

**NATION**

> 02

Sharmila urges Rahul to speak up on corruption in Kaleshwaram...



**HOLLYWOOD**

> 06

Peter Andre and Katie Price's children want to follow their...



**SPORTS**

> 07

ICC Rankings: Kohli storms into top Ten T20I batter's list...



## CLIMATE PLANS REMAIN INSUFFICIENT, SAYS UN REPORT

A new report from UN Climate Change on Wednesday showed countries are bending the curve of global greenhouse gas emissions downward but underlines that these efforts remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

▶ ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE COMBINED CLIMATE PLEDGES OF 193 PARTIES UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT COULD PUT THE WORLD ON TRACK FOR AROUND 2.5 DEGREES CELSIUS OF WARMING BY THE END OF THE CENTURY.

▶ THE REPORT ALSO SHOWS CURRENT COMMITMENTS WILL INCREASE EMISSIONS BY 10.6 PER CENT BY 2030, COMPARED TO 2010 LEVELS. THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER LAST YEAR'S ASSESSMENT, WHICH FOUND COUNTRIES WERE ON A PATH TO INCREASE EMISSIONS BY 13.7 PER CENT BY 2030, COMPARED TO 2010 LEVELS.

▶ LAST YEAR'S ANALYSIS SHOWED PROJECTED EMISSIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE BEYOND 2030. THIS YEAR'S ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT WHILE EMISSIONS ARE NO LONGER INCREASING AFTER 2030, THEY ARE STILL NOT DEMONSTRATING THE RAPID DOWNWARD TREND SCIENCE SAYS IS NECESSARY THIS DECADE.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report indicated that CO2 emissions needed to be cut 45 per cent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels. The latest science from the IPCC released earlier this year uses 2019 as a baseline, indicating that greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut 43 per cent by 2030. This is critical to meeting the Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall. UN Climate Change analysed the

climate action plans -- known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) -- of 193 parties to the Paris Agreement, including 24 updated or new NDCs submitted after the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) up until September 23. Taken together, the plans cover 94.9 per cent of total global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. This is UN Climate Change's second such report, providing a critical update to last year's inaugural NDC synthesis report. While the overall findings of the report are stark, there are glimmers of hope.

### ALMOST EVERY CHILD ON EARTH WILL SUFFER FROM HEATWAVES BY 2050: UNICEF

Geneva: Hot weather has become a health risk for many nations, but new data shows that almost every child on earth will be affected by heatwaves by 2050, the Unicef warned in a new report. In the report released on Tuesday, the UN agency said that already around 559 million children are exposed to high heatwave frequency and around 624 million children are exposed to one of three other high heat measures -- high heatwave duration, high heatwave severity or extreme high temperatures. "By 2050, virtually every child on earth, over 2 billion children, is forecast to face more frequent heatwaves, regardless of whether the world achieves a 'low greenhouse gas emission

scenario' with an estimated 1.7 degrees of warming in 2050 or a 'very high greenhouse gas emission scenario' with an estimated 2.4 degrees of warming in 2050," it said. According to Unicef, children in northern regions will face the most dramatic increases in high heatwave severity while by 2050, nearly half of all children in Africa and Asia will face sustained exposure to extreme high temperatures. This is because they are less able to regulate their body temperature compared to adults. The more heatwaves children are exposed to, the greater the chance of health problems including chronic respiratory conditions, asthma, and cardiovascular diseases.

### MATTER OF PRIDE FOR INDIA: SONIA GANDHI TO RISHI SUNAK



New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party Chairman Sonia Gandhi has congratulated UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and expressed hope that bilateral ties will be further strengthened.

"I am delighted at your taking over as Prime Minister of Great Britain. It is certainly a matter of pride for all of us in India. Indo-British relations have always been very special and I am confident that they will be further deepened during your tenure," she said in a letter to Sunak.

Sunak on Tuesday took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister with a promise to put the crisis-hit country's needs "above politics" and "fix the mistakes" made by his predecessor, a day after he was elected the leader of the Conservative Party in a historic leadership run. The 42-year-old investment banker-turned-politician is the youngest British prime minister in 210 years. He is also Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister.

Sunak's victory in the Tory leadership race came at the end of a dramatic few days in Westminster since Liz Truss resigned last Thursday in the wake of a disastrous tax-cutting mini-budget and several policy U-turns.



### Kharge takes over as Congress president

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Mallikarjun Kharge has officially taken over as the Congress president and became the first non-Gandhi after a gap of 24 years to be the party chief. Ahead of his official takeover as the Congress president on Wednesday, Kharge paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat, and also visited the Samta Sthal and Shakti Sthal.

Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were present along with other senior leaders of the party. Rahul Gandhi took a break from his ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra to attend the Kharge takeover.

Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday set up a 47-member Steering Committee, which includes his predecessors Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in place of the CWC.

Ahead of his taking over, all the members of the Congress Working Committee - the party's highest decision-making authority, AICC General Secretaries and incharges had tendered their resignation.

### FEELING RELIEVED, FREE OF RESPONSIBILITY: SONIA GANDHI

"I did my duty to the best of my ability. Today, I will be freed of this responsibility. A weight is off my shoulder. I feel a sense of relief. The responsibility is now on Mallikarjun Kharge. The Congress faces many challenges. The challenge is how we face it. With full strength, unity, we have to move forward and succeed."

The new President will announce his new team subsequently.

Earlier Kharge, in his maiden speech as President, said that "there is attempt to replace Baba Saheb's (B.R. Ambedkar) Constitution with the Sangh Constitution and Congress will not let it happen". He alleged that the new India is without jobs, poverty and farmers are being crushed under wheels. While the government effort is to make the nation oppositionless but the Congress will fight the government for the people, he asserted.

### India's growth resilient despite exogenous threats: Finance Minister

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that despite exogenous threats, India's well-targeted policy mix, accompanied by major structural reforms and sound external balance sheet, have aided its growth to remain resilient.

She made these observations while attending the 7th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), via video conferencing.

Sitharaman appreciated the AIIB for its continued commitment and dedication to assist members and for providing high-quality development finance.

While advocating the need to enhance climate finance, the Finance Minister highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is actively leading India's climate change response efforts through various programmes such as 'Lifestyle for Environment' among many others.



Sitharaman urged the bank's management to further intensify private sector capital mobilisation and explore mechanisms to augment its lending headroom.

While suggesting the AIIB set-up full-fledged country offices, she also advised the bank to work towards expanding the scope of its mid-stream and upstream engagement activities, such as increased technical assistance to help clients translate strategies into investment plans.

### ATM dispenses fake currency notes in UP

Amethi: Bank customers in Amethi were in for a major shock after an ATM started dispensing counterfeit currency, in Rs 200 denomination, on withdrawal. The incident came to the fore when people went to ATMs to withdraw cash for Diwali shopping.

A video of the incident shows a man displaying a note dispensed by the ATM. At first glance, the note looks identical to the original Rs 200 note, but a closer look reveals the differences. There are phrases like "Children Bank of India," and "Full of Fun" printed on the notes.

Soon after reports of people receiving fake notes spread, people started agitating at the ATM and a huge crowd gathered there.

The local police were called in and the police spokesman said that the matter would be investigated. He said that the concerned bank was being informed and investigations would begin on Thursday when the banks reopen after a long break.

### Assam Rifles seizes Myanmar-bound war-like stores in Mizoram, 4 held

Aizawl | Agencies

In a significant operation, Assam Rifles on Wednesday seized a large cache of Myanmar-bound tactical and war-like stores, including a satellite phone, from Mizoram's Siaha district and apprehended four persons in this connection, officials said. Defence spokesman Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat said that acting on a secret tip-off, a joint team of Assam Rifles and Mizoram police launched the operation in Niatwhrang village of Siaha district.

"Tactical and electronic devices, explosive materials, and arms and ammunition were being ferried in four bikes to smuggle them into Myanmar for insurgents based there," he said.

Rawat said the seized materials were of military grade and hence the same are suspected to be



used for anti-national activities by Myanmar-based insurgents. The four detainees and the seized items have been handed over to the Siaha police station for further investigation and legal proceedings. The seized materials include one satellite phone, five cellphones, eight SIM cards, 105 bullets of point .22 rifle, 35 packets of potassium, 9,000 airgun pellets, 2,79,700 kyat (Myanmar currency), 49 adapters, 50 antennas, 51 battery chargers, three digital transceivers, 10 handcuffs, 16 combat T-shirts, five magazine pouches, five bullet-proof jackets and 19 black suits.

### THREE CAUGHT RED-HANDED WHILE TRYING TO 'BUY' TRS MLAS IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad: The police in Hyderabad on Wednesday claimed to have caught three persons red-handed while they were trying to 'buy' four MLAs belonging to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS). The three persons were detained during a raid at a farm house in Aziz Nagar on the outskirts of the city while offering money to four TRS MLAs. The Cyberabad police conducted the raids following a tip-off by the legislators. One of those detained is from Delhi, while the other two are from Tirupati and Hyderabad.

The police have reportedly seized Rs 15 crore so far. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Stephen Ravindra said the deal could be to the tune of Rs 100 crore. TRS MLAs Rega Kantha Rao, Guvvala Balaraju, Beeram Harshvardhan Reddy and Pilot Rohit Reddy had alerted the police that attempts were being made to lure them to switch loyalties.

Ravindra said the MLAs alleged that some BJP leaders were trying to lure them to defect from the TRS by offering prominent posts, contracts and huge amount of cash. The TRS has alleged that the BJP is trying to lure its MLAs to defect, adding that those detained by the police are close to BJP leaders.

### Chlorine gas spread in Bhopal, people felt burning in eyes and short of breath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

There was a stir in the Mother India Colony (Shehjanabad) of the capital Bhopal of Madhya Pradesh due to the gas spill. After the information, the district administration and police also reached the spot. Municipal officials said that due to the high amount of chlorine in the water tank, the gas formed and spread. A woman has been admitted to the hospital due to severe problems.

According to the information, there is a municipal water filter plant near Mother India Colony, from which the gas started spreading due to the high amount of chlorine in the water. The incident hap-

pened around 6 pm. Due to this, people started having irritation in the eyes and difficulty in breathing. After this people came out of the houses of the colony and gathered on the road. A woman was admitted to the hospital due to severe pain. Municipal commissioner KVS Choudhary Koslani said that due to the high amount of chlorine in the water, the gas was formed. Now the situation is under control. After the information, district administration and police officials also reached the spot. Local resident Asif Ali said, after 6 pm we faced problem like burning eyes and short of breath. However, after nine o'clock in the night, the effect started to subside.

## Two more Indian beaches enter coveted 'Blue Beaches' list

▶ The Thundi Beach is one of the most pristine and picturesque beaches in the Lakshadweep archipelago where white sand is lined by turquoise blue water of the lagoon. It is a paradise for swimmers and tourists alike.

▶ The Kadmat Beach is especially popular with cruise tourists who visit the island for water sports. It is a paradise for nature lovers with its pearl white sand, blue lagoon waters, its moderate climate and friendly locals.

▶ Both the beaches have designated staff for beach cleanliness and maintenance; and for safety and security of swimmers. Both the beaches comply with all the 33 criteria as mandated by the Foundation for Environment Education (FEE).

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The globally recognised and the coveted international eco-label "Blue Flag", has been accorded to two new Indian beaches - Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach - both in Lakshadweep.

This takes the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag certification in the country to 12.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people, particularly of Lakshadweep, as Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach made it to the coveted list, an eco-label given to the cleanest beaches in the world.

The other Indian beaches in the blue list are Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala),



Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu) and Eden (Puducherry).

The Foundation for Environment Education in

Denmark (FEE) accords the Blue Flag certification. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related and access-related criteria must be met and

maintained. The mission of Blue Flag is to promote sustainability in the tourism sector, through environmental education, environmental protection and other sustainable development practices.



# REGULARLY IDENTIFY SENSITIVE POSTS IN GOVT DEPARTMENTS, PSUS: CVC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Emphasising the importance of the preventive vigilance mechanism, the Central Vigilance Commission has asked public sector undertakings, public sector banks, and Central government departments to regularly identify sensitive posts and ensure the rotation of officers as per the time limits.

"Periodical rotation of officials holding sensitive posts would help eliminate the scope of developing vested interest by the officials and would also reduce the scope of indulging in corrupt activities," said the CVC in its order dated October 25.

The order has been issued to secretaries of all Central Ministries and departments and chief executives of public sector banks, insurance companies, and enterprises.

"Identification of sensitive posts and rotational transfer of officials holding sensitive posts is one of the tools for effective implementation of preventive vigilance mechanism," it said.

In its order, the CVC also noted that earlier guidelines issued pertaining to identification of sensitive posts have not been followed in letter and



spirit by many organisations.

It said that the Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) in consultation with the chief executive/management of the respective organisations, should immediately undertake an exercise to identify sensitive posts in their organisations. In future, an exercise to review and identify sensitive posts

may be conducted after an interval of every three years, the CVC said in its order.

Further, it may also be ensured that the officials holding sensitive posts are transferred/posted out from such posts as per the time limits prescribed by the commission and the Department of Personnel and

Training (DoPT) from time to time, without exception, it said.

The order also noted that in view of the ever-changing scenario and increasing use of technology in the functioning of organisations, it is important that the list of sensitive posts is reviewed and updated at regular intervals.

# Burglars' gang led by woman busted in Delhi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A gang of burglars led by a woman has been busted in South West Delhi who used to target locked houses.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Manoj C said that the accused have been identified as Dharmender, Bablu and Laxmi.

Laxmi used to do the reconnaissance to identify the locked flats to commit burglary. They used to come in a car. Laxmi would identify the locked house in the guise of a maid whereas the others would wait for her in the car. Later they would commit the burglary.

One gold necklace, two pairs of earrings, one car and house breaking tools were recovered from their possession. "Recently southwest district saw a huge jump in burglary cases. To bust the gang a team of officials was formed. The team examined the CCTV footage and learnt



that it was a woman who was among the thieves," the police said.

The police were able to identify the accused as their faces were clearly visible in the footage. They mounted technical surveillance and learnt that the accused were from Noida.

"We got a tip off about the accused and a trap was laid. The accused were caught when they were planning to commit another robbery. They used to come in a car.

The woman would roam in the area to identify the locked house. Later, the male accused would break open the door," the police said.

They used to sell the stolen articles to a Moradabad based jeweller identified as Amrish. Laxmi was known to the jeweller. "Accused Bablu was found involved in more than three dozen cases, Laxmi and Dharmender in around ten," the police said.

## Five persons fall ill, die after complaining of acute pain in Bihar

Patna | Agencies

Five persons died due to illness in Bihar's Rohtas district in the last 24 hours, an official said.

The deaths of the deceased were due to undiagnosed illness. Two of the deceased named Budhu Paswan and Chandan Paswan died apparently of brain haemorrhage while Dhananjay Singh and Sanjay Singh died due to abdominal and joint pain.

Another person Manish Singh, a native of adjoining Bahbani Pahadi, also died due to abdominal and joint pain. The villagers claimed that a large number of persons were ill in these two villages. Some of them have been admitted



in private hospitals. They were clueless about the reasons for such illnesses.

Jagdish Singh, father of Manish Singh, said, "My son complained of acute pain in the stomach and joints. We took him to a local hospital but he died on the way. He was in unbearable pain. The reason for it is still not known." Arjun Paswan, the

father of Budhu and Chandan Paswan, informed: "My sons complained about acute pain in the head. They soon became unconscious and died." The family members of the deceased cremated them without a postmortem. Officials of the Rohtas health department were not aware of the deaths due to acute and unbearable pain.

## Sharmila urges Rahul to speak up on corruption in Kaleshwaram project

Hyderabad | Agencies

YSR Telangana Party (YSRTP) chief Y.S. Sharmila has written a letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appealing him to raise the corruption of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project during his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Telangana.

Sharmila wrote that as a national party, Congress should have a regional concern too and particularly about a project that her father -- late Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy conceived to bring permanent solution to the drought-ridden Telangana lands.

"As Rahul Gandhi begins his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana, we welcome him on this soil, and also appeal him to raise this issue that will have far-reaching impact and awareness as the biggest scam committed by KCR to favour his family and one contractor," she said adding that the local Congress leaders have only been doing cosmetic service when it came to fighting Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao and his corruption in



Kaleshwaram project.

Recalling her father's commitment and vision towards Telangana, Sharmila tried to draw attention of Rahul Gandhi towards the original specifications of the project that was then conceived as Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Project, and planned with an outlay of Rs 38,500 crore.

"Today, KCR has hiked the cost to over Rs 1.20 lakh crore with no perceived additional benefits. The original project design, along with Dr. YSR's

unflinching commitment towards irrigation in Telangana was hailed by the Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi. We want Rahul Gandhi to know that the current lot of his colleagues in Telangana have no interest to fight these irregularities." "We expect Rahul Gandhi to raise the subject all along his Yatra in Telangana, more seriously, and not just as lip service. This appeal is in the larger interest of the people of Telangana. I wish to add once again that it is only the YSRTP that has been fervently fighting against the corruption and massive malpractices in the project," she said.

The YSRTP leader said she met the CBI and the CAG officials in Delhi and filed complaints against the project irregularities, falsification of numbers and favouritism.

"We are going all out to expose KCR on all fronts, we have not relented, and we will not relax. While welcoming Rahul Gandhi, we expect that he also understands the seriousness of the scam and as a national party, respond by raising the issue," she added.

## Drug syndicate member nabbed, 57 kg of cannabis seized; 1 cop injured

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A police constable was injured after a member of an inter-state drug peddling syndicate tried to flee in his car from north east Delhi's Karawal Nagar area, police said on Wednesday.

The police said that the accused drove the car in reverse and the constable Harinder, who caught hold of the car's rear hood was dragged for a few metres, and sustained injuries after the car hit a house wall.

The police said that they have also recovered 57.7 kg of cannabis and a Honda Civic car used to transport the drug.

The accused has been identified as 22-year-old Ankur, a resident of Delhi's Dayalpur area.

"On October 25, when the police team was patrolling near Alok Punj School in Karawal Nagar, they noticed a car parked on the side of a 'nullah' (drain). A person was sitting on the driver seat," said Sanjay Kumar Sain, Deputy Commissioner of



Police (northeast Delhi).

"When police team approached him, the man panicked and immediately started the car and tried to drive away in reverse gear dangerously. To save himself, Constable Harinder, who was standing behind the car, caught hold of the rear bonnet," the

DCP added. "After covering some distance, the driver hit the car in the wall of a house following which Constable Harinder also got injured. Somehow police personnel caught hold of the car driver," said the DCP, adding that Harinder was shifted to Max Hospital, Patparganj, and later he was diagnosed with "hip fracture".

"Police also recovered 11 suspected packets wrapped with brown tape stacked in the boot of the car. Following the guidelines of NDPS Act, the packets were checked. On checking 57.7 kg of cannabis was recovered from his possession," said the police officer. "On questioning, Ankur confessed to his crime and disclosed that he had been working as a driver for a man identified as Rohit, whom he met through one of his friends Pankaj," the officer added.

"Rohit lured him for Rs 20,000 per trip in lieu of transporting the drug consignment inter-state," said the DCP, adding that a manhunt has been initiated to nab Rohit and Pankaj.

## Wife attempts suicide, husband records the incident

Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a video has emerged in which a woman is seen attempting to hang herself from the ceiling fan and the husband, instead of saving her, is busy filming the act.

The woman fails in her first attempt but succeeds in hanging herself in the second attempt.

The woman's father Raj Kishore Gupta told reporters that his son-in-law Sanjeev Gupta called him in the afternoon and said that his wife Shobhita had committed suicide. "I rushed to her house in Gulmohar Nagar and found her body on the bed.



Sanjeev was busy pumping her chest but she was lifeless. When I questioned Sanjeev, he showed me the video and I was shocked that he made no effort to save her but was busy recording the incident. He also did not rush her to the hospital," he said. The

Hanumant Nagar police have been informed of the incident by the deceased's family and the body has been sent for post mortem.

Sanjeev Gupta is being questioned by the police. The couple had been married four years ago.

## K'taka BJP chief compares Kempe Gowda with Tipu Sultan, stokes controversy

Bengaluru | Agencies

BJP Karnataka unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel on Wednesday stirred a controversy by stating that Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan is "nothing" as compared to founder of Bengaluru City Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda.

He was addressing the special programme organised to collect soil for the park which will be built around the 108 feet tall statue of Kempe Gowda on the premises of the Bengaluru International Airport.

"Tipu is no one in comparison to Kempe Gowda. At the time of finalising names for the Bengaluru airport, many names came up for discussion. Many demanded that Bengaluru airport should be named after the Tipu Sultan.

"Tipu is nothing compared to Kempe Gowda and Wodeyars who ruled Mysuru. Wodeyars ruled Mysuru before Tipu's father Hyder Ali took over and they continued



to rule it after Tipu died in the war against Britishers.

Kateel further stated that there was a good administrative relation with Kempe Gowda and Mysuru Wodeyars. If Bengaluru is an international city today, it is due to the contribution of Kempe Gowda.

To create awareness about Kempe Gowda, the soil is being collected from all across the state, Kateel stated. Dharmapalanatha swamiji

of Adichunchanagiri Mutt stated that common man needs to be told about real history. "We believe twisted history as the truth. The real contributors to the nation will have to be remembered," he said.

Kumar, Power, Kannada and Culture Minister Sunil Kumar stated that the basic foundation for Bengaluru City was laid by Kempe Gowda.

## Union minister acquittal in murder case: SC refuses to transfer UP govt appeal

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has refused to entertain a plea by Union Minister Ajay Mishra seeking a direction to transfer the UP government's appeal, challenging his acquittal in an over two decade old murder case, from the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench to the main court itself.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justice Bela M. Trivedi said: "We do not go into all these issues as in our view, a request to the high court to hear the appeal for disposal on November 10, 2022, the date given by the high court and agreed upon by both the senior counsel would serve the ends of justice. In case the senior counsel is unable to come down to Lucknow, a request for allowing said counsel to make submissions through videoconferencing may be considered by the high court."

The bench, in its order, further added: "With these observations, the instant writ petition and the special leave petition are disposed of. Pending interlocutory application(s),



if any, stands disposed of."

Counsel had informed the bench that the transfer was sought on grounds as the senior advocate, who would argue the matter at Lucknow, was ordinarily based at Allahabad and because of his old age, it would

not be possible for him to go all the way to Lucknow for arguments.

The top court, in its order, said: "The instant writ petition has been filed by the complainant seeking directions that the matter which is pending consideration before the

high court and which is getting repeatedly adjourned, be directed to be listed and heard at an early date. It is also submitted that the appeal was actually heard in the month of March 2018. However, till April 2022, no judgment having been delivered, a request was made on behalf of the complainant for rehearing of the appeal."

Mishra moved the apex court challenging the administrative order passed by the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court declining to entertain a plea to transfer the appeal from Lucknow to Allahabad.

The matter is connected with the murder of 24-year-old Prabhakar Gupta, which took place in Lakhimpur Kheri in 2000.

Mishra, Union Minister of State for Home, had faced trial in Gupta's murder but the trial court acquitted him and others for want of evidence in 2004. The state filed the appeal after Mishra's acquittal and the deceased's family also filed a separate revision petition against the judgment.



### LIFE THREATENING POTHoles ON BHOPAL'S ROADS PROMPT CM TO ORDER REPAIRS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The roads, damaged due to heavy rain in Bhopal are filled with numerous potholes, which prompted Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to order repairs at the earliest.

In a meeting with senior government officials on Wednesday, Chouhan expressed his disappointment at the condition of the roads in Bhopal and asked the officials to repair the damaged roads within 15-20 days.

The Chief Minister slammed the officials for their careless attitude towards repairing of roads.

"If this is the situation in Bhopal, what would it be in other parts of the state. Why we are showing a careless approach on this important issue. What are the Public Works Department (PWD) officials doing? If they have any problem with repairing roads, they should tell me, but this is not the right approach. Roads should be repaired within next 15-20 days," Chouhan said while instructing officials during a daily review meeting on Wednesday.

This year Bhopal has received



heavy rainfall during the monsoon and due to which, along with small roads, some major roads like highways and bridges were submerged in water in several parts of the state. Particularly in the capital city -- Bhopal, roads could be seen with potholes endangering the life of motorists. Reports suggested that nearly all roads in the city need to be repaired as these potholes are proving dangerous to the motorists.

As per reports, there are more than 1,200 potholes on roads which carries the major part of daily traffic in the city. At least three-four people have lost their lives due to the potholes.

People in the city have been complaining about damage of roads and requesting Bhopal Municipal Corporation and the PWD through social media, however, those requests went in vain. More shocking is that potholes can be found in roads which

are even built recently and receive a lot traffic on daily basis. The situation is worse that at several spots, there is complete darkness and potholes on the main road are leading to several untoward incidents.

The Chief Minister's instruction came after he personally experienced the situation while travelling in a particular location of the city.

Chouhan also mentioned that he is fed up with reading news of potholes and damaged roads in the city.

"Why aren't you working on it? coordinate with concerned departments and repair the city's roads as soon as possible. This kind of approach will not be tolerated," the Chief Minister said.

Before Chouhan took cognizance of this issue, one of his cabinet Minister -- Praduman Singh Tomar has announced to walk bare feet until the roads of Gwalior are repaired.

Tomar, who is a loyalist of Union Home Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and had joined the BJP along with 20 other Congress MLAs in March 2022, would often raise questions on different issues to expose the government of his own party in the state.

### Foundation Day programmes of MP will be celebrated as festival: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that programmes to be held on the foundation day of Madhya Pradesh from November 1 to 7 should be organized as 'Madhya Pradesh Utsav'. The seven day long activities and celebration should be in the form of Jan Utsav with joy and maximum public participation. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing a meeting related to the programmes of Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day at his residence office.

Chief Minister said that Madhya Pradesh anthem should be played with respect in all government and private educational institutions of the state on the foundation day of November 1. It was informed that famous singer Charanjit Singh Sondhi will present Madhya Pradesh anthem in the state level programme to be held in Bhopal on November 1. A concerted dance drama will be presented on Shiva Mahatmya. Shankar Ehsaan Loy trio will



give a band performance. The 67th foundation day of the state, will be based on the theme of Mahakal Mahalok. All government buildings will be illuminated.

It was informed that on November 2, the families of 43 lakh Ladlis will join the Ladli Laxmi Sammelan. On November 3, activities focused on cleanliness will include cleaning of historical places and statues of great men and lighting of 67 lamps at prominent places.

It was told that on November 4, programmes will be organized on employment day and 'One District - One Product'. On November 5, activities focussed on the

pride of Madhya Pradesh will be held. In this, theatrical performances on Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad and competitions on patriotic songs will be held in all educational institutions. In this sequence, on November 6, there will be activities related to wildlife protection, energy-conservation and literacy and environment-protection. In this painting competition, race and quiz will also be organized for school children. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan directed to undertake activities on protection of wildlife and forests. Prizes for the week-long competitions will be distributed on November 7.

### 2 RPF constables die after being hit by Duronto Express

Team Absolute | Morena

Two head constables of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) died after being hit by a speeding train in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, an official said on Wednesday.

The incident took place around 8 pm on Tuesday at Sank railway station, 7 km from Morena, when the victims were checking the Gwalior-Agra passenger train which had halted there, Morena RPF police station in-charge Harikishan Meena said.

While head constables Ashok Kumar (56) and Navraj Singh (40) were on the middle track to check the station-



ary passenger train, the Duronto Express train coming from Delhi suddenly passed from there and hit them, he said.

The victims could not run to safety as a goods train had halted on the other side

track, he said.

The two cops died on the spot, the official said, adding that the bodies were later sent for post-mortem.

An investigation is underway into the incident, he added.

### Woman killed, 23 injured as fuel tanker catches fire in Khargone

Team Absolute | Khargone

A woman was killed and at least 23 other people were injured when a fuel tanker caught fire after overturning near a village in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district on Wednesday morning, officials said.

Superintendent of Police Dharmveer Singh while quoting locals said people from Anjangaon village had gathered to look at the tanker after it overturned near the village. The vehicle then suddenly caught fire causing the casualties, he said.

One of the injured persons said a blast occurred in the tanker after it overturned. The incident took place at around 5 am near Anjangaon vil-



lage under Bistan police station limits, about 30 km from the district headquarters, police said. Khargone Collector Kumar Purushottam told

reporters that one person was killed and at least 23 others suffered burn injuries in the incident which occurred after the tanker of the

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) overturned. The deceased was identified as Rangubai (19), he said.

Some of the seriously injured persons were referred to Indore for further treatment, he said.

The collector also said that BPCL officials have been asked to conduct an inquiry into the incident.

Jagdish, who was among those injured in the incident, said a blast took place suddenly in the tanker when the villagers reached the spot after the vehicle overturned.

The tanker driver and conductor fled from the spot, he said.

Anjangaon resident Ghurmul Sisodia said the fire broke out suddenly in the fuel tanker when the villagers went to the spot to look at it.

### Emphasis on better use of cow urine and dung in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Efforts will be made by the government to promote the correct use of cow urine and dung in Madhya Pradesh.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said in the review meeting that through Govardhan Puja organized with the aim of expressing our gratitude towards nature, we have to motivate people for tree plantation, conservation of cow lineage and natural farming.

The Chief Minister further said that Govardhan Puja is the worship of environment and nature in the true sense, it was started by Lord Krishna. He told Brijwasis that Govardhan Parvat gives life to people and animals through forest, grass and fruits and flowers. The meaning of Govardhan Puja is to protect the environment and in view of the crisis and effects of climate change and global warming, Govardhan Puja has become more relevant. More and more farmers, environment lovers and general public should be connected with Govardhan Puja organized today.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that



activities would also be conducted to make cow-sheds self-dependent for the arrangement of cow dynasty. For the safety of the cows living on the roads, motivate every person to take up the task of bringing the cows to the cow-sheds as a social responsibility. At present 1663 Go-shalas are operating. Along with this, other go-shalas will also be activated. Proper use of cow urine and cow dung will be promoted by making Gaushalas multifunctional. At the same time, he has called upon every section of the society to join the government for the safety and responsibility of the cows.

Emphasizing on the promotion of natural farming, the Chief Minister said that it is necessary to encourage natural farming to protect the environment and the health of the people.

Tree plantation is a suitable means of saving future generations from the effects of climate change. More and more people and organizations active for cow protection will also be involved in the activities of tree plantation, natural farming and conservation of cow lineage with Govardhan Puja.

### UNIQUE DONKEYS FAIR HELD IN CHITRAKOOT



Team Absolute | Satna

A unique fair has been organized on the banks of Mandakini river of Chitrakoot, a religious city of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh, and this fair is of donkeys, in which donkeys and mules named Salman and Shahrukh have also come to sell. In this donkey fair in Chitrakoot, traders from different states have brought mules and donkeys,

whose bid is also being done. The beauty of this fair is that there are more visitors than buyers and sellers. According to the tradition that has been going on for years, this fair lasts for 3 days from the next day of Deepawali.

This time also this fair is being held.

According to local experts, this mill has been running continuously since the time of Aurangzeb. During the period of Aurangzeb, when

there was a shortage of logistics and other goods in the army, the mule and donkey owners of this entire region were gathered in a field and bought them, this fair started since then is still going on.

Different species of donkeys and mules have reached this fair. They also have names matching the names of film stars, many of these donkeys and mules are being called as Shahrukh, Salman and Katrina.

### BHOOMI PUJAN ON 29TH FOR 73 CM RISE SCHOOL IN STATE

Bhopal: Bhoomi Puja ceremony is going to be held for 73 CM Rice Schools in Madhya Pradesh on 29th October. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has given instructions to give better shape to this event.

While reviewing the preparations for the event at Chief Minister Chouhan's residence, he said that 73 CM Rise schools costing Rs 2660 crore would be worshipped, which would be a big achievement for the state. He directed for wide publicity along with better arrangements of the program.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh Bhamashah Award program will be held in Bhopal on November 3. Awards will be given in five categories. A kit will also be released at the event for the convenience of the taxpayers. Arrangements should be made for better publicity of the program and people can see the program on a wider scale.

The Chief Minister said that such a place should be fixed in which maximum number of traders can come.

### FIREBALLS RAINED IN INDORE'S HINGOTE WAR, 7 INJURED

Team Absolute | Indore

Continuing the tradition that has been going on for almost 200 years in Gautampura, Indore, the Hingote war took place and fireballs also rained in it. 7 people are reported to be injured in this war. There is a tradition of Hingote war on the next day of Diwali in Gautampura, located about 55 km from Indore headquarters, but this time due to solar eclipse, this war took place on Wednesday. In this war, the members of Kalaki and Turra team were face to face. The members of both the teams first took blessings by reaching the temple of Lord Devnarayan and after that followed the tradition which has been going on for the last 200 years.

In this war, the team of Gautampura is called Turra, while the warriors of nearby village Run ji are called Kalangi Dal. The members of both the armies reached their respective parts and started raining fireballs at each other.

Depalpur area's sub-divisional officer



police Neelam Kannauj told IANS that a total of 7 people were injured in the

Hingote war. The event could not be held for the last

2 years due to the Corona epidemic, this time the event was held and there was enthusiasm among the people here, which was seen in the form of the number of spectators.

This time the mesh that was installed in both the sides of the field was much higher than in previous years. Along with this, a team of doctors, ambulances and fire brigade vehicles were also present at the venue.

There is no historical evidence of how the Hingote war started, but it is said that during the Mughal period, the soldiers who were stationed for the security of the princely state in the Gautampura region, used to fire Hingote on the mounted soldiers of the Mughal army.

Hingote is specially prepared, it bears fruit on the Hingoria tree which is small in size and resembles a coconut.

Whose inner pulp is removed and dried and gunpowder is filled inside it. Thin bamboo wood is strung to make it move in a straight direction like a rocket.

### THREE MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY RIDING A BIKE DIED IN A CAR COLLISION IN RATLAM

Ratlam: Three members of a bike-riding family were killed, while one was seriously injured after a car collided with them in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh. According to the information received from the police, on Tuesday night, a couple was going on a bike with their two children in Javra. Then a car hit the bike near Lal Kheda Phatte on Ujjain bypass.

It has been told that in this accident the bike-riding couple Shivram and his wife Narmada Bai and son Praveen died while daughter Shivani is injured and is undergoing treatment at Ratlam Hospital.



EDITOR'S SPECS

PK IN POLITICAL FRAY

Political strategist Prashant Kishor (PK) is likely to turn into a politician around November 10. Currently on the 'Jan Suraj Padyatra', he is touring Bihar to strike a chord with the people. "We have decided to organise a meeting around November 10 in Bettiah town where members of the Jan Suraj campaign will be invited. They will vote in the presence of mediapersons to decide whether we should form a political party or not. At present, we are only doing padyatra with a theory of Jan Suraj," PK said after completing 200 kms in Bagha. PK started his padyatra from west Champaran district on October 2 this year and covers a distance of 12 to 13 km every day. The padyatra of PK has raised questions over its funding. Leaders like Shivanand Tiwari, the RJD vice president, claimed earlier that PK is spending Rs 1 crore every day on his padyatra and is living in lavish tents for the night stay. He also said that PK had given front page advertisements to all newspapers on October 2 to promote his padyatra. "In case we form a political party, we will do crowdfunding. Bihar has a population of 13 crore and if two crore people donate Rs 100, it becomes Rs 200 crore for the party. At present, there is no banking facility in the country to collect funds directly from the common people. We want to make such a facility where people directly donate funds to the party. Other parties are raising funds through government officials, corruption and scams," PK said. PK raised several issues like the pathetic condition of roads in villages, toilets, Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal Yojana, fertilizers, migration of youths, flash flood in West Champaran, health, education and law and order situation of Bihar.

SUNAK'S FIRST SPEECH SHOWS THAT MANY CHALLENGES AHEAD

Asad Mirza

The Conservative Party of the UK showed a lot of grit in finalising the name of Rishi Sunak, as the new prime minister of the country very quickly, bringing an end to Liz Truss's short tenure as the prime minister riddled with bad decisions. Rishi Sunak has become the UK's 57th prime minister, the first prime minister to be a British Asian, the first Hindu, and the richest person to have held the office. Former prime minister David Cameron had exuded confidence in 2014 when he had prophesied to see a British Asian taking on his role his life time. Lo and behold, the words came true in just eight years. The Conservative Party selected the newest British prime minister in just four days, after the previous prime minister Liz Truss's resignation on October 20. Her shortest 44 days tenure left behind a trail of rising inflation, rising borrowing costs and predicted deficits on a massive scale, which will likely require either significant tax increases, spending cuts or both. The last chapter of Liz Truss's tenure unfolded on the same lines as it happened during the last days of the previous prime minister Boris Johnson. In BoJo's case the crisis was precipitated by the resignation of his then Chancellor of Exchequer, Rishi Sunak and in Truss's case it snowballed after the resignation of her Home Secretary Suella Braverman. Rishi Sunak after getting an invite from King Charles III to form the next government tweeted that he'll fulfil promises listed in the Conservative Party's election manifesto in 2019, saying: "I will deliver on (our manifesto's) promise. A stronger NHS, better schools, safer streets, control of our borders, protecting our environment, supporting our armed forces, levelling up, and building an economy that embraces the opportunities of Brexit where businesses invest, innovate and create jobs." Sunak acknowledged that in light of everything that has transpired, he still has work to do to rebuild confidence. He declared: "I'm not daunted." He also



said he understands the strain of the high position and that he'll not leave the next generation with a "debt to settle that we were too weak to pay ourselves". In his first speech as UK prime minister, Sunak declared that his administration would uphold integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level and pledged economic stability and increasing public's confidence in the government. But his most important task would be to unite a governing party that is riven with divisions, apart from tackling a mounting economic crisis, a warring political party and a deeply divided country. The Conservative Party, despite having suffered a series of recent by-election defeats, still maintains a working parliamentary majority of 71, meaning that Britain's next general election could conceivably come as late as January 2025. Apart from the demands of the opposition's Labour Party, other voices are also increasing in intensity demanding the Conservatives to

go in for a general election. In fact, Sunak has become a prime minister without the public support, as he was voted to being an MP not a PM. Meanwhile in India, the news of Sunak becoming the prime minister on the auspicious day of Diwali was greeted with joy. The social media exploded in a series of accolades for Sunak, his family and his in-laws. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: "As you become UK PM, I look forward to working closely together on global issues, and implementing Roadmap 2030," referring to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) struck between the two countries and which was expected to be signed and delivered last week, before Diwali. Meanwhile, India's arch rival Pakistan's public also laid claim to Sunak, describing him as a Pakistani, as his parents belonged to Gujranwala, now in Pakistan. Twitterati even urged the Pakistani government to lay claim to him as a Pakistani. India has high hopes from

Sunak to change the dimensions of the bilateral relationship. But Indian politicians need to understand that Sunak is not an Indian by birth and his outlook is more attuned to being a British citizen. His Britishness helped him to achieve professionally as a banker and as a politician, what he is today. So his total outlook towards India would be a pragmatic one, not an emotional one. One can't see him undoing what his predecessors had done in the past. But perhaps a new king and a new prime minister might be able to start a new chapter in the bilateral relations and may change the overall view of the British polity towards India and Indians in the UK. Only time would tell. (Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs.)

international

RUSSIA RECRUITING AFGHAN COMMANDOS TRAINED BY US TO FIGHT IN UKRAINE

London | Agencies

Afghan commandos who had been trained by Allied forces to fight the Taliban are now being recruited by Russia to fight in Ukraine, a media report said. Up to 30,000 members of the elite National Army Commando Corps were abandoned by the West when the country fell to the Taliban in August last year, Daily Mail reported. Now, the US-trained light infantry force that fought side by side with Allied troops for nearly 20 years could be joining Vladimir Putin's savage war effort, the report said. It is believed the shadowy Wagner Group is behind the recruitment drive, exploiting the jobless commandos. An ex-official told Foreign Policy: "I am telling you [the recruiters] are Wagner Group. They are gathering people



from all over. [The Afghan commandos] would be better used by Western allies to fight alongside Ukrainians. They don't want to fight for the Russians; the Russians are the enemy. But what else are they going to do?" Many say they have been contacted via WhatsApp and Signal with offers to join the Russian 'foreign legion' in Ukraine. Senior military and security officials

in Afghanistan fear as many as 10,000 soldiers could be tempted to join, because they have "nothing to lose", Daily Mail reported. Only a few hundred senior officers were evacuated by the US in the dramatic withdrawal from Kabul in August 2021. Many Afghan soldiers fled to the neighbouring countries while others went into hiding fearing reprisals

from the Taliban for their loyalty to the collapsed government and the West. The commandos were honed by the US Navy Seals and the British SAS, with a staggering 80 billion pound spent on their training by the US. An ex-security official said their call-up to Ukraine would be a "game-changer" in Putin's faltering war. Last year, Rep. Michael McCaul had warned abandoning the commandos could prove to be a costly mistake by the US as they could be recruited for adversary armies. One Afghan ex-commando captain who is now in hiding said he helped his comrades connect with recruiters in Iran. They were flown to Tehran and then on to Russia where their phones are switched off and they carry out their mission 'secretly', he said, Daily Mail reported.

Calls for probe into Braverman's return to UK Home Office

London | Agencies

The Liberal Democrats have called for a Cabinet Office probe into Suella Braverman's re-appointment as the UK Home Secretary after being forced to resign for breaching the ministerial code last week. Liberal Democrats home affairs spokesperson Alistair Carmichael said: "Suella Braverman's appointment makes a mockery of Rishi Sunak's claims to be bringing integrity to Number 10. "There must be a full independent inquiry by the Cabinet Office into her appointment, including any promises (Prime Minister Rishi) Sunak made to her behind closed doors." Carmichael said that Braverman should be sacked if it is confirmed she "repeatedly broke the ministerial code and threatened national security", adding: "A Home Secretary who broke the rules is not fit for a Home Office which keeps the rules," the BBC reported. The UK cabinet reshuffle saw some predictable choices, and some that have surprised MPs. One of the most eye-catching appointments was the return of Braverman as Home Secretary.



She resigned just days ago from the role after a security breach, when she sent a government document to someone not authorised to receive it. She endorsed Sunak to be the new leader two days ago, a move seen as a massive boost for his campaign as it represented support from the right-wing of the party, the BBC reported. Some sources in government speculate that endorsement may well have been an ask for something in return.

6.7-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

Manila: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 jolted northern Philippines on Tuesday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said, adding that it might cause damage. The institute said the quake, which occurred at 22:59 local time, hit at a depth of 28 km, about 7 km northwest of Tineg town of Abra province on the main island of Luzon, Xinhua news agency reported. The quake was also felt in nearby areas, including Ilocos Sur province and Baguio city, said the institute. It said the tectonic quake will trigger aftershocks. There were no early reports of damage or casualties. No tsunami alert has yet been issued. The Philippines has frequent seismic activity due to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire."

CANADIAN CITY GETS FIRST TURBAN-WEARING SIKH WOMAN COUNCILLOR

Toronto | Agencies

Indo-Canadian healthcare worker Navjit Kaur Brar has become the first turban-wearing Sikh woman to be elected as Brampton City Councillor in the recent Municipal council polls. Brar, a respiratory therapist and a mother of three, won the race for City Councillor in Wards 2 and 6, beating Jermaine Chambers, a former Conservative MP candidate for Brampton West. Brar had 28.85 per cent of the votes cast on Monday with Chambers as nearest contender with 22.59 per cent, and Carmen Wilson coming in third at 15.41 per cent, the Brampton Guardian reported. "I am so proud of @Navjitkaurbrar. She was a selfless and dedicated front line healthcare worker during the pandemic. She has stepped up for public service and I am confident she will be a phenomenal addition to Brampton City Council," tweeted Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown, who won a second term in recent election. As part of her campaign she knocked over 40,000 doors and spoke to over 22,500 residents in the last two months.



"Over the past 3 years, I've spoken to countless Bramptonians and the sentiment I hear is that they are all hurting, they feel unheard, they feel left behind. With the rising cost of living it's getting harder to raise and provide for your family in Brampton... As your city councillor I will fight for better services for all Bramptonians and ensure that your voices are heard," Brar had said in her campaign pitch. Brar previously ran as the Ontario NDP candidate in Brampton West, losing out to incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP Amarjot Sandhu.

S.Korea, US, Japan hold talks amid speculation on N.Korea nuke test

Seoul | Agencies

Senior diplomats of South Korea, the US and Japan held high-level talks on Wednesday on regional and global security issues amid concerns over the possibility of a North Korean nuclear test. South Korea's First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun-dong held the trilateral session with his American and Japanese counterparts -- Wendy Sherman and Takeo Mori -- in Tokyo to discuss ways to deal with North Korea's evolving threats highlighted by a series of ballistic missile launches in recent weeks, reports Yonhap News Agency. This week's session came amid rampant speculation that the Kim Jong-un regime



may soon press ahead with another nuclear test and carry out additional provocative acts. Officials in Seoul say the secretive North is apparently all set for its first nuclear test since September 2017. The previous tripartite meeting of the diplomats took place in Seoul in June. North Korea fired nearly a dozen ballistic missiles in just three weeks from late September, bringing the total number of ballistic missiles it launched this year to 44, the largest number of ballistic missiles fired in a single year. Earlier this month, the reclusive country fired hundreds of artillery shots into the maritime buffer zones in the East and Yellow seas that were set under a 2018 inter-Korean agreement on reducing military tensions.



# NCP, SHIV SENA-UBT TO MARCH WITH CONGRESS' BHARAT JODO YATRA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Nationalist Congress Party and Shiv Sena-Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray will join the Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra led by party MP Rahul Gandhi when it enters Maharashtra next month, party leaders said here on Wednesday.

A senior Sena-UBT leader, preferring anonymity, told IANS that party chief Uddhav Thackeray is unlikely to take part in the BJT owing to the current political situation here, but will depute a high-level team of leaders to express solidarity with Gandhi and the Congress.

The BJT with Gandhi leading the march on foot with many senior leaders, is slated to enter Maharashtra on November 7 and the party has organ-



held in Shegaon. The BJT will traverse a total of nearly 382 kms in the five districts in 13 days before entering Madhya Pradesh on the next leg on November 20. Top central and state Congress leaders like President Nana Patole, Balasaheb Thorat, Ashok Chavan, Manikrao Thakre, Naseem Khan, and many more are engaged in the meticulous planning and engagements of Gandhi during the BJT in the five districts, where he will directly interact with the local people. The three parties - which were part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government for two-and-a-half years before it collapsed on June 30 - will now come together for the first time through the BJT. Besides the Congress, NCP and Sena-UBT leaders, the BJT will also see the participation of many other political and farmers groups, prominent individuals from different walks of life, social and non-political entities which will join and march together with Gandhi at various locations during the state sojourn.

ised two mega-rallies in Nanded and Buldhana districts. With Gandhi's public rally scheduled in Nanded and then it will move onto Hingoli, Washim, Akola and Buldhana, where another rally will be

# Anil Deshmukh moves HC seeking bail in corruption case

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh on Wednesday moved the Bombay High Court seeking bail in a case of corruption and misuse of official power which is being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Deshmukh (73) approached the HC after a special CBI court rejected his bail plea last week. The NCP leader is presently in judicial custody and lodged at the Arthur Road prison in Mumbai.

His lawyer Aniket Nikam mentioned the petition before a vacation bench of Justice Sharmila Deshmukh on Wednesday seeking urgent hearing. The court directed the CBI to file its reply affidavit by November 9 and posted the matter for hearing on November 11. The NCP leader is in jail since November last year after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him in a money laundering case. The CBI arrested him in April this year in the corruption case.

The HC had granted bail to Deshmukh earlier this month in the case registered by the ED. However, the special CBI court had rejected his plea in the corruption case, noting that there was prima facie evidence against him. Deshmukh in his plea in the HC said he is suffering from several ailments and is incarcerated since almost a year and the trial in the case may not commence anytime



soon. The plea claimed the special court while refusing him bail has merely done a "cut, copy and paste" of the CBI charge sheet filed in the case. Former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh in March 2021 alleged that Deshmukh, who was then the state home minister, had given a target to police officers to collect Rs 100 crore per month from restaurants and bars in Mumbai.

Dismissed cop Sachin Waze, arrested in March last year in connection with the case of recovery of an explosives-laden near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai, had also levelled similar allegations. The high court in April last year directed the CBI to carry out a preliminary inquiry.

Based on this inquiry, the CBI registered an FIR against Deshmukh and his associates for alleged corruption and misuse of official power.

# Model held for ATM-related fraud



While examining CCTV footage, vigilance officers discovered the alleged criminals' modus operandi.

They learnt that four people had entered the kiosk. They then blocked the view of the CCTV camera inside and proceeded to switch off the ATM just when it was dispensing cash. They then pocketed the money but called the bank, claiming that the amount had been debited from their account but they didn't receive the cash. An error would then reflect in the bank's records, prompting its officials to reverse the transaction.

During their investigation, the police spotted a Bullet motorcycle outside the ATM and its number plate had a Rajasthan registration number. Khan allegedly stood outside the ATM to alert the gang at the time of the incident. Based on the number plate, the accused was traced to an Andheri-based society. After also inquiring with locals, Khan was detained at his residence.

Interestingly, the police learned that Khan had never shown his house to anyone, including his colleagues. He would also give a neighbour's address while ordering food online and would collect it on the road. The entire gang are from the same hometown and the police believe they used the money to live a lavish life.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The MIDC police have arrested a struggling model, who is a resident of Mewat, for allegedly duping banks by inducing errors in ATM machines. The police are on the lookout for five associates of Khan, who are allegedly involved in the fraud. The accused was arrested and produced in the holiday court on Tuesday and has been remanded in police custody.

According to police sources, Khan and his gang withdrew around Rs 5.6 lakh from an RBL Bank ATM in Marol last week.

The fraud came to light after a bank manager found discrepancies after going through transactions carried out at the ATM.

# Slandering husband as 'womaniser', 'alcoholic' sans proof 'cruelty': Bombay High Court

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has ruled that defaming a husband by labelling him a "womaniser" and "alcoholic" without proving the allegations tantamount to "cruelty".

A division bench of Justice Nitin Jamdar and Justice Sharmila Deshmukh also upheld the November 2005 divorce order by a Pune family court of the couple - the 50-year-old widowed woman and her retired army major husband who died during the pendency of the trial - after which his legal heirs were made party in the case.

She claimed that her late husband was a "womaniser" and an "alcoholic" and due to these vices, she was deprived of her conjugal rights.

The husband's lawyer informed that court that the petitioner had caused mental agony by making such false and defamatory allegations against him, including before the members of a social institution where



he was doing social work.

In the order, the division bench noted that the woman's conduct in making such unwarranted and false allegations against her husband's

character resulted in damaging his reputation in society and amounted to "cruelty".

Besides her own statements against her husband, the woman

could not produce any evidence to substantiate her allegations, including from her own sister, especially since he was an ex-army officer belonging to the upper strata with a standing in the society.

The bench also referred to the husband's deposition in the family court in which he stated that his wife had separated him from his children and grandchildren, and how her "unwarranted, false, and baseless" allegations resulted in shredding his reputation in the society.

It said that "cruelty" is broadly defined as a conduct that inflicts upon the other party such mental pain and suffering to make it impossible for them to live with each other, and it was a fit case for granting the divorce.

The former army officer had moved the Pune family court seeking divorce on grounds of mental agony inflicted by his wife and it granted this in 2005, but the woman challenged the decision in the high court.

# MUMBAI BIZMAN GETS 18 MONTHS JAIL FOR CALLING MINOR GIRL 'ITEM'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A special court has convicted a businessman for outraging the modesty and sexual harassment of a minor girl by calling her an "item".

The Dindoshi Special POCSO court judge S.J. Ansari sentenced Abrar N. Khan, a resident of Andheri east, to one and a half years imprisonment for the offence committed in 2015.

The special judge said that the term ("item") "objectified women in a sexual manner" as she slapped the sentence on the businessman, noting such offences and uncalled for behaviour need to be dealt with a heavy hand to protect women.

It was in July 2015 when the minor was returning alone from school that Khan, who was sitting on his

bike accosted her, went behind her, pulled her hair and said "Kya item, kidhar jaa rahi ho? Ae item, sun naa (What an item, where are you going? Oh, item, listen to me)", despite her strong protests.

At this, Khan, who was barely 18 then and, started abusing her and boasted that she could not harm him, ("tu mera kya ukhaad legi?"), etc, after which the girl called up the Police Control number.

When the police team reached there, Khan and his friends had fled, while the girl went home to inform her family and later lodged a complaint with the Sakinaka Police Station.

Khan was arrested and released later as he had secured anticipatory bail, and a charge-sheet was filed, but - through his advocate Salma Ansari - claimed he was being



"framed" as the girl's family did not like his friendship with their daughter (the victim).

Denying his charges, the victim stood by her contentions and men-

tioned how she was being constantly harassed by Khan - they both live in the same neighbourhood - with the word "item" disregarding her constant objections and persistent

protests. Upholding the arguments of Special Assistant Public Prosecutor S.S. Mahatekar, the special judge said that the prosecution had proved the fact of Khan having outraged the modesty of the minor girl and sexually harassed her.

The special court also noted how Khan had used the term "item", generally used by boys to address girls in a derogatory fashion, and this clearly indicated his intention of outraging her modesty.

"Such offences need to be dealt with a heavy hand as a lesson needs to be meted out to such roadside Romeos in order to protect the women from their uncalled for behaviour," ruled Special Judge Ansari, while awarding the simple imprisonment to Khan, who had already undergone almost four months in jail as an undertrial.

# Man charged after social media post on Eknath Shinde



Team Absolute | Mumbai

A case has been registered against a man for using derogatory words on social media against Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde, deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis and Union minister Narayan Rane, said Mumbai Police on Wednesday. A case under sections 153 A and B (promoting enmity between groups), 500 (defamation) and 504 (disturbing public peace) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered against accused Pradeep Bhalekar at Samta Nagar police station in Mumbai.

Mumbai Police received information through social media after which it registered a case against Bhalekar. He is on the run after the case was registered, they added.

# KEJRIWAL'S DEMAND DOOMED? 'ONLY GANDHIJI ON INDIAN CURRENCY NOTES', RULED RBI IN 2010

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Amidst the 'unholy' row kicked up by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to include photos of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesha on Indian Currency Notes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Centre had already put a lid on the issue way back in 2010.

An RTI reply to this effect on the Indian Currency Note (ICN) was sent by the Department of Economic Affairs' Additional Secretary Manisha Sinha to a Pune businessman Prafulla Sardar in 2019.

The government said that a high-level panel (October 2010) constituted by the RBI had deliberated at length on the need for inclusion of other eminent personalities, Bharat Ratnas, Nobel laureates, freedom fighters or sports persons on the ICN design. The High-Level Screening Committee - set up on the advice of the then Government of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh - felt that "no other personality could better represent the ethos of India better than Mahatma Gandhi".

"Therefore, it was decided to retain the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi on the obverse of banknotes and on the watermark. Government has approved the recommendation," declared the RTI reply of November 11,

2019, sent from the North Block.

"I had asked the PMO to consider printing the photos of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar or Sardar Patel on the ICN after which the government gave the reply and the matter rested. It proves that the Delhi CM has only vested political motives behind his latest demand," Sardar said.

The plea to the PMO was in view of the various demands to add pictures of other personalities on ICNs that keep cropping up frequently, he added. Later, a former MP of All India Trinamool Congress and former cricketer Kirti Azad had raised the issue in Parliament for including other prominent personalities on the ICNs, but the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had cited the RBI panel's report in response.

As Kejriwal faces flak now, Maharashtra Congress Chief Spokesperson Atul Londhe hit out saying the 'IIT graduate' Delhi CM was 'pontificating like a pandit or soothsayer' with his ridiculous suggestions.

"Why doesn't he talk about all his unfulfilled promises, or the failures of the BJP government in the past over eight years, instead of coming up with such meaningless ideas to solve the country's economic crises," Londhe added sharply.

Taking a swipe at Kejriwal, state Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant cautioned

that if it happens, "then the currency notes with pictures of Gods and Goddesses will be circulated in bars, abattoirs, fish markets or non-vegetarian restaurants, then what will you do?"

Shiv Sena Spokesperson Kishore Tiwari said that while the BJP supporters may not object to this, "what's the guarantee that this measure will solve all the ills of the country like inflation, unemployment, economic mess, etc., perpetrated by the BJP for so many years".

On the other hand, an NRI from the US, Ketan Kakkad feels that "nothing is wrong per se with Kejriwal's demand", especially since the world's largest Islamic country Indonesia has a photo of Lord Ganesha on its 'Rupiah' currency notes, though the Hindu population there is only three per cent of the total.

"My question to Kejriwal is - along with Lord Ganesha's photos, why don't you also propose religious symbols/photos of other Indian minority communities like Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Jains, etc., which account for 20 per cent of the total population here? I am sure even the BJP, RSS or AIMIM won't object to this," said Kakkad.

Adopting a 'wait-and-watch' attitude, the Nationalist Congress Party has decided to maintain a 'divine' silence over the Kejriwal political fracas - for the present.

Remarks: A high Level Screening Committee constituted in 2010 by Reserve Bank of India on Banknote design deliberated at length about the need for inclusion of other eminent personalities like Bharat Ratna awardees, Nobel Laureates, eminent sport persons freedom fighters etc. on IBN designs and decided that no other personality could better represent the ethos of India than Mahatma Gandhi. Therefore it was decided to retain the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi on the obverse of banknotes and on the watermark. Government has approved the recommendation.

Grievance Concerns To: Name Of Complainant: Shri PRAFULL SARDAR, Date of Receipt: 11/11/2019, Received By Ministry/Department: Prime Ministers Office, Grievance Description: STS, Grievance Document, Current Status: Case closed, Date of Action: 20/11/2019

Officer Name: Ms. Manisha Sinha (Addl. Secretary Admin), Organisation name: Department of Economic Affairs ACC Division, Contact Address: Room No. 40-B, North Block, New Delhi, Email Address: manisha.sinha@nic.in, Contact Number: 01123095033





## LILI, KATHARINE & ALESSANDRA GLAM THEIR LOOK AT STAR-STUDED MAX MARA EVENT

Los Angeles | Agencies

**L**ili Reinheart was celebrated as the 17th recipient of the annual WIF Max Mara Face of the Future Award at a cocktail event in West Hollywood on Tuesday.

The *Riverdale* actress looked sensational at the star-studded event, wearing an elegant cream maxi skirt adorned with buttons.

She paired it with a beige polo-neck crop top that showed off her sculpted stomach underneath. Lili kept her jewellery simple, opting for plain gold hoop earrings and a matching chunky gold bracelet. Her short blonde tresses were styled in loose waves and she sported minimal makeup, letting her youthful

beauty shine through. She was joined at the event by a whole host of stars, including Katharine McPhee and Alessandra Ambrosio.

Katharine looked incredible in an ab-flashing black crop top, and a coordinating black skirt with a unique fringe detailing.

She matched her accessories to her outfit, choosing a black handbag, high heels and blazer. Alessandra put on a leggy display in a black blazer dress, teamed with black polka dot tights.

She elevated her height in a pair of nude high heels, and matched her purse to her shoes like a true fashionista. The supermodel's brunette locks were styled poker straight and pinned back with a diamond hair clip.

Alessandra finished off her chic look with a full face of makeup complete with a classic red lip.

Los Angeles | Agencies

**"T**rying to forget last night," Haleigh Brest texted a friend the morning after Paul Haggis allegedly raped the former publicist. "He definitely f\*\*ed me. He tore me. He was so rough and aggressive," she added, declaring, "Never again." Brest has been testifying this week in New York City as part of a sexual assault civil lawsuit against Haggis. Her text messages and e-mails were displayed to jurors and showed Brest's attempts to make sense of what had allegedly happened in Haggis's Soho apartment on January 23, 2013.

Haggis has acknowledged the pair had sex, but claims it was consensual. Brest told her friend that Haggis assaulted her, but that he was also a "charming person" and "so smart!!!" She would later agree with her friend's assessment that the incident constituted "borderline rape." Still, Brest and Haggis occasionally exchanged e-mails in the weeks following the alleged rape, though there was never any explicit mention of what transpired that night in the filmmaker's apartment.

And Brest continued to see Haggis at events at the Cinema

**Paul Haggis attorney uses accuser's texts to**

Society, where she was a freelance publicist. She consulted her friend, Lyuda, via text about her mixed feelings towards the filmmaker and toyed with getting together with him again.

"Is this like really weird or what my mood today is that I want to get together again with Paul and be the one in control," Brest said in a text message dated February 3, 2013. "Is that like f-ed up? My strange thinking to not being the powerless one!" Lyuda responded, "It's not f-ed up that you feel that way. But it's not a good idea." "Stay away from him!!!"

When Lyuda said she wasn't interested in seeing any of Haggis' films, Brest wrote, "They are actually kind of amazing and totally non-aggressive. Ugh I don't know why I'm defending him to you!! You are supportive!! He was just soo aggressive that night and he's soo low key when you meet him like he was a totally different person."

At this time, Brest had only told one of her Cinema Society co-workers about her alleged rape. In a text message thread between the two of them, Brest laughed at the notion of Haggis potentially attending the same event as her. Later that night, when the co-worker asked if she got home safe, Brest quipped "no director in my bed bahaa."

## Kelly displays his quirky style with fiancée Megan at Time100 Next Gala

Los Angeles | Agencies

**T**hey've never been a couple that shies away from the spotlight. And Machine Gun Kelly and fiancée Megan Fox ensured all eyes would be on her at the Time100 Next Gala in New York City on Tuesday.

The pair made for a picture perfect couple as they strutted their stuff at the event before heading out for dinner at Carbone.

MGK - real name Colson Baker - cut an edgy figure in a barely-there black latex outfit, consisting of a shrug and corset with no bodice attached. The rapper teamed the look with leather trousers and a silver chain necklace, while displaying his extensive ink collection across his chest and torso. He wore his long platinum blond hair styled partially in a topknot while leaving the rest loose. By his side was Megan who looked just like cartoon siren Jessica Rabbit with her ravishing red locks.

As the power couple arrived to the star-studded event, which brings together notable figures across a range of industries, the Jennifer's Body star debuted fiery cooper locks while rocking a figure-hugging gold gown with a dramatic slit. The mother-of-three - who sparked rumours she'd had a boob job when she unveiled a more buxom look last month - rocked maroon lipstick, dramatic smokey eye-shadow and bronzer for a sun-kissed glow for the glamorous gala.

Megan legally separated from the father of her three children alum Brian Austin Green - in November 2019 and their divorce was finalized on February 8. Meanwhile, MGK co-parents his 13-year-old daughter Casie with his ex Emma Cannon.

## Peter Andre and Katie Price's children want to follow their parents' footsteps

BY GOING ON I'M A CELEBRITY

Los Angeles | Agencies

**P**eter Andre and ex-wife Katie Price fell in love in front of the nation's eyes on *I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here* in 2004 and married a year later.

Now, their children Junior, and Princess want to follow their famous parent's footsteps by going on the same ITV show. Despite Junior starting a music career and his sister still being in school, they joked that they 'came from the jungle' and hope they will get the chance to be on the hit show. Junior said: 'I think we have to do that! To represent! We came from the jungle, didn't we?' Princess said of the stint: 'That's something I really want to do. It would actually be good to go on there, knowing both our parents were on there, that's how they met.' Junior added: 'And the show's so amazing, it's been going on for so long, so to be able to do that would actually be a very big achievement.' Singer Peter and glamour model Katie (known then as Jordan) found love on *I'm a Celebrity*.

They went onto marry a year after leaving the show. The romance did not last though and after welcoming two children, the couple divorced in 2009 after more than four years of marriage. Peter went on to marry Emily MacDonagh and they now have two children together, daughter Amelia and son Theodore.

Mum-of-five Katie spoke of their jungle romance during an appearance on ITV's *I'm a Celebrity...A Jungle Story* in 2020. 'I was just fixated on Pete. People saw our relationship develop,' Katie said. 'Having Pete there in the jungle did make it easier because you'd fall asleep thinking of him and wake up seeing him there.'

'If you haven't clicked with someone in there, I think it's quite hard and lonely. It was a proper love story and I think me and Pete are the only ones who had kids come out of it.' She said: 'I get on really well with Pete, he'd be the type of guy I'd go for, but I have a boyfriend.' Hosts Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly watched the same clip in a home cinema with Ant admitting: 'She had a boyfriend - I'd forgotten that.'

Katie was dating Scott Sullivan at the time but said: 'I know he's not the one', after hitting it off with Pete. Reminiscing on the public interest in Katie and Peter's romance, Ant said: 'People love a romance, they love a love story and it just developed as the series went on.'



## Rita Ora, Taika Waititi set to co-host MTV EMAs



Los Angeles | Agencies

**T**he organizers of the upcoming MTV Europe Music Awards have locked the hosts for the ceremony. British singer-songwriter Rita Ora and *Thor: Love and Thunder* director Taika Waititi are set to host the event. The 'Hot Right Now' hitmaker - who married Taika earlier this year - said: 'I'm thrilled to be back hosting and sharing the stage with Taika makes it all the more special. We've got it all at this year's EMAs, fun surprises, fantastic fashion, comedy, and above all amazing music! We can't wait for audiences to share these moments with us.'

According to daily paper, Rita previously hosted the EMAs in London in 2017, when she received the Power of Music Award. The 2022 edition of the EMAs will be held in Germany on November 13, and the loved-up couple can't wait to host the event. They said in a joint statement: 'We're excited to host this year's MTV EMAs and celebrate the best musicians and performances from around the world. We look forward to sharing the evening with all of these talented artists.' As for the EMA nominations, Harry Styles is leading the pack with seven nominations in all, including Best Song, Best Video, Best Artist, Best Live, Best Pop, Best UK and Ireland Act, and Biggest Fans.

Taylor Swift has received six nominations, including one for Best Longform Video, which is a brand new category at the EMAs. She will also compete with Harry for the Best Video, Best Artist, Best Pop, and Biggest Fans gongs.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Madison Beer



## T20 WORLD CUP

# DOMINANT IRELAND SECURE FAMOUS VICTORY OVER ENGLAND BY FIVE RUNS VIA DLS



Melbourne | Agencies

**A** dominant Ireland sprung a huge upset in the ongoing T20 World Cup with a five-wicket victory over 2010 champions England by five runs via DLS method in a Group 1 match in Super 12 stage at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Wednesday. Wednesday's win is also just the third victory for Ireland over England in men's international cricket after ODI wins in Bengaluru 2011 (in the World Cup) and Southampton 2020 and also their first

time win in T20Is too.

The five-run win over England also adds to Ireland's incredible upswing in T20Is, after bowing out of last year's T20 World Cup in the first round and then defeating West Indies in a decisive first-round match in Hobart to enter Super 12 stage this year. After Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie (62 off 47 balls) and Lorcan Tucker (34 off 27 balls) strung an 82-run stand to help the side post a competitive 157 all out in 19.2 overs, pacer Joshua Little took out Jos Buttler and Alex Hales to reduce England to 24/2 in

four overs, setting the base for a famous victory.

### Brief scores

Ireland 157 all out in 19.2 overs (Andrew Balbirnie 62, Lorcan Tucker 34; Liam Livingstone 3/17, Mark Wood 3/34) beat England 105/5 in 14.3 overs (Dawid Malan 35, Moeen Ali 24 not out; Joshua Little 2/16, George Dockrell 1/5) by five runs (via DLS method).

## NEW ZEALAND-AFGHANISTAN SUPER 12 MATCH WASHED OUT DUE TO RAIN

**Melbourne:** For the second time this week, a match was abandoned due to rain at the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. In the case of South Africa and Zimbabwe at Hobart, some play happened before rain Gods prevailed.

But on Wednesday, New Zealand and Afghanistan didn't get to play, let alone come out at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for the toss. Eventually, rain forced the abandonment of the Group 1 match in Super 12, with points split between both teams.

After their thumping 89-run victory over hosts' and defending champions Australia in their tournament opener at Sydney, New Zealand, the Group 1 toppers, were expected to be in an engrossing clash with Afghanistan, who fought hard before going down to England by five wickets in Perth.

## ICC Rankings

# Kohli storms into top Ten T20I batter's list

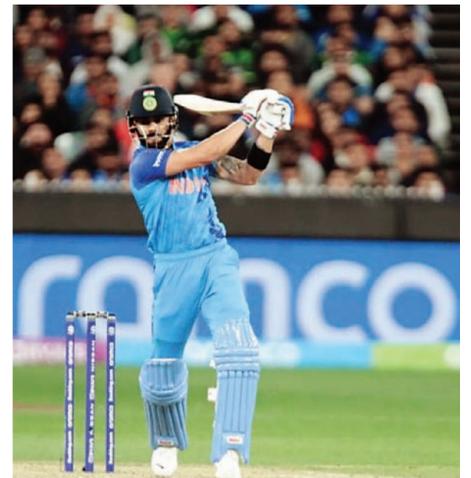
Dubai | Agencies

**S**tar India batter Virat Kohli stormed his way back into the top ten for T20I batters in the latest ICC rankings released on Wednesday after guiding India to a thrilling win in the Super 12 match against Pakistan in the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Kohli, who smashed an unbeaten 82 with hit sixes and four giant sixes, to guide his side to a memorable final-ball victory over Pakistan in Melbourne on Sunday, climbed up five spots to ninth position in the latest rankings.

Former India captain stemmed the wicket flow with a 113-run stand with Hardik Pandya before helping take 48 off the last three overs to seal the game. Hardik, who contributed by scoring 40 with the bat and took three wickets, maintained his spot at No. 3 in the all-rounders' list.

Meanwhile, Pakistan opener Mohammad Rizwan remains on top of the batter list, but there is a new challenger to the title as New Zealand opener Devon



Conway rises three places to second following his unbeaten 92 against Australia at the T20 World Cup.

Conway played the Australian attack to all parts of the SCG during his 58-ball innings as he and Finn Allen (42 off 16) combined to put the reigning T20 World Cup champions to the sword in the first match of the Super

12s on Saturday. The innings sees Conway jump past India's Suryakumar Yadav (828), Pakistan skipper Babar Azam ((799) and South Africa veteran Aiden Markram ((762) and within striking distance to challenge Rizwan for top billing at a career high rating of 831 rating points.

## UEFA Champions League

# Leipzig stun Real Madrid

Berlin | Agencies

**R**B Leipzig consolidated the second spot in UEFA Champions League Group F after stunning Real Madrid 3-2 on Matchday 5 with goals from Josko Gvardiol, Christopher Nkunku and Timo Werner.

Real grabbed a bright start on the road as Aurelien Tchouameni headed the side netting following a free kick with five minutes played. However, the opener was scored at the other end, as Real goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois parried Andre Silva's attempt into the path of Gvardiol, who nodded home the rebound from close range in the 13th minute.



Nkunku had the chance to double the lead moments later, but the Frenchman couldn't find the open goal from tight angle. Nkunku atoned for his error in the 18th minute, when he drilled a loose ball from inside the box into the roof of the net to make it 2-0 following a corner. Leipzig put the result beyond doubt and completed a counter through Werner, who poked home Mohamed Simakan's square pass two minutes later.

Real were able to reduce the deficit in the dying seconds of the match after Rodrigo converted a penalty, but couldn't find an equaliser. Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund booked their berth in the last 16 after a goalless draw with Manchester City in Group G. City had a golden chance to take all three points but Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel saved Riyad Mahrez's penalty.

## STOINIS BECOMES JOINT SECOND-FASTEST HALF-CENTURY MAKER IN MEN'S T20 WC AFTER YUVRAJ

Perth: Charismatic Australian batter Marcus Stoinis

became the fastest half-century for Australia in T20I cricket with his stunning unbeaten 59 from just 18 balls. The all-rounder struck six maximums in his unbeaten score from just 18 balls, and he reached his half-century in just 17 of those deliveries, one better than teammate Glenn Maxwell's previous Aussie record for the fastest 50.

Stoinis's power-hitting display also places him joint-second on the all-time list for fastest fifties at a Men's T20 World Cup. The Australian is tied with the Netherlands' Stephan Myburgh, who hit his 17-ball effort against Ireland in 2014. India's Yuvraj still holds the record for the fast T20 World Cup fifty and fastest T20 fifty, bringing up his milestone off just 12 deliveries against England in 2007.



## BWF World Junior Championships

# UNNATI ADVANCES TO ROUND OF 16, ANUPAMA BOWS OUT

Santander (Spain) | Agencies

**I**ndian shuttler Unnati Hooda advanced to the women's singles Round of 16 at the World Junior Badminton Championships 2022, here on Wednesday.

The 14-year-old Unnati, ranked world No. 5 in the junior badminton rankings and the fifth seed in the tournament beat Italy's Gianna Stiglich 21-11, 21-7. Hooda, who became the youngest Indian to win a BWF Super 100 title after claiming the Odisha Open women's singles title in January, will next face Hina Akechi of Japan in the pre-quarterfinals.

However, it was the end of the road for world No. 3 Anupama Upadhyay at the

junior championships. The top seed lost to China's Zhang Xin Ran 15-21, 10-21.

Zhang will next face South Korean shuttler Na Kyung Park, who ousted Rakshita Sree Ramraj, another Indian 21-13, 21-13.

Meanwhile, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, the highest-ranked Indian men's singles player at world No. 4, kept himself alive in the competition after cruising past Spain's Basilio Porto by a resounding 21-4, 21-5 win.

Thailand's Nachakorn Pusri now stands between S Sankar and a quarter-final appearance.



## Sevilla beat Copenhagen

**Madrid:** Sevilla beat Copenhagen 3-0 at home in the UEFA Champions League Group G on Tuesday night to ensure that they will finish at least third in the group. The Spanish side overcame a poor first half and won with second-half goals from Youssef En-Nesyri, Isco and Gabriel Montiel. The main threat from the home side came from wingers Suso and Papu Gomez, while the best chance of the first 45 minutes fell to Hakon Haraldsson, whose shot on the turn was well turned away by Marco Dmitrovic, who started in Sevilla's goal ahead of Bono, reports Xinhua. Copenhagen were out of luck again in the 82nd minute when Kevin Diks headed against the crossbar when perhaps he should have done better, and again it was to be expensive as Isco added Sevilla's second with a curling shot into the corner of the net.

## India, Australia play out thrilling 5-5 draw at Sultan of Johor Cup



Johor (Malaysia) | Agencies

**I**ndian Junior Men's Hockey Team played out a thrilling 5-5 draw against Australia at the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup here on Wednesday.

For India, Bobby Singh Dhami (2'), Sharda Nand Tiwari (8', 35'), Arijit Singh Hundal (18') and Amandeep (60') scored, while Australia found the back of the net through Liam Hart (3'), Jack Holland (8'), Joshua Brooks (20', 41') and Jake Lambeth (49'). India made a superb start to the game, with Captain Uttam Singh getting to the baseline and laying it off for his deputy Bobby Singh Dhami (2') to score from their very first move. Less than a minute later, Australia equalised with Liam Hart (3'), giving the contest an emphatic start. Soon after, Australia edged ahead as Jack Holland

(8') found the back of the net. But the lead didn't last long as Sharda Nand Tiwari's (8') crisp shot from the penalty corner evaded up proceedings. Neither side troubled the scorers after that as the quarter ended at 2-2.

Back after the break, India continued to look for another goal and the lead. It took them five minutes, as Sharda Nand Tiwari (35') converted another penalty corner with conviction. The lead though was wiped out in six minutes as Joshua Brooks' (41') penalty corner made it 4-4, with the final break in play fast approaching.

In the final phase of play, both sides were in the hunt for the winner and increased their intensity in attack too. India will take on Great Britain in their fifth game at the 10th Sultan of Johor Cup on October 28.

## T20 World Cup

# India aim for second victory on the trot against resolute Netherlands

Sydney | Agencies

**A**fter an extremely engrossing and nail-biting four-wicket victory over Pakistan on the last ball at a sell-out Melbourne Cricket Ground to kick off their T20 World Cup campaign, India will be aiming for their second victory on the trot when they face a resolute Netherlands in their second Super 12 match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday.

With little time between matches happening in different time zones in Australia, India chose to rest on the eve of their match against the Netherlands after an optional session happened on Tuesday. In his pre-match press conference, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey explained how it was good for them to play Pakistan at the start of their T20 World Cup campaign.



From the match against Pakistan, talismanic batter Virat Kohli's epic knock of 82 not out was the biggest positive for India. It reiterated that Kohli still had it in him to win chases for India under immense pressure and register himself in cricketing folklore yet again.

Apart from him, Hardik Pandya's all-round show and left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh's scalps must have certainly pleased the Indian team think-tank with Ravichandran Ashwin, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and

Mohammed Shami doing a tidy job with the ball.

But one thing which India might look to rectify against Netherlands will be about captain Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul breaking free from their tentative self when facing high-pace deliveries. The Dutch pacers in Bas de Leede, Paul van Meekeren and Fred Klaassen will test the opening pair very well at Sydney.

For Netherlands, led by wicketkeeper-batter Scott Edwards, playing against

## French Open badminton

Paris: Former World No 1 Saina Nehwal

crashed out in the first round of the French Open badminton championship as Indian players had a poor day in the BWF World Tour Super 750 event.

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty was the only one to survive the opening round as Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto went down in the mixed doubles first round while the women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand went down to the sixth-seeded Thai pair of Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai. In the women's singles, the unseeded Saina, a former champion in French Open, went down fighting to Yvonne Li of Germany at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin, losing 21-13, 17-21, 19-21 in an encounter that lasted a few seconds less than one hour. In men's doubles, the World No.8 pair of Satwik and Chirag came back from a game down to win in three games, beating French siblings Cristo Popov and Toma Junior Popov, winning 19-21, 21-9, 21-13 in just over an hour on the court.

## Saina Nehwal ousted, Satwik/Chirag win on bad day for Indians

## Loss to India not easy to digest, says Pak batter Iftikhar Ahmed



Perth | Agencies

**P**akistan top-order batter Iftikhar Ahmed has indicated his side is yet to come to terms with the last-ball defeat to arch-rivals India in their ICC T20 World Cup Super-12 match at the packed Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on October 23, saying that's "not an easy defeat to digest".

Iftikhar Ahmed, who was one of the two half-century makers in the match, said ahead of the Super 12 match against Zimbabwe on Thursday, the defeat had left the side "disappointed". "That's not an easy defeat to digest. They (players) were

disappointed. But the way the captain (Babar Azam), the coach supported the whole squad, they were exceptional. And the message is clear that was the first game, now time to move forward. And we have some more games here," said Iftikhar during the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

Asked if his bowlers would be excited looking at the fast and bouncy Perth pitch, Iftikhar said, "There's bouncy tracks in Australia. We have to practise a lot for these bouncy fields. And he's (Haris Rauf) a main strike bowler, and we're expecting him to do much."



## Being vocal about your feelings can sometimes backfire: Sayani Gupta

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Just like her character Damini Roy from 'Four More Shots Please!', actress Sayani Gupta always speaks her mind. She agrees, though, that it can backfire sometimes.

Sayani in a conversation with media said: "It always backfires but that's not the point. You say something because it

bothers you and you feel like you need to lend your voice to it."

"You pick and choose your battles but you don't shy away from speaking your mind for injustice so that is something I have lived by all my life," she added.

Sayani agrees that she is under more scrutiny as she is an actor.

"The fact that I am an actor makes want to get better but it doesn't stop me from saying what I believe in. But having said that, we are getting older... figuring lesser battles to fight because you feel

sometimes what is the point."

Season 3 will also see Kirti Kulhari, Maanvi Gagroo, Bani J., Prateik Babbar, Lisa Ray, Neil Bhoopalam, Rajeev Siddharth, Amrita Puri, Simone Singh, and Samir Kochhar reprising their respective roles. Jim Sarbh, Sushant Singh, Shilpa Shukla and Rohan Mehra are the new faces this season.

'Four More Shots Please!' Season 3 is a part of Prime Video's festive line-up for the Great Indian Festival 2022.

## PRIYANKA CHOPRA AND NICK JONAS CELEBRATE FIRST DIWALI WITH DAUGHTER MALTI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Earlier this year, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas welcomed their daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas via surrogacy. The actress has shared several glimpses of her baby girl but has not revealed her face properly. The much-loved couple had their first Diwali celebration with their baby daughter Malti Marie, this year. Recently, Nick Jonas took to his official Instagram handle and shared a sneak peek of the special occasion, to the delight of their fans and followers. In the pictures, Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas, and Malti Marie look adorable together as they performed Diwali puja, and are seen in matching off-white outfits. However, Malti Marie's face is not revealed in the pictures shared by Nick. "Such a beautiful Diwali celebration with my heart. Happy Diwali everyone. Sending joy and light to you all," the actor-singer captioned his post. Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka will be seen playing pivotal roles in the spy thriller series Citadel, and the romantic comedy It's All Coming Back To Me. She is also making a comeback to Bollywood with the highly anticipated road movie, Jee Le Zaraa.



## I'm done promoting Brahmastra: Ranbir Kapoor

Team Absolute | Mumbai

For several months, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt have been heavily promoting their film Brahmastra. And it appears that Ranbir is sick of promoting the film, as he begins a new round of promotion for its digital premiere. Ranbir can be heard saying in a new promotional ad, where the makers appear to be in on the joke, "Nahi bhai, I'm done with Brahmastra promotions. I'm done with Ayan Mukerji."

Ranbir goes on to say, "Itna toh Alia ne film mein Shiva Shiva nahi bola hoga (In the film, Alia did not say Shiva this many times)," referring to the many memes where Isha repeatedly screaming Shiva's name in the film made for some great social media humour. Ranbir goes on to say, "Alia ki awaaz baith chuki hai har event pe Kesariya gaate gaate. 150 drones uda diya, 250 laddoo baant diye. Aur kya karu? (Alia's throat is sore after singing Kesariya at every event. We flew 150 drones and distributed 250 sweets. What else are we going to do?)"

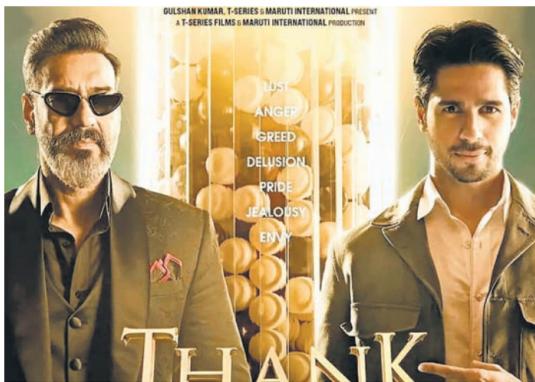
Ranbir Kapoor is set to embrace fatherhood soon and he brings that up too in this ad as he says, "Ayan ko lagta hai Brahmastra promotions ke alava meri life hi nahi hai. Baap banne vala hun main. (Ayan thinks I don't have a life beyond Brahmastra. I am going to be a father soon)." In the middle of his rant, he receives a call from Ayan and, like a good star, he says, "Yes sir, light is coming."

Brahmastra has been in the works for nearly a decade, and it finally hit theatres in September after numerous delays. Following a successful theatrical run, the film will now premiere on OTT on November 4.

## THANK GOD REVIEW: A DECENTLY ENTERTAINING FILM

**FILM REVIEW**  
BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

**Director:** Indra Kumar  
**Runtime:** 2hrs  
**Cast:** Ajay Devgn, Sidharth Malhotra, Rakul Preet Singh, Seema Pahwa  
**Rating:** 2.5/5



**Story:** Inspired by the 2009 Norwegian film called Sorte Kugler, Thank God revolves around the concept of What goes around...comes around. It revolves around an egoistic debt-ridden real estate broker Ayaan Kapoor who lands in Yam Lok after meeting with an accident. As he gains consciousness, CG (Ajay Devgn) appears in front of him and informs

him that he will have to play a "Game of Life". If he manages to win, he will be sent back to earth and if he loses, he will be sent to hell. Will he win or lose the game? The answer lies in the two-hour

film.  
**Review**  
Known for his penchant towards comedy, after a disastrous Total Dhamaal in 2019, director Indra Kumar comes with yet another

slice-of-life entertainer Thank God which has its share of funny moments juxtaposed with some thought-provoking lessons. Indra Kumar stays true to his intention of creating a comedy with a moral lesson about karma while also keeping the story away from becoming overly sombre or depressing.

Right from the beginning, the film takes us into the world of Ayaan Kapoor and how his bad deeds make him land at Yam Loka where he has to play Game of Life. While the first half of the film seemed dragged with some witty dialogues. Although, some jokes are old-fashioned, while most one liners often fall flat. The second half of the film comprised of dramatic moments with a promising climax and happy ending.

Speaking of performances, Ajay Devgn has earnestly carried out his robust personality as CG. Sidharth Malhotra underplays his part very

well. He doesn't go overboard and hence, his performance turns out to be an impressive one. The banter between the two actors are amazing to watch. While Rakul Preet Singh lends a decent support.

When it comes to music, it is pleasing yet situational. While Manike is already on playlist, Dil De Diya, Haniya Ve and title song are placed well. The background score suits the genre.

Other technical aspects of the film, like cinematography works fine, while it was the CGI that seemed tacky with a gaudy production design. The editing could have been a bit tauter. Overall, Thank God is a "leave-your-brains-behind-at-home entertainer with its share of funny moments. If you are not looking for wisdom and rationale in a light-hearted entertainer, then this movie is definitely for you. It does have moments that make you say "Thank God".

## RAM SETU REVIEW:-THE EXPEDITION THAT TURNS OUT TO BE TIRESOME

**FILM REVIEW**  
BY AAKRUTI BAGLA

**Cast:** Akshay Kumar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Satya Dev, Nasser, Nushratt Bharuchha, and Pravesh Rana  
**Director:** Abhishek Sharma  
**Runtime:** 2hr 24min  
**Rating:** 1.5/5



**Story:** Indrakant, owner of Pushpak shipping company is hell-bent on proving that Ram Setu bridge is a natural creation and not man-made in order to get permission to demolish a part of the bridge to create a economical route for project Sethusamudram. In pursuit to prove this, given his lack in God and religious beliefs, he tasks Dr Aryan Kulshreshtha with this dubious expedition. In this journey, what obstacles does Aryan encounter and how his beliefs are changed is what the film is all about.

**Review:** The film begins with

receiving adulation for discovering relics and important historical material post the Taliban explosion of the Buddha statue. During his speech at Press conference, he avers being an atheist and believing on scientific facts. Moved by his ideology, Indrajit tasks him with

proving the nature behind existence of Ram Setu.

The story and concept of the film overall is quite interesting, but what does not work in the favour is faulty execution.

As we see in the film Akshay Kumar going out on the expedition,

one wish if the tension levels could have gone higher. A film like this should have had more edge of the seat moments for an added impact. Also, though the team is shown facing roadblocks, it seemed a bit convenient at most places with logic taking a back seat. After a time, it

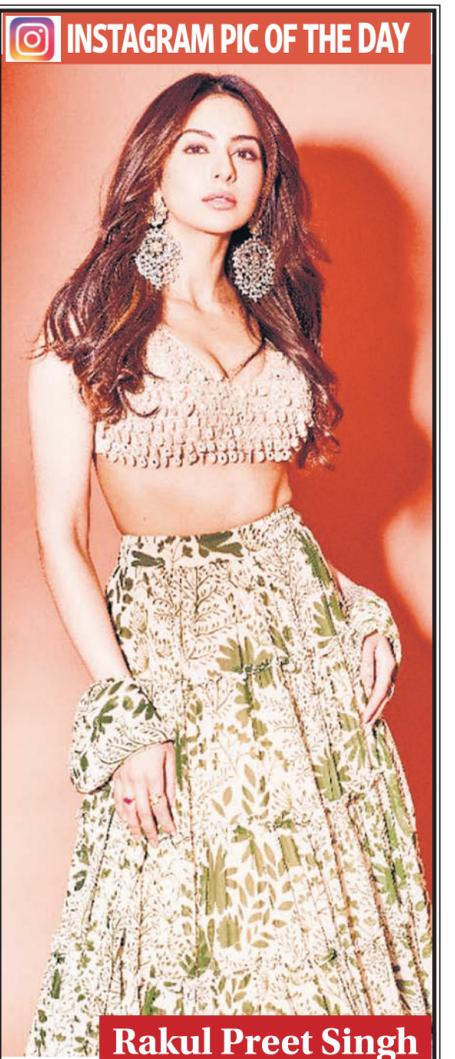
also seemed like the makers got lost in their own web as film never made it clear whether it was challenging the belief or proving the science behind it's existence.

It's when the film progresses towards climax, the arresting courtroom scenes were something to look forward to. The twist in the last 10 minutes, has a nice connect to Ramayana and comes across as a pleasant surprise.

Speaking of performances, Akshay Kumar tries to put forward a sincere act. Nushratt Bharuchha has nothing much to offer. While Jacqueline lends a decent support. Satya Dev (AP) is too good and is a surprise of the film. Pravesh Rana leaves a mark.

Talking of other technical aspects, as mentioned the film had shoddy CGI. The sea, the corals, the diving vessels, and even the Ram Setu itself is not appealing. The background music lent support to the story, while the lyrics of anthem were catchy.

Overall, the film can be watched if you are really intrigued by the concept, but don't do that with sky-high expectations.



Rakul Preet Singh