Sunday Special

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India stands for rule-based maritime borders in...

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We should credit our bowlers; they read pitch well...

India clinches seventh Women's Asia Cup title; outplay Sri Lanka by eight wickets

CHAMPIONS

- Smriti played a stunning knock and finished it off in style with a six over long-on for an unbeaten 51 off 25 balls, laced with six fours and three sixes, to complete the chase with 11.3 overs to spare, in an innings where rest of Indian batters made 20 off 26 balls.
- On a pitch tailor-made for spinners to excel as the ball kept low and turned square, pacer Renuka Thakur shined with 3/5 in three overs while Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/16) and Sneh Rana (2/13) had economical spells apart from Deepti Sharma conceding just seven runs in her four overs to keep Sri Lanka to 65/9.

SYLHET (BANGLADESH) | Agencies

Spinners and Renuka Thakur came up with a stellar show in restricting Sri Lanka to a lowly 65/9, before Smriti Mandhana smashed an unbeaten 25-ball fifty to help India clinch their seventh Women's Asia Cup title, outplaying Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the title clash at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Electing to bat first, Sri Lanka had a horrendous start as captain Chamari Athapaththu ran herself out for a non-existent single in the third over. In the next over, Renuka broke the back of Sri Lanka's innings by taking out Harshitha Madavi and Hasini Perera apart from another terrible run-out of Anushka Sanjeevani. Renuka got her third wicket in the final over of power-play when Kavisha Dilhari missed a swipe across the line and was clean bowled to leave Sri Lanka at 16/5 in power-play. Post power-play, Rajeshwari and Sneh compounded Sri Lanka's misery by sharing four wickets between themselves to keep them to 65/9. Only Inoka Ranaweera (18 not out) and Oshadi Ranasinghe (13) could reach double figures for Sri Lanka in a disappointing batting show. In reply, Smriti began with a punchy drive through extra cover off Sugandika Kumari.

Brief Scores

Sri Lanka 65/9 in 20 overs (Inoka Ranaweera 18 not out, Oshadi Ranasinghe 13; Renuka Thakur 3/5, Sneh Rana 2/13) lost to India 71/2 in 8.3 overs (Smriti Mandhana 51 not out, Harmanpreet Kaur 11 not out; Inoka Ranaweera 1/17, Kavisha Dilhari 1/17) by eight wickets.

She then danced down the pitch to loft Oshadi inside-out over extra-cover and then followed it up with a pull through square leg. After Smriti lofted Inoka for a clean six over long-on, Shafali Verma tried to do the same, but came down the pitch too early and was beaten by turn as well as extra bounce to be stumped easily. In the next over, Jemimah Rodrigues danced down the pitch early, but the ball kept low and went past her to hit the base of off-stump. The fall of back-to-back wickets had no effect on Smriti, who punched past a leaping cover and crunched through the gap off Kavisha for successive boundaries. On a pitch where batters struggled to do well, she was hitting boundaries with immaculate ease. Smriti danced down the pitch again to lift Inoka over mid-off and thumped Oshadi over long-on to take a brace of fours. She finished off the chase and got her fifty by smacking a massive six over long-on off Oshadi for India to be Asia Cup 2022 champions.

Keeping an eye

40 flying squads to rigorously monitor enforcement, compliance of air pollution norms

Keeping in view the air quality of Delhi and NCR which has already started deteriorating, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas has urged all concerned including industries and construction agencies to strictly follow the statutory directions issued by the Commission.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The 40 inspection teams and flying squads constituted by the Commission are under directions to intensify inspections, supervise and rigorously monitor enforcement and compliance of statutory directions issued by the Commission to ameliorate the air quality of Delhi-NCR. These flying squads will conduct surprise inspections and field level incognito checks at industrial units, C&D sites, commercial/residential units, air pollution hotspots, etc. These flying squads will widely cover all parts of Delhi-NCR to track down violators and report the details to the Commission for stringent actions against them.

Officials said that CAQM will make every effort towards strict enforcement of its statutory directions and orders. Violations and non-compliance of the directions issued by the Commission air pollution control rules/regulations are being viewed very seriously. The Commission in case of gross violations will not only pass closure orders but will also impose Environmental Compensation (EC) and initiate prosecution. Citizens have been advised to strictly follow steps highlighted in the Citizen Charter in each stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) earnestly in the coming days. Moreover, CAQM has also advised the State implementing agencies including State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and DPCC to ensure compliance and strict implementation of the directions issued by the Commission.

British Sikh 'Polar Preet' to trek 1,100 miles across Antarctica

- Captain Chandi, also known as "Polar Preet", became the first woman of colour in January this year to complete a solo and unsupported 700-mile trip to the South Pole in just 40 days, five days ahead of her finishing schedule.
- Chandi is the third fastest female solo skier for the expedition behind Johanna Davidson of Sweden and Britain's Hannah McKeand. She is also the first person to reach the South Pole on foot in two years, the Guardian reported.
- Antarctica is the coldest, highest, driest and windiest continent on Earth and nobody lives there permanently.

LONDON | Agencies

Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer Preet Chandi, who made history by trekking to the South Pole, is now going for a record-breaking 1,100 miles trek across Antarctica -- solo and unaided!

The 33-year-old will pull all her kit and supplies on a sledge (pulk), weighing around 120kg (19 stone) at the start of her epic journey in November, while battling temperatures of -50c and wind speeds of up to 60mph.Chandi, the British Army website reported, will make slower progress at the beginning because of the extra

weight of her pulk, a type of sledge pulled by a person and used to carry equipment and supplies. Her pulk will include ice screws, an ice axe, crevasse equipment and crampons which are only needed for the last part.From the South Pole to the base of the glacier is around 655 km. Of this, about 140 km is on the glacier which climbs from around 763m to 2,931m.

World's largest passenger plane Airbus A380 arrives in B'luru airport

Bengaluru became the first southern city in the country where services of world's largest passenger aircraft is launched.

BENGALURU | Agencies

The world's largest passenger plane Airbus A380 operated by Emirates' arrived at the Kempe Gowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The arrival of this wide-body aircraft shows the operation capability and rising passenger demand at Bengaluru airport. The enhanced premium experience that the new A380 service brings to the Dubai-Bengaluru route will not only meet the strong travel demand but also help to stimulate traffic between the two markets, Raghunath added.

Emirates' flight took off from Dubai at 10 a.m. and landed in Bengaluru at 3.40 p.m. The occassion was marked by celebrations. The special flight operating as EK562 was greeted with a procession of follow-me vehicles, arrived ahead of the launch of scheduled A380 services, which will begin on October 30, an official statement said.

- Starting on October 30, Emirates' A380 flights between Dubai and Bengaluru will operate as EK568 and EK569. The daily flight leaves the airline hub at 21:25 hour, arriving in Bengaluru at 2:30 local time the next day. The return flight departs Bengaluru at 4:30 hour and arrives in Dubai at 7:10 hour.

ONCE A GUN-WIELDING MAOIST, TRIBAL MLA FROM TELANGANA GETS PHD

Hyderabad: From a gun-wielding Maoist to lawyer to a legislator and now PhD in political sciences, Danasari Anasuya's life is full of struggles. Seethakka, as the Congress leader and member of the Telangana Assembly, is popularly known, Tuesday took to Twitter to declare that she has completed the PhD from Osmania University. The 50-year-old tribal MLA did her PhD in social exclusion and deprivation of migrant tribals of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh - a case study of Gotti Koya tribes in Warangal and Khammam district. She thanked her PhD guide Prof. T Tirupathi Rao, former Vice Chancellor of Osmania University, HOD Prof Musalaia, Prof Ashok Naidu, and Prof Chandru Nayak. Congratulations poured in for Seethakka on her achievement. Leaders of Congress and people from different walks of life congratulated her and expressed their best wishes for her future endeavors.

Astronauts aboard SpaceX spacecraft safely splash down on Earth

- *The international crew of four NASA astronauts Bob Hines, Kjell Lindgren, and Jessica Watkins and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti spent 170 days in orbit.*
- *The Crew-4 mission was launched on April 27 on a Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.*
- *Hines, Lindgren, Watkins, and Cristoforetti traveled 72,168,935 miles during their mission, spent 170 days aboard the space station, and completed 2,720 orbits around Earth.*
- *Throughout their mission, the Crew-4 astronauts contributed to a host of science and maintenance activities and technology demonstrations.*

WASHINGTON | Agencies

NASA's SpaceX Crew-4 astronauts aboard the Dragon spacecraft safely splashed down off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, early on Saturday, completing the agency's fourth commercial crew mission to the International Space Station. Teams aboard SpaceX recovery vessels retrieved the spacecraft and astronauts.

After returning to shore, all astronauts will fly to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. Cristoforetti then will board a plane to Europe.

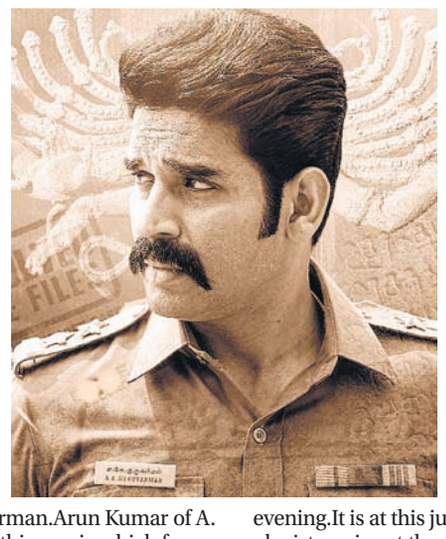
"Welcome home Crew-4! This international crew has spent nearly six months on the International Space Station conducting science for the benefit of all. Their work aboard the orbiting laboratory will help prepare future explorers for future space missions," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a statement.

Cristoforetti completed two

spacewalks with Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev to perform station maintenance and upgrades.They continued work on investigations documenting how improvements to the space diet affect immune function and the gut microbiome, determining the effect of fuel temperature on the flammability of a material, exploring possible adverse effects on astronaut hearing from equipment noise and microgravity, and studying whether additives increase or decrease the stability of emulsions.The astronauts also investigated microgravity-induced changes in the human immune system similar to ageing, tested a novel water-reclamation membrane, and examined a concrete alternative made with a material found in lunar and Martian dust.

A supernatural film that speaks of glory of Pallavas

Chennai | Agencies



Close on the heels of the success of director Mani Ratnam's magnum opus, 'Ponniyin Selvan' which talks about the rule of Cholas, comes the news that another Tamil film which speaks about the greatness of the Pallavas is now getting made.Titled 'Nandivarman', the supernatural mystery thriller has been directed by debut filmmaker Perumal Varadhan, who said that he chose to name his film after the Pallava dynasty's most accomplished king, Nandivarman.Arun Kumar of A. K. Film Factory is producing this movie which features 'Kavalthurai Ungal Nanban' fame Suresh Ravi in the lead with Asha Gowda playing the female lead character.The others in the star cast include Nizhalgal Ravi, Bose Venkat, Aadukalam Murugadoss, Gajaraj, Ambani Shankar, Mullai Gothandam, Meesai Rajendran, Asuran Appu, Bommi Rajan, J.S.K Gopi and many more prominent actors.The story revolves around a team of archaeologists who arrive in a place called Hanumanthapuram to excavate a region believed to be once ruled by King Nanidvarman of the Pallava dynasty.

King Nandivarman was killed by deceit almost a 1000 years ago and soon after that, the land that he ruled began witnessing supernatural and paranormal events after 6 p.m. every day. People dwelling in these lands don't step out of their homes after 6 in the evening.It is at this juncture that the team of archaeologists arrive at the place to excavate the land to know more about Nandivarman and his kingdom.

However, the team members start getting mysteriously killed one by one... This forms the crux of this story that is narrated with engrossing thriller moments laced with historic reference and entertaining elements.

INDIA STANDS FOR RULE-BASED MARITIME BORDERS IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: RAJNATH

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reaffirmed India's resolve for open, free and rule-based maritime borders in the Indo-Pacific region.

Singh underlined that India, throughout history, has been a peace loving society which has never invaded a foreign land and has always respected universal human values & territorial integrity of other countries, while treating them as equal partners.

While addressing the 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) here on Saturday, the Defence Minister stressed that oceanic space should be respected as a global common for the benefit of all humanity in an environmentally sustainable way."We stand for open, free, rule-based maritime borders in Indo-pacific, in which no nation, how-so-ever big, may be allowed to appropriate the global common or exclude others from its fair use. We are always ready and forthcoming to work with all the like-minded partner countries across various forums towards this endeavor," Rajnath Singh said.

The Defence Minister stressed that India's shared vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth of All in Region), Sustainable Development Goals and 'Rule Based Order at Sea' complement the focused Indian approach of inclusive growth and lasting collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region.

He highlighted India's focus towards blue economy, and strongly advocated the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs and preserving the health of ocean ecosystem.

Rajnath Singh voiced India's commitment to implement international regulations; enact legislations for maritime safety and security; establish cooperative mechanism with nations and engage in capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies.

He emphasised that India is also encouraged by the effectiveness of agreements like Regional Cooperation Agreement for Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia and considers mutual cooperation alone as the most effective way for ensuring safety and security at sea. He called for sparing no efforts while promoting such cooperative mechanisms.

Another video surfaces, guard beaten up in Ghaziabad society

Ghaziabad | Agencies

It appears that beating of guards in the society is now becoming common. First in Noida and then in the society of Ghaziabad, many such videos have come out of late, in which people were seen beating the guards.

In the latest development, a new video has surfaced, in which a man is seen beating up a guard in the Windsor Paradise Society of Raj Nagar Extension, Ghaziabad. This video is of October 10.

According to the information received from the Ghaziabad Police, a family had recently shifted their house in the Windsor Paradise Society built in Rajnagar, after which when they were entering the society. The guards present there did not recognize them and asked about their whereabouts, on which the man got so angry that he thrashed the guard fiercely. The whole incident was captured in CCTV. A case has been registered after the complaint was given by the guard and action is being taken.

Heavy rains to lash TN for the next few days

Chennai | Agencies

Pre-monsoon showers are to continue in Tamil Nadu till October 18, according to the Indi Meteorological Department (IMD).

The rain activity has gained momentum in the state after back-to-back cyclonic circulations forming in the Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea.

Isolated heavy rains are likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikkal till October 18. The cyclonic circulation lies over west central and adjacent Southwest Bay of Bengal in lower tropospheric levels and another cyclonic circulation will form over the Andaman Sea around October 18.

The northeast monsoon is likely to touch Tamil Nadu shores in the last week of October. Meanwhile, rains continue to lash Erode, Salem, Kallakurichi, and Tiruvannamalai districts of Tamil Nadu. Around 100 people were evacuated to relief centres in Erode district after heavy rains led to the inundation of their homes.

Now friends of media executive Zulfiqar, missing in Kenya, appeal to PM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Friends of media executive Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan, who went missing in Kenya 80 days ago, have appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure his safe return.

The 48-year-old Khan, or Zulfi as they call him, as one would call him, is an alumnus of St Joseph's School, Nainital, and Hansraj College, New Delhi. Having an illustrious media career - he last worked as the COO of Balaji Telefilms, and before that was Managing Director of the OTT platform HOOQ and the Business Head and Chief Revenue Officer of Eros Now.

"Zulfi has been a keen sportsman, a foodie, an avid traveller, climber and explorer. His passion for cricket is well known to us all - every run, every ball, every pitch is discussed threadbare by Zulfi with friends willing to listen!" a friend recalled.

His trip to Kenya was yet again the explorer in Zulfi wanting to experience a new country, the friend said, adding that his friends enjoyed watching his social media posts of breath-taking Masai Mara and all the amazing food he was partaking of.

In telephone conversations with friends, he said he was returning on July 24 but planned to be back towards the year end to witness the 'Great Migration' across the Mara River.

But, after July 21, there was complete silence. No Facebook or Instagram updates, no phone calls, and what worried all his friends the most - WhatsApp messages weren't showing as received. He had spoken to some of his friends just days earlier and talked about wildlife at length and advised them to visit this "lovely" place. And then Zulfi just disappeared, said his friends.

"It's been more than 80 days now and yet no one has any idea about his whereabouts. Local Police in Kenya are clueless. They have been asked by the High Court of the land to produce Zulfi but they have no idea where he is."We don't know if there is a serious search operation to find him. We don't know if the Indian Government has demanded an explanation from the Kenyan Government about their missing citizen. We don't even know if our own High Commission in Kenya is helping in any way. With this note, we want to make people aware about who Zulfi really is, question his disappearance, and plead with our Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene and ask the concerned Government of Kenya to start a search operation to get him back," said his friends.

Incorporate feminist thinking in way to deal with law, Justice Chandrachud urges law graduates

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday recommended law graduates incorporate feminist thinking in the way they deal with the law.

In his address at the 9th convocation of National Law University, Delhi, where he was the chief guest, he, at the beginning of his address, expressed awe at the number of gold medals bagged by female students in the university.

He said it is just an indicator of the times that we live in and the times that are going to come. "But I was also struck by the fact that almost all gold medals have been instituted by Shri so and so. And that's an indicator of the times which were of a male dominated, patriarchal profession and society we live in...," he added.

"We must understand the rule of law does not depend merely on the Constitution or on legislation; it largely depends on the political culture and the citizens, especially young legal professionals like you."

He said laws can only do so much until all of us are willing to participate in its endeavour and a law is not an antidote to prevailing social values, rather, it is a means to forge a new future based on the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. "We live in a society governed by rule of law. Rule of law if understood and implemented properly is a defense against oppressive structures such as patriarchy, casteism," he said.

Justice Chandrachud advised law graduates: "I would like to particularly advise you to incorporate feminist thinking in the way you deal with the law."

He added that as a junior judge of Bombay High Court, he used to sit in the criminal roster with Justice Ranjana Desai and they heard diverse criminal appeals. Justice Chandrachud said sitting with a colleague who add more diverse exposure to realities of gender gave him the necessary feminist perspective.

He also urged students to look beyond the self-centred vision of their own existence and they must strive to make the legal profession more inclusive and accessible and that there was sufficient creativity in the law.

Justice Chandrachud said women lawyers may especially find it challenging to work in a male dominated profession and one of the great learnings of the pandemic is that when we went virtual in our court hearings, the number of women lawyers who were appearing in the court dramatically increased.

"So, technology has been a great enabler in liberating young women today in their access to the legal profession," he said.

BJP candidate in Munugode faces protests

Hyderabad | Agencies

BJP candidate Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy faced protest from supporters of Congress, TRS and CPI on Saturday during the campaign for Munugode Assembly by-election.

The protesters raised slogans against Rajagopal Reddy for imposing a by-election on the people of Munugode after bagging Rs 18,000 crore contract from the Centre.

They stopped the vehicle of Rajagopal Reddy and other BJP leaders and questioned him about his move to quit as MLA and resign from Congress party to join the BJP.The Congress workers alleged that Rajagopal Reddy betrayed the people after they voted and elected him in the 2018 elections.

The incident occurred in Kothulapuram in Samsthan Narayanpur 'mandal' (block) when Rajagopal Reddy was campaigning.

Rajagopal Reddy is at the receiving end ever since he admitted during an interview to a television channel that his company bagged Rs 18,000 crore contract six months ago.

He resigned from Congress and also as MLA in July and joined the BJP in August during a public meeting addressed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Munugode.

Four police personnel among eight held for gambling in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad | Agencies

Four policemen were among eight people arrested for gambling in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city.

A team of the State Monitoring Cell, headed by Superintendent of Police Nirlipt Rai, on Friday evening raided a gambling den and arrested eight persons.

The arrested included Police Sub Inspector Dharmendrasinh Parmar, Kheda, Ahmedabad crime branch's Assistant Sub-Inspector Hitendrasinh Champawat, Hitendrasinh Takhatsinh serving at Naroda Police station and Ahmedabad city police control room constable Kishorsinh Anupsinh.

Police have recovered Rs 1.80 lakh cash, a car and two two-wheelers during the raid.

The Monitoring cell officer said that the said gambling den is run by Lakshman Rawat alias Babu Dabhi, who is a habitual offender.

Babu Dabhi was operating the den from his house in Sabarmati area, the police added.

No legal bar in making same-sex partners insurance policy bank account nominees

Kolkata | Agencies

There is no legal bar for anyone in making their same-sex partner as a nominee in insurance policies in the name of that person, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has confirmed in a reply to an RTI application by a Kolkata-based queer couple, Suchandra Das and Sree Mukherjee.

Speaking to reporter, Suchandra informed that the LIC has clearly mentioned in its reply that there is no illegality in nominating any person, including a stranger or a legal entity.

"In effect this means that there is no bar for a policy holder from making a person not related to him or her by birth, consanguinity, marriage or adoption as his or her nominee," said Suchandra, who is a professional photographer.

Her partner Sree Mukherjee is a digital marketing professional.

Suchandra also informed that they had made a similar RTI application to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asking whether any person not related to him or her by birth, consanguinity, marriage or adoption as his or her nominee in the bank account. "RBI has replied on this count but its answer lacks clarity like that of LIC. However, quoting Section 45ZA to 45ZF of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, that deals with the issue of nomination, the RBI maintained that that there is no mention of any condition nor there are any restrictions regarding who can be a nominee. So, from this reply it is clear that no bank can insist that I can make only someone related to me as a nominee," she added.

However, there is a catch in the entire matter, explained a senior counsel of Calcutta High Court.

"Becoming a nominee in an insurance policy or bank account, does not necessarily make that nominee a successor of the insurance proceeds or the funds in the bank account concerned," Gupta told reporter.

"A nominee is an authorised person of the policyholder to whom the insurance company will hand over the insurance funds in the absence of the policyholder. However, the nominee can only be the recipient of the money and is duty bound under law to hand over the entire money to the successor of the deceased. A nominee, therefore, is merely an agent of the policyholder," he said.

Lone terrorist behind Kashmiri Pandit's killing, says J&K Police

Srinagar | Agencies

A lone terrorist was responsible for the killing of local Kashmiri Pandit, Puran Krishan Bhat, in his native village in Shopian district on Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir Police said.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, South & Central Kashmir range, Sujit Kumar told some reporters that although the detailed investigation is still going on, preliminary reports indicate that a lone militant was responsible for the killing of the Kashmiri Pandit in Chaudhrigund village.

Asked about the Kashmir Freedom Fighter (KFF) group that has claimed responsibility for the killing, the DIG said it is just a fake proxy group of militants. He said if any security lapse comes to light during the investigation, those guilty of such a lapse would be punished.Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya visited the village and said that all assistance would be provided to the family.The body of the deceased is being taken to Jammu for the last rites.

CHANGE OF NAME

I ILAKE SNEHA PRAMOD is legally wedded spouse of No. 15732223K NK ILAKE PRAMOD DILIP presently residing at At/Po Karambali Tal- Gadhinglaj, Karambali, Kolhapur Maharashtra Pin-416526 have changed my name from REDEKAR SNEHA BAPUSAHEB to ILAKE SNEHA PRAMOD vide affitdavit No. 75AA 724054 dated 14/10/2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,No. 15440427M Rank of HAV Name ARUN H and presently working at Military Hospital,Bhopal have changed my spouse name from DRISYA ARUN to DRISYA V due to erroneously mentioned name as DRISYA ARUN vide affitdavit No. 75AA 724053.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. 572339M Nb/Sub NELSON BECK s/o FILIP BECK presently residing at Vill Khajurtala Post Aksi PS mahuadanr Aksi Latehar Jharkhand Pin-822119 have changed my daughter's name from SEREYA AKANCHA BECK to SHREYA AKANKSHA BECK vide affitdavit No. 75AA 724055 dated 14/10/2022.

CHANGE OF NAME

I No. JC571222F Sub ANUP CHOUDHURY S/O Late ATINDRA CHOUDHURY presently residing at Vill Trishabari PO Moharchhara Moharcherra Taliamura Khowai Tripura Pin-799203 have changed my daughter's name from ASMITA CHOUDHARY to ASMITA CHOUDHURY Vide affitdavit No. BP 071470 dated 07/10/2022.

For Generation Ace

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"They cannot make history who forget history."

Dr. BR Ambedkar

INDIA RANKED 107 OUT OF 121 COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

HUNGRY INDIA

In the 2022 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 107th out of the 121 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2022 GHI scores. With a score of 29.1, India has a level of hunger that is serious.

- **THIS RATE IS HIGHER THAN IT WAS IN 1998-1999, WHEN IT WAS 17.1 PER CENT.**
- **NEPAL IS RANKED HIGHER AT 81, BANGLADESH AT 84 AND EVEN PAKISTAN AT 99.**
- **INDIA IS RANKED BELOW AFRICAN COUNTRIES LIKE SUDAN, CONGO, ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA, RWANDA.**
- **INDIA'S PROPORTION OF UNDERNOURISHED IN THE POPULATION IS CONSIDERED TO BE AT A MEDIUM LEVEL, AND ITS UNDER-FIVE CHILD MORTALITY RATE IS CONSIDERED LOW.**
- **WHILE CHILD STUNTING HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE -- FROM 54.2 PER CENT IN 1998-1999 TO 35.5 PER CENT IN 2019-2021 -- IT IS STILL CONSIDERED VERY HIGH.**

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Seventeen countries, including China, Turkey, and Kuwait, shared the top rank with GHI score of less than five, the website of the Global Hunger Index that tracks hunger and malnutrition said on Saturday.

Congress MP P Chidambaram, citing

the report, said our score has worsened since 2014 in the 8 years of the Narendra Modi-led government.

"When will the Hon'ble PM address real issues like malnutrition, hunger, and stunting and wasting among children?" he asked on Twitter.

The report, prepared jointly by Irish aid agency Concern Worldwide and German organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe, termed the level of hunger in India "serious".In 2021, India was ranked 101 out of 116 countries. Now with 121 countries in the list, it has dropped to the 107th rank. India's GHI score has also decelerated - from 38.8 in 2000 to the range of 28.2 - 29.1 between 2014 and 2022.The government had last year slammed the report -- calling it "shocking" and "devoid of ground reality"-- after India fell below the 100th rank. The government claimed the methodology used to calculate the Global Hunger Index is unscientific.

"It is shocking to find that the Global Hunger Report 2021 has lowered the rank of India on the basis of FAO (UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation) estimate on proportion of undernourished population, which is found to be devoid of ground reality and facts and suffers from serious methodological issues. The publishing agencies of the Global Hunger Report, Concern Worldwide and Welt Hunger Hilfe, have not done their due diligence before releasing the report," the government had said in a statement.

Welt Hunger Hilfe had then refuted New Delhi's claim that India's fall in ranking was based on an opinion poll conducted by Gallup.

In an email to NDTV, WHH had said that the Gallup opinion poll is not used by GHI, instead undernourishment is measured using data officially presented by India to the UN."Global Hunger Index uses only a 'prevalence of undernourishment' indicator... obtained through carefully constructed food balance sheets which are primarily based on data officially reported by the member countries including India," said Miriam Weimers, Advisor, Global Hunger Index.The GHI score is calculated on four indicators -- undernourishment; child wasting (the share of children under the age of five who are wasted i.e who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition); child stunting (children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition) and child mortality (the mortality rate of children under the age of five).

GOVT SLAMS REPORT

New Delhi: *"The index is an erroneous measure of hunger and suffers from serious methodological issues. Three out of the four indicators used for calculation of the index are related to health of children and cannot be representative of the entire population. The fourth and most important indicator estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population is based on an opinion poll conducted on a very small sample size of 3,000. The report is not only disconnected from ground reality but also chooses to deliberately ignore efforts made by the government to ensure food security for the population especially during the Covid pandemic. Taking a one-dimensional view, the report lowers India's rank based on the estimate of Proportion of Undernourished (PoU) population for India at 16.3 per cent. The FAO estimate is based on 'Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)' Survey Module conducted through Gallop World Poll, which is an 'opinion poll' based on '8 questions' with a sample size of '3000 respondents'," said a statement by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.*

Mother Dairy, Amul hikes Milk price by Rs 2 per litre

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Leading milk suppliers Amul and Mother Dairy have increased prices of full cream milk by Rs 2 per litre citing a rise in input costs.

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets milk under the Amul brand, has hiked the prices of Amul Gold (full cream) and buffalo milk by Rs 2 per litre each across all markets except for Gujarat.

Following Amul's decision, Mother Dairy also announced an increase in prices of full-cream milk and cow milk by Rs 2 per litre in Delhi-NCR and some other markets in North India with effect from October 16.

Mother Dairy's full-cream price has been revised to Rs 63 per litre from Rs 61 per litre while cow milk rate has been hiked to Rs 55 per litre from Rs 53 per litre.

This is the third hike by both the leading players this year -- a move that will impact household budget. Rates were raised by Rs 2 per litre for all variants in March and August as well.

Dairy firms have attributed the rise in milk prices to an increase in their procurement cost of raw milk. Milk producers/farmers have raised rates of raw milk as fodder and cattle feed have become dearer.

"Prices have been increased by Rs 2 per litre for Amul Gold and buffalo milk due to increase in fat prices," Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) managing director R S Sodhi told media.

The prices have been raised for all markets except Gujarat, he added. Gujarat will soon go to state assembly elections.

Apart from Gujarat, GCMMF mainly sells milk in Delhi-NCR, West Bengal and Mumbai.

The cooperative sells more than 150 lakh litres of milk per day and out of the total quantity, Delhi-NCR accounts for nearly 40 lakh litres per day.

Mother Dairy is a leading milk supplier in the Delhi-NCR market and sells more than 30 lakh litres per day in poly packs and through vending machines.

Increased fodder prices and low rainfall in some northern states have aggravated the situation, the company said.

'Space sector moving towards constellation of satellites'

Chennai | Agencies

The global space sector is moving away from geo-statellites and towards the constellation of small satellites in low earth orbit, a senior official of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) said on Saturday.

In his address at the conference 'Space Technology: The Next Business Frontier', Prof. Rajeev Jyoti, Distinguished Scientist, Director (Technical), IN-SPACe, said the space sector, in the next 10 years, is shifting from geo-satellites to constellation of satellites.

He said there are estimates that 10,000 satellites are likely to be launched in the near future.

Jyoti said the space sector must be taken forward by entrepreneurs and space business instead of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) being the only integrator of the entire space ecosystem.

"According to a newly-announced policy, if a space object is not functionally working, it

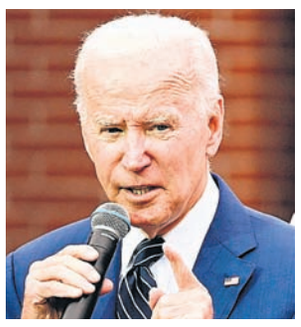
has to be removed within five years in order to avoid space debris in place of the earlier 25 years. We have to develop technologies for active space debris removal," he said.

The conference is organised by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras), the US Consulate General Chennai, and the Indian Space Association.

Pakistan may be one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Biden

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden said Pakistan may be "one of the most dangerous nations in the world" as the country has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion".He made the remarks while addressing a Democratic congressional campaign committee reception, Dawn news reported. A transcript of the address, published on the White House's website on Friday, quoted Biden as saying: "And what I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion."The President's remarks were made in the context of the changing geopolitical situation globally.He said the world was changing rapidly and countries



were rethinking their alliances."And the truth of the matter is, I genuinely believe this, that the world is looking to us. Not a joke. Even our enemies are looking to us to figure out how we figure this out, what we do."There was a lot at stake, Biden said, emphasising that the US had the capacity to lead the world to a place it had never been before, Dawn reported.

SHARIF REJECTS REMARKS OF BIDEN

Islamabad: *Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday hit back at US President Joe. In a tweet from his official handle, Sharif unequivocally reiterated' that Pakistan is a responsible nuclear state, adding that the country's nuclear assets have the best safeguards as per International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) requirements, Express Tribune reported.*

In a separate statement issued by the PM House, Sharif termed the US President's remarks as factually incorrect and misleading', the report said. "Over the past decades, Pakistan has proven be a most responsible nuclear state, wherein its nuclear programme is managed through a technically sound and foolproof command and control system.

VIRAT KOHLI FAN KILLS ROHIT SHARMA FAN IN TN, ARRESTED

Chennai: A die-hard fan of Virat Kohli, infuriated with his friend, a Rohit Sharma fan, for insulting his favourite cricketer in a drunken brawl, hit him on the head with a liquor bottle and later with a cricket bat, killing him on the spot.

According to police, the deceased Vignesh, a Rohit Sharma fan, and S. Dharmaraj, a supporter and die-hard fan of Virat Kohli, were discussing cricket after taking a few gulps of liquor at a SIDCO industrial estate near Mallur in Ariyallur district of Tamil Nadu. The incident occurred on October 11.

Vignesh had earlier also mocked Dharmaraj and body-shamed him over his stammering. When the altercations turned around on cricket and cricketers, Vignesh again mocked Virat Kohli and his IPL team, Royal Challengers Bangalore. Police said that an infuriated Dharamraj hit Vignesh with a liquor bottle and a cricket bat leading to his death.

TWO ARUNACHAL YOUTHS MISSING FOR OVER 50 DAYS FROM INDIA-CHINA BORDER AREA

Itanagar: Two youths of Arunachal Pradesh are missing for over 50 days now after they went in search of local medicinal herbs and for hunting at a mountain along the India-China border, their families said on Saturday. The disappearance of Bateilum Tikro and Bayingso Manyu of Duiliang village of Anjaw district near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was also confirmed by various official agencies, including police, though they said that it was not clear if the duo had actually crossed the LAC or not.Tikro's younger brother Dishanso Chikro told the media that the two youths went to Chaklagam area in search of medicinal herbs on August 19 and the villagers last saw them on August 24.

140 exotic animals, drugs worth Rs 34.18 cr seized in Mizoram, four held

AIZAWL | Agencies

In a significant success, the Mizoram police have rescued 140 exotic animals and seized drugs worth Rs 34.18 crores and arrested four persons in this connection, the police said on Saturday.

The police said that the exotic animals and seized drugs were smuggled in from neighbouring Myanmar and smugglers from both the countries were involved in the clandestine trade.

Officials said that the police in a joint operation with the Excise and Narcotics Department personnel intercepted three vehicles (two Boleros and one Scorpio) and rescued 140 wild animals and birds on Saturday in eastern Mizoram's Champhai district.

The rescued wild animals included 30 tortoises, four monkeys, 22 pythons, 18 Sumatran water monitors, 55 crocodiles (hatchlings), four Flame powerbirds, four Servel cats, and one Albino wallaby.

Three persons were arrested in connection with the biggest ever seizure of wild animals. They have been identified as Lalemruata (38), Tinkhuma (38) and E. Lalmuanpuia. They were handed over to the Superintendent of Customs Preventive Force, Champhai, for further legal proceedings.

In another incident, heroin weighing 6.836 kg valued at Rs 34.18 crore was seized from a vehicle at Champhai. The police said that the consignment was concealed in 500 soap cases. The driver of the vehicle has been arrested.

Poor career growth, not bad bosses, behind more Indians quitting jobs

- 44 per cent of the Indian workforce (those surveyed) are happy with their current bosses, 40 per cent look up to bosses who can motivate and guide them to perform better, according to the survey by naukri.com.
- The findings revealed that the absence of a growth trajectory and a good work environment leaves employees with no choice but to switch.
- The majority of respondents mentioned poor career growth as the key reason for leaving, followed by bad work culture and company policies (34 per cent).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Poor career growth (41 per cent), and not bad bosses (33 per cent), has come up as the top reason for employees leaving jobs in India, a new report showed on Saturday.

The opportunity to grow within an organisation is what makes professionals stay in their current roles."Over 31 per cent of employees prefer managers who motivate them to perform better and give timely feedback," the survey said.However, a point to note is that Indian managers usually follow one-way communication channels (from managers to subordinates), as mentioned by 36 per cent of employees.Apart from this, managers who have the quality to promote a friendly work environment serve as the icing on the cake."Male leaders are considered to be adaptive in nature when employees were asked to vote for them on various attributes," said the survey.

Apart from this, being approachable and open-minded are the other key traits that make males ideal bosses, as they are better at promoting work-life balance and showing respectful behaviours to their subordinates, it added.

MPID COURT RULES TO PAY NSEL SMALL TRADERS UP TO RS 20 LAKHS, EXCLUDES CORPORATES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a big win for small traders, the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (In Financial Establishments) Act (MPID) court has directed the Competent Authority to make a graded distribution only to about 2,040 individual traders who have outstanding amount between Rs 10 lakhs and Rs 20 lakhs.

However, on Thursday last, the MPID court excluded corporates and partnerships from getting preferential payment in the Rs 5,600 NSEL payment default crisis.

Now by this order, out of the total unverified 12,735 traders, as many as 72 per cent or 9,193 traders will be paid fully, NSEL said in a statement on Saturday.

NSEL, which has been fighting for the cause of genuine traders, supported this petition, while it was vehemently opposed by the NSEL Investors Action Group (NIAG) of Ketan Shah and argued by counsel Chirag Shah of the NSEL Aggrieved and Recovery Association (NAARA).

Earlier, NIAG had opposed and lost in the Supreme Court when it tried to sabotage the balance 50 per cent disbursal to 6,400 traders falling between Rs 2 lakhs and Rs 10 lakhs.

To give immediate relief to small traders in 2013, NSEL had paid 50

per cent to the same 6,400 traders and 100 per cent to 708 traders having outstanding below Rs 2 lakhs, it noted.

"Ketan Shah and Chirag Shah, who have been masquerading as messiahs, rank among 781 crorepatis with unverified claims of over Rs. 1 crore and have been fighting against the release of this available money to small traders. The only reason for opposing such payments could be that this would greatly undercut their power as champions of small traders," the NSEL added.

Instead of fighting for the recovery of the default amount from the defaulters, Chirag Shah and Ketan Shah have been fighting in favour of brokers and opposing payments to small traders, NSEL said, adding: "This order has unmasked their real face to people."

NSEL noted that all traders have signed a client-broker agreement with their brokers and are registered clients of the brokers.

No trader has privity with NSEL. The brokers had lured their clients with forward contract of one-day duration and by offering 80:20 and then 90:10 schemes.

"Brokers have indulged in irregularities such as largescale client code modification, false promises, KYC manipulation, and infusion of black money through benami transactions. Except for three brokers, even the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has neither acted against nor filed any charge-sheet against brokers," it added.Despite this fact, NSEL alleged, no action was taken by then Forward Market Commission Chairman Ramesh Abhishek against brokers and defaulters. Ramesh Abhishek only focused his targeted actions against NSEL and 63 moons, thereby, allowing the defaulters and brokers to go scot-free.

NSEL pointed out that all investigating agencies have confirmed the liability of the defaulters with the money trail up to the last paise traced to the defaulters. "No money trail is established to NSEL, its directors, or promoters. Despite continued attacks, NSEL is singlehandedly fighting for the recovery against the defaulters so that the genuine traders can be repaid at the earliest."

NSEL has solely extended support to investigative agencies and gone after defaulters, obtained decrees and awards worth Rs 4,300 crore. Against the unverified claims of Rs 4,800 crore, NSEL has actively worked and supported in getting over Rs 6,000 crore worth of defaulters' assets already attached by the EOW and ED, which is sufficient to cover genuine claims of the balance traders.

COPS PROBE THREAT TO KIDNAP, KILL SBI CHAIRMAN; BLOW BANK'S HQ

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have launched a probe into a kidnap-cum-death threat to the State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman D.K. Khara and warning to blow up the bank's headquarters at Nariman Point, officials said here on Saturday.

Claiming to call from Pakistan, the person rang up the SBI head office board number on Thursday morning threatening to kidnap and eliminate the Chairman if the bank did not sanction a loan of Rs 10 lakhs within a week.

Identifying himself as one Mohamed Jiaul Alim, the caller said if his demand was not met within a week he would not only kill the Khara but also blow up the SBI headquarters, standing behind the Maharashtra Legislature Building. Following this, the SBI immediately complained to the Marine Drive Police Station which lodged an FIR late on Friday and started the probe.

The call has been reportedly traced to a location in West Bengal and a Mumbai Police team is rushing to the state to track the caller.

Stay on release of ex-DU Prof Saibaba, SC suspends Bombay HC's order

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

The Supreme Court on Saturday suspended the October 14 order of the Bombay High Court discharging former Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba and five others in an alleged Maoist links case.

A bench comprising Justices M.R. Shah and Bela M. Trivedi suspended the high court's judgment.

The Maharashtra government had moved the apex court questioning the validity of the Bombay High Court's judgment discharging Saibaba and the five others in the case of having links with banned Maoists organisations due to absence of sanction.

"The High Court has erred in not considering the fact that the point of sanction was neither raised nor argued before the trial court and yet the trial court had rightly concluded the said point against the accused holding that there was no substantial failure of justice," said the state government.

During the hearing, the top court noted that the accused were convicted after detailed appreciation of evidence and offences are very serious and if the state government succeeds on merits, offences are very serious against the interest of the society. The apex court also issued a notice in the matter.

Senior advocate R. Basant represented Saibaba before the apex court.

Tata Power hit by cyber attack, says critical systems safe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tata Power on Friday admitted it has been hit by a cyber attack on its IT infrastructure.

The power company, however, said that all its critical operational systems are functioning normally.

"The company has taken steps to retrieve and restore the systems. All critical operational systems are functioning," Tata Power said in a BSE filing.

However, as a measure of abundant precaution, "restricted access and preventive checks have been put in place for employee and customer facing portals and touch points", it added.

"The company will update on the matter going forward," Tata Power added.

Tata Power Company Ltd said some of its IT systems were impacted by the cyber attack.

Last month, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said India's power network will soon be more future-ready and insulated from cyber attacks with the provision of routine inspections and timely action under the Electricity Amendment Bill.

Earlier this year, Singh informed that there were cyber attacks on the national power grid.

"These were probing attacks in December, January and February. They did not succeed. But we are aware," he had said.

DRUNK MAN ATTACKS PRIEST, ARRESTED

Mumbai: A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly attacking a priest with a knife at an ashram in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said on Saturday.The incident took place at the ashram located in Ramnagar locality of the city on Friday afternoon, senior inspector Sunil Shine of Srinagar police station said.

The accused who was in an inebriated state allegedly attacked the 63-year-old priest with a knife. The victim managed to escape unharmed, he said.

A man who was present in the ashram at the time intervened and snatched the knife from the accused, the official said.

The accused was drunk and pelted stones at the ashram. When the victim questioned him about it, he attacked him with a knife, he said.A case under section 307 (attempt to murder) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against the accused who has been arrested, the official said.

Naval officer loses Rs 1.5 Lakh from credit card in Cyber Fraud

Team Absolute | Mumbai

An Indian Navy officer became the latest victim of the "outstanding power bill" scam and lost about Rs 1.5 lakh from his credit card to cyber fraudsters, a Mumbai Police official said on Saturday.However, the quick thinking by the Naval officer saved him from losing another Rs 1.35 lakh as he blocked his card while the fraudster was talking to him over the phone. The amount of Rs 1.35 lakh was recovered, the official said.

The incident came to light on Friday when the officer approached the police."On Thursday, his wife received a message from an unidentified number stating that since their electricity bill was pending, the supply will be disconnected if the amount is not paid. She forwarded the message to her husband," the official said. When the officer called on the given phone number, the person who answered the call asked him to download "QuickSupport" app on his mobile phone to pay the bill, he said.

After the app was downloaded, the fraudster got access to the officer's mobile phone and asked the latter to send Rs 10, which was debited from his account."Keeping the officer engaged in conversation, the unidentified accused withdrew Rs 48,999 and again Rs 98,000 in back-to-back transactions," he said.However, the officer sensed that something was amiss and initiated the process to block his card.

"The fraudster had made four more transactions of Rs 25,000, Rs 98,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 2,500 by then. But as the card was blocked, the total amount of these four transactions was returned to his account," the official said.

A case was registered under section 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the Indian Penal Code and sections 66 (C) and 66 (D) of the Information Technology Act against unidentified fraudsters, he added.

AUTORICKSHAW DRIVER ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING STUDENT

Team Absolute | Thane

Hours after he allegedly sexually harassed a 22-year-old female college student in Thane city of Maharashtra, police have arrested an autorickshaw driver, who had absconded after committing the offence, an official said on Saturday.

Terming the incident as "unfortunate", Thane Guardian Minister Shambhuraj Desai said to prevent such crimes, the women's safety programme, which was implemented as a pilot project in Satara district, will be extended to the entire state.

A team of the Thane Nagar police station caught the 36-year-old accused from Digha in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, following the incident that had occurred on Friday morning.

"We caught the accused within 24 hours," senior inspector Jairaj Ranaware of the Thane Nagar police station said.

Three police teams had been formed for the purpose. They checked the CCTV footage and worked on intelligence inputs, before zeroing on the accused, he said.

The woman was on her way to college when the autorickshaw driver standing on the road passed some remarks about her and when she questioned him, he held her hand and pulled her towards him. When the accused tried to flee after this, the woman held on to his hand even as he started driving the three-wheeler. She got dragged for about 500 meters with the vehicle and fell, following which the accused fled, the police said.

Based on a complaint lodged by the woman, a case was registered against the accused under sections 354 (assault or use of criminal force to any woman to outrage her modesty), 354(A) (sexual harassment), 336 (rash or negligent act), 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) of the Indian Penal Code, they said.

Meanwhile, the Thane guardian minister held a meeting with senior officials of the Thane Police Commissionerate during a visit to the city.

The "Mahila Pathadarshi Suraksha Prakalpa", a women's safety pilot project, which was implemented in Satara district, will be extended to the entire state, Desai said, adding that he will hold a meeting with the chief minister and his deputy in this regard.The police will take measures to ensure that such incidences are not repeated and habitual offenders are monitored, he said.

Beat marshals, policemen in plain clothes and lady personnel should be deployed in large numbers near colleges, schools and coaching classes to prevent such unlawful acts, the minister said.

MSRTC HIKES BUS FARES BETWEEN OCTOBER 21 AND 31

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) on Friday said a temporary fare hike will be in place between October 21 and 31 for all bus services, barring the air-conditioned 'Shivneri' and 'Ashwamedh' classes.

Issuing a press release on Friday evening, MSRTC said it has permission to hike fares up to 30 per cent during peak season, which is usually the summer holiday period and festivals such as Diwali."Therefore, the fares will go up in the range of Rs 5 to Rs 100. The temporary fare hike will be applicable only for ordinary, semi luxury, sleeper coach and Shivshahi services, and not for luxury Shivshahi and Ashwagandha classes. The fare hike will stand withdrawn on November 1," the release informed

"Those who have already booked their tickets for this period will have to pay the difference in fare during the journey. The fare hike, however, won't be applicable for monthly and trimonthly passes," it added.

Earlier, the state-run corporation had announced it would run almost 1,500 extra buses between October 21 and 31 to tide over the Diwali rush of passengers.MSRTC, with a fleet of 16,000 buses, used to ferry 65 lakh passengers per day before the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown curtailed operations and brought down ridership considerably.

DHFL Scam: CBI files chargesheet in Rs 34,615 loan fraud case

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Mumbai

In a latest development in connection with the DHFL loan fraud case of Rs 34,615 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against 75 accused persons, including private companies, before the Rouse Avenue Court here.

The chargesheet has been filed against Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan, both then CMD of DHFL; Harshil Mehta, its ex-CEO; Ajay Vazirani, advocate; Jayesh Khona, then Vice President (accounting), DHFL; Dinesh Bansal, Director of DK Realty (India) Pvt Ltd; Sunny Bathija, Director of Sunblink Real Estate Pvt Ltd; Ajay Navandar and Jignesh Mehta, CA of Chaturvedi & Shah LLP; Amit Chaturvedi, Partner of Chaturvedi & Shah LLP; and others.

In July, the CBI had sezied a helicopter parked in a hanger at the premises of Avinash Bhosale, one of the accused, at Baner Road in Pune. "It came to light that RKW Developers Pvt Ltd (a company owned by the Wadhawan family) allegedly has stakes in Varva Aviation (an Association of Persons) which owns an AW109SP GrandNew helicopter (an AgustaWestland helicopter) which was allegedly purchased in 2011. "RKW Developers Pvt Ltd joined the Association of Persons in 2017, contributing towards cost price and maintenance of the said helicopter. ABIL Infraprojects Ltd, a company owned by Avinash Bhosale, allegedly has stake in the said helicopter.

Centre planning to take over State Highways with high traffic density

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is planning to take over the State Highways with high traffic density from the state governments for a period of 25 years.

Thereafter, those state highways will be converted into 4 or 6 lane highways and then the Centre will collect toll from those highways.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said this in a virtual address at the 12th International convention of Association of National Exchanges Members of India which was held in Mumbai on Saturday.

After a period of 12-13 years, the investments will be fully recovered from those state highways along with interests and land acquisition costs, Gadkari added. He urged that investments in the infrastructure sector of the country will be risk-free and yield good returns and called for cooperation in the investment for infrastructure. "The financial markets need to come up with innovative models to fund India's Infrastructure growth. We are inviting investments in the PPP model. We can export energy to the world if we channel our investments to waste management, green hydrogen, solar, and several such projects. Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Science, and Technology is the wealth of future India," he added.Speaking about infrastructure development, the Minister said: "We are planning a green express highway between Mumbai and Bangalore."

It will be a 5 hours journey between Mumbai-Bengaluru and 3.5 - to 4 hours between Pune and Bengaluru, he added. The Mumbai-Pune Express Highway will take a turn from near the Ring Road of Pune and start as the Highway towards Bengaluru, he further mentioned. Likewise, 27 green express highways are coming up in the country. The Ministry is also in the process of constructing 75 tunnels at a cost of Rs 2,50,000 crores, stated the Minister. On an average, 40 km of roads are constructed per day in the country, said Gadkari. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry is also looking at diversifying fuel base to include ethanol, methanol, bio-diesel, bio-LNG, BIO-CNG, electric and green hydrogen.Stating that the country's automobile industry's size is Rs 7.5 lakh crore, Gadkari said that there is a plan to make it a Rs 15 lakh crore industry within 5 years.

NEW ERA IS BEGINNING WITH MEDICAL STUDIES IN HINDI: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that education in Hindi medium will bring new light in the lives of many students. A new era is starting with the study of medicine in Hindi. It is a social revolution. The students of poor family will also be able to think about medical studies. For the last many years, activities are going on in the state aimed at encouraging study and teaching in mother tongue Hindi and to inculcate a sense of pride for Hindi. CM Chouhan was addressing a programme on 'Hindi ki Vyapakta-Ek Vimarsh' organized by the Medical Education Department in the indoor auditorium of Bharat Bhavan.

CM Chouhan said that a resolution has been expressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the medium of instruction should be mother tongue, this sentiment has also been manifested in the new education policy. For the first time in the country, Madhya Pradesh took a pledge to conduct medical education in Hindi. Medical textbooks in Hindi were developed under the leadership of Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang. Union Home and Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah will release Hindi medical books in Bhopal today. Giving a new dimension to education in our mother tongue Hindi will be a moment of self-respect and pride for us.

CM Chouhan said that when parents feel proud for their mother tongue Hindi, only then would children be able to adopt Hindi. Hindi is respected all over the world. In all my foreign trips, I have given addresses in my mother tongue Hindi, Hindi is heard with respect everywhere. Education in mother tongue Hindi will also be expanded by the state government to engineering, polytechnic, nursing and paramedical.

Medical Education Minister Sarang said that in discharging the responsibility assigned by CM Chouhan for implementation of PM Modi's resolve, a team of 97 doctors of Government Medical College developed MBBS first year books in 4 months.Hindi Sevi Kailash Chandra Pant said that education in Hindi started under the leadership of Chief Minister Chouhan. This initiative will prove to be an effective step towards freedom from mental slavery of the English language. In the towns and villages of the state also, activities should be conducted to make people aware about education facility in Hindi and free them from inferiority complex.

"WRITE SHRI HARI ON TOP, NAMES OF MEDICINES BELOW": SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN

Bhopal: "Why the names of medicines can't be written in Hindi, write Shri Hari on the top and the names of medicines below," Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday.

CM Chouhan made the remarks while addressing Hindi Vyakhyan programme at Bharat Bhawan in the state capital Bhopal. Strongly pitching for prescribing medicines in English, he said if the prescription is of crocin medicine, "Then write it in Hindi what's the problem"? "I do not have much to say because we have to do it. Hindi University was the result of that, it is a different matter whether it was less successful or more," Chouhan said. He said the government was not against English but awareness about the national language is necessary."Today this mentality is wrong that work cannot be done without English. I have seen many medical college kids leaving medical college just because their English is not good," he said.

Cong prez poll: Tharoor disappointed over 'open support' to Kharge

CONGRESS LEADER SHASHI THAROOR WHO IS PITTED AGAINST VETERAN PARTY COLLEAGUE MALLIKARJUN KHARGE FOR THE POST OF PARTY PRESIDENT ELECTION FOR WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 17 THANKED THE PARTY'S MADHYA PRADESH UNIT AFTER HE WAS GIVEN A WARM WELCOME UPON HIS ARRIVAL HERE ON FRIDAY.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The MP from Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency, who arrived here to seek support from the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates, also expressed his disappointment over some Congress leaders openly expressing their support for Kharge.

Kharge had also visited Bhopal two days ago and had appealed to the Congress delegates in Madhya Pradesh to support him, describing himself as "the candidate of a collective leadership of the party" and therefore, he expects "100 per cent support from all delegates".

Addressing a press conference at Congress headquarters, Tharoor reiterated that senior party leaders should not openly express support towards any particular candidate.

Responding to questions on this issue, particularly on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's announcement to support Kharge, Tharoor, with smile on his face, said: "I think the election committee of the Congress should take cognizance in this subject."

Interestingly, Madhya Pradesh unit Congress head Kamal Nath had also made it open that he would support Kharge for the party's presidential post.

Kamal Nath, however, had also mentioned that delegates would be free to take decisions on their own.

"I am glad at the reception I received in Madhya Pradesh. MP Congress president Kamal Nath, Leader of the Opposition Govind Singh met me," Tharoor said.

"All PCC delegates will have the total freedom to vote for the candidate he or she wants to. This election is to elect a member to the party's highest post which is a subject of dignity for each Congress worker. More number of delegates were present during Kharge's visit to office because there was a party programme before his arrival," said a senior Congress functionary.

Meanwhile, Digvijaya Singh's brother Laxman Singh also shared the stage with Tharoor.

CM Chouhan plants saplings with poet and eloquent speaker Sumit Orchha

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Neem, Karanj and Saraca Indica saplings along with national poet, Sangam National Secretary and brilliant speaker Sumit Orchha in Smart City Park. Sumit Orchha is also a member of Central Board of Film Certification, Mumbai. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, Meet and Maitri Sharma of Parampara Foundation planted saplings on their birthdays.

Importance of plants

Among the saplings planted today, Saraca Indica is found in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It has great importance in Ayurveda. Neem is the supreme medicine abounding in antibiotic elements. Karanj plant is considered important in Ayurvedic medicine. Karanja plant is also used in religious works.

DEVLOPMENT OF BOOKS IN HINDI FOR P.G. MEDICAL CLASSES AS WELL

Bhopal: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that a team of doctors and experts under the leadership of Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang has studied medical books and translated them in Hindi. This seemingly impossible task has been accomplished by the team of the Medical College within the time limit. Today I have especially come to meet and congratulate this team. Now the first year books are ready. Work carries on to prepare second year books. This work will continue for PG classes also.

It was informed that the work of conversion of books into Hindi has been done by the professors and associate professors of the respective subjects of the Government Medical College. Subject Determination Committee were formed for preparation of syllabus in Hindi and Subject Verification Committee for verification work. Suggestions from medical students and experienced practitioners are incorporated into the curriculum. CM Chouhan met the state head of the team that prepared the course in Hindi Dr. Lokendra Dave. CM Chouhan greeted and extended good wishes to the team for completing this work within the time limit and received information about the process of developing books in Hindi.

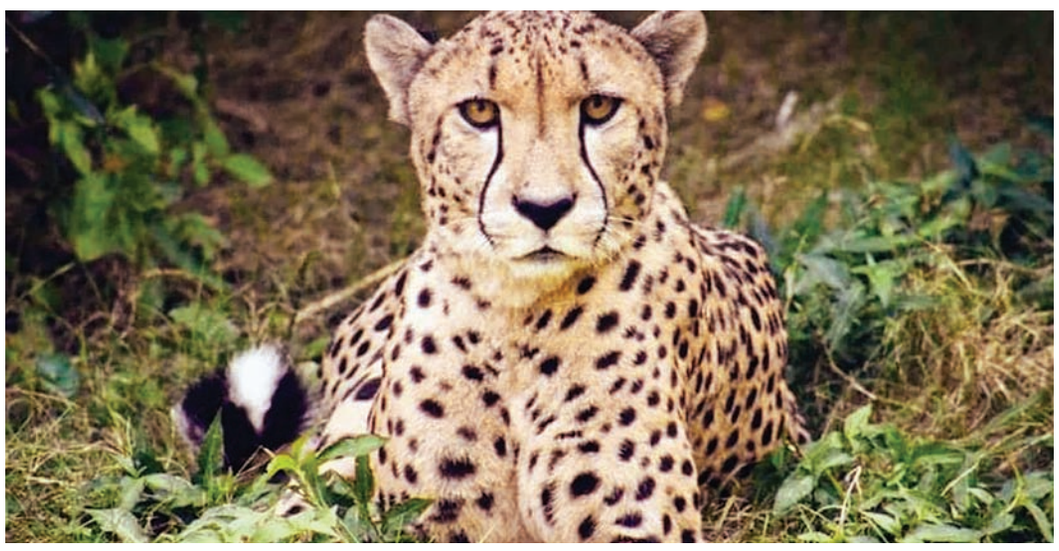
CM Chouhan pays tribute to former President Late Dr. Kalam on his birth anniversary

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has remembered former President Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary. CM Chouhan paid floral tribute by garlanding the portrait of Dr. Kalam in the auditorium at the residence office. Dr. Kalam is also known as Missile Man. Born on 15 October 1931 in Dhanushkodi Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Dr Kalam was the 11th elected President of the Republic of India. He served the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 4 decades. His role was very important in India's space programme and military missile development. He played a decisive, organisational and technical role in nuclear testing. Dr. Kalam passed away on July 27, 2015. He was honoured with the highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna".

CHEETAHS FIT AND FINE IN KUNO NATIONAL PARK QUARANTINE

Team Absolute | Sheopur



The eight cheetahs, shifted from Namibia to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) almost a month ago, are "fantastic" and "frolicking" around by feasting on buffalo meat while in quarantine, forests officials said on Saturday.

The Task Force (TS), constituted by the Centre, will meet on October 17 when the spotted animals complete a month in their new home, to take a call on shifting them in the soft release enclosure-cum acclimatisation enclosure spread in an area little over five sq km, they said.

"We think in a month or two or more, the cheetah may be released in the wild," officials added.

Police register FIR after truck full of buffalo caught on Gwalior-Shivpuri highway

Team Absolute | Gwalior

A truck full of buffaloes was caught near Mohana on the Gwalior-Shivapuri highway. Police have registered an FIR in this case. When the lorry driver was questioned, he said that he was taking the animals to sell. He could not give any information about where he bought it and where he was going to sell it. The Mohana police registered an FIR under the Animal Cruelty Act in this case. The police also seized a truck with animals.

In-charge of Mohana Police Station KPS Yadav said that information was received about a truck full of cattle on the Gwalior-Shivpuri highway. Someone said that cattle were being taken to be slaughtered. A team was appointed for inspections as soon as the notification was received. A truck full of cattle was caught near Hakeem Hotel in Mohana. When checked here, a buffalo was found in it. Azim Khan, Ansar Khan and Tajju Khan were traveling in the truck. These people are taking buffaloes. An FIR has been registered against these three.

Police and administration are on alert after Gokashi case. The Gokshi incident took place in Chakraipura village of Maharajpura. Four accused have been arrested. Later their houses were also bulldozed. After slaughtering the cow, the meat was cooked. In this case, there was a commotion across the state. The police officers are very alert. Checking every notification. Even on Thursday, it was reported that there were cattle in the lorry and they were being taken for slaughter. On inquiry, buffaloes were found in it. However, the truck driver could not provide much information about transporting buffaloes, due to which an FIR was registered.

VILLAGERS BEAT UP COUPLE FOR ATTEMPTING TO ABDUCT 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN GUNA

Guna: A pair was tied to a pole and thrashed by individuals for allegedly trying to abduct a 13-year-old at a village in Madhya Pradesh Guna district, police stated.

The incident occurred in Laharcha village within the district within the morning, when the girl was on her way to her class, an official stated.

The couple allegedly tried to kidnap the girl, however she managed to flee and rushed house to inform her mother and father about it, he stated.

When the girl's father was taking her to high school on a motorbike later, she noticed the couple on Binaganj highway and raised an alarm, the official stated.

The girl's father and villagers caught the couple, tied them to a pole and thrashed them. The duo was later handed over to the police, he stated.

Offended villagers additionally staged a protest on Nationwide Freeway (NH) 46, however the police later pacified them to clear the highway, Chanchoda sub-divisional officer of police (SDOP) Divya Rajawat stated. A case has been registered in opposition to the accused couple who're in police custody, the official stated; including that additional probe was beneath means.

MP Congress all set to use Yatra as launchpad for 2023 campaign

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A year will be left for the state Assembly elections after the Bharat Jodo Yatra passes through Madhya Pradesh in the last week of November. The state Congress leadership therefore is all set to use the opportunity to launch its poll campaign.

Though the Bharat Jodo Yatra would cover just seven districts (around 66 assembly seats), the state unit of the party has planned to make the presence of this Yatra felt in all the 230 Assembly seats.

The party has decided to launch as many as 17 supportive or sub-yatras from different parts of the state that will merge with the Bharat Jodo Yatra at one point - Burhanpur.

The yatras will proceed from one to another district, and the leading yatra will carry the Constitution of India', which will be handed over to the person leading the yatra in another district. They will also carry soil from each village on the route and also water from each small and big river on the way.

According to senior Congress leaders in Madhya Pradesh, the strategy of these sub-yatras has been made in a way that it can make a huge impact in the upcoming assembly elections in November-December 2023.

A senior Congress leader said that Rahul Gandhi had addressed two campaign rallies ahead of the 2018 assembly elections, while the Bharat Jodo Yatra will cover more than 60 assembly seats, during which he will interact with the people. Congress leaders said the main objective of the Bharat Jodo Yatra is to mobilise the people of all segments, castes, religions to fight to protect the decades old democratic values, for which people have sacrificed their lives.

"The way people are supporting the Bharat Jodo Yatra, indicates that people are fed up with the BJP rule. In Madhya Pradesh, people had given the mandate to the Congress because they are fed up with fake promises of the BJP government.Another reason why the Congress unit in Madhya Pradesh claimed that the Bharat Jodo Yatra will make a huge impact in the assembly elections in the state, as Shekhar explained, was that a campaign like "Ghar Ghar Chalo" had energised the party's cadre at the lower level, it gave positive results in the municipal elections. Also, making this yatra a mass movement has become the sole aim of each Congress worker, Shekhar added.

However, the BJP leaders in the state countered the Congress' claims, alleging that the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra has become a platform for those who often speak against the country and raise Pakistan slogans at public rallies. "I don't think Bharat Jodo Yatra will have any impact in the Madhya Pradesh assembly elections, because they have seen Rahul Gandhi's leadership in the past also. They are making changes in their plan every day, which indicates that they are still confused," said a senior functionary in the Madhya Pradesh BJP.

Carey Wows in a black and pink gown

Los Angeles | Agencies

Carey Mulligan was the picture of glamour on Friday as she led the arrivals at the premiere of her new film She Said, held at the Royal Festival Hall in London's Southbank Centre. The actress looked sensational in a strapless black gown which had a striking bright pink panel as she greeted the crowd at the event amid the BFI London Film Festival.

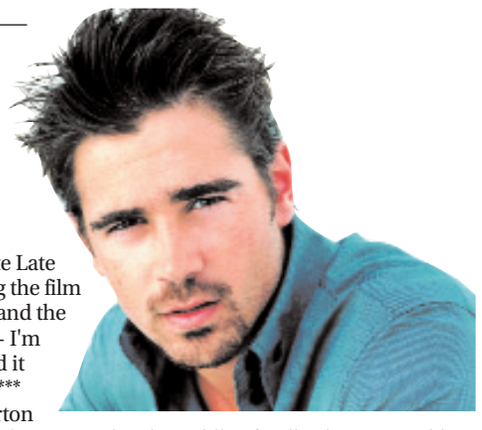
Carey oozed confidence in the plunging dress by Giorgio Armani, as she larked around for the cameras before posing up a storm.

The film follows the female New York Times reporters (played by Mulligan and co-star Zoe Kazan) who took on Hollywood producer and convicted sex abuser Harvey Weinstein, which led to the #MeToo movement in 2018. The film star allowed her gorgeous gown to do all the talking, ditching all accessories save for her wedding ring and a pair of small diamond earrings. Carey's cropped blonde locks were styled into sift waves, while she highlighted her features with a neutral make-up palette.

The Promising Young Woman star was in great spirits as she smiled and waved to fans, before stopping to take photos with her admirers. Carey also posed alongside the She Said director Maria Schrader, who looked smart in a black trouser suit

COLIN FARRELL COMPARES MESSY BARRY KEOGHAN TO 'RACCOONS'

Los Angeles | Agencies



Actor Colin Farrell has joked that living with actor Barry Keoghan was like living with "raccoons". The pair shared a house while filming Martin McDonagh's 'Banshees of Inisherin' in Ireland but Colin admitted the younger actor tried his patience with his messy ways.'

Speaking to Ryan Tubridy on 'The Late Late Show', he said: "He lived with me during the film and you know I'd come in the morning and the place was like raccoons had been there - I'm not joking." "One morning I came in and it was like, excuse my French, was like a p*** take, right. I came in and there was a carton of milk on its side and it was empty. But there was a lovely puddle of milk where it was like somebody said how will we p*** him off, get the milk on its side, put a puddle on the floor, get the cereal and have some soggy little bits of flakes on the bottom. "So, I saw the milk and I saw the cereal that was on the counter - it wasn't in the sink where it should have been. I remembered I had milk in the fridge, so it was grand. I got the milk from the fridge, I got a bowl out, grabbed the Crunchy Nut Cornflake box and it was very light. "He had emptied the Crunchy Nut and put the plastic bag back into its box. I'm not asking for much. This isn't an actor demanding private jets or any of that s****. I just want a bowl of Crunchy Nut Cornflakes." However, Colin went on to praise his co-star, saying: "He's amazing, though, he's an extraordinary talent and has a heart the size of this island itself. "I loved living with him, it was lovely." And co-star Brendan Gleeson added: "What he has in talent is beyond words."

Nicki Minaj, Latto call each other 'an entitled Karen' and 'a 40-year-old bully'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rappers Nicki Minaj and Latto are feuding with each other over Grammy category issues. Minaj said she felt the Recording Academy was showing a bias toward Latto in the way their work was being categorized.

As the Twitter war between the two went full-bore Thursday night and Friday morning, Minaj called the newcomer "an entitled Karen," while Latto returned fire by saying that Minaj was "a 40-year-old bully" acting in a way unbecoming of her age and stature. The younger artist even referred to Minaj as "my idol-turned-rival" as the conversation went nuclear. "Super freaky grandma is married AND related to fucking rapists. You ain't gone bully me BITCH! My idol turned rival now u hating!"

Minaj has since deleted her tweets aimed at Latto, while, as of this story being published, Latto's part of the war of words remains up on the platform.

Before things really got heated, Latto addressed Minaj's request for her support in protesting the Grammy screening committee's decision to switch "Super Freaky Girl" from a rap to pop category. The 'Big Energy' artist tweeted: "I've ignored countless subtweets since March and instead addressed u in the dm.

You're asking why I didn't speak up in ur defense it's the same answer I gave u when u asked why I didn't congratulate you. Ur literally older than my mom try not be a bully."

Wrote Minaj: "This Karen has probably mentioned my name in over 100 interviews. Says she waited in line for Pink Friday w/ her Barbie chain on, bangs, pink hair but today, scratch off decides to be silent; rather than speak up for the Black woman she called her biggest inspiration."

In screenshots captured of one of her since-deleted tweets, Minaj charged that Latto has "frustration about me politely declining three feature requests. Scratch off is just an entitled Karen who blames others for her album flopping."

I was 'beaten regularly and locked in rooms'

Los Angeles | Agencies

'I felt like I deserved less than dirt': Abigail Breslin

Little Miss Sunshine star Abigail Breslin has revealed that she is a survivor of domestic violence and that her previous abusive relationship made her feel like she 'deserved less than dirt'. The actress, told her story on Instagram, stating that she was with the abuser for two years and was regularly beaten and locked in rooms. The star made the decision to tell her story during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressed her hope to help 'some people feel a little bit less alone.' 'As a DV survivor I felt compelled to write a little but about my story. I was in a very abusive relationship for close to 2 years. It all started out perfectly, I was so in love,' she typed.

She then added that her 'abuser took advantage of my innocence and naïveté and the relationship subsequently became violent.' Abigail then opened up and went into detail about the abusive situations she had suffered through.

'I was beaten on a regular basis, locked into rooms and forced to pretend everything was ok and normal while dealing with intense injuries...injuries most people didn't even see.' Abigail admitted in her post that she used to hide her bruises with different kinds of makeup, 'because in some way, I still cared for this person.'

Along with physical abuse, she revealed her partner had also been verbally abusive towards her. She then voiced the inner turmoil that was caused from the relationship. 'I felt so unworthy of anyone's love. I felt ugly and hated. I felt like I deserved less than dirt. I was certain, there must be something WRONG with ME. That I was a b***h, a problem, stupid, useless, ridiculous, overly sensitive, unreasonable and unlovable.'

Despite feeling at her most 'loneliest' at the time, the actress wrote that her family and friends 'played an instrumental and invaluable role in helping me leave this horrible situation.'

'I will forever be indebted to those closest to me for them not only assisting me but,

BELIEVING me,' she added.

Harry Potter's 'Hagrid' Robbie Coltrane passes away

London | Agencies

Scottish actor, comedian and writer Robbie Coltrane, who played the lovable half-giant Rubeus Hagrid in the 'Harry Potter' franchise, has died his agency WME confirmed on Friday night. He was 72. Coltrane featured in every 'Harry Potter' movie, from 'Sorcerer's Stone' in 2001 to 'Deathly Hallows Part 2' in 2011, and was much beloved for bringing the character from J.K. Rowling's book series to life.

He was among one of the first characters to appear on screen, and he recited the famous line, "Yer a wizard, Harry," to a young Daniel Radcliffe as he embarked on his journey into the wizarding world.

A towering figure, but softie at heart, Hagrid had a sweet spot for ferocious beasts. He cared for some of the 'Harry Potter' world's most ferocious, and iconic, creatures. Under his care were Buckbeak the hippogriff, Fang the boarhound, Fluffy the three-headed dog, Norbert the Norwegian Ridgeback dragon, Aragog the massive talking spider, and the eerily majestic Thestrals.

In a heart-warming tribute to Coltrane, Daniel Radcliffe said: "Robbie was one of the funniest people I've met and used to keep us laughing constantly as kids on the set. I've especially fond memories of him keeping our spirits up on 'Prisoner of Azkaban', when we were all hiding from the torrential rain for hours in Hagrid's hut. "He was telling stories and cracking jokes to keep morale up. I feel incredibly lucky that I got to meet and work with him and very sad that he's passed. He was an incredible actor and a lovely man."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY

Joy Corrigan

COMPETING SKIPPERS COME TOGETHER FOR CAPTAINS' DAY AS T20 WORLD CUP SET TO BEGIN

Melbourne | Agencies

The stage is set for the ICC T20 World Cup to begin on Sunday with the captains of all 16 competing teams coming together in Melbourne for the first time for the customary "Captains' Day", which officially marks the beginning of the competition.

With more than a billion cricket fans across the globe looking ahead to engrossing cricket action for nearly a month, Sri Lanka will take on Namibia at Geelong's Kardinia Park Stadium in Group A of the First Round, while United Arab Emirates will be up against the Netherlands on the opening day of competition.

This marks the first of 45 matches over 28 days with the champions to be crowned at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on November 13.

Sri Lanka, who lifted the trophy in 2014, will be buoyed by their success in the Asia Cup in the UAE recently where they defeated Pakistan to clinch the trophy. The side would be looking to quickly secure a Super 12 place and stake a strong claim to add the global trophy to the continental prize they won recently.

Sri Lanka captain, Dasun Shanaka exuded confidence, saying, "After a very good Asia Cup, we are very confident. The environment is really good. We are well focused on our batting. As it is the early summer, the conditions will be somewhat different, so we are really focusing on that. Apart from that, I think the bowlers, they are really shaping up, so Chameera is back with us and Lahiru Kumara is back with us, so they are plus points coming from the Asia Cup.

"Yeah, it depends on the day. T20 cricket we never know who will be good, when. I think the better teams come out of the day with a win."

Sri Lanka's opponents on Sunday, Namibia had made a big impression on their tournament debut in the UAE and Oman in 2021, surging through to the Super 12 stage. The challenge for Gerhard Erasmus's side will be to go again without the element of surprise they enjoyed last year, and they will again bank heavily on talisman David Wiese and paceman Ruben Trumpelmann. "I guess this year is a bit different to last year. We could sort of ride on that underdog factor and go with it and there's a bit more expectation perhaps this year to go one better," said Erasmus.

"Our preparations have been really nice getting to Wangaratta in the countryside of Australia quite early and getting accustomed to things around here. So I guess we'll try and stall the underdog tag for a little bit longer, but yeah, when the real stuff starts, you need to bring the high-level skill that the guys play at the World Cup if we can do that."

Australia, on the other hand, will have grand hopes of lifting the trophy on home soil with a stated aim to become the first team to retain the Men's T20 World Cup. The Aaron Finch-led side begin their Super 12 campaign with a repeat of last year's final -- they play trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand on October 22 at the Sydney Cricket Ground to get the Super 12 off to a roaring start.

4th Asian Youth Athletics: Sabita Toppo bags silver

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

Sabita Toppo, a 17-year-old 100M sprint hurdler from Odisha, ran an impressive 14.17s to bag the silver at the Asian Youth Athletics Championship held in Kuwait, following the gold that she won in 100m hurdles at the National Youth (U-18) Athletics meet in Bhopal.

Sabita, who hails from Sundergarh, the youngest of six siblings, joined the Odisha Reliance Foundation HPC (High-Performance Centre) in 2019 for practice and she improved in her timing by more than two seconds in the years since.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated the athlete on her performance and wrote, "May she continue to bring glory for the State & the nation. Wish her all the best for future endeavours."

Expressing happiness over the performance, Sabita, said, "I feel so happy winning this medal. There is a lot of hard work and I would like to thank the Chief Minister Sir for his kind words, the support from the Odisha government and Odisha Reliance Foundation HPC. Now, I am looking forward to improving my timing at every race and working with my coaches."

James Hillier, athletics director of the Reliance Foundation Athletics Programme, said, "Sabita has been a very inspirational story. From personal setbacks to keep performing at the highest levels requires a lot of motivation and she possesses an abundance of that quality."

"She has made tremendous improvement in her race craft working with her coach Rohit Mane, and I see a lot more potential in her, in the months to come," stated Hillier.

We should credit our bowlers; they read pitch well: Harmanpreet Kaur

Sylhet (Bangladesh) | Agencies

India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur praised her bowlers for their stellar show in the side outplaying Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final of Women's Asia Cup at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

She added that placing the fielders according to the nature of the pitch also worked well in their favour. On a pitch tailor-made for the spinners to excel as the ball kept low and turned square, pacer Renuka Thakur shone bright with 3-5 in three overs.

Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2-16) and off-spinner Sneh Rana (2-13) had economical spells with the ball apart from Deepti Sharma conceding just seven runs in her four overs to keep Sri Lanka to 65/9, which India chased down with 11.3 overs to spare. "We should credit our bowlers. Our fielding unit was good from ball one and we discussed that we should not give away easy runs. You have to read the wicket and accordingly place the fielders in the right positions. We read the wicket well and position fielders accordingly," said Harmanpreet in the post-match presentation ceremony. In the chase, vice-captain and left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana smashed an unbeaten 25-ball 51 to give India their seventh Asia Cup title. "We were not looking at the scoreboard but only decided our five-over targets. We never thought about what is the total on the board and batted accordingly," added Harmanpreet.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu was clearly unimpressed with her side's batting display in the final but hoped that the runners-up finish in the tournament will give the team things to ponder ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup next year in South Africa.

Swiatek scores dominant win over Gauff; enters San Diego semifinal

San Diego (California) | Agencies

World No.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland scored a dominant 6-0, 6-3 win over teenager Coco Gauff to advance to the semifinals of the San Diego Open, extending her undefeated record against the No. 8 from the US to 4-0.

Swiatek, who is in her third consecutive semifinal, will face another American, world No.6 Jessica Pegula, in the semifinal. Pegula booked her last-four spot by defeating Madison Keys 6-4, 7-5 in the first meeting between two of the top three-ranked Americans on the Tour.

The biggest difference between the two quarterfinal opponents on Friday evening was in offense, where Swiatek has improved the most this year. Swiatek pocketed the first eight games before the American teenager held serve to 2-1 in the second set. However, Swiatek finished off the match in 65 minutes with 13 winners to nine unforced errors while breaking Gauff five times. Gauff hit 17 winners to 26 unforced errors and could not convert on the three break-point opportunities she earned.

Dealt a tough draw here, Swiatek handled Tokyo finalist Zheng Qinwen in three sets in her opening match and followed it up with a clinical performance to beat Gauff. In every tournament at which she has played Gauff, Swiatek has gone on to win the title, having beaten the American at 2021 Rome, 2022 Miami, and 2022 Roland Garros, according to wtatennis.com.

The victory is Swiatek's 62nd of the season and 40th on hard court. Having won Indian Wells, Miami, and the US Open, the 21-year-old is now 22-1 in the United States this season. The first set against Gauff was her 20th 6-0 "bagel" set of the season, the most since Serena Williams posted 25 in her 2013 season, according to the website. Swiatek and Pegula will clash for the fourth time this season. Swiatek has swept their sets, winning in the Miami semifinals, Roland Garros quarterfinals, and US Open quarterfinals last month.

We know the importance of India-Pak games; no point talking about it every time: Rohit Sharma

Melbourne | Agencies

India skipper Rohit Sharma says he knows the importance of an India-Pakistan cricket match but will not put undue pressure on himself and his team by constantly thinking about the hype being generated around the contest across the cricketing world.

India will play arch-rivals Pakistan in the Super 12 match in front of a packed MCG crowd on October 23, hoping to take revenge for their 10-wicket thrashing in the 2021 T20 World Cup opener in the UAE, but Sharma said there is "no point just talking about it" and putting oneself under pressure.

"(Pakistan skipper) Babar (Azam) is absolutely right. We understand the importance of the game, but there's no point just talking about it every time and creating that pressure within yourself," said Sharma during the Captains' Day interaction on the eve of the commencement of the showpiece event.

Asked how confident he was about his supposedly depleted bowling side going into the big game against Pakistan, Sharma said he would like to just focus on the resources he has at his disposal at the moment.

Warning is a fair thing to do; I'm not a big fan of 'Mankading', says Finch

Canberra | Agencies

Australian T20I skipper Aaron Finch indicated what his pace bowler Mitchell Starc did -- warn England captain Jos Buttler about being out of his crease -- was a fair thing to do, rather than effect a 'Mankad' dismissal in the third and final T20I at the Manuka Oval on Friday evening.

The final T20I was abandoned due of rain with Australia, chasing 112/2 in 12 overs, managing to reach 30/3 in 3.5 overs before the match was called off. England took the series 2-0, having won both the T20Is by identical eight-run margins.

Following the match being abandoned, Finch said he was not a great fan of 'Mankading' and that a warning to batters at the non-striker's end to remain within the crease was sufficient. Australia's Starc appeared to warn Buttler about being out of his crease, and the chatter was picked up on the stump mic.

In the post-match press conference, though Finch said he was unaware of what transpired between Starc and Buttler during the rain-interrupted match, he added it was fair to offer a warning to the batter, but admitted he wasn't a personal fan of the method of dismissal. "I wasn't aware, had no idea about that," Finch was quoted as saying by zerowicket.com. "I think if batters get a warning then it's fair game after that. That would go for most teams, I assume, if you give the batter a warning that they are getting a little too much ground before the ball is bowled. But I'm not a big fan of it, to be fair, personally."

Shanaka, Erasmus upbeat about starting T20 World Cup on winning note

Melbourne | Agencies

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup finally kicks off from Sunday when 2014 champions Sri Lanka face Namibia at Geelong's Kardinia Park Stadium in Group A of the First Round. It will be followed by the United Arab Emirates facing off against the Netherlands later in the evening at the same venue.

Sri Lanka will be in the battle for a Super 12 place alongside Namibia, UAE and the Netherlands. But the mood in the camp is buoyant after a landmark Asia Cup victory in the UAE, which is the reason behind the upbeat attitude of skipper Dasun Shanaka.

"After a very good Asia Cup, we are very confident. The environment is really good. We are well focused on our batting. As it is the early summer, the conditions will be somewhat different, so we are really focusing on that. We are prepared for the challenge so we are looking forward for a good tournament," said Shanaka during the captains' day event in Melbourne.

Asked about the preparedness of his team ahead of World Cup, Shanaka explained, "Apart from that, I think the bowlers, they are really shaping up, so (Dushmantha) Chameera is back with us and Lahiru Kumara is back with us, so they are plus points coming from the Asia Cup. It depends on the day (coming out with a winning result). T20 cricket we never know who will be good, when. I think the better teams come out of the day with a win."

Namibia had made a big impression on their T20 World Cup debut in the UAE and Oman in 2021, surging through to the Super 12 stage and even getting a win there.

Sourav Ganguly to contest for CAB President's post

Kolkata | Agencies

With his exit from the post of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President certain now, former Indian cricket team captain, Sourav Ganguly is now set to contest for Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President.

This was conveyed to a section of the media by Ganguly himself on Saturday evening. He also confirmed that he will be filing his nomination on October 18.

The annual general meeting of the CAB is scheduled on October 31 and elections, if any, will be conducted on the same day. The last of filing the nomination is October 22.

However, Ganguly's close associates said that the panel that Ganguly will represent is yet to be decided. In all probability, his elder brother, Snehasis Ganguly, who is the CAB Secretary now, will also be in the fray for the same chair this time as well.

It is yet to be known if CAB's present President, Avishek Dalmia, who occupied the chair after Ganguly became BCCI President, will run again or extend his support to Ganguly.

On October 13, participating at a function of Bandhan Bank, where he is the brand ambassador now, Ganguly broke his silence on his forthcoming exit from the BCCI President's chair and said that all have to face rejections some time or the other.

"No one can continue as the administrator throughout his life. All have to face rejections some time or the other. When you look at quick success it never happens. Remember, one does not become Narendra Modi or Sachin Teldulkar or an Ambani overnight," he said on that day.

I HAD TO USE SO MANY ICE PACKS, AFTER STUNT SCENE WITH SHARAD KELKAR : *Parineeti*

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra talks about doing action sequences with co-actor Sharad Kelkar and how she had bruises all over.

She said: "Sharad Sir's height is 7 feet and we had to do action in the film. Typically, the heroine's work is to wear good clothes, look good, and do nice hair as if a luxurious and romantic sequence is going to be shot. Our director told me that I will have to perform action scenes and that too with Sharad, who is the enemy in the film."

Parineeti added how Sharad's heights used to create difficulty for her to perform stunts with him. "Now you see his height and my height and you can see he is a seasoned actor who has done so many action films for the past 10-15 years and when I had to do action scenes with him then one can understand. I had used so many ice packs, heat packs, and painkillers as it had hurt me so much."

The 'Hasee Toh Phasee' actress further recalls her shooting experience with 'Agent Raghav' actor and adds how the shots used to be perfect after 10 or 15 takes.

"I used to go to hit Sharad Sir and he used to just stop me, and I would have bruises all over. Our director Ribhu Sir is a perfectionist and he used to not be happy with single takes and we would go on to do 8-10 takes. After 10-15 takes the condition in which I used to go back to the hotel, what shall I say now."

Sharad praised Parineeti for the way she has done action in the film and said: "Will have to accept that Parineeti has done brilliant action in the film. Such action and hard work you will see for the first time in any film. Physical combat and hand-to-hand combat are rarely shown in films but this film has many."

A one-liner on an actor turning spy got me interested, says Karthi

Team Absolute | Chennai

Actor Karthi, who plays the lead in director P. S. Mithran's upcoming spy thriller, 'Sardar', has disclosed that it was director P. S. Mithran's single-line narration on how the army chose to recruit a theatre artiste and turn him into a spy that got him hooked onto the project.

Speaking at the trailer launch event of the film, actor Karthi said: "When producer Lakshman made me meet director P. S. Mithran, the latter casually narrated a one-liner to me. Mithran told me that in the eighties, when the Indian government was looking to set up a team of spies, they tried to train some of those in the military to act.

"However, despite a lot of effort, those in the military couldn't act. That was when the think tank thought, 'Why should we strain so much? Why should we not take a theatre actor and put him in the military?' So, a theatre artiste was recruited and a team trained him and sent him to Pakistan.

"That idea itself was stunning. A theatre artiste being converted into a spy. It was interesting. On learning about this, I asked Mithran to write the script. After a couple of revisions, Mithran came back and told me that the script had taken shape but that it had changed into a double action script. Mithran said, 'This story requires double action. Otherwise, it can't be done.' So, that was how 'Sardar' began."

The film, which is to hit screens on October 21, features Karthi in double action - one as a spy and another as a police officer crazy about publicity.

Salman lashes out at Shalin for disrespecting doctor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, who is hosting the 16th edition of 'Bigg Boss', will be seen losing his cool on contestant Shalin Bhanot on the 'Weekend Ka Vaar' episode.

A promo clip of the episode was shared on channel's Instagram, where Salman is seen blasting Shalin for misbehaving with an in-house doctor.

Other housemates were not aware of Shalin's behaviour.

However, Salman, while slamming Shalin, said: "Shalin aap khud ko dedh samajh rahe jo. I think it is really shameful."

The video in question suggests that when a doctor tried to help Shalin, he started questioning the doctor's qualifications.

"You cannot treat, you are not qualified for my treatment," he said.

The doctor then tried to calm Shalin, but he further asked the doctor: "Do you have an MBBS degree, tell me your qualifications?"

An angry Salman asked: "Aap kahaan tak padhe ho? What is your qualification? Yahaan par aap VVIP nahi ho (you are not VVIP here)." Shalin then tried to defend himself, but Salman shut him down and said: "Shirt nikalne pe majboor mat karo (don't force me to remove my shirt).

Sharmila Tagore: Today, women are taking on bigger roles

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran actress Sharmila Tagore, who herself had played strong female characters in her movies such as 'Aradhana', 'Anupama' and many of her films said that the representation of women in TV and films has changed and they are seen taking charge of more prominent roles.

Sharmila said: "I think the power of women is great in our Indian history. Earlier, women in the film industry restricted themselves to specific jobs like make-up, etc. But today, we have progressed a lot, and women are seen taking charge of bigger roles like directors, producers, and so on and so forth."

Further, she praised popular singer Neha Kakkar for being a fabulous judge on the singing reality show. "We also have our female judge who is doing a fabulous job," she added.

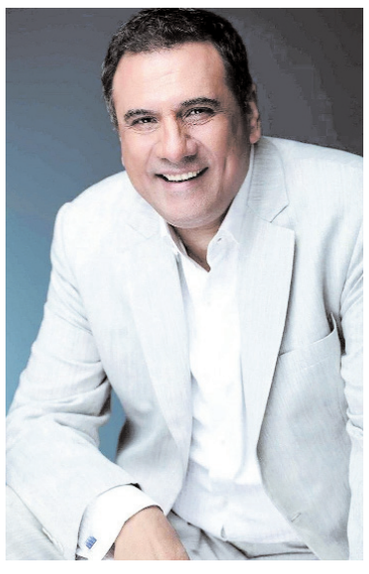
During the singing reality show, 'Indian Idol 13', Sharmila and Tanuja appeared as special guests and the contestants are seen performing on famous tracks from their movies.

Kavya Limaye from Gujarat also performs on songs like 'Ruke Ruke Se Kadam' from Sharmila and Sanjeev Kumar's film 'Mausam'. Kavya expressed her gratitude towards Sharmila and shared: "First of all, I am elated to have received the opportunity to perform in the form of Sharmila Ma'am. Never in my life did I imagine that I would be singing in front of her. More so, as a woman, I feel even more empowered after Sharmila ji spoke about how women in today's day and age are strong, passionate, dedicated, and skilled in their craft. I will never forget this day."

JOURNEY OF THREE FRIENDS THEIR LOVE, RELATIONSHIPS, AND FRIENDSHIP IS A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE: BOMAN IRANI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Boman Irani talks about being part of megastar Amitabh Bachchan and Anupam Kher-starrer film 'Uunchai' which is a story of three friends and their adventurous and emotional journey to the Everest base camp.



He says: "'Uunchai' has been probably the most fulfilling film experience of my entire career. It was a dream cast to work with and the director is one of the kindest, most humble people you could ever hope to meet. The journey of these three friends, everything they experience, including their love, relationships, and especially their friendship is depicted in the movie as a spiritual experience."

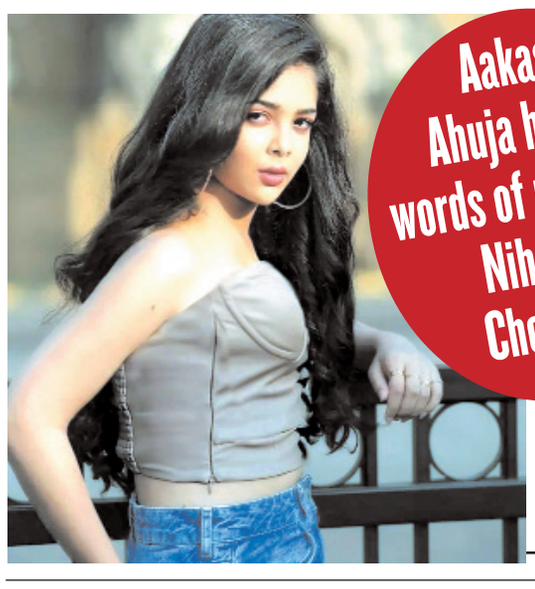
From being a comedian, and villain to a supporting actor, Boman is known for his versatile acting as seen in a number of movies like 'Boom', 'Munna Bhai M.B.B.S', 'Veer Zaara', '3 Idiots', 'Runway 34' and others.

Now in 'Uunchai', he is playing the role of a friend to Big B and Anupam Kher's character. He elaborates on his working experience with Big B, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Parineeti Chopra, Danny Denzongpa, and Sarika.

"Working with Mr Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Neena Ji, Sarika Ji, Parineeti, and Danny sir make me feel incredibly proud. This is a very emotional film for me and this experience is beyond my words. I will cherish this for as long as I live. The film itself will be an experience for the viewers and all those who believe in goodness, kindness, friendships, and relationships will love this movie. And I am overwhelmed to be a part of this beautiful film," he added.

Directed by Sooraj Barjatya, the film features Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Parineeti Chopra, Danny Denzongpa, Neena Gupta , and Sarika.

Aakash Ahuja has all words of praise for Niharika Chouksey



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Aakash Ahuja has shared his working experience with Niharika Chouksey, who is playing the lead in the TV show 'Faltu'.

He says despite being younger than him, working with her is never difficult as she never makes him realize the age gap.

"Working with Niharika is as similar as working with any actor. She doesn't make me feel like she is so young. It's fun when she is on the sets. She is very spontaneous with her scenes that keep me on my toes and our off-screen camaraderie is very fun so that easily transcends on the screen.

She is playing the lead in 'Faltu' which is all about the attitude of people living in rural parts towards girl child and how certain times they end up giving them names like 'Faltu' with a belief that the next child will be a boy.

Aakash calls Niharika a professional in her attitude and also a dedicated actor. "She is very professional when it comes to work and is an amazing co-actor to work with."

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY

Rashmika Mandanna

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