendous awareness about the importance of digital skilling. This DPI is aimed at developing skills for both entrepreneurship and jobs,"



Chandrasekhar told the gathering.

At the event, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Chandrasekhar, launched Skill India Digital -- a state-of-the-art digital platform to bring all skilling initiatives together.

Last week, Chandrasekhar said that the whole world is discovering the extraordinary strides India has made in technology, as G20 nations pledged to build a global DPI based on the country's model.

The global recognition of India's DPI -- like the unified payments interface (UPI) and Aadhaar -- has demolished the old norms.

"Today, the whole world is discovering the extraordinary strides we've made in technology, using Digital Public Infrastructure to transform governance and lives of citizens," he said. The G20 leaders have committed to adopt, build and maintain Global Digital Public Infrastructure and also agreed to foster a wholesome and safe digital ecosystem, and a resilient global digital economy.

IMA writes to Mandaviya over NEET PG 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Wednesday wrote to Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya urging to reduce the NEET PG 2023 cut off.

In its letter addressed to the Minister, the IMA while recalling the contribution of doctors in Covid pandemic wrote: "We should not forget that during previous Covid waves, when the country was in the state of emergency and people were dying, the doctors left their homes and served the nation fervently. The time has come for the administration to recognize them for their selfless service by reducing the cut off marks for NEET-PG 2023.

"This will ensure that a significant number of aspiring



doctors can enroll for post-graduate programs in various medical colleges across the country and not a single postgraduate seat goes

vacant," the association said.

"As a result of high cut off scores, aspiring medical students will not only be prevented from entering Post

Graduation but will also be compelled to travel overseas to pursue their dream field, further depleting the medical manpower pool in India. We urge the concerned authorities to look into this matter as early as possible and take immediate steps to resolve it and help the country acquire more specialist doctors.

"By making the right decision, the administration can make the lives of many aspiring and hardworking doctors worthwhile, which will ultimately benefit the nation in the long run.

"We request you to reduce the NEET PG 2023 cut off percentile up to 30 per cent so that most of the seats are filled in both clinical and non-clinical branches," the association wrote to Mandaviya.

SC refuses to relax blanket ban on bursting of crackers in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that it will not relax the blanket ban imposed on sale and use of firecrackers in the national capital. A bench of Justices A.S. Bopanna and M.M. Sundresh also sought response from the Delhi Police on enforcing the ban on bursting of crackers.

Along with other matters, the bench was considering the plea filed by BJP leader Manoj Tiwari to protect the interests of the public at large who are being "harassed" for celebrating Diwali which is deemed to be one of the most important festivals of the Hindus against the blanket ban on firecrackers in Delhi.

Last year, the Supreme Court had refused to urgently



hear Tiwari's plea and told him to spend his "money on sweets". The plea said that the Delhi government's decision to put a blanket ban on storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers infringes freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion of people at large guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution.

Directions were sought to issue fresh guidelines in respect to selling, purchasing or bursting permissible firecrackers. The Supreme Court had issued earlier directions

pertaining to the regulation of firecrackers, saying that it is not averse to celebrations but not at the cost of life of other citizens. In its report submitted earlier to the court, the CBI had found that banned harmful chemicals were used by manufacturers in several crackers and they did not disclose the correct ingredients on the labels of the product. In a recent decision, the Delhi government again issued orders banning manufacturing, sale, storage and use of firecrackers as part of its action plan to curb pollution in winters.

Gurugram: Six arrested for cheating share market trader

Team Absolute | Gurugram

The crime branch unit of the Gurugram Police have arrested six people for allegedly cheating a share market trader of Rs 35 lakh by offering to give him jewellery at discounted prices, police said.

Complainant Manmohan Chauhan told the police that one of the key accused, who introduced himself as Narendra Rathore from Rajasthan, befriended him two months ago.

Rathore said he worked at a prominent jewellery store, located on MG Road, and owned by his friend "Sharma".

"Rathore said Sharma's business had suffered huge losses and he wanted to sell jewellery at cheap prices. I was offered to buy it at a lower price and promised a bill," Chauhan said in his complaint. Rathore later introduced Chauhan to Sharma and another accused -- Mathur -- in Chandni Chowk. On August 26, the four of them met at



the Surya Hotel in Delhi's New Friends Colony and agreed on the deal.

"On August 31, Rathore came to my house and I took Rs 35 lakh from my house and went to Sahara Mall on MG Road. Where Sharma and Mathur joined us there, and I handed them the cash. Sharma and Rathore went with the bag to count the money and returned with another bag that they said had jewellery worth Rs 40 lakh in it," Chauhan alleged.

The complainant said he left with Rathore to go to Sharma's shop nearby, but on the way, four men intercepted them and threatened them to hand over the bag. They even threatened him to run away from there, Chauhan got scared and ran away from there. Later it came to light that Narendra and his associates conspired together and duped him of Rs 35 lakh by creating a story of getting cheap gold from him.

No need to make six airbags mandatory for cars, says Gadkari

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Minister for Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said his Ministry doesn't want to make six airbags mandatory for cars.

"Now people are cautious and whatever the economic model they have six airbags, people will prefer to take that car. Everyone is making it, there is no need to make it mandatory," he said in response to a question regarding the proposal mandating six airbags in cars from October 1, at the 63rd ACMA (Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India) Annual Session here.

"Those (carmakers) who don't want to do it are facing problems in their selling. If they want to make a good competition they have to make six airbags. We don't want to make it mandatory."

In response to a question on road accidents, the Minister said: "Every year we have five lakh accidents and 1.50 lakh accident related deaths. Sixty per cent of the deaths are related to the young population of our country from the age group of 18 to



34. It's very unfortunate. We have taken all preventive measures as far as road engineering and automobile engineering is concerned."

"We have passed the road safety law. In the future we will take the accident victims immediately to the hospital.

We are trying to develop hospitals near highways but education is important. The most important thing is human behavior is a big problem. We are trying our level best to educate the people," Gadkari said.

On automobile sector, the Minister said: "The growth is really a pride for India. Total size of the automobile industry is Rs 12.50 lakh crore. Only one thing which I feel that is a challenge for the industry is that import is Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

We need to reduce this import and use the best technology and make the product of international standard that used to be challenged with the industry."

"The size of the automobile industry when I took charge as the minister was Rs 4.50 lakh crore and



FIR AGAINST DMK'S UDHAYANIDHI STALIN IN MUMBAI OVER HIS 'SANATAN' REMARK

Team Absolute | Mumbai
An FIR has been registered against DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin over his 'Sanatan Dharma' remark.

Mumbai's Mira Road police have registered the case under sections 153 A and 295 A of IPC.

A BJP delegation in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday handed over a memorandum to the state police demanding registration of an FIR against Udhayanidhi Stalin for his remarks against 'Sanatana Dharma'. Speaking at a conference earlier in Chennai, Udhayanidhi, the minister for Sports and Youth Affairs in the Tamil Nadu government, railed against Sanatan Dharma, equating it with "dengue, malaria, fever, and corona". He added that Sanatan Dharma shouldn't be merely opposed but eradicated. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, chairing a meeting of the Council of Ministers, weighed in on the furore



around Udhayanidhi's remarks, and, according to sources, asked his ministers to aggressively counter the attack on Sanatan Dharma. He advised his ministers to counter the Opposition's narrative on the Sanatan Dharma with facts. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin said that it was unfair for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "make comments without knowing what Udhayanidhi spoke" on the 'Sanatana Dharma'

The storm created by "Sanatana Dharma" created a political slugfest in the country. The political rival NDA and INDIA alliance are taking a potshot at each other after the DMK leader equated 'Sanatana Dharma' with "mosquitoes, dengue, malaria, fever and corona".

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Aam Aadmi Party, which are part of the Opposition INDIA bloc, distanced themselves from the DMK leader.

Married man, accused of rape by "lover", dies by suicide on facebook live

Team Absolute | Nagpur
A man reportedly died by suicide during a Facebook Live after being blackmailed by his alleged girlfriend and her family members in Maharashtra's Nagpur, the police said. On September 10, 38-year-old man Manish, in his Facebook Live, said he was being threatened with charges of rape by a 19-year-old woman, Kajal, who was allegedly his girlfriend, and her family members.

The man claimed that the woman and her family members demanded Rs 5 lakh during Facebook Live and threatened to press charges against him if he failed to give them the money, the police said. On September 6, the woman was missing from her house, and her family members alleged that she eloped with Manish. The 38-year-old man, who is married and is a father to three children, jumped into a river in Nagpur after harassment from her family. The man denied claims of any physical



relationship with the woman and named her and her family members and a photo studio operator responsible during his Facebook Live before dying by suicide. A search operation was launched by

the police after the Facebook Live video surfaced. The man's body was recovered from the river, and the Kalamana police in Nagpur arrested four people in the case.

Mumbai man befriends divorcee on social media, cheats her of Rs 45 lakh

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

A Mumbai businessman allegedly befriended a divorced woman on a social media platform and then cheated her of cash and jewellery amounting to around Rs 45 lakh, a police official said on Wednesday. The accused from Colaba in south Mumbai, was identified as Tulsidas Jadhav, 42, and he has been arrested in another case by Bhandup Police Station, said Navi Mumbai's Sanpada Police Station Senior Police Inspector Pramod Bhosale. According to a complaint lodged by the 55-year-old victim and resident of Sanpada, Jadhav and she became friends on a social media platform and then he started visiting her home in Navi Mumbai. The woman, who has a son from her previous marriage, subsequently tied the knot with Jadhav,



unaware that he was already married. Later, Jadhav started abusing and beating her, demanded money or threatened to kill her son and allegedly extorted over Rs 35 lakh in cash and the rest in gold jewellery from her. "We have registered a case against Jadhav. He has not yet been arrested, but we have learnt that he was earlier nabbed by the Bhandup Police (Mumbai) and we are investigating further," Sr. PI Bhosale told reporter. Jadhav has been charged under various IPC sections pertaining to criminal intimidation, breach of trust, causing hurt, marrying again during the lifetime of a husband/wife, etc.

Ajit Pawar-led NCP's X handle 'suspended' for flouting rules

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The X (formerly Twitter) handle of the break-away Nationalist Congress Party led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and others has been suspended for over a fortnight, party leaders alleged here.

A notification is shown on X that the @ncpspeaks1 account has been suspended for violating its rules, though

details are not mentioned. The NCP, led by Sharad Pawar, with its official X account (@ncpspeaks) had reportedly complained that the splinter group's X account (@ncpspeaks1) was similar to its own official account. However, sources in the Ajit Pawar-led NCP claimed that the X account is likely to be restored on Wednesday.

Pune Boy, Kidnapped For Rs 30 Lakh Ransom, Rescued; 3 Arrested



Team Absolute | Pune
Police have arrested three persons for allegedly kidnapping a 14-year-old boy and demanding a ransom of Rs30 lakh from his family in Maharashtra's Pune district, officials said.

The boy has been rescued by the police, they said.

According to the police, the boy, who is the son of a scrap dealer, was kidnapped by three persons on Tuesday morning from Tathawade area of the adjoining Pimpri-Chinchwad township.

"On receiving a complaint from the family, a team was formed and during investigation, it was revealed the kidnappers had taken the boy to Saswad. The kidnappers earlier called a relative of the boy and

demanded Rs 30 lakh and threatened to kill him if the ransom money was not paid," an official from the Pimpri-Chinchwad crime branch said.

After tracing the location of the kidnappers, a police team was dispatched. The kidnappers were arrested from Saswad and the boy was rescued from their clutches, he said. The accused were identified by the police as Tejan Lokhande, Arjun Rathod, and Vikas Mhaske.

The trio knew that the boy's father was financially well-off and targeted him for quick money, the police said.

"The accused wanted to open a hotel and for that they needed money. This led them to plan the kidnapping," another police official said.

Couple drives into civic body office, throws kerosene at clerk

Team Absolute | Panvel
A couple allegedly barged into the Panvel Municipal Corporation premises in Navi Mumbai and threw kerosene on a civic clerk, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday following which a case was registered against accused the man and the woman, who are in their 40s, the official from Panvel Town police station said.

The accused had come at the civic body's gate in connection with an agitation, he said.

When a security guard prevented them from entering the corporation premises, the cou-



ple did not listen and entered the premises riding a motorbike, the official said. The woman allegedly threw kerosene on a civic clerk present there. The couple also abused the civic staff and the security guard, he said.

Following a complaint by the civic employee, the police registered an FIR against the accused under Indian Penal Code sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of duty), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 34 (common intention), and provisions of the Bombay Police Act, he said.

TV PERSONALITY KIRTI VERMA CHARGED IN RS 263 CR ILLEGAL TDS REFUND CASE

Team Absolute | Mumbai
Kirti Verma, an Income Tax official-turned TV personality known for her appearances on 'Roadies' and 'Big Boss Season 12', as been chargesheeted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for allegedly receiving the proceeds of crime from an illegal Rs 263 crore Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) refund case.

Fourteen others, including entities, have also been named in the charge sheet, which was filed in a Mumbai court on Tuesday.

Former Income Tax Inspector Tanaji Mandal Adhikari, Bhushan Anant Patil, Rajesh Shetty, and others have also been implicated in the charge sheet.

Verma is accused of having a close relationship with one individual who illegally received a tax refund.

"The ED has discovered that Verma sold a property in Gurugram, acquired in 2021, using proceeds of crime amounting to Rs 1.02 crore, and received the sale proceeds in her bank accounts."

In January, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 69 crore, including land, flats, and luxury cars, which were purchased in the names of Verma and other accused individuals, Patil and Shetty.

The ED's case is based on the CBI's FIR against Adhikari and Patil.

The CBI case concerns the fraudulent issuance of tax refunds by the accused, with



allegations that they received illegal income tax refunds from 2007 to 2009.

It was alleged that Adhikari, while working as a Senior Tax Assistant, had access to RSA Tokens and login credentials of his supervisory authorities.

He allegedly orchestrated the fraud in collusion with others, fraudulently generating TDS refunds exceeding Rs 263 crore and transferring them to various bank accounts, including the bank

account of SB Enterprises, which is a proprietary concern of Patil.

The CBI also filed charge sheets against Adhikari, Patil, Shetty, and others for committing offences punishable under Sections 7 & 13(2) read with 13(1)(a) of the PC Act and Section 66 of the IT Act.

During the investigation, the ED learned that between November 15, 2019, and November 4, 2020, a total of 12 illegal TDS refunds totaling Rs 263.95,31,870 were

generated by Adhikari and fraudulently credited to the account of SB Enterprises.

"These Proceeds of Crime (PoC) were subsequently transferred into the bank accounts of Bhushan Anant Patil and other related persons and entities, including shell companies. During the course of the PMLA investigation, Kirti Verma sold one such property in Gurugram, which was acquired in 2021 with the PoC amounting to Rs 1.02 crore, and received the sale proceeds in her bank accounts.

"Immediate search operations were conducted, and the entire sale proceeds amounting to Rs 1.18 Crore were identified in her bank accounts and frozen," an ED official said. The ED had previously seized immovable properties in the form of lands in Lonavala, Khandala, Karjat, Puneand Udipi; flats in Panvel and Mumbai; and movable assets in the form of three luxury cars (BMW X7, Mercedes GLS400d, Audi Q7), which were acquired with the proceeds of crime by the accused.

Upon the identification of these assets, a Provisional Attachment Order under PMLA was issued, attaching 32 assets totaling Rs 69,65,99,720.

Thus, out of the total PoC of Rs 263 crore, assets worth Rs 166 crore have been seized in the case so far.

Further investigation in the matter is ongoing.

Man arrested for cheating Mumbai businessman of Rs 2.80 crore in bogus land deal

Team Absolute | Mumbai
The Mumbai Police have arrested Delhi-based Nitin Vasant Mane on charges of duping a Mumbai businessman out of Rs 2.80 crore in a fraudulent land transaction.

Mane, along with an accomplice, enticed the victim with the promise of selling a piece of land in Mumbai's Borivali for business purposes.

The accused duo informed the businessman that the land was embroiled in a legal dispute involving an individual named Parvez Irani. To add credence to their scheme, they introduced a man posing as Irani, and convinced the victim to finalise the land purchase.

Mane and one of his accomplices were arrested and both the session court and the Bombay High Court have denied them bail. Both Mane and his accomplice face charges of forgery, criminal conspiracy, and under other sections of the Indian Penal Code.



According to the complainant, he learned of a 938 square metre plot owned by Naresh Patil, with Nagraj Devendra holding the power of attorney for the sale.

The victim was quoted a price of Rs 6 crore for the plot, with Rs 4 crore purportedly going to Irani, and the remaining Rs 2 crore to Patil's family.

Mane, an advocate, offered his assistance in handling the documentation and facilitating the land transfer for a fee

of Rs 45 lakh. Subsequent investigations revealed that Mane, in collaboration with three others - Rajkumar Singh, Ravi Kumar, and advocate Sunil Budhwant - had devised a fraudulent scheme to swindle the businessman.

On April 4, Mane introduced Singh as Irani, and duped the victim out of Rs 2.80 crore.

Authorities uncovered evidence of close communication between all the suspects via phone.

Woman leads Indian Navy's 'tribute' expedition to treacherous Mt Bhagirathi-II

Team Absolute | Mumbai
Indian Navy Vice-Admiral Sanjay Bhalla flagged off an expedition to the challenging Mt. Bhagirathi-II peak, comprising 15 officers and sailors and led by a woman officer, here on Wednesday.

Receiving the expedition team here, Vice-Admiral Bhalla presented the ceremonial ice-axe to the leader, Commander Kokila Sajwan, at a ceremony late on Tuesday.

The team includes another woman officer, Commander Nandini Dam Roy, and the 21-day expedition will attempt to scale the 6,512 metre tall peak in the Garhwal Himalayas in Uttarakhand on September 30.

The team would unfurl the new Indian Navy ensign as a tribute to the five members of the naval expedition



which perished on Mt. Trishul two years ago on this day after getting trapped in an avalanche.

On September 30, 2021, five Indian Navy officers and a porter had been killed in a massive avalanche hit on Mt. Trishul-I, which stands 7,120 metres tall.

They were: Rajnikant Yadav, Yogesh Tiwari, Anand Kukreti, Hari Om, and others, who were barely 500 metres away from the summit when the tragedy

struck the 20-member team on the ascent.

Mt. Bhagirathi-II has a difficult gradient and a recognised expedition peak for 'technical climbing' which offers numerous challenges to the climbers.

While Commander Sajwan is posted at the Naval Ship Repair Yard in Karwar, Commander Roy serves as the Warship Overseeing Team in Kolkata.

Mt. Bhagirathi-II is part of the four imposing peaks, and the second tallest in the group, in the region.

It was first conquered by an Austrian team in 1933 and then summited first by an Indian team only after another 33 years, in 1966.

The peaks are named after King Bhagiratha, who is said to have brought the River Ganga to the earth from the heavens.



EDITOR'S SPECS

Multi-year housing cycle in offing on supply side consolidation and demand revival

The combination of supply side consolidation, demand revival and calibrated price hikes will lead to a multi-year housing cycle, as per a report by JM Financial Institutional Securities. The year 2022 was an exceptional year for Indian residential real estate, but there have been concerns on the possible impact of rising interest rates and property prices derailing the residential momentum. However, on the demand front, Mumbai registration data for August 2023 (10,902 registrations; +27 per cent YoY) continues to indicate strong momentum across a high ticket size market most susceptible to interest rate hikes/price inflation and also impacted by higher stamp duties, the report said. The supply situation also continues to be extremely favourable with steadily declining and decadal low unsold inventory, 674msf across top seven cities, as per Propequity. All markets (Bengaluru, Chennai, MMR, Delhi-NCR, Pune and Kolkata) barring Hyderabad have shown a declining trend in inventory. MMR, Pune and Hyderabad remain some of the best-performing markets with high absorption, and residential demand in the Delhi-NCR region is largely driven by the Rs 15 million+ ticket size or the luxury segment, the report said. The top seven cities are on track to surpass 2022's performance. The year 2022 was exceptional which saw 569msf of absorption (2016-21 average: 343msf; decadal high), and 2023 is also at a similar run rate (387msf in 7MCY23, annualised run rate: 663msf; 17 per cent YoY growth) led by cities like MMR (Mumbai Metropolitan Region), Pune and Hyderabad. Moreover, launches continued to slightly lag absorption (366msf launched in 7MCY23) resulting in inventory reduction and possible price hikes in 2HFY24, the report said.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SECURITY MANAGEMENT THAT STOOD THE TEST OF TIME

D.C. Pathak

The concept of security whether it concerns the nation, an establishment of strategic importance or even a business corporation, revolves around some basic principles that brooked no compromise.

We live in an insecure world where the issues of security are knocking at everyone's doors - the State has to protect its own integrity amidst threats, external or domestic, but it is also supremely responsible for the security of its citizens as well. In a democratic dispensation, this can not happen unless people themselves show an awareness about security which makes them a conscious contributor to national security at large. This more than anything else, validates the first principle of security in our times about the 'mainstreaming' of this function. Security of an enterprise is no more a matter of outsourcing it to a set of guards and their supervisors - it has to be built into the policy framework of the organisation, be based on planning and budgeting and above all, has to be in a position to act on the authority of the top man of the enterprise.

The head of the organisation is deemed to be the ultimate repository of the security function though he or she would normally assign this responsibility to one of the Deputies. This stands to reason for in the event of a senior member being suspected of violating mandatory security regulations, there would be a reluctance to bell the cat if the security set-up did not have confidence that it had the attention of the person at the very top. In strategically sensitive establishments handling secret projects of the State, arrangements exist for taking prompt notice of any member exhibiting 'vulnerability' by way of falling for an 'addiction', living beyond means or befriending an 'outsider' in an unnatural fashion and confidentially checking out if there were grounds for any further suspicion. The point is that security is a comprehensive call that can not be fulfilled without the notional involve-

ment of the organisational leadership. Security clearly is a 'mainstream' task that embraces the length and breadth of the organisation. The second fundamental principle of security is that it is an INTEGRAL concept. The establishment is either secure or insecure - there is nothing like a house being half-secure or half of it being secure.

Security basically is protection against 'cover' attacks of the enemy - an open or visible offensive against the nation will have to be countered by the defence forces of the country and if the target is an organisation, by the state law and order machinery responding to that attack. The unseen adversary tries to damage the three 'assets' of the nation or the targeted organisation as the case may be - physical resources, manpower and protected information - and this is what was professionally called Sabotage, Subversion and Espionage respectively. These are security concerns. In sensitive organisations, subversion basically meant changing the loyalty of a member away from the organisation to serve the cause of the 'new master', which can obviously be used for sabotage and espionage too. Arrangements are accordingly made by the security establishment to ensure physical security, 'personnel' security and Information security - all put together through well-defined steps. Anticipated risks are assessed for planning total security measures and apart from a certain standardised framework of security built on the risk assessment, special arrangements are made to deal with any specific threat that Intelligence might have indicated for the targeted entity. Intelligence is information about the secret plans of the adversary and this is always difficult to come by. Large competing business corporates would like to know what the rivals were up to and they make substantial investments in creating a team that was engaged the whole time in studying the market and the competitors to produce the so-called 'Business Intelligence'. In these days of 'knowledge-based' decision-making, this function has acquired a newfound



importance. The impact of climate change is another area of study now for security - across the spectrum of local to global concerns. Incidentally, it is rightly said that 'you have to buy security' and that 'security does not come cheap'. This is, however, compensated by another principle of security that emphasises that 'cost-effective security was the best security'. The logic of this is easy to understand. If two men can do what a team of three was assigned to do or where an operation could be completed in three steps instead of four, reduction would not only 'lower' the cost but also make the effort more efficient. A simple definition of 'efficiency' is the 'productivity per unit of resource' - the resource here is not only the money and manpower but 'time' as well. This concept is fully practised by our national Intelligence agencies even though they had a reasonable assurance that resources would not be allowed to come in the way of their mission. A security set-up is relatively free of bureaucratic impediments - decision-making is delegated subject to the healthy practice of seniors being kept informed. Also, the importance of work produced is often dis-linked from 'rank' and this was reflected in credit sharing as well. Further, the 'boss' was free to do 'tasking' but he or she was also obliged to provide 'guidance' where it was asked for. A senior given to 'escapism' in regard to this responsibility would have no future in an Intelligence organisation or in fact anywhere else.

A fundamental thing about security is that it is not a 'one-time event'. The scale and pattern of security are determined by the threat scenario and the latter was prone to changes - this is true of geopolitical developments, the environment in the neighbourhood and changes on the

domestic front.

In the era of globalisation and knowledge economy, a rival can spring up from anywhere in the world and a smaller player could take an established business by surprise through 'smarter' ways of working. Technology makes a human process 'smart' and now we have Artificial Intelligence (AI) that smartens up Information Technology itself. In the digital world, a lot is happening to upgrade life but for security, newer challenges are also emerging - ranging from Cyber Warfare to misuse of social media as 'an instrument of combat'. Proxy wars have expanded to include 'information warfare' and influencing the narrative to pull down a target country or enterprise. AI is opening up new frontiers of data analytics, robotics and identity emulation and pushing product development and business applications to new heights but it has multiplied security concerns as well.

It is feared that the security risks accruing from automation - of military offensives in particular - could outweigh the likely positives produced by AI for human advancement. Change is the only constant now and the entire challenge of security has assumed unforeseen proportions. As it is, a Cyberattack is detected only after it materialised making the mitigation effort so much more difficult. AI, however, would theoretically make it possible to consider 'preventive' measures for security on the basis of study of the modus operandi of the adversary carried out through its power of analysis.

Security definitely was running into new challenges in a situation rightly described by VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) which made knowledge-based decision-making so much more difficult. A new threat scenario marked by the rise of covert warfare in newer forms because of the use of cyber or digital space is opening up a new vista of challenge for security. Man-made

security concern in this context. Finally, it is the security domain that is putting leadership to new tests. In matters of security, the top man of the organisation will have to be decisive and capable of making decisions not out of notions of personal 'charisma' or of being 'born' a leader but on the strength of knowledge of what was happening externally and within the organisation. The leader has to seek facts that make a difference between a decision and a guess and consequently has to make arrangements that ensure the flow of relevant information to him or her. In the realm of security, the leader has to have the ability to communicate the organisational advice down the line with clarity, precision and unambiguity. The ethical code of the organisation should also be framed in a manner that covers the requirements of security. For employees handling confidential information of a sensitive nature, there had to be an arrangement of internal vigilance that occasionally checked out the conduct of a member outside of the workplace. There is so much exposure of society to unscrupulous acts of the hidden enemy on social media, websites and other digital distractions that the classical mandate for ensuring 'personnel security' in all its nuances has to be understood well by the leadership. Security set-up of a large corporate body would now have to have enough knowledge of the environment around and this would enable it to contribute to even advising the leadership on how to take the business forward. A smart leader of the organisation would find ways of garnering that knowledge for corporate progress. Security in fact is an important instrument of grooming for the potential leader of the enterprise - this is the biggest proof that security was in all situations a 'mainstream' function today.

(The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views expressed are personal)

international

PM Modi 'doing the right thing' by promoting Make in India: Putin

Moscow | Agencies
Russian President Vladimir Putin has once again lauded the 'Make in India' initiative and said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "doing the right thing" by promoting the policy. In his address to the plenary session of the 8th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok on Tuesday, Putin gave India's example while responding to a query about Russian-manufacture automobiles.

"You know, we did not have domestically made cars then, but we do now. It is true that they look more modest than Mercedes or Audi cars, which we bought in vast amounts in the 1990s, but this is not an issue. "I think that we should emulate many of our partners, for example, India. They are focused on the manufacture and use of Indian-made vehicles. "I think that Prime Minister Modi is doing the right thing in promoting the 'Make in India' programme. He is right,"



the Russian leader said. He went on to say that it is "absolutely fine" to use Russian-made automobiles.

"This will not lead to any infringements of our WTO obligations, absolutely not. It will concern state purchases. We must create a certain chain regarding what cars different classes of officials can drive, so that they will use domestically-made cars. "You probably know about the proposals to continue buying these cars. It would be easy to do, because the logistics are streamlined," Putin added. In June while addressing an economic forum in Moscow, Putin had called Modi "a great friend of

Russia" and praised the 'Make in India' initiative.

"Our friends in India and our big friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched the 'Make in India' initiative several years ago. It has had a truly impressive effect on the Indian economy. It would do no harm to emulate what is working well, even if it was not us but our friends who created it," the President had said. The 'Make in India' initiative was launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2014 aimed to create and encourage companies to develop, manufacture and assemble products made in the country and incentivise dedicated investments into manufacturing. Putin and Modi last met on the sidelines of a regional security bloc summit in Uzbekistan in September 2022. The President did not attend the G20 Summit held in New Delhi on September 9-10. He was represented by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

N.Korea will work together with Russia to fight imperialism: Kim tells Putin

Moscow/Seoul | Agencies
During their rare summit at the remote Vostochny spaceport in Russia's Far Eastern Amur Region, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday told President Vladimir Putin that Pyongyang will work together with Moscow to "fight imperialism". The meeting between Kim and Putin comes amid concerns that they might advance an arms negotiation and bolster military cooperation, reports Yonhap News Agency. With the participation of delegations, Kim and Putin began talks at the spaceport, according to Russian news agencies. Hours earlier, they shook hands and briefly exchanged conversation as Putin welcomed Kim ahead



of their first talks in more than four years. "(North Korea's) relations with Russia are the top priority of Pyongyang," Kim was quoted as saying at the start of the talks. Kim told Putin his country will work together with Russia to "fight against imperialism," adding that he is supportive of "all decisions" made by the President,

according to Russian media outlets. After departing from Pyongyang on board his bulletproof, luxury armoured train on Sunday, the North Korean leader arrived at the rocket launch facility on Wednesday morning, traveling more than 1,000 km north of the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok, where he

met Putin in 2019. Military cooperation likely topped the agenda, as Russia apparently needs North Korea's supplies of artillery shells and ammunition for its war with Ukraine, while the North wants high-tech weapons technology from Russia. On whether he plans to discuss military and technical cooperation with Kim during their talks, Putin was quoted as saying earlier in the day that "all issues" will be discussed, according to Russian news agencies.

Russia's PrimaMedia reported that the North Korean leader will be shown how the Angara launch vehicle is being assembled and also inspect the launch complex for the Soyuz-2 launch vehicle.

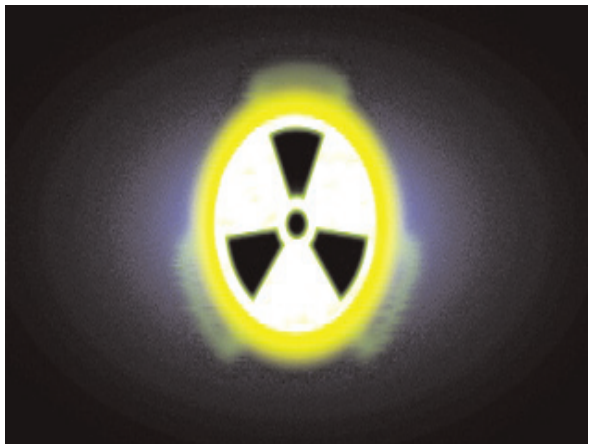
Radioactive material leaks detected at Japan's nuke fuel research facility

Tokyo | Agencies
The Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) has confirmed the detection of radioactive material leaks in one of its nuclear fuel research facilities but reported no adverse effects on the health of the staff or the surrounding environment, local media reported on Wednesday.

In its report, Kyodo News citing the JAEA said that the leaks were detected within the Plutonium Fuel Development Room No. 3 at the JAEA's Nuclear Fuel Cycle Engineering Laboratories, located in Tokai village, Ibaraki prefecture, reports Xinhua news agency.

On September 8, the Plutonium Fuel Development Room No. 3 identified pollution caused by radioactive materials at four locations within the facility.

The pollution was discovered during a routine inspection of the glovebox equip-



ment, which is designed to be airtight. The contamination was found both above and below the glovebox, with the highest level of radioactive activity measuring approximately 33 becquerels. Although the glovebox contained nuclear fuel materials, it had not been in recent use and was solely undergoing a biennial routine inspection, said the JAEA.

The JAEA has reassured

the public that the leak of nuclear material has not had any negative consequences for the health of the facility's four staff members or the surrounding environment.

At present, the cause of the radioactive material leak is under investigation.

Authorities at the laboratories suspected that the radioactive materials may have seeped out of the equipment.

Death toll from floods in Libya surpasses 3,000

Tripoli | Agencies
The death toll from the devastating floods that struck Libya's eastern city of Derna on Sunday has risen to 3,060, while 5,200 others remain missing, according to the eastern-based Interior Ministry. "The authorities have buried 2,800 bodies after their families identified them, while 260 unidentified bodies remain in the city's hospital," the ministry spokesman Tareq al-Kharraz told Xinhua news agency on Tuesday. Al-Kharraz said 5,200 people have gone missing, stressing that the actual death toll might be considerably higher, given that search and rescue operations are ongoing, and additional bodies continue to be recovered from various locations within the city. According to media reports, assistance and rescue efforts started to reach Derna on Tuesday, more than 36 hours



after the disaster hit the coastal city. The floods had either severely damaged or completely destroyed numerous access roads leading to the city, which is home to approximately 89,000 residents. Meanwhile, Tamer Ramadan, Libyan envoy representing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies told a UN meeting on Tuesday that he believed there were still at least 10,000 people unaccounted for in the flood-hit areas.

The catastrophic event was triggered by a Mediterranean storm that made landfall in eastern Libya on Sunday, resulting in widespread flooding and causing extensive damage to infrastructure along its path. President of the Libyan Presidency Council Mohamed Menfi on Monday called for international assistance to help with the aftermath of the floods, declaring the cities of Derna, Al-Bayda, and Shahhat as areas in dire need of assistance.

Dozens dead, over 50 injured in Hanoi apartment fire



Hanoi | Agencies
At least a dozen people were dead and more than 50 others injured due to a fire that erupted at a nine-storey apartment building in Hanoi, officials in the Vietnamese capital said on Wednesday. According to preliminary statistics, as of 5 a.m. on Wednesday, authorities had rescued some 70 people and sent 54 others to hospital, the Vietnam News Agency reported. The fire broke out first at the first storey of the block with a floor area of over 200 square meters, where some 150 people live, in Khuong Dinh ward, Thanh Xuan district, reports Xinhua news agency. In the first eight months of this year, Vietnam saw 1,286 fires and explosions which killed 69 people, injured 64 others, and caused property losses of nearly 200.7 billion Vietnamese dong (\$8 million), the country's General Statistics Office said.



CM SHIVRAJ TO UNVEIL 108-FEET TALL STATUE OF 'ADI SHANKARACHARYA' IN OMKARESHWAR ON SEP 18

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan will unveil a 108-foot-tall statue of 'Adi Shankaracharya' in Omkareshwar on September 18.

Chief Minister Chauhan on Tuesday evening reviewed the work for the statue named "Eakmta Ki Pratima" (Statue of Oneness).

The Madhya Pradesh cabinet had approved over Rs 2,141 crore for the construction of the Statue of Oneness project. The towering structure is dedicated to the 8th century philosopher, an influential and revered figure in Hinduism 'Adi Shankaracharya' Omkareshwar, located about 80km from Indore on the Narmada river banks, is a global centre of the Advaita Vedanta philosophy promoted by Adi Shankaracharya. The construction of the statue on the Mandhata mountain in the temple town is part of the first phase of the development project, an official release said.

The multi-metal statue depicts Adi Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old boy. The video of the under-developed project was released by the state government on Wednesday. According to religious beliefs, Adi Shankaracharya left Omkareshwar at the age of 12 and travelled across the country spreading the Advaita Vedanta philosophy and explaining its tenets to people. He is believed to have reached Omkareshwar



after becoming a 'sanyasi' (monk) at a very young age, where he met his guru Govind Bhagwadpad and stayed in the religious city for four years and attained education.

The state government informed that along with the establishment of a museum named "Advaita Lok" in Omkareshwar and an international Vedanta institute, an "Advaita Forest" is also being devel-

oped across 36 hectares in the town. "All required works have been completed near the statue site. Priority has also been given to complete the work expeditiously for the establishment of a special museum focused on unity and the Advaita Vedanta Institute," the government said. The statue is being unveiled just months ahead of the year-end assembly elections in the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on September 14 and lay the foundation stone and dedicate several projects in the poll-bound states.

During his visit in Madhya Pradesh's Bina, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 50,700 crore including 'Petrochemical Complex at Bina Refinery' and 10 new industrial projects across the state, as per the communiqué issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Wednesday.

"The state of the art Petrochemical Complex at



Bina Refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation will be developed at a cost of about Rs 49,000 crore, and will produce about 1200 KTPA (Kilo-Tonnes Per Annum) of ethylene and propylene, which are a vital component for various sectors like textiles, packaging, pharma, among others. "This will reduce the country's import dependence and

will be a step towards fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). The mega project will also create employment opportunities and spur the development of downstream industries in the petroleum sector," it said.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of ten projects namely 'Power and Renewable Energy Manufacturing Zone' in Narmadapuram district, two IT parks in Indore, a Mega Industrial Park in Ratlam, and six new industrial areas across the state.

Notably, Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are scheduled to be held later this year.

CM CHOUHAN PLANTS BELPATRA, PEEPAL AND GULMOHAR SAPPLINGS

Bhopal : Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan planted saplings of Belpatra, Peepal and Gulmohar. Along with CM Chauhan, international karate player Reema Gurjar planted saplings in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Gurjar bagged gold and silver medals in Karate at the World Police Fire Games in Canada. Gurjar is posted at Traffic Police Station, Bhopal. Along with Chief Minister Chauhan, Harsh Jat, Dinesh Verma and Rehti's Pawan Sharma planted saplings on their birthday. Public representatives and social workers of Gwalior, Betul and Rehti also participated in the plantation.

CONGRESS HOLDS SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING FOR 2ND STRAIGHT DAY IN DELHI FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Head of the Assembly polls, a second round of meeting of the Congress Screening Committee for Madhya Pradesh is underway at its war room in the national capital on Wednesday.

The meeting is being held for the second consecutive day to finalise the candidates.

Screening Committee chairman Jitendra Singh, former chief ministers Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, state in charge Randeep Surjewala are also present along with other senior leaders of the party to decide on the candidates. Party sources related to



development said that in the meeting, a list of 66 Assembly seats will be discussed, on which the party has not won or is weak and or has won occasionally.

Party state in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said that no candidates had been finalised as of now.

"We will contest the election under the leadership of Kamal Nath, who is the

party's state Congress committee head. He was the Chief Minister when BJP stole the people's mandate. The BJP should be ready to be punished by the people of Madhya Pradesh," Surjewala said after the meeting of the Screening Committee.

He said that the party has been discussing the seats and how many people have applied for the seats.

"No seats have been finalised yet and this screening committee meeting will go on for next few days."

There are a total of 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh for which the BJP has already announced the names of 39 candidates.

Group of men beat up Dalit, urinate on him in Bhopal

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A group of people allegedly beat up a Dalit man and urinated on him in Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal. The man told the police that when he regained consciousness, he found himself in a hospital.

The victim identified as Ramswaroop Ahirwar lodged a FIR at Sukhi Sevania police station alleging that four persons -- Seru Meena, Tushar Meena, Lekhray Meena and Abhisek Meena -- kidnapped him and beat him until he lost consciousness. The victim, who works as a kotwal, claimed the patwari (revenue official) of the area had asked him to undertake an inspection as there was a report that some people were



encroaching on government land. Ahirwar said when he reached the spot (Choupdakala village), he found some people were putting up fencing

on government land. "I objected to their fencing work. In the meantime, Seru Meena, who is the husband of the village sarpanch, also came and

started abusing me. Tushar Meena, Lekhray Meena and Abhisek Meena also reached there," the FIR copy available with reporter reads.

"The tied my hands and put me in Suru Meena's Scorpio and took me near a drain. Suru was driving his Scorpio, while Lekhray, Abhisek and Tushar were beating me on the way and hurling abusive language. They all kept beating me and when I started losing consciousness, Seru Meena urinated on me," the victim said in his complaint.

Later, some people took him to Bhopal's Hamidia hospital. Police said the accused have been booked under relevant sections of the IPC and an investigation has been launched into the matter.

AIIMS organised Cervical Cancer Screening Camp in rural areas to spread awareness



Team Absolute | Bhopal

All India Institute of Medical Sciences Bhopal has organised Cervical Cancer Screening camp as outreach activity at Chiklod under guidance of Dr. Vaishali Walke (Prof and Head of department) in collaboration with team of Dr. Rajkumar Patil, (Community and family medicine) and with team of Dr Shweta (Obstetrics and gynaecology) on 13th Sep 2023.

A cervical cancer screening

camp was held on 13th Sept 2023, at PHC Chiklod, Bhopal (M.P). This campaign was led by Dr. Hemlata Panwar (Associate Professor, Pathology) and she created the awareness among twenty females regarding early detection and prevention of cervical cancer. They have also been made aware about cause and risk factors of cancer cervix. Consent for cervical cancer screening was obtained. Pap smear samples were obtained from 16 females. Clinical his-

tory was taken and screened by Dr. Deepthi Soni (Senior Resident, Pathology) and procedure was done by Dr. Naina Gautam (Senior Resident, Obstetrics and Gynaecology). Dr Sudhir (Senior Resident, Department of community and family medicine) and his team created awareness about the camp among the villagers. Pap smears reports will be communicated to CFM department and the appropriate management will also be done by Gynaecology department.

TEACHER STRIPPED AND BEATEN IN INDORE

Indore: On Wednesday, some people beat up coaching teacher Shailendra fiercely on charges of molesting a student preparing for NEET in Indore. People even took off his clothes and beat him in the middle of the market, the crowd then took him towards the police station to beat him, the teacher also ran without clothes to escape from the crowd after seeing the police and entered the police station and took the chair there under police protection. The student is a resident of Khargone district. Police have registered a case of molestation against the accused teacher and his fellow teacher. Accused teacher Shailendra Akash teaches in Byju Coaching. This coaching is near Geeta Bhawan. It is alleged that the accused teacher had molested the student in the coaching institute. On this, the victim student had made a video of the accused teacher and sent it to the family. After this the family members came from Khargone and interrogated the teacher. When he started shouting, he was beaten. The angry family members stripped the teacher, paraded him on the road, beat him and took him to the police station. The accused teacher has been handed over to the police, while the other fellow teacher Vivek is absconding. Police have registered a case of molestation against both of them.

Clash between 2 groups in Datia, 5 killed, 8 injured

Team Absolute | Datia

Five people were killed and eight others seriously injured after two groups opened fire at each other over grazing of domestic animals in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district on Wednesday, a police official said.

The shootout between members of the Dangi and Pal communities took place around 9 am at Renda village in the district, which is the home turf of state home minister Narottam Mishra.

Citing the initial investigation, Datia Superintendent of Police (SP) Pradeep Sharma said there was an altercation between one Prakash Dangi and Preetam Pal over the grazing of domestic animals three days ago.

During the heated argument, Prakash slapped Preetam following which cross-complaints were filed and FIRs registered against both communities, the SP



said. Members of the two communities once again faced off on Wednesday morning and engaged in a shootout, which left five dead and eight grievously injured, he said. Prakash Dangi, Ram

Nareish Dangi, Surendra Dangi, Rajendra Pal and Raghvendra Pal died in the exchange of fire, he said. All the deceased were above 30.

The injured persons have been admitted to the district hospital.

Poster war erupts again in Capital; Now 'Monster Of Corruption' after '50% Commission'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prior to the assembly elections, the poster war seems to be intensifying again in the capital. About one and a half months ago, posters of '50% commission' were put up in the city. Now posters named 'Corruption Ka Haiwan' (Beast Of Corruption) have been put up in the city. These posters have been made like the poster of the film 'Jawaan'. Former CM Kamal Nath has been cornered through these posters. Till now no one has taken the responsibility of putting up these posters.

In this poster, the photo of Congress President Kamal Nath has been edited like the main character of the film



Jawan. Also, the captions 'Corruption Ka Haiwan' and 'A Corruption Nath Film' are written in the poster.

These posters are put up at main places of Bhopal. Karpshnath's posters are put up at places like New Market, Number 10 Market, Peer Gate, in front of DB Mall, MP

Nagar, Pragati Petrol Pump, Bittan Market, Nadra Bus Stand and Congress Office.

Vice President of Congress Media Department Abbas Hafeez, along with Congress workers, has torn down the signs at various places. Taking aim at BJP, he said that this is an act done in

panic by the distraught Bharatiya Janata Party. This clearly shows that BJP is losing this election. Madhya Pradesh had never seen such level of politics. It will be costly for the BJP to spread false propaganda about a leader who has served Madhya Pradesh for 45 years and has given gifts to Madhya Pradesh.

About one and a half months ago, posters with the photo of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan were put up in the city. Slogans like 'A question from the public, who is eating 50% commission', 'Run away 50% commission takers, save MP', 'Let's change together today, 50% commission rule' were written on these posters.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
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ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
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DEMAND NOTICE
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE BORROWERS AS MENTIONED BELOW THAT SINCE THEY HAVE DEFAULTED IN REPAYMENT OF THE CREDIT FACILITY AVAILABLE BY THEM FROM ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (ABHFL), THEIR LOAN ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED AS NON-PERFORMING ASSETS IN THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY AS PER RBI GUIDELINES THERETO. THEREAFTER, ABHFL HAS ISSUED DEMAND NOTICES UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) ON THE LAST KNOWN ADDRESSES OF THE SAID BORROWERS THEREBY CALLING UPON AND DEMANDING FROM THEM TO REPAY THE ENTIRE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOGETHER WITH FURTHER INTEREST AT THE CONTRACTUAL RATE ON THE FORESAID AMOUNT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES, COST, CHARGES ETC. AS STATED IN THE SAID DEMAND NOTICES. HOWEVER, THE DEMAND NOTICE IS ALSO BEING SERVED BY WAY OF PUBLICATION, AS PER RULE 3 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 (SARFAESI RULES):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice / as on Date
1	Suresh Menghwani, 2. Rakhi Menghwani, Shop No. 206, Situated at Upper Ground Bda Complex, Teh Huzur Dist. Bhopal, Bu Stop No. 07, Shivaji Nagar, Near By Sagar Gaire, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462001. 3. Suresh Menghwani, 4. Rakhi Menghwani, Flat No. 5, Star Apartment, Near Vimal Nursing Home, IDGAH Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 462001. 5. Suresh Menghwani, 6. Rakhi Menghwani, Plot No. 74, Bhopal G.P Bhopal, IDGAH Hills Bhopal, Judge Colony Idgah Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh - 462001. Loan Account No. LNBPGOHL-08220142939 & LNBPGPNO-03220126789	01-09-2023	07.09.2023	Rs. 21,96,683.98/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Three and Ninety Eight Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 06.09.2023
2	1. Jagdish, 2. Deepika Kurmi, PHN 71 Wn09, Sardar Ballabh Bai Patel Ward, Sagar 2, Mouja Rajakhedi, Tah Dist Sagar, Open Plot Situated At Part Of Kh No. 382, 392, 402, Open Plot Situated At Part Of Kh No. 382, 392, 40/2, Near Rajakhedi Road Sagar, Sagar Cantt H.O. Sagar, Madhya Pradesh-470001. 3. Jagdish, 4. Deepika Kurmi, Tehsil Sagar Sagar, Kishan Pura Village Kishanapura, 43, Near Govt. School, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh-470228. 5. Jagdish C/o Singh Construction Sagar, Dwarkabihar Colony Sagar, Madhya Pradesh-470001. Loan Account No. LNBPGOHL-08220142939 & LNBPGPNO-03220143013	01-09-2023	07.09.2023	Rs. 2,41,488/- (Rupees Two Lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.09.2023

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto falling which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences. Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL in any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 14.09.2023
Place: Bhopal

Sd/- Authorised Officer
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)



MTV VMAs

With 8 awards, Taylor Swift is Artiste of The Year; Shakira bags Video Vanguard Award

Los Angeles | Agencies

The MTV Video Music Awards (VMA) concluded its latest session, with Nicki Minaj hosting the function. One of the function's biggest highlights, was its primarily women-centric wins, in particular with Taylor Swift winning Artist of the Year as she edged out with Beyonce, Miley Cyrus, Drake, SZA.

Among all the winners, Taylor Swift ended up taking the top spot as she won eight awards straight in a row, in a new historical win.

But Artist of the Year, in particular, was the highlight which Swift won by a very narrow margin, just inching out Beyonce.

Taylor was nominated for 11 awards in total winning eight, followed by SZA with

eight; Blackpink, Doja Cat, Miley Cyrus, Minaj and Rodrigo with six; Kim Petras and Sam Smith (five each), Beyonce, Diddy, Drake, Ice Spice, Karol G, Metro Boomin, Shakira and Tomorrow X Together (four each), according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Beyonce, Doja, Karol G, Minaj and Shakira joined Swift as artists of the year nominees, marking the first time since the category was introduced in 2017 that all artists of the year nominees are women.

Some of the other musicians who joined the show include: Demi Lovato, Shakira, Olivia Rodrigo, Cardi B with Megan Thee Stallion, Diddy, Lil Wayne, Doja Cat and Fall Out Boy, among others, all of whom performed during the ceremony.

Shakira received the Video Vanguard Award, with the night also introducing a brand new category; Best Afrobeats.

The 2023 VMAs aired live from New Jersey's Prudential Center, with the entirety of the VMA being driven by fan voting.

Other categories include Best Rock performance, won by the Italian rock band Maneskin for their song; 'The Loneliest' beating out the likes of Metallica, Foo Fighters, Linkin Park and Red Hot Chili Peppers.



WHY ARIANA GRANDE DOESN'T USE BOTOX ANYMORE?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Ariana Grande shed tears as she shared her experience with Botox and why she no longer uses it.

The pop singer, who plays Glinda the Good Witch in the upcoming film adaptation of the Broadway musical 'Wicked', was overcome with emotion when she revealed in a 'Vogue Beauty Secrets' video that she no longer feels the need to use cosmetic injectables, reports 'People' magazine.

"Full transparency as a beauty person, as I do my lips," the 30-year-old singer said before applying colour to her lips. "(I've) had a ton of lip filler over the years and Botox. I stopped in 2018 because I just felt so - too much. I just felt like (I was) hiding, you know?"

As the 'Thank U, Next' singer began tearing up while insisting she "didn't expect to get emotional," she went on to explain that for a long time, beauty was "about hiding for me".

"I, over the years, used makeup as a disguise or as something to hide behind," Grande admitted, quoted by 'People', adding that she also used big hairstyles in a similar manner.

"More hair, more and more, (the) thicker eyeliner... and that can be so beautiful at times and I still do have love for it."

Grande's aesthetic has mellowed over the years because she started out performing in the public eye at such a young age, when she was forced to deal with the opinions of others, she said.



Nick Jonas urges fans to stop throwing items on stage, after being hit by one

Los Angeles | Agencies

The Jonas Brothers are hitting the stage, and much like any other musician on stage, they too don't appreciate objects being thrown at them. Nick Jonas was recently hit by an audience member throwing an item on stage, and Nick, who wasn't cool with it, told the audience to knock it off.

The Jonas Brothers concert was being held on September 11, in California with a viral video surfacing two days later of objects being thrown by audience members on stage, either out of anger or for giggles.

In the TikTok video, Jonas is seen jamming out to their song 'Rollercoaster' as what looks to be a bunch of bracelets is flung at him onstage.

After Jonas attempted to catch a few of them, he smiled, shook his head and then seriously told fans to "stop" before continuing to sing the song, as per 'People' magazine.

Throwing items onstage and at performers has become a dangerous trend, though it is hardly old as many bands and singers have had to go through this, with some of the prime examples being Nickleback, Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez and Creed.

Over the summer, a slew of stars have complained about fans throwing things at them while they're performing. Bebe Rexha was seriously hurt in New York City when a fan chucked a cell phone at her face (he was arrested), and Harry Styles has been hit by objects multiple times while touring Europe.

The Jonas Brothers have been on their Five Albums One Night The World Tour, which they kicked off in August at Yankee Stadium in Bronx, New York City.



Sophie Turner spotted working on new show

Seoul | Agencies

Actress Sophie Turner has been seen for the first time since her husband Joe Jonas filed for divorce.

The 'Game of Thrones' actress, 27, and Jonas Brother star, 34, told fans they had decided to call time on their four-year marriage last week amid rumours they were living separately, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

Sophie, who shares two daughters with Joe, has kept a low profile since the news broke, but she has now been spotted in Spain, sporting a blonde cropped wig and a huge temporary back tattoo as she gets to work filming her new ITV drama, 'Joan'.

The actress looked almost unrecognisable as she puffed on a cigarette during a break from production, sporting a black vest, grey spandex shorts, navy sliders and a slick of crimson lipstick.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', she seemed pensive as she clutched her iPhone, which was protected with a 'Toy Story' cover. The Pixar franchise has happy memories for Sophie and Joe as they decided to get matching tattoos with words from the film back in 2018. Joe's reads: "To infinity" while Sophie's completes Buzz Lightyear's line with: "& beyond".

Following days of speculation, Joe officially filed for divorce last week, stating the couple's marriage was "irretrievably broken". As fans were left reeling, the former couple then shared a joint statement on social media saying the break-up was a mutual decision, adding they had ended things amicably.



'Batgirl' directors express disappointment over their scrapped film after watching 'The Flash'

Los Angeles | Agencies

With old DCEU coming to a close, directors Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, who were the creative heads behind the now cancelled 'Batgirl' film, have reflected on their scrapped project after watching 'The Flash' and expressed great disappointment.

"We watched it and we were sad," Adil said of 'The Flash' in an interview with Insider. "We love director Andy Muschietti and his sister Barbara, who produced the movie. But when we watched it, we felt we could have been part of the whole thing," Deadline reported.

Adil continued: "We didn't get the chance to show 'Batgirl' to the world and let the audience judge for themselves. Because the audience really is our ultimate boss and should be the deciders of if something is good or bad, or if something should be seen or not." He went on to add that the film he was working on: "was very different than 'The Flash'" in that the movie that starred Ezra Miller "has a big fantasy component" and 'Batgirl' "was more grounded. More like Tim Burton's Gotham City." 'Batgirl' was cancelled after total completion, due to the increasingly negative reviews it got during the test screenings, with the producers even calling the cut 'unwatchable'. The film cost a lot of money, estimated to be somewhere over \$100 million, which wasted a lot of WB's time and money, accelerating the pace of ending the old DCEU.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Olivia Rodrigo



ICC Men's ODI Rankings

Shubman Gill rises to career-best second position; Rohit, Kohli make gains

Colombo | Agencies

India opener Shubman Gill has attained a career-best second position and is now only behind Pakistan captain Babar Azam in the ICC Men's ODI Rankings, the latest update of which was released on Wednesday.

Gill, who has slammed two half-centuries while amassing 154 runs in the ongoing Asia Cup, has 759 rating points and is the highest-ranked among three India players who are now in the top 10 of the ranking for the batters in ODIs, the first time this happened since January 2019.

Captain Rohit Sharma and talismanic batter Virat Kohli have gained two places each and are sitting in eighth and ninth positions, respectively. Sharma also scored a half-century against Sri Lanka on Tuesday while Kohli advances in the rankings thanks to his unbeaten 122 against Pakistan.

Sharma, Kohli and veteran left-handed opener Shikhar Dhawan were the three batters in the top 10 in that instance more than four years ago while those three were also in the top six of the batting table back in September 2018.



Indian batting pair of KL Rahul (up 10 places to 37th) and Ishan Kishan (up two places to 22nd) have also made significant moves in the rankings, while left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has gained five places to reach seventh position in the men's ODI bowler rankings after grabbing nine wickets in two Asia Cup matches.

India's fast-bowling spearhead

Jasprit Bumrah is also up eight places to 27th place on his return to ODIs, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya (up 21 places to 56th) in the bowlers rankings and is also up four places to sixth among all-rounders list.

Pakistan also has three batters in the top 10 of batters' rankings, with Azam at the top and enjoys a lead of more than 100 rating points over Gill. Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman lost

some positions to be at fifth and tenth place, respectively.

In South Africa, captain Temba Bavuma has closed in on a top-10 place after striking three centuries and two half-centuries in his last eight ODIs. He has advanced 21 places to 11th position while his previous best was 25th.

Australia players Davis Warner (up one place to fourth), Travis Head (up six places to 20th) and Marnus Labuschagne (up 24 places to 45th) have made significant progress too in the batters' rankings.

New Zealand's left-arm pacer Trent Boult is up to joint-second place among bowlers while Australia leg-spinner Adam Zampa is in the top five of the bowling rankings for the first time after taking four wickets in the second match against South Africa.

Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has soared eight spots and is in 21st position and is followed by his fellow pacer Naseem Shah (up 11 spots to equal 51st), while South Africa spinners Keshav Maharaj (up 10 places to 25th) and Tabraiz Shamsi (up 15 places to 29th) are among the bowlers to move up the rankings led by Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood.

Hong Kong Open: Lakshya Sen withdraws; Ashwini-Tanisha pair enters pre-quarterfinals

Kowloon (Hong Kong) | Agencies

Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen withdrew from the Hong Kong Open Super 500 badminton tournament two hours before his men's singles opening round match, giving a walkover to his opponent Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei, here on Wednesday.

Lakshya, seeded eighth, was the highest-ranked Indian shuttler in men's singles in the tournament in the absence of World No.7 HS Prannoy.

After losing in the first round at the China Open, Lakshya was seen as the biggest bet for the title in the absence of Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth, and PV Sindhu. The trio will be part of the national camp for the Asian Games 2022.

After back-to-back ousters in the first round of the tournament, Lakshya is likely to lose his 8th position in the BWF World Rankings. He last won a tournament at the Canada Open Super 500 in



July. Meanwhile, the women's doubles duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto (ranked 50th) advanced to pre-quarterfinals with a 21-19, 21-19 win over the world no. 21 Chinese Taipei pair of Lee Chia Hsin and Teng Chun Hsun.

In the mixed doubles, Ashwini, partnering B Summeth Reddy, lost 16-21, 21-16, 18-21 to the Malaysian pair of Cheng Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei in three games.

In men's doubles, Krishna Prasad Garaga and

Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala suffered a first-round exit after losing 14-21, 19-21 to Korean duo of Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol.

Priyanshu Rawat, World No.28, also suffered an early exit after going down 13-21, 14-21 to Kanta Tsuneyama of Japan.

In Women's singles, Aakarshi Kashyap lost to Yvonne Li 18-21, 10-21 in the opening round, while Malvika Bansod will face World No. 17 Zhang Yi Man of China.

FIH withdraws Olympic hockey Qualifiers from Pakistan, new host to be announced soon

Lausanne (Switzerland) | Agencies

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) will soon announce a new host for one of the three Paris 2024 Olympic Qualifiers after withdrawing the hosting rights from Pakistan.

The FIH was on Tuesday withdrew the men's Olympic qualifier from Pakistan because of issues related to the Pakistan Hockey Federation.

"FIH can confirm that it has informed the Pakistan Hockey Federation of its decision to withdraw the hosting of the Men's FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifier tournament - scheduled in January 2024 - from Pakistan. This is primarily due to the recent developments in the governance situation of the Federation." A new host for this tournament will be announced shortly. The other qualifiers will be staged in China and Spain as announced in July, "the global hockey governing body said in a statement.

Pakistan was to host the men's Olympic qualifiers early next year along with China and Spain. The Olympic qualifiers could have



been the first major international hockey event in Pakistan since the Champions Trophy in 2004.

The top 3 teams in each of the three FIH Hockey Olympic Qualification Tournaments will qualify for Paris 2024. They will join hosts France as well as the winners of each Continental Championship (African Hockey Road to Paris, Pan American Games, Asian Games, EuroHockey Championship and Oceania Cup).

Pakistan ranked 15 in the world, will need to secure victory in the Asian Games or await confirmation of their participation in qualifying matches held elsewhere.

EURO Qualifiers: SPAIN TROUNCE CYPRUS, BELGIUM WIN, ITALY SEE OFF UKRAINE

New Delhi | Agencies

Spain defeated Cyprus, Belgium continued their unbeaten run and Italy won their first home game under Luciano Spalletti in the Euro Qualifiers.

Spain comfortably beat Cyprus 6-0 in Group A of European Qualifying, while Belgium kept their unbeaten run going against Estonia with 5-0 win and Italy saw off Ukraine 2-1 on Tuesday.

Spain's substitutes ran riot in the second half, with Ferran Torres netting twice and Alex Baena scoring on his debut in the victory over Cyprus. UEFA reports.

Jan Vertonghen scored on his 150th international appearance and captain Romelu Lukaku struck twice inside three second-half minutes as Belgium stayed top of their section by beating Estonia.

Centre-back Vertonghen nodded in after four minutes, and the hosts had



further cause for celebration when Leandro Trossard beat three defenders to score his side's second.

The visitors' Henri Anier was denied by the woodwork before halftime, but Lukaku's clinical finishes in

the 56th and 58th minutes and Charles De Ketelaere's effort two minutes from time ensured a comfortable Red Devils win.

Davide Frattesi struck twice as Italy won in coach Luciano Spalletti's first home match in charge to leapfrog Ukraine into second place in their pool.

Inter midfielder Frattesi made the most of the hosts' bright start by firing in the 12th-minute opener, then steered the ball past goalkeeper Georgiy Bushchan following a ricochet 17 minutes later.

Ukraine replied four minutes before the interval when Andriy Yarmolenko stroked in following Gianluigi Donnarumma's save to deny Artem Dovbyk.

The Azzurri might have scored more in the second half, Bushchan keeping out Giacomo Raspadori's drive with his fingertips and seeing Manuel Locatelli's effort hit the crossbar.

ASIAN GAMES SHEETAL SHARMA TO LEAD INDIAN RUGBY SEVENS WOMEN'S TEAM

Kolkata | Agencies

Rugby India on Wednesday announced the final team that will be competing at the 19th Asian Games to be held at Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China from the September 23 to October 8.

Placed 7th on the final list of teams that are going to be participating in the event held every four years, the Indian team is looking to showcase their ability on the biggest sporting stage in Asia.

The final Rugby Sevens squad includes Sweta Shahi, Sandhya Rai (Vice Captain), Mama Naik, Kalyani Patil, Vaishnavi Patil, Lachmi Oraon, Dumuni Marnadi, Hupri Majhi, Shikha Yadav, Tarulata Naik, Sheetal Sharma (Captain), and Priya Bansal.

Sheetal Sharma captained the team that performed well at the recently held Borneo 7's held in Malaysia, where they finished in fourth place. India's campaign starts on September 24 against



Hong Kong China in the morning session and Japan in the afternoon session. Drawn in F Pool with defending champions Japan, Hong Kong

China, and Singapore, the Indian team will have to qualify as one of the top two teams here to further make it into the semi-final.

NEHA TRIPATHI TAKES ONE-SHOT LEAD IN 12H LEG OF WPGT

Gurugram | Agencies

Neha Tripathi dropped a late bogey on the 17th hole but managed to take a one-shot lead after the first round of the 12th Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Golden Greens Golf Club.

Neha, who ended a title drought of more than four and a half years when she won the 10th Leg of the WPGT this season in July, carded 4-under 68.

Trailing Neha by one shot were Gaurika Bishnoi and Anisha Agarwalla, who shot 69 each, while Riya Yadav, who had an eagle and a hole-in-one in the space of four holes, and Ridhima Dilawari shot 2-under 70 each. Asmitha Sathish was the other player to shoot under par at 1-under 71 in sixth place. Tvesa Malik, who had a bogey and a triple bogey on the first and second holes, scored 3-over 75 and

was T-13.

Neha started strongly with birdies on the second and the fourth and added a third birdie on the ninth and turned in 3-under. She landed an eagle on the Par-3 11th to go 5-under. A string of pars over the next five holes was followed by her lone bogey on 17th. Anisha had a steady front nine with one birdie and no bogeys. She dropped a double bogey on 10th, but recovered with an eagle on the 11th. A bogey on the 12th was followed by three pars and three birdies in the last three holes for a roller-coaster ride on the back nine. Gaurika had three birdies on either side of the Golden Greens course, but also dropped shots on the first, 10th and 11th. Riya Yadav had a memorable round which had one bogey in first four holes followed by an eagle on the Par-5 fifth.

Zaman Khan replaces Naseem Shah in Asia Cup squad

Colombo | Agencies

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced that right-arm fast bowler Zaman Khan has replaced Naseem Shah in the ongoing Asia Cup.

Naseem injured his right shoulder during the match against India. He continues to be monitored by the team's medical panel that is taking all necessary precautions keeping in mind the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

Zaman Khan has represented Pakistan in the T20I format. In six T20Is for Pakistan, he has scalped four wickets at an average of 32.5, with an economy of 6.66.

The match between India and Pakistan went for the reserve day as the first day was washed out due to rain on Sunday. After a solid start by the opener and then a century by Virat Kohli and KL Rahul helped India to post a mammoth target of 356/2 to which Pakistan tumbled down to 128-all out



and lost the match by 228 runs. Wrist Spinner Kuldeep Yadav shone with the ball and took a 5-wicket haul.

Haris Rauf, who did not bowl on the reserve day of the Pakistan vs. India contest as a precautionary measure, continues to recover well after he felt discomfort in his right flank on the first

day of the match.

Team doctor Sohail Saleem said, "These two fast bowlers are our assets and the team's medical panel will provide them the best possible care ahead of the all-important World Cup."

Fast bowler Shah Nawaz Dahani will join the team on Thursday morning.

2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers: Argentina romp to 3-0 win over Bolivia

La Paz | Agencies

Reigning champions Argentina kept intact their perfect start to South America's 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers with a 3-0 away victory over Bolivia here.

Playing without captain Lionel Messi, who was rested in the 3,600-meter altitude of La Paz, the Albiceleste took the lead in 31st minute through Enzo Fernandez on Tuesday, Xinhua reports.

The Chelsea midfielder timed his run to perfection to tap home at the near post after Angel Di Maria's dangerous run and cross.

The hosts were reduced to 10 men shortly after when Roberto Fernandez was shown a second yellow card for a rough challenge on Cristian Romero.

Nicolas Tagliafico extended the advantage just before halftime with a looping header beyond the reach of goalkeeper Guillermo



Viscarra after another Di Maria cross.

Nicolas Gonzalez completed the rout when he combined with Exequiel Palacios before firing a low shot into the near corner.

The Albiceleste now have six points from their opening two qualifiers while Bolivia are yet to register a point.

Mushfiqur Rahim to miss Bangladesh's Super Four match against India

Colombo: Veteran wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim will be missing Bangladesh's Super Four match in the Asia Cup against India, to be held on Friday, said the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Mushfiqur had flown back home after Bangladesh's loss to Sri Lanka by 21 runs in the Super Four match at Colombo on September 9 to attend the birth of his second child, a baby girl. Though he was initially slated to come back for the match against India on September 15, BCB said in its release that Mushfiqur has been granted an extension of leave to be with his wife Jannatul Kefayat Mondy, and newborn child in Dhaka.

Mushfiqur has been one of the longest-serving members in the Bangladesh team, scoring 7388 in 255 ODI matches, averaging 37.12, including nine centuries and 45 half-centuries. He has also taken 222 catches and effected 55 stumpings in the format.

In this Asia Cup, he scored 131 runs in four innings, including a half-century, while taking five catches and effecting a stumping. With Mushfiqur to be absent for the clash against India, Anamul Haque Bijoy is slated to get a game, on the account of being the lone wicket-keeper remaining in the Bangladesh team.

Bangladesh's chances of making it to the final of the Asia Cup look very slim following their defeats to Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the Super Four stage. Their hopes of reaching the final lie on factors beyond control for qualification, which can also be aided by them defeating India at the R Premadasa Stadium on Friday.



People make fun of me as I'm not fluent in English

Archana Gautam

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress and politician Archana Gautam, who is currently seen as a contestant on the show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi' season 13, shared how people make fun of her because she is not fluent in English language, but that does not demotivate her.

September 14 will be observed as 'Hindi Diwas'. The day stands out as an occasion that underlines the significance of the Hindi language.

Talking about the same, Archana said: "On this Hindi Diwas, let's come together to celebrate the language we use in our daily lives, often without fully realising its significance."

"Some people often make fun of me because I'm not fluent in English, but that doesn't demotivate me. It's because I speak my mother tongue, Hindi fluently. I firmly believe that in today's globalised world, we need to value our culture and heritage," said Archana.

She also hoped that the younger generation learns the importance of celebrating Hindi.

The stunt-based reality show 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13', hosted by Rohit Shetty, depicts the marvel of human potential and bravery.

Apart from Archana, the show currently has contestants Aishwarya Sharma, Arjit Taneja, Dino James, Nyra Banerjee, Rashmeet Kaur, Sheezan Khan, Shiv Thakare, and Soundous Moufakir. The show also recently saw the entry of Tajikistan singer Abdu Rozik as a guest contestant.

'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13' airs on Colors.

Archana also participated in the reality show 'Bigg Boss 16', where she finished as the third runner-up.



SAI PALLAVI

to make Bollywood debut opposite Aamir Khan's son Junaid

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sai Pallavi, who is known for her work in 'Maari 2', 'Fidaa', 'Gargi' and 'Shyam Singha Roy', is all set to make her foray in Hindi cinema.

The actress will be making her debut opposite Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's son, Junaid Khan's film, which will be reportedly made as a love story.

While Aamir has taken a break after the box-office debacle of his last film 'Laal Singh Chaddha', his son is gearing up for his big Bollywood debut in a film under the banner of Yash Raj Films, as per Track Tollywood.

For YRF, it has been a successful year at the box-office with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Pathaan' in theatres and 'The Romantics' on the OTT.

After his debut film at YRF, Junaid will be working on his next project. A Sunil Pandey directorial, the film is touted to be a love story.

'Bete ko hath lagane...' wasn't originally in draft, reveals 'Jawan' dialogue writer Sumit Arora

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan is currently riding high on the massive success of his recently released movie 'Jawan'. The dialogue from the movie which is doing rounds on the Internet is 'bete ko hath lagane se pehle, baap se baat kar'. The writer behind this popular dialogue is Sumit Arora, who has carved a niche for himself in the world of Hindi cinema. He has demonstrated his exceptional writing skills with 'Jawan', taking it to the next level. One of his dialogues 'bete ko hath lagane se pehle, baap se baat kar' has become so popular that it turns theatres into stadiums. The fans are going absolutely crazy over it. The writer has shared the story behind the making of the dialogue. Sumit said: "It's a story that will make you believe in the magic of movie making. That line was never there in our draft originally."

"The 'moment' where SRK sir's character says the line was obviously always there, and we all knew that it is a powerful moment even without a dialogue. But while shooting, it was felt that there should be a line, that this guy should say something," he said.

Sumit shared: "I was there on the set, so I was called in, and the first words that came out of my mouth given the situation were, 'Bete ko hath lagane se pehle, baap se baat kar'. I mean, it felt like the most obvious and most apt thing he should say at that moment. It just fits." "Director Atlee and SRK sir both felt it was correct and the shot was taken. We never thought that the line would become such a huge hit and would resonate with people in this way. But I guess, as a writer you can only write a line but the destiny of a line goes on to write itself," added Sumit.

With many such dialogues in the film, Sumit has been showered with nothing but praise and love for his work in the action entertainer.

The action thriller directed by Atlee, stars SRK in a dual role, alongside Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone (billed as a special appearance), Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra. It was theatrically released on September 7.

Arora has had a fantastic year with three successful projects-- 'Dahaad', 'Guns & Gulaabs', and 'Jawan'. His upcoming projects involve Kabir Khan's next film 'Chandu Champion' and Raj & DK's 'Citadel India'.



I am in no hurry to be on the big screen: Babil Khan



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Babil Khan, who is showcasing his acting talent with every project to make his own place in the entertainment industry, is in no hurry to be on the big screen. Though Babil -- the son of late actor Irrfan Khan -- has the desire to be on the big screen, he doesn't want to rush things.

Babil Khan is among the talented star kids who has proved that acting runs in his genes. The actor, who was recently seen in 'Friday Night Plan', spoke about the film, working with Juhu Chawla, pressure of social media and much more.

Babil's two projects -- 'Qala' and 'Friday Night Plan' -- have released on OTT, while his next -- 'The Railway Men' -- will also release on OTT.

When asked if he has the hunger to be on the silver screen, Babil said, "Obviously I want to be there, but I am in no rush to be on the big screen. I want to work, I want to do everything right now. I don't want to be scared and be restricted in exploring."

"I don't want to let my image restrict me from exploring. That is my agenda. So currently, big screen or small screen is not important. But of course I want to be on the big screen because that's what I have grown up watching."

Talking about the pressure of being active on social media, he said, "I feel you become a slave of your own work because of social media. As an artiste, you need art to live. We can't be doing these things. To express your art, you need to make a journey within yourself."

On the workfront, Babil will next be seen in 'The Railway Men' which is about the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Wamiqa Gabbi feels honoured on playing a detective in a series

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Wamiqa Gabbi, who is known for 'Modern Love Mumbai', 'Jubilee', 'Modern Love Chennai' and '83', will be seen essaying the titular role in the female detective series 'Charlie Chopra and the Mystery of Solang Valley'. The actress considers it an "incredible honour" to portray a female detective. The gripping murder mystery is an official adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel, 'The Sittaford Mystery', and is brought to life by Vishal Bhardwaj with whom Wamiqa has worked in 'Mumbai Dragon' part of the anthology 'Modern Love Mumbai' and also in 'Modern Love Chennai'.

The series follows the story of Charlie Chopra, essayed by Gabbi who is entangled in a murder mystery to save an innocent convict and find the real culprit in a town full of suspects.

Sharing her excitement, the actress said: "Playing the role of India's first female detective in a show is an incredible honour. Charlie Chopra is a character that I have poured my heart into, and I can't wait for the audience to join me on this thrilling journey. It's not often that such parts are written and to play a role etched into the title of the project is even more special."

The series boasts an ensemble cast of Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Gulshan Grover, Neena Gupta, Lara Dutta, Priyanshu Painyuli, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Imaadudin Shah, Vivaan Shah and Paoli Dam.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Avika Gor