

absolute india



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India's fiscal deficit widens in April-August

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government's fiscal deficit widened to Rs 6.43 lakh crore for the first five months (April-August) of the current financial year which works out to 36 per cent of the target of Rs 17.87 lakh crore fixed in the budget for the entire year, figures released by the Controller General of Accounts on Friday showed.

The fiscal deficit for April-August last year was Rs 5.42 lakh crore which was 32.6 per cent of the target of Rs 16.61 lakh crore for 2022-23.

The increase in the deficit was largely due to a sharp jump in capital expenditure on big ticket infrastructure such as highways and railway projects in the run-up to key assembly elections in some states which will be followed by the Lok Sabha polls early next year, according to analysts.



The Centre aims to bring down fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product during 2023-2024.

Capital expenditure (capex) rose to Rs 3.74 lakh crore during April-August from Rs 2.52 lakh crore in the same period a year ago.

Total receipts during April-August stood at Rs 10.29 lakh crore or 37.9 per cent of annual estimates.

Corporate tax collections rose over 15 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2.39 lakh crore during the period under review, the data

INDIA'S FOREX KITTY FALLS FOR 3RD WEEK IN A ROW

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves declined for a third consecutive week to a four-month low of \$590.7 billion as of September 22, data released by the RBI on Friday showed. The forex kitty fell by as much as \$2.3 billion during the week after having plunged by as much as \$5.9 billion in the two preceding weeks.

The decline in the foreign exchange reserves is a cause for concern as the RBI uses them to curb volatility in the rupee. The central bank intervenes in the market to sell US dollars to prop up the rupee in a situation where the Indian currency falls sharply. However, if the total amount in the forex kitty declines, the RBI is left with less elbow room to intervene in the markets.

For the week ended September 22, during which forex reserves fell, the rupee had risen 0.2 per cent against the dollar and traded in a range of 82.8225 and 83.2725.

"NOT ADVISABLE TO TINKER WITH AGE OF CONSENT": LAW COMMISSION TO CENTRE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Law Commission has advised the Centre against lowering the age of consent from 18 to 16 under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, arguing that doing so will have a negative impact on the fight against child marriage and child trafficking.

The panel has, however, said it considers it necessary to bring about amendments in the Act to "remedy the situation" in cases in which there is tacit approval from children aged between 16 and 18. It said "guided judicial discretion" can be applied in such cases.

In December last year, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had urged parliament to address growing concerns related to the age of consent under the POCSO Act.

In its report to the Law Ministry, the 22nd Law



Law Commission of India

Commission of India has said, "After a careful review of existing child protection laws, various judgements and considering the maladies of child abuse, child trafficking and child prostitution that plague our society, the Commission is of the measured view that it is not advisable to tinker with the existing age of consent under the POCSO Act."

It said that if there is automatic decriminalisation once the defence of consent is claimed, it must be kept in mind that consent can

always be manufactured. The panel pointed to data which reflects that most perpetrators in POCSO cases are people known or close to the child and sometimes even people from the same family. It also said that diluting the law in this manner could mean reducing it to a "paper law". "Further, the police investigation suffers from a great number of inadequacies and if it is the investigating agencies that get to determine if there was consent or not, then a lot of genuine cases that need to be

prosecuted under the POCSO Act may not see trial on account of investigating agencies themselves declaring them to be cases of consensual romantic sexual relationship," the Commission said. "Such a dilution will provide an easy route to reduce the cases under the POCSO Act or deal with them without getting into the complexity of issues that surround such a trial, thereby reducing the POCSO Act to a 'paper law'," it said.

The panel, which is headed by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, former chief justice of the Karnataka High Court, said it had considered all the views and suggestions given in connection with cases involving those between the ages of 16 and 18.

The panel said it was of the considered opinion that such cases do not merit being dealt with the same severity as cases that "were ideally imagined to fall under" the POCSO Act

RECOMMENDS ROLLING OUT REGISTRATION OF FIRS ONLINE

New Delhi: The Law Commission has recommended rolling out registration of e-FIRs in a phased manner beginning with offences bearing up to three years jail term.

In a report submitted to the government earlier this week and made public on Friday, the law panel proposed setting up a centralised national portal to facilitate registration of e-FIRs. It said e-FIRs will tackle long persisting issue of delay in the registration of FIRs and allow citizens to report crimes in real time.

'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION' WOULD REQUIRE SOME TIME: EC TO LAW COMMISSION

New Delhi: The Election Commission has told the Law Commission that implementation of simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha and state Assemblies would require some time.

Law Commission Chairman Justice (ret'd) Ritu Raj Awasthi told reporter that the poll panel, during consultation with the law panel, did not comment anything per se on implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' before the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Justice Awasthi added that "the Election Commission did not give any specific timeline for implementation of simultaneous polls".

Karnataka govt promulgates ordinance to impose 28% tax on online gaming



Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka government on Friday promulgated an ordinance to amend the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Act to facilitate the imposition of 28 per cent GST on online gaming.

The additional tax will also be imposed on racetracks, and casinos following the consent of Governor Thawarchand Gehlot.

It is estimated that the state would get Rs 1,500 crore in revenue following the implementation of additional tax, according to Commissioner for Commercial Taxes, C. Shikha.

The move by the state government comes ahead of the Central government's proposed implementation of the tax regime from October 1.

The Karnataka government has promulgated the ordinance as the state Legislature is not in session.

Karnataka is one of the major states to promulgate the ordinance after Maharashtra and Haryana. However, the new legislation will not affect the existing laws and will not prohibit, restrict or regulate betting in casinos, gambling, horse racing, lottery and online gaming, sources stated.

The sources also added that the charging of additional taxes won't legitimise betting and criminal activity with the betting activities will be dealt with criminal prosecution. The Central government had directed the states to pass the ordinance in assemblies or promulgate the ordinance by September 30 to implement 28 per cent GST on online gaming from October 1.

Women's Reservation Bill gets President's assent, becomes law

Team Absolute | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Women's Reservation Bill, a week after it was passed by both Houses of Parliament, thus making it a law.

The bill was passed in Parliament on September 21.

The new law provides 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

Vice president and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday signed the women's reservation bill before it was presented to President Murmu for her assent.

The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity during a special session of Parliament earlier this month. The new law may however be implemented by 2025 as it entails completion of decadal census exercise and delimitation of



seats. The opposition led by Congress has sought its immediate implementation.

MP Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia not to contest coming Assembly polls

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Yashodhara Rajee Scindia, who is the aunt of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, has announced that she will not contest the upcoming state Assembly elections.

The fourth-time sitting MLA from Shivpuri constituency and two-times former MP from Gwalior has conveyed her decision to the state leadership. In a letter to the state leadership, she has cited health reasons behind her desire to not contest the polls.

Confirming the development, state BJP president V.D. Sharma told journalists here Friday that "Yashodhara Ji is our senior and



respected leader, who had informed the party around three months back about her unwillingness to contest the polls, due to pressing health reasons." Yashodhara Rajee Scindia, the youngest among the five children of veteran BJP leaders Vijaya Rajee Scindia had won the Shivpuri seat in 1998, 2003, 2013, and 2018 and also won two Lok Sabha elections from Gwalior in 2007 and 2009.

52 dead, 50 injured in 'suicide' blast near Balochistan mosque

Quetta | Agencies

At least 52 people, including a police officer, have died and some 50 others injured in a suspected suicide blast that occurred on Friday near a mosque in Pakistan's Balochistan province as people gathered for a religious procession to mark Eid Milad-un-Nabi, officials said. The incident took place near the Madina Masjid in Mastung district. The number of casualties was confirmed to Dawn news by District Health Officer (DHO) Abdul Razzaq Shahi, while City Station



House Officer (SHO) Mohammad Javed Lehri said a police official was among the dead.

Earlier, Saeed Mirwani, chief executive of Shaheed Nawab Ghouse Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital, told Dawn that 34 people were dead while more than 130 were injured. Shahi clarified that the higher number was because of double entries from two hospitals, and

that the number of the injured was approximately 50. Mirwani also confirmed that 28 bodies have been brought to the hospital so far, while 22 were taken to the Mastung district hospital. Provincial Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai said those critically injured in the blast are being shifted to Quetta with emergency enforced across the city's hospitals, Geo News reported.

Achakzai said that if required, arrangements should be made for the immediate transfer of the seriously injured to Karachi.

Maoist with bounty of Rs 14 lakh killed in encounter in MP

Balaghat (MP) | Agencies

A 25-year-old maoist carrying a reward of Rs 14 lakh was killed in an encounter with an elite combat unit of the Madhya Pradesh police in the state's Balaghat district on Friday morning, a senior official said.

The Maoist, identified as Kamlu, was an active member of the 'Naxali Dalam Tanda Dadekasa' unit of the banned outfit, he said.

The encounter took place when the state police's elite Hawk Force was carrying out a search operation in the Kundal-Koddapar and Sounguda forest areas under

Roopjhar police station limits, the official said.

A group of 10-12 ultras fired at the Hawk Force jawans, who retaliated in a controlled and effective manner, resulting in the gunning down of Kamlu, he said.

Confirming the incident, Balaghat Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh said some more maoists were injured in the encounter and the search has been intensified to locate them. Another official said a rifle of .30-06 make was found from the dead ultra, who is a resident of Bijapur in the state and was part of the outlawed movement since 2015.

MHA asks Manipur to finish collection of biometric details of illegal migrants by March 2024

Imphal | Agencies

The Union Home Ministry (MHA) has asked the Manipur government to complete the process of capturing biographic and biometric details of illegal migrants, mostly Myanmar nationals, in the state by March next year, officials said here on Friday.

An official of Manipur Home Department said that the state government has already started the biometric process for the Myanmar staying in Manipu though the state government has recently requested the MHA to extend the time by a year.

The MHA's Director (Foreigners), Surrender Kumar, in a letter to Manipur Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi said that the



Ministry has considered the request of the Manipur government. "... it has been decided to extend the time period till March 31, 2024. Accordingly, the state government of Manipur is requested to take appropriate necessary action to complete the exercise within the revised time period," said the MHA letter.

The Manipur government has started collecting the biographic and biometric details from July and a team from the

National Crime Records Bureau, deputed by the MHA, assisted the state government at the Foreigners' Detention Centre at Sajiwa in Imphal East district.

In July, around 720 more Myanmar nationals, including 301 children and 208 women, had entered Manipur's Chandel district following the ongoing clashes between the Army and the civil forces in the neighbouring country.

The Myanmar nationals are now staying in seven villages -- Lajang, Bonse, New Samtal, New Lajang, Yangnomphai, Yangnomphai Saw Mill, and Aivomjang - along the India-Myanmar border in Chandel. Besides these around 720 Myanmar, several thousand Myanmar nationals took shelter in Manipur after the military coup there in February 2021.

India's resolute stand during Galwan stand-off made world take note of us: Army chief

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Manoj Pande on Friday said that the resolute and firm manner in which Indian troops stood up to Chinese forces during the Galwan valley stand-off, made the world take note of India's political and military resolve.

"The resolute and firm manner in which we stood up to our northern adversary during the events of April-May 2020 has made the world take notice of our political and military resolve of a rising India," Pande said while addressing the



PHDCCI's annual meeting. Referring to China's rising economic clout, Pande further said that it has been looking at geopolitical and trade agreement as zero-sum game. "Concurrently, Chinese belligerence is evident in its continuous propensity to project power outside its region and presenting a threat to rule-based organisation," he added.



OVER 2 LAKH DEATHS IN UP DUE TO CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

Lucknow | Agencies

Nearly two lakh people in Uttar Pradesh are dying every year due to cardiovascular diseases (CVD) caused by air pollution.

Cardiologists in the state capital have voiced their concern, especially, in the context of India where a hefty majority of the 45 per cent CVD deaths take place in the productive age group (40-69 years).

The issue has been deliberated in detail at various platforms, including the World Heart Federation besides the Cardiological Society of India as 'air pollution is an uncontrollable risk factor'.

According to reports, over 3.5 million people in the world are dying of heart disease and strokes linked to air pollution, suggests data from the World Heart Federation.

Another dataset indicates that 31 per cent of these deaths were taking place in India. This translates into a loss of some 11.5 lakh persons each year.

CVDs are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels, including



coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease, deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Explaining how air pollution affects the heart, faculty at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Prof Satyendra Tewari said: "Tiny particles (in the

three conditions may lead to heart attack, brain stroke or trigger heart failure." Specialists also expressed concern over the trend and emphasized on the need for studying the local and regional patterns. Senior consultant, cardiology, Apollomedics Super specialty Hospital, Dr (Col) Ajay Bahadur said, "CVDs due to air pollution, be it indoor or outdoor or due to heavy metals, is an underestimated cause. Scientific evidence is crucial to bring about the required policy changes." Faculty at Lari Cardiology, Prof Rishi Sethi advised people to remain mindful of the problem and work on their overall health.

"Indications are that in case one already has a heart disease, even short-term exposure to air pollution may increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Therefore, those with the condition must monitor themselves well," he said. Experts from alternative medicine advised people to take up breathing exercises such as pranayama to cleanse their lungs and blood circulation system.

Cauvery dispute: K'taka bandh successful, state returning to normalcy

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Karnataka bandh called to oppose the release of water to Tamil Nadu on Friday has been successful with people in most parts of the state extending their support to the bandh call.

With no untoward incidents of violence being reported, the state is returning to normalcy. The buses, cabs and autos have started to ply on the roads. Shops, commercial complexes and malls remained open to the public in Bengaluru. The other major cities of southern Karnataka, where bandh was observed in toto are also returning to normalcy.

R. Hitendra, ADGP, Law and Order, said that the bandh was peaceful all across the state. No reports of violence till now been reported. IGP, SPs, and City Police Commissioners are on patrol. The security is beefed up in border areas, and highways, he added.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayanand stated that the police had taken more than 1,000 protestors into detention. The security across the city is intact and officers are still on patrol. The prohibitory orders will be in place till 12 midnight on Friday, he added.

The buses attached to Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTTC) have also started their operations. Kannada film industry had also staged a protest supporting the Karnataka state on the Cauvery issue. Superstars Shivarajkumar, Darshan, Duniya Vijay and



others participated in the protest and expressed their solidarity. Shivarajkumar urged for an amicable solution.

Kantara 'fame superstar and director Rishab Shetty reacting to the latest order asking Karnataka to release water stated, how it is possible to release water when the state doesn't have it? The dams do not have a water reserve following the failure of rains. Our farmers are affected by the release of water to Tamil Nadu. The governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka should hold meetings and protect farmers, he stated.

Reacting to the development of state government holding talks with former advocate generals and judges, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the state government is learning the lessons the hard way.

"Everyone is turning hostile now in the state and to overcome that, the meeting is being held," he said.

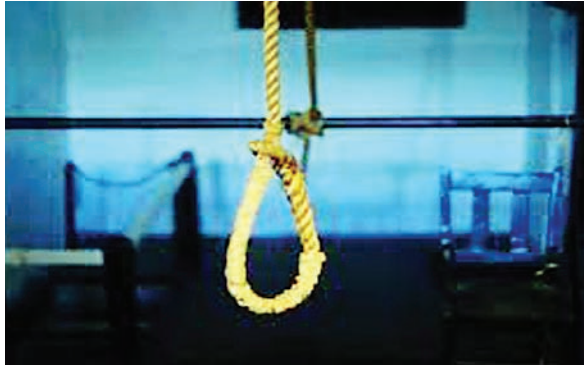
Man found hanging from a tree in Delhi park, murder case registered

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The body of a 60-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in a Delhi park on Friday, said an official, adding that they have registered a murder case and initiated a probe.

Police said that a body was hanging from a tree in a park near Dwarka Mor, following which a police team reached the spot.

"A male dead body was found hanging from a tree. After thorough forensic examination of the crime team, we have registered a case of murder at Dwarka North police station based on prima facie circumstances. However, the cause of death (suicide or murder and internal injuries if any)



will be clear only after post mortem report," said a senior police officer.

The official said that the deceased has been identified as Sujathan Padmanabhan.

"He was presently unemployed but until a few months ago he was working in a private company as a

technician," said the official.

The official said that Padmanabhan had left from his home on Thursday night saying that he is going out of Delhi on work.

"The CCTV footage shows him going alone into the park instead," the official added.

INDIA CONDUCTS 'FEMALE MILITARY OFFICERS' COURSE FOR ASEAN NATIONS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Marking a significant milestone in its military diplomacy, India has conducted its premier 'Female Military Officers Course' for officers from ASEAN countries.

The course was concluded on Friday.

Ministry of Defence said that spearheaded by the Indian Army's vision for gender neutrality and women empowerment, this initiative, themed on the UN framework, was organised under the stewardship of the Ministry of Defence.

The official said that hosting such a transformative course reinforces India's commitment to fostering deeper international collaboration while championing gender equality in the armed forces.

He said that the course has been designed to elevate leadership competencies, strategic acumen, and operational efficacy among female officers, while offering a rich platform for cross-cultural interaction and



mutual professional development. He said that integral to the course and structure is the inclusion of India's storied legacy in UN peacekeeping.

The official added that the course

was conducted under the aegis of the Centre for UN Peacekeeping in India, renowned globally, and has a rich history of training and deploying peacekeepers across various UN missions.

He added that participants had the unique opportunity to receive a demonstration on UN peacekeeping drills, offering them insights into the rigorous standards India upholds in international peace missions.

Calcutta HC orders immediate replacement of ED officer heading Bengal school job case

Kolkata | Agencies

The Calcutta High Court on Friday ordered immediate replacement of Enforcement Directorate (ED) Assistant Director Mithilesh Kumar Mishra, who heads the agency team probing the multi-crore cash for school job case in West Bengal.

The single-judge bench of Justice Amrita Sinha also asked also the ED Director to ensure the replacement by October 3, the day ED has summoned Trinamooli Congress national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee at the agency's Salt Lake office.

However, Banerjee on Friday morning said that he will not be honouring the summons.

On Friday, Justice Sinha also observed that Mishra cannot be assigned to any kind of investigation on any money laundering case in



West Bengal.

On Friday, senior advocate and CPI-M Rajya Sabha member Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya pointed out to the court about Abhishek Banerjee's

intimation of not honouring the ED summons on October 3 because of political preoccupations at New Delhi. At this, Justice Sinha directed the ED that their scheduled investiga-

tion process should not be hampered at any cost and for the sake of carrying forward the investigation the central agency will have the liberty to take any step as per legal provisions.

Justice Sinha clearly observed that the court has lost confidence in the efficiency of the ED official concerned in carrying forward the smooth progress of the investigation in the school job case. The judge recently expressed dissatisfaction over the mode of investigation spearheaded by Mishra and also asked him whether he wanted relief from the investigation. During a hearing in the matter on September 25, Mishra also faced the ire of Justice Sinha for submitting incomplete details on the assets and properties of Abhishek Banerjee. She took exception to why the central agency mentioned only about three insurance policies of Banerjee in its report.

Lucknow | Agencies

A 25-year-old man and his two-month-old daughter were killed after a number of makeshift houses collapsed in Vrindavan Yojna area here in the wee hours of Friday.

Teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), fire department, and police are at the scene carrying out rescue operations.

The deceased have been identified as Muqadam Ali and his daughter Ayesha.

Locals heard a loud thud, a little after midnight and came out of their homes to find that five makeshift houses had collapsed.

Additional deputy commissioner of police, East Zone, Syed Abbas Ali said that preliminary information suggests that land subsidence occurred possibly due to construction of a multi-level parking and the makeshift houses.

The labourers from Pratapgarh and Sitapur who were working on a nearby construction project were residing in these makeshift houses.

"Twelve people have been injured and



admitted to the SGPGI trauma centre," he said. Police recovered the bodies of the girl and her father from the debris while efforts were on to trace others.

Withholding mutual consent to divorce in failed marriage is cruelty, rules Kerala HC

Kochi | Agencies

The Kerala High Court has ruled that withholding mutual consent to divorce in a failed marriage amounts to cruelty.

A division bench said that the courtroom should not be treated as a battleground for the egos of such parties.

"The court rooms cannot be replaced to allow the parties a battle for grooming their egos and idiosyncratic behaviour. The Court is established for genuine people who honestly dispute on the cause. If they cannot live together even by sharing residence for more than a decade, it can be presumed that sense is lost on both. The idea of no fault divorce is making the people to realise that there is a sensible way of parting on a mutually agreed terms. Withholding mutual consent in a failed marriage is nothing but cruelty," the judgment stated.

The court ruling came as it considered a case in which a petition for divorce was originally filed in 2011. The husband then moved the petition, but was unsuccessful in getting a divorce decree from the family court, leading to an appeal before the High Court.

The couple entered into wedlock in 2002 in a Hindu wedding. By the time this case before the High Court, the two children of the couple



had both crossed the age of 18. It was the husband who sought divorce after less than a decade of marriage, alleging cruelty on the part of his wife, which was denied by the latter and she disputed the divorce petition.

The High Court noted from the pleadings that there was constant bickering and a decade had been spent in wrangling for a legal divorce. Besides the court also noted that the appellant-husband, who had moved the case in 2011, have now become senior citizens. "Many sunsets have re-dawned but life is yet to reset. Attempts for settlement have been failed," the court said, adding that in such a case, refusing to give consent to divorce when the marriage has broken down irrevocably is cruelty. The court, however, clarified that it is not upholding the allegations of cruelty based on any of the pleadings or evidence.

MEGA DELHI HEIST: TWO ARRESTED BY CHHATTISGARH POLICE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Chhattisgarh Police has arrested two men in the state in connection with the sensational heist in Delhi where jewellery worth over Rs 20 crore was burgled. Two of the accused have been identified as Lokesh Srivas and Shiva Chandravanshi and currently, a team from the Delhi Police is in Chhattisgarh.

Police have recovered around 18.5 kg of gold and diamond ornaments that were stolen from Umrao Jewellery store in southeast Delhi's Jangpura area, while Rs 12 lakh has also been retrieved.

Consequently, the Bilaspur district saw a collaborative effort between the anti-crime and cyber unit and the local Civil Lines police station, during an operation focused on a string of thefts in Bilaspur city.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Singh confirmed on Friday that Lokesh was also suspected of being responsible for seven thefts in Bilaspur.

Following a tip-off, the police con-



ducted a raid in Kawardha town within the Kabirdham district, resulting in the arrest of Chandravanshi and Lokesh.

As the owners of the jewellery shop in south Delhi opened it on Tuesday,

they found dust all around and were shocked to see a hole in the wall of the strongroom.

They found that jewellery worth over Rs 20 crore had been stolen, making it one of the biggest robberies

reported in the national Capital recently. Owner of the store, Sanjay Jain said that the shop remains closed on every Monday and he suspected that the thieves had managed to make their way in from the terrace.

"The burglars disconnected the six CCTV cameras installed in the shop during the commission of the crime," a source said. The Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast) Rajesh Deo said that on Tuesday, a case of burglary was reported at Umrao Singh Jewellers in the area of Nizamuddin police station.

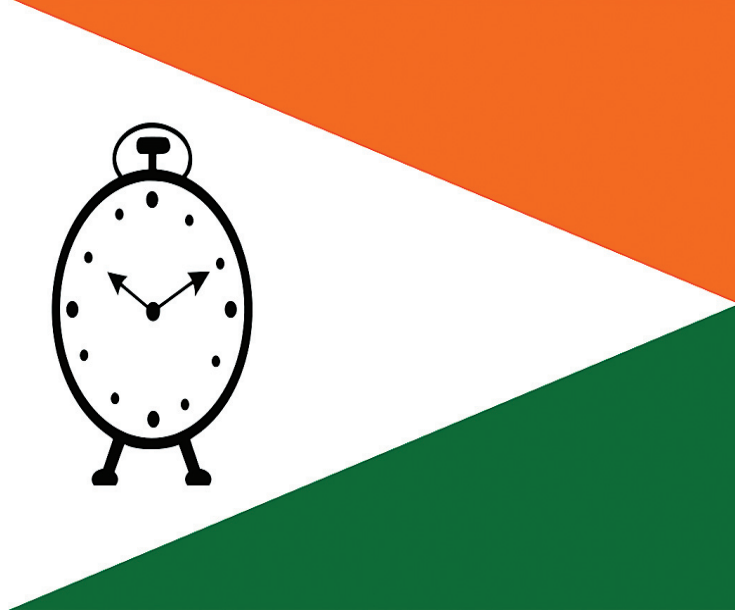
"Subsequent to the registration of the case, multiple teams were formed to work out the case and to affect recovery. During the course of investigation, hundreds of CCTV cameras were examined which revealed that one suspect carrying a backpack was found entering the adjoining building on the night of September 24," said the DCP.

During the probe, on the basis of inputs received from Chhattisgarh Police on Thursday one Lokesh Srivas was identified as the prime suspect in the case.



PM MODI MUST PERSONALLY INTERVENE TO RESTORE PEACE IN VIOLENCE-HIT MANIPUR: SHARAD PAWAR-LED NCP

▶ THE SHARAD PAWAR-LED NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY (NCP) ON FRIDAY SAID PEACE CONTINUES TO ELUDE STRIFE-TORN MANIPUR DESPITE PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S ASSURANCE IN PARLIAMENT, AND DEMANDED HIS IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena (UBT) also sought to know what the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government at the Centre was doing to improve the situation in Manipur. "PM Modi assured the country that peace will be restored in the state of Manipur soon, but it eludes the state and violence continues there," Clyde Crasto, national spokesperson of the

NCP said in a statement. "Yesterday, the private residence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh was attacked. If this can happen to a person in government, one can understand what the common people of Manipur are suffering for months," he said. "This inability to stop violence in the state is the failure of both the state and the central government, which is headed by BJP, he said. "Therefore, our PM Narendra Modi

ji must now personally intervene in this sensitive matter by calling the warring communities of Manipur, understand their reason for unrest and find a way to bring truce between them and eventually restore peace in Manipur," Crasto added. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the situation in Manipur is very bad and the government, the Union Home Ministry and the Defence ministry have failed to restore peace.

"Students have been killed...What is the government doing?" he asked. "They made the new Parliament building, but no discussion on Manipur was allowed," Raut added. This is deliberate attempt to foment unrest before 2024, he alleged. Manipur descended into chaos and untrammelled violence in May this year over a high court order directing the state government to consider including the non-tribal Meitei community in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This order led to rampant ethnic clashes. More than 170 people have been killed and several hundred others injured since ethnic violence first broke out in the state on May 3 when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for ST status. A fresh bout of violence broke out in the state capital on Tuesday, a day after photos of the bodies of two youths - a man and a girl - who went missing in July went viral on social media. A mob tried to attack the CM's empty ancestral house on Thursday night, despite heavy security clampdown and curfew in Imphal valley. Security forces, however, foiled the attempt after firing several rounds of tear gas shells.

Jail 'pervert' lawyer praising Gandhiji's assassin Godse, demand Maha Oppn

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) allies Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (SP) on Friday slammed lawyer Gunratn Sadavarte for praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse and demanded action against him for his "perverted" remarks. Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe and NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase have called upon the state government to show "courage" and put Sadavarte behind bars for his comments - coming just two days before the 154th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, on October 2. Speaking at an event in Yavatmal on Thursday, Sadavarte said that Gandhi's ideology is no longer relevant, and it is Godse's dream of an "Akhand Bharat" that is in the minds of the people. He also attacked the Congress, NCP and others following in the footsteps of Gandhi and said that their ideals will be crushed. Reacting sharply, Londhe said that the trend of praising Godse is gaining strength in the country under the Bharatiya Janata Party rule when such elements derive "courage" to praise the killer of Gandhiji. "A pervert named Sadavarte has printed Godse's photo on a State Transport Cooperative Bank's annual report... Now, I challenge the Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis to show courage and put him behind bars," dared Londhe. Taking strong umbrage at the lawyer's statements, Tapase said now Sadavarte should shed his lawyer's robes which symbolise the Constitution of India and start



wearing the uniform of the RSS. "The whole world recognised Mahatma Gandhi and the country for the ideals of truth, peace and non-violence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is compelled to bow before Gandhiji's image in front of the world in all programmes and even the RSS does not openly oppose Gandhiji's ideology," he pointed out. Londhe termed Sadavarte's constant inflammatory statements on Mahatma Gandhi as a plot to spoil the social-political environment in the state, and "Maharashtra is aware who is the power behind him". He said that India is synonymous with Gandhi in the whole world, but "some individuals and organisations cannot digest the fact that India got Independence through non-violence". "Wherever there is a BJP government, Godse's supporters raise their heads, and BJP's supporters openly hurl abuses at Gandhiji. The Congress will not tolerate any insults to the Father of the Nation," warned Londhe. Sadavarte's comments elicited strong responses on the social media with many demanding action against the lawyer for the slur on Gandhiji.

"Will Talk To Congress, Others": Sharad Pawar on disputes within INDIA 'Kick Them', roars Raj Thackeray, after Mumbai Gujarati society bars Marathi woman

Team Absolute | Pune

The INDIA bloc will take precautions to ensure that there are no disputes among its alliance partners in states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where elections are due in a few months, NCP chief Sharad Pawar said on Friday. He was speaking to reporters in Baramati. More than two dozen opposition parties have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to take on the BJP in next year's general elections. Replying to a question about apparent friction in West Bengal as the Congress has staked claim to some seats, the veteran politician said there are no elections there in the immediate future. "When elections near, the possibility of differences (among INDIA bloc partners) cannot be ruled out. However, we will sort the issues by sending neutral leaders from the alliance," he said. Pawar stressed that elections are due in a few months in four to five states and that is more important for them. "INDIA bloc will see how all the alliance



partners come on one page in states like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. After returning to Mumbai, I will hold discussions with Congress and other party leaders and we will take precautions to ensure that there are no disputes among the alliance partners (in these states)," he said. This process will start in the next eight to ten days, the NCP chief said. Assembly elections are due in a few months in Chattisgarh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Day after a +highlighted her plight of how she was allegedly refused a shop in a Gujarati-dominating building in north-east Mumbai, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray took a grim view of the incident, here on Friday. The aggrieved woman, Tripti Devrukhkar-Ekbote called on Raj Thackeray and his wife Sharmila and other party leaders to narrate her ordeal in the Shiv Sadan Society in Mulund suburb. "Whenever any wrong is done to a Marathi anywhere, he/she remembers the MNS... It should be like this. Such behaviour will not be tolerated. If you see injustice done to our people, you must kick them..." Raj Thackeray exhorted his party activists. Referring to the Mulund incident of Wednesday affecting Tripti, Raj



Thackeray said, "When my MNS soldiers intervened in our style, the building Secretary tendered an apology..." He warned that if something like this is repeated in Mumbai or elsewhere in the state, it will lead to repercussions, and called upon the Maharashtra government "should also show its power". Tripti said today that though the landlord of the premise had "no problems", it was the building Secretary who raised objections, even as some

unconfirmed reports claimed that the Secretary Praveen Thakkar has reportedly been relieved of his post after the furore. When she informed the landlord, he was also very angry, and pointed out to her that no individuals can make any arbitrary rules and they would speak with the Society's managing committee in the matter. Tripti said that she didn't seek help from any quarters, but after her video went viral yesterday, the local MNS first approached and tried to help her out, and all other parties came in later. "The MNS office-bearers rushed to the building and compelled the ex-Secretary and his son to tender an apology and recorded it... I also thank Sharmila Thackeray for her strong support..." said a smiling Tripti this afternoon after calling on the Thackeray couple. It may be recalled that a major political row erupted after Tripti was allegedly prevented

from taking an office space in the Shiv Sadan Society in Mulund west. Congress state President Nana Patole, Shiv Sena-UBT leaders Aditya Thackeray, Sushma Andhare, Nationalist Congress Party's General Secretary Dr Jitendra Awhad, MNS Spokesperson Sandeep Deshpande and others reacted strongly over the episode, with many slamming the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar. After Tripti's video outburst went massively viral, the Mulund Police booked Praveen Thakkar and his son Nilesh and detained them late on Wednesday, and are probing the matter. In the emotional video clip, the woman is bursting into tears and narrating the experience when some Gujarati members, led by an elderly man of the society, blocked her bid, saying that "Marathis are not allowed in this society, as per rules".

Rajkumar Rao, Isha Koppikar, Amruta Fadnavis lead beach clean-up drive after Ganpati Visarjan Man jailed for life for killing uncle over property dispute

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood stars Rajkumar Rao, Amruta Fadnavis and Isha Koppikar were spotted at the biggest clean-up drive at Juhu Beach on Friday, post Ganpati Visarjan. The country was celebrating Ganeshotsav for the last 11 days, and witnessed its conclusion on Thursday. Post the visarjan of Ganesh idols, celebrities teamed up with an NGO and joined hands in cleaning the beaches, preserving the natural beauty of the city. The beach clean-up drive was scheduled at Juhu Beach at 7 a.m. Rajkumar wore a black tee and joggers, and completed the look with a pair of sunglasses. He can be seen walking on the beach, and talking to the paparazzi. He said: "We all love Ganpati, and



hence we have come here. We are citizens of India." Rajkumar further said: "I am grateful to my fans, I am only because of these people. Coming from outside and receiving this love is not very easy. I am grateful and thankful." Isha was donning a purple

co-ord set, while Amruta wore an emerald green coloured tracksuit. They were too seen participating in the clean up drive. The celebrities were seen picking up the coconut shells, clothes, slippers and wooden items, etc from the beach and putting

it in a bag. Meanwhile, on the work front, Rajkumar was recently seen in the crime thriller web series 'Guns & Gulaabs'. He played the character of 'Panna'. He next has 'Sri', 'Mr and Mrs Mahi', and 'Stree 2'.

Team Absolute | Thane

A court in Maharashtra has sentenced a 52-year-old man from Palghar district to life imprisonment for killing his 75-year-old paternal uncle over a property dispute seven years ago. In her order on Wednesday, Sessions Judge Rachna R Tehra also imposed a fine of ₹ 5,000 on Ramdas Shankar Budhar of Jawhar taluka after convicting him under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code. Additional Public Prosecutor Sandhya H Mhatre told the court that Ramdas and his father's brother Ambu Navsu Budhar



had a running feud over the division of their ancestral property. Ramdas often fought with his uncle claiming that he was given non-fertile land, the court was told. On the morning of March 5, 2016, Ramdas killed his

uncle, who was sleeping on his farm, with an axe. APP Mhatre said 12 prosecution witnesses were examined to prove the crime and the court relied on the circumstantial evidence before it while convicting and sentencing Ramdas.

Gold worth Rs 2.10 crore hidden in coffee maker seized at Nagpur Airport

Nagpur: Gold worth Rs 2.10 crore concealed in a coffee maker by a passenger coming from Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates was seized on Friday by the Customs department at Nagpur international airport, an official said. Based on passenger profiling, one person who arrived on board Air Arabia flight G9-415 was intercepted by Nagpur Airport Customs and a check found 3,497 grams of gold worth Rs 2.10 crore hidden in a coffee maker, he said. The gold has been seized and further probe is underway, the official said.

Ganpati Visarjan 2023 12 DEATHS REPORTED FROM ACROSS MAHARASHTRA; NASHIK ACCOUNTS FOR 6

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Across Maharashtra, at least 12 persons were killed during Ganpati idol immersions over the past 24 hours, police officials said on Friday. According to the cops, nine persons died due to drowning. The immersions began on Thursday on the occasion of Anant Chaturdashi, marking the end of the 10-day festivities of Ganesh Chaturthi. An official told media that in Nashik, three persons drowned in Panchvati and an equal number of persons in Nashik Road area. He further stated that in Satara's Umbraj area, Wajirabad in Nanded and Karjat in Raigad district near Mumbai reported one death each from drowning. The official added in Ratnagiri district's Konkarn region, two people died in an accident. Reportedly, a tempo ploughed into an idol immersion procession after the vehicle's brakes failed. The accident claimed the lives of a 17-year-old girl



and the tempo driver. Meanwhile, in Juhu, in the western part of Mumbai, a 16-year-old boy was rescued from the beach amid immersion on Thursday.

However, the doctors at the civic-run Cooper Hospital declared him 'dead on arrival'. Ganesh Chaturthi, which commenced on September 19, culminated on

Anant Chaturdashi with the immersion of idols in the Arabian Sea and other water bodies across the city. In the iconic Lalbaug area, renowned for its grand celebrations, the procession of idols from Tejkaya and Ganesh Gully mandals began with chants of 'Ganapati Bappa Morya, Pudhchya Varshi Lavkar Ya' (come soon next year, Lord). Notably, the procession of the famous Lalbaugcha Raja idol, which draws a maximum number of devotees during the 10-day festival, commenced around 11:30 AM, attracting large crowds eager for the final 'darshan' of the idol. The procession ended with visarjan at 9:20 am. Meanwhile, on the day of Anant Chaturdashi, a total of 6,435 Ganesha idols were immersed in Thane city as devotees bid an emotional farewell to the Elephant God. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde graced the immersion ghats with his presence, offering his appreciation to the community. The day also saw the contribution of 490 idols from devotees at various acceptance centres, a Thane civic body's press release stated.



EDITOR'S SPECS

BJP IN HECTIC PARLEYS WITH AIADMK THROUGH MEDIATORS

Shocked by AIADMK's breaking away, the central leadership of the BJP is trying to mend fences with the Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma leading the mediation talks. Sources in the central BJP leadership said that certain other people from Tamil Nadu, who are close to the national leadership of BJP at a personal level, are also being roped in for the mediatory talks. AIADMK is a powerful political entity of Tamil Nadu with a strong vote bank across the state. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the party won 66 seats with the rival DMK winning 133 seats and thus forming the government in the state. While DMK secured 37.7 per cent of votes, AIADMK also garnered 33.29 per cent votes. AIADMK fought the 2021 Assembly elections braving an anti-incumbency of 10 years in office and without a leader of the stature of Dr.J. Jayalalithaa. This is a clear indicator that the party is not a spent force in Tamil Nadu. The statement of the BJP state president, K. Annamalai, against the iconic Dravidian leader and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Late C.N. Annadurai was the trigger for the AIADMK to call it quits from the BJP alliance. Sources in the BJP said that the central high command was willing for any compromise as they did not expect the AIADMK to make such an announcement even though the BJP state president has been at loggerheads with the AIADMK leadership. It has, however, to be seen whether the AIADMK will budge to the outreach by the central leadership of the BJP. The AIADMK has already received tremendous support from across Tamil Nadu following its decision to snap ties with the saffron party.

'Why are Ramayan, Mahabharat classified as mythology and not history'

Archana Sharma

The fourth session of Shekhawati Sahitya Sangam in Sikar district of Rajasthan themed 'Innovation in self-reliant India' witnessed an interesting discussion on epics like Ramayana and Mahabharat being categorised under mythology and not History.

The programme also discussed the rising cases of suicides in its 'Youth-Mental Health' session in which experts underlined that the students should not be forced to pursue a certain stream if it is pressuring him and parents should see if their child is not feeling lonely.

The five-day event hosted many interesting sessions, one of which was the book 'Hanuman of Mahabharata' which has been written by renowned author Anshu Harsh.

Speaking on the occasion, Anshu said that not many know that Hanuman had a role in Mahabharat too and he was on the chariot which was being driven by Krishna for Arjun.

After the session ended, many from the audience stood up and asked why such epics should be categorised under Mythology and not under history.

"There have been places which prove that Mahabharat did happen; places of Ramayan have been traced; so why is it that such literature is part of fiction and not history," asked social worker Manoj Kumar.

Another student Sheetal too shared her concerns that the sites of Ramayan which have been toured by pilgrims from around the world across now will lose their relevance if Ramayan continues to be categorised as 'mythological'.

While answering their queries, Anshu Harsh said that a lot of efforts will have to be taken to bring this change.

The audience even asked if the books mentioning Ramayan and Mahabharat can be included under history and not mythology. At this, Anshu said, "The history in present context compiles wars, change in regimes of kings and queens and so on. We need to discuss new ways and means how we can bring this change so that students can relate to such incidents as history and not mythology. It will be a long process. However, the need is to think on this aspect too, she added.

Writers and educationists addressed various sessions centering around the core theme. Another session in the programme discussed the burning issue of students' suicide in its 'Youth-Mental Health' session in which Pallavi, psychologist, nutritionist Sunidhi Mishra, and councillor Pushpendra Panikar shared their views on stress among students and increasing cases of suicide.

Sunidhi Mishra expressed her views on mental stress and increasing suicide cases. She talked on how students should be taught on eating less fast food. "Our eating habits are increasing anxiety. Also, to prevent suicide cases, we have to understand our children and instead of forcing them, we should give them a chance to start a career as per their wish," she added.

Pallavi said that students are becoming loners with both the parents being professionals. The study and career pressure is taking a toll on their physical and mental health.



The parents need to handhold students at every stage.

They need to make their children learn how to stay strong physically and mentally by practising yoga and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Pushpendra too said that students need to be spoken with at every stage. Their behaviour change is very evident when they get hyper and start getting irritated. These are signs of depression which need to be looked into by parents, relatives and friends, he added.

Many students also expressed their queries on managing stress during exams.

Sikar in Rajasthan is an upcoming education city after Kota where lakhs of students take coaching for competitive exams.

The first session of the program, discussed the topic "Innovation of Self-Based India" in which the main speakers were Anshu Harsh, Dr. Mahavir Prasad Kumawat, Archana

Sharma and Arvind Kumar.

"We should take pride in the language, food of our country," Harsh said.

Arvind Kumar shared his views based on Swabhasha, Swadharma, Swadesh. Dr Mahavir Prasad Kumawat spoke in detail on the changes that have taken place in the education policy of self-based India. The education policy based on the knowledge of the values of our Gurukul has been changed and we are following the britishers' policy, however, reforms are required in this system, he added.

In the third session, a content writing workshop was held in which students were taught why content remains the king in digital media.

international

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE ENGAGING CONSTRUCTIVELY, SERIOUSLY WITH INDIA: TRUDEAU

Ottawa | Agencies

Despite levelling allegations over the involvement of India in the murder case of Canada-based pro-Khalistan hardliner Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that it was "extremely important" for his country and its allies to continue engaging "constructively and seriously" with India given its growing importance on the world stage.

Addressing a press conference in Montreal on Thursday, the Prime Minister said "Canada is still committed to building closer ties with India", The National Post newspaper reported.

"India is a growing economic power and important geopolitical player. And as we presented with our Indo-Pacific strategy, just last year, we're very serious about building closer ties with India," he told reporters. "At the same time, obviously, as a rule of law country, we need to emphasize that India needs to work with Canada to ensure that we get the



full facts of this matter."

Trudeau went on to claim that he got assurances from the US that Secretary of State Antony Blinken would be raising the issue with India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"The Americans have been with us in speaking to the Indian government about how important it is that they be involved in following up on the credible allegations that agents of the Indian government killed a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil," The National Post quot-

ed the Prime Minister as saying.

"This is something that all democratic countries, all countries that respect the rule of law need to take seriously. We are moving forward in a thoughtful, responsible way anchored in the rule of law with all of our partners including in our approach to the government of India," he added. In the Canadian Parliament on September 18, Trudeau had said that Canadian security agencies had been actively pursuing "credible allegations of a potential link" over India's involvement in the killing of Nijjar, who was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18.

India has rejected the claims as "absurd and motivated". In a rebuke to Trudeau's allegations, Jaishankar, who is currently on a visit to the US, said earlier this week that "this is not the government of India's policy", adding that New Delhi had already informed Ottawa that it is open to looking at specific and relevant information.

Violent clashes continue in Khartoum, 13 civilians dead

Khartoum | Agencies

Violent clashes have continued between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in capital Khartoum, killing 13 civilians, according to witnesses and local media.

"Today, violent clashes took place in the vicinity of the army's Engineers Corps in Omdurman, while large areas of the Umbada neighbourhood of the city came under violent artillery shelling," a witness from Omdurman, west of the Sudanese capital, told Xinhua news agency late Thursday. He said the artillery and air bombardment focused on western parts of the Umbada neighborhood and the army-controlled Karari military base in northern Omdurman. The Resistance Committee of Umbada neighborhood said in a statement on Thursday that "the neighbourhood experienced violent artillery bombardment, which left 13 civilians dead and 35 others wounded".

Also on Thursday, the independent Sudan Tribune news portal cited wit-



nesses as saying that "they heard strong explosions caused by artillery shells fired by the RSF towards the army's positions in central Khartoum".

The RSF artillery strikes mainly targeted the army headquarters in central Khartoum, causing heavy smoke columns, the news portal said. A witness from eastern Khartoum told Xinhua that the SAF warplanes bombarded the RSF posts in Imitdad Nasir neighbourhood east of the capital.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Emergency Lawyers, an activist group initiative concerned with monitoring violations, said

in a report on Wednesday that between April 16 and Sept. 19, 954 civilians have been killed and 2,434 others injured in both sides' bombardment in the Khartoum State, El-Obeid, the capital city of North Kordofan and Nyala, the capital city of South Darfur State.

"130 children and 94 women were among the dead, with Khartoum recording 647 deaths, El-Obeid 79 deaths, and Nyala 228 deaths," the report said.

Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and the RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, resulting in at least 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, according to figures released by the Sudanese Health Ministry. According to the latest report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), some 5.3 million people have been displaced inside and outside Sudan.

Over one million people have crossed into neighboring countries, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan, OCHA said.

Russia to increase defence spending in 2024



Moscow | Agencies

It is necessary for Russia to increase defence spending in 2024 due to the "hybrid war that is being waged against the country", the Kremlin has said.

"It is clear that such an increase is... absolutely necessary," local media reported, citing Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

Peskov on Thursday noted that this is particularly significant in the context of the "hybrid war that is currently being waged against Russia", and the country's ongoing "special military operation", Xinhua news agency reported, citing the Kremlin.

New York court rejects Trump's effort to delay trial in fraud case

New York | Agencies

ANew York appeals court has rejected Donald Trump's request to delay his civil fraud trial over accusations that the former US President inflated the value of his properties by billions of dollars. The appeals court on Thursday effectively turned aside for now a lawsuit Trump filed against the trial judge, Arthur F. Engoron. The lawsuit had sought to delay the trial, and ultimately throw out many of the accusations against the former President, The New York Times reported. The ruling came two days after Justice Engoron issued an order, finding Trump liable for having committed fraud by persistently overvaluing his assets and stripping him of control over his New York properties. With the ruling, the civil fraud trial against Trump could now begin as soon as Monday which will be presided by Justice



Engoron without a jury. Although the former President can still appeal Justice Engoron's Tuesday order, it is unclear whether the appeals court would consider that. Justice Engoron on Tuesday sided with the New York Attorney General, Letitia James, who last year sued Trump, accusing him of inflating his net worth to obtain favourable loan terms from banks.

UNGA President urges Taliban to allow Afghan girls back in school

United Nations | Agencies

UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Dennis Francis has urged the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to reconsider their decision to ban women and girls from proper education.

Afghan women and girls, like men, have inalienable rights -- human rights that must be upheld and honored, said Francis.

"So I would urge the Afghan authorities to reconsider the policy and allow girls to go to school, to get an education, so that they can play a role in the development of their communities and society," Xinhua news agency quoted the UNGA President as saying at a press briefing here.

"They can add value in



making Afghanistan a strong, cohesive state, which I'm sure they want to become, and not create this

sense of hopelessness by keeping girls out of school. It is not a behavior that is going to strengthen the

country. If anything, it is likely to weaken the country," he said.

"So I entreat them to reconsider this policy, sooner rather than later." He noted that Afghanistan is the only country in the world where girls are not allowed in education.

"It's inconceivable, really, that this should be the case. It is an anachronism. It is a global anachronism. And anachronisms need to be fixed," he said.

Through over 50 edicts, orders and restrictions, the Taliban have left no aspect of women's lives untouched, no freedom spared.

The regimes had created a system founded on the mass oppression of women that is rightly and widely considered gender apartheid.



"HE HAS NO PLACE IN SOCIETY": SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN ON UJJAIN TEEN RAPE ACCUSED

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said his government will ensure that the accused arrested for raping and brutalising a minor girl in Ujjain gets stringent punishment.

"The accused was caught and he also suffered injuries in the process. I was following the investigation of the case every hour. Such persons have no place in society. He has injured the conscience of Madhya Pradesh," the chief minister said on Thursday.

The Chief Minister was speaking to reporters after immersing the Lord Ganesha idol installed at his official residence during the Ganesh festival.

"The victim is the daughter of Madhya Pradesh. We will take care of her in every way. She is my daughter, as well as the state's daughter and we



will ensure that the accused gets stringent punishment," Chouhan added. Police in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain

city on Thursday arrested an autorickshaw driver, for allegedly raping a girl, aged 15, who had been found walking on the city streets in

injured condition three days ago.

The condition of the girl, admitted to an Indore hospital, was improving slowly, said a member of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) who visited the hospital.

Detained during the probe, the man tried to escape when the police took him to the crime spot to recreate the crime scene and collect evidence like torn clothes but was caught quickly, said Mahakal police station in-charge Ajay Verma.

The girl was found bleeding on a road in Mahakal police station limits on Monday. Medical examination found that she had been raped.

She was operated upon by a team of specialist doctors at the Government Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar Women's Hospital in Indore on Wednesday.

Cop offers to sponsor education of Ujjain rape survivor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Horrifying visuals from Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, which show a 15-year-old girl, semi-naked and bleeding after rape, going door-to-door for help, sparked outrage across the country. But the incident also showcased how some policemen went out of their way to help the girl. Two cops donated blood to the girl when she was being treated at a hospital. Another cop has said that he wants to sponsor the girl's education and healthcare expenses.

Inspector Ajay Verma of Mahakal police station in Ujjain said that he would have adopted the girl if they weren't able to find her family.

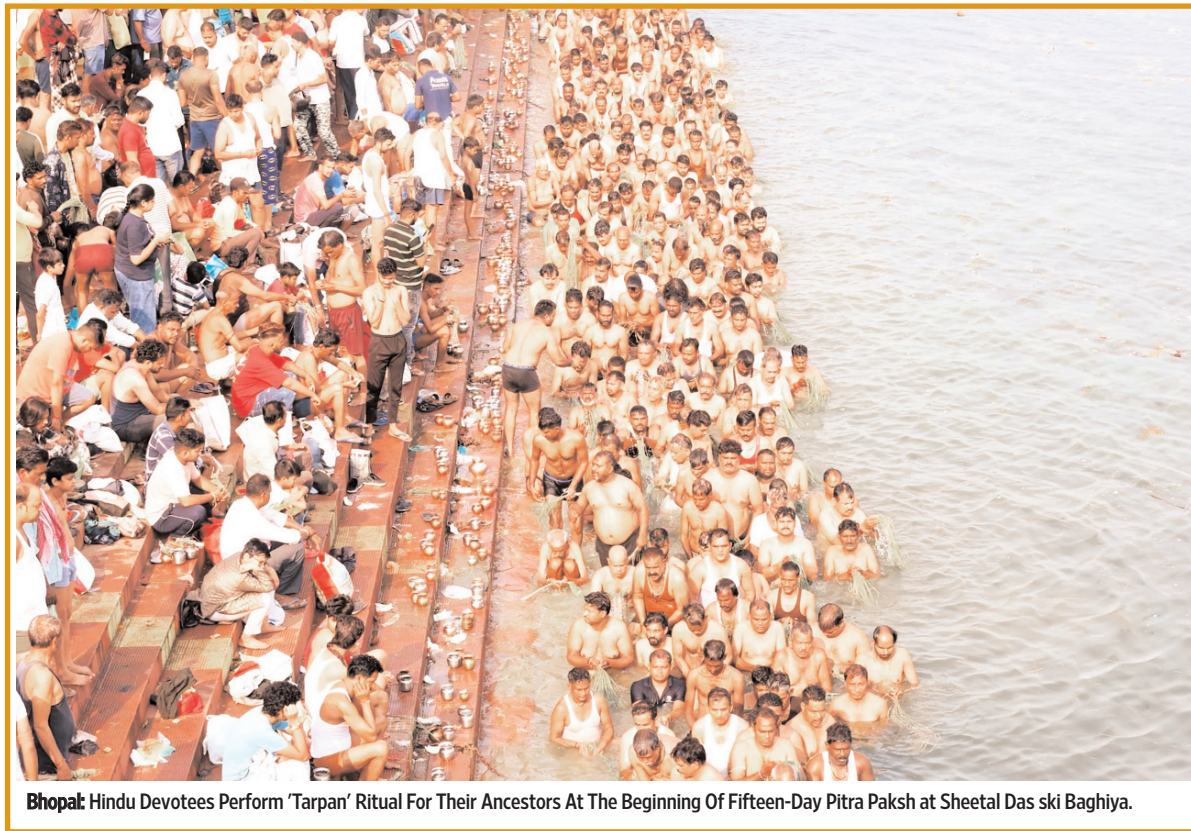
He said that he was moved to tears when he heard the girl's screams at the hospital.

"When she was being treated for her injuries I was listening to her screams, my eyes were filled with tears. I thought why is god giving her so much trouble," Inspector Verma said. "We have found the family and I can now help them without getting involved



in legal complications. I can take care of her financial needs, education, and health. If I couldn't find her parents, I would have adopted her legally," he added.

An autorickshaw driver was questioned after the police scanned CCTV footage of the locality where the teenager was seen seeking help. The police said they found blood stains in the three-wheeler. The police zeroed in on the autorickshaw driver and arrested him on Thursday.



Bhopal: Hindu Devotees Perform 'Tarpan' Ritual For Their Ancestors At The Beginning Of Fifteen-Day Pitra Paksh at Sheetal Das ski Baghya.

'Being born as girl in MP is curse', Cong slams Shivraj govt over Ujjain rape case

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

Congress on Friday slammed the BJP over crimes against women in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, saying "being born as a girl is a curse in the state", and also accused it of trying to get rid of the 12-year-old girl's rape case in Ujjain.

In a Hindi post on X, Congress general secretary in charge for Madhya Pradesh Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "Under BJP's rule in Madhya Pradesh being born as a girl is a curse."

He said that a heinous crime of rape took place with 12-year-old girl of Satna in Ujjain. The girl roamed for help while humanity kept on crying in Ujjain but the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government kept on sleeping.

Surjewala said, "Today I visited the MTH Hospital in Indore where the girl has been admitted. Doctors informed me about the brutality with the girl and it shivered me.



"There is nothing like the government left in Madhya Pradesh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan has gone silent for the last three days. Have a few questions for the BJP government over the gruesome crime like 'Nirbhaya' with a 12-year-old Dalit girl to highlight the criminal conspiracy. Why did the police in Satna not register the FIR when her grandfather made the complaint to them? Why did Ujjain Police and the BJP government without verifying the facts declare the girl as a beggar despite the fact that she was in school uniform.

"Why did the BJP government and Ujjain Police inform media that the girl

is from Uttar Pradesh whereas she was from Satna in Madhya Pradesh? Was it done to mislead the people of the state and to hide the gruesome case of rape with a 12-year-old Dalit girl? Will BJP stoop so low on such issues? Why is the government not telling us how the girl reached Ujjain from Satna? Why did the Ujjain Police not check the CCTNS system to get the details of the missing girl? The kind of horrific crime has taken place with the girl points toward the gang rape. Why was the government trying to get rid of the case?"

The Congress leader also asked why the family has not been brought from Satna to Indore to meet the girl.

"Madhya Pradesh Congress Party President Kamal Nath ji has announced an immediate relief of Rs 5 lakh to the daughter's family and has promised treatment in the best hospitals in the country if required. Hope the humanity of BJP, which has died, will wake up after today," Surjewala added.

Vijayvargiya son's supporters stage protest at BJP office to demand ticket for him

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sitting BJP MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, the son of party's national General Secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, staged a protest at party headquarters here on Thursday, demanding he also be fielded in the coming Assembly polls, along with the father.

Around 100 supporters of Akash Vijayvargiya came to Bhopal in three buses from Indore and barged into the BJP headquarters chanting slogans in his support, demanding that he should be given ticket for the upcoming Assembly election.

Sources told IANS that a group of supporters met Union Minister and state election in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and said Akash Vijayvargiya has served the people of Indore and he should be given ticket



again. Akash Vijayvargiya is sitting MLA from Indore-3 Assembly seat. The party has fielded his father from Indore-1.

Since the day, the BJP released its first list, which included the name of Kailash Vijayvargiya and three Union Ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Faggan Singh Kulaste, and Prahlad Patel, resentment has started among

Akash Vijayvargiya's supporters. Even Kailash Vijayvargiya has openly said that he wasn't planned to contest the Assembly election. As the party has given ticket to senior Vijayvargiya, there is possibility that his son would not get the ticket. The BJP has so far fielded 79 candidates for total 230 Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, while the Congress yet to release its list.

It is essential to adopt a healthy lifestyle to prevent heart diseases: CM Chouhan

CHIEF MINISTER PLANTS SAPLINGS ALONG WITH PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES AND PHYSICIANS. HEART AWARENESS VEHICLE FLAGGED OFF FOR A JOURNEY TO 19 DISTRICTS FOR HEART HEALTH AWARENESS ON WORLD HEART DAY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Moulshree and Gulmohar in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Along with the Chief Minister, former Chairman of Tribal Commission Narendra Maravi, Vice President of Katni District Panchayat Ashok Vishwakarma, former Mayor of Bhopal Alok Sharma, public representative of Shahdol Anil Dwivedi, Sushri Shivani Patle of Chhindwara, Premalata Patle and Ranjana Tiwari also planted saplings. Babita Mishra planted saplings with her husband Chandramouli Mishra on her birthday.

Chief Minister Chouhan flagged off the Heart Awareness Vehicle of Apollo Sage Hospital, Bhopal to 19 districts for public awareness on heart health on World Heart Day. CM



Chouhan said that awareness about necessary precautions and measures to prevent heart disease is very

important for a healthy heart. If people take precautions, get necessary tests done from time to time and

consult a doctor immediately when initial symptoms appear, a serious situation can be avoided. The Heart Awareness Vehicle will travel 2500 kilometers in 30 days in 19 districts to spread awareness among the public. On this occasion, CMD of Sage Group Sanjeev Aggarwal, Executive Director Rinki Aggarwal, Consultant Hitesh Vajpayee and cardiologists and doctors of the hospital were present.

Along with CM Chouhan, Sanjeev Aggarwal and his team planted saplings.

Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Pt. Ankit Sharma of Gwalior's organisation "Phir Ek Prayas" planted saplings on his birthday. Pt. Ankit Sharma presented his book "Meri Nazar Mein Sunderkand" to CM Chouhan. TP Singh, Santosh Singh and Reena Singh were with him.

Floods in some districts were brought to make BJP's programs successful: Digvijay Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh has alleged that to benefit the BJP in the assembly elections in Khandwa, Barwani, Dhar and Khargone districts, water from Indira Sagar Dam was stopped and water from Sardar Sarovar Dam was stopped by the Gujarat government to celebrate the birthday of the Prime Minister. Later, due to high water pressure in these dams, opening of all the dam gates created chaos. To make these sponsored events successful, on one hand, some districts of the state had to face floods created by the government and administration, while on the other hand, the people of the villages of Narmada belt became victims of untimely and unprovoked floods without any natural disaster.

In the letter, the former CM also wrote the demands of the people affected by the floods in order to bring their disrupted lives back on track.

Here is a brief content of the letter "I am writing this open letter to you for a sitting or an investigation by a



retired High Court judge into the two incidents in which the houses of thousands of people living in Nimar area in Narmadachal were destroyed for political gains. This is a condemnable incident in the known history of Madhya Pradesh, in which thousands of farmers, laborers and

traders living on the banks of river Narmada were destroyed by risking people's lives.

The first incident happened when you were about to go to Omkareshwar on 15 September 2023 to see the statue of Adiguru Shankaracharya Ji, then the top level

officials did not stop the water in Narmada river. Even after the water level increased, the prescribed quantity of water was not released from the dam.

But as the water increased, the gates of Omkareshwar Dam were opened on the night of 15 September without any prior notice and warning.

Secondly, On the birthday of the Honorable Prime Minister, 17 September 2023, water was not released so that the Sardar Sarovar Dam built in Kevadiya, Gujarat could be shown full. Due to the high level of the issue, the government and administration people in Madhya Pradesh remained silent and the villages of Dhar, Barwani, Khargone and Alirajpur districts were flooded due to the rise in the water level of Narmada. The crops of thousands of farmers in many villages were damaged. In public interest, the demands have come from the affected families to resolve the damage caused by the flood disaster in Narmada river in Barwani, Dhar, Khargone and Khandwa districts, which should be resolved immediately."

Take a pledge to protect your motherland - Governor Mangubhai Mangubhai Patel

"Vatan ko Jaano" Kashmiri Youth Exchange Programme organized. Governor advises the youth to maintain mutual communication

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the country has many hopes and expectations from the youth. Youth are the leaders of the country. Kashmiri youth should take a pledge to protect the motherland. Governor Shri Patel was addressing the Kashmiri Youth Exchange Programme "Vatan ko Jaano" on Friday. Nehru Yuva Kendra in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs organized the programme at Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), in which participants from 6 districts of Jammu and Kashmir took part. On this occasion, Governor Patel also released a brochure based on the activities of Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Governor Patel said that Kashmiri youth should take inspiration from the life of



Swami Vivekananda. He told them to follow his ideals. India will become a world leader with the continuous efforts and active participation of the youth. He said that "Vatan Ko Jaano" programme is an opportunity for the participants to know the country and make new friends. Patel advised the participants to maintain mutual communication even after returning from Madhya Pradesh. He advised them to share mutual mobile numbers and addresses to ensure communication. On returning to Kashmir, tell your family and community members about the state's shared culture,

customs and the power of unity rooted in diversity.

Governor Patel said that the participants should use the "Vatan ko Jaano" programme to strengthen positive thinking about the society, country and future from a global perspective. He told them to understand the wonderful unity of mutual cultural traditions, emotional beliefs, life philosophies and moral values. Governor Shri Patel said that Kashmiri youth should try to save and strengthen the heritage of Madhya Pradesh's food habits, lifestyle and unbreakable bonds of linguistic diversity and integrity.



Britney Spears' dancing with knives invites cops at her house

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop icon Britney Spears' latest dancing clip - which sees her twirling around in a bikini while brandishing "fake" kitchen knives - has reportedly resulted in a welfare check from her local police department.



Now, TMZ reports that "out of an abundance of caution," deputies from the Ventura County Sheriff's Department sent cops to check in on the "Toxic" singer after they received a call expressing concern for her.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', another insider claimed that several people expressed concern for Britney after the clip was shared on her Instagram page.

Hugh Jackman indulges in retail therapy amid separation from wife

Los Angeles | Agencies

The 'Prestige' star Hugh Jackman treated himself to some new books as he enjoyed a spot of retail therapy amid his split from Deborra-Lee Furness. The 54-year-old star decided to hit the shops in Manhattan on Thursday and was pictured heading home from his solo outing, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.



Kourtney says 'I hate you!' to 'narcissist' Kim Kardashian

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV personality Kourtney Kardashian has branded her sister and star of 'The Kardashians' as a "witch" and "narcissist" in a fierce row. The 44-year-old reality star was seen arguing with her sister, 42, over the phone as the tense exchange was sparked by a conversation about the latter's collaboration with Dolce and Gabbana, which came just six months after the fashion house designed Kourtney's wedding dress, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Sophie Turner staying in Taylor Swift's investment property amid divorce from Joe Jonas

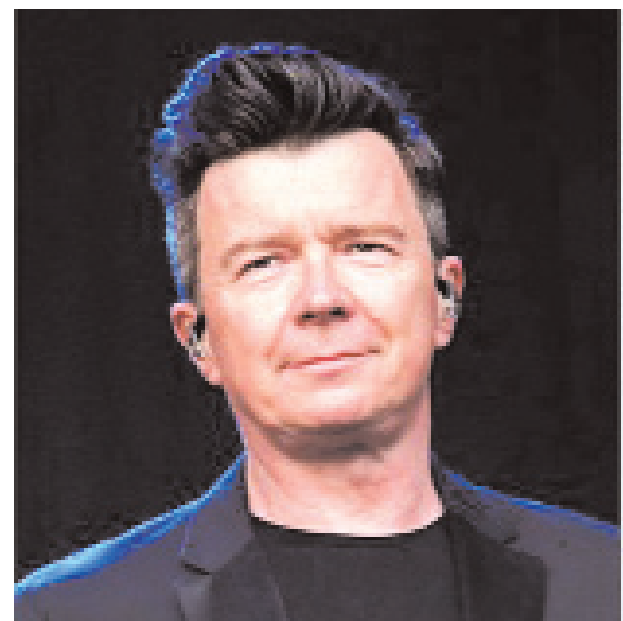
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sophie Turner has been staying in a New York City home owned by her friend and popstar Taylor Swift amid the actress's bitter divorce from Joe Jonas. The 'Game of Thrones' alum, 27, was spotted leaving the residence on Thursday (Eastern Standard Time) dressed casually in grey pants, a t-shirt and zip-up top, reports 'People' magazine.

Rick Astley settles lawsuit against Yung Gravy for plagiarising his song 'Betty (Get Money)'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The battle between musicians Rick Astley and Yung Gravy is over as the 'Never Gonna Give You Up' singer has settled his lawsuit against the rapper for plagiarising his song 'Betty (Get Money)'. According to legal documents obtained by 'People' magazine, the iconic pop singer, 57, and the meme rapper, 27, settled the lawsuit filed by Astley in January against Gravy (born Matthew Hauri) and his collaborators for an undisclosed sum.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Danielle Lloyd





Asian Games

PALAK CLINCH GOLD, ESHA SINGH BAGS SILVER IN WOMEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL

Hangzhou | Agencies

Indian shooters Palak and Esha Singh won the gold and silver medals, respectively, in the women's 10m air pistol individual event at the 19th Asian Games, here on Friday.

The 17-year-old Palak set a new Asian Games record winning score of 241.2, while Esha, who is 18 years old, achieved a score of 239.7.

Earlier in the day, the pair was part of the women's 10m air pistol team that secured a silver medal.

This was Esha's fourth medal at the continental event as she claimed a silver medal in the women's individual 25m pistol event. Additionally, she joined forces with Manu Bhaker and Rhythm Sangwan to clinch the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol team event.

India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar was in the hunt for the gold medal till the penultimate shot, trailing 0.8 parts of a point against China's Linshu Du -- 450.0 as against 450.8 of the Chinese -- in the final of the Men's 50m Rifle 3-position in the Asian Games shooting competitions here on Friday.

He was struck by disaster on his final shot as he could manage only 9.7 as against 9.8 by the Chinese and finished second, losing the gold medal 460.6 to 459.7 in a thrilling final played at the 10m range in the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre in Hangzhou on Friday.

Tomar had qualified second behind compatriot Swapnil Kusale in the qualifying stage, Kusale was going strong and in medal contention till he shot a disastrous 7.6 in the third elimination round and eventually finished fourth.

China's Linshu Du won the gold, Tomar took the silver and another Chinese Jiaming Tian took the bronze medal.

Tomar's medal was the fifth medal in shooting for India on Friday -- two gold and three silver medals.



KIRAN BALIYAN MAKES HISTORY IN ATHLETICS, CLAIMS BRONZE IN SHOT PUT AFTER 72 YEARS

Hangzhou: Kiran Baliyan creates history as she became first Indian to bring home a medal in Athletics, at Asian Games 2023, winning a bronze in women's shot put at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, here on Friday. A first medal in this event for India after 72 years, since 1951.

Her third attempt which is now her Career's second-best throw, landed 17.36m away from the throwing mark, won her third place and also her maiden senior international medal. Not many Indian female athlete has won a medal in the women's shot put though the men have dominated the event with Tejinderpal Singh Toor winning the gold in 2018 in Jakarta. Barbara Webster was the last Indian to win the bronze medal, and it was way back in 1951. On Friday, Kiran Baliyan threw the iron ball to a distance of 17.36m to finish third behind China's Lijiao Gong, who won gold in 19.58m while fellow Chinese Jiayuan took the silver medal in 18.92m.



NIKHAT ZAREEN ASSURES MEDAL, OLYMPIC QUOTA

Hangzhou: Two-time World Champion boxer Nikhat Zareen cruised into the semifinals of the Women's 50kg competition with a dominating victory over Jordan's Hanan Nassar, assuring herself a medal and also a quota to 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Nikhat won her bout against Hanan Nassar with the Referee Stopping the Contest with 53 seconds remaining on the clock in the first round, while her opponent was shown three standing 8-counts in the quarterfinal bout.

The 27-year-old Indian dominated the match and was leading on the cards of all five judges when the referee stepped in to end the match.

BADMINTON MEN'S TEAM ENTER SEMIS, SECURE MEDAL AFTER 37 YEARS

Hangzhou: Indian men's badminton team defeated Nepal 3-0 to enter the semifinal at the 19th Asian Games and secured a historic medal after a gap of 37 years. India will next take on the winner of the match between Indonesia and South Korea, on Saturday. The last time the men's team secured a medal at the esteemed continental tournament was during the 1986 Seoul edition. Icons such as Prakash Padukone and Syed Modi led the team, which included Vimal Kumar, Ravi Kunte, Uday Pawar, Sanat Mishra, and Leroy D'sa. Lakshya Sen, world No. 14, beat Prince Dahal 21-5, 21-8 to give India a 1-0 lead before former world no. 1 Kidambi Srikanth trounced Sunil Joshi 21-4, 21-13 in second rubber to take India to a 2-0 up in the tie. Then, Mithun Manjunath beat Bishnu Katuwal 21-2, 21-7 in Match 3 to seal India's progress into the semifinal of the Men's Team event. However, the women's team bowed out in the quarterfinal after a 0-3 defeat against Thailand.



Roma suffer another nightmare at Genoa

Rome | Agencies

Roma's poor form in Serie A continued as they were destroyed by newly-promoted Genoa 4-1.

Having only picked up one victory from their previous five games, the Giallorossi's slow start to the new season continued when they found themselves behind after five minutes when ex-Roma midfielder Kevin Strootman assisted for Albert Gudmundsson to finish with a low strike, reports Xinhua. Despite Bryan Cristante's equaliser in the 22nd minute, Mateo Retegui restored the lead for the home side on the stroke of halftime after some good team play. Genoa extended their lead in the 74th minute with Rade Dragusin's header, before Junior Messias sealed the win with a first-time strike. Also on Thursday, Fiorentina shared the spoils with Frosinone in a 1-1 draw, while Monza and Bologna played out a goalless draw.



Dragusin's header, before Junior Messias sealed the win with a first-time strike. Also on Thursday, Fiorentina shared the spoils with Frosinone in a 1-1 draw, while Monza and Bologna played out a goalless draw.

Seher Atwal completes massive 11-shot win in 14th Leg of WPGT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Seher Atwal gave herself a big boost ahead of India's main women's golfing event, the Ladies European Tour -sanctioned Hero Women's Indian Open, by registering an 11-shot win in the 14th Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Delhi Golf Club, here on Friday. Seher, who won the first leg of the Tour, has since finished second in the fourth leg, but her form has been below her own expectations. Her rounds of 68-71-72 gave her a total of 5-under 211 and she finished 11 shots clear of Ridhima Dilawari (78-72-72), who was tied with Asmitha Sathish (73-72-77) and Sneha Singh (71-73-78).

Seher, who led from the first round had a roller-coaster final round. She birdied the second, but back-to-back bogeys halted her progress, though she was never challenged



the whole day. She birdied the eighth to turn in even par. On the back nine, she bogeyed the 10th and the 15th but had an eagle on Par-5 14th to total even par 72 and complete a start-to-finish title win. Seher became the fifth player to win twice this season after Sneha Singh, Gaurika Bishnoi, Neha Tripathi, and Tvesa Malik. Ridhima also had an up-and-down round with a bogey on the sixth and birdies on the seventh and eighth. She dropped a double bogey on the 10th and a bogey on the 16th but closed birdie-birdie.

Asmitha Sathish missed a chance to be the sole second as she closed with a double bogey on the Par-5 18th. She had three other bogeys and no birdies in her round of 77.

Sneha Singh, the Order of Merit leader, had a disappointing round with two birdies, four bogeys, and two double bogeys in a round of 6-over 78.

UNBEATEN INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM PREPARES FOR CRUCIAL PAKISTAN CHALLENGE IN HANGZHOU

Hangzhou | Agencies

The Indian Men's Hockey Team has displayed their top form at the ongoing 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022, picking up three wins in three games so far.

While India began the contest with a 16-0 win over Uzbekistan in the Pool A match, the side led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh followed it up with a 16-1 win over Singapore. On Thursday, India faced their toughest challenge of the campaign against the 2018 Asian Games Gold medalist Japan and came out of the contest with a 4-2 win to keep their winning streak intact. Now, on Saturday, India will take on their neighbouring rivals Pakistan in a crucial contest and will hope to add another win to their record. Pakistan Team, like India, is also having a good run, having won all three games they have played so far. Pakistan began their campaign with an 11-0 win over Singapore and then went on to record a 5-2 win over Bangladesh and an 18-2 win over Uzbekistan. Speaking about the upcoming game, India captain Harmanpreet Singh stated that the team has learned valuable lessons from their matches thus far in



the tournament, which will come in handy against Pakistan. The two teams last met in the Pool match at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 in August, where India won the match 4-0. Since 2013, India and Pakistan have faced each other 24 times, in which India has won 16 times, while Pakistan have won 5 times, and three games ended in a draw.

INDIAN WOMEN'S SQUASH TEAM TAKE HOME BRONZE AFTER SEMIFINAL LOSS TO HONG KONG

Hangzhou | Agencies

Indian women's squash team, consisting Joshana Chinappa, Tanvi Khanna and Anahat Singh settled for a bronze medal after suffering a 1-2 loss against Hong Kong in the semifinal at the 19th Asian Games, here on Friday. While Tanvi lost the opening match 0-3 (6-11, 7-11, 3-11) to Chan Sin Yuk, Joshana won a five-game thriller 3-2 (7-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8) against Ho Tze Lok to level the scores. Then, the 15-year-old Anahat showcased her mettle in the final match and almost completed any epic comeback in the third game against Lee Ka Yi won, but it wasn't proved to be enough as she went down 0-3 (8-11, 7-11, 10-12) after saving six match points. Meanwhile, men's team will play Malaysia in the semifinal later in the day.



I congratulate the Indians for arranging a reception of this kind: PCB chief Zaka Ashraf

Lahore | Agencies

Pakistan Cricket Board's Management Committee chairman Zaka Ashraf has expressed his delight over the fantastic reception Pakistan men's cricket team received in India for the World Cup.

Earlier, Zaka had allegedly made an indirect reference to India as an "enemy country" on Wednesday evening as the Pakistan cricket team arrived in Hyderabad, to participate in the ICC World Cup 2023.

However, in a statement released by PCB on Friday, Zaka cleared his position highlighting the love and warmth shown in the reception of the Pakistani team.

"The fantastic reception of the



Pakistan team in India for the World Cup proves how much love the people of both countries have for each other's players. This love was evident by the reception arranged at the Hyderabad airport. I congratulate the Indians for arranging a reception of this kind," said Zaka Ashraf.

"Whenever India and Pakistan step onto the cricket field, they emerge as traditional rivals but not as enemies. I hope that throughout the entire World Cup, Pakistan cricketers will receive the same warmth, and Indian fans will get to see the best cricket from Pakistan players," he added.

Pakistan arrived in India after more than six years for a World Cup tournament and the reception they were shown at Hyderabad was acknowledged by many Pakistani cricket, including skipper Babar Azam, who felt overwhelmed and showed his gratitude towards the fans.

Double delight for Sarthak, as National Motorcycle Racing Championship Rd-4 kick-off

Team Absolute | Chennai Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing), the 16-year-old from Pune, scorched the track and qualified for pole position in both the premier Pro-Stock Open categories (301-400cc and 165cc) to kick-start his campaign in the fourth round of the Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2023 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday.

Sarthak, fresh from a win (Super Sport 400cc) in the OR BRIC Superbike Championship in Thailand last weekend, clocked a hot lap of 01 minutes, 50.764 seconds, ahead of championship leader Rajiv Sethu (01:51.223) of RACR Castrol Power1 team and Deepak



Ravikumar (01:51.831), also of Petronas TVS Racing in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open. Late in the evening with storm clouds gathering, Sarthak qualified for pole position in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open category, piping

team-mate Chiranth Vishwanath (Bengaluru), also 16.

Sarthak clocked a top lap of 01:56.179 as against Chiranth's 01:56.218 while KY Ahamed (01:57.332), who last week took part in the Moto3

World Championship at the MotoGP Bharat in Noida, completed a Petronas TVS Racing front-row sweep.

Hyderabad's Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club), seeking his sixth win this season, yet again took pole position in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category, comfortably outpacing the pack with a time of 02:09.665.

Earlier, the TVS Apache RTE (Racing Throttle Electric), the first electric race-spec motorcycle to participate in the National Championship, made its debut with a practice session for the eight riders, including Ann Jennifer (Chennai).

The only female competitor on this grid, who has been selected to participate in the TVS E-Invitation Race.

Team Absolute | New Delhi Former left-arm pacer Irfan Pathan has chosen hosts India as his favourites for the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup title. Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar has picked defending champions England as his favourites for the title. Both India and England will be facing off in their first warm-up game at Barsapara Cricket Ground in Guwahati on Saturday.

"I'm very excited to see how India performs and I really think they are one of the favorites, for sure because especially last couple of series, like Asia Cup, and the way India played against Australia as well in the home conditions. I think they are ticking all the boxes."



"They have players who are performing really well but you have a guy like Mohammed Shami, who's not in the part of playing 11 consistently, who's a world class bowler itself, so it shows the kind of team India has and at the same time the bench strength India has," said Pathan to Star Sports. Revealing why England are favourites for him, Gavaskar

said, "The defending champions, England because of the kind of talent that they have at, at the top of the order, the batting order, they've got two or three world class all-rounders who can change the game with both bat and ball. They've also got a very good bowling line-up, experienced bowling line-up, so at the moment in my book certainly."

Both Gavaskar and Pathan will be a part of the broadcaster's coverage of the World Cup alongside Ravi Shastri, K Srikanth, Gautam Gambhir, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Sreesanth, MSK Prasad, Sandeep Patil, Sunil Joshi, Dinesh Karthik, Mohammed Kaif, Sanjay Manjrekar, Deep Dasgupta, Anjum Chopra and Mithali Raj. Gavaskar also highlighted the importance of warm-up matches, citing his experience from the 1983 World Cup winning campaign. "It affects massively because when you talked about that 1983 we played their two games against the minor countries, we lost both those games but there was so much to learn from both those games."





Katrina Kaif Becomes WhatsApp Channel's Most Followed Celebrity with 15 Million Followers



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Katrina Kaif, the Bollywood star, has achieved a remarkable milestone on WhatsApp Channel. In just a few days since joining on September 13th, 2023, the actress has become the most followed celebrity on the platform with a staggering 15 million followers. This achievement is even more impressive as she surpassed global figures like Mark Zuckerberg, the owner of WhatsApp's parent company Meta, and singer/rapper Bad Bunny. Katrina Kaif, known for her remarkable performances in Bollywood, has not only won the hearts of millions with her acting but has also ventured into entrepreneurship with her successful brand Kay Beauty. Her multifaceted talents and genuine connection with her fans have played a pivotal role in her digital success. Katrina's WhatsApp channel offers fans a closer look into her life, including behind-the-scenes content and direct interactions. This personal touch has contributed to her rapid rise in popularity on the platform.

It's important to note that this achievement goes beyond mere numbers. It signifies the evolving landscape of celebrity influence in the age of social media. With the ability to connect directly with their fans, celebrities like Katrina Kaif are rewriting the rules of engagement and redefining what it means to be a global icon.

Katrina is a favourite among brands, the actress has recently joined hands with Qatar Airways as their brand ambassador and is even the first Indian ambassador for the Japanese Fashion brand UNIQLO.

FALAQ NAAZ ON SHOWBIZ: YOU HAVE TO WORK AND GET NOTICED BY PEOPLE CONSTANTLY



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Falq Naaz, who was recently seen in 'Bigg Boss OTT 2', says that it's very important for actors to be active on social media.

She says that constantly being in the limelight is the only way to survive. "Definitely jo dikhta hai wohi bikta hai. You have to work and get noticed by people constantly. The producers or directors in the industry, who handle casting, should see you and remember you. The character that might suit you or is made for you can reach you in any way."

"If you won't be noticeable then people might not remember you because there are a lot of options available. There are a lot of actors nowadays in the industry, who are easily visible. So, I believe that you have to work on it," she adds

However, she says that it's tough to be active on social media all the time. "It has become quite difficult for people to understand social media. Not everyone out there is trying to seek attention. I feel that people want to see something motivational, something related to their lives. There are different kinds of people out there. Some will criticise any post."

"On the other hand, those who are sensible won't pay attention to those things, they'll go for something that's important to them. So, I think everyone has found some or other thing that's crucial for them and they follow it," she said.

Falq is best known for her role in 'Sasural Simar Ka'. She is also known for her participation in the reality show Bigg Boss OTT 2. She has also worked in shows such as Mahakali - Anth Hi Aarambh Hai, Roop, Vish Ya Amrit: Sitara and Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush.

Geetanjali Mishra's health recipe: Hydration, nutritious meals, mindful choices

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Geetanjali Mishra, who plays 'Rajesh' in the sitcom 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan', opened up on her fitness routine, encouraging everyone to prioritise healthy eating habits to support overall well-being, and ensure proper hydration for a healthy lifestyle.

On the occasion of 'World Heart Day' on Friday, Geetanjali shared: "I prioritise staying hydrated by consuming ample water throughout the day and carrying a bottle filled with fresh fruit or vegetable juice. Additionally, I incorporate regular meditation breaks between tasks to maintain a sense of relaxation."

"Maintaining a healthy, well-functioning heart is consuming nutritious meals at the right time. Despite occasional cravings, I consciously try to avoid junk food, opting instead for a daily diet rich in leafy greens, fresh vegetables, fruits, and milk," she said.

Geetanjali added: "Consequently, I encourage everyone to prioritise healthy eating habits to support overall well-being and ensure proper hydration for a healthy lifestyle."

In the current track of 'Happu Ki Ultan Paltan', Mutthu, the look-alike of Happu (Yogesh Tripathi), kidnaps Happu to seek revenge on Commissioner (Kishore Bhanushali) due to a past rivalry. Mutthu disguises himself as Happu and infiltrates his home. He repeatedly tries to assassinate the Commissioner but fails each time.



Sanjay Dutt's sense of humour is 'unreal', says Suniel Shetty

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty, who will be soon seen in the upcoming season of the show titled 'Star vs Food Survival', has shared his experience of working with his co-star Sanjay Dutt and celebrity chef Ranveer Brar. Suniel said that Sanjay has an "unreal" sense of humour. The actor shared that he always finds it fun to work with Sanjay as the two share a long history of collaborations in the form of 'Shootout at Lokhandwala', 'LOC: Kargil', 'Dus', 'Kaante', and others.

The actor told reporter, "It is always amazing with Sanjay Dutt. His sense of humour is unreal. We are friends that get along really well and are very comfort-



able with each other. The shoot is comfortable. The entire set gets comfortable when we're shooting together. Sanjay is large-hearted and says things the way they are".

The show will see the celebrity guests tackling the wilderness as they navigate the culinary journey. Celebrity guests like Suniel Shetty, Sanjay Dutt, Aparshakti Khurana, Mouni Roy, and Nakul Mehta will explore the essence of India's culinary legacy.

Ranveer will lead the star-studded cast on an adventurous journey through the vibrant flavours and culinary treasures of two unique Indian locales: Coorg and Spiti. The show promises to unravel the flavours and stories behind each dish.

Varun Sharma steals the show, Twitterati showers love on him for Choocha's return



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Varun Sharma's standout performance in 'Fukrey 3' is winning the audiences' hearts. Everyone who has watched the film has only endorsed Varun Sharma's portrayal of Choocha in the latest installment of the 'Fukrey' franchise. One trade expert tweeted, "But the one who's bound to walk away with ceetes and taalis is - no prizes for guessing - #Choocha (#VarunSharma). His cheeky one-liners, the bromance (with his gang of friends) and one-sided romance (with #BholiPunjaban) is the soul of #Fukrey3". The early reactions in tweets have hailed Varun's performance. One user wrote, "Just watched #Fukrey3 and Choocha steals the show yet again! His comic timing is unparalleled. #ChoochaForPresident..."

Another user said, "Every time Choocha comes on

screen, you know you're in for a laugh riot! #Fukrey3 #ChoochaMagic..."

One fan wrote, "Choocha's dreams in #Fukrey3 are wilder and funnier than ever! Can't get enough of his antics. #Choocha" A film connoisseur mentioned on social media, "From #Fukrey to #Fukrey3, Choocha's evolution has been a joy to watch. Still the heart and soul of the gang! Choocha's infectious energy and hilarious one-liners in #Fukrey3 had the entire theater in splits! Truly the MVP of the movie!"

Sharma, with his impeccable comic timing and infectious charm, has delivered consistently solid performances throughout his career. He first burst onto the Bollywood scene with his role as Choocha in the original 'Fukrey' film, which released 10 years ago. His character of Choocha character instantly struck a chord with audiences.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Raai Laxmi