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# HIJAB BAN ROW

**GOLF COURSE HAS DRESS CODE, CAN STUDENTS COME IN MINIS, ASKS SC IN HEARING**

The Supreme Court on Monday shot a volley of questions at petitioners' counsel challenging the ban on wearing of hijab in government colleges in Karnataka, wondering whether a student's choice of wearing minis to the classroom would be justified, and highlighted that a dress code is applicable on a golf course, restaurant, and courtroom.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia said wearing hijab might be a religious practice, but the question is can one take hijab to a school where a uniform is prescribed? The bench orally observed Karnataka's government's order allowing college development committees to prescribe uniforms did not appear to violate the right to education.

Justice Gupta queried senior advocate Sanjay Hedge, representing one of the petitioners, if the absence of a prescription of a dress code would enable the students to wear anything to the classroom. "Can students come in minis... whatever they want when there is no prescription, would the executive power of state come in?" "You are saying Act (Karnataka Education Act) doesn't prescribe dress code and does not debar prescription either. Does it exclude the state then?"

"You may have a religious right... can you take that right within an educational institution where a uniform is prescribed. You may be entitled to wear the hijab or scarf; can you carry the right within an educational institution (where a uniform has been prescribed)." At the beginning of the hearing, senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing one of the petitioners, submitted the case raises an important question, whether hijab is essential to Islam or not. He said hijab is worn in a large number of countries throughout the world and the case involves a constitutional question which has not been dealt with earlier.



The Karnataka government, led by Advocate General Prabhuling K. Navadgi submitted that "we have left it to the institution concerned. The government purposefully left it to the college development council." He added that to his knowledge, at least two colleges in Udupi allowed Hijab.

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, also representing Karnataka, submitted discipline in colleges was only the issue, but petitioners were unnecessarily expanding it and some under the guise of religious practices wanted to violate it.

The bench has scheduled the matter for further hearing on Wednesday at 2 pm.

The top court was hearing a clutch of petitions against the Karnataka

government purposefully left it to the college development council." He added that to his knowledge, at least two colleges in Udupi allowed Hijab.

The top court was hearing a clutch of petitions against the Karnataka

High Court judgment, which upheld the right of educational institutions to ban wearing of hijab in pre-university colleges in the state.

**SC NOTICE TO ECI AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES USING RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday issued a notice on a plea seeking a direction to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to cancel the symbol and name allotted to political parties which are using religion or carrying religious connotations in their symbols.

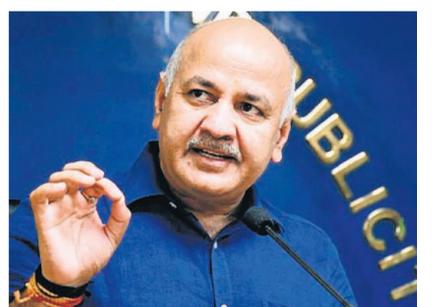
The plea filed by Syed Waseem Rizwi, through advocate Abhikalp Pratap Singh, said the petition deals with the mandate of Representation of People's Act (RPA) 1951 and Constitution and how constitutional values are part and parcel of RPA and can be witnessed under sections 29A, 123 (3), and 123 (3A) of the Act.

The plea submitted that using religion to lure voters is strictly prohibited under section 123 of RPA citing the secular values of the Constitution.

## CBI officer pressured to frame me in false case, committed suicide: Sisodia

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday alleged that a Deputy Legal advisor of anti-corruption branch of Central Bureau of Investigation committed suicide two days ago because he was under pressure to frame me in false case. "A CBI officer committed suicide two days earlier. It has come to know that the officer - Jitendra Kumar - was the Deputy Legal Adviser in the Anti-Corruption Branch of the CBI. He was looking after the legality of the fake FIR against me. He was being pressurised to approve the arrest by making a case against me in an illegal way," Sisodia said in a press briefing here.



**CBI raps Sisodia for making 'irrelevant' claims**

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) came down heavily on Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for levelling false allegations at a press meet that Jitendra Kumar, a legal advisor of the agency, had committed suicide as he was being forced to make a false case in connection with the liquor scam.

The federal probe agency said that this is nothing but a mischievous attempt by Sisodia.

"The CBI strongly refutes this mischievous and misleading statement by Sisodia. It is clarified that late Kumar was in no way connected with the investigation of this case," the CBI said.

The agency said that Kumar was a deputy legal advisor in-charge of prosecution, in which capacity he was supervising prosecutors who were conducting the trial of already chargesheeted cases in Delhi.

## Liz Truss set to be next UK Prime Minister

LONDON | Agencies

Liz Truss has been named as the new Conservative leader on Monday afternoon -- and she will become UK PM on Tuesday, media reports said.

Truss takes the helm of a country in the grip of a cost-of-living crisis after seeing off the former chancellor's challenge with support from 81,326 party members, compared to Rishi Sunak's 60,399, Daily Mail reported.

The 57 per cent to 43 per cent result -- closer than some had expected -- was announced by 1922 committee chair Sir Graham Brady in a glitzy ceremony at the QE2 Centre in Westminster, the report said.

Truss said it is an 'honour' to be the new leader of the 'greatest political party on Earth'.

"I know that our beliefs resonate with the British people, I campaigned as a Conservative and I will govern as a Conservative... I will deliver a bold plan to cut taxes and grow our economy," she said. She added: "We will deliver a great victory for the Conservative Party in 2024." Truss also



paid tribute to Boris Johnson, who will formally hand over power to her on Tuesday, saying he "got Brexit done, crushed Jeremy Corbyn, rolled out the vaccine, and stood up to Vladimir Putin". But the new premier faces one of the toughest in-trays in decades, with inflation fears mounting as gas prices soar again and the Pound slides further. Speculation is growing that Truss will opt for a bold furlough-style move to freeze energy bills - possibly by loaning companies money to hold down costs.

Wholesale gas prices rocketed by around 30 per cent today, following Russia's decision to shut down a key gas pipeline, Daily Mail reported.

## More than 70 Chinese cities under Covid lockdown

HONG KONG | Agencies

More than 70 Chinese cities have been placed under full or partial Covid lockdowns since late August, impacting more than 300 million people, as local authorities rush to stamp out infections at all cost in the final countdown to leader Xi Jinping's expected third term, media reports said.

Since August 20, at least 74 cities with a combined population of 313 million have imposed lockdowns that cover entire cities, districts or multiple neighborhoods, according to CNN's calculations.

They include 15 provincial capitals and Tianjin, a provincial-level municipality, CNN reported.

Many of the restrictions are still in place. According to Chinese financial magazine Caixin, 33 cities are currently under partial or full lockdowns. Experts say more cities are likely to be added in the coming weeks.

The sweeping restrictions that



upend lives and businesses stand in stark contrast with the return to normal life in much of the world, where societies have mostly pivoted to living with the virus, CNN reported.

But China insists that zero-Covid

is saving lives. Health officials have cited the relatively low elderly vaccination rate and inadequate rural healthcare as hurdles to relaxing restrictions, but Chinese public health experts say political factors have played an outsized role, too.

## Rahul plays Sardar Patel card in Gujarat to woo voters

Ahmedabad: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday played Sardar Patel card to woo the voters ahead of the Assembly polls.

Taking on the BJP, he raised a pointed question that if the BJP seriously believed in Sardar Patel's ideology, it would never have introduced and passed the anti-farmers' Agriculture laws. Addressing the party workers during the 'Parivartan Sankalp Sabha' here, Gandhi said: "Throughout his life Sardar Patel fought for farmers, labourers, common man, but the BJP government is acting exactly opposite to his ideology. How can they be called Sardar Patel's followers? They have built the tallest statue of the Sardar but failed to understand his belief, philosophy and ideology." Talking about the unemployment and price hike, the Congress promised jobs to 10 lakh youths, 300 units power free to general consumers, free power to farmers, gas cylinders at Rs 500, setting up of 3,000 English Medium Schools, and free education to girls. Besides, Rs 4 lakh compensation to the kith and kin of those who died due to Covid. He also pledged to create an environment in which small and medium scale industries will flourish, as he believes only small and medium industries can create jobs, not mega units.



**JHARKHAND CM HEMANT SOREN WINS TRUST VOTE, BJP STAGES WALKOUT**

Ranchi: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday won the trust vote amid a threat of disqualification in an office of profit case. Soren got 48 votes, while the BJP walked out during the House proceedings.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Hemant Soren tabled a confidence motion in the Jharkhand Assembly. He claimed that the BJP was attempting to poach UPA MLAs, which prompted him to take the step.

The Chief Minister lambasted the BJP for creating uncertainty in the state. Speaking on the motion, Soren said, "BJP wants to create division in the state and instill fear but till the UPA government is in place the BJP's plan will not succeed." A majority of the UPA MLAs were sent to Raipur and arrived in Ranchi on Sunday evening amid a threat of poaching. Soren's government is running with the support of Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, 82 PER CENT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MAKING DATA OR WIFI CALLS TO OVERCOME NETWORK ISSUES.

ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY, 78 PER CENT OF CITIZENS HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED AN AUTOMATIC CALL DROP WITHIN 30 SECONDS DESPITE A BAD CONNECTION.

THE SURVEY, WHICH FOCUSED ON THE QUALITY OF A CALL, RECEIVED OVER 31,000 RESPONSES, COMPRISING 42 PER CENT OF RESPONDENTS FROM TIER 1; 31 PER CENT FROM TIER 2 AND 27 PER CENT FROM TIER 3, 4 AND RURAL DISTRICTS, THE REPORT SAID.

## 56 per cent Indians facing call drop issues: Survey

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Around 56 per cent of respondents surveyed across India, covering 339 districts, shared that they are facing severe call drop and call connection problems, online platform LocalCircles said in a report on Monday.

"56 per cent citizens say they are facing severe Call Connect and Call Drop issues," the survey said.

In response to the question that approximately what per cent of their mobile phone calls have had a bad connection or call drop issues in the last 3 months, 37 per cent of respondents said that 20-50 per cent of their calls experienced the issue.

The question on call connection and drop received 8,364 replies. Out of the total, 91 per cent of respondents said they face the problem, while 56 per cent said that problem was severe in their case.

However, the number of responses to each question was different.



In response to a question on issues that citizens have faced the most while using mobile voice services in the last 3 months, 45 per cent of respondents referred to "call drops" and 42 per cent indicated "call connect failures".

On an aggregate basis, 82 per cent of citizens who have a data or wifi connection have been making data or wifi calls frequently as they face difficulty in getting or staying connected on a regular mobile network, the report said.

**4 KILLED, 7 INJURED AS FIRE BREAKS OUT IN LUCKNOW HOTEL**

Lucknow: The owners and the manager of Lucknow's Hotel Levana, where a major fire broke out on Monday morning and left four persons dead and seven seriously injured, have been detained, police said. According to Joint police commissioner Piyush Mordia, the fire at the Levana hotel has been extinguished. District magistrate Suryapal Gangwar said that the hotel had been sealed till further orders. The fire teams searched the entire premises to ensure that no one was stuck inside, he added. Of the 30 rooms in the hotel, 18 were occupied on Monday. A number of occupants managed to rush out before the fire engulfed the floors.

The owners, Rohit Agarwal and Rahul Agarwal, along with the manager, Sagar Srivastava, have been taken into custody.

The police spokesman said that an FIR was being registered in the case.



# UNITING OPPOSITION A BIG ASSIGNMENT THAT NITISH KUMAR IS UNDERTAKING: TEJASHWI

Patna | Agencies

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav on Monday said that uniting opposition leaders of the country is a big assignment and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar went to Delhi to execute it.

"We believe that if all opposition parties come together in the country, it would be extremely difficult for the BJP to come into power at the Centre in 2024. Nitish Kumar and Lalan Singh went to Delhi to execute the plan and unite leaders of opposition parties.

"Everyone in the country knows that the Narendra Modi government has done nothing in the last 8 years apart from creating communal tensions," he said. Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's planned visit to Bihar's Seemanchal region, Tejashwi Yadav alleged that he is coming only to flare up communal tensions. "Every citizen has a right to go anywhere in the country. He is the Home Minister of the country and can go anywhere but everyone knows why he is coming to Bihar. He wants to execute his communal agenda from Seemanchal region. We



have a secular government in Bihar and we will not allow them to flare up communal tensions here," he said.

Earlier JD-U national President Lalan Singh also claimed that Amit Shah is coming to Bihar to disturb communal harmony.

"Amit Shah will try to disturb the communal harmony in the state. We will not allow him to do that. We are

alert now. He will come to Bihar from now on with the only agenda to polarise voters through spreading communalism but he will not succeed," Singh said.

Reacting to the statement of Tejashwi Yadav, BJP leader Sanjay Tiger claimed that the ruling parties are scared of Amit Shah's visit to Bihar.

## NITISH, RAHUL MEETING GOES ON FOR NEARLY AN HOUR

New Delhi:

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who reached the national capital on Monday to confer with opposition leaders on taking on the BJP together, had a nearly one-hour-long meeting with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Nitish Kumar reached Gandhi's residence at 6.10 p.m. and only left at 7.08 p.m. Prior to reaching New Delhi, Nitish Kumar called on RJD supreme leader Lalu Prasad Yadav at the official residence of his wife and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi in Patna. She was also present in their meeting, along with Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav.

During his two-day Delhi visit, Nitish Kumar plans to meet various opposition leaders, including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. He is also scheduled to call on the President and the Vice President.



# Large cache of arms seized by Bengal Police from Asansol

Kolkata | Agencies

The Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police on Monday seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition from the industrial township of Asansol in West Burdwan district of West Bengal.

The seized items included two 9 MM carbines along with three magazines, three 9 MM pistols, two 7 MM pistols, five single-shot pistols, and several rounds of cartridges and bullets.

Two persons, Chottu and Balram, have been arrested in this connection. STF sources said that these arms and ammunition were being smuggled from Munger and Bhagalpur in Bihar. However, the STF sleuths are yet to ensure for whom these weapons were meant for.

Recently, the STF also arrested the most-wanted arms dealer, Sunil Paswan alias Sholay, from Panadeveshwar near



Asansol, along with a 9 MM carbine. This was the second major arms recovery from this industrial area and coal belt in West Burdwan district.

According to the deputy commission (east) of Asansol, Abhishek Gupta, the seizure of 9 MM carbine

is a serious matter since such weapon is used by the different security forces agencies.

"However, now our prime aim is to track the one for whom these arms and ammunition were meant for and with what purpose these were brought here," he said.

# Himachal to appoint researchers at fellowship of Rs 3,000

Shimla | Agencies

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Monday decided to start Mukhya Mantri Shodh Pratsahan Yojna under which a monthly fellowship of Rs 3,000 would be given to research scholars for three years.

This initiative has been taken to motivate the youth for quality research in different fields. It gave its nod to grant child adoption leave of 180 days to the regular woman employees of the government by adopting the Rule 43-B of CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972. It decided to open two new patwar circles



at Mandesar and Dakriyana under Krishnagarh sub-division in Solan district to facilitate the people of the area.

The Cabinet also gave nod to create new patwar circle in Haroli sub-division of Una district and in Hathol and Tyalu in Nadaun assembly constituency of Hamirpur district. The Cabinet decided to

open new degree college at Balh Seena in Jhanduta in Bilaspur district and in Churah in Chamba district with a provision of Rs 5 crore each along with creation and filling 16 posts.

The Cabinet decided to fill 18 posts of different categories in the office of Advocate General for its smooth functioning.

# TRIAL LANDING CONDUCTED AT GOA'S MOPA AIRPORT

Panaji | Agencies

The first trial landing at the Mopa International Airport was conducted on Monday under the supervision of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Around 150 flights are expected to land in Goa daily after the airport is operational.

"As a part of the testing protocol, a commercial flight of Indigo Airlines A-320 aircraft, which came from Mumbai with DGCA officials onboard, successfully landed at Mopa Airport new runway today," Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.

Sawant said that the infrastructural dream for all-round development of Goa is ready to begin its operation soon.

Sawant recently had said that work at Mopa International Airport, in North Goa, will be completed by October 23 and later will be inaugu-



rated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Inauguration of Mopa International Airport may have been delayed. But we are completing the work by October 23 and will inaugu-

rate it at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Sawant had said.

According to Sawant, to provide employment to local youths at Mopa International Airport, several steps have been taken by the state govern-

ment. Goa government had initially planned to inaugurate the greenfield international airport at Mopa between August 15 to 30. It was, however, delayed.

"International airlines want to sign an agreement with Goa. After Mopa is operational 150 flights may land in Goa," Sawant had earlier said.

Currently, only 70 flights land in Goa due to the restrictions at Dabolim airport.

Mopa airport is considered as a catalyst for the growth of the tourism area, which would help the state exchequer.

Goa's only existing airport in Dabolim witness's congestion as it is shared by the Indian Navy and has restrictions.

Sawant had assured in the Assembly session that he too has concern about taxi owners and hotel operators in South Goa and therefore, operations at Dabolim airport will not

# PUNJAB TO BOOST START-UP ECOSYSTEM

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday inaugurated the IMPunjab's Accelerator in Mohali, near here. Innovation Mission Punjab is a unique private-public partnership that aims to build, empower and act as a catalyst for startup communities in Punjab.

The Chief Minister announced that Punjab will support 5,000 start-ups in the next three-five years to create jobs and attract investments.

He spoke about offering support to existing sectors like agriculture and manufacturing along with emerging sectors like IT, healthcare and life sciences.

The Chief Minister announced funds of Rs 30 crore to boost the startup ecosystem of Punjab with a special focus to women entrepreneurs. Punjab will also organise a major Startup Mela in the next three months to celebrate the Punjabi entrepreneurial spirit and showcase Punjabi startups across the world.

It will also be galvanizing the networking by setting up a Startup Champions programme across major colleges to support student startups as well. Senior government dignitaries, comprising Minister of Investment Promotion Anmol Gagan Maan; Chief Secretary V.K. Janjua; Principal Secretary (Industries and Commerce) Dilip Kumar; Principal Secretary of Agriculture Board, Sarvjeet Singh, and Chairman of IMPunjab Pramod Bhasin were present with over 300 ecosystem partners and startups. Inaugurating the accelerator, Chief Minister Mann said: "Punjab has a unique culture of entrepreneurship; with major startups of the country founded by Punjabi entrepreneurs." "We need to provide the right support



to our people to help them build their startups. World-class facilities like IMPunjab Accelerator and leveraging the strengths of Punjab we will be able to create jobs and bring investments and create economic development and positive social change in the state." Talking about the uniqueness of the mission, Pramod Bhasin, Chairman, IMPunjab, said: "We are working to build a vibrant and thriving ecosystem for startups in the entrepreneurial state. The Mission, with its networks, both physical and virtual accelerators, is bringing world-class mentors and global investors to provide all the support startups need to scale."

# 12-YEAR GIRL LATEST RABIES VICTIM IN KERALA DESPITE VACCINE

Thiruvananthapuram: A 12-year-old girl on Monday became yet another victim of rabies in Kerala as she passed away on Monday afternoon despite being administered three anti-rabies vaccine during treatment. Abhirami was bitten by a stray dog on August 24 near her home at Pathanamthitta and after being treated at a local hospital, was on Friday, shifted to the Kottayam Medical College hospital for expert treatment.

"We did our best and gave her all the best treatment, but sadly we could not save her life," said the hospital superintendent. The parents allege that they did not get proper treatment at the first hospital where she was taken.

Incidentally, this is the third death that has been reported in the past few weeks and last week this became an issue in the Assembly especially about the efficacy of the anti-rabies vaccine given free of cost across all state-run hospitals. The state has been reporting numerous cases of the menace of stray dogs who end up biting people. A petition is shortly coming up on the stray dog menace in the Supreme Court.

# Delhi HC reserves order on plea to 'identify' officers harassing private liquor vendors

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday reserved its order on a plea seeking direction to the CBI and the ED to identify their officers allegedly threatening and forcing 176 private liquor vendors in the national capital to close their shops.

The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was moved in relation to the allegations levelled by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia against the Central agencies' officers.

The petitioner, advocate Narinder Khanna submitted that his plea aimed to uphold the prestige of premier central agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) that are being questioned and have come under attack for allegedly being the cause of loss of livelihood of 176 private liquor vendors.

His plea also sought to direct the Delhi government to provide a list of 176 private liquor vendors who were harassed by officers of the CBI and the ED. Apart from identifying those officers, the plea also sought the probe agencies



to ensure facilities provided by private liquor vendors continue to be provided by government liquor shops from 1 September.

After hearing the arguments on the plea, a bench comprising Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad reserved the order in the matter.

# TN Police trace stolen idol to New York museum

Chennai | Agencies

The Idol Wing of Tamil Nadu Police has traced a Natarajar idol stolen 62 years ago from Vedapureswar temple, Thanjavur to the Asia Society Museum in New York.

The idol wing received a complaint on September 1 from a S. Veniktachalam, 60, stating that miscreants had broken open the Vedapureswar temple, Thanjavur, 62 years ago and that his father had then tried to register a complaint with the local police but to no avail.

The temple at Thiruvadhikudi Kandiyur is 2,000 years old and is under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department.

The complainant said it was a well-known temple where great scholars like Tirunavakarasar and Thiruganasambadanar used to visit the temple and sang the glory of the presiding diety. The complainant, S. Veniktachalam said that his father Sammantham Chedurayar had died of trauma as after the idol was stolen from the temple, he had approached the police station but the department was



not willing to take up the case.

The Idol wing of police immediately referred to the photographs of old temples and its idols from the Indo-French Institute, Puducherry and on detailed study of the photographs could under-

stand that the idol that was stolen from Vedapureswar temple was at the Asia Society Museum, New York. An expert issued a certificate that the idol that was stolen from Vedapureswar temple and the one at the Asia Society Museum in

New York is the same. K. Jayanth Murali, DGP, Idol wing, Tamil Nadu said an expeditious action is required to retrieve the idol under the UNESCO agreement and restore it to the Veedepureswaram temple.

# Odisha youth hacks woman to death on suspicion of witchcraft

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a woman in Odisha's Rayagada district was on Monday allegedly hacked to death by a neighbour who suspected her of practicing witchcraft, police said. The deceased has been identified as Chandrama Bibhar, 55. According to the police, the incident happened around noon in Koilapara village. Rajesh Kulesika, who was staying in the neighbourhood, allegedly committed the crime.

The youth arrived at the victim's house and knocked on the door. When Bibhar opened the door, he attacked her with an axe, killing her on the spot, the police said.

Prima facie, the police suspected that the incident might have taken place over suspicion of practising witchcraft.



Being informed, local police reached the spot and seized the weapon used in the offence and sent the body for post-mortem, while the accused has been taken into custody, a police official said.

"Investigation into the incident is in progress. We are examining all aspects including allegations that the woman was practicing witchcraft. The reason behind the murder will be known after the investigation," he said.

## Name Change

As per my passport my name was FATEMA QUAID JOHAR now I have change my name to FATEMA RAJA W/O QUAID JOHAR RAJA R/O A-11.BADSHAH APARTMENT KOH-E-FIZA BHOPAL distt. bhopal pin 462001



# THOSE CAUSING VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED WILL NOT BE SPARED- CM CHOUHAN

## Chief Minister Chouhan gave out-of-turn promotion to 31 jawans

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh is an island of peace. Those who disturb the peace of the state through violence and bloodshed will not be spared at any cost. The state government is honouring the brave jawans who laid down their lives in Naxal eradication by giving them out-of-turn promotions. We salute the spirit of the police and security forces personnel. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing the out-of-turn promotion function of the jawans at Balaghat Police Line today. Chief Minister Chouhan felicitated 31 jawans who got out of turn promotion by putting badges.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that today is a wonderful opportunity to give out-of-turn promotion to police personnel. Our villages and cities are safe only due to the hard work of these soldiers under adverse conditions. When we are celebrating festivals with our families in the comfort of our homes, our jawans protect us by risking their lives in the dense forests and mountains. The biggest role in this is played by the women in the families of our police and security forces. It is because of the courage of these women that our jawans fulfill their responsibilities responsibly. For this, eight and a half crore people of the state are grateful to you.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that if these bravehearts are not respected, then bravery



will become barren. The state government stands with the soldiers who maintain peace and law and order in the state. We will not let anyone cause any trouble to them. Chief Minister Chouhan said that when I had come to Kanha Park in the month of June, I had seen jawans performing their duty in dense forests under difficult conditions. I had discussed with the soldiers and heard their problems also. After going to Bhopal, it was decided that 70 percent incentive allowance would be given to the Hawk Force

jawans engaged in Naxal eradication as per the seventh pay scale. Our government is giving out-of-turn promotion to the jawans who are putting their lives at stake in the Naxal eradication campaign. Our government is also paying attention to the education of the children of jawans and treatment of diseases.

Chief Minister said that the police and security forces have made Madhya Pradesh an island of peace. Earlier there was terror of dacoits, we eliminated them. The network of

SIMI was demolished. Those who escaped from Bhopal jail were killed shortly afterwards. We are in favour of peace and do not want bloodshed. Pointing to the Naxalites, Chouhan said that our doors are always open for those who talk of peace. Walk with us for progress and development, stop mis-leading the innocent public. Nothing will be gained by a shot of a gun. If anyone harasses our people, then our government will not spare him.

Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra said that Balaghat district has been notorious for Naxalite activities. Our police personnel have killed or imprisoned Naxalites carrying reward of Rs. 93 lakhs. We call upon them to adopt peace, shun bloodshed and join the mainstream. If we know how to battle, we also know how to follow the Buddha's path of peace. Our jawans have been successful from eradicating the dacoits to eliminating the SIMI network. Wherever arrangements are to be made, police personnel are deployed there. But even after this, our jawans never show their backs and do their work responsibly. Our jawans have done a good job even during the Corona period.

Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh informed that on June 20, 2022, in an encounter with Naxalites, Hawk Force personnel killed three hard core Naxalites carrying reward of Rs 57 lakh. 31 jawans involved in this encounter are being given out-of-turn promotion.

## Women fought to death for saving lives



Team Absolute | Bhopal

In Madhya Pradesh, not one or two stories have come to the fore of women becoming Shakti Swaroopas and fighting against the tigers. In Umaria, where a woman thwarted a tiger's attempt to fill a 15-month-old child in the jaws, a woman was successful in giving a new life to a young man who was flowing in the drain, risking his life. These are two such incidents of Umaria and Bhopal on which one cannot easily trust, but this is the truth. The tiger was preparing to press a 15-month-old child in his jaw playing with Rohaniya volcano, a village located close to the forest of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve located in Umaria, when his 27-year-old mother Archana snatched

the child, the tiger attacked, in which Archana was injured and her husband Rajveer and child were also injured. In this way, by risking her life, the woman finally saved the life of the child.

Another similar incident is from the capital Bhopal, where 32-year-old Raveena, a resident of Nazirabad police station area. She was filling water on the tap and she had a 10-month-old baby in her lap, during this time she sees that two youths are flowing in a booming drain, one of them is shouting to save Didi. On hearing this voice, Raveena lays the child in her lap on the ground and jumped into the booming drain. She pulled one young man out of the drain safely, but she could not save the other.

## CM Chouhan plants saplings with the teachers honoured with the Presidents Award

### Yuva Morcha also planted saplings in Hara Bhara Madhya Pradesh campaign

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Peepal, Karanj, Saptaparni, Neem, Banyan, Moulshree and Kachnar in the Smart City Garden. On Teachers' Day, teachers who received President's Award also planted saplings. State in-charge P. Muralidhar Rao, MP Khajuraho VD Sharma, MLA Ashoknagar Jajpal Singh Jajili and State President of Mahila Morcha Maya Narolia participated in the plantation.

The Yuva Morcha along with Chief Minister Chouhan planted saplings in the Hara Bhara (Green and Verdant) Madhya Pradesh campaign. It is noteworthy that the



Morcha has set a target of planting 75 lakh saplings in the state. In the campaign, 25 lakh saplings will be planted from September 11 till September 17, the birthday of Prime Minister Shri Modi. In the second phase, 25 lakh saplings will be planted from September 18 up to September 25, the birth

anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and in the third phase from September 26 till October 2, the Jayanti of Mahatma Gandhi, 25 lakh saplings will be planted. So far 20 thousand 155 committees have been constituted at the panchayat level for the campaign.

## TASK FORCE CONSTITUTED FOR POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING SECTOR

**Bhopal** : The state government has constituted a Task Force to formulate policy for the proper development of electronics manufacturing sector, to attract investment by coordinating with companies of national and international level and to promote R&D in the related field. The objectives of the formation of the Task Force include looking into the possibilities of electronics manufacturing and skill up-gradation, encouraging design and research and development etc. in the electronics and semiconductor sector.

The Chairman of the Task Force is Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice-Chairman of Madhya Pradesh State Policy and Planning Commission. The Principal Secretary Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion is the Member Secretary.

The Task Force will prepare a proposal for state electronics policy as per the requirement of the state after studying the policies related to electronics sector of other states of the country. In this, recommendations related to various subjects will be included as per the instructions of the state government. The first report will be submitted to the state government within a period of two months from the date of formation of the Task Force.

## Chief Minister pays tribute to Dr. Radhakrishnan on his anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tributes to former President, Bharat Ratna, eminent educationist, philosopher, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary. Chief Minister garlanded the portrait of Dr. Radhakrishnan in the auditorium of the CM's residence. Dr. Radhakrishnan's birthday is celebrated as Teacher's Day in India.

Extended greetings to teachers

Chouhan has tweeted that Madhya Pradesh is committed to make every possible contribution in building the educated and capable country that Dr. Radhakrishnan had dreamed of. CM also extended greetings to all the teachers of the state on Teachers' Day.



## Two teachers of Madhya Pradesh honored with National Teachers' Award

Team Absolute | Bhopal

President Draupadi Murmu honored two teachers of Madhya Pradesh, Neeraj Saxena and Omprakash Patidar, with the National Teachers' Award-2022 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi and Dr. Subhash Sarkar were also present. This year 45 teachers of the country have been honored with the National Teachers' Award. Neeraj Saxena, a teacher posted in Government Primary School, Salegarh in Raisen district, was awarded the National Award for changing the nature of education in the tribal area. Due to his passion, the educa-



tional level of the children of Bhil tribal area has increased. By improving the basic needs, he has established an ideal school. Omprakash Patidar,

Lecturer of Science posted in Government School of Excellence in Shajapur district has prepared the Public Biodiversity Register for

Shajapur. He has made a difficult subject like science very easy for the students by using ICT by connecting science with technology.

## Chief Minister Chouhan visits the workplace of Dr. Hedgewar

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached the former residence and work place of Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar at Rampayli in Balaghat district today. Here he inquired about the works and revolutionary activities done by Dr. Hedgewar. The CM gave necessary instructions to the senior officers of the Culture Department regarding keeping the memories of Dr. Hedgewar intact. Talking to the media, CM Shri Chouhan said that a memorial would be built to keep the memories, works and inspiration of Dr. Hedgewar intact. The CM also held a courtesy meeting

with the senior officials associated with the Sangh.

A self-made portrait of Dr. Hedgewar was presented to Chief Minister Chouhan by Sunil Maravi, a gold medalist artist of fine arts of Balaghat district. Home Minister Dr. Narottam Mishra, Minister in charge of Balaghat district, Hardeep Singh Dang, Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Ramkishore Nano Kavre, Chairman of Backward Classes Welfare Commission and MLA Gaurishankar Bisen, MLA and Chairman of Mineral Development Corporation Pradeep Jaiswal, Former MLA Ramesh Bhatere, local public representatives, officials and vil-

lagers were present. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan offered prayers at the famous Balaji temple at Rampayli in Balaghat district. He learnt about the historicity of the temple while undertaking parikrama of the temple complex.

It is said that Lord Shri Ram had passed through Rampayali during his exile. His sacred feet had touched this place. For this reason it is known as Rampayali. Rampayali has an ancient temple of Lord Ram on the banks of river Chandan and the place is visited by a large number of devotees. Kartik fair is also held in Rampayali after Deepawali.

## AIIMS should cooperate in TB disease eradication efforts: Governor

### Executive Director and doctors of AIIMS call on Governor

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel was called on by Dr. Ajay Singh, Executive Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Raj Bhavan today and enquired about his health. AIIMS doctor Dr. Rajneesh Joshi was present along with other doctors and physiotherapists.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a goal to free the country of TB by the year 2025. Efforts are being made by the state government in this direction expeditiously.



Governor Patel has asked All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal to come forward and cooperate in the efforts to free the nation of the disease.

He said that AIIMS should contribute to the expansion of efforts to eradicate TB in

rural areas and tribal areas. Dr. Ajay Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS, informed about the activities of the institute in disease eradication efforts. He also assured to fix future activities as per the intention of the Governor.

## MADHYA PRADESH FOOD SCAM: OPPOSITION SLAMS CHIEF MINISTER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The government of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh came under a scathing attack from Opposition parties, a day after NDTV broke the story on large-scale fraud and irregularities in the Take Home Ration (THR) scheme for schoolchildren and women.

Senior congress leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted: "The BJP government of Madhya Pradesh had earlier ruined the future of the youth with the Vyapam scam. Now, injustice to poor children and pregnant women! Did 'Mama' (reference to CM Chouhan) form the government with Maharaja (reference to Jyotiraditya Scindia) just to commit such scams?"

Commenting on the scam, former Chief Minister and senior congress leader Digvijay Singh said: "The BJP government in Madhya Pradesh is setting new records of corruption every day. Mama is now so confident that he thinks everybody is for sale."

A confidential 36-page report by the Madhya Pradesh Accountant General, accessed exclusively by



NDTV, found massive irregularities in the identification of beneficiaries, production, distribution and quality control of the ambitious free food scheme for girls and women. Lawyer and activist Prashant Bhushan said: "Mama ka anaj ghotala! (Chouhan's vegetable scam) Transport trucks that were found to be motorcycles! Wild exaggeration of the number of beneficiaries! MP gov't nutrition programme for children has eye-popping levels of corruption, leaving them malnourished, the state's auditor found." The scale of the scam was such that the trucks that six

manufacturing plants or firms claimed to have used to have transported 1,125.64 tons of rations costing Rs 6.94 crore, were found registered as motorcycles, cars, autos and tankers upon verification from the transport department records. Trinamool Congress party also attacked the BJP for the food scam in Madhya Pradesh. In a tweet, the party said: "The BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh government is corrupt. BJP4India leaders don't even spare children, but ED and CBI will sleep through such news! The hypocrisy of the puppets of the BJP stand exposed yet again."

While the School Education Department had estimated the number of out-of-school girls to be 9,000 in 2018-19, the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department, without conducting any baseline survey, estimated their number at 36.08 lakh. The WCD has been under the supervision of Chouhan himself since the resignation of BJP leader Imarti Devi in 2020, following a defeat in by-elections. In eight audited districts, the officials did not inspect Anganwadi centres during 2018-21, indicating extremely poor internal controls as well.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## BJP eyeing on SP's last bastion

After capturing Azamgarh and Rampur, the BJP in Uttar Pradesh is now eyeing the last Samajwadi Party (SP) bastion Mainpuri, which is presently held by SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Estranged SP leader Shivpal Singh Yadav has also indicated that he would contest the Mainpuri seat if Mulayam Singh Yadav does not.

Shivpal will stake his claim to the Samajwadi bastion and give a major jolt to Akhilesh Yadav.

"My first priority would be to get Mulayam Singh to contest elections but if he does not, then I will," he told reporters.

Mainpuri will be up for grabs in 2024 since party sources say that Mulayam Singh Yadav is unlikely to contest the seat now, owing to his health issues.

State minister Jaiveer Singh said: "UP BJP chief Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary and the general secretary (organisation) Dharmpal Singh have formulated a strategy to win all the 80 Lok Sabha seats of the state. We are working towards winning Mainpuri in the 2024 general election."

Singh said that the pro-poor welfare programmes and schemes floated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have changed lives of have-nots in society, ensuring that they lead an honourable life. "This will help us in winning the Mainpuri seat which has eluded us for long," he said.

# A COMPLETE VIEW OF THE NATION

D.C. Pathak

There is little doubt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his clean image and ability to drive the country's polity on the path of development through macro-level infrastructure build up on one hand and emphasis on startups on the other, has earned his position as the tallest leader in the eyes of the people.

For the sceptics still wondering if India is a nation, Prime Minister Modi in this year's Independence Day speech defined - in his own inimitable style - the 'idea of India' by combining its past, present and the future and placed before the world what can be called India's national strategy of fostering security, development and integrity.

The address had the distinction of keeping internal politics away and focusing totally on India's forward looking mission and the points of reform that need to be considered for preserving a healthy national outlook.

It was a remarkable framework of strategic directions specified by the Prime Minister in which a democratic, inclusive and progressive India would proceed in the times to come. The speech covered all major aspects of national life - position of India as a world power, development as well as future of the youth, cultural roots, participative role of the states in nation-building and importance of maintenance of internal order with special reference to crime against women.

The Prime Minister spoke with a sense of dedication towards the nation, conviction and self-belief and enhanced his image as a statesman.

It is worth recalling the thematic points of Modi's Red Fort address for these evidently represent the gist of his strategy of governance for the times ahead. He highlighted the aspirational character of Indian society marked by preponderance of youth and struck a note of optimism amidst the difficult situation of unemployment, by acknowledging that the youth have the right to demand a faster economic growth and better opportunities.

He had at the back of his mind the swiftness with which his government responded to the sudden Covid onslaught - a crisis of unprecedented scale - by focusing on

vaccine research and production and later working out a 'bottom up' approach to economic recovery in which 'vocal for local' carrying India towards self-reliance became a brilliant way out of the economic dump that the pandemic had created.

India with its history of 'village economy' was attuned to sustaining the society on localised demand and supply even as it showed its sheer brain power in catching up with 'globalisation' - an upshot of the success of information technology revolution that had caused the transition of the world from industrial age to the age of information and knowledge economy.

Economic recovery still is work in progress but Prime Minister Modi gets the credit for leading the country by 'riding a crisis' and in the process putting India on the world map for handling the Covid onslaught successfully - with a rare political will. He reflected a confident optimism - that was well placed - with regard to the future prospect of India.

A remarkable achievement of the Modi regime is the distinct mark that India reached - in a short span of time - in earning the recognition of the international community as an influencer of global geopolitics, because of its success not only in handling the Covid crisis, but also in pursuing a foreign and security policy that is totally independent, free of 'alignments' and driven by thoughts of world peace.

It was quite legitimate for Prime Minister Modi to say that India's goal is to work for a 'Vikasit Bharat' at a time when the country - in his words - has become 'a ray of hope for the world'.

He urged all citizens - in that spirit - to focus on their own commitment to India's development. It was a befitting call for making the country great both from within as well as in the eyes of the world outside.

Presentation of a broad vision of this kind looked appropriate for an Independence Day address. The Prime Minister urged the citizens to advance with full conviction about a developed India, get rid of any sense of 'slavery' and take pride in the nation's history and heritage.

He commended 'diversity' and 'inclusiveness' as the great features of India's culture, but refrained from using the word 'secular' for good reasons. Introduced in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by late Indira Gandhi when she was the Prime Minister, this adjective always raised con-

troversies in the context of defining the 'idea of India' - often because it was politically interpreted as a marker of the 'special position' of the Muslim minority here.

In democratic India, which is governed through the free and fair electoral practice of 'one man one vote' - regardless of distinction of caste, creed and gender - secularism was built into the state and was not meant to come in the way of the nation drawing strength and inspiration from the glory of its civilisational past.

Modi reminded all Indians that 'when we are committed to our roots, then only can we fly high'. While declaring that 'India is the mother of democracy', he reiterated that 'diversity is its strength'. This diversity is not to be invoked for instigating separatism at home. The Prime Minister significantly mentioned the enlarged motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' to highlight inclusivity.

It is in this context that Prime Minister Modi acknowledged from the ramparts of the Red Fort the contributions made to the cause of freedom by 'revolutionaries' who sacrificed their lives for it but were kept excluded from the historical accounts of the struggle for Independence advanced by the protagonists of the Congress-led freedom movement.

This anomaly needed an urgent correction. The Prime Minister mentioned Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Rajendra Prasad, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Vir Savarkar, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Ram Manohar Lohia, among others, for their contributions.

He also recalled Mangal Pandey, Tanya Tope, Maharani Laxmi Bai and Begum Hazrat Mahal, leaders of the 1857 anti-British revolt looked upon as the 'First War of Independence', and went on to name Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Chandra Shekhar Azaad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rani Chennamma, Virsa Munda and Rani Gaidinliu and saluted them all as the architects of free India.

The Prime Minister included the freedom fighters of all communities, tribes and regions and from different periods of time to send across the message of India being 'one nation'. One cannot envisage a more purposeful address to the nation ever

given from Red Fort.

Howsoever indirect, the Prime Minister's references to some key points of the internal situation were timely and effective. He identified the states with the Centre by stating that 'when our states grow, India grows' and urged the states to take to 'cooperative and competitive federalism'.

He indirectly drew attention to the prevailing law and order scene with reference to crime against women - which is a direct responsibility of the states - by expressing his regret that 'respect for women who are an important pillar of India's growth' is not adequate.

This connects with his specific mention of women warriors who had fought against the British. In the context of law and order, this country must quickly move towards eliminating gangs indulging in trafficking of women and kidnapping of children on a priority basis and for this the Centre must take due cognisance of the continued failure of a state government and take recourse to a Constitutional remedy after administering two warnings with regard to the incidence of these crimes that have the potential of causing internal destabilisation.

Equally important was the Prime Minister's call that 'we must rid the country of nepotistic thinking and push it towards a merit-based society'.

He declared that 'corruption has to be fully eliminated' and implicitly put the current drive of the concerned central agencies in a perspective before the citizens at large.

Prime Minister Modi managed to keep his address above internal polity. In a way, he successfully used the important occasion to spell out his government's approach to the entire spectrum of governance as well as the strategy adopted by India in the spheres of economic growth, national security and international relations.

The address was in Prime Minister's typical conversational style and was understood and absorbed by the common Indian and the strategic observers alike.

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

## international

### 10 killed, 15 injured in stabbings in Canada:Police



Ottawa | Agencies Canadian police have said that 10 people were killed and 15 others injured after stabbings at multiple locations in Saskatchewan.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a press conference on Sunday that they found 13 incident locations in James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon of the province in central Canada and are hunting for two suspects. The whereabouts of the suspects are unknown and everyone in Saskatchewan needs to remain vigilant as this is one of the largest and most signif-

icant events they have seen in recent years, the police added. A provincewide dangerous persons alert issued for the suspects in the random stabbings has been expanded to two neighbouring provinces, Manitoba and Alberta. Police checkpoints have been set up throughout Saskatchewan, news agency reported. James Smith Cree Nation is located about 25 km northeast of Weldon and nearly 60 km southeast of Prince Albert. The local government of James Smith Cree Nation declared a state of emergency, which is set to remain in place until on September 30.

## Pakistan lodges protest with Taliban over drone charge

Islamabad | Agencies Pakistan may have publicly expressed concerns over the Afghan Taliban's allegations that the country was allowing the US to operate drone from its soil, Islamabad has privately conveyed in categorical terms to the de facto rulers of Kabul that such public outbursts will be detrimental for the bilateral ties. Pakistan was dismayed by the acting Afghan Defence Minister Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob's allegations, reflecting the same mindset of the previous Afghan administrations that blamed their own follies on Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported. Sources said Pakistan was not expecting such a public statement from the senior Afghan Taliban leader given the fact that



Islamabad had done so much for the interim government since the Taliban returned to power. Yaqoob last week had alleged that Pakistan was allowing the US to operate drones from

its soil."According to our information the drones are entering through Pakistan to Afghanistan, they use Pakistan's airspace, we ask Pakistan, don't use your airspace against us," said

Mullah Yaqoob, who is the son of former Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Omar. Pakistan rejected Afghan Taliban government's allegations that the country was allowing the US to use its airspace for drones, terming the charge as defying diplomatic norms.

Responding to allegations, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said that Pakistan had noted, with deep concern, the allegation by the acting defence minister of Afghanistan regarding use of Pakistan's air space in the US counter-terrorism drone operation in Afghanistan."In the absence of any evidence, as acknowledged by the Afghan Minister himself, such conjectural allegations are highly regrettable and defy the norms of responsible diplomatic conduct," he added.

### 6 Israeli soldiers, 1 civilian injured in bus shooting attack



Jerusalem | Agencies

Seven Israelis were injured in a shooting attack on a bus of soldiers in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli military said. The incident took place on Sunday outside the Hamra settlement in the Jordan Valley, news agency reported. A soldier was severely injured when assailants opened fire from a passing vehicle, a military spokesperson said in a statement on Sunday. Five other soldiers and a civilian were lightly injured, it added.

Two armed suspects were arrested following a manhunt in the area, the Army said, adding the security forces believe more persons were involved in the shooting and were continuing the searches. In the wake of the incident, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz issued a statement stressing that Israel will increase "the anti-terror activity" in the West Bank. Israel seized the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war and has kept its control over it despite international criticism.

## S.Korea expected to become world's most aged country in 2044

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea is expected to become the country with the largest share of people aged 65 years or older in the world in 2044 due to rapid aging, data revealed on Monday.

The proportion of senior citizens in South Korea is forecast to account for 36.7 per cent of the total population in 2044, outstripping the world's most aged country of Japan with 36.5 per cent, according to data from Statistics Korea. The timing of the country having the largest proportion of senior citizens in the world will be moved up one year, compared with 2019, when the agency put its estimate at 2045. The



data was compiled based on the UN's outlook for the global population and the South Korean statistics agency's 2020-70 forecast for Korea's population. The data showed South Korea will undergo aging at a faster pace, while its total population began declining last year amid chronically low birthrates. The share of

people aged 65 or older will likely reach 17.5 per cent of the total population this year and rise to 46.4 per cent in 2070. South Korea is widely expected to become a super-aged society in 2025, in which the proportion of those aged 65 and older will hit 20 per cent of the total population. The country became an aged society in 2017, as the proportion of such people exceeded 14 percent. The proportion of the working-age population, or people aged 15 to 64, peaked at 73.4 per cent in 2012 and will further decline to 71 per cent in 2022. The tally is likely to dip to 46.1 per cent in 2070, the data showed.

### 6.8-MAGNITUDE QUAKE IN CHINA'S SICHUAN KILLS 7

Beijing: At least seven people were killed in a 6.8-magnitude earthquake that jolted Luding county in China's Sichuan province on Monday, authorities said. Damage to roads, telecommunications and houses is being checked, said the information office of the people's government of the Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The prefecture has dispatched over 600 rescue workers and 300 have arrived at the epicentre area to join the rescue efforts, repairing roads and sending drones to assess quake damage, reports news agency. The province has activated the second-highest level of emergency response for the earthquake. The epicentre was monitored at 29.59 degrees north latitude and 102.08 degrees east longitude, at a depth of 16 km, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC). There are several villages within the 5-km range around the epicentre area, which is 39 km from the county seat of Luding.

## Finnish govt plans 10-bn-euro crisis package for energy companies

Helsinki | Agencies

Finnish government has proposed to provide the country's electricity companies with loans and guarantees of up to 10 billion euros (\$10 billion) to secure the sufficiency of their cash resources.

Finance Minister Annika Saarikko said at a government press conference on Sunday afternoon that with the pledge, the government wants to "calm down the electricity futures, or derivatives market and to secure the availability of electricity in Finland in all circumstances". "The state could grant loans or guarantees on a case-by-case basis to companies whose continued operations are critical to the functioning of society," said Prime Minister Sanna Marin at the press conference. The situation erupted over the weekend following information that natural gas deliveries from Russia to continental Europe through the Nord Stream One pipeline would



not resume on Monday, Xinhua news agency reported. Finland does not use Nord Stream One, but the Nordic electricity market will likely see a price increase. The Finnish measures were thought to follow Sweden's similar but larger announcement on Saturday. According to the government's proposal, the state could grant loans or guarantees to electricity companies if they are threatened with insolvency. A government loan would be the last resort when all other

financing options have been exhausted. Only companies central to the functioning of the electricity market could receive loans or guarantees. Mika Lintila, Economic Affairs Minister, said at the press conference that the government wants to be proactive in the situation to avoid a "Lehman Brothers" in the energy market. Lintila underlined that the state is the last instance lender if other channels are not available. "The primary responsibility is with banks and the owners," he added. He said the policy would be available to Finnish companies only. Thus the German subsidiary of Fortum, Uniper, is not eligible for assistance from Finland. The crisis package requires parliamentary approval. It will be taken to the parliament on Monday. Local analysts said that it has a high chance of being approved in the current situation.



# UDDHAV THACKERAY BETRAYED THE BJP AND INSULTED THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE: AMIT SHAH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

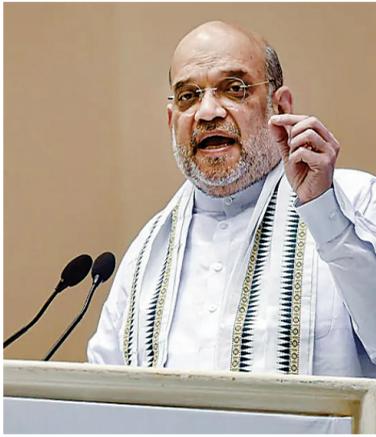
Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray has betrayed the BJP and must be "taught a lesson", Union home minister and the BJP's chief strategist Amit Shah said at a meeting of party leaders in Mumbai today. "We can tolerate anything in politics but not betrayal," sources quoted Mr Shah as saying at the meeting.

Shah, sources said, had accused the former Maharashtra Chief Minister of being responsible for the split in his party and the subsequent events. His "greed", Mr Shah said, was the reason a section of his party had turned against him, brushing off any BJP hand in the rebellion by Eknath Shinde and the subsequent toppling of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government headed by Thackeray.

Uddhav Thackeray, Shah said, had not only betrayed the BJP but also "betrayed the ideology and also insulted the mandate of the people of Maharashtra".

His party has shrunk today because of his "greed for power", not the BJP, sources quoted him as saying. "Today I want to say again that we never promised Uddhav Thackeray the post of Chief Minister. We are people who practice politics openly and not in closed rooms," Shah had asserted.

Those who cheat in politics must be punished,



Shah had declared. This, he had added, can be achieved through "Mission 150" for the coming civic elections in Mumbai.

The Brihanmumbai Corporation is the country's

richest civic body which the BJP has been trying to control for long.

"Under the guidance of Narendra Modi, the target of the BJP and the real Shiv Sena alliance should be to win 150 seats in the BMC elections. The public is with the BJP led by Modi-ji. Not with Uddhav Thackeray's party which betrays ideology," he had said.

The Sena and the BJP had shared an uneasy relationship since the alliance broke in 2014 over seat sharing in the run-up to the assembly polls but they got together after the state delivered a split verdict.

After the 2019 assembly polls, the Sena fell out with BJP again and tied up with Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress to form the Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

At the time, Thackeray had accused the BJP of betrayal and alleged that they were expanding in Maharashtra at the cost of the Sena.

Earlier this year, he reiterated that his party had "wasted 25 years in alliance with the BJP".

"We supported the BJP wholeheartedly to enable them to fulfill their national ambitions. The understanding was they will go national while we will lead in Maharashtra. But we were betrayed and attempts were made to destroy us in our home. So we had to hit back," he had said.

# Sanjay Raut's Judicial Custody extended by 14 days

A special court in Mumbai extended Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's judicial custody by another 14 days in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of a Mumbai 'chawl'.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Raut, 60, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on August 1 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra Chawl (row tenement) in suburban Goregaon.

He was produced before special PMLA judge MG Deshpande at the end of his judicial remand on Monday. The court extended his judicial custody by another 14 days.

The ED's investigation pertains to alleged financial irregularities in the redevelopment of the Patra 'chawl' and related financial transactions involving Raut's wife and associates. Raut, a close aide of Shiv Sena president and former Maharashtra chief minister



Uddhav Thackeray, has denied any wrongdoing and called the ED case against him "false".

# Mistry car crash: Pundole couple shifted to Mumbai hospital

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Two survivors of the Sunday car accident -- Dr. Anahita Pundole and her husband Darius Pundole, were shifted from a Vapi hospital to the Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, here early on Monday, an official said.

The hospital CEO Dr. (Ms) Tarang Gianchandi said that after the accident on Sunday a clinical team of HNRF was in touch with the medicos at the Vapi hospital.

Late Sunday night a team of 10 doctors and paramedics also reached Vapi from Mumbai to help stabilise both the patients, she added.

Although choppers and aircraft were ready to airlift the two patients, the medical team felt it was best to bring the Pundoles by road in an ambulance to Mumbai where they reached safely early Monday.

"Our clinical team of 20 multi-disciplinary doctors are evaluating them currently and shall be looking after them," added Dr. Gianchandani. She assured that the entire HNRF management and clinical teams will



do their best and sought the best wishes of all for their speedy recovery.

It may be recalled that renowned industrialist Cyrus P. Mistry and his friend Jehangir Pundole were killed in the road crash near Charoti in Palghar on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai national highway.

Two others, Darius Pundole and his wife Dr. Anahita were critically injured in the accident when their Mercedes car rammied into a road divider, around 3.15 p.m. on September 4.

# CYRUS MISTRY'S FUNERAL ON TUESDAY MORNING IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: The funeral of Cyrus P. Mistry, a scion of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group and former Chairman of Tata Group, shall be held here on Tuesday morning, his family said here.

The last rites of Mistry, 54, who was killed in a road accident in Palghar on Sunday afternoon, shall be performed at the Worli Crematorium at 11 a.m. Tuesday, the family said.

A brief announcement said: "Beloved husband of Rohiqa, father of Firoz and Zahan, son of the late Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry and Patsy Mistry, son-in-law of Iqbal and Roshan Chagla, brother of Laila Rustom Jehangir, Aloo Noel Tata and Shapoor Mistry."

"A friend to many, loved by all. A life well lived," the family added, requesting, "No condolence visits please."

The young tycoon Mistry's abrupt departure stunned the country and left the Indian corporate world shocked on Sunday.

# NTT DATA Payment Services gets RBI nod for payment aggregator license

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Payment service provider NTT DATA Payment Services India (earlier Atom Technologies) on Monday said it has received an in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the Payment Aggregator (PA) license.

The company has an annual transaction value of Rs 150,000 crore and a volume of over 10 crore transactions across India.

"This significant development also brings us closer to our vision, that is, to develop NTT DATA Payment Services India as one of the top three payment service providers in the country through better services and superior products," said Dewang Neralla, CEO of NTT DATA Payment Services.

"We will continue to build safe, trusted, and innovative payment solutions for customers, with a focus to make digital payments viable and accessible for everyone,



which is in line with the 'Digital India' vision," said Neralla. NTT DATA Payment Services India is part of NTT DATA Corporation, one of the globally top 10 IT service providers, headquartered in Japan.

The NTT DATA Payments division group has a significant presence across Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

NTT DATA operates CAFIS, Japan's largest card payment processing network. The company said it helps merchants to provide a seamless digital payment experience to customers, via both online and offline channels. It caters to more than six million merchants across India, in sectors such as education, government, retail, BFSI and healthcare, among others.

# Global road safety body IRF urges removal of black spots on highways

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Global road safety body International Road Federation (IRF) has urged the authorities to take remedial actions to remove black spots on highways across the country to prevent accidents.

"We urge the union and the state governments to make every possible effort to change the road safety culture while establishing clear road safety norms. Global agencies involved in road safety have blamed lack of policies and enforcement as the main reasons behind increasing road fatalities in the country," said Satish Parakh, President, International Road Federation (IRF) India Chapter.

IRF has expressed deep concern on the demise of an eminent businessman Cyrus Mistry in a road crash near Mumbai on Sunday.



India is a signatory to the United Nations Decade of Action plan for Road Safety across the world which aims to reduce road fatalities by 50

per cent by the year 2030. "Apart from road engineering, ITF also expresses concern at vehicle safety as despite being an expensive

SUV, it failed to save the passengers. Road safety depends on five 'E's -- education, road engineering, vehicle engineering, enforcement and emergency care", said Parakh.

"India accounts for more than 11 per cent of the road accidents deaths worldwide with 426 lives lost every day and 18 every hour. Over 1.6 lakh lives were lost in the year 2021 and most of the road accident deaths are avoidable. We condole the untimely demise of Cyrus Mistry. But would also like to draw the Union and state government's attention towards the increasing number of fatal road accidents in the country..." said K.K.Kapila, President emeritus, IRF.

"We urge the union government and the various state governments to fix killer accident prone black spots in various parts of the country. These black spots, which are accident sites, where accidents occur again and again can be rectified," said Kapila.

# NCP criticises Maha government's move withdrawing MVA's list of nominations for Legislative Council

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Monday claimed the Maharashtra government's decision to withdraw the previous MVA recommendation for the nomination of 12 names as MLCs under the governor's quota as a bid to lure more leaders into the ruling camp.

The previous government led by Uddhav Thackeray had two years ago recommended 12 names for nomination as MLCs, but the file was never approved by Governor B S Koshiyari. Prominent among the 12 names suggested by MVA included actor Urmila Matondkar who had joined the Shiv Sena after quitting the Congress.

An official on Sunday said the Shinde government wrote to the governor to treat the recommendation as withdrawn and that Koshiyari accepted the decision of the new government. The Shinde government told the governor that a fresh list of nominations will be conveyed to him soon. NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase on Monday said, "The constitutional validity of the Shinde government is in question and the Supreme Court's verdict is awaited on it." The decision



to cancel names recommended by the previous MVA government is a "carrot" to lure more leaders into the BJP-Shinde camp, Tapase claimed. "The Shinde cabinet seems to be driven by the sole agenda of overriding the earlier decisions taken by the MVA government out of sheer vengeance," he alleged. The sentiments of the electorate in Maharashtra are fast turning against the BJP-Shinde government, he claimed.

# SBI TO RAISE UP TO RS 7,000 CR VIA BASEL-III AT1 BONDS

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) plans to raise up to Rs 7,000 crore, which includes Rs 5,000 crore in green shoe through Basel-III Additional Tier-I bonds, market participants said.

Bidding for the bonds will take place on Wednesday between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Non convertible Taxable Perpetual Subordinated Unsecured Basel III compliant Additional Tier I Bonds in the nature of debentures of face value Rs 1 Crore each.

AT1 Bonds are a type of perpetual bonds that don't have any expiry date which is issued to raise long term capital.

# Amit Shah touched Lalabaugcha Raja's feet with family

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In his customary annual Ganeshotsav visit to Mumbai, three generations of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's family touched the feet of the Lalabaugcha Raja's massive idol of Lord Ganesh here on Monday.

Shah, accompanied by his wife Sonal, daughter-in-law Hrishita, and grand-daughters, visited the security-sanitised marquee of Lalabaugcha Raja.

Also joining them were Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Bharatiya Janata Party Maharashtra chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule and Mumbai President Ashish Shelar, and other senior party leaders. Walking down a few metres from the main road to the marquee inside with gun-toting security personnel around them, Shah and others first removed their footwear at a designated spot.

Then, they went up a couple of steps to the



pedestal where the huge statue of Lord Ganesh who cast a benign glance at the devotees below, even as the usual massive crowds were kept at bay for the VIP visit.

Shah solemnly offered floral tributes, a tilak, a silent prayer, and then bent forward to touch his hand and head at the Lord's feet.

Then it was the turn of his wife and daughter-in-law and grand-daughter to offer their respects and prayers to Lord Ganesh. As his excited grand-daughter could not reach to touch the Lord, Shah smiled, gently pulled her hand and helped her make the flower offering, as she glanced up at Lord Ganesh. After the quick 'darshan' over, the Shah family posed for the paparazzi who furiously clicked away, then with Shinde-Fadnavis for the 2022 memories, as several office-bearers of the Lalabaugcha Raja trust looked on pleased.

Shah, 57, arrived here late on Sunday for his annual Ganeshotsav trip to the city of his birth, with certain political meetings likely to be lined up. Earlier this morning, veteran Bollywood director Rohit Shetty called on Shah, who is scheduled to have several other engagements here during the day, including visiting the Bandra home of Shelar for Ganpati 'darshan'.

# Indices end high, Sensex closes over 400 points

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Benchmark indices ended sharply up on Monday with Sensex rising over 400 points and Nifty ending over 120 points.

At close, Sensex ended 442.65 points or 0.75 per cent up to 59,245.98, and Nifty ended 126.35 points or 0.72 per cent higher at 17,665.80. About 2,208 shares have advanced, 1,348 have declined and 180 remained unchanged. SunPharma, ITC, NTPC, Reliance Industries, Larsen and Toubro were major gainers on the Sensex on Monday. BSE LargeCap ended up 0.59 per cent, while BSE SmallCap and MidCap closed 0.89 per cent and 0.46 per cent higher.

"Markets started the week on a robust note despite feeble global cues and gained over half a percent. After the gap-up start, the Nifty index hov-



ered in a narrow range for most of the session and finally settled around the day's high to close at 17,665.80 levels. Sectoral indices traded mixed wherein media, metal and banking gained maximum traction. The market breadth also ended strong, thanks to continuous buying on the broader front," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd. Asian indices remained mostly in red on Monday as traders weighed the risk of curbs on investment from the US and growing concerns over new COVID-19 lockdowns impacted sentiments.



**THERE ARE WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD TRAPPED IN THEIR HOMES: PENELOPE CRUZ**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Italian director Emanuele Crialeses new drama 'L'Immensita', which is set in 1970s Rome, Penelope Cruz plays a mother of three who, while contending with a violent Italian husband, winds up in a psychiatric institution. "I don't think my character is crazy at all," Cruz said. "She is trapped in her family. Trapped in her home, in her body, this is the situation in which she finds herself living. She doesn't have a plan B. There is no escape," she added. "She's not crazy at all. She's oppressed in many different ways. And she simply can't take it anymore. There are many women around the world trapped in their homes, who pretend in front of their children. They try to pretend that things aren't that bad. They do this to survive."

Cruz also pointed out that "I have played so many mothers. I've made seven films with Pedro, and in five of them I play a mother. That's not a coincidence. I have a very strong maternal sense. And I am fascinated by what happens in every family."

In the movie, the oldest of the children in the family is a 12-year-old girl named Adriana who wants to be a boy. She rejects her name and gender identity. This obstinacy breaks the fragile family's balance. Though not strictly autobiographical, Adriana is based on Crialeses memories.

"My journey (transitioning from female to male) is very different from the journey of kids today," the director said. "The important thing has been to manage to transform that pain. And the way I did that was to create stories, at a certain point I had to make a choice of whether to go on living or to die. You don't choose to make that journey" Crialeses added.

Los Angeles | Agencies

'Squid Game' star Lee Yoo-Mi is a newly minted Emmy winner after scoring the Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series at the Creative Arts Emmys.

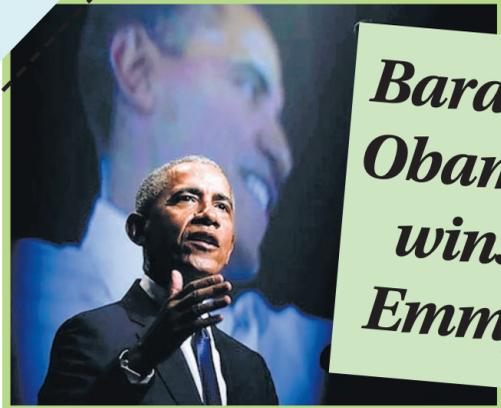
And while celebrating the accolade backstage, she pondered how far she'd get if she played the game herself.

"I think I'll probably die at Red Light, Green Light," she said backstage at the Creative Arts Emmys with a giggle.

Although she doubts she'd make it very far in the game, her star power continues to grow in Hollywood - and she's not taking that responsibility lightly.

"Holding it now feels very heavy and it almost feels like a sense of heavy responsibility that I have as an actress. I want to be able to do more with it moving forward," she said of her Emmy win. 'Squid Game' won five Creative Emmys on Sunday including Lee's win alongside Outstanding Special Video Effects, Outstanding Stunt Performance and Outstanding Production Design.

**'I DOUBT I WOULD MAKE THIS FAR, IF PLAYED IN REAL LIFE': LEE YOO-MI**



**Barack Obama wins Emmy**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Former US President won an Emmy Award to go with his two Grammys.

Obama won the best narrator Emmy for his work on the Netflix documentary series, "Our Great National Parks".

The five-part show, which features national parks around the globe, is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, 'Higher Ground'.

He was the biggest name in a category full of famous nominees for the award handed out at Creative Arts Emmys, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Attenborough and Lupita Nyong'o. Obama is the second president to have an Emmy.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was given a special Emmy Award in

1956.

Obama previously won Grammy Awards for his audiobook reading of two of his memoirs, "The Audacity of Hope" and "A Promised Land."

Michelle Obama won her own Grammy for reading her audiobook in 2020. EGOT refers to a special category of entertainers who have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony. To date, 17 people have done it.

The late Chadwick Boseman also won an Emmy for his voice work on Saturday. The 'Black Panther' actor won for outstanding character voiceover for the Disney+ and Marvel Studios animated show 'What If...?'

On the show, Boseman voiced his 'Black Panther' character T'Challa in an alternate universe where he becomes Star-Lord from "Guardians of the Galaxy".

It was one of the last projects for Boseman, who died in 2020 of colon cancer at age 43.



**'KANYE WAS UPSET BECAUSE I DIDN'T SUPPORT HIM': JOHN LEGEND**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer John Legend said that Kanye West was "upset" with him because he supported Joe Biden and said that their infamous fall out over rapper's support of Donald Trump was "mischaracterised". He said: "What it got described as was, we stopped being friends because he supported Trump, which was a mischaracterisation of what I said. What I was saying was that he was very upset with me that I didn't support him running for President, and that was the real impetus for us having a strain on our friendship."

"I don't know what will happen in the future, but he was very upset with me that I didn't support him and I supported Joe Biden. It's up to him whether he can get past that." However, the 'All of Me' singer went on to insist that politics should not be "everything" in a relationship and claimed that "values" matter more to him in a world where politics have become an online phenomenon.

"I don't want to live a life that's so consumed by politics that it's the sole determinant of who can be my friend and who can't. But values matter and character matters and moral compass matters."

**LISA KUDROW IS 'ONE OF THE WORST HUMANS': SPENCER PRATT**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Lisa Kudrow has been labelled 'one of the worst humans' on Earth by 'The Hills' star Spencer Pratt.

Blasting the 'Friends' actress, on TikTok, the 39-year-old was joined by TV personality Bethenny Frankel who also commented she had a "crazy experience" with Lisa when she appeared on her talk show.

Initially slamming Kudrow last week, Spencer then took to the social platform again to explain his remark. Kudrow approached him and his wife Heidi Montag, 35, at a party in 2009, and the actress claimed he had the "eyes of a serial killer" and would murder his partner, so the dad-of-one alleged.

He said: "It was almost like we were filming for 'Punk'd' and a camera was going to pop up, but Heidi and I didn't care as there was delicious food and an open bar. As we were sitting there consuming a little caviar, Phoebe (Lisa) approaches, which was a little shocking as no-one had spoken to us at all at the party."

"Right in front of me, she tells Heidi that she needs to get away from me as fast as possible because I'm going to murder Heidi and that I have the eyes of a serial killer. Heidi waits to see if this is a joke, maybe this is a hidden camera party. But no laughs, she just walks away. That right there as the rudest moment I've ever encountered with a human being."

Bethenny weighed in online at the time with the comment, "That's crazy. She was on my talk show and I had a crazy experience also" - but did not provide any more details.



**BRENDAN FRASER GETS EMOTIONAL**

**'The Whale' gets 6-min standing ovation**

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Brendan Fraser, who is known for his work in films such as 'George of the Jungle' and 'The Mummy' franchise, got teary eyed after his film 'The Whale' received a six-minute standing ovation at the Venice Film Festival.

When the credits rolled on the Darren Aronofsky drama, in which Fraser plays a 600-pound gay man confined to a wheelchair, the actor was overcome with emotion.

Fraser hugged Aronofsky several times during the ovation. He tried to leave the theatre at one point, but the outpouring of clapping was so loud, he stayed longer and took a bow.

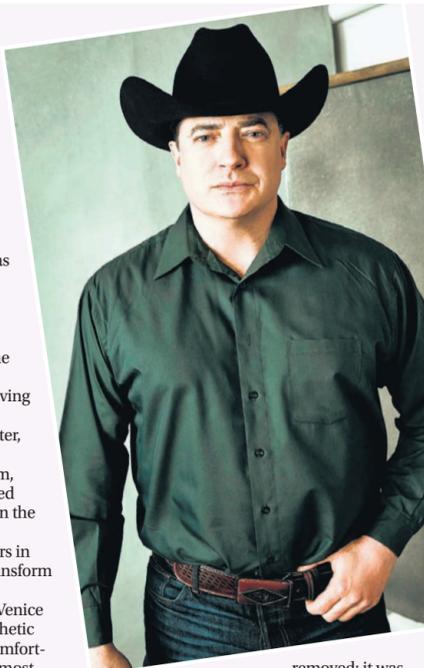
'The Whale' stars Fraser as a man living with severe obesity who struggles to reconnect with his 17-year-old daughter, played by Sadie Sink.

To play the lead character in the film, Fraser wore a prosthetic suit that added anywhere from 50 to 300 pounds given the scene.

The actor spent as much as six hours in the makeup chair each day to fully transform into the character.

In an interview ahead of the film's Venice premiere, Fraser shared that his prosthetic suit was "cumbersome, not exactly comfortable", adding: "The torso piece was almost like a strait jacket with sleeves that went on, airbrushed by hand, to look identical as would human skin, right down to the hand-punched hair."

"I even felt a sense of vertigo at the end of the day when all the appliances were



removed; it was like stepping off the dock onto a boat in Venice. That (sense of) undulating. It gave me appreciation for those whose bodies are similar. You need to be an incredibly strong person, mentally and physically, to inhabit that physical being."

**ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY**



**Elizabeth Henstridge**



## INDIA'S SHREYAS, JINENDRA QUALIFY FOR FIM MINI GP WORLD SERIES FINALS

Bengaluru | Agencies

Shreyas Hareesh from Bengaluru and Kolhapur's Jinendra Kiran Sangave qualified to represent India in the FIM MiniGP World Series Finals to be held in November in Valencia, Spain.

Shreyas (220 points) and Jinendra (213) finished first and second respectively in the FIM MiniGP World Series India 2022, which concluded at the Mecor Kartopia here on Sunday. In the World Finals, the pair will compete with toppers of respective National series held in 15 countries.

The five-round, 10-race India series, organised by Mecor Motorsports, saw Jinendra, 13, dominated initially by winning five races in a row. However, the 12-year-old Shreyas staged a remarkable comeback by topping four of the next five races, including a double in Round 4 on Saturday to finish on top of the series standings with 220 points.

Jinendra, who barely survived a difficult final weekend, finished with 213 points, well ahead of third-placed Nandan Mahendran of Chennai



(153), the organisers informed in a release on Monday.

Among the four girls who took part in the Series, Bengaluru's Nithila Das

finished fifth overall in the points standings with a score of 106 while Rakshitha Dave from Chennai was seventh (94). The other two girls, both

from Bengaluru, Aleena Mansur Sheikh and Anastya Pol, participated only in Round 1, garnering 18 points apiece.

## Cricketing fraternity comes out in support of Arshdeep Singh over dropped catch backlash

Dubai | Agencies

The cricketing fraternity has come out strongly in support of India's young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh over his dropped catch of Pakistan batter Asif Ali, who went on to apply the finishing touches for Pakistan in their successful chase of 182 in a thrilling Super Four match here.

In the third ball of the 18th over, when Pakistan needed 32 runs off 15 balls, Ali had slog-swept off leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi. But he got a thick top-edge, which flew towards short third man. Arshdeep, stationed there, put down the sitter as the ball went through his hands. If Arshdeep had taken the catch, Ali would have been out for a duck. Eventually, Arshdeep trapped Ali lbw in the final over with a pin-point yorker. But by then, he had made 16 runs off eight balls. But with two needed off the last two balls, Pakistan won it as Ifukhar Ahmed got the needed runs with a drive down the ground.

Even before the run was completed, Arshdeep had



flicked out the balls at the non-striker's end in disappointment. His team-mates had run in to pat his back and console him after the match ended, where Arshdeep had figures of 1/27

in 3.5 overs. Unsurprisingly, he was viciously trolled on social media due to dropping Ali's catch and it led many people in the cricketing world to tweet out in support of him.

### Durand Cup:

## RAJASTHAN UNITED FC QUALIFY FOR QUARTERFINALS

Kolkata | Agencies

Rajasthan United FC (RUF) created history by qualifying for the quarterfinals of the 131st IndianOil Durand Cup, beating the Indian Navy Football Team 2-0, at the Kishore Bharati Krirangan (KBK) here on Monday.

Second-half strikes from Youssef Atriss and Sergio Barboza Junior ensured RUF claimed the second spot in Group B. Mumbai City FC had already qualified as group toppers. ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB), who also finished with seven points in the group as the top two, bowed out on account of having lost to RUF in the opening game of the group. RUF, who needed a win to qualify for the knockout, started on the front foot against the Navy side, playing for nothing but pride having garnered just one point from their three earlier matches and with no chance to qualify. But both teams could not create any clear chances as the game was



mostly played in the middle of the park. There were a lot of stops and starts to the game as both teams committed fouls while trying to break up each other's moves. The best chance of the half came

for RUF when William Pauliankhum ran into space and Navy keeper Vishnu V.K came way out of his box to narrow the angle.

William dribbled past the keeper and crossed for a waiting Youssef Atriss, who had to just tap it inside, but Navot Singh made a last-ditch tackle to save his team the blushes. Indian Navy FT also had a good chance to take the lead when Harikrishna made a good move from the left and cut back for Jijo, whose shot flew over the bar. RUF started the second half by attacking the Navy box relentlessly. Every move looked like a goal-scoring opportunity. Second-half substitutes Sergio Barboza and 17-year-old Gyamar Nikum added more teeth to RUF's attack. But an exemplary performance under the bar by the Navy captain and keeper VK Vishnu, singlehandedly denied RUF. He made saves after saves including one which qualified as the save of the tournament when he tipped onto the bar a volley from Uruguayan Martin Chaves.

### Asia Cup 2022:

## Never seen performances like that of Suryakumar's and Hardik's in recent times: Manjrekar

Mumbai | Agencies

With the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia just a few weeks away, former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar is mightily impressed by the performances of Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya and said the Indian team is doing great by trying many players in the Asian Cup 2022 in UAE.

Talking about the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup, Manjrekar was impressed with the Indian team's batting formula and their move of testing out batsmen ahead of their time. "The best part is that the Indian team is trying many players ahead of the T20 World Cup. Indian team's batting formula is the best at the moment," the former Mumbai batter said during a live chat with his fans as part of the new season of CricChat on



the ShareChat Audio Chatroom, powered by Parimatch.

Manjrekar, known for his impeccable batting technique, played for India from 1987-96 and is now a celebrated broadcaster. He also spoke about players from the current Indian Team and analysed their performance after the Men in Blue reached the Super Four stage in Asia Cup easily but went down to archrivals Pakistan in a thriller on Sunday. Praising Kohli's form, Manjrekar said, "Virat

Kohli's pull, hook shots, and overall contribution was the best in the last two matches. More than a break, a couple of big knocks are important for him." Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav also came in for praise. "Setback is better than a comeback, and that is something Hardik Pandya has shown with his performances. I have never seen performances like Suryakumar Yadav's and Hardik Pandya's in recent times," Manjrekar said.

### AFC U20 Asian Cup 2023:

## INDIA'S QUALIFIERS MOVED OUT AS YOUNG TALENTS

Mumbai | Agencies

India's matches in Group H, also including Iraq and Kuwait, will be played later and an alternate venue as qualifiers for the AFC U20 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2023 Qualifiers, will start at various venues across the Continent from Saturday.

The Group H Qualifiers, which were originally scheduled to take place in Basra, Iraq, will now be moved to an alternative venue and date with further details to be finalised and communicated in due course. Meanwhile, the Qualifiers will mark the full-scale return of elite men's youth football in Asia since 2018, when the Continent's future stars take to the pitch this Saturday. The Qualifiers usher in a new era for the AFC's age-group tournament, with the U20 replacing the U19 competition and organised with-



out the zoning principles, as the top two teams advance to the Finals next year. Palestine and Yemen will kickstart the Qualifiers on Saturday when they face off in Group C at the National Stadium KM16 in Laos in the evening while the host nation takes on Guam three hours later. The five-team group also includes heavyweights

Japan, who are in action two days later against Laos, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) informed in a release on Monday. In Group D, Chinese Taipei will commence their campaign against Syria at the Applied Science University Stadium in Amman, Jordan followed by the Northern Mariana Islands versus Turkmenistan encounter.

## JEHAN DARUVALA SHOWS STRONG PACE IN ZANDVOORT TO OVERCOME QUALIFYING SETBACK

Zandvoort (The Netherlands): Indian racer Jehan Daruvala displayed strong pace over the Dutch round of the Formula 2 championship in Zandvoort as he fought through the field to overcome a qualifying setback. After having been the quickest driver of the field in the race over the first half of the season, Daruvala and the team struggled to match the race pace after the summer break. After the frustration of the five earlier rounds, the car was back on pace in qualifying and in the race. A rare error around the tricky Zandvoort track denied Daruvala the chance of a top-three start. With the narrow, twisting 4-km long layout of the seaside track notoriously difficult to overtake on, Daruvala was unable to make much headway during Saturday's shorter Sprint race while being one of only two drivers making an overtaking move in the race. But he combined strategy with maturity behind the wheel to climb from 17th to 10th in Sunday's main Feature event. Daruvala said, "It's a shame I made that mistake in qualifying as we had the pace to fight at the front this weekend. Still, even if the result isn't what we wanted, there are positives to take.

## Extremely determined to play in FIH Hockey Pro League again: Gurjit Kaur

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Indian women's hockey team players are currently fine-tuning a few aspects about their game at the National Camp in the Sports Authority of India campus, here. India's dragflicker Gurjit Kaur expressed that the team is determined to qualify for the FIH Hockey Pro League. "We attained a lot of confidence after clinching the Bronze Medal in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Everyone has been improving steadily and we are moving forward well as group. Currently, we are fully focused on the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup. We are very determined to qualify for the FIH Hockey Pro League. We had a great experience in the last edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League and we are all looking forward to having an opportunity of representing India in the competition again," said the Defender. Asked if she feels the pressure in big matches, Gurjit said, "Converting Penalty Corners has been one of my strengths and it is a scoring technique that we utilize very often, but I don't feel pressure while carrying out the role because I see the role as a responsibility. I have always wanted



to make high impact for my team and I and glad I have been able to do so in some important matches." Gurjit also said that she is working on improving her dragflicking prowess. "The game will change constantly and the players around the world will keep getting better and therefore it's important for us also to keep evolving. I noted a few aspects that I need to improve upon during CWG and I have been working on them in the National Camp. I need to keep working on my game and keep getting better as a player and especially as a dragflicker."

## Stokes, Raza, Mitchell Santner nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month award

Dubai | Agencies

England Test captain Ben Stokes, Zimbabwe's all-rounder Sikandar Raza and New Zealand's left-arm spin all-rounder Mitchell Santner on Monday were nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month award for August 2022. Raza becomes the first Zimbabwe player to be nominated since Sean Williams back in March 2021, thanks to a series of outstanding contributions with the bat in home series against Bangladesh and India. Santner demonstrated his multi-format capabilities with bat and ball in August during his side's away series against Netherlands and West Indies, while Stokes completes the lineup following his heroics in the second Test at Old Trafford in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) second Test which saw the hosts' square three-match series against South Africa at 1-1. Raza has



enjoyed a sensational 2022 so far and continued his magnificent form in August during his side's contests against Bangladesh and India at home. He was instrumental in claiming the ODI series victory for his side against Bangladesh, thanks to unbeaten scores of 135 and 117 which came during two superb run-chases.

## SUAREZ WONDER STRIKE KEEPS NACIONAL TITLE HOPES

Montevideo (Uruguay): Former Liverpool and Barcelona striker Luis Suarez was on target as Nacional cruised to a 3-1 home victory over Penarol in Uruguay's Primera Division on Sunday.

Mathias Laborda gave the hosts the lead on the stroke of halftime with a bullet header following a corner. Suarez doubled the advantage just after the restart when he ran onto a loose ball and thumped a 25-yard left-footed effort into the far corner. The 35-year-old has now scored three times in five league outings since rejoining his boyhood club as a free agent last month, reports Xinhua. Kevin Mendez reduced the deficit when his low attempt from 22 yards rebounded in off the right post.

But Camilo Candido put the result beyond doubt when he wrong-footed a defender with a deft touch before angling a shot into the bottom right corner. Nacional lead the 16-team Uruguayan top-flight standings with 15 points from six games while Penarol are eighth, seven points behind.

## Pandya, Bumrah feature in Ricky Ponting's top five World T20I players

Dubai | Agencies

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting on Monday picked India's Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah in his top five World T20I players. Ponting was the skipper of Australia when they played in their first-ever men's T20I, making 98 not out off 55 balls in a match-winning performance against New Zealand.

Since his international comeback in June, Pandya's stock as an all-rounder has been on the rise with his all-round performances leading India to victories, an example of which was the Group A match against Pakistan in Asia Cup



2022. "On current form, it's pretty hard to go past Hardik Pandya at number three. His IPL was outstanding. To see him back at the bowling crease is something that I was always a little bit unsure would actually ever happen he's had some really big injury setbacks, which has obviously affected how much he's been able to play for India."

"But he's back bowling, and at 140kph which he was doing four or five years ago. But his batting and his maturity while batting have come on in leaps and bounds. He understands the game better and he understands his game better than ever before and right now he's probably the best all-rounder in the world in T20 cricket, and could potentially be in ODI cricket," explained Ponting on the ICC Review show for picking Pandya. Despite not featuring in the Asia Cup due to a back injury, Bumrah is India's trump card with the ball, able to deliver the goods for his team in any phase of the match with his variety of slower balls, bouncers and Yorkers.



## Tillotama Shome opens up about teaching theatre to prisoners in US

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Tillotama Shome, who has been getting a lot of positive response for her work as a serial killer in the recently released second season of 'Delhi Crime', has previously taught theatre to prisoners in the US. She talked about what she observed and learnt from those days through art. Explaining the profile of her assignment back when she worked with convicted criminals with regards to theatre, Tillotama said: "The kind of work I did branched out from something called 'restorative justice' where you are interested in understanding what comes after they've committed a crime and served their punishment." "Once a person is labelled a criminal, they are considered less than humans for society. But the work we did had the potential to bring certain opportunities for those criminals to change." She said that everyone has committed some mistakes in their life. "We all have committed some mistakes and long for a second chance so that we could set things right but life always doesn't give you a second chance, especially when you are not privileged and don't have an education," she said further.

Perhaps, art is something that triggers self-reflection and contemplation. Opening up on the nature of her "student", Tillotama added: "A lot of people whom I worked with: I call them my students, they understood the consequences of their actions and were really interested in knowing if there was anything that I could do that would help them deal with situations in a better way." The actress opined that the idea of crime, punishment and justice only cater to changing the mindset of criminals and setting an example for the society to look up to what their illegal actions could lead to but, the system on which the society functions remains unaffected largely.

"A criminal will serve the sentence and after that he or she will go out in the world. While they might change, the system doesn't change; the system that dictates some people have lesser rights when it comes to education or healthcare. Perhaps, that's the reason a lot of criminals become serial offenders," she said. While the idea of crime and its punishment is something that's really important to society, it has a lot of limitations, "Life is not so black and white. In order to look at crime, one has to look at the nature of punishment," she concluded.

## ON HIS COMPOSITION MAKING IT TO CWG 2022



MY TALENT IS BEING RECOGNISED: NILOTPAL

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer and composer Nilotpal Bora is on cloud nine as his recent track 'Shabaash' from the movie 'Jaadugar' became an official anthem for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and also he got an opportunity to work with popular YouTuber and comedian Bhuvan Bam for his upcoming web series 'Taaza Khabar'.

Sharing his experience of working with Bhuvan, he said: "It is my first collaboration with Bhuvan. I can't reveal much about the song as of now, but yes, I can assure two things: this song is completely opposite from the style and the genre of songs I have been doing until now, and the other thing is that one of our country's most favourite singers will be singing this song."

"Firstly, the fact that they saw the potential in my song to take it to the level of an anthem to motivate our Indian Athletes,

who are the gem of our nation and making us all proud on the international stage is itself a great feeling for me, as I feel I am able to contribute something for the nation," he said. I feel this is the biggest achievement in my career so far."

He further recalls his journey as a musician and how from Assam he shifted to Mumbai and gradually he got name and fame. "I shifted to Mumbai in 2013. From 2013 until 2017 I was working as a music producer in Mumbai. After that I did my second Assamese album 'Pancham' wherein I did a song called 'Majuli'. After hearing a regional independent song 'Majuli', I got a call for a show 'Ye Meri Family' directed by Sameer Saxena."

"Sameer sir had told me that my sound is different, my voice is different and he wants a song exactly like my music so that's how I made my first song 'Dhaaga'. I started getting a lot of work from TVF like 'Tripling season 2', 'Aspirants', 'Saas Bahu Achaar Pvt. Ltd', he concluded.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Stand-up comedian Sidharth Sagar, who last appeared on the Zee Comedy Show, has been roped in to play a pivotal character on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'.

He talks about making a comeback on the show after 2017: "I was doing a show, 'Case to Banta Hai', in which my performance was appreciated a lot. I guess that's how I was offered 'The Kapil Sharma Show' and here I am."

He is quite happy about the opportunity to share the stage with Kapil: "It is always amazing to perform with Kapil bhai. He has a great sense of humour. It gives me immense joy when we occasionally exchange looks on stage and I see him enjoying my performance. It is a sign of a true artist as he will always appreciate another talent."

After doing his last comedy show on TV in 2021, he is making a comeback with Kapil's popular come-



SIDHARTH SAGAR'S COMEBACK ON COMEDY SHOW

dy-based reality show. On talking about what kind of acts viewers will see him doing on the show, he replied: "Energetic performance, dance, comedy and fun, which the audience will get hooked on and will watch with their families. When I am on stage, I don't feel any pressure. I don't let it affect me because talent blossoms only when there is no pressure. One needs a stress-free atmosphere to deliver his best."

Sidharth added: "I have learnt that art comes from within and can't be learnt. Yes, you can hone it by observing others but it's a gift of God. You need talent to begin with. It can't be borrowed or inculcated."

"I have my own imagination, ideas and characters and plan my scripts and style on my own. However, I really admire Charlie Chaplin, Jim Carrey and Rowan Atkinson," he concluded.

## Kangana says 'filmmaker is a myth; it's the movie makes a maker'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Kangana Ranaut, who is currently busy with her film 'Emergency', recently shared her thoughts about the craft of filmmaking and how the film has made her understand the nuances of storytelling. In her opinion, "a movie makes a maker" and it's not the other way round.

'Emergency' is Kangana's second directorial after 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi' and the actress is leaving no stone unturned to make the film a compelling watch.

Taking to her Instagram, Kangana shared a picture of herself briefing someone off the camera about a particular close-up/mid close-up shot.

Captioning the picture, she wrote: "Filmmaking is a fine blend of prep, practice and spontaneity. That's why it can be the most difficult or the easiest thing to do, depends how efficiently you can be rigid and fluid both at the same time."

She went on to share that despite all the preparation, a story or a sequence may demand to ditch all things that were a part of the prep and start afresh with a different approach, "If you know how to prepare hard to shoot what must be shot yet in the last moment you demolish that mental structure/road map/blue print and be free to find something entirely different based on your instincts then you know how to make a movie .... And if you know how to make a movie you will know in actuality one can't make a movie."

In her opinion, the terms film-maker is nothing but a myth as a story finds its true expression and the maker is merely a vehicle for the story.

"I think it is a phase and it comes in every sector"

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Today, the Babli Bouncer team hosted a trailer launch event for the media. The team also interacted with the media during this event. While discussing various topics, director Madhur Bhandarkar discussed his decision to have the film released directly on OTT. "It is not about the film industry going through a rough patch or something. It is just that we felt like this story is for going through a large audience who watches films on OTT and it made more sense to me and others to release this film on OTT. According to me, people watch films if it is content worthy" The director also talked about films not getting good numbers at the box office. "See, I have been watching this industry very closely for a very long time. There have been times when there was a buzz that theatres would shut down. For instance, when we had video tapes, and after that when cable came into the picture. Now as OTT arrives, we have this buzz again. Talking about the time before 2019, OTT and theatres have always co-existed. Today as well, we do have some box office failures but good films are earning good. For example, KGF has earned about 450 crores in north India. I think it is a phase and it comes in every sector" Madhur Bhandarkar said. For the unversed, Babli Bouncer is scheduled to be released directly on OTT.



Nature is our greatest teacher, says Chiranjeevi



Team Absolute | Chennai

Telugu Megastar Chiranjeevi on Monday said that 'Nature is our greatest teacher'. Taking to Twitter to express his wishes to teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day, the top star of Telugu cinema said, "Besides Teachers, Nature is our greatest Teacher." "If we think of it, every living organism in nature, every situation, every story of every human teaches us something every single moment -- what to do, what not to do in life. We are the eternal students of life! #HappyTeachersDay!" The Telugu superstar was not the only one to express his wishes to teachers on the occasion. Actress Aditi Rao Hydari too wished everyone a happy Teachers' Day. She said: "Be curious. Admit mistakes. Learn. Evolve. Acknowledge and listen to another person. Know whom to listen to and what to absorb and what to discard! Be your best self every moment of everyday." "Count your blessings when you have generous loving teachers. To every teacher I've had every step of the way, Happy Teachers' Day."



Radhika Madan