

# absolute india



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## Choose "Climate Solidarity" or "Collective Suicide": UN Chief to world leaders

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt: Humanity is in "the fight of our lives" as climate change intensifies droughts, floods and heatwaves, UN chief Antonio Guterres warned world leaders Monday at talks in Egypt on curbing global warming. In the midst of a barrage of international crises battering economies and shaking international relations -- from the Covid pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine to weather extremes -- Guterres said the international community faces a stark choice. "Cooperate or perish," he told leaders at the UN COP27 summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik. "It is

either a Climate Solidarity Pact, or a Collective Suicide Pact." Guterres called for a "historic" deal between rich countries and emerging economies that would aim to reduce emissions and keep the temperature rise to the more ambitious Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era. He said the target should be to provide renewable and affordable energy for all, calling on the top emitters, the United States and China, in particular to step up their efforts. On the current trajectory, the UN chief said, "we are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator".

### 'MORAL IMPERATIVE'

- At around 1.2C of warming so far, impacts are already accelerating on all fronts.
- Major droughts in the Horn of Africa have pushed millions to the edge of starvation, deadly floods in Pakistan swamped farmland and destroyed infrastructure, causing more than \$30 billion in damage and losses according to the World Bank.
- Meanwhile the global community is lagging behind both on efforts to cut planet-heating emissions and payments to vulnerable countries to help them build resilience and green their economies.
- On Sunday, developing nations won a small victory when delegates agreed to put the controversial issue of money for "loss and damage" - aid for the impacts already being felt -- on the summit agenda.

## SC UPHOLDS 10 PER CENT EWS QUOTA IN ADMISSIONS, JOBS

The Supreme Court, by a majority 3:2 view, upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment providing a 10-per cent reservation to those belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in education and government jobs. The top court said the law on the EWS quota does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

### CONGRESS WELCOMES SC ORDER ON 10% QUOTA FOR EWS

New Delhi: The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court verdict upholding the validity of providing 10 per cent reservation to people belonging to the economically weaker sections.

In a statement, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Congress welcomes the Supreme Court judgment upholding the 103rd Constitutional Amendment that provides for the 10 per cent reservation quota for Economically Weaker Sections belonging to castes other than Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and OBCs. However, Reacting to the judgment, Congress leader Udit Raj had tweeted that there is no doubt that the Supreme Court is casteist. When it came to enhancing the quota for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the top court cited the 50 per cent bar but took a U-turn in the matter of reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), he alleged.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the validity of the 103rd Constitution amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections (EWS) in admissions and government jobs. Three out of five judges, which heard the petitions challenging the EWS reservation, upheld the EWS quota.

The judgment was pronounced by a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S. Ravindra Bhat, Bela M. Trivedi and J.B. Pardiwala.

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari in the judgment said the EWS quota law did not violate the basic

structure or equality code for taking into account the economic criterion. He said the EWS reservation does not cause damage to any essential feature of the Constitution by exceeding the 50 per cent ceiling for quota since the ceiling is itself flexible.

Justice Trivedi said she concurred with the judgment passed by Justice Maheshwari. Trivedi said the EWS quota is valid.

Justice Pardiwala also ruled in favour of the EWS quota. However, Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and Justice Bhat dissented with the other three judges on the bench.

Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and Justice Bhat said the law was discriminatory and violative of the basic structure of the Constitution.

### IT'S A WIN FOR PM: BJP LEADERS

New Delhi: The BJP lauded the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the EWS quota on Monday, saying it is a victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his "mission" to provide social justice to the country's poor. BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh praised the court order and tweeted: "Supreme Court upholds the legality of EWS reservation for unreserved sections. Another big credit for PM Narendra Modi's vision of Gareeb Kalyan. A big boost in the direction of social justice." Echoing the view, another BJP general secretary C T Ravi said the verdict is yet another victory for Modi in his mission to provide social justice to the country's poor.

### STALIN TO TAKE LEGAL OPINION AS SC UPHOLDS VALIDITY OF EWS QUOTA

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday said that he would take legal opinion before deciding the next course of action on the issue of reservations in education and government jobs for economically weaker sections (EWS). Termining the development as a setback to the century-old fight for social justice, Stalin urged Tamil Nadu political parties and other organisation to join hands for the cause of social justice. The DMK government, which had opposed the amendment, was one of the parties in the case. It had decided not to implement the EWS quota for government jobs.

### Morbi bridge collapse

## Guj HC takes suo motu cognizance, seeks report from government

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Gujarat High Court on Monday took suo motu cognizance of the Morbi bridge collapse and asked the state government to file a report within a week. The high court bench initiated the suo motu Public Interest Litigation (PIL). The court instructed the government to file an action taken report on or

before November 14, when the matter comes up for further hearing.

The first division bench observed, "...the incident in which hundreds of citizens have died untimely and their death was disheartening." The court said, "Mr. Advocate General, as hundred persons have met untimely death, so we have taken suo motu cognizance of it. We want to know what

action the state government has taken so far."

The court also said that the Chief Secretary of Gujarat, Urban Development Department, the State Home Department, Morbi Municipality and the State Human Rights Commission be impleaded as parties in the case. It has sought a separate report from the State Human Rights Commission.

## LINGAYAT MUTT SEX SCANDAL: CHARGES AGAINST RAPE ACCUSED SEER STAND, SAYS K'TAKA POLICE

Team Absolute | Chitradurga (Karnataka)

In a major development, Karnataka Police on Monday stated that the charges against rape accused, jailed Lingayat seer Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru have been held to stand during the course of investigation. Superintendent of Police, Chitradurga, K. Parashurama said that along with the prime accused seer, the charges against accused number two, women's hostel warden Rashmi and accused number four Paramashivaiah are also valid.

However, the police are gathering evidence against accused number two, a minor, and accused number five Gangadharaiah, he added. The SP said that the charge sheet was submitted to the court on October 27 by the investigating officer. The statements by the victims in connection with the second case have also been recorded. The parents of the victims had also recorded their statements. The accused seer was taken into police custody and questioned regarding the case, he said.

Based on the statements by the victims, the police have recorded statements of other girls. There is an allegation of more than 15 girls abused by the seer. The police had sought more information in this direction from Odanadi NGO founder Stanley, SP

Parashurama said.

The police have requested him to share details and assured him of a joint investigation. On the allegation of rape and murder of a minor girl who resisted abuse in the mutt by the accused seer, the SP said that the victims of first case have stated that one girl was raped and murdered.

The investigations so far have shown that the girl died after falling from the train in Hindupur Railway police station limits in Andhra Pradesh. The case is being closed as an accidental death. The police are also investigating the allegations of use of drugs in the mutt, and are awaiting medical reports, Parashurama said.

The medical tests have proved that the accused seer is capable of committing sexual abuse. The first Pocco and SC/ST Atrocity case was lodged against the seer on August 26. The second case under similar provisions was filed on October 13. Following high drama the accused seer was arrested on September 1.

Meanwhile, as accused seer is refusing to step down as the head of Chitradurga mutt, a delegation had met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and discussed the appointment of new pontiff. Sources within mutt say that the accused seer is in full control of the mutt and taking decisions.

## 2012 Chhawla murder-gangrape case: SC acquits three men on death row

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday acquitted three men on death row in the 2012 murder and gangrape of a 19-year-old woman in Delhi's Chhawla area.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice U U Lalit set aside the Delhi High Court judgment, which upheld the conviction of the three men for rape and murder of the victim. The trial court, in 2014, while sentencing the accused to death had termed the case rarest-of-rare and the high court upheld this judgment. The judgment in the matter has not been uploaded on the apex court website so far.

The autopsy of the victim revealed that she was attacked with car tools, glass bottles, metal objects, and other weapons.

Police said one of the accused allegedly took revenge after the woman turned down his propos-



al. The prosecution had submitted that the woman, who belonged to Uttarakhand and worked in Gurugram's Cyber City area, was abducted by the three accused from near her home while she was returning from her workplace. According to the prosecution, the woman's mutilated and decomposing body was found in a village in Haryana's RTewari. The woman's parents filed a missing person report when she did not return home.

### LUNAR ECLIPSE

## World to witness thrilling 'Blood Moon' spectacle in the sky

THIS IS THE SECOND CELESTIAL EVENT SINCE THE LAST PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE (OCTOBER 25), AND CAN BE WITNESSED BY PEOPLE IN INDIA, PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, PARTS OF ASIA, RUSSIA, NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAS, AUSTRALIA, NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN AND PACIFIC OCEAN REGIONS.

PROF. ADUR ASSURED THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO HARM IN VIEWING THE UNUSUAL 'BLOOD MOON' ON TUESDAY WITH NAKED EYES OR WITH BINOCULARS WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE REDDISH COLOUR.

THE NORTHEASTERN PARTS OF INDIA LIKE KOHIMA, AGARTALA, GUWAHATI AND OTHER REGIONS IN THE WORLD WILL WITNESS IT IN TOTALITY ON TUESDAY, THE FINAL ECLIPSE OF 2022.

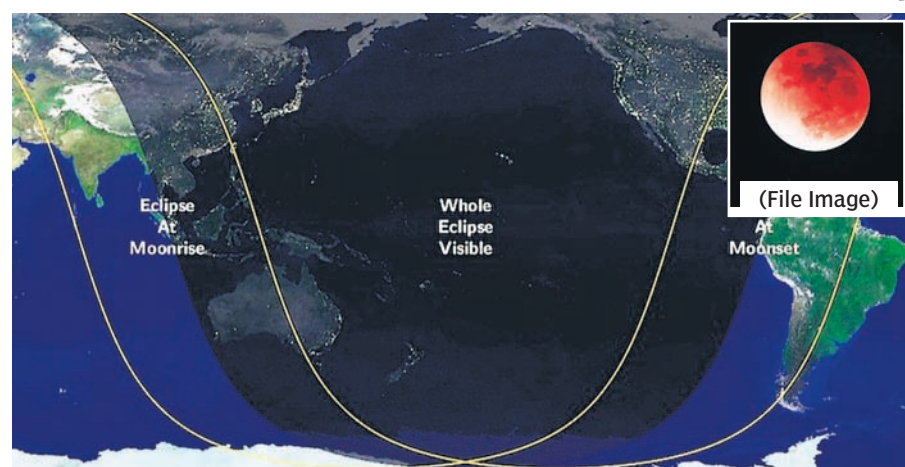
AS THE MOON WILL BE BELOW THE HORIZON DURING THE ECLIPSE HOURS, MOST OTHER PARTS OF INDIA WILL MISS THE EXCITING STARTING PHASES OF BOTH THE PARTIAL AND TOTAL ECLIPSE, HE SAID.

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

In the evening today, as the Earth's shadow envelopes its sole satellite for nearly one-and-a-half hours, the world will witness a thrilling and chilling spectacle of a 'Blood Moon' lunar eclipse, a prominent astronomer said here on Monday.

Coming exactly 14 days (two Tuesdays) after the October 25 partial solar eclipse -- the lunar eclipse will be seen in totality in the north-eastern states, but shall be only partially visible in the rest of India in the evening as the sun sets, said Prof. Bharat Adur, Director, Akash Ganga Centre for Astronomy (AGCA) here.

He urged the people to view it wherever possible, as this will be the last total lunar eclipse, and the next one (total lunar eclipse) due only after



three years on September 7, 2025.

The Earth will come between the Sun and Moon and the blue planet's monstrous shadow -- from a staggering distance of 3.93 lakh kms -- will shroud its small natural satellite, partially or

fully, depending on the angle of alignment from where it is viewed, Prof. Adur explained. The Sun is around 109 times bigger than Earth and over 148-million kms away, while the Earth is nearly four times larger than the Moon, with an average distance of 3,85 lakh

kms separating them. In scientific terms, it's called the 'Rayleigh Scattering' as during a lunar eclipse the only sunlight that reaches the Moon passes through the Earth's atmosphere, thus turning the Moon an apparent reddish colour.



# HRERA COURT ORDERS BUILDER TO REFUND ALLOTTEES' MONEY WITH INTEREST

Gurugram | Agencies

The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA), Gurugram ordered Vatika Limited to refund money to 28 allottees with interest at the prescribed rate. The order has come in the backdrop of a project in which the promoter failed to commence construction even at the primary level.

The court said that the promoter Vatika will have to pay the loan amount to respective banks also if or in case the same is availed by the allottees.

"Since the project has been abandoned by the promoter, the allottees are entitled to the refund of the amount paid by them to the promoter against the allotment of their units with interest at the prescribed rate of 10.25 per cent per annum from the date of each payment till the date of actual realisation within the timelines as prescribed under the rule 16 of the Rules 2017," said the HRERA court. The court said, "However while



depositing sale consideration of the allotted units, some of the allottees raised loans from the different financial institutions and the same was paid to the promoter. While refunding the amount deposited by the

allottees who raised loans against the allotted units, the promoter would be liable to pay that amount with interest up to date to those financial institutions and the remainder, if any, would be paid back to the allottees."

The case pertains to a real estate project 'Turning Point' of Vatika Limited located at sector 88-B, Gurugram. Vatika Limited obtained a licence from the DTCP in 2013 to develop Turning Point - a residential group housing project.

The court observed, "After its launch by the promoter, units in the same were allotted to different persons on different dates and that too for variable sale consideration. Though the due date for completion of the project and offer of possession of the allotted units was mentioned as the validity of the registration certificate being September 15, 2025, after the expiry of more than four years from the booking, there is no physical work progress at the site except for some digging work."

So, keeping in view all these facts, 28 allottees of the project approached the authority seeking a refund of the paid-up amount besides compensation by taking a plea that the project has been abandoned.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Relief for Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, as the Supreme Court on Monday set aside the Jharkhand High Court, which had upheld the maintainability of a PILs seeking probe against Soren in a mining lease case.

On August 17, the Supreme Court had stayed the proceedings before the Jharkhand High Court on PILs filed against Chief Minister Hemant Soren alleging money laundering shell companies and irregularities while granting mining leases, and also reserved its verdict on pleas filed by the state government and Soren challenging maintainability of PILs before high court. A bench headed by Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justices Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia said: "Order reserved...since the court is seized of the matter, the high court shall not proceed further



with writ petitions..." The state government and the CM moved the top court against the high court order, which accepted the maintainability of PILs seeking probe against Soren. Today, Justice Dhulia allowed the appeals filed by the state government and Soren against the high court order. During the hearing, Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the Jharkhand government, questioned the maintainability of the PILs, saying that the petitioner did not file an FIR, instead approached the high court in

the matter. Also, the PIL was not in consonance with the Jharkhand High Court PIL. Sibal argued that the high court decided on the maintainability even before all documents were before it. The top court noted that the chief minister already had these lands before he assumed office and it was not as if the office was misused to amass wealth. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, representing the chief minister, pointed out that there was no prima facie satisfaction of the high court in the matter.

# Clash over illegal coal mining leaves 6 injured in Dhanbad

Dhanbad | Agencies

Around a dozen people were injured in a bloody clash on Monday that involved firing, bombing and arson between two groups allegedly over supremacy in illegal coal mining and smuggling in Dhanbad's Kharkhari, Siniidih and Narayan Dhoda areas.

The injured are being treated at a local hospital. Two shops and six bikes were also set ablaze by the miscreants during the clash. An attempt was also made to give a communal colour to the entire incident. Cops from 3-4 police stations of the area are camping at the scene of the clash, said sources.

According to sources, a group of locals were protesting against illegal mining by a gang for the past few days in the Madhuban police station area. On Monday, about 50 gang members entered the area and started firing at the locals. Bombs were also thrown targeting several houses. The locals also retaliated by firing at the gang.

The owner of one of the burnt shops alleged that Rs 50 thousand was looted from him. Passerby were also assaulted, said sources.



The conflict continued for about half an hour. Sub-divisional police officer Nisha Murmu said that strict action would be taken against the miscreants who are being identified. The locals blocked the four-lane road near Kharkhari village in protest against the incident. The villagers alleged that the police were involved in illegal coal mining in the area and received money for the same.

In April too, a conflict between two groups for illegal coal mining took place in the city's Madhuban colliery. When the villagers protested, the smugglers fired indiscriminately and detonated bombs in the area.

# Doctors' association observes 'black day' against Haryana bond policy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Various doctors association on Monday observed a "Black Day" to express solidarity with MBBS students of PGIMS Rohtak, protesting against the Haryana government's bond policy for MBBS admissions.

Members of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) wore black ribbons to show their protest, while the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) also expressed support for the protesting students and their demands.

The doctor's body also denounced the alleged brutality of the Haryana Police against medical students.

The FORDA have also written a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya against police brutality on the peacefully protesting students.



"The recent incident of police action on the doctors carrying out a peaceful protest against fee hike in government medical colleges in Haryana, is barbaric and highly condemnable, it said, terming the use of water cannons and forcefully dragging and manhandling the protesting doctors as "yet another blot on the face of medical education system in the state of Haryana and this coun-

try". "An unwarranted fee hike in the form of a despicable bond policy followed by police action on innocent doctors who have given their best in all circumstances including the Covid pandemic, shows the apathy and weak memory the government has," the letter added.

Talking to reporter, Dr Sarvesh Pandey, Vice President RDA RML and FORDA General Secretary, said:

"We on behalf of RDA RML would like to condemn the act of atrocity done by Haryana Police towards the doctors who were on silent protest against the inhumane bond which has been forcibly applied by the Health Ministry of Haryana. The act of violence towards doctors is completely unacceptable and unethical."

Meanwhile, a delegation led by FAIMA chief Advisor Dr Manish Jangra has reached the PGIMS Rohtak to join the protest. Dr Jangra told IANS that they are extremely against the Rs 40 lakh bond policy imposed by the state government.

"We are standing firmly with the students and have joined the protest of young medicos.

"We condemn act of brutality by Rohtak police on MBBS Students. Water Canons must not be used for the MBBS students. They are our future... they were protesting silently," he said.

# DSSSB TO SOON FILL UP POSITIONS LYING VACANT SINCE LONG

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The filling up of more than 30,000 government vacancies, mainly in the education and health departments of Delhi government, is expected to be expedited with the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) getting additional manpower for performing its duties more effectively and speedily.

According to a source in the DSSSB, Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has recently directed the officials to immediately fill up 117 additional posts of various categories in DSSSB.

An official in DSSSB said that the process of filling up of these posts is in its final stages and will be completed within two weeks.

The posts created through an L-G decision in May this year include deputy secretaries, section officers, assistant section officers, senior assistants, junior assistants, legal assistants and peons/MTS, he said. Once these 117 posts are filled, the



fully-staffed DSSSB is expected to work in full capacity and expedite the hitherto lagging process of efficiently conducting examinations and inter-

views etc. for filling up of thousands of posts that include teachers, nurses, paramedical Staff, physical training instructors and technicians, among

others, the official said, adding that these posts have been lying vacant since as long as 2013, due to the lackadaisical attitude of the government, which preferred to appoint contractual employees against permanent government vacancies.

After taking over, the L-G had expressed serious concern and displeasure over unduly and inordinately delayed vacancies in several government departments of critical importance to the people of Delhi.

He had also flagged the issue of filling up of such permanent vacancies on a contractual basis, which often led to favouritism in appointments, misappropriation of government funds in the name of ghost employees and ultimately an unconstitutional deterrent to the equal right to employment.

The DSSSB was mandated to select candidates for Group 'B' (non-gazetted) and Group 'C' for appointment to various departments of GNCTD, MCD, NDMC and other government undertakings through a government decision in 1996.

# Free flats approved for 3cr poor citizens: Hardeep Puri

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister of Housing and Urban Development Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday that the Central government has so far sanctioned houses to more than 3 crore underprivileged people while 1.22 crore houses have been approved in several urban areas, including Delhi.

He also said the BJP would start allotting flats to the poor in the 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Makan' scheme after registering win in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls scheduled to be held on December 4.

The Minister said this while speaking after flagging-off 30 campaign chariots of the Bharatiya Janata Party



(BJP) from the office of the saffron party's Delhi unit, in view of the MCD elections. The chariot flagging event was also attended by BJP leaders, office bearers and party workers.

Meanwhile, Puri claimed that much work towards allocating flats could have been done earlier but it did not happen to some "inept policies". Puri said all states

under the BJP's 'double-engine' government, saw that all work by the authorities were being done actively.

He said that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world and would soon reach the third position, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi dreamed of India becoming a developed country by 2047.

BJP's Delhi unit president Adesh Gupta, speaking on the occasion, mentioned several policies and work of the Narendra Modi-led Central government, saying "the BJP works with a sense of service".

He added that the government provided free ration to 74 lakh people in Delhi to deal with the food crisis during pandemic.

# POLISH DRUG MAFIA HELD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT ON INTERPOL TIP OFF

New Delhi | The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested Polish national Jasinski Andrzej Wieslaw from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, with 6 kg heroine valued at Rs 18 crore.

Interpol officials had shared vital information about the accused after which a CBI team was set up, developed information, and laid a trap to apprehend Wieslaw.

According to a CBI official, the Polish man has been arrested for violating various sections of the NDPS Act and the drugs seized. The official said that the accused is an international mafia and it was a big catch.

# DRDO launches testing, evaluation facility for Sonar Systems of Navy

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) launched Hull Module of Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization & Evaluation (SPACE) facility at Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) Kochi.

The move is aimed at giving impetus to the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' and India's 'Make in India' commitment. It is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems developed for use by the Indian Navy on board various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.

The SPACE facility is based on the concept design and requirements projected by NPOL and has been constructed by L&T Shipbuilding, Chennai.



This will be mainly utilised for evaluating sonar systems, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers.

The Ministry of Defence in a statement on Monday said that the SPACE is one-of-a-kind facility in the world. The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform, which can

be lowered up to depths of 100 meters using a series of synchronously operated winches.

The design and construction of the platform meet all the statutory needs of Indian Register of Shipping and the vessel classifying authority and strictly adhere to the inspection and registration criteria as per Kerala Inland Vessel Rules.

# 'Hindu is a Persian word' - K'taka Congress leader's remark triggers row

Belagavi (Karnataka) | Agencies

The Secretary of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPC), Satish Jarkiholi, stoked a controversy on Monday by stating that 'Hindu' is not an Indian word, but Persian.

Addressing a gathering at Nippani town, Jarkiholi said, "Hindu is not an Indian word at all. It is Persian. How the word Hindu went on to become ours needs to be debated."

"From where the word Hindu came? Is it ours? The word is Persian belonging to Iran, Iraq and Kazakhstan. How did it become Indian? Look up in Wikipedia, the word has arrived from Persia, it is not ours," he said.

"Why did the word get glorified? It is not your word. If you know the meaning of this word, you will be ashamed. It is dirty. I am not telling this, a swamiji is telling this and it is on a website. A word from a different region is being imposed upon us forcefully. It should be debated," Jarkiholi said.



He also said that equality should be ensured for all people in temples.

"If a Dalit touches water, people claim the water is polluted. A buffalo stays in the water from morn-

ing till evening, but no one says a word. Our agitation is against such practices.

"We build temples by making donations. When the temple is ready, we prohibit Dalits from entering it. Education and knowledge are the only things which will ensure our survival," Jarkiholi stressed.

"The history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj would not have come out if not for Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. The history was buried but research has brought the facts out. Shivaji looked at everyone equally. There is only one painting of Shivaji in the world. It was not painted by some Kulkarni or Deshpande, but a painter named Mohammad Madari made it," he added. The BJP and Hindu activists have reacted sharply to the comments made by Jarkiholi.

BJP leader Prakash Shesharaghavachar said that Congress always takes pleasure in attacking the majority community, as he demanded action against Jarkiholi by the party.



# NITIN GADKARI INAUGURATES FIVE NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari on Monday inaugurated five National Highway projects in Madhya Pradesh's Mandla. The total length of the projects inaugurated is 329 km at a cost of Rs 1,262 crore.



The Minister said with the construction of these routes, reaching religious places like Pachmarhi, Bhedaghat and Amarkantak as well as the traffic from Jabalpur via Amarkantak to Bilaspur, Raipur and Durg would be easy.

The projects were inaugurated in the presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of State Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister of State Gopal Bhargava, Bisahulal Singh and MPs, MLAs and other officials. Gadkari said that the natural beauty of Mandla and Kanha National Park have always attracted tourists. With the construction of these roads, this area and its forest

dweller will get better facilities. These projects will connect Mandla with Jabalpur, Dindori, Balaghat districts. Gadkari said, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, our government is continuously moving towards ensuring prosperity and development of Madhya Pradesh." Gadkari also said that remarkable work has been

done in agriculture sector in Madhya Pradesh under the leadership of CM Chouhan, MP has received Krishi Karman Award consecutively in a row. Now Madhya Pradesh has also started exporting agricultural products.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the State Government is making continuous efforts to lay the road network everywhere. He thanked PM Modi and Union Minister Gadkari for

the approval of the new 5 road project given by the Central Government for Mandla and Dindori districts. Chouhan informed that since year 2003, roads of more than 3 lakh km length have been constructed by the State Government. He said that there is a proposal to build Narmada Expressway from the origin of Narmada to Dhar-Jhabua. Efforts will be made to develop industrial areas on both sides of Narmada Expressway, where industries based on local products will be set up.

Chouhan said that the government will not allow any shortfall in development works. He informed about the works of the Central and State Governments for door-to-door delivery of water in the Mandla-Dindori region. Giving information about the applications received and accepted in Mandla district under Mukhya Mantri Jan Seva Abhiyan, he said that out of total one lakh 84 thousand 753 applications in the district, one lakh 56 thousand 944 have been approved. He urged the Union Minister Gadkari to approve new proposals to connect Kanha area with main road routes and Narmada beautification and development.

# Education is the first step of progress: Governor Patel



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that the first step of progress is education. He exhorted the tribal students to get the best education in order to keep pace with the mainstream of development.

Governor Patel was holding a discussion with a team of students of the state, who secured third position in the National Cultural and Literary Competition organized by Eklavya Schools in Bangalore, at Raj Bhavan today. Patel also gave gifts to

all the participants.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that education is very important for success in life. There should be no hindrance in providing good education to tribal children. He appreciated the organizing of national competition by the central government to highlight the talents of the children.

He said that the Central and State Governments are making all kinds of efforts to ensure better education. The government also cooperates in the efforts to seek education abroad and one

should never forget the contribution of your parents, schools and teachers and always be aware of their dignity.

Commissioner Tribal Affairs Sanjeev Singh informed that in the literary and cultural competition organized in Bangalore, Karnataka, the team of Madhya Pradesh state has won prizes in 13 different disciplines. Overall Madhya Pradesh has got the third position in the competition. Additional Commissioner Tribal K.G. Tiwari proposed the vote of thanks.

# 4 drunk women punch, kick another woman's face in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

A woman was assaulted by four others on a busy road in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district, the police said.



The video of the incident is going viral where the victim can be seen grounded and being beaten with belts at the LG intersection in Indore. The incident occurred late at night around 1 am on Friday.

In the video, the accused, who were reportedly drunk, can be seen pulling the woman's hair, and punching and kicking her face, while bystanders watch her being mercilessly beaten.

The woman in her complaint alleged she was beaten without any reason, the police said.

The police registered a case under charges of obscene acts, voluntarily causing hurt and criminal

intimidation. The woman works as a salesperson in a pesticide shop at Dhenu market in Indore.

# Training is the guide for entire service, get it with open mind: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel held an intimate dialogue with the officers of Administrative and Revenue Service of All India Service under training at RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management, Bhopal. The trainee officers, led by Academy Director Sonali Ponshe Wayangankar, came on a courtesy visit to the Governor at Raj Bhavan today.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that during the training, keep the heart and mind open. This is a guide to be used throughout the service life. He told the officers that by working with the spirit of service, the whole life will be spent with joy. He said that money can lead to material happiness but helping others with



sensitivity is the only way to attain spiritual happiness.

Governor Patel said that it is the responsibility of the officers to take the welfare programs of the government to the last level.

That is why it is necessary to behave kindly with public. Normal speech, simple behavior and following sensitive conduct are enough for closeness. He said that the working style of the government servant should be aimed at winning the trust and heart of the needy and deprived sections. There will be many problems and challenges during the service period, for which it is necessary that efforts should be made by understanding the specialties of one's work area, sensitively by coordinating with subordinate employees and superiors.

# 4th Edition of Tagore International Literature and Art Festival from November 14th

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Vishwarang' an international festival of Literature and Art spreading peace and harmony around the globe is moving towards the start of its 4th year. Organised by Rabindranath Tagore University, this festival is being organised from 14th to 20th November 2022. This information was given by Santosh Choubey, Director of Vishwarang and Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University. He was speaking in a press conference organized on Monday at Hotel Palash. During the press conference, Schedules of Vishwarang and Get Set Parent's Children's Literature and Arts Festival were also released. It is worth mentioning that this is the world's unique literary festival organized by any private university.

While addressing the press, Santosh Choubey further said that Vishwarang will begin with 'Aarambh' ceremony on 11th November 2022 from



Sahitya Akademi Hall, New Delhi. World Poetry Presentation and Indian Poetry Seminar will be organized there.

From November 14 to November 16, a grand event of Vishwarang 'Kala Mahotsav' will be held at Rabindranath Tagore University and Rabindra Bhawan, Bhopal. The art festival will begin with

the classical singing of famous singer Kaushiki Chakraborty. Presentation of Ramayana by Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra will be held in the amphitheatre of Rabindra Bhawan. The play 'Bandish' directed by well-known theatrical director Poorva Naresh will be staged. The main events of the Tagore International Literature and Arts Festival will be held from November 17 to 20 at Kushabhau Thackeray Convention Centre, (Minto Hall), Bhopal. The main function of Vishwarang will be inaugurated on 17th November evening by Hon'ble Mangubhai Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Hon'ble Subhash Sarkar, Minister of State (Education) Government of India and Usha Thakur, Hon'ble Minister, Culture and Tourism Department, Govt. of MP. A Sadbhavna rally will be organized from Ravindra bhavan to Khushabhau Thakre Hall apart from painting competition in Ravindra Bhavan. Vishwarang festival is being organized in association with more than 50 countries apart from India.

# Bulldozer action against accused of killing Son-In-Law

Team Absolute | Shivpuri

Following the horrific murder of a 23-year-old man in Shivpuri district, police sources said they will demolish the house of the accused and also cancel a firearm licence in their name. The victim, Dheeru Jatav, had married a woman from the village against her family's wishes two years ago in court, and the couple had fled to Ahmedabad in Gujarat where they had lived since. Both of them belong to the same community.

They had recently returned to the village with their daughter to celebrate Diwali, hoping the anger of the relatives would have dissipated.



The woman had already received death threats.

The victim along with two others was heading towards a shop on Saturday evening when the accused, including his father-in-law, kidnapped him. The accused took the victim to a place nearby, where they killed him with an axe, he said. The victim's father Brakbhhan Jatav, in his

complaint, stated that one of the men accompanying his son had informed him about the abduction.

On reaching the spot, Jatav claimed, that he saw the accused beating his son with sticks and a rifle and later killing him with an axe.

The accused reportedly fled the scene on spotting him.

Jatav has said that he had stopped his son from coming to the village, but the latter insisted, thinking the anger in his wife's family would have dissipated in two years.

The incident took place in Machhawali village in the district on Saturday night. One of the seven accused has been arrested.

# Cooperatives should be expanded like a banyan tree-CM Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a banyan sapling in the Smart City Garden along with Cooperatives Minister Arvind Singh Bhadoria as a symbol of expansion of cooperatives. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that the activities going on in the state will be further expanded for employment generation through cooperatives. CM Chouhan also planted Khimi and Mulberry saplings. Members of Nirbhaya Foundation, Bhopal participated in plantation. Social worker of Rajgarh district Pooja Sondhia planted

saplings on her birthday. Sher Afzal Khan, Dr. Pratibha Rajagopal, Samar Khan, Usha Srivastava, Moobsira Masood, of Nirbhaya Foundation participated in the plantation.

The foundation is running Nirbhaya Women's Shelter Homes in Bhopal for the last 13 years, in which shelter, protection, food, clothes etc. are provided to the women suffering from different types of issues. The foundation also conducts training programmes in various disciplines to make these women self-reliant. One stop centre Sakhi is also being operated by the foundation at Betul, Sehore and Sagar.

# First kill for male Cheetahs in Kuno National Park

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two of the eight African cheetahs, who were flown in from Namibia and released in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park in mid-September, have made their first kill within 24 hours of being released into a larger enclosure, news agency reported.

The cheetahs hunted down a cheetal (spotted deer) either on Sunday night or in the early hours of Monday, officials told media. This was their first prey after their translocation.

The cheetahs - Freddie and Elton - were the first pair to be released into the larger enclosure on November 5 after being quarantined since September 17. They were moved from quarantine zones



to an acclimatisation enclosure on November 5, and will eventually be released into the wild. "Great news! Am told that after the mandatory quarantine, 2 cheetahs have been released to a bigger enclosure for further adaptation to the Kuno habitat. Others will be

released soon. I'm also glad to know that all cheetahs are healthy, active and adjusting well," PM Modi had tweeted along with a short video of the two wild cats.

As per international norms, wild animals before and after their translocation to another

country have to be in quarantine for a month to check the spread of any infection, experts have said. The cheetahs are currently housed in six enclosures and are being fed buffalo meat, a member of the Centre's task force on the big cats told media.

# WOMAN TRIES TO FORCE FEMALE FRIEND TO MARRY HER, ARRESTED

Jaipur: A woman from Madhya Pradesh was arrested after she created a ruckus at her female friend's house in Rajasthan's Nagaur, saying she wanted to marry her, police said on Sunday.

The two women, aged between 21 and 25, met on social media a couple of years ago and became friends, Superintendent of Police Ram Moorthy Joshi said.

The woman from Madhya Pradesh allegedly wanted to marry her friend and also sought physical relationship with her. She also demanded ₹ 10 lakh. Further, she threatened the Rajasthan woman of leaking their chats on social media if she did not accept the demands, the SP said citing the complaint.

"The Madhya Pradesh woman reached her friend's house at Ladnun in Nagaur on Saturday night and created a ruckus. She wanted the woman to get married to her. The victim and her family members filed a police complaint today, after which an FIR for house trespass and extortion was registered," Joshi said. The Madhya Pradesh woman has been arrested, he added.



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Govt CBDCs come with their own security

As India embarks on its journey towards a digital rupee controlled by the Reserve Bank of India, concerns about cybersecurity and privacy loom large. US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell recently listed "cyber risk" as his top-most worry relating to financial stability, and a recent UK House of Lords report specifically described cybersecurity and privacy risks as potential reasons not to develop a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), these concerns are not unfounded. "CBDC vulnerabilities could be exploited to compromise a nation's financial system. CBDCs would be able to accumulate sensitive payment and user data at an unprecedented scale. In the wrong hands, this data could be used to spy on citizens' private transactions, obtain security-sensitive details about individuals and organisations, and even steal money," according to an IMP paper titled 'Central Bankers' New Cybersecurity Challenge.' If implemented without proper security protocols, a CBDC could substantially amplify the scope and scale of many of the security and privacy threats that already exist in today's financial system. As the RBI moves ahead with the rupee pilot project, Governor Shaktikanta Das recently flagged cyber security and digital frauds as the main challenges in the new CBDC system. According to the IMF paper, many of the proposed design variants for CBDCs (particularly retail CBDCs) involve the centralised collection of transaction data, posing major privacy and security risks. "From a privacy standpoint, such data could be used to surveil citizens' payment activity. Accumulating so much sensitive data in one place also increases security risk by making the payoff for would-be intruders much greater," the paper stressed. However, the risks associated with centralised data collection can be mitigated either by not collecting it at all or by choosing a validation architecture in which each component sees only the amount of information needed for functionality.

# Russia-Iran defence relations get a boost

Asad Mirza

The apparent bonhomie between Iran and Russia, two ideologically opposed powers, seems rather surprising. But the reality of wider strategic gains can make one eschew ideology.

International politics, internal compulsions and various other external and internal threats and dynamics sometimes bring antagonist forces together. The wider compulsions force countries to forego ideological differences and stances and instead work unitedly for greater gains in the geo-political and regional level besides influencing global politics.

The latest example in such a scenario is that of Iran and Russia working together in the backdrop of the continuing Russia-Ukraine war and the US's cautious approach to tackle the emerging scenario.

It would have been unfathomable to think a Communist regime and an Islamic regime -- to which Communism is a complete anathema, to come together, but strange indeed are the ways of economic and security compulsions.

## Iranian armaments for Russia

It has been reported that Russia is buying Iranian-made missiles and drones in huge quantity and using them against Ukraine. This makes us ponder what is the real Russian intention to buy arms from not an ally but an ideological opponent and why not use its own stockpile of missiles and drones.

Recently, it has been reported that Iran is poised to send approximately 1,000 additional weapons to Russia, including short-range ballistic missiles and additional attack drones, the last shipment of weapons from Iran to Russia included about 450 drones.

Reports quote presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, two senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard officials and



an official from Iran's Supreme National Security Council in Moscow, last month and apparently during their presence a deal was struck between the two countries, under which Iran would provide Russia with surface-to-surface ballistic missiles while

The Russians had asked for the Fateh and Zolfaghar surface-to-surface family missiles, according to sources. In response to this development Ukrainian officials have been quoted as saying that Ukraine currently has "no effective defence against these missiles. It is theoretically possible to shoot them down, but it is very difficult to do it with the means we currently have."

In reality, Anti-ballistic Missiles (ABMs) can shoot down the Fateh and Zolfaghar missiles. However, Ukraine doesn't have any effective ABM defences and it has asked the US to supply it with ABMs, delivery of which has been withheld so far by the Washington.

## Why Russia is buying from Iran?

This makes us ponder what is the real reason for Russia buying these armaments from Iran. In fact Iranian missiles present a perfect cost-effective option to strike at Ukrainian infrastructure, and in addition though they are crude yet they are rather accurate in reaching and destroying their target effectively.

In addition Iran has a huge stockpile of these indigenously manufactured missiles and UAVs or drones. In absence of it being currently not engaged in any big campaign apart from the proxy-war in Syria, it has a huge inventory of missiles, which could practically mean early use in effective numbers by Russia.

Further, procuring Iranian missiles allows Russia to conserve its more advanced and deadly tactical ballistic missiles, such as the Iskander, for a possible future clash with NATO.

The Russian plan it seems is intended to use these missiles procured at a lesser cost to damage Ukraine's power generation, command and control, and logistic infrastructure to the maximum extent possible before the onset of

winter.

The Russian goal is to destroy the signals receiving stations from reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft of the US and NATO. These stations are equipped with radars that can track 600 ground targets simultaneously, and thus they effectively observe Russian troop movements and transmit them to the Ukrainian military.

In fact, the Ukrainian power generation infrastructure has been damaged significantly by Russian air strikes. Official Ukrainian estimates speak of the lost power generation capability from 30 to 40 per cent. The damage was primarily achieved over three days of these attacks on October 10, 11, and 31, with cruise missiles, kamikaze drones, and air-to-surface missiles.

## American quandary

Now this leads us to another important question, what should be the response of the US, NATO and other Western countries to the Russian strategy?

The US could try

to prevent delivery of Iranian ballistic missiles by pre-emptively attacking Iranian missile storage and transhipment facilities. This could be a reasonably effective option, but with the added danger of US being actively involved in the Russian-Ukraine war and further, most importantly, opening up a new front against its old foe Iran. This could further translate into a bigger regional conflict, from which the US would be unable to extricate itself successfully. Further, the US could also work to get a no-fly zone established over Ukraine. But this may entail parleys with other regional players and NATO countries and may also be seen as a direct US involvement in the Russia-Ukraine war and the present Biden administration may not be ready to take such a big risk.

On the other hand through NATO, US could start supplying Ukraine with missiles with a range similar to the missiles provided by Iran, including the 300-km range variant of HIMARS rockets, delivery of which the US has withheld so far. Though in reality, longer-range weapons in the hands of Ukrainians may cause more pain to Russia but it would not prevent Russia using Iranian ballistic missiles from degrading Ukrainian infrastructure.

Meanwhile, last week the US Department of Defence announced that it will provide a new \$400 million package of security assistance to Ukraine that includes refurbished T-72 tanks, Phoenix Ghost unmanned drones, and armoured boats.

In the given scenario, the US and other Western countries seem to be caught in catch 22 situation and seemingly unable to stop the supply of missiles and drones from Iran to Russia.

(Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He writes on Indian Muslims, educational, international affairs, inter-faith and current affairs.)

international

## N.Korea threatens to take 'overwhelming' military steps against S.Korea, US

Seoul | Agencies

North Korea's military said on Monday that it will take "sustained, resolute and overwhelming" practical military measures in response to joint military drills of South Korea and the US amid speculation that Pyongyang may carry out another nuclear test just before or after the American midterm elections on Tuesday.

In a "report" carried by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA) also said it conducted a four-day "military operations" last week against the Vigilant Storm exercise, claiming to have fired two strategic missiles just 80 km off the southeastern coast of Ulsan, reports Yonhap News Agency.

"The recent corresponding military operations by the KPA are a clear answer of the DPRK that the more persistently the enemies' provocative military moves continue, the more thoroughly and mercilessly the KPA will counter them," the KPA said in the English-language statement.

The DPRK is the acronym for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The KPA slammed the recent Vigilant Storm exercise as an "open



provocation aimed at intentionally escalating the tension in the region." The KPA General Staff once again clarifies that it will continue to correspond with all the anti-DPRK war drills of the enemy with the sustained, resolute and overwhelming practical military measures," it added. Earlier on Monday, South Korea kicked off its annual computer-simulated Taegeuk training to enhance operational capabilities against North Korean threats.

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump have held duelling rallies to fire up voters as campaigning for Tuesday's midterm elections is slated to end on Monday.

On Sunday, while Biden spoke at a rally in New York to support Governor Kathy Hochul, Trump made his last-minute plea to voters in Miami, reports the BBC.

Addressing voters at the Sarah Lawrence College, the President called the upcoming election "an inflection point" that will determine the next 20 years, adding that the people were choosing between two "fundamentally different visions of America".

In his address that lasted for over an hour, Trump slammed the Democrats for leading the country towards "communism".

"Democrats want to turn America into communist Cuba or socialist Venezuela... To every Hispanic



American in Florida and across the land, we welcome you with open open arms to our (Republican) party," the BBC quoted the former President as saying.

He again hinted on his possible run for the White House, telling the crowd to "stay tuned" for his rally on Monday in Ohio.

Also on Monday, Biden will appear at a rally in Maryland, a state normally considered a Democratic stronghold, while First lady Jill Biden will be in Virginia to support incumbent Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton.

In Tuesday's elections, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives

and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested.

Thirty-nine state and territorial gubernatorial elections, as well as numerous other state and local elections, are also up for grabs.

The results will determine the 118th US Congress.

In the Senate, the Democrats and Republicans split 50:50 with Vice President Kamala Harris holding the edge for the Democrats with her tie-breaking vote.

In the House, Democrats have a wafer-thin majority of 220 seats and Republicans 212, with three seats vacant.

Recent polls have suggested that Democrats are however, likely to lose their majority in the House of Representatives, while control of the Senate will probably rely on the results of extremely tight races in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Nevada, reports the BBC.

Over 40 million ballots have already been cast during the early-voting period so far.

## IRAN UNVEILS 'UPGRADED' BAVAR-373 MISSILE SYSTEM

Tehran: Iran on Sunday unveiled an "upgraded version" of the Bavar-373 (Belief-373) surface-to-air missile system with a range of more than 300 km.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Iranian Defense Minister Mohammadreza Ashtiani, during which the system was successfully tested by launching a long-range Sayyad B4 (Hunter B4) missile. Xinhua news agency reported, citing a report by IRNA news agency. During the test, its upgraded radar managed to detect a target at a distance of more than 450 km, and track the target at a distance of about 405 km before destroying it at a range of over 300 km. Prior to the upgrade, the Bavar-373 missile system was capable of detecting, tracking and hitting targets at ranges of 350 km, 260 km, and 200 km respectively.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, the production line of the Sayyad B4 missiles, which run on combined solid fuel, was also inaugurated.

The Bavar-373 system made its first official appearance on August 22, 2019.

## Kiev Mayor warns of evacuations in case of total power loss

Kiev | Agencies

Mayor of Kiev, Vitaliy Klitschko has warned of possible evacuations in case the Ukrainian capital suffers a total power outage in the wake of Russian attacks on the country's critical infrastructure.

In a televised address on Sunday, the Mayor said that Russian President Vladimir Putin "doesn't need us Ukrainians. He needs territory, he needs Ukraine without us", the BBC reported.

"That's why everything that is happening now (strikes on infrastructure) is genocide. His task is for us to flee, to freeze, or to make us die our land so that he can have it," the former heavyweight boxer was quoted as saying.

Klitschko said that while authorities are doing "everything" to keep the lights on and water flowing, he was ensuring



preparations were in place for different scenarios.

Kiev's three million residents should make arrangements to stay with friends or relatives who live in the suburbs who still have water and power, so that they have a plan in the "worst case" scenario if the supply to the capital city is lost, the Mayor said.

He added that the authorities were stocking up on fuel, food and water, and residents should do the same, adding that at least 1,000 heating shelters are being set up across the city where

people will be able to get warm in an emergency.

Also in his nightly address to the nation, President Volodymyr Zelensky said that as of Sunday evening, more than 4.5 million people remain without electricity in Ukraine, majority of them in Kiev.

Zelensky said that he held meetings with government officials, with representatives of energy companies and regional administrations regarding the possible options for the current power situation, reports Ukrayinska Pravda.

"We consider each scenario in detail and prepare appropriate responses. No matter what the terrorists want, no matter what they try to achieve, we must endure this winter and be even stronger in the spring than we are now," he emphasized.

The President further claimed that Russia is continuing to amass forces and equipment that would enable it to

renew its attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure, including the energy infrastructure.

"That's why Russia needs Iranian missiles. We are preparing to respond," he said.

On a positive note, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, Deputy Head of the President's Office, said that although the electricity situation in Kiev was difficult, but the blackouts were controlled.

In recent weeks, millions of Ukrainians have intermittently been left without electricity and water as Russian air strikes have targeted vital infrastructure, reports the BBC.

Rolling power cuts are also in place to avoid overloads and allow for repairs.

Some 40 per cent of Ukraine's energy system has been damaged or destroyed by Russian attacks on power plants and lines.

In winter in Kyiv, the average temperature is below freezing and drops even further at night.

## Five killed, 11 wounded in suicide bombing in Somali capital

Mogadishu | Agencies

At least five people were killed and 11 others wounded after a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of a military training facility in the Somali capital. Odowaa Yusuf Rage, Chief of Defence Forces, said the Somali National Army foiled the attack, preventing the bomber from reaching his target, Xinhua news agency reported.

"The bomber did not achieve his goal during the attack on the General Dhagabadan military training center. The troops thwarted him from reaching his target. We have launched investigations to find the motive behind it," Yustuf told the Somali news agency Saturday night. Witnesses told Xinhua two other explosions were heard in Mogadishu after the suicide bomber, disguised as a new recruit, detonated the explosives at the facility, located near a former candy factory, which the extrem-

ists had previously targeted.

"The suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest blew himself up outside the military training camp. He had mingled up with a group of young people who were lining up for recruitment at the entrance of the camp," witness Yusuf Hassan said. The al-Shabab extremist group, which has engaged the Somali government in near-daily attacks across the country, claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Saturday's attack came after twin car bombings in Mogadishu on October 29, which killed more than 120 people and wounded more than 300 others.

The bombings, also claimed by al-Shabab, targeted the education ministry and a busy market intersection in the Somali capital.

According to government officials, several children were among the attack's casualties, which was roundly condemned by the international community.



# STORM AS MAHA MINISTER USES FOUL WORDS AGAINST NCP MP SUPRIYA SULE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A political storm erupted in Maharashtra on Monday as ruling Balasahebchhi Shiv Sena (BSS) Minister Abdul Sattar allegedly used foul words against Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule, the daughter of veteran leader Sharad Pawar.

While attacking the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for its ongoing shrill 'Khokha' (slang for Rs 1 crore), Sattar seemingly lost control over his speech and used certain disrespectful words against Sule.

Sattar's utterances enraged NCP activists and scores of them rushed to the Minister's home in Mumbai, shouted slogans and pelted stones, and impromptu protests erupted in Mumbai, Thane, Aurangabad, Pune and other places.

NCP Women's Wing leader Vidya Chavan demanded that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde must sack Sattar or seek his resignation within 24 hours failing which they would block his entry to Mantralaya. NCP chief spokesperson Mahesh



Tapase went to lodge a complaint against Sattar at MRA Marg Police.

In other parts of the state, NCP workers blackened or stoned pictures of Sattar, beat up his portraits with shoes, burnt his effigies, and demanded his dismissal from the ministry. Senior NCP leader Dr. Jitendra Awhad said Sattar is a follow-

er of Islam which propounds respect for women and others asked that by using such derogatory language, the arrogant minister even deserved to be called a Muslim.

As the political heat turned up, Sattar went on the defensive and denied that he made any such utterances against Sule while claiming that

he was only replying to those defaming the BSS with the '50 Khokha' allegations.

"However, if any woman feels that I have offended them in any manner, I hereby withdraw my words and also apologise I am sorry," Sattar airily told media persons.

Shiv Sena-UBT leaders like Aditya Thackeray, Sushma Andhare, Kishore Tiwari and Congress' leaders also slammed the BSS for Sattar's disrespectful language and demanded stringent action against him.

They also attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders who regularly target women politicians in Maharashtra and other states, and Andhare asked why the BJP's women leaders are not keeping mum.

Chavan and other women leaders rejected the apology and said they would not settle for anything less than Sattar's dismissal from the state cabinet. Sattar retorted that though he said nothing objectionable, attempts were being made to defame and target him, and he would not be scared by demands for his sacking/resignation.

# Shinde Government "Will Collapse" in coming months: Aaditya Thackeray

Team Absolute | Balapur (Maharashtra)

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Monday said the Eknath Shinde-led government in Maharashtra will collapse in coming months and asked party workers to gear up for mid-term elections.

Addressing a rally here in Akola district, the former minister attacked the Shinde-led dispensation over four major projects picking other states over Maharashtra, and claimed the state has lost potential employment for 2.5 lakh people.

Notably, Aaditya's father and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had last week spoken about the possibility of mid-term elections in the state.

"This government of traitors will surely collapse in coming months. Midterm polls are around the corner," Aaditya said, asking workers to gear up to face early elections.

Hitting back at state Agriculture minister Abdul Sattar for calling him "chota pappu", Aaditya said, "I may be chota pappu, but if the name calling helps in serving (the interest of) Maharashtra, then you can keep doing it. This chota pappu is making you run in Maharashtra. I will make you run because Maharashtra has not accepted this treachery (the revolt in Shiv Sena that led to the collapse of the Udhav Thackeray government)".



Taking a dig at Shinde, Aaditya said one cannot identify who is the chief minister between Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

He said ever since an "unconstitutional government" was formed in Maharashtra, there is no one to listen to the issues of farmers and youths as he sought to draw a parallel between the tenure of Uddhav Thackeray and the incumbent government.

He demanded the government declare a wet drought in the state to address the losses faced by farmers due to unseasonal rains.

Slamming Industries Minister Uday Samant, a Shinde loyalist, Aaditya said industries are choosing other states for investment over Maharashtra.

"He has done the worst work for Maharashtra," Aaditya said referring to Samant.

# 20 injured after state transport buses collide in Palghar

Team Absolute | Palghar

At least 20 passengers travelling in two state transport buses were injured when the vehicles collided Maharashtra's Palghar district on Monday morning. All the injured were sent home after treatment, police said.

The accident occurred around 5 am on Monday near Bharset Met. The two buses were going from Nashik to Silvasa and Silvasa to Jalgaon respectively.

Videos of the buses after the collision show the front of both vehicles bashed in with the driver's cabin crushed. According to the police, the collision happened after one of the drivers failed to navigate a blind turn, and ended up driving into an oncoming



The driver of one of the buses sustained severe injuries on his leg. "Around 20 passengers were injured in this incident, and they were

admitted to the nearest hospital for treatment," the police said. The buses belong to Maharashtra state transport, they added.

# "It Will Depend On...": Congress on Sharad Pawar joining Bharat Jodo Yatra

Aurangabad | Agencies

Senior Congress leader Ashok Chavan has said the participation of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra will depend on his health condition.

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', a mass outreach initiative of the Congress which began on September 7 from Kanyakumari, is scheduled to enter Maharashtra's Nanded district on Monday night from neighbouring Telangana.

The Congress had invited NCP president Mr Pawar, 81, to participate in the foot march and the latter earlier said he would join the yatra.

Pawar was recently hospitalised in Mumbai for fever and other health issues. The NCP chief on Saturday flew to Shirdi from Mumbai with doc-



tors and addressed the party convention briefly.

Talking to reporters in Nanded on Sunday evening, former chief minister Mr Chavan said, "There seems to be a change in Sharad Pawar's pro-

grammes. I have come to know that he may join the yatra on November 10, but it will depend on his health condition." The state Congress leadership plans to highlight the participation of the NCP and the Uddhav

Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction in the yatra as a show of solidarity of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Chavan also said the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will enter Deglur in Maharashtra's Nanded district on Monday. The Congress state unit has planned to hold a welcome ceremony for the yatra participants at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Deglur, as per the schedule shared by the party. After the welcome ceremony, the yatra will resume at night in which the participants will carry 'Ekta Mashals' (Unity Torches). Post midnight, the marchers will take a break at a gurdwara in Deglur and later, they will take a night halt at the Chidravar Mill there.

The yatra will resume on Tuesday morning.

# Aaditya Thackeray could take part in Congress march: Team Uddhav Leader

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Aaditya Thackeray could participate in the Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi, which is slated to enter Maharashtra on Monday night, a leader from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction said.

Talking to reporters, Sena leader Sachin Ahir said Aaditya Thackeray is touring Marathwada and the yatra would also be passing through the region.

"The possibility of Aaditya Thackeray attending the Bharat Jodo Yatra cannot be ruled out. The decision will be taken after discussions with the party chief (Uddhav Thackeray). Coincidentally, he is also touring the region (Marathwada) and attempts are being made to see if it (his visit) can coincide with the rally," Ahir said.

The idea behind Bharat Jodo Yatra is to bring everyone together and knowingly or unknowingly, people from every section of the society are supporting it. This is to be welcomed if they are coming to Maharashtra, the Sena MLC said.

Ahir is a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council and is the spokesperson for the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction of the Shiv Sena.

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' will enter Maharashtra on Monday night and reach Deglur in Nanded district from neighbouring Telangana.



The yatra will pass through 15 Assembly and six parliamentary constituencies in the state, mostly in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, during its 14-day sojourn.

# BMC TO RE-INVITE TENDERS TO CONCRETISE 400 KM OF CITY ROADS

Mumbai: These tenders were based on a rate list from 2018. The BMC plans to float revised tenders with an increased rate, based on the new schedule for road works, in December. The new rate list, however, is still two weeks away from completion. If put into effect, the cost of construction of 400 km of road work will jump by at least 20 per cent.

The BMC makes its own schedule of rates for various infrastructure related work in the city. This includes going into the micro level too, deciding on rates for materials to be used in construction, and labour. Any estimation of work thus depends on the base list prepared by the BMC. The last such list was compiled in 2018 and all work until now was awarded to construction companies on its basis.

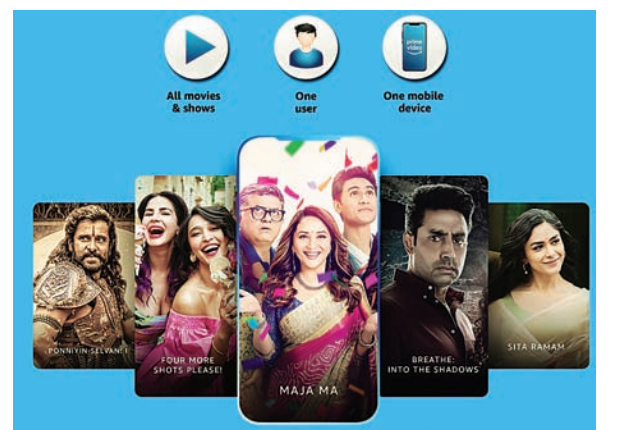
# Amazon launches Prime Video mobile edition at Rs 599 per year

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Amazon on Monday launched a mobile edition of Prime Video for Rs 599 per year in India.

Customers can purchase an annual subscription to the OTT's mobile edition through the official website or its app for Android, the company said in a statement.

"Prime Video mobile edition is a major step towards making premium entertainment across languages as ubiquitous as smartphones in the country," Amazon added. With this move, Prime Video aims to expand the reach of the mobile edition, which debuted as a telco-partnered product in partnership with Bharti Airtel last year. "With viewers from 99 per cent of the country's pin codes, the service has become the preferred destination for premium content,"



said Gaurav Gandhi, vice president, Prime Video India.

The mobile edition offers standard definition (SD) quality streaming to users, and gives them a chance to explore and watch Prime Video's vast catalogue of Indian and international movies, Amazon Originals, live cricket, and many more.

"India is turning into an innovation hub for Prime Video. With this launch, we look forward to entertaining every Indian with our popular on-demand entertainment content and live sports," added Kelly Day, Vice President, International, Prime Video.

# Government to plan Film City between Mumbai, Thane: CM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government will work on planning a film city between Mumbai and Thane cities to provide a wider platform to artists, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Sunday.

Speaking at an event where noted Marathi theatre actor Prashant Damle was felicitated for the 12,500th show of his play 'Eka Lagnachi Gosh', Eknath Shinde said the state government will support Marathi theatre and cinema.

"There is a lot of shooting happening in Thane too," he said, adding that a film city will be planned between Mumbai and Thane, separated by 23 km.

He also said a nodal officer would be appointed to review and inspect the condi-



tion of drama auditoriums and take necessary steps to improve them. Eknath Shinde said a rec-

ommendation has been forwarded to the Centre to confer the Padma award to Prashant Damle.

# CONTROVERSY ERUPTS OVER NAMING OF MOPA AIRPORT IN GOA

Team Absolute | Panaji

Ahead of the commissioning of Mopa International Airport, a controversy has erupted in Goa over naming the new project amid a debate on naming the airport after Goa's first chief minister Dayanand Bandothkar, former Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and first Goa Opposition leader Jack de Sequeira.

The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) Central Committee has taken a unanimous decision to urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to name Mopa airport after Bandothkar. However, netizens have also demanded to name it after Parrikar or Sequeira.

"We have taken a resolution, which would be mailed today to the Prime Minister," MGP President Deepak Dhavalikar told reporter.

MGP is a coalition partner in Chief Minister Pramod Sawant-led

BJP government.

Bandothkar was the former MGP leader, who contributed in various fields, including education.

"The social work done by Dayanand Bandothkar during the pre-liberation period, irrespective of caste and religion, and his contribution in the field of educational and industrial sectors, and the preservation of the culture of Goa is noteworthy. He gave a corruption-free government and worked in the interest of people. Hence, Mopa airport should be named after him," MGP's resolution said.

Former Union Minister Ramakant Khalap on Monday welcomed the decision of the MGP. "I am happy. The MGP has passed a resolution demanding that the new Mopa Airport be named as 'Dayanand Bandothkar International Airport' in memory of Goa's first Chief Minister. I may, however, caution the MGP leadership that a mere resolution in their Executive/Working Committee

will not be sufficient. MGP has two MLAs and one of them is a Cabinet Minister... Both MLAs must convey this demand in writing to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister," Khalap said.

"Sudin Dhavalikar (MGP Minister) should prevail upon his Cabinet colleagues to pass an appropriate resolution in the cabinet. The MLAs must also move a resolution in the Assembly and ensure that it is passed unanimously. The ruling party owes a lot to MGP," he added.

On November 2, Khalap had written a letter to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant requesting to name the new International Airport at Mopa as 'Dayanand Bandothkar Airport'.

Former Goa Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Subhash Velingkar has also demanded naming Mopa airport after Bandothkar.

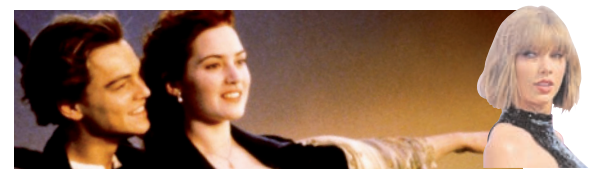
Commending the contribution of Bandothkar during a meeting in North Goa last week, he said that

if the government tries to give any other name then it would have to face agitation by the people of Goa.

There are demands on social media by admirers of Parrikar and also of Sequeira to honour these leaders by naming Mopa airport after them. BJP spokesperson Savio Rodrigues has said that if not late Manohar Parrikar, the airport should be named after Jack de Sequeira.

"People want to name airport after a political leader who wanted to merge Goa with Maharashtra. The political leader who saved Goa's individual identity was Jack De Sequeira. If not late Manohar Parrikar, it should be named after Jack de Sequeira," Rodrigues added. However, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has clarified that the names will be sent to Union Civil Aviation Ministry to decide upon the name.

Sawant has said that commissioning of Mopa Airport will take place after December 8.



## 'BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER' MAKES ITS OFFICIAL AFRICAN PREMIERE

Los Angeles | Agencies

**F**ilmmaker Ryan Coogler's upcoming Marvel Studios' movie 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' made its official African premiere. It premiered at Filmhouse Cinemas IMAX Lekki in Lagos, Nigeria. Director Ryan Coogler and stars Letitia Wright, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Winston Duke and

Tenoch Huerta Mejia walked the black carpet alongside local musicians featured in the film, plus dignitaries and special guests. In Marvel Studios' 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever', Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett), Shuri (Letitia Wright), M'Baku (Winston Duke), Okoye (Danai Gurira) and the Dora Milaje (including Florence

Kasumba) fight to protect their nation from intervening world powers in the wake of King T'Challa's death. As the Wakandans strive to embrace their next chapter, the heroes must band together with the help of War Dog Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) and Everett Ross (Martin Freeman) and forge a new path for the kingdom of Wakanda. Introducing Tenoch Huerta Mejia as Namor, ruler of a hidden undersea nation, the film also stars Dominique Thorne, Michaela Coel, Mabel Cadena and Alex Livinalli. 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' opens in theaters on November 11 in English, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu.

## It's not 'safe place' after Elon Musk takeover: Gigi Hadid

Los Angeles | Agencies

**S**upermodel Gigi Hadid has announced that she quit Twitter as it's no longer a "safe place" for anyone after Elon Musk bought the platform for \$44 billion.

On the heels of Twitter mass layoffs, the 27-year-old supermodel turned to her Instagram Story to let her 76 million followers know that she's no longer on the micro-blogging platform. She even called the social media site

"cesspool of hate & bigotry", reports.

"For a long time, but especially with its new leadership," Gigi wrote of Elon, "it's becoming more and more of a cesspool of hate & bigotry, and its (sic) not a place I want to be a part (sic) of."

Gigi added an apology to her fans on the platform, writing that she "loved connecting" with them "for a decade".

"I can't stay it's a safe place for anyone, nor a social platform that will do more good than harm," she added.

Alongside her statement, Gigi included Human Rights Counsel Shannon Raj Singh's tweet about being laid off from the tech giant.

Shannon's post read: "Yesterday was my last day at Twitter: the entire Human Rights team has been cut from the company. I am enormously proud of the work we did to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights, to protect those at-risk in global conflicts & crises including Ethiopia."

Twitter fired roughly half of its workforce on November 4 with an email to staff explaining the cuts were "necessary to ensure the company's success moving forward".

Aside from Gigi, many famous names have also decided to quit the platform, including Sara Bareilles, Toni Braxton, Mick Foley and 'Grey's Anatomy' screenwriter Shonda Rhimes, since Musk officially became the owner and CEO of Twitter on October 27.



## TOM CRUISE, CHRIS PRATT TO TELL STORIES OF US MILITARY HEROES



Los Angeles | Agencies

**'A**merican Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes' is returning to American airwaves on Veterans Day which falls on November 11 with Emmy nominee Rob Riggle reprising as this year's host.

The actor is a Marine Corps veteran with credits in film and television ranging from 2022's 'The Curse of Bridge Hollow' to the adult comedy series 'American Dad!'. The TV special is a collection of dozens of stories about American heroes in military history told by celebrities like Bradley Cooper, Tom Cruise, Gayle King, Edward Norton, Sarah Paulson, Chris Pine, Chris Pratt and Hilary Swank, among others. Presented by Northrop

Grumman and Veterans United Home Loans, the program is expected to be nationally syndicated to over 100 million households as well as broadcast to US troops around the world and out at sea.

The live event was filmed November 5 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

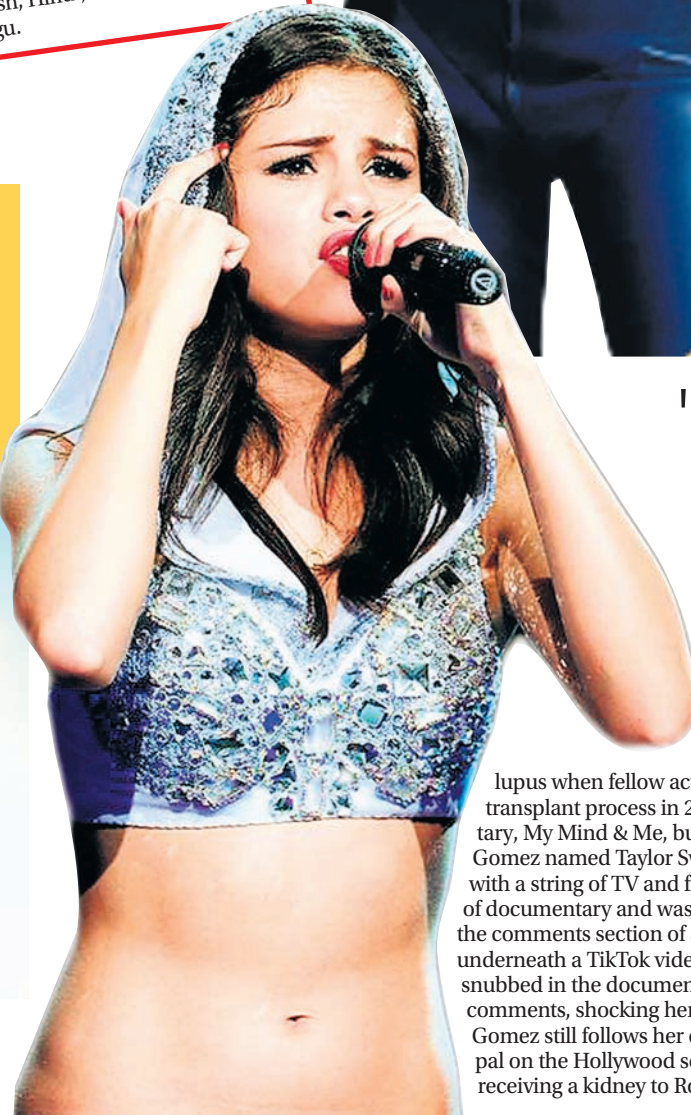
"We are honored to bring these stories to Americans across the country," said 'American Valor' producer Tim Holbert, who is also the executive director of the American Veterans Center. "This is a gathering from our shared history, the likes of which we will never see again and a reminder of what brings us all together as Americans." Highlighted stories include heart-wrenching tales like that of Lieutenant Emily J.T. Perez, the first minority female

Brigade Command Sergeant Major in the history of the US Military Academy West Point and the first African-American woman officer to be killed in combat.

Emily's parents, Daniel and Vicki Perez, were in attendance at the event in her honour.

The veterans whose legacies are being spotlighted span over the last 80 years of history, going as far back as World War II.

Frank Emond, now 104 years old, was among those honored, as he has consistently broken the Guinness World Record as the "world's oldest conductor" leading the US Air Force Band. The retired Navy musician survived Pearl Harbor and World War II and has since devoted the remainder of his life to the prestigious ensemble.



## 'Sorry I didn't mention every person I know': Selena Gomez

Los Angeles | Agencies

**S**elena Gomez appears to have fallen out with her former best friend and kidney donor Francia Raisa, with the rift spilling over onto social media over the weekend. The Disney star was gravely ill with

lupus when fellow actress Raisa, offered to donate her kidney and they underwent the difficult transplant process in 2017. Gomez detailed her health struggles in her just released documentary, My Mind & Me, but gave no mention of Raisa and in a recent interview in Rolling Stone, Gomez named Taylor Swift as her only celebrity friend in the industry. (Raisa is a Latina actress with a string of TV and film credits) Francia unfollowed Gomez on Instagram following the release of documentary and was so irked by Gomez's quote about Swift that she branded it 'interesting' in the comments section of a News post. And on Sunday, Gomez left an eyebrow raising comment underneath a TikTok video that discussed how her Raisa unfollowed her in the wake of being snubbed in the documentary. 'Sorry I didn't mention every person I know,' Selena wrote in the comments, shocking her fans in the process. Francia has since deleted her comment. Meanwhile, Gomez still follows her on Instagram. Gomez claimed last week that she only really had one close pal on the Hollywood scene, and discussed her friendship with Swift. Gomez also spoke about receiving a kidney to Rolling Stone, however her quotes did not mention Raisa being her donor.

## ANDY TAYLOR SKIPS DURAN DURAN'S ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME MOMENT

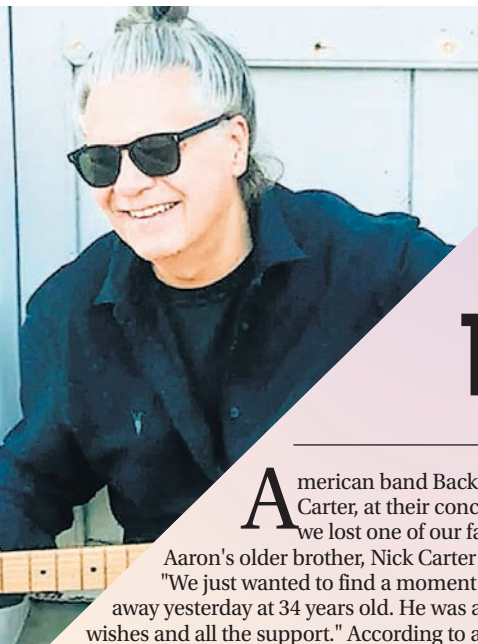
**Los Angeles:** Andy Taylor, the original 'Duran Duran' guitarist, could not attend the 'Rock and Roll Hall of Fame' induction ceremony in Los Angeles which honoured the group.

The cause behind his absence from the ceremony are his health issues related to Stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer.

During their induction into the Rock Hall at the Microsoft Theater, Duran Duran revealed that Taylor, diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer four years ago, suffered a setback from the diagnosis due to which he had to deal with travel restrictions.

The band honoured Taylor during the ceremony reading portions of an acceptance speech letter. "Just over four years ago I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer. Many families have experienced the slow burn of this disease and of course we are no different; so I speak from the perspective of a family-man but with profound humility to the band, the greatest fans a group could have and this exceptional accolade," Taylor wrote in his speech. Only part of the letter was read during the acceptance speech, but a more detailed version was published on the group's website, going into greater detail about his setback.

Backstage in the press room, Simon LeBon elaborated on his feelings about Taylor's condition, briefly as he said, "It is devastating news to find out that a colleague... not a colleague... a friend, one of our family... is not gonna be around for very long. It is absolutely devastating. We love Andy dearly. I'm not gonna stand here and cry or anything, that would be inappropriate, but that's what I feel like."



## BACKSTREET BOYS PAY TRIBUTE TO AARON CARTER

Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**merican band Backstreet Boys paid tribute to Aaron Carter, the brother of band member Nick Carter, at their concert in London recently. "Tonight we got a little bit of heavy hearts because we lost one of our family members yesterday," said Kevin Richardson as his bandmate, and

Aaron's older brother, Nick Carter fought back tears next to him on stage.

"We just wanted to find a moment in our show to recognize that Nick's little brother, Aaron Carter, passed away yesterday at 34 years old. He was a part of our family and we thank you guys for all the love and all the well wishes and all the support." According to a magazine, as Richardson was speaking Nick appeared to wipe his eyes with his hand. Meanwhile, the other members of the band -- A.J. McLean, Brian Littrell and Howie Dorough -- walked over to hug him. Littrell could also be seen wiping at his eyes with his sleeve.

Calling Aaron their little brother, Dorough then added: "We'd like to dedicate this next song to our little brother Aaron Carter. You will be missed brother," before the band launched into their 2013 hit 'Breathe'.

Further states that just before Richardson's speech, the band sang 'No Place' while a video montage showing each band member with his family played on the screens above the stage.

Towards the end of the song the video cut to photographs of Nick with Aaron at different ages, before changing to a photograph of Aaron accompanied by the words 'Aaron Carter 1987-2022'.

Previously Nick Carter paid tribute to Aaron, who died at the age of 34 on November 5. According to reports, the singer was found unresponsive in his bath at his home in Los Angeles.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Francia Raisa



## Asian Elite Boxing

# SUMIT PUNCHES SEMIS BERTH; SEVEN INDIAN WOMEN TO BATTLE IN LAST-4

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian boxer Sumit toiled hard to enter the semifinals at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships by earning a well-deserved 3-2 win against Thailand's Borworn Kadamduan in Amman, Jordan on Monday.

Sumit, the current Thailand Open champion, got off to the best possible start in the men's 75kg quarterfinals bout, courtesy his agility while dodging the opponent's attacks and powerful attacking technique that gave him the upper hand in the first two rounds.

Kadamduan, however, managed to stitch together a late comeback in the final round but it wasn't enough as the Indian clinched the thrilling bout by split 3-2 decision and also sealed his place in the Last-4. He will be up against the defending champion Jafarov Saidjamshid of Uzbekistan.

India's guaranteed medal tally is now up to 11 at the on-going prestigious championships following Sumit's triumph. Meanwhile, the other two Indians in action--Sachin (71kg) and Lakshya Chahar (80kg)--exited after defeats in their respective quarterfinals bouts.

Sachin could not sustain the momentum from his previous win as he suffered a 1-4 loss against the 2018



Asian Games silver medalist Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan. Lakshya, on the other hand, lost to Uzbekistan's Aslonov Odiljon by 0-5 margin.

Later tonight, Naveen Kumar (92kg) and Narender (92+kg) will take to the ring against Kazakhstan's Aibek Oralbay and Iran's Iman Ramezanzadeh respectively in their quarterfinals bouts.

Late on Sunday night, Amit Kumar (67kg), Monika (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (60kg) bowed out of the competition after suffering defeats in their respective games. The boxers will get a chance to rejuvenate and come back stronger to compete in the semifinals with tomorrow being a rest day. The competition has been witnessing the participation of 267 boxers from 27 top boxing nations.

On Wednesday, the Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and reigning World Championships bronze medalist Parveen (63kg) will be among seven Indian women pugilists to play their semifinals. The other women boxers in action will be debutants Minakshi (52kg) and Preeti (57kg) along with Ankushita Boro (66kg), Saweety (81kg) and Alfiya (81kg).

# Kohli earns his maiden ICC Player of the Month award

Dubai | Agencies

Virat Kohli earned his maiden ICC Player of the Month awards for October 2022 following a series of blazing performances as India charged their way to the ICC T20 World Cup semifinals, currently underway in Australia.

Kohli was elected winner following a global vote conducted among media representatives, ICC Hall of Famers, former international players, and fans registered at icc-cricket.com.

The charismatic India batter secured the award after being nominated for the first time, edging out a competitive field which included South Africa's David Miller and the in-form Sikandar Raza of Zimbabwe, who both had key contributions at the T20 World Cup in Australia.

Kohli registered 205 runs with the bat, showcasing the full array of his batting talent throughout the month gone by. As well as scoring a brilliant half-century against Netherlands in Sydney, he produced an unforgettable innings in the stunning victory over Pakistan in front of a capacity crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to kick off their Super 12 campaign," said Kohli.



on October 23.

"It is a great honour for me to have been voted the ICC Men's Player of the Month for October. Being chosen as the standout player by fans across the globe as well as the panel makes this accolade even more special for

Pakistan all-rounder Nida Dar was declared the ICC Women's Player of the Month thanks to her sensational form in their Women's Asia Cup campaign. She scored 145 runs at an average of 72.50 during the month and took eight wickets.

## WTA Finals

# Sabalenka topples Swiatek to meet Garcia in title clash

Los Angeles | Fort Worth (Texas)

The No.7 seed Aryna Sabalenka stunned World No.1 Iga Swiatek 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 in their 2-hour and 7-minute semifinal here on Sunday.

Sabalenka prevailed in her tour-leading 28th three-set match of this season to reach her third final of the year.

At the start of the week, Sabalenka called it a "miracle" that she even qualified for the WTA Finals. But now, after a massive semifinal upset, her miracle has extended all the way into the singles final in Fort Worth.

Sabalenka will now meet



No.6 seed, Caroline Garcia, for the WTA Finals singles trophy, which will break their currently deadlocked 2-2 head-to-head. With their semifinal wins, both Sabalenka and Garcia will finish the year inside the Top 5. Former World No.2 Sabalenka won her first

meeting with Swiatek a year ago at the 2021 WTA Finals, but since then, Swiatek had the upper hand in their rivalry, winning their four prior encounters this year.

However, Sabalenka came close to garnering another win in the US Open semifinals, leading Swiatek by a break in the third set before Swiatek turned that match around en route to the title.

Swiatek's incredible year comes to a close with a 67-9 win-loss record, and eight singles titles. But her 15-match winning streak against her fellow Top 10 players ended with her loss to Sabalenka.

# Red cards galore in La Liga as Pique says goodbye, Atletico and Villarreal struggle

Madrid | Agencies

Atletico Madrid's poor week continued late on Sunday when they were held to a 1-1 draw in the Metropolitan Stadium by Espanyol, despite the visitors playing for over an hour with 10 men.

Leandro Cabrera was slightly unlucky to be shown a direct red card after being adjudged to have committed a professional foul on Alvaro Morata in the 28th minute, but Atletico were unable to take advantage and were booted off at halftime.

Real Sociedad were also reduced to 10 men early in their 1-1 draw at Valencia when Ariz Elustondo caught Samuel Lino with a full set of studs.

There were three red cards in the Seville derby as Real Betis drew 1-1 at home to Sevilla in a typically bad-tempered affair.

Sevilla defender Gonzalo Montiel was the first to go after a late, knee-high challenge on Alex Moreno in the 37th minute, and six minutes later Betis took



the lead after a confused action ended with the ball deflecting off Jesus Navas into his own net.

Betis were on top, but Nabil Fekir was the next to be sent off when he caught Papu Gomez with a flying arm, and Borja Iglesias left Betis with nine men early in the second half when he was late on Joan Jordan with a challenge from behind.

Sevilla pressed hard against nine men and got their reward in the 81st minute when Nemanja Gudelj scored a screaming 30-meter shot.

Quique Setien is still looking for his first win since replacing Unai Emery at Villarreal after his side were beaten 2-0 at home to Mallorca.

Amath sealed the win in the 74th minute, prompting the Villarreal fans to call for him to leave the club at the final whistle. On Saturday night, Gerard Pique's last game for FC Barcelona in the Camp Nou ended with a 2-0 win for Barca at home to Almeria. The veteran defender, who announced his retirement during the week, was in the starting 11 for the game, which Barca won with relative ease, despite Robert Lewandowski missing an early penalty. Second-half goals from Ousmane Dembele and Frenkie de Jong assured all three points and Pique was given an emotion reception by the fans when he was substituted in the closing minutes.

Barca lead the table ahead of Real Madrid's game with Rayo Vallecano on Monday evening.

Osasuna won 2-1 away to Celta Vigo to move into the top six thanks to two first-half goals from Chimy Avila in the eighth and 28th minutes, with Iago Aspas netting for Celta after 19 minutes.

## T20 World Cup

# Everyone would love to see India-Pakistan final again after 2007: Shane Watson

Sydney | Agencies

With India and Pakistan qualifying for the semifinals of Men's T20 World Cup, a dream final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday between the arch-rivals now looms as a strong possibility, which has left former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson excited.

In the semifinal, India will clash with England on Thursday at the Adelaide Oval, a day after Pakistan take on New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The two teams had clashed in the Group 2 match in front of a sell-out MCG on October 23, where Virat Kohli's iconic 82 not out had taken India over the line on the last ball of the chase.

"Everyone would love to see Pakistan and



India in the final. I unfortunately missed that first (Super 12) game at the MCG, as I commented the game previously between Australia and New Zealand (at SCG a day before)." But from all reports, all the people that went along to that game said it was something very special and the game was obviously an amazing game to watch on TV as well. They played in the T20 World Cup final in 2007 and everyone would love to see it again," Watson was quoted as saying by the official website of the tournament. New Zealand, the Group 1 table-toppers, have been in-form in all departments of the game. Pakistan, on the other hand, won three matches on the trot after losing the first two matches and were given a lifeline by Netherlands beating South Africa to make an entry into the last-four stage.

## Champions League

# Liverpool to face Real Madrid in last 16 in revenge encounter

London | Agencies

Last season's finalists Liverpool and Real Madrid have been drawn to face each other in the last 16 of the Champions League, which will be played across February and March 2023, with the English club getting a chance to avenge their defeat in that match.

The Jurgen Klopp-led side will host the first leg of the tie at Anfield, before a return game at Santiago Bernabeu. The clash, of course, represents a rematch of last season's final and will be the



10th and 11th meetings between the teams in history. Real Madrid won the 2021-22 final 1-0 at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, France to lift their 14th European title. Manchester City, meanwhile, have again

been handed a favourable tie, this time against the German side RB Leipzig, while fellow English club, Tottenham Hotspur face AC Milan, the Serie A champions, and Chelsea take on Borussia Dortmund.

In another intriguing clash, Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) will face German giants Bayern Munich, the French and German champions respectively. The other last-16 ties see Eintracht Frankfurt face Napoli, Club Brugge face Benfica and Inter Milan take on Porto.

## Maik Becker, Veronique Messina emerge winners in Himalayan 100-mile Stage Race

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Leading Swiss ultra-runner Maik Becker won the 30th edition of the International Himalayan Run and Trek (Himalayan 100-mile Stage Race) -- organised in the Darjeeling district and the foothills of the North-East Himalayan ranges -- with an overall time of 20 hours and 2 minutes.

Sandesh Dessai of India came second, clocking 26 hours and six minutes, while Sidharth Tripathy from Singapore, with a time of 29:35 minutes, was third.

In the Himalayan 100-mile Stage Race female category, Veronique Messina of France came in first timing 23 hours and 2 minutes, while Jennifer Mutuc of the Philippines (34:22 min) was second.

Adventure and ultra-runners from countries such as France, Singapore, Austria, Switzerland, the Philippines, Malaysia and India among others took part in this annual event, which was cancelled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and was held virtually last year.

# SURYA TURNING OUT TO BE THE ONE TAKING INDIA TO DEFENDABLE TOTALS: GAVASKAR

Melbourne | Agencies

Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar hailed the excellent batsmanship showed by middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav in the Men's T20 World Cup, saying that he is the one who is propelling the side to totals which they can defend well.

On Sunday, Suryakumar enthralled 82,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in a death overs batting masterclass of 25-ball 61 not out. He set the base for a 71-run thrashing of Zimbabwe to set up a semi-final showdown with England at Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

"He is actually turning out to be the player who is taking India to totals which you can defend. The score India got was the highest T20I score at the MCG. Without his 61 not out, India would not have reached even 150. Each of those innings was pretty much 360 degrees," said Gavaskar on India Today after the match ended.

With 225 runs in five innings at an average of 75, Suryakumar is now the third highest run-getter in the tournament, behind teammate and table-topper Virat Kohli (246 runs) and Netherlands' Max O'Dowd.

"He is the new Mr. 360 degree. There was that one shot that he hit for a six just to the left of the wicketkeeper. Then he went a little squarer in the final overs, for example, taking advantage of the angle



that the bowler was trying to aim at. Then also the lofted extra cover drive, he has got every shot in the book. There was a straight drive as well," added Gavaskar. Speaking to reporters in the Sydney

Cricket Ground, former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson admitted to being left in awe of how Suryakumar has brought fireworks in the tournament till now, calling him a very rare talent in the cricketing world.

"It really is a treat to be able to watch Sky bat. Over the last two years, watching him in the IPL and performing as well as he has, but then to be able to turn it on like he has in international cricket as well, it's something to be in awe of." What he is able to do in these foreign conditions in Australia alone is something not many people would have ever been able to do in T20 cricket. He's a really rare talent where his ability to really read a bowler, where he is going to bowl and where the fielders are and his control over where the ball goes, he's a very rare talent."

During his blazing knock in Sunday's match, Suryakumar also became the first Indian and only the second player in the world after Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan to score 1,000 T20I runs or more in a calendar year. Watson signed off by hoping Suryakumar's consistency continues for long. "We haven't seen much of it before and to be able to do it so consistently, like in one or two games that can happen, but to be able to do it so consistently, in the big games, he's a special talent. Gosh, it doesn't look like anything is going to change. It looks like he is going to continue with this for a long time. It looks low risk even though what he does is pretty high risk."



## Mumbai needs rock music to stay alive: Farhan Akhtar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**M**ulti-hyphenate Farhan Akhtar, who made his acting debut with the musical film 'Rock On!!', recently performed at

the Independence Rock fest held in Mumbai. He feels that rock music is what keeps the maximum city of Mumbai alive. He seems to be right as the cosmopolitan is a melting pot of different cultures and rock music keeps it pulsating.

The 'Dil Chahta Hai' helmer is a die-hard rock n'roll fan and was thrilled to perform along with Indian rock band 'Parikrama' at the fest which returned to Mumbai after a hiatus of nine years.

Talking about his experience at the fest, Farhan said that he was happy to be there in the company of like-minded music lovers of the genre. For him "playing a song with 'Parikrama' was exciting" but more than that he was there as a fan of rock n'roll and "for the love of it".

He also spoke about the need to keep the fest like I-Rock a normal fabric of a city, he averred. "The fact that the quintessential rockfest got such a response is so reassuring. The city needs rock music to stay alive. I'm glad that it's happening again."

As the voice that represents youth, Farhan feels that "we need to keep the fire of rock music burning". He added, "Just keep the fire burning. Rock always represents freedom. It represents independence. It represents having your own voice." Farhan's 'Dil Chahta Hai' actor Saif Ali Khan too attended the Mahindra Independence Rock along with his son Taimur.



## I am taking a renewed look at my ability for self love, says Swarnamalya

Chennai | Agencies

**A**ctress Swarnamalya, who is best known for her roles in Tamil super-hit films like director Mani Ratnam's 'Alaipayuthey' and director Radha Mohan's 'Mozhi', says she is looking to be kind to herself. Taking to Instagram to pen her thoughts, Swarnamalya, who is also a seasoned classical dancer, wrote, "Being kind to one's own self. I was born in an era where self love was not appreciated. But I grew into an era where 'the self' is at the centre of life." She also spoke about battling an injury that has taken a toll on her, "Old habits die hard. So for me, showing self love is always an effort. But, as I'm battling an injury that has emotionally and physically drained me- I am taking a renewed look at my ability for self love."

She further mentioned, "I still don't know how, quite frankly, but I have lovely people around me to show me how. As they say, happiness doubles when shared and pain halves. I will start there."



## Eyes are a gift you should never take for granted: Shilpa Shetty

Chennai | Agencies

**A**ctress Shilpa Shetty, who is also an exponent of yoga, has urged her followers on social media to take good care of their eyes, pointing out that eyes are a gift that one should never take for granted.

Penning a detailed post about computer vision syndrome, which causes dryness and red eyes, she said, "I recently read somewhere that continuous exposure to screens causes dryness and red eye; now commonly called 'computer vision syndrome'."

"This information really got me worried. While we cannot avoid technology, what we can do is take proper care of our eyes by retaining adequate moisture."

"Chalk out a few minutes during the day to practice the Eye Cleansing routine or the Netra Yoga. This routine helps improve vision. It also helps comfort or reduce digital eye strain, prevents eye dryness, and increases blood circulation towards the eye region, thereby improving concentration."

"Take care of your eyes, my dear Insta family, it's a gift we should never take for granted."

The actress also posted a video of how to do the Netra Yoga to reduce the stress on the eyes.

## JOHN WAS THE ONLY CHOICE FOR ANTAGONIST: SIDDHARTH ANAND

Team Absolute | Mumbai

**B**ollywood actor-producer John Abraham is playing the arch-enemy to Shah Rukh Khan's titular character in 'Pathaan'. The film's director Siddharth Anand has said that John was the first and only choice for the makers as the character was written keeping John in mind. The director was thrilled when John said yes to 'Pathaan'. Elaborating on the same, the director said, "For 'Pathaan' to be larger than life, we needed to have a towering villain who is equally larger than life. We wanted someone who is ruthless and suave and commands an electric presence on screen. So the villain in 'Pathaan' was written keeping John Abraham in mind."

The director further explained that the intense rivalry between the two actors on-screen will be a delight to watch for the audience.

He added, "He was our first and only choice, and we were certain that we wanted a villain that they would cherish forever. I'm delighted to see the response that people have showered on John as he takes on Shah Rukh Khan in a blood-soaked, adrenaline-pumping rivalry that will be epic in every sense possible."

Calling John's character a perfect antagonist to 'Pathaan', Siddharth said, "John is the perfect opposite of 'Pathaan' on screen and we have made their rivalry look deliciously edge of the seat. It will be one hell of a thrilling showdown."



## Samantha never revealed she was fighting such a condition: Unni Mukundan

Team Absolute | Chennai

**C**alling Samantha a dedicated and hardworking artist, actor Unni Mukundan, who plays a doctor in Samantha's upcoming film, 'Yashoda', says the actress never revealed that she was fighting a condition called Myositis while shooting for the film.

Sharing his experience of shooting with Samantha for the action-packed thriller, Unni Mukundan says, "Samantha is a very dedicated and hard working actress. She has prepared a lot for her role that includes the fights, action and emotional scenes." "She would interact well with other artistes on set. We discussed ideas on how we could improvise the action in a scene", he adds.

In a recent post, Samantha revealed that she was suffering from an auto-immune condition called Myositis while filming 'Yashoda'. However, the dedicat-

ed actress didn't let her ailment hamper her work and continued to shoot without informing anyone. Unni Mukundan, said "I didn't know about it while we were shooting. Samantha was very professional. She never revealed that she was fighting such a condition. I felt sad after seeing Samantha's post. She'll fight Myositis and come back in good health."

Marking Samantha's first Hindi theatrical release, 'Yashoda', its makers claim, is the biggest pan-India female-centric film ever made in India. It is releasing across the nation in five languages - Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi.

Mounted on a large scale with a lavish budget, the makers of 'Yashoda' had roped in acclaimed Hollywood action director Yannick Ben to choreograph the action sequences in the film.

Samantha plays a surrogate mother, unravelling the secrets of the medical world in the film. Sources say she has put forth a power-packed performance. Besides Samantha, popular actress Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Unni Mukundan, Rao Ramesh, Murali Sharma, Sampath Raj, Shatru, Madhurima, Kalpika Ganesh, Divya Sripada and Priyanka Sharma play crucial roles in the film.

Directed by Hari and Harish, 'Yashoda' has been produced by Sivalenka Krishna Prasad for Sridevi Movies and is set to release on November 11.

## Surreal to experience love from fans in a foreign land: Mrunal Thakur

Chennai | Agencies

**M**runal Thakur, whose portrayal of Sita in 'Sita Ramam' has been received quite well by the audience, says she was floored by the love showered by fans on both Dulquer and her in the US where they had gone to the North American country on an invitation from the Telugu Cultural Sangam. Ever since 'Sita Ramam' released, Mrunal has been receiving accolades from all corners for her performance in the film. The film has South heartthrob Dulquer Salmaan opposite Mrunal complimenting each other on screen.

Recently, the duo, along with the makers of 'Sita Ramam', were invited to Washington DC in the US to be a part of the Telugu Cultural Sangam after the Diwali celebrations.

During the trip, Dulquer Salmaan, Mrunal Thakur, director Hanu Ragavapudi and producer Swapna Dutt interacted with a packed house that kept cheering for the onscreen couple in 'Sita Ramam'. Giving details of the trip and the experience, Mrunal says, "It was a surreal experience. Seeing the kind of love and affection everyone had to share with us was overwhelming." "After almost three years, this was the first time I went internationally to be among audiences from another country, and it felt so nice to have this immense love being given to us and our body of work." "Dulquer and I felt gratitude and felt humbled seeing this immense love from the fans who saw us together on screen. Meeting them was very satisfying. To be among thousands of fans cheering for my character, 'Sita Mahalaxmi' felt so surreal." "I got emotional, seeing people remember you with the characters you play on screen. This reminds you that you are on the right track."



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sonam Bajwa