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**'Hate speech poisons, role of anchor is critical', Supreme Court on hate speech on TV**

## TOXIC ANCHORS OF DUMB GOVT

*The Supreme Court on Wednesday strongly criticised hate speech through visual media, including the role of TV anchors, as it emphasised that it poisons the fabric of our society and questioned the government for being a mute spectator, instead of playing lead role in curbing such speeches.*

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy said that the role of the anchor during a TV debate is very important, as it pulled up TV channels over hate speech, and pointed out that it is the anchor's duty to see that hate speech is not used during the broadcast of a show. The bench also pulled the Centre's counsel on the issue of hate speech. The bench suggested there should be a system in place and there should be some methodology to conduct the show on TV, and the anchor should not run down people. He further added that these speeches on mainstream media or social media are unregulated and the role of anchor is critical, it's their duty to see that hate speech doesn't continue. The bench told the Centre's counsel that the government should not treat the issue of



hate speech as a trivial matter and take lead on developing mechanisms to curb it. The counsel replied, "We took preventive action...".

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, representing the Centre, informed the bench that 14 state governments have responded on action taken against hate speech. The bench said freedom of press is important but we should know where to draw a line. It further added that hate speech is layered and it is like killing someone, and TV channels get people hooked to them. It further added that sense of fraternity cannot happen in atmosphere of hate. It said the government should not take an adversarial stand but assist the court and scheduled the matter for further hearing in November. It also asked the Centre to clarify if it intends to act on Law Commission recommendations on curbing hate speech. The top court was hearing petitions in connection with hate speech.

One of the petitions filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, sought direction to the Centre to examine international laws and take effective and stringent steps to control hate speech and rumour-mongering in the country. The bench also indicated at developing some guidelines since there is no law on hate speech. On July 21, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Union Home Secretary, to compile information from state governments in connection with compliance of directions given earlier by it regarding preventive and remedial measures to curb situations-- like mob violence and hate speech.

### NO CRIMINALITY IN RADIA TAPES: CBI TO SC

New Delhi: The CBI on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that no criminality was found in Radia tapes case. The CBI's counsel submitted before a bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud that it probed 5,800 conversations, which did not reveal any criminality. The central investigative agency gave a clean chit to Radia. The apex court has scheduled the matter for further hearing next week. Over a decade ago, Radia's phone conversations with industrialists, journalists, government officers, and other people holding key posts were tapped as part of a tax investigation. Tata filed the petition in 2011. He had contended that the release of the tapes amounted to infringement on his right to privacy. The case was last heard in April 2014, and the top court crystallized the issues -- right to privacy vis-a-vis the government; right to privacy vis-a-vis the media; and the right to information.



### 'Restriction only in classroom, not outside'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Karnataka government on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that there is no restriction on wearing hijab on the school campus, and it is only restricted in the classroom while defending its decision to disallow hijab in classrooms of pre-university colleges. It also emphasized that it has not touched any "religious aspect" in the hijab ban row. Advocate General Prabhuling K. Navadgi, representing the Karnataka government, contended before a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia that it has never happened in Karnataka that a group of students came to school in hijab and began banging the gates.



As the bench queried if it started in one school and then spread, Navadgi said yes. "There was a possibility of a public order issue," he said, and emphasised that restriction on hijab was only in the classroom and when it was asserted militantly that they want to wear hijab and retaliated by others, it became a concern. He said that it has to be demonstrated that wearing of hijab is a right to expression and right to privacy is still evolving jurisprudence and can't be exercised in all zones.

### IRANIAN WOMEN BURN HEADSCARVES AS ANTI-HIJAB PROTESTS

Sari (Iran): Women have been at the forefront of escalating protests in Iran sparked by the death in custody of a woman detained for breaking hijab laws, media reports said. Crowds cheered when women burned their hijabs on a bonfire in Sari on Tuesday, the fifth successive day of unrest, BBC reported. Activists said a woman was among three protesters shot dead by security forces in Urmia, Piranshahr and Kermanshah. The authorities accused protesters of killing two civilians in Kermanshah as well as a police assistant in Shiraz, the report said. At least seven people are now reported to have been killed since the protests against the hijab laws and morality police erupted after Mahsa Amini's death. The 22-year-old Kurdish woman from the north-western city of Saqez died in hospital on Friday, after being in coma for three days. She was with her brother in Tehran when she was arrested by morality police, who accused her of breaking the law requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf, and their arms and legs with loose clothing. She fell into coma shortly after collapsing at a detention centre.

### 'GAJODAR BHAIIYYA' IS NO MORE

New Delhi: Known for his earthy humour and inimitable delivery style, comedian Raju Srivastava, who became a household name in his delightful 'Gajodhar Bhaiyya' persona, breathed his last on Wednesday, September 21, aged 58. The popular comedian battled for his life for 43 days. He passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), where he had been rushed on August 9 after he complained of chest pain and collapsed in the South Delhi gym where he was working out. Born on December 25, 1963, Satya Prakash Srivastava, who later became famous as Raju Srivastava, came from a middle-class family in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. A gifted mimic, the comedy star had his share on initial struggles before attracting notice by mimicking megastar Amitabh Bachchan's iconic baritone voice. That got him invited to stage shows both within and outside India.



## Maha gets 18 new wildlife reserves, 7 proposed sanctuaries

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Cheering environmentalists, Maharashtra will get 18 new wildlife reserves and 7 proposed sanctuaries, taking the total of such protected areas in the state to 52, officials said here on Wednesday. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde approved the proposals at a meeting of the State Wildlife Board in the presence of Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and others, which will now take the protected areas in the state to around 13,000 square km. The 18 new reserves are: Velhe-Mulshi (87.41 square km) and Lonavala (121.41 square km) in Pune-Raigad districts, Naneghat (98.78 square km) in



Pune-Thane districts, Bhorigirga (37.64 square kms) in Pune district, Dindori (62.10 square km), Surgana (86.28 square km), and Taharabad (122.45 sq.kms) - all in Nashik district. Besides, there is Khareghat (97.45 square km), Chinchpada (93.91 square km) in Nandurbar district, Ghera Manikgad (53.25 square km), Alibaug (60.03 square km) in Raigad district, Gumtara (125.50 square km) in Thane district, Rajmachi (83.15 sq.kms) in

Thane-Pune districts, Jawhar (118.28 square km), Dhamani (49.15 square km), Aherigarh (80.95 square km) in Palghar district, Atpadi (9.48 square km) in Sangli district, and Ekara (102.99 square km) in Chandrapur district. The CM said that Conservation Reserve Areas (CRAs) are declared for the purpose of protecting the habitats of flora and fauna in the territory adjacent to national parks or sanctuaries or connectors to such reserved areas. The proposed CRAs include Saptashringgad in Nashik district, Bhairavgad in Thane district, Dhareshwar, Trikuteshwar, Kannad, Pedkagad in Aurangabad district and Kinwat in Nanded district, he said.

### NOW, 'NO SIR' NOT TO BE USED IN PARLIAMENT

New Delhi: The replies to questions asked in Parliament in the Rajya Sabha will be gender neutral after the issue was raised by woman MP Priyanka Chaturvedi. The Rajya Sabha secretariat has replied that the ministries will be asked to send replies in the new format. Priyanka Chaturvedi in her letter in August had said that the usage of the phrase 'No Sir' in the answers to the questions raised by women parliamentarians is wrong. Rajya Sabha secretariat official Swarabji B, responded and said that, "I am directed to refer to your letter dated 08.08.2022 addressed to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on the subject cited above and to inform that as per conventions and Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha, all the proceedings of the House are addressed to the Chair.

### WHY RULE ME OUT?: DIGVIJAYA SINGH ON CONGRESS PREZ ELECTION

New Delhi: In the intense build-up to the Congress president election, Digvijaya Singh added a new twist by suggesting that he could join Ashok Gehlot and Shashi Tharoor as a candidate for the top post. The Congress veteran also said Ashok Gehlot, a frontrunner for the top post and the Gandhis' favourite for the role, will have to "obviously quit" as Rajasthan Chief Minister if he takes charge. Digvijaya Singh spoke to NDTV in the setting of a brewing showdown between Ashok Gehlot and the man who could be his replacement as Rajasthan Chief Minister - his rival Sachin Pilot. The Congress adopted a "one man, one post" resolve at a leadership meet in Rajasthan's Udaipur earlier this year but Gehlot today said he could well hold, not one but "three posts", signaling that he is not ready to give up his Rajasthan role. "There is no concern at all. Whoever wants to contest has got the right to contest. And if one doesn't want to contest, then they can't be forced to contest. That's it," he said.

## INDIA'S RS 1,000 CR RICH CLUB GROWS, TEEN ENTREPRENEUR MAKES DEBUT

► The youngest on the list is Kaivalya Vohra aged 19, who founded Zepto which shows the impact of the start-up revolution.  
► The latest rich list includes several promoters of startups, including those floated by women.

Chennai | Agencies

Regardless of Covid pandemic, inflation or the Ukraine War, India's richest grew by 96 persons to 1,103 spread over 122 cities and have Rs 1,000 crore or more as per the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2022. "Cumulative wealth has increased by 9.4 per

cent, while average wealth has decreased by 1 per cent. 602 individuals saw their wealth increase or stay the same, of which 149 are new faces, whilst 415 saw their wealth drop and there were 50 dropouts," as per a statement issued by IIFL Wealth and Hurun India. According to the report, India has 221 billionaires, down 16 compared to last year. While Chemicals and Financial Services added the greatest number of new entrants to the list, Pharma is still at number one and has contributed 126 entrants to the list. As per the list, Adani group promoter Gautam Adani has surged ahead to the top spot beating Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries with wealth more than doubling (116 per cent) in the last year.

### PUNE GIRL WHO SELF-MADE IT TO THE INDIA RICH LIST

Chennai: Indian-American Neha Narkhede, co-Founder of Confluent, a streaming data technology company, now figures in the India's rich list 2022. According to IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List, the 37-year-old Narkhede is the youngest self-made woman entrepreneur to be in India's rich list. Her wealth is estimated at Rs 4,700 crore and she is ranked 336 in the IIFL Hurun India Rich List. The company went public in 2021 at \$9.1 billion valuation, as per Forbes.



### JAYASHREE ULLAL: RICHEST INDIAN PROFESSIONALS

Chennai: The richest Indian professional-person of Indian origin is a woman, Jayashree Ullal of Arista Networks. Ullal, born in London and raised in India, heads the Arista Networks, US and is the richest professional with a wealth of Rs 16,600 crore, as per the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2022. Thomas Kurian (Rs 12,100 crore) of Oracle is in the second position and is followed by Nikesh Arora (Rs 8,500 crore) of Palo Alto Networks. The two exceptions are Ignatius Navil Noronha of Avenue Supermarkets (wealth Rs 6,500 crore) and Aditya Puri of HDFC Bank (Rs 1,600 crore). The others in the rich professionals list are: Ajaypal Singh Banga of Mastercard (Rs 6,500 crore), Satya Nadella of Microsoft (Rs 6,200 crore), Sundar Pichai of Google (Rs 5,300 crore), Indra K. Nooyi of Pepsico (Rs



## US reiterates support for India getting UNSC permanent seat

Arul Louis | United Nations

Nations: President Joe Biden on Wednesday reiterated the US' commitment to India getting a permanent seat on the Security Council to ensure it remains credible. Addressing the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, he said: "The United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives on the Council. This includes permanent seats for those nations we have long supported." "The United States is committed to this vital work," he declared. Washington has long expressed backing for India's quest for a permanent seat through different administrations. It also backs permanent



seats for Japan and Germany. "I also believe the time has come for this institution to become more inclusive, so they can better respond to the needs of today's world," Biden said. He said that the US backs "permanent seats for countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.



# 'A constitutional obligation to give helping hand to the poor': Centre to SC on EWS quota

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it is the duty of the government to fulfil the aspiration of those who are not getting opportunities due to their economic status, while defending 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) belonging to the general category.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, submitted before a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lali, that the 103rd constitutional amendment was valid. They emphasised that it was done in furtherance of Article 46, which says state would promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections.

The bench - also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S. Ravindra Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi, and J.B. Pardiwala - observed that the slice of cake of 50 per cent open general seats available to OBCs above creamy layer now stands reduced to



40 per cent, while referring to submissions of petitioners opposing the EWS reservation.

The petitioners against the EWS quota had argued that the EWS quota is eating into the field open to all meritorious candidates.

The Centre's counsel argued that reservation provided under it was different and had been given without disturbing the 50 per cent quota meant for the socially and economically backward classes (SEBC), and

that the amended provision does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

The top court noted that creamy layer of OBC is not entitled for reservation and for them, the piece of the cake is reduced from 50 to 40 per cent. It further added that in the open category anybody can make it and this is reserved for those who have no reservation. The bench also cited petitioners' submissions that poor belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs have

been excluded from this category due to their caste.

Venugopal submitted that the creamy layer will have to compete in the general category seats and added that the non-reserved category is an independent category and the classification among them to decide the EWS is permissible. The AG emphasised that it is a constitutional obligation to extend a helping hand to the poor. Also, it is the duty of the government to fulfil the aspirations of those who are not getting opportunities due to their economic status, he added.

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, representing the Madhya Pradesh government, supported the constitutional amendment, and added that the EWS quota has been implemented in the state.

The top court asked Mehta to provide the statistics of application under the EWS quota -- who are the beneficiaries? Where exactly do they compare? "We would like those statistics from some of the states."

The same set of questions were also asked to Jethmalani.

The top court will continue to hear the matter on Thursday.

# Without naming, Mamata accuses Centre of distorting history

Team Absolute | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday accused the BJP-led Union government, without taking any name, of making deliberate attempts to distort the history of the country.

Speaking after inaugurating a museum at Alipore Central Correctional Home here, Banerjee said that to prevent this distortion attempts, we need to conserve history.

"Deliberate attempts are being made to distort the history of the country so that the next generation remains ignorant about the history of India's freedom struggle. In West Bengal, we are trying to conserve history," Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister said that the contributions of Bengal and legendary Bengalis like Rabindranath



Tagore and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, among others, are immense in achieving unity in diversity in the entire country.

"India's renaissance would never have been possible without Bengal. The freedom of the country would not have been possible without Bengal. The British rulers knew that Bengalis were their biggest threats. That is why they conspired to divide Bengal. Bengalis are yet to get over the pain of Partition,"

she said.

Claiming that attempts are being made to create division among the people of West Bengal, Banerjee said, "Rabindranath Tagore arranged the Raksha Bandhan festival to keep the Bengali united. He gave the message of united India through his composition of the national anthem."

She added that a true leader is the one who can lead people irrespective of religion or caste.

# Plea in Delhi HC challenges blanket ban on firecrackers

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A petition was on Wednesday moved in the Delhi High Court challenging the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) order completely banning the manufacturing, storage, sale, and use of all kinds of firecrackers in the national capital till next year.

Hearing the matter filed by two firms involved in the sale, purchase, and storage of green crackers, Justice Yashwant Varma orally remarked that it is appropriate for them to move an application to Supreme Court as the matter is still pending there.

The plea said the air quality in New Delhi has been moderate or better at least since August 15 and in light of this, there is no need to impose a ban on the use of even green crackers.

They also argued that the ban is against National Green Tribunal and Supreme Court orders.



"It is clear from the order of the learned NGT dated December 1, 2020, and that of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated July 23, 2021, that a complete ban on the use of crackers is impermissible. Restrictions can be made only in cases where the air quality is poor. The same is not the case in Delhi," the plea contended.

The matter will be further heard on October 7.

# Transport ministry notifies amendment in rules for driver training centres

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With a view to streamline the functioning of Accredited Driver Training Centres (ADTCs), the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has notified amendment in its rules.

The new rules include five-year accreditation of driver training schools. The ministry also said that the syllabus for imparting training for two-wheelers has been specifically detailed to comprehensively cover practical as well as theoretical knowledge.

The trainee will be required to pass the "test of competence to drive" in order to receive the proficiency test certificate for issuance of driving licence and other provisions linked to ADTC like fees, issuance of driving



license etc.

The new rules include knowledge and understanding of fuel efficient driving techniques among the training topics for those learning how to drive.

The two-wheeler driving training will be covered in multiple sessions over a span of two

weeks. The theory sessions will cover traffic education, first-aid, road etiquette, causes of accidents and fuel efficiency, among others. The practical lessons include basic and skill driving practices, night driving, and driving in single and multiple lanes, among others.

# WOMAN GANG RAPED IN FRONT OF HUSBAND IN ODISHA'S BALASORE, 4 HELD

**Bhubaneswar:** In a shocking incident, a man in Odisha's Balasore was allegedly beaten up and looted and his wife gang raped by a gang of criminals, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Godhibasa area under Sahadevkhunta police station around 2 a.m. on Monday when the couple were returning from Balasore railway station after dropping a relative, Balasore sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Manas Kumar Deo said.

Seeing the couple alone in the middle of the night, six miscreants attacked the husband with a sharp-edge weapon and threatened him with a fake pistol. They also looted Rs 10,000 from the man and tied him to a pillar. Three of the miscreants gangraped the woman, said Deo.

"We have arrested four accused while another two will also be arrested soon. The 'pistol' and a big knife used in the crime along with Rs 2,500 cash, and mobile phones have been seized from their possession," the SDPO said.

The accused have been involved in robbery and loot cases earlier too, he added.

# EC PROPOSES REMOVAL OF POSTAL BALLOTS FOR POLL WORKERS

**New Delhi:** The Election Commission has written to the Law Ministry, proposing that poll workers cast their ballot at voter facilitation centres set up for them instead of through postal ballots.

Sources claimed that the move is aimed at reducing the potential for misuse.

The poll panel proposed amending Rule 18 of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 in this regard.

It has been seen that even as the poll workers have the option of going to a voter facilitation centre, many of them choose to send in their votes via post and keep the postal ballots at their homes for a long time after completing their election duties.

A source said that during many state Assembly elections in the past two years, over 50 per cent of the ballots of election staff in Goa, Kerala, and Manipur, were sent through post.

Once implemented by the Law Ministry, the change in rules would reduce the potential misuse of ballot papers. As per the policy, the election workers are deployed at constituencies other than their own. As per existing norms, they apply for postal ballots from their respective returning officers at the time of the pre-election training. The returning officers issue the ballots and also set up facilitation centres for them to facilitate their voting.

# Will never bow down before BJP and RSS, says Lalu Prasad

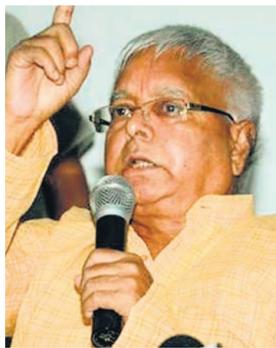
Patna | Agencies

RJD chief Lalu Prasad, who participated in a party programme after a long time on Wednesday, mounted a strong attack against the BJP, terming it "a party of rioters".

"BJP is a party of rioters and every party bowed down before it but I never did till now. I assure you that Lalu Prasad Yadav will never bow down before them. I may not get jail if I bow down before them. I went to jail but never compromised with them," he said while addressing the party workers during the Rajya Parishad meeting at RJD's head office located at Veerchand Patel Path here.

"I have an old enmity with BJP and RSS. The leaders of these two organisations tried hard to make me bow down before them but I never did it in the past and will not do it in future. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is working on the unity of opposition parties in the country and we will defeat BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election," he added.

He also said that when he was the Chief Minister of Bihar, he used to go to the huts of poor people and ask for food. "Our poor sisters cooked food like maize chapatis and vegetables for



me and offered it to me. That was the kind of relationship I have with the poor people of this state and the country. Everyone lived in brotherhood at that time," Lalu Prasad said.

"When the Mahagathbandhan government formed under the leadership of Nitish Kumar in Bihar, BJP leaders were levelling charges of Jungle Raj. They only have the ambition to break the government. This time, we will not give them any opportunity to question the government," he added.

# INDIA LOGS 4,510 FRESH COVID CASES, 33 DEATHS

**New Delhi:** India on Wednesday reported 4,510 fresh Covid infections in the past 24 hours, against previous day's 4,043 count, said Union Health Ministry. In the same period, 33 more Covid-related deaths took the national fatalities tally to 5,28,403, as per the report.

Meanwhile, the active caseload presently stands at 46,216 cases, accounting for 0.10 per cent of the total positive cases.

The recovery of 5,640 patients in the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,39,72,980. Consequently, the recovery rate stands at 98.71 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Daily Positivity rate has been reported to be 1.33 per cent, while the Weekly Positivity Rate currently also stands at 1.80 per cent. Also in the same period, a total of 3,39,994 tests were conducted, increasing the overall tally to over 89.23 crore. As of this morning, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 216.95 crore. Over 4.08 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

# UP BJP MLA booked for harassing woman, son for rape

Agra | Agencies

An FIR has been registered against Uttar Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party MLA Chhotey Lal Verma and his son Laxmi Kant Verma in Agra district after a woman accused the MLA's son of rape, assault and harassment, police said.

The MLA has been booked for allegedly harassing the woman.

The woman said in her complaint that she is a friend of Chhotey Lal's daughter and has visited his Agra residence since she was 17-years-old.

In 2003, she met Verma. She claimed that the MLA's son called her at his residence, spiked her drink and raped her.

According to the complainant, Verma made videos of the act, threatened to kill, and assaulted her. He also allegedly promised the woman he would marry her.

A few years later, the woman claimed that Chhotey Lal's son had married her at a temple and subsequently forced her to abort several times.



But, in 2006, when she went to Jalandhar, Chhotey Lal got his son married to another girl. She claimed that the harassment continued, and the MLA's son even forced her to sign divorce papers.

The police said that based on the complaint, Verma has been booked under sections 376 (punishment for rape), 313 (causing miscarriage without woman's consent), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), 494 (marrying again during the lifetime of a husband or wife), and 328 (causing hurt by means of poison) of the Indian Penal Code.

# Delhi-NCR teachers, experts worry about rising behavioural issues in schoolchildren

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As schools across the country now open after two years of online education, principals, teachers and behavioural experts on Wednesday reported a significant rise in behavioural issues among schoolchildren like aggression, attention span deficit, sleeplessness, and emotional disturbances, especially among those who lost their near and dear ones in Covid.

Stressing upon the need to introduce social emotional learning programmes and counselling sessions across schools in the, they said the situation is delicate and will need at least a year or so to bring affected kids back into the normal course of life.

"Post-pandemic, there have been huge changes in children, in terms of how they view their teachers, their schools, their peers and so on. Their attention span has reduced and writing skills have taken a toll for sure. Their sleep patterns have

also gone for a toss, leading to irritability," Nikita Tomar Mann, Principal at Indraprastha Global School in Noida, told reporter.

Several school children have gone through a lot of trauma as their parents went through financial distress in the last two years, resulting in deep emotional issues creeping in among them.

"Children do understand that their parents faced financial issues like unable to pay school fees or house rent as some of them lost jobs or faced pay cuts. They came back to school with that kind of understanding, which changed the way they look at life as well. I think for each kid, it's a different story and the intensity of it also varies from child to child so we need to handle this situation very, very carefully," Mann elaborated.

The concerns are real as a latest survey by the government has revealed that a majority of school students' mental health has declined in the country. The survey findings were based on the



responses of 3.79 lakh students in 36 states and Union Territories.

The 2022 NCERT survey found that changes in the schooling system like prolonged school closure, online classes,

changes in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams and postponement of exams directly affected lakhs of students.

According to Dr Sameer Malhotra,

Director, Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences, Max Hospitals, they have seen an increase in behavioural issues in kids due to increase in internet usage, gaming, and excessive mobile use.

"It has led to irritability, disturbed sleep-wake schedule, irritable and demanding behaviour. These kids also display restlessness and conduct problems. Ways out to help these kids should be well coordinated, consistent logical ways to resolve problems," Malhotra told reporter.

Sr. Pramila Judith Vas, Principal of Fr. Agnel School in Greater Noida, said that the pandemic changed the education landscape dramatically, with the distinctive rise of e-learning.

"Many parents suffered financially too and expressed their inability to pay fees. Counselling sessions were provided to the parents and their families. Supportive hand was extended to the students to cope up with their emotional responses," Vas told IANS.

## CHANGE OF DOB

I, Dhruv Latoriya S/o of Shri Manoj Latoriya, Resident Ward No.13, Vidhyadhar Colony, Khajuraho, Teh. Rajnagar, Dist. Chhatrapur (M.P.) 471606 that as per the Birth Certificate issued by The Registrar Nagar Panchayat, Khajuraho (M.P.) my true & correct date of birth is 10/02/2002 my date of birth is mentioned as 10/02/2003 in records of my Billabong High International School, Bhopal and my Statement of Marks of ICSE (Class - X) year 2018 & Class - XII, issued by council For The Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi, which is incorrect, would like to correct my Date of Birth as per my Birth Certificate i.e. 10/02/2002



# SHIV SENA SEEKS HC ORDERS TO BMC FOR DASSEHRA RALLY PERMISSION

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Shiv Sena has filed a plea in the Bombay High Court seeking directions to the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to give permission to the party to hold its annual Dashehra rally at Shivaji Park, here on Wednesday.

The plea, filed through Sena lawyer Joel Carlos, was mentioned before a division bench of Justice R.D. Dhanuka and Justice Kamal Khata who have listed it for urgent hearing on Thursday.

In the plea, the Shiv Sena said it has been holding its traditional annual Dashehra rally at the historic Shivaji Park since 1966, barring 2020 and 2021 when it was not held owing to the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

As per procedure, the party applied for permission to the BMC on August 26 to hold the Dashehra rally on October 5 this year.

However, the permission has not been granted for nearly a month now, compelling the party to move the



high court for suitable directions to the BMC.

The Sena -- which has also made the BMC G-Ward Assistant Municipal Commissioner and other officials as respondents -- contended that party activists and leaders from all over Maharashtra and other parts of India reach Shivaji Park without any invite or announcement.

The party said that it has always complied with various legal provi-

sions without creating any law-and-order issues, nor has ever flouted any laws or BMC conditions at the Dashehra rally as it is always organised in a disciplined manner.

Against this backdrop, the Sena urged the high court to immediately direct the BMC to grant permission to hold its annual rally there on Dashehra day (October 5) from 5-10 p.m. within three days.

This year, an unprecedented situa-

tion has arisen with the split in the Shiv Sena party in June, with one faction led by Sena President Uddhav Thackeray and another rebel group headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, which toppled the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on June 29.

Both are claiming to be the 'real Shiv Sena' with their matter pending before the Supreme Court, and are eyeing the Shivaji Park for a similar rally on the same date and timings.

MVA ally Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar has said that the "Dashehra rally at Shivaji Park is synonymous with the Shiv Sena", while Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar and Congress leaders have also supported the Thackeray-led Sena's claim on the venue.

Adopting an aggressive stance, Sena leader Milind Vaidya has said that the BMC and government must either give permission or decline it, and even if refused, the party will hold its calendar event at Shivaji Park as it has been doing for the past 55 years.

# Mumbai varsity to start music college from Lata Mangeshkar's birth anniv

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai University will launch the Bharat Ratna Lata Dinanath Mangeshkar International Music College and Museum with the first six certificate courses from September 28, the 93rd birth anniversary of legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar, who passed away on February 6.

The one-year certificate courses in Hindustani classical music, Indian flute, tabla, sitar, harmonium/keyboard and sound engineering will be launched with an initial intake of 150 students.

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting presided over by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday.

In August this year, the state government had handed over a 7,000-square metre plot owned by the Directorate of Libraries in the Kalina campus of Mumbai University for the music college.

However, as a temporary measure, till the college gets its own building, it will function from the P.L. Deshpande Academy, Shinde said. Lata Mangeshkar desired to start such a music college in memory of her father, Master Dinanath Mangeshkar, and the former Maha Vikas Aghadi government's former Minister Aditya Thackeray had shown her the plot which she had liked.

After her demise, former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had announced that a



world class music college would come up in memory of 'Lata didi', as she was known during her lifetime.

Later, the government had set up a 14-member expert advisory board for the college courses which included Chairman Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Usha Mangeshkar, Adinath Mangeshkar, Suresh Wadkar, Mayuresh Pai, Zakir Hussain, A.R. Rahman and other personalities.

To start with, the teaching posts will be on an emoluments basis and clerical/typist jobs will be filled on an external basis, machinery, equipment and other requirements will be purchased, all at a cost of nearly Rs 1.75 crore per month. This fulfils a commitment made by the state government to start the music college from the current academic year in memory of Lata Mangeshkar.

# Two Maoists, one from Chhattisgarh, with Rs 6-lakh reward, lay down arms

Nagpur | Agencies

Notching another success, two hardcore Maoists, including a woman from Chhattisgarh, carrying a total reward of Rs six lakhs, have surrendered before the security forces to lead a normal life, Gadchiroli Superintendent of Police Ankit Goyal said here on Wednesday. They are Anil alias Ramsay Jagdeo Kujur, 26 of Maharashtra and a woman Roshani alias Irape Narango Paollo, 30, of Chhattisgarh.

Goyal said that Anil, carrying a reward of Rs four lakhs, joined a Kasansur group in December 2009 and then worked with various other Maoist dalams, working as a militia for the past 10 years.

He was wanted for several major offences, including the 2011 Khobramendha encounter and Gyarapatti



Road ambush, and the Chhota Zeliya firing cases, which left one CRPF jawan dead and 10 injured.

Hailing from Chhattisgarh state, Roshani, with a reward of Rs two lakhs, became a rebel in 2009 with the Jetpur Maoist group, then worked in several other dalams before being promoted as a militia in 2018 till date. She was charged with killing three civilians in Gadchiroli in 2015 and was

involved in the 2015 and 2017 forest encounters in Mauja Kundala and Mauja Durwada (both Chhattisgarh).

Upon surrender, the Anil-Roshani duo cited various reasons, including exploitation at the hands of senior Maoists, their selfish style of functioning, lack of privacy or independence to married Maoist couples, increased operations by security personnel.

# Mumbai Metro-3 'sells' naming rights for 5 stations for Rs 216 crore

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In an innovative move, the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (MMRCL) has awarded naming rights for five stations on the Colaba-BKC-SEEPZ Metro-3 line for a whopping Rs 216 crore, a top official said here on Wednesday.

The non-fare revenue benefit shall be available for a period of five years from the commissioning of the line, expected by 2023-end, cumulatively earning Rs 216 crore with 5 per cent annual escalation, or over Rs 40 crore per annum, said MMRCL Managing Director Ashwini Bhide.

The five stations for which the naming rights have been given are: Bandra Kurla Complex, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus to Kotak Mahindra Bank, Siddhivinayak Metro Station to ICICI Lombard, besides Churchgate and Hutatma Chowk Metro stations to LIC.

These companies will be entitled to branding space inside the station, a mention in train announcements and station maps, plus pre-fixing their brand names to the station name awarded to them.



"This is the first step towards generating non-fare box revenue that will ease funding and keep

the fares reasonable for the commuters," said Bhide. She added that the average value realised of Rs 8 crore (\$1.1 million) per station annually is the highest in India and among the highest in the world, beating metros in Dubai, Madrid, Jakarta, and Kuala Lumpur which averaged upto \$1 million per station annually.

With the consortium of Auctus Advisors-StudioPOD handling the bidding process, the MMRCL plans to invite bids for the naming rights of the remaining stations on the Metro 3 soon.

The trial runs for the city's first fully underground Mumbai Metro-3 were started on August 30 even as the project got bogged down due to a row over the crashed, leading to cost escalation and delays.

The work on the Rs 37,000 crore, 33.50 kms Metro 3 corridor started in 2016 and the first phase is likely to be completed by end-2023, linking Colaba in south Mumbai to SEEPZ in north-west, via BKC, with 26 underground stations and one at ground level. Around 99 percent of the tunnel digging work is completed and the overall project execution stands at around 70 percent.

# Nearly 350 kg Heroin worth Rs 1,725 Cr seized in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has made one of the biggest seizures of Heroin from the financial capital Mumbai with the contraband amounting to Rs 1,725 crore in the international market, a senior official said Wednesday.

"A container having more than 22 tonnes of Licorice coated with Heroin has been seized from Nhava Sheva Port, Mumbai," the senior official said.

The official informed that the total quantity of heroin coated on the Licorice is approximately 345 kg.

The massive drug haul comes exactly a year after the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in September, 2021 made the largest contraband seizure in the history of the country by catching a drugs consignment weighing 3,000 kg and worth Rs 21,000 crore at Mundra port in Gujarat.



The DRI had seized the heroin, concealed in a consignment of semi-processed talc stone, between September 17 and September 19, 2021 at Container Freight Station of Mundra Port. The Delhi Police are expected to reveal details of the Mumbai drug haul soon.

# 6 PEOPLE DIE IN ACCIDENTS ON MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD HIGHWAY

Mumbai: Six people were killed in two road accidents on the busy Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in Maharashtra's Palghar district in the last two days, police said on Wednesday.

The driver of a car heading from Mumbai to Gujarat lost control over the wheels, following which the vehicle hit a road divider and rammed into a tempo in Amgaon village of Talasari tehsil late Monday night. Three occupants of the car and the tempo driver died on the spot, an official from Talasari police station said. In a similar accident near the same spot, a car

rammed into a tempo on Tuesday afternoon, he said. The police have registered cases in connection with the two incidents under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Motor Vehicles Act, the official said.

# India creating massive AI database to boost startup ecosystem: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, said on Wednesday that the country is creating one of the largest datasets programmes where anonymised non-personal data will be available for the entire AI ecosystem to boost the startup ecosystem.

"The use of these data sets will be allowed only to Indian startups and companies," Chandrasekhar said during the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) here.

In a fireside chat with Kunal Shah, CEO, CRED, the minister said that some of the dataset will be made available to foreign companies who want to come and create opportunities in India.

"We are also creating joint partnerships between Indian and foreign companies, especially in the DeepTech



area. The government will provide capital access including government contracts to these partnerships to bolster

the entire Indian business sector," Chandrasekhar emphasised.

On semiconductors, he said that the government will invest \$200 million in design startups.

"We are also going to launch a digital university soon," the minister informed.

Commenting on the Data Protection Bill, Chandrasekhar said: "We withdrew the Data Protection Bill 2021 because it had become too complex. As per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, consumer rights must be protected while also making things easy for startups and innovators."

He added that the country will soon see a Digital Personal Data Protection Bill which will be a contemporary global standard framework of laws.

"We will also bring in a Digital India Act that will replace the 22-year-old IT Act," he reiterated.

# BANKS GROSS NPA TO IMPROVE TO 4% BY NEXT FISCAL: CRISIL

The gross non-performing assets (NPA) of the banks is expected to improved 90 basis points on-year to 5 per cent this fiscal year and another 100 basis points to a decadal low of 4 per cent by next fiscal, ratings agency CRISIL said in a release.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

This was on the back of benefits from the proposed sale of NPAs to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL), recovery in economy post pandemic and higher credit growth.

The release said that not all segments will perform equally well. The biggest improvement will be in the corporate segment, where gross NPAs is seen falling below 2 per cent next fiscal from a peak of ~16 per cent as on March 31, 2018.

"The steady improvement in corporate asset quality is clearly reflected in leading indicators such as the credit quality of bank exposures. A CRISIL Ratings study of large exposures of banks, constituting more than half of corporate advances, shows the share of high-safety1 exposures has increased to 77 per cent as on March 2022 from 59 per cent in March 2017, while exposure to sub-investment grade companies more than halved to 7 per cent versus 17 per cent," said Krishnan Sitaraman, Senior Director



and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

This asset quality improvement in the corporate segment follows a significant clean-up done of bank books in recent years, and strengthened risk management and underwriting. This

has also led to increased preference for borrowers with better credit profiles. Gross NPA in the MSME2 segment is, however, expected to rise to 10-11 per cent by March 2024, from 9.3 per cent as on March 31, 2022. While relief measures did help

contain asset quality deterioration last fiscal, the segment saw the most restructuring at 6 per cent compared with 2 per cent for the overall banking sector. About a fourth of these accounts could potentially slip into NPAs.

# Adani Transmission to become net-zero by 2050

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL), India's largest private power distribution company and the transmission arm of the diversified Adani Group, has submitted its Green House Gases (GHG) emission reduction plans, focussing on Science Based Targets initiative (SBTI), an international drive for containing global warming.

ATL has submitted its detailed plan and targets for GHG emission reduction to SBTi within one year towards its commitment to contribute to contain global warming.

As a part of its continued focus on sustainable growth and its net zero journey, ATL committed for the SBTi in October 2021. ATL will act in alignment with the much-needed climate action and devise a strategy to restrict global warming to 1.5



degree Celsius. To meet these targets associated with the SBTi commitment, ATL has rolled out definite strategies. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, ATL's subsidiary AEML (Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd) has

introduced green tariffs, which enables AEML consumers to opt for green energy and receive a Green Power Certificate every month. This initiative is popular with consumers who wish to reduce their carbon footprint.



EDITOR'S SPECS

CLEAN AND GREEN TECHNOLOGIES REQUIRED

The first annual Breakthrough Agenda Report, requested by 45 world leaders, delivers a progress report on the actions needed to deliver on the historic clean technology commitment by governments representing two-thirds of the global economy. The Breakthrough Agenda, as the commitment is known, aims to align countries' actions and coordinate investment to scale up deployment and drive down costs across five key sectors -- power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture. Together, these sectors account for nearly 60 per cent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions today and could deliver the bulk of the emission reductions needed by 2030 in a pathway that would make a significant contribution to limiting global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the Paris Agreement goals. The report notes an increase in practical international cooperation in recent years, and progress in deploying the technologies needed, including a doubling of EVs sales in 2021 from the previous year, to a new record of 6.6 million; a forecast increase in global renewable capacity of eight per cent in 2022 -- pushing through the 300GW mark for the first time and equivalent to powering approximately 225 million homes; and forecast global electricity generation cost reduction of at least \$55 billion in 2022, based on new renewable capacity added in 2021. However, the report also warns that far greater international cooperation is needed to get the world on track to meet its climate commitments. IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said the energy and climate crisis has exposed the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of a system heavily reliant on fuels of the 20th century. The report puts forward 25 recommendations for leaders to discuss at the Global Clean Energy Action Forum and the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial to be held in Pittsburgh, the US, from Wednesday to Friday.

# Indian diplomacy's ace performance at Samarkand

Asad Mirza

During the last fortnight, India has asserted itself diplomatically by refusing to join an important pillar of the US-led IPEF, and at the same time Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Samarkand has demonstrated his governments resolve to act globally and resolutely in interactions with regional leaders.

The 22nd summit of the eight-nation Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) took place in Uzbekistan's capital Samarkand, last week. The summit was held amid the growing geo-political turmoil set-off by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Straits.

China which initiated this regional grouping as Shanghai Five in 1996, has transformed the forum into an influential grouping of eight nations, with many more like Iran to join as a permanent member and diverse countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Belarus and Mongolia being given Observer status, which shows its transformation into an influential regional forum, besides challenging to other western regional alliances.

In his address at the summit, Modi obdurately touched every relevant aspect of the current geo-political situation. He urged SCO to strive to develop reliable, resilient and diversified supply chains in the region. For this, better connectivity will be required, besides giving full rights of transit to each other, he asserted, in a veiled reference to Pakistan. He also batted for making India a regional manufacturing hub. On tackling the challenges of food security, he spoke of India's efforts to popularise millets as an alternative and cheap option.

In a speech that was otherwise free from references to India's regional issues on terrorism with Pakistan and on territorial sovereignty with China, Modi called for greater cooperation in the Eurasian region. He also focused on initiatives on manufacturing that India is willing to pilot in the next year, when India assumes the chair of the SCO and hosts the Summit in mid-2023.

**Modi-Xi Jinping meeting**  
The most important meeting from India's standpoint was a possible meeting between



Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Everyone wondered whether roadblocks have been cleared and temperaments cooled after the recent success of commander level talks between two countries on the issues of Chinese aggression in the Ladakh region in May 2020.

But, officially the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) mentioned no such meetings. In fact, Samarkand offered the perfect opportunity for two leaders to reset the ties. But there seemed little willingness from the two sides, to compromise. In fact, if the reports are to be believed, the exchange between the two leaders, reminded one of the cold treatment meted out by Modi to former Pakistan's Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif at the 2014 SAARC summit, though it eventually ended with a handshake at the last moment, but nothing such happened in Samarkand. But the moot question here is whether China is in a mood to mend ties with India? Well, it seems no, not at the moment perhaps. Modi and Xi have met twice earlier but that is not enough to read each other's thoughts and also make a convincing and principled case, though both the countries stand to gain much economically,

if ties are improved. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, when asked about a meeting that never happened said that he did not "think there is anything more to read into that".

**Modi-Putin meeting**  
Modi's bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the summit also received a lot of attention. The two leaders shared the customary diplomatic greetings, with Modi specifically emphasising that the modern era was not a time of war. According to reports, Putin acknowledged India's position on the Ukrainian conflict and reaffirmed his commitment to a speedy resolution.

India and Chinese leaders expressing their concerns directly with the Russian leader about the war in Ukraine is reflective of global concerns about the effects of its aggression, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said last week. The mainstream American media praised Prime Minister Modi for telling Putin that this is "not the time for war" in Ukraine. It was the lead story on the web-pages of both The Washington Post and The New York Times, and was widely carried by the mainstream American media.

**Modi-Erdogan bonhomie**  
Among other impromptu meetings was the one important one between Modi and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which was held unannounced on September 16. After the meeting, Modi underlined that the focus was on economic ties between the two countries.

The MEA, in a statement, described the meeting as a review of current India-Turkey relations. While noting the increase in recent years in economic relations, particularly bilateral trade, it acknowledged the potential for further enhancement of economic and commercial partnerships. Erdogan last visited India in 2017.

While India-Turkey's economic and commercial cooperation constitutes an important dimension of the bilateral relationship, diplomatic ties have been adversely impacted over Turkey's public criticism of the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

**Modi-Raisi meeting, looking ahead**  
Another important meeting at Samarkand was between Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Both the leaders took the opportunity to discuss boosting ties in areas like energy, commerce and connectivity. They also reviewed progress of the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar Port and there are indications that the Iranian president also discussed a new mechanism to supply crude oil to India on rupee payment basis, instead of American dollars. This may bring the two countries closer on the trade and economic fronts.

The manner in which Modi and his diplomatic team carried the business at Samarkand shows the maturity and coming of age of the Indian diplomacy under the Prime Minister.

India will be hosting the next SCO Summit in 2023, and this will offer Modi an opportunity to develop the organisation into a more meaningful and cohesive organisation. A fact evident by the number of countries, which are desirous of joining it, due to its regional potential.

## international

# RUSSIA TO BEGIN PARTIAL MILITARY MOBILISATION: VLADIMIR PUTIN

Moscow | Agencies

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilisation during an address to the nation on Wednesday, adding that the Defence Ministry had recommended drawing military reservists into active service as the country faces a protracted conflict in Kiev and the separatist Donbas region in eastern Ukraine.

The measure is sensible and necessary under the circumstances that Russia is fighting "the entire Western military machine" in Ukraine, RT news quoted the President as saying.

He has already signed an order for the call-up to start immediately.

The move will see the armed forces draw on military reservists only, and those who have completed national service, Putin said.

He promised that they would be provided with additional training, along with all the benefits due to people involved in active duty, RT reported.

Some senior officials in NATO states have even suggested that using tactical nuclear weapons against Russian troops would be justified, according to Putin.

The Russian leader stressed that Moscow would not hesitate to retaliate to such an attack with its own nuclear weapons, RT reported.



Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu revealed some details about the mobilization in a separate statement on Wednesday.

He said his Ministry wanted to call to arms some 300,000 reservists, or just over 1 per cent of Russia's full mobilisation potential.

Putin has accused Kiev of backing away from peace talks with Moscow, which he said it had done on the instructions of its Western allies.

Instead, the Ukrainian government has doubled down on military action, he was quoted as saying "After certain compromises were reached (with Moscow), Kiev received a de facto direct order to

derail all agreements. More weapons were pumped into Ukraine. The Kiev regime deployed more gangs of international mercenaries and nationalists, military units trained to NATO standards and under de facto command of Western advisers," Putin said. Russian forces sent to Ukraine in February have secured a large portion of territory claimed by the "Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics", as well as parts of Ukraine, he said, adding that the resulting frontline stretches over 1,000 km, RT reported.

He warned the US and its allies against ramping up pressure on Moscow. Western nations are openly pursuing a military defeat of Russia, seeking to push the country into insignificance and to loot its natural wealth, he stated.

"Parts of Western elites use every effort to preserve their dominance. That is why they try to block and suppress any sovereign centres of development, so that they can continue to brutally force their will on other nations and peoples, to impose their pseudo-values," he explained.

"Their goal is to weaken, disunite and ultimately destroy our nation." Putin also commented on the upcoming referendum in the two Donbas republics and two regions of Ukraine currently controlled to a large extent by Russian troops.

# B'desh dengue cases surpass 12,000 mark, with biggest daily jump



Dhaka | Agencies

The number of dengue cases in Bangladesh has surpassed the 12,000 mark this year as 438 new cases were confirmed in the last 24 hours, the biggest single-day spike since January, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Bangladesh has witnessed a significant spike in dengue cases this month, with 5,826

cases and 24 deaths registered, Xinhua news agency quoted the DGHS as saying.

In August, 3,521 more dengue cases were recorded after 1,571 people were infected with the mosquito-borne disease in July, according to official figures.

Dhaka and its neighbouring districts are the most vulnerable to the risk of mosquito-borne diseases, according to the DGHS, with 315

dengue cases reported in Dhaka in the last 24-hour period. The fresh infection tally indicates the fast-rising trend of the mosquito-borne disease in the Bangladeshi capital city.

Authorities in Dhaka have recently strengthened mosquito eradication drives as dengue infections usually start rising in the country during the June-September period.

# NINE DEAD IN CONTAINER DEPOT COLLAPSE IN BRAZIL

**Sao Paulo:** At least nine people were killed and as many as 28 injured when part of a container depot collapsed in Brazil's southeastern state of Sao Paulo, the fire department has reported.

The incident occurred on Tuesday in the city of Itapeverica da Serra, at a depot belonging to Multiteiner, a company that sells and leases containers to businesses that export goods, Xinhua news agency reported.

About 64 employees were in a meeting at the depot when a platform collapsed, according to fire department spokesperson Luciana Soares, who added that rescue workers were sifting through the rubble to help the victims.

The incident took place as two candidates for deputy seats, Jones Donizette and Ely Santos, were visiting the facility on a campaign trail in the lead-up to the October 2 elections.

"As they were saying goodbye to the workers, part of the concrete structure broke and they were trapped in the rubble," a press team for the candidates posted on social media.

# Iran's Prez calls for nuclear deal guarantees, closure of IAEA inquiry

**Tehran:** Iran needs reassuring guarantees as well as the closure of the ongoing inquiry into the Islamic republic by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) before a nuclear deal can be reached, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has said.

According to a statement published on the Iranian presidency's website, Raisi on Tuesday made the remarks in a meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Xinhua news agency reported.

Iran is ready to reach a "fair and stable" nuclear



agreement, but considering the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran's demand to "receive reassuring guarantees" is "completely reasonable and logical", said Raisi.

The Iranian president also described the IAEA's inquiry as "a serious obstacle to reaching an agreement," noting that "we believe that without the closure of Iran's cases, it is not possible to

reach an agreement". As for Iran-Europe relations, Raisi said that the improvement of Iran's relations with Europe depended on the independence of the countries of the European continent from the will and opinion of the US.

Iran signed the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, agreeing to curb its nuclear program in return for removing sanctions on the country. However, former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement and reimposed sanctions on Tehran.

# Al Qaeda terrorists evicted from Yemen province

Sanaa | Agencies

Yemeni government forces have evicted scores of Al Qaeda terrorists from the war-torn country's southern province of Abyan following days of armed confrontations, a military official confirmed.

"Military units of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), which are part of Yemen's government, attacked Al Qaeda hideouts and positions in various mountainous areas of turbulent Abyan, making headway on the ground," the official told Xinhua news agency.

STC troops' anti-terror operations is still in progress and have forced Al Qaeda militants to leave various strongholds in Abyan, including the large valley of Omaram, after leaving terrorist casualties, the official confirmed.

"After expelling Al Qaeda militants from their bastions in Abyan, the STC troops backed by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition began preparations to



storm more mountainous areas controlled by the terror group."

Last month, the STC troops launched a major anti-terror operation code-named "Arrows of the East" in Abyan to combat terror groups. The Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) network has been responsible for many high-profile attacks against the security forces in the country's southern provinces. The AQAP has exploited years of deadly conflict between the Yemeni government and Houthi militia to expand its presence in the war-ravaged Arab country.

# AUSTRALIAN STATES LIKELY TO BE HIT BY FLOODS IN COMING DAYS

**Sydney:** Residents in Australia's already deluged east coast have been asked to prepare for further thunderstorms, intense rain, hail and gusty winds as the nation confronts another series of wild weather conditions.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) said on Wednesday that an extensive band of rain and thunderstorms is sweeping across much of inland New South Wales (NSW), southern Queensland and northern Victoria, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall, reports Xinhua news agency.

Severe thunderstorms are possible for inland NSW and southern Queensland with damaging winds and heavy rainfall leading to flash flooding expected. The BoM has issued a severe weather warning for heavy rainfall for parts of central NSW, urging local residents to keep clear of creeks and storm drains, and not to drive, ride or walk through flood water.





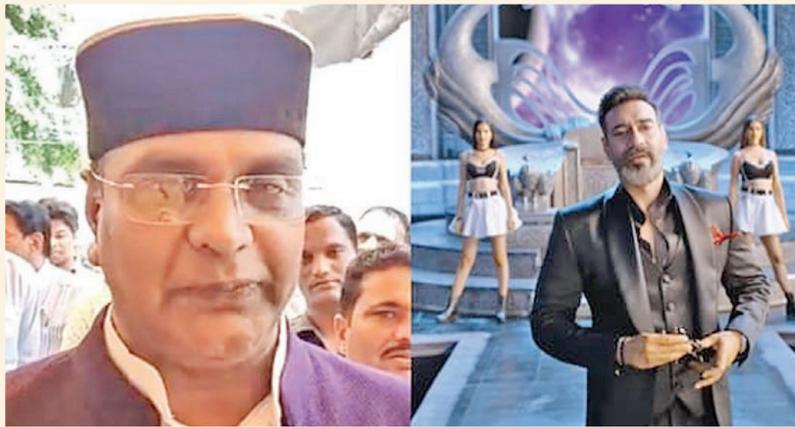
ROW OVER FILM 'THANK GOD': MP MINISTER SEEKS BAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The controversy over Ajay Devgan-Sidharth Malhotra starrer upcoming Hindi movie 'Thank God' has erupted in Madhya Pradesh too after a senior minister in the BJP ruled state demanded a ban on its release.

Vishwas Sarang, who is also the higher education minister in Shivraj Singh Chouhan cabinet, wrote a letter to Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur and demanded a ban on the film.

In his letter, Sarang has claimed that the upcoming comedy film 'Thank God' has showcased an inappropriate depiction of Hindu Gods. "In a fresh such incident, Ajay Devgan starring in the movie - 'Thank God', Chitragupt, who is considered as the God of Kayastha community, has been portrayed with half-nude women and derogatory language has been used in the movie. It has hurt the sentiments of the people of Kayastha community across the country and therefore, this movie should be banned," the BJP minister wrote in his letter.



Sarang, who is the MLA from the Narela Assembly constituency in Bhopal, also belongs to Kayastha community. He also mentioned in his letter that there has been a trend in Bollywood to depict Hindu Gods and Goddess in wrong manner, thereby hurting the sentiments of Hindus in the country.

Earlier, a case was filed against director Indra Kumar, actors Ajay Devgan and Sidharth Malhotra, in a Jaunpur court Uttar Pradesh by lawyer Himanshu Srivastava. The petitioner's statement will be recorded on November 18. According to the petitioner, the film's trailer, which has been released, mocks religion and has

hurt religious sentiments. 'Thank God' is an upcoming family entertainer film which stars Ajay Devgan, Sidharth Malhotra and Rakul Preet Singh in the lead role. The movie is set to release in theatres on October 25, however, the controversy emerged after its official trailer was released recently.

Minister Bhupendra Singh instructs to make contractual appointments in urban bodies by November 30

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has directed that according to the Municipal Contract Service Rules-2021, contract appointments should be made by November 30 for smooth functioning of urban bodies. Minister Singh has said that at present there is a need to make appointments on the posts of Junior Engineer, Account Expert, Fire Brigade Manager, Office Assistant, Computer Operator, Sanitation Assistant at the earliest. Retired officers-employees from the state government or



Development for the recruitment on contractual posts in municipal corporations and from Joint Director, Urban Administration and Development for Municipal Councils and City Councils. Issue advertisement by October 18

public undertakings can be appointed on the regular posts which are vacant for the last 6 months.

Minister Singh said that the selection process should be followed for contractual appointments. Permission has to be obtained from the Commissioner, Urban Administration and

Minister Singh has directed that the required posts in all urban bodies should be assessed by September 28, 2022. After completing all the necessary procedures, the urban bodies should issue an advertisement for the appointment on contractual posts by October 18, 2022, and ensure to complete the selection process by November 30, 2022.

CONDUCT CAMPAIGN TO GIVE LEASE TO ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES OF URBAN AREAS - BHUPENDRA SINGH

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has directed that a campaign should be launched to give lease to the eligible beneficiaries of urban areas as per the provisions of the Act. Minister Singh has also given instructions that according to the provision of MP Nazul land lease, a proposal to amend the Act should be sent in a week regarding giving ownership of land to residential lease holders.

It is worth mentioning that in the MP Urban Area Landless Persons Grant of Lease Rights Act 1984, there is a provision for grant of lease of residential land in urban areas. Under this, by running a special campaign in 2017, the leases of residential land were distributed to the eligible persons. After this, instructions were issued to give lease of residential land in the year 2021 also.

A proud moment for AIIMS Bhopal

Patient cured of a complex disease causing severe constipation in babies with only one surgery without making any cut in the tummy

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal has become the first hospital in the Bhopal region to successfully treat a baby boy suffering from a complex disease known as Hirschsprung's disease with only one surgery (Primary Transanal Endorectal Pullthrough) without any cut on the tummy of the baby. This surgery is done via the natural path available through the hole (anus) from which the baby passes stools. In the commonly practiced method of treatment at most of the centres, two or three surgeries are done for complete cure. The credit for the surgery goes to a team of Pediatric Surgeons led by Dr. Amit Gupta. This would not have been possible without the much needed support from Department of Radiology, the team of Anesthetists, Head department of Pathology and her team. This 6-month baby was brought in a very sick condition with complaints of long-standing constipation and bloated tummy. He was initially treated for Hirschsprung's enterocolitis as indicated by the symptoms and was operated later at 9-months of age. The disease was confirmed later on special investigations, contrast enema done with support from Radiology and rectal biopsy done with support from department of Pathology. On discussing this option with Dr. Amit Gupta (Associate Professor Pediatric Surgery), he readily agreed to offer this surgical treatment. He reassured them that he had already passed on the benefit of this procedure to twelve such patients at Lady Harding Medical College, New-Delhi. The baby is absolutely fine and healthy with good weight



gain and normal development 6-months since the surgery. Listing the advantages of this surgery, Dr. Amit Gupta, told that - there is no need to make a cut on the tummy as the whole operation is done through the natural hole (anus) from where the baby passes stools, pain is also less than the operations done through the tummy and the patient can be cured of the disease in only one surgery. This treatment can be called "magical scarless surgery" as there is no visible scar on tummy and the scar of operation is hidden inside the passage from where the stools are passed. Another such surgery was performed three months later increasing the total count to two Primary TERP procedures done at AIIMS Bhopal. The second baby was seen soon after birth and was operated at 3-months of age. This surgery has placed AIIMS Bhopal in the prestigious list of very few centres in our country where such a treatment is available. The purpose of this article is to spread awareness so that more and more patients get the benefit of this "magical" procedure Primary TERP.

Animal Husbandry Department got budget a month before, to stop lumpy: Minister Prem Singh

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY MINISTER PREM SINGH PATEL SAID THAT ALL DISTRICTS SHOULD KEEP ADEQUATE STOCK OF ANIMAL MEDICINES AND ENSURE VACCINATION. IN THE DEPARTMENTAL MEETING HELD TODAY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MINISTER PATEL, IT WAS INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF LUMPY SKIN DISEASE, THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT HAS ALLOTTED THE AMOUNT A MONTH PRIOR FOR THE PURCHASE OF MEDICINES IN ALL THE DISTRICTS. VETERINARIANS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING MADE AWARE.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Control room and toll free numbers have been set up at the state level. Instructions are being circulated continuously. Veterinarians have been told that as



soon as animals develop mild fever and symptoms of lumpy, they should contact the nearest veterinary hospital-dispensary or control room at Bhopal on telephone number 0755-

2767583 and toll free number 1962 immediately. Lumpy gets cured with immediate treatment. So far, out of 7 thousand 686 affected animals in the state, 5 thousand 432 animals have

been cured of lumpy disease. It was informed that it is difficult to save animals whose treatment is delayed or who have been infected with pneumonia. Last week the Union Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain reviewed the efforts taken against lumpy in Ujjain district immediately after its emergence in Gujarat and Rajasthan. It may be noted that in Ujjain, immediately after issuing prohibitory orders, sale and purchase of animals, animal haat market and movement of animals was stopped. Leave of all officers and employees of the department was suspended. Vaccination has been done in all gaushalas.

EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO PREVENT LUMPY VIRUS LIKE COVID: CM CHOUHAN

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that efforts should be made to prevent lumpy virus like Covid control. Gram Sabhas should be organised to create awareness. Arrangements have been made by the state government to vaccinate cattle free of cost. Communication media should be used for public awareness. CM Chouhan called a special meeting to get information about the efforts to control lumpy disease and gave instructions.

Major instructions of Chief Minister Chouhan: Take the lumpy virus seriously. It is a contagious disease of serious nature. It is not to be taken lightly.

Our duty is to put an end to this.

- Inform the livestock owners about the necessary measures for the control of the virus, and also inform by calling the Gram Sabha. Vaccination of cows should be done in gaushalas. Vaccination of other animals should also be done. Restrict the movement of animals from the villages of infected animals to other places. To ensure that the disease does not spread, all precautions should be taken.

Shivraj and Kamal Nath mourn the death of Raju Srivastava



Bhopal| CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma and Congress State President Kamal Nath have expressed grief over the death of comedian Raju Srivastava. On the death of Raju Srivastava, who has been ill for the last few days, Chief Minister Chouhan said in his condolence message, "Very sad news was received of the death of famous comedian Raju Srivastava, who gave a new color to humor with his art. That you left a huge void that will never be filled in the entertainment world. You will always be remembered for your humour, energy and humour."

Congress state president Kamal Nath said, "The news of the demise of famous comedian Raju Srivastava is very sad. I express my condolences to you."

Condoling the death of Raju Srivastava, BJP State President Sharma said, "The news of the demise of eminent comedian Raju Srivastava is extremely sad. Praying to God to give place to the departed soul at his feet and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear the immense loss.

IF THE MP GOVERNMENT HAS COME OUT OF THE CHEETAH EVENT, THEN SHOULD WORRY ABOUT THE COW: KAMAL NATH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress State President Kamal Nath has made a big attack on the arrival of animals in the grip of the increasing outbreak of Lumpi virus in Madhya Pradesh. He has said that, the government has been engaged in 'cheetah event' for the last several days, now if they has come out of the cheetah event, then should take care of the cows.

It is to be known that the lumpi virus has caught the animals in large parts of the state. So far more than a hundred animals have died in the state. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan called an emergency meeting, while on the other hand Kamal Nath has attacked.

Congress State President Kamal Nath said about the increasing outbreak of Lumpi virus, the outbreak of Lumpi virus is increasing day by day in Madhya Pradesh. In many parts of the state, cows are getting infected with this virus in large numbers, as well as the cows are dying due to this virus. The necessary steps that the government had to take in time, they have not taken them yet.

Recently, cheetahs from Namibia have been released in the Kuno National Park of Sheopur district. On this, Kamal Nath said tauntingly, the government has been engaged in 'cheetah event' for the last several days, now if that cheetah has come out of the event, then it should take care of the cows in the state. Every day pictures of dying cows due to this virus are



coming to the fore. Questioning the condition of gaushalas, he said, "Today, the condition of gaushalas and cows in Madhya Pradesh, are getting worse, they are not even getting food to eat, there is a lot of disorder in gaushalas." Due to which the pictures of the death of thousands of cows have come to the fore so far. In view of that, today there is a need to take care of cows and gaushalas in the state, but the full attention of the government is now focused on cheetah event instead of cows.

Holiday on polling day in 46 urban bodies of MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Elections are going to be held in 46 urban bodies in Madhya Pradesh on September 27. There will be a holiday in the area concerned for voting. The state government has issued these instructions. It is to be known that in 46 urban bodies of 18 districts of the state, polling will be held on September 27 from 7 am to 5 pm. General and public holiday has been declared by the state government for voting in 46 urban

bodies. The holiday will remain in the concerned urban body area of the district.

From the point of view of the politics of the state, these urban body elections are very important because the places where these are being held are tribal dominated areas. Because of this both the major political parties, BJP and Congress are putting their full emphasis. The process of selection of candidates is going on in both the parties along with the responsibilities for the elections are also being assigned.

Flood of fake officers in Indore, after fake judge, SDM, now fake crime branch officer arrested

Team Absolute | Indore

Indore, the business city of Madhya Pradesh, is in discussion these days due to fake officers. First fake SDM, fake judge were caught, now a fake officer of crime branch has come under police custody. The latest case is related to cheating a victim by posing as a crime branch officer. The name of the person caught by the police is being told as Pawan alias Prithviraj, who tried to cheat a victim by posing himself as a crime branch officer. It has been told that a man's wife and child had gone missing, for this he sought help on social media, then a thug approached him by pretending to be a crime branch officer. After that Pawan cheated the victim, Girish, for one lakh, grabbed money and house registry papers. The victim, Girish, showed

courage after being cheated with him and reached the police and he has told that Pawan describes himself as a crime branch officer, when it was certain that Pawan was cheating, the police caught him.

Earlier, in Indore, the police had caught a fake SDM, this woman named Neelam Parashar had posted herself by typing a letter in the name of the governor, similarly the vicious miscreant who bullied herself as a judge of Dewas court. The picture of a retired Supreme Court judge was kept in the house and he used to go to the parties of hotels and pubs in Indore, as well as threaten the operators. Similarly, in Indore itself, a woman who took a doctor's degree from Karachi, Pakistan was also caught, on the charge of making a fake medical certificate.

Advertisement for 'आशीष केटर्स न्यू रंगीला लाईट टेंट हाउस' (Ashish Caterers New Colorful Tent House) with contact information and services listed.

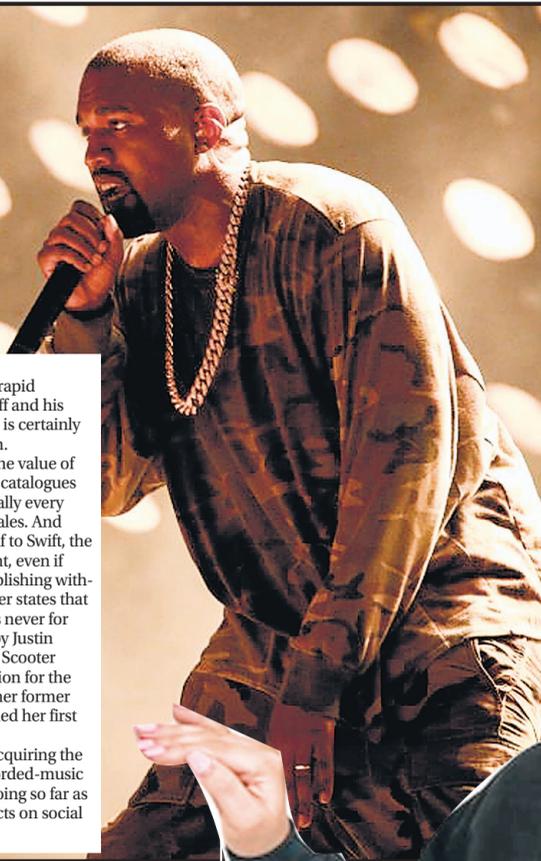


# Kanye claims his song catalogue is on sale without him knowing

Los Angeles | Agencies

American rapper Kanye West has questioned a 'Billboard' report that his 'camp' has been quietly shopping his song catalogue. He wrote in the story section of his Instagram on Tuesday: "Just like Taylor Swift... my publishing is being put up for my sale without my knowledge."  
 Billboard reported that members of the rapper's team "have met selectively with prospective buyers to explore what kind of valuation his song catalogue could fetch," estimating that they are seeking \$175 million. In another Instagram Story, West posted a screenshot of a text message with an unnamed person, with West asking, "Can you ask Gee who is selling my publishing," likely referring to his manager Gee Roberson.  
 As is often the case with West, there's a lot to unpack in the situation. First, it is difficult to imagine anyone in his camp shopping the rights to his music without his knowledge,

although with the frequent and rapid turnover of his management staff and his multiple ongoing projects, there is certainly potential for miscommunication.  
 According to a magazine, as the value of publishing and recorded-music catalogues has soared in recent years, virtually every major artist has explored such sales. And although West compares himself to Swift, the situations are drastically different, even if someone were shopping his publishing without his knowledge. Variety further states that Swift's publishing catalogue was never for sale; instead, a consortium led by Justin Bieber/Ariana Grande manager Scooter Braun paid a reported \$300 million for the rights to the masters owned by her former label Big Machine, which included her first six albums.  
 West has made noise about acquiring the rights to his publishing and recorded-music at least twice in the past, even going so far as to post excerpts from his contracts on social media in 2018.



# 'I'd love to have another child - but they won't replace Azaylia': Safiyya Vorajee

Los Angeles | Agencies

Safiyya Vorajee has revealed that she would love to one day welcome another child to continue her late daughter Azaylia's 'legacy' following her death.  
 The mum and former partner Ashley Cain lost their daughter on April 24, 2021, when she was just eight months old following a courageous battle with acute myeloid leukaemia.  
 And in an interview with MailOnline, Safiyya told how she visited a medium in a desperate search for 'answers' following her loss, before coming to the realisation that she could see another baby in her future. Speaking to the launch of her second collection with jewellery brand Abbott Lyon in tribute to her daughter, the mum told how she'd finally become open to the idea of other children after previously being staunchly against it - but noted that Azaylia could not be 'replaced'.  
 Safiyya



explained:

'At the start it was completely out of the question, I didn't want another child and that's because I didn't want to feel like I was replacing Azaylia because she would never be replaced. I then went to see a medium, I just needed answers from somewhere.  
 "The medium asked me if I could see another child, and I said "oh no no" straight away. And she said "I want you to know that you will never replace Azaylia, this will be an addition to Azaylia and Azaylia would love that". Safiyya continued: "When I heard that, it wasn't so much that always believed mediums and what my readings are, it was more like what she said to me, that Azaylia will never be replaced, that she's an addition - an addition to you. So if you had another child, they'd be another addition."  
 "The fact that she said that to me, it gave me the hope to think that I would love to have another brother or sister for Azaylia.

# Olivia Wilde commands attention in sexy red suit

New York | Agencies

Olivia has been generating headlines ever since becoming entangled in controversy over her new film Don't Worry Darling. The actress, was looking her best in a bold red suit as she headed out in downtown Manhattan. The stunning suit featured a plunging neckline which flashed a hint of cleavage and billowing trousers that concealed her footwear.  
 Her brunette tresses cascaded down in voluminous waves and a trace of makeup made her natural beauty pop even more. She beamed with joy as she ventured outside carrying a can of Coca-Cola with a chic black purse hanging from her arm.  
 Olivia was also spotted earlier that day in Manhattan following a workout. The Drinking Buddies actress wore a blue 'New York Dolls' tank top, black leggings, and pair of shades.  
 She appeared deep in thought as she strode through the concrete jungle in her trainers. A bright red tote bag was slung over her shoulder as she carried her cellphone.  
 The latest sightings come after more drama was generated following the NYC premiere of Don't Worry Darling. While Olivia, her boyfriend Harry Style, and fellow co-stars Gemma Chan and Sydney Chandler were all in attendance, stars Florence Pugh and Chris Pine were noticeably absent from the red carpet.  
 Again, Styles and Wilde appeared keen to shrug off any signs of upset, although the pair were seen exchanging several intense glances during the red carpet, with the singer-turned-actor at one point appearing to glare at his girlfriend with a furrowed brow - the only sign of distress that was visible throughout the evening.  
 Wilde recently hit out at claims that there was any crossover in her relationships, telling a magazine: "The complete horses\*\*t idea that I left Jason for Harry is completely inaccurate.



# KATE BECKINSALE RECREATES MARILYN MONROE'S ICONIC FLYING SKIRT PHOTO

New York | Agencies

Kate Beckinsale had a Marilyn Monroe moment as she posed for a stunning snap she shared with her fans. The actress put on a leggy display as she donned a white sleeveless mini dress with a v-neckline and embroidered detail.  
 Kate recreated the famous image of Marilyn stood over a New York City subway, with the breeze causing her dress to blow up as she filmed a scene for the 1955 film The Seven Year Itch. Kate added height to her frame as she donned a pair of towering beige heels while stood on wooden decking. The Underworld actress styled her brunette locks into pig-tails and complimented her outfit with a pair of sunglasses. Kate's dress had 'Oh no' written in bright red print across the front, with the star giving her photo the same caption. The playful post comes after Kate has recently been busy promoting her new film Prisoner's Daughter in which she stars opposite Succession actor Brian Cox. In addition to Kate and Brian, the movie stars performers such as Tyson Ritter, Jon Huertas and Ernie Hudson. 'I want to fully immerse the viewer in Kate's character's intense world as she, her father and her young son try to heal generational family trauma and find a new way forward,' Director Catherine Hardwicke said.



# 'I'm very much in love - I always wanted the fairytale': Rita Ora

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rita Ora has spoken of her love for husband Taika Waititi in a rare interview after secretly tying the knot earlier this summer. The singer insists she is head over heels with the filmmaker, and hints she is planning another big wedding in London for her friends and family.  
 Pop star Rita who has never explicitly confirmed the marriage - although her close friends have, says she took inspiration from her parents - her mother Vera and her father Besnik - in her search for love after learning from their strong more than 30-year relationship. She said on Jaime Winstone's Greatest Night Ever podcast: 'I'm in love. I'm very much in love, amen! But I love as well. I've always been such a believer in it and I've always felt like I always wanted the fairytale and that's what I grew up loving.' On her mum and dad, she added: 'My parents have been together for over 30 years, so for me it was always about love and finding a partner

and all that, so I'm really happy I did. I made that choice. It made me happy and I love Taika. He's so funny and lovely.'  
 It emerged Rita had married Taika Waititi in an intimate ceremony in London in August. At the time, the star was said to have changed her surname, meaning she will now be known as Mrs Waititi-Ora.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Ferne McCann



## National Games

# GUJARAT MEN, WEST BENGAL WOMEN CLINCH TABLE TENNIS GOLD

Surat | Agencies

Favourites Gujarat men's table tennis team gave their fans much to cheer about as they clinched gold without dropping a single set in the final against Delhi while West Bengal beat Maharashtra in the women's final of the 36th National Games here on Wednesday.

These were the first Gold medal matches in the National Games being held after seven years.

Maharashtra and West Bengal took the men's bronze medals after their semifinal losses while Tamil Nadu and Telangana claimed the women's bronze medals.

Gujarat, the top seed in the men's tournament, was in roaring form since the start of the competition and the only question was if Delhi could at least put up a fight. The home team's domination was so absolute that they did not drop a single rubber through the competition as they surged to open Gujarat's account on the medal's table.



Going in to the final, the only change they made was that Manav Thakkar took captain Harmeet Desai's place in the first singles match. Thakkar dominated Sudhanshu Grover in the opening set. Though the Delhi paddler put up a fight in the next two sets, he could find a way past the former junior World No. 1 and went down in straight sets 11-3, 13-11, 14-12. Earlier, in the women's final, the

experience of Mouma Das and Sutirtha Mukherjee helped West Bengal get the better of Maharashtra's young guns 3-1. Reethrishya Tennison then levelled the scores for the defending champions beating Sutirtha in straight games. Chitale now needed to beat Mouma Das to put Maharashtra ahead. The youngster started strong by winning the opening set 11-6 but it was her 38-year-

old who frustrated her by making her work hard for every point. Swastika Ghosh put up a far better show in the reverse fixture against Sutirtha Mukherjee, taking the Tokyo Olympian to five sets. But the experienced Bengal paddler kept her nerves in the decider to take a sizeable lead and won on her second match point.

### The results (finals):

**Men:** Gujarat beat Delhi 3-0 (Manav Thakkar bt Sudhanshu Grover 11-3, 13-11, 14-12; Harmeet Desai bt Payas Jain 11-7, 11-3, 12-10; Manush Shah bt Yashansh Malik 11-4, 11-9, 11-4).

**Women:** West Bengal beat Maharashtra 3-1 (Ayhika Mukherjee bt Swastika Ghosh 11-3, 11-5, 11-3; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Reethrishya Tennison 9-11, 11-13, 9-11; Mouma Das bt Diya Chitale 6-11, 16-14, 10-12, 14-12, 11-6; Sutirtha Mukherjee bt Swastika Ghosh 11-4, 11-13, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6).

## IND Women vs ENG Women

# Mandhana becomes quickest Indian woman to complete 3000 runs in ODIs

Canterbury | Agencies

Star opener Smriti Mandhana on Wednesday became the quickest India women's player and the third quickest Indian after Shikhar Dhawan and Virat Kohli to complete 3000 ODI runs during her team's second ODI against England, here.

While Dhawan completed 3000 ODI runs in 72 innings, Kohli did so in 75 innings. Mandhana took one more innings than Kohli, reaching the milestone in her 76th innings.

The left-handed opener, who made her ODI debut in 2013, has five hundreds and 24 fifties in the format, and is the third India women's player after Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur to reach the 3000-run mark in the format. In terms of quickest Indian women cricketer, Mandhana surpassed former skipper Mithali who had achieved the feat of 3000 runs in 88 innings. A total of 22 women's play-



ers have over 3000 ODI runs, but only two have gotten to the landmark quicker than Mandhana -- Belinda Clark (62 innings) and Meg Lanning (64 innings).

Since her debut in ODIs, only seven women's batters have made more runs than her in the format. Only three, however, have made more scores of fifty or more in women's ODIs in this time frame. The ongoing series between India and England

is the second series in the ICC Women's Championship cycle for India. The tournament decides qualification for the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2025.

Mandhana started the series with a compelling 91 off 99 balls in Hove, helping India to a seven-wicket win on Sunday. She started off well in the second ODI as well, getting to 40 off 51 balls, before she was trapped in front by Sophie Ecclestone.

# India to host maiden MotoGP race in 2023, MoU signed for 7 years

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a significant boost for motorcycle racing in India, the country will be hosting a maiden MotoGP World Championships race, labelled as 'Grand Prix of Bharat', at the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) in Greater Noida next year.

MotoGP commercial rights owner Dorna Sports S.L. and Noida-based race promoters Fairstreet Sports on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to host the premier two-wheel racing event in India for the next seven years.

Riders from as many as 19 countries will participate in the event, which will give a



major push to trade and tourism in the country, besides generating employment. "MotoGP also has plans to also introduce MotoE into the Indian racing scenario which will not only be a first in Asia but a significant green initiative with net zero carbon emission," the event

organisers said in a release. Incepted in 1949, MotoGP is the world's fastest motorcycle racing Championship and continues to draw in new fans and audiences around the globe. It is the world's third most-watched sporting event after the Olympics & FIFA World Cup.

# The Oval, Lord's to host next two ICC World Test Championship finals in 2023, 2025

Dubai | Agencies

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed that The Oval in London will play hosts to the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final in 2023, with the 2025 edition of the finale to take place at Lord's.

The dates for both the 2023 and 2025 WTC Finals will be confirmed in due course. During the ICC Annual General Meeting in Birmingham in July, England had been identified as the hosts for the next two WTC Finals.

"We are delighted to be hosting next year's ICC World Test Championship Final at The Oval which has such a rich legacy and an amazing atmosphere, which is ideal for such an important fixture on the



calendar. Following that we will then take the 2025 Final to Lord's which will provide a fitting backdrop to the ultimate Test." "Last year's final between New Zealand and India in Southampton was an engrossing encounter and I am sure fans the world over would be looking forward to the next WTC final at The Oval. On

behalf of the ICC, I would like to thank the England and Wales Cricket Board, Surrey County Cricket Club and Marylebone Cricket Club for their support," said ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice in an official release. Currently, Australia and South Africa are occupying the top two places in the WTC 2021-23 cycle

league table.

"It's a real honour that The Oval has been selected to host the final of the World Test Championship. To have the two best teams in the world playing here in south London will be a fantastic occasion. Next year promises to be a superb summer of cricket at The Oval and this match will be a brilliant part of it," said Steve Elworthy, CEO of Surrey County Cricket Club.

Lord's was originally scheduled to host the inaugural WTC final in 2021, but it had to be shifted to the Ageas Bowl in Southampton because of Covid-19 restrictions, where New Zealand were crowned champions after defeating India. The iconic venue will now host the showpiece finale in 2025 after The Oval was given 2023 final hosting rights.

## Pan Pacific Open

# ZHENG QINWEN ROUTS TOP SEED BADOSA TO REACH QUARTERS

Tokyo | Agencies

China's Zheng Qinwen continued to soar in her breakthrough season, knocking out No 1 seed Paula Badosa 6-3, 6-2 in 78 minutes in the second round of the Pan Pacific Open to reach the quarterfinals of the tournament, here on Wednesday.

This is the 19-year-old's first completed Top 10 win. Previously, she had advanced over Ons Jabeur via retirement in the second round of Toronto. It puts Zheng into her third tour-level quarterfinal of 2022, and second at WTA 500 level or above.

"It was a big match for me. Even though the score was like this, there were a lot of emotions for me in this match and I'm very proud of myself. It's not a surprise - I always knew I had the level, I just had to make it," said Zheng.

The teenager's overall record this year is now 34-15, and 19-15 at the tour level. Having ended 2021 at No



143, she has risen to a career-high this week of No 36. She also came into this match in supreme form after a 6-1, 6-4 first-round defeat of Misaki Doi that had seen her win 19 points in a row.

If anything, the scoreline against Badosa does not do justice to Zheng's

level of dominance. She was initially slow to find the range on her forehand, and fell behind an early break.

But once she had settled, Zheng was imperious. From 3-1 down in the first set, she reeled off the next seven games, and 11 of the next 13. She did not face another break point in the

match, in total, she tallied seven aces and won 82 per cent of the points behind her first serve.

The Chinese player also repeatedly teed off on the Badosa serve, blitzing three clean return winners in one game to break the Spaniard at the start of the second set. She was clutch in important moments, too, winning three consecutive games from 30-30 to turn the first set around, and fired 18 winners overall.

Though extended exchanges were few and far between, such was the quality of Zheng's first strikes, she was also able to outlast the World No 4 in athletic longer rallies as well. Zheng proved adept at soaking up her opponent's pace; unable to find a way through, Badosa ended up with 20 unforced errors to only six winners.

Zheng will next face either Elise Mertens or Claire Liu as she bids to reach her second WTA semifinal, and first at WTA 500 level.

# Gaurika finishes with a hat-trick over Pranavi in 13th leg of WPGT

Gurugram | Agencies

Gaurika Bishnoi finished her second round with a flourish with three birdies on the trot in the last three holes in the 13th Leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour at the DLF Golf & Country Club, here on Wednesday.

Gaurika, who has not tasted victory since the seventh leg of the 2019 season, carded 3-under 69, the only under par round of the day. With Pranavi Urs, her nearest rival, struggling on the back nine with two bogeys and a double bogey, Gaurika snatched a massive six-shot lead with 18 more holes to go.

The last time Gaurika won, Pranavi was still an amateur and had finished second at Clover Greens in Tamil Nadu in June, 2019.

Gaurika has now carded 71-69 to Pranavi's 71-75. Tied with Pranavi for the second place was overnight leader, Nayanika Sanga, who after a 70 in the first round was unable to find a single birdie. Nayanika finished 4-over 76.

On a day when scoring was not easy, Sneha Singh (77-74) was fourth with Oviya Reddi (75-78) fifth. Seher Atwal (75-80) was sixth.



# Time has come to develop new, young finishers like Rahul Tewatia, Shahrukh Khan: Saba Karim

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Saba Karim, the former India wicketkeeper-batter and ex-member of the senior men's selection committee, feels that time is ripe for Indian team think-tank to develop new and young finishers like Rahul Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan so that the side has more options in this department for the future.

Tewatia was a key player in Gujarat Titans' winning IPL 2022, amassing 217 runs in 16 matches at a high strike rate of 147.62 and forming a formidable finishing pair with South Africa's explosive left-handed batter David Miller.

Shahrukh, on the other hand, had a patchy time with Punjab Kings in the tournament, making only 117 runs in eight innings at an average of 16.71 and strike rate of 108.33. Moreover, with his form not up to the mark, he wasn't given consistent enough runs at Punjab to show more of his famed finishing skills. "I think the time has come now to develop such young cricketers. Because you see, in the IPL most of the teams prefer to



have an overseas batsman at that position. So, you can have David Miller you have Tim David you have Rovman Powell which means that still the young talent who are coming through from the Indian domestic circuit, they're still not equipped enough to handle the pressure and to deliver on a consistent basis," sai Karim on 'Sports Over The Top' show on Sports18.

# I won't be a ghost, says Federer

London | Agencies

Swiss legend Roger Federer confirmed that he would be still involved in tennis after retirement and told tennis fans all over the world on Wednesday that "I won't be a ghost."

Federer, 41, announced last Thursday that he would retire from Grand Slams and the ATP Tour after the Laver Cup held from September 23 to 25 in London.

The 20-time Grand Slam winner will only play one doubles match this time in London, but he was sure that he would not leave the tennis world even though he hasn't had any specific plan yet, reports Xinhua.

"I just wanted to let the fans know I won't be a ghost," said Federer. "Tennis has given me too much. I've been around the game for too long. Falling in love with too many things. I



love seeing people again. That's kind of what I wanted to let the fans know that you'll see me again."

"But what it could be, in what capacity, I don't know. I still have to think about it a little bit," added Federer.

Federer made his professional debut in 1998 at 16 years old before winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003.

As one of the greatest tennis players of all time, Federer said he was most proud of his longevity.

"I was famous for being quite erratic in the beginning of my career. And maybe I was famous for being not so consistent at all," said Federer. "And then to become one of the most consistent players ever is quite a shock to me as well. That has been a great accomplishment for me personally."



## Inspiring life of Raju Srivastava: From Rs 50 per show to 'King of Comedy'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Indian comedy galactic cluster lost its brightest star in the form of Raju Srivastava, who passed away on Wednesday at AIIMS, New Delhi. Srivastava's journey to become one of the most widely recognised Indian comedians was rife with struggles and reinventions as an artiste and as a person.

Raju was born in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, to a government employee and poet, Ramesh Chandra Srivastava, and homemaker, Saraswati Srivastava. Named Satya

Prakash Srivastava at birth, Raju harboured the dream of becoming a comic artiste since his childhood and he moved to Mumbai in the 1980s to give a definitive shape to his dream. He initially struggled to get work because comedy was a new art form for the mainstream back then. To make ends meet, Raju started driving an auto-rickshaw but kept his passion alive by performing in stand-up shows for a measly sum of Rs 50.

After a few years later, he landed a small role in the Bollywood movie 'Tezaab' in 1988. He then went on to work in the Salman Khan-starrer 'Maine Pyar Kiya' in

yet another little-noticed role.

Srivastava continued doing low-profile gigs, including appearing in Shah Rukh Khan's 'Baazigar' until Doordarshan's 'Tea Time Manoranjan' happened to him in 1994. Later, he bagged a role in 'Shaktimaan', which is arguably India's first sci-fi show with some backward special effects. He got the nation's attention in 'The Great Indian Laughter Challenge', where he was the second runner-up, but he went on to win the title of 'King of Comedy' in the spin-off show, 'The Great Indian Laughter Challenge - Champions'. His stage characters

of Gajodhar and Manodhar on the show have been loved by everyone. One of the episodes, which was the highlight of the show, was his Diwali special act wherein he appeared as different types of firecrackers that are burst during the festival. He also appeared in the third season of the reality television show 'Bigg Boss', 'Nach Baliye 6' and 'Comedy Nights With Kapil'. Later in 2014, he ventured into politics and was fielded on the ticket of the Samajwadi Party from Kanpur for the Lok Sabha elections. He returned the ticket, however, saying he was not getting enough support from the local

units of the party. After that, he joined Bharatiya Janata Party on March 19, 2014.

Later, he served as the brand ambassador of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign and was the Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council. In that capacity, he laid the foundation for the upcoming NOIDA film city project. Battling odds, but on his own terms, was Srivastava's way of life. A mortal human at the end of it, he lost his last fight, stretching over 43 days, against death. But his work has assured him immortality.

## Divyanka Tripathi DISMISSES RUMOURS TO APPEAR IN SALMAN'S HOSTED REALITY SHOW



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Divyanka Tripathi, who rose to prominence as Ishita in Yeh Hai Mohabbatein, is a well-known name in the entertainment industry. With the new season of Bigg Boss approaching, there have been several reports claiming that the actress will appear on the show. Divyanka, on the other hand, has put all rumours to rest with her latest tweet.

Divyanka confirmed that she will not be appearing in the upcoming season. She did, however, acknowledge the support she was receiving from fans. While tweeting the actress stated, "Hi! Since all my admirers and viewers are very eager to know, I am compelled to tweet that - 'I am not a part of Bigg Boss. Whatever you are hearing and reading in this regard is false news.' Thanks for overwhelming love always!"

In terms of Bigg Boss 16, Salman Khan's show will premiere on October 1. This time around, contestants such as Munawar Faruqui, Jannat Zubair, Faisal Shaikh, Tina Datta, and Fahmaan Khan are expected to compete with each other



OUR BODIES CAN CHANGE, BUT OUR SPIRIT NEED NOT: KAJAL AGGARWAL

Team Absolute | Chennai

Kajal Aggarwal, who has now taken a liking for horse riding, said that our bodies could change but our indomitable spirit and burning passion need not. The actress, who only 4 months after delivering a baby, is back at work shooting for director Shankar's much-awaited 'Indian 2', featuring Kamal Haasan in the lead, took to Instagram to explain how she has got back into the grind because of her determination and passion for cinema. Posting a video clip of her riding a horse, she wrote: "Eager and excited, I jumped back into work four months post-partum! Little did I realise that it would feel like starting from scratch. My body wasn't the same as how it used to be. Pre-baby, I could endure very long workdays with taxing amounts of physical activity and then hit the gym." "Post baby, it's been hard to get back my energy levels. Mounting a horse, let alone riding it seemed like a huge task! My body protested with the martial arts training that came so easily to me earlier."

"Our bodies can change/ may change/ will change but our indomitable spirit and burning passion, need not. We've got to just keep showing up for ourselves and consistently making each day count. It's all about what we choose to prioritise to focus on and not feel guilty about our choices." Commenting on 'Indian 2', she said: "I'm so glad I've jumped back into the drill with you. Stoked to learn new skills on the job and pursue them as hobbies after. So fortunate to be a part of this industry I call home!"

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actress Kirti Kulhari, who made her mark in the industry with 'Khichdi: The Movie' is all set for her short film 'The List' opposite Angad Bedi. She spoke about her role and how it is going to be different from her previous projects. She said: "It's a story of a couple who live together and supposedly do everything together. It is an emotionless, expressionless, feelingless entity that we both are playing. That's what the film is about. It's not one which has character traits and all of that. It's something that people will really understand once they see the film. I don't know how to define my role and put it into characteristic traits."

She added: "It's completely different from what I have ever done before. I am known to be somebody who portrays emotions well, someone who has feelings on her face and her eyes. People like me because I am able to emote. And as I said, there is no emotion in this film." "That's the fact why people choose me to play complex characters, to bring humanness and depth to them. This particular film and the role is deprived of any kind of emotion and humanness. So in this one respect itself it's completely different from what I have ever done before." Revealing her look in the film, she said: "I have a completely different hairstyle. The trailer has shown that. Even the way we are styled in the film, it's very structured. My hair is very different and immediately gives me a very different look. It's almost like I am a robot."



It's a complete different role from my earlier role's: Kirti Kulhari

## AMIT TRIVEDI, AAMIR MIR, ASEES KAUR ROLL OUT FUNKY FESTIVE NUMBER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Composer-singer Amit Trivedi recently released his latest single 'Dhol', it is a foot-tapping number, which sets the tone for the upcoming festive season and Navratri celebrations.

The song, penned by Jayashri Trivedi, has been co-sung by Aamir Mir and Asees Kaur and manages to strike a balance between a melodious track and a fun traditional dance number.

Commenting on the song, Amit Trivedi said in a statement: "After the success of 'Moti Veraana' and the love that we received for the song, we thought of coming out with 'Dhol'."

"The idea was to create a catchy foot-tapping number that would make the listener



wear their dancing shoes especially since this year garba and dandiya celebrations will be on ground for the first time post the pandemic."

He added: "I sincerely hope, 'Dhol' receives as much love from the audiences as my previous tracks and people enjoy it just as much as we did while making it."

On the big screen, meanwhile, Amit is gearing up for two simultaneous releases: R. Balki's 'Chup - Revenge of the Artist' and the Amitabh Bachchan and Rashmika Mandanna-starrer 'Goodbye'. Trivedi has composed and sung for both films.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Rubina Dilaik