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**A NEXT GENERATION ALTERNATIVES FOR ECOLOGICALLY MEANINGFUL TIMELINES**

## TRANSITION TO FOREST-FRIENDLY SUPPLY CHAINS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Leading companies including H&M, Inditex, Ben & Jerry's, Stella McCartney, HH Global, and Kering - announced a collective commitment to purchase over half a million tonnes of low-carbon, low-footprint alternative fibres for fashion textiles and paper packaging. It is a move that will support the protection of the world's vital forests and ecosystems and lower forest degradation pressures from the fashion and packaging supply chains.



Spearheaded by environmental nonprofit Canopy, this commitment towards more sustainable, lower-carbon alternatives - known as Next Generation Solutions - reflects a building urgency across industries to accelerate the transition to nature-positive business models. This market pull is essential to attract the investment necessary to scale these game-changing Next Generation alternatives on ecologically meaningful timelines.

At last year's UN Climate Change Conference, protecting nature was at the center of commitments to deliver on global climate targets. Today one-third of the world's most influential companies have yet to make forest conservation commitments, despite the scientific community's warnings that at least 50 per cent of the world's forests need to be conserved or restored by 2030 to ensure global temperature rises stay below 1.5 degree C.

Every year, over 3.2 billion trees are cut down to produce fibre for packaging and clothing, releasing vast amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere. Alternatives to wood - such as agricultural residues and recycled textiles - are readily available and can be scaled in order to prevent the logging of these forests at this untenable rate. Moving to Next Generation Solutions could help avoid almost 1Gt of CO2 emissions between now and 2030.

"We are thrilled to advance this commitment with forward-looking partners who are willing to challenge the status quo and in doing so provide a breakthrough for these game-changing technologies," said Canopy Founder and Executive Director, Nicole Rycroft. "This commitment will allow us to take a historic leap closer to the \$64 billion of investments in sustainable alternatives needed to ensure forest conservation for our planet's climate and biodiversity stability."

"At H&M Group, we are committed to becoming a circular business, in which moving towards more sustainable alternatives for our materials is crucial. Canopy has shown true leadership by bringing the fashion and regenerated cellulose industries together with the purpose of reducing fashion's dependency on forests," said Madelene Ericsson, Environmental Sustainability Business Expert H&M

### FOREST FIBERS VS NXT-GEN SOLUTIONS:

- 95 per cent to 130 per cent less CO2 emissions
- 18 per cent to 70 per cent less fossil energy resource depletion
- 88 per cent to 100 per cent fewer land-use impacts at least 5x lower impact on biodiversity/threatened species

"At Kering, we aim at reducing our footprint on biodiversity and contribute to preserving and restoring critical ecosystems. We are excited to be joining our long-time partner Canopy to support a rapid scale-up of sustainable Next Generation materials production as well as uptake of low-carbon, low-footprint alternative fibers for textiles and paper packaging."

**Yoann Regent,**  
Head of Sustainable Sourcing & Nature Initiatives

"We are so pleased to be a part of this initiative to keep precious forests standing and to help speed the switch to low-impact, circular alternatives for forest fiber."

**Kevin Dunckley,**  
Chief Sustainability Officer, HH Global

"We're proud to be working with Canopy to create a more sustainable sourcing strategy for our fiber-based packaging. Moving away from the virgin fibre is part of our larger strategy to reduce the footprint of our operations. While it's clear that rapidly ending the age of fossil fuels is required to avoid catastrophic climate change, companies still must do the hard work to ensure their packaging isn't contributing to deforestation as well."

**Jenna Evans, Ben & Jerry's**  
Global Sustainability Manager

## Neeti Mohan sponsors education of 9-year-old singing contestant

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Singer Neeti Mohan took the responsibility for 9-year-old contestant Harsh Sikandar's education after listening to his story from his father.

The 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs' contestant's father told Neeti that whatever money he receives from the jury members after his performance, he sends it all to his mother for her household expenditures. She said: "Since the day I met you, you've made a special place in my heart. I want to be in touch with you all my life, no matter how old you are or how famous you become in the future. I would like to take care of your education going forward, your studies, your music, your clothes, and your toys. Everything will come to you from Neeti Didi." The singer, who got a lot of popularity for her songs



such as 'Ishq Wala Love', 'Tu Hi Tu', or 'Naino Wale Ne', added that she learned an important lesson from the contestant that one can help others with limited resources also. "I have learnt from Harsh that even if you don't

have anything in life, you should still have a big heart and give it to others. God will give it to me, and I will give it to him," she added. The singing reality show is judged by Shankar Mahadevan, Anu Malik, and Neeti Mohan.

## Apple Watch can help detect silent heart disease: study

SAN FRANCISCO | Agencies

With a focus on identifying heart abnormalities like left ventricular dysfunction, a recent study has taken a closer look at the ECG capabilities of the Apple Watch.

Left ventricular dysfunction of the heart is usually followed by congestive heart failure that can lead to a multitude of cardiac disorders.

The study included 2,454 patients from the US and 11 other countries. From August 2021 to February 2022, these participants sent over 1,25,000 ECGs via their Apple Watch.

These results were then "scrubbed and



processed via a proprietary AI algorithm developed by the researchers", according to the report.

By using the mean prediction within a 30-day window or the closest ECG relative to the echocardiogram that determined the EF, the AI algorithm detected patients with a low EF (ejection fraction) with an area under the curve of 0.885 (95 per cent confidence interval 0.823-0.946) and 0.881 (0.815-0.947), said the report.

The study also infers that "the potential of smartwatches to assist with conducting remote digital health studies is just in the beginning phases".

## 'Tagged' vultures in Rajasthan leave people puzzled

Vultures play a significant role in ecology as they consume dead bodies to act as cleansing-agents in nature. They faced the most severe decline in their population over the past 25 years across India. The first mortalities were reported from Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

Team Absolute | Jaipur

As winter nears, sightings of vultures with tiny transmitters on their backs in the desert state often raise curiosity among people, but their questions are met with complete silence from the o

According to environmentalists, vultures displaying a tiny gadget over their back feeding over the carcass of livestock has become a common sight here.

These tiny objects are satellite transmitters fixed in the birds' home range in Kazakhstan. These emit beep-signals which are relayed by the satellite and picked up by scientists in remote areas.

One of these species are Egyptian vultures, which were fitted with transmitters



in Karatau mountains in Kazakhstan a few weeks ago. They covered a distance of 1,923 km, to reach Jorbeer, an arid plain land used as municipal dump, about ten kilometers south-east of Bikaner in Rajasthan. The area is declared as a 'Conservation Reserve' by the state's forest department, as per them.

The experiment on the species is part of an ongoing project undertaken by the Russian Raptor Research and Conservation Network. Dau Lal Bohra, an independent researcher serving as lecturer

in a private college in Rajasthan, joined the team to gain know-how of transmitter application called as "tagging." About 15 Egyptian vultures were tagged in Karatau mountains to learn about the nature of migration, ascertain their path, duration of their stay and the place of their return. The experiment revealed that the said vulture is a resident species in India ie., it breeds within the country, and that its overseas population too reached India. To the surprise of many, the officials remained tight-lipped about the entire exercise.

## ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup Manika becomes first Indian woman to win medal

BANGKOK (THAILAND) | Agencies

Ice Indian paddler Manika Batra on Saturday became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup tournament after she defeated world No.6 Hina Hayata of Japan in the women's singles bronze medal match, here on Saturday.

It was India's third medal at the continental meet. Before Manika, Chetan Baboor, with silver in 1997 and bronze in 2000, was the only Indian table tennis player to win a medal at the Asian Cup. Competing at the Huamark Indoor Stadium here, India's top-ranked female table tennis player at world No. 44, Manika defeated Hina, the 2021 Table Tennis World Cup bronze medalist, 4-2 (11-6, 6-11, 11-7, 12-10, 4-11, 11-2) in the playoff to decide the third place. The 27-year-old Batra had earlier defeated world No.23 Chen Szu Yu of Chinese Taipei in a thrilling quarterfinal to become the first Indian woman to make the last-four stage of the tournament. She had also pulled off a major upset against world No.7 Chen Xingtong of China in the first round. Manika, after clinching the bronze medal, said, "I am



so happy to win the bronze medal in this Asian cup. This is really a big victory for me, defeating top players and it was so wonderful playing and fighting against them. I will continue this hard work and will give my best for my future tournaments. Just keep supporting and cheering for me like always. Thank you everyone for being there for me."

## Dalai Lama conferred Gandhi Mandela Award



DHARAMSALA | Agencies

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Saturday felicitated Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama with the Gandhi Mandela Award at a ceremony in this Himachal Pradesh town. The award, constituted by the Gandhi Mandela Foundation, is in recognition of promoting the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela in the interest of global peace and freedom.

The award serves to recognise the global leaders who inspire citizens for peace, unity and freedom. On the occasion, the Dalai Lama said, "Non-violence and compassion are essential for world peace and both these principles have been ingrained in Indian culture for thousands of years." "Any problem can't be solved in war but through dialogue and peace," he said, adding for world peace "we have to adopt non-violence and compassion. Both these principles are the guiding force of existence". He thanked the foundation for bestowing the award on him.



## Love and longing in Kashmir

What happens to love in the time of conflict? Does it survive something like a complete communication blackout? Can conflict be seen through the prism of love, of longing?

SUKANT DEEPAK | New Delhi

Well, that is what Kashmiri filmmaker Mehak Jamal's upcoming book 'Loal Kashmir' is about. The project started two years ago when she started collecting stories of love in the times of unrest in the Valley.

"The respondents were moved by the concept, after all when it comes to Kashmir, the overpowering narrative is always conflict. Also, love can be taboo to talk about sometimes. Personally, to look at the larger situation in Kashmir through the lens of love was peculiar and gratifying..."

Born to a Kashmiri father and a Maharashtra

mother, Jamal moved to Bengaluru for college in the year 2012 and graduated from Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology with a specialisation in Film in 2016. In fact, her graduation film got her selected as a film fellow at the Dharamshala International Festival Festival (DIFF) some years ago.

This time, at the recently concluded DIFF, her first non-student Short 'Bad Egg' was screened.

In the film, Zoya receives a disturbing call from her mother -- her sister Zara has gone missing during the pandemic. But, Zoya is not rattled enough. She's hiding something, all of which leads back to the fateful night of a party.

Throughout the film, Zoya interacts with her surroundings as if she is re-calibrating with them.

Conceived during the first wave of the Pandemic, the filmmaker got in touch with film professional friends as no shootings were being held and got working. Stressing that the movie is an amalgamation of stylized ideas, Jamal says it had to do with her mental and emotional space at that time. 'Bad Egg', which premiered at the Indian film festival in Germany and won the Audience Award was also shown at the Indian Festival of Melbourne and in Kerala. Considering she is from Kashmir, is there not a certain internal pressure to work on stories from there?

"Yes, it does feel obligatory. But I also quite vary about it. I am interested in telling stories because there are so many, and conflict is such a major part. Sadly, most narratives that emerge from there are seen through the prism of the media. I would like to tell personal stories that carry inside them multiple metaphors," she says. Now that the valley has a multiplex, and book readings and intimate music concerts at cafes have become a norm, the filmmaker asserts: "It is a melting pot of talent. And there are so many young people who are opening cafes and a solid music scene is emerging. It is high time that people from there tell their stories and create more art."



# FARMERS' BODY IN SC OPPOSES PLEA AGAINST GM MUSTARD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A farmers' organisation has moved the Supreme Court opposing a petition against the release of GM Mustard, saying that a ban of technologies like GM seeds would worsen the plight of farmers as the old-method of farming has proved to be a failure in dry regions of India.

Shetkari Sanghatana, a pan-Maharashtra farmers' group, said any judicial order against the use of GM crops would violate the rights of the farmers to "choose and live a dignified life". Recently, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) allowed the environmental release of GM mustard for seed production and testing.

The farmers' organisation has filed an intervention application in a pending case filed by activist Aruna Rodrigues, whose application seeks moratorium on the environmental release of GM Mustard.

The farmers' organisation said the anti-GM organisations and activists in India have had a long history of amplifying anti-GM studies and viewpoints that have been largely discredited by the global scientific communi-



ty. "The anti-GM crop crusaders also seem unconcerned with the rising food insecurity and global inflation. It is stated that GM crops are an answer to the economic woes of Indian farmers and hence a blanket ban may blow a death knell to dreams of many farmers of states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab, who use scientific means of cultivation," it said.

"The Sanghatana has been a champion of GM seeds and crops and believes that a ban on technologies like GM seeds would worsen the plight of farmers as old-method of

farming has proved to be a failure in dry regions of India. Furthermore, the Sanghatana's support to use of GM seeds and crops is backed by scientific data and research by leading organisations of India and abroad, working in this sphere of agriculture," said the farmers' organisation plea.

The Sanghatana said it firmly believes that farmers should be free to choose GM technology as a ban on use of GM seeds would make them dependent on old-methods of farming, and deteriorate their living conditions. "A direction/order by this

court against the use of GM crops would violate the rights of these farmers to choose and live a dignified life. Hence, it is expedient in the interest of justice that farmer organisations like this applicant are heard before this subject writ petition is disposed of," it added.

In 2016 and then in 2021, Rodrigues had filed a plea opposing open-field trials or commercial release of herbicide tolerant (HT) crops, including GM Mustard. Earlier this month, the petitioner told the apex court that SC-appointed technical expert committee (TEC) had recommended a total ban on all HT crops.

The farmers' organisation said the report has not been made public and hence the applicant cannot specify its concerns, if any, objectively. "Any decision by this court, based on the said report, without hearing farmers or farmer bodies like this applicant, would cause grave prejudice to farmers all over India. Hence, it is in the interest of justice that the applicant herein is permitted to present data and research papers to evidence that GM seeds and crops are indeed beneficial for farmers in India", said the application.

## Punjab CM pleads to put all signboards in Punjabi language

Reiterating firm commitment to promote Punjabi language and culture, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday exhorted Punjabis to come forward for starting a mass movement for putting all signboards on the private and public buildings across the state in the language.

Amritsar | Agencies

The Chief Minister, while addressing a gathering during a state-level function to mark Punjabi language month at Guru Nanak Dev University here, cited the examples of states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and others where people show lot of respect to their mother tongue by putting all such signboards on their shops and commercial establishments in their native language.

He said the time has come when Punjabis should also come forward for adopting this noble practice. Mann exhorted Punjabis to make sure that all signboards are put prominently in Punjabi with other languages as a mark of respect to the mother tongue.

The Chief Minister said people should ensure that the signboards in Punjabi are



put before International Language Day coming on February 21. He underscored

the need for making this a mass movement as a mark of respect to mother tongue.

## Retd IAS officer Arun Goel appointed Election Commissioner

Team Absolute | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday appointed retired bureaucrat Arun Goel as Election Commissioner in the apex poll body. Goel is retired IAS officer from Punjab Cadre of 1985 batch.

"The President is pleased to appoint Shri Arun Goel, IAS (Retd.) (PB: 1985) as the Election Commissioner in the Election Commission with effect from the date he assumes the office," said an official communication from Ministry of Law and Justice.

Arun Goel will join Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey in the apex poll body.

The third post of Election Commissioner in the country's top poll body has been vacant for nearly six months.

After Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra had retired in May this year giving charge to Rajiv Kumar, the poll panel has been a two-member body only. However, after Goel assumes the charge, the top poll



body will have three members - one Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

## Govt not launching projects aiming polls, working 24 hrs for development: PM

Itanagar | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that his NDA government is not launching projects with an eye on the elections, but is working round the clock for the country's development.

Lambasting critics and asking them to change their old mindset, Modi said without knowing the details, the "commentators" commented on the government's works and policies.

While inaugurating the 'Donyi Polo' Greenfield airport in Itanagar and dedicating the 600 MW Kameng Hydro Power project to the nation, the Prime Minister said that since independence, the northeast has been the most backward region. The overall change of the area began when Atal Bihari Vajpayee became



the Prime Minister and created a separate ministry (Development of North Eastern Region) for the

region's all round development. "A fresh momentum started after 2014. The Northeast region is now

not far away from New Delhi. The remote or the last village of the region is considered as the first village of the country," he said.

Saying that "our dream is for the welfare of the mother India", Modi said that his government has been working hard to take the country forward by laying equal emphasis on all the spheres. He said that the primary objective of the present government is for the all round development of the country. "Culture to agriculture, commerce to connectivity, trade and tourism, telecom to textiles, drone technology to agricultural technology, every aspect is being provided top priorities.

For constructing the longest rail route or bridge and big highways, the northeast region has been accorded the highest priority now."

## Rs 120 cr PMLA case: ED files charge sheet against PFI, 3 members

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday filed a charge sheet against the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and its three members in a special court in Delhi in connection with the Rs 120-crore money laundering case related to terror activities.

The court is likely to take the cognizance of the matter on November 21. The charge sheet was filed before a duty Magistrate on Saturday.

The charge sheet was filed by ED's Special Public Prosecutor N.K. Matta.

The ED has mentioned that Parvez Ahmed was the president of the Delhi unit of PFI while Mohd Ilias was its general secretary and Abdul Muqet was office secretary, the trio were allegedly involved in anti-national activities and money laundering case.

The ED has claimed that PFI members had allegedly collect-



ed Rs 120 crore cash, and had been planning to carry out attack on important personalities. The sources claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also their target as the accused planned to attack the PM during a rally in July 2020. However due to certain reasons, they didn't carry out attack.

The ED has said that around Rs 120 were collected by the PFI only to carry out attack and create unrest and riot-like situation. "In past few years, the PFI has collected around Rs 120 crore. All the cash was deposited in the bank accounts

belonging to PFI. The ED has written that huge cash was deposited in the accounts. Suspicious cash were also deposited from abroad," the remand paper read. Remand papers read that these money was allegedly used in Delhi riot. This money was also about to be used to purchase arms and ammunition to create unrest and carry out terror acts in UP.

The sources said that the accused had planned to organise a terror camp to execute an attack on PM Modi.

The ED has also said that PFI has thousands of active members in Gulf countries.

## RAJASTHAN COURT SENTENCES 30 CONVICTS TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN PHOOL MOHAMMAD MURDER CASE



New Delhi: A Special CBI court in Rajasthan on Friday sentenced 30 convicts to life imprisonment with fine between Rs 2000 to Rs 50,000 in a case related to murder of Phool Mohammed Khan, then SHO of Mantown Police Station in Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan) and other offences in 2011.

The CBI had registered the instant case in 2011 on the request of Rajasthan government and taken over the investigation of the case earlier registered with the state police.

During communal riot in the area, the SHO Phool Mohammad got injured and thus took refuge in his official vehicle. However, this vehicle was burnt by the riotous mob, wherein Phool Mohammad got burnt alive. After the incident, local police registered a case at Man Town Police Station, Sawai Madhopur in 2011 against 21 accused and unknown others under relevant sections of IPC and Prevention of Damage to public property act 1984 and immediately the case was transferred to CID Rajasthan.

After initial investigation, the CID Rajasthan filed a charge sheet against 19 accused. Later on the case was transferred to the CBI.

After investigation, the CBI filed a supplementary chargesheet against 89 accused including two juveniles, police officials.

## Four arrested for gang-rape of model in moving car



Kochi | Agencies

Kerala Police on Saturday arrested three youths and a woman in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a 19-year-old model in a moving car here on Thursday night.

Kochi City Police Commissioner C.H. Nagaraju told the media that three youths and a Rajasthan woman have been arrested.

"The probe has begun and we are looking into if this incident was a pre-planned

one," said Nagaraju.

The victim told the media that she along with her woman friend went to attend the DJ party at a hotel here on Thursday.

"I remember having one glass of beer and by the second beer, I felt I was getting unconscious. Then I was taken to the vehicle by the men and the woman friend was not there. They did everything on me and then I was taken to a hotel to buy food. I was too scared of what had happened and was afraid to tell

anyone else at that point of time," said the victim. On Friday morning, the model told her roommate of what happened to her the previous night, and her friend approached the local police to register a complaint. In a few hours, the police took the three youths and the Rajasthan woman into custody. Meanwhile, the model was taken to a hospital for all the mandatory medical tests.

## WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT FROM DECEMBER 7 TO 29

New Delhi: The Winter Session of the Parliament will be held from December 7 to December 29, the President's office informed on Saturday.

"The President has summoned the Parliament to meet on Wednesday,

December 7, at New Delhi. Subject to exigencies of business, the session is scheduled to conclude on Thursday, December 29," read a note issued by the President's office. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi had earlier tweeted, "Winter Session 2022 of Parliament will commence from 7 December & continue till 29th December having 17 sittings spread over 23 days. Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to discussions on Legislative Business & other items during the session. Looking forward for constructive debate."

The 258th session of the Rajya Sabha will have 17 sittings spread over 23 days. The first day of the Winter Session may be adjourned in memory of the sitting members who passed away since the last session.



## Necessary to prevent rise of radicalisation to maintain national security: MSO

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's largest Muslim students' body -- the Muslim Students' Organisation of India (MSO) -- is holding its national convention on the theme 'Nation Building and Islam' at the Ghali Academy in Delhi.

Several programmes were organised on the first day of the two-day event, during which several important resolutions were also passed.

"The Muslim youth of India have made significant contributions to nation building and these need to be expanded. At the national convention of MSO, the issue was discussed in detail as to how Muslim youth pursuing higher education in the country can be coaxed towards making a larger contributions towards nation building," the MSO said in a



statement issued on Saturday.

"There are thousands of students currently enrolled in PhD courses across the country in different disciplines, with many Muslim youth being members of the MSO. The organisation is happy that MSOs

have an important role to play in the growth of research that is very effective for the country," it added.

The MSO also expressed its concern about the spread of bigotry among Indian Muslim youth and said that they are also working to

address the issue.

The organisation considers its responsibility to prevent the rise of radicalisation in order to maintain national security, it said.

During the convention, the MSO also discussed the employment status, education and mainstreaming of the youth in Kashmir.

"The organisation believes that the situation of the youth in Kashmir has become very complicated, and to fix this the MSO is ready to provide its services," it stated.

MSO Chairman Shujaat Quadri said that a delegation has been appointed to conduct a career guidance camp for the youth in Kashmir.

The MSO also demanded the setting up of a 'Council for promotion of Sufism and Kashmiriyat' in Srinagar for which the organisation is ready to provide the blueprint.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I SUNITA DEVI SPOUSE OF NO. 14645454N NK CHANDRA BHUSHN SHAHABADI UNIT- 3EME CENTRE BHOPAL (4 TECH TRG BN), C/O 56 APO, PIN - 900433. IN ARMY RECORD MY DATE OF BIRTH IS REGISTERED AS 10 MAR 1983 BUT MY RIGHT DATE OF BIRTH IS 10 MAR 1984 FOR ALL PURPOSE IN FUTURE.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I KANCHAN PRAJAPATI is legally wedded spouse of No.571581P SUB PREM CHANDRA PRAJAPATI presently residing at Vill-Jalapur Chirgwan, Orai, Jalaun Uttar Pradesh Pin-285123 have changed my name from SMT KANCHAN DEVI to KANCHAN PRAJAPATI vide affidavit No. BC 309549.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I No. JC571222F Sub ANUP CHOUDHURY S/O Late ATINDRA CHOUDHURY presently residing at Vill Trishabari PO Moharchhara Moharcherra Taliamura Khowai Tripura Pin-799203 have changed my daughter's name from ASMITA to ASMITA CHOUDHURY Vide affidavit No. BC 441113 dated 17/10/2022.

Leadership is about taking responsibility, not making excuses.



Mitt Romney

# absolute india

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## ONUS ON LIONEL MESSI, CRISTIANO RONALDO TO 'NOT BE LEGENDS WHO NEVER LIFTED THE CUP'

# FIFA FEVER

As the clock ticks down for the start of the 24th edition of the biggest tournament for the sport also called Joga Bonito -- The Beautiful Game -- in Qatar Today, the two most successful stars of the last two decades -- Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, who have achieved everything that club football has to offer and who are adored by millions of fans around the world -- are facing a threat of joining the legends that have never won the coveted Cup.

▶ AS THEY GEAR UP FOR THEIR FIFTH WORLD CUP IN QATAR, BOTH MESSI AND RONALDO WILL BE HOPING TO GO OUT IN BLAZING GLORY BY WINNING THE TITLE IN WHAT WILL BE THEIR LAST APPEARANCE IN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST TOURNAMENT.

▶ WHILE ARGENTINA'S MESSI IS 35-YEAR-OLD, PORTUGUESE STAR RONALDO IS 37 AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL PLAY ANOTHER WORLD CUP.

▶ THIS IS APPARENT THAT THEY HAVE NOT HAD THE SAME KIND OF SUCCESS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE IN THE HOME STRETCH OF THEIR ILLUSTRIOUS CAREERS.



### A DISTANT DREAM FOR INDIA'S BLUE TIGERS

New Delhi: With just a day left before the start of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar (Nov 20 to Dec 18), the 32 best footballing nations are engaged in their final preparations, while their countrymen are praying for their teams to lift the prestigious trophy. Like elsewhere, football fever has gripped India too with a majority rooting for all-time favourites Brazil, while the remaining seem to be divided between holders France and Lionel Messi-led Argentina. When there is so much enthusiasm for the sport in India, the big ques-

tion is: Why can't a country that has started producing Olympic champions qualify for the football World Cup? Every time a World Cup takes place after four years, Indian fans have precisely one question -- when will India play in the game's showpiece event? And the answer is always the same -- given the standard of the game back home, India will never play in the World Cup. Maybe Indian football can benefit if the truth that is hidden behind this brazen answer is brought out. Indian football officials prob-

ably do not allow this truth to come out. Even those who are critical of the plight of Indian football agree that the level of the game in the country is way behind world standards. Our players neither have that kind of skill, nor the fitness to compete in the spot's mega event. The Blue Tigers perhaps enjoyed their golden years from late 1940s to late 1960s -- during which they participated in four Olympics and won the gold twice in Asian Games. Since 1970, the Indian team has seen a steady decline in performance.

winning the Euro 2016 and the 2018 edition of the UEFA Nations League, beating Netherlands 1-0 in the final.

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### BRAZIL, ARGENTINA ARE CLEAR FAVOURITES; SPAIN, GERMANY AND BELGIUM RELY ON TOTAL FOOTBALL

Ishwar Nath Jha | New Delhi

In total, 32 countries will compete for the coveted trophy that symbolises supremacy in the sport called "The Beautiful Game" by legendary stars like Pele and numerous fans around the globe. As the clock ticks down for the kick-off, everybody is thinking about which teams are favourites to go all the way and which will be the dark horse and cause a few surprises in the mega-event. Defending champions France, after emerging victorious in 2018, will be again among the favourites, but many nations have their sights set on lifting the trophy on December 18.

**BRAZIL:** The South American powerhouse is the eternal favourite at the football World Cup. The five-time winners currently boast strength in depth -- with the likes of Neymar, Vinicius Junior and Alisson at their disposal. However, they have not savoured World Cup glory since 2002.

Brazil, the most successful nation in the World Cup, are deservedly among the favourites for Qatar 2022 World Cup after a qualifying campaign that included 14 wins, three draws and not a single defeat.

**BELGIUM:** Ranked second in the world football rankings, Belgium cruised through the qualifying stage, going undefeated in eight games, and finishing at the top of their group with a goal difference of 19. Roberto Martinez, now in his seventh year as head coach of the national team, favours a 3-4-2-1 formation with Kevin De Bruyne and Eden Hazard the creative forces behind striker Romelu Lukaku.

**SPAIN:** Coached by former captain Luis Enrique, the 2010 champions qualified for Qatar from the Group of Death, fighting past sides like Sweden, Greece and Kosovo. It was the typical group where you could drop points, and Spain did, being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Greece and slipping to a 2-1 defeat to Sweden.



**GERMANY:** Former Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick has adapted well after replacing Joachim Low, and the return of Thomas Muller to the fold has given the Germans a lot of experience and made them clear favourites in the world cup.

It has to be said that their group, which contained North Macedonia, Romania, Armenia, Iceland and Liechtenstein wasn't the most demanding. Coach Flick can count on pace and movement in attack with players such as Thomas Muller, Serge Gnabry and Leroy Sane, although Timo Werner's ankle injury means he misses the mega event.

**ARGENTINA:** Two-time champions Argentina will kick off their campaign against Saudi Arabia on November 22 before also facing Mexico and Poland in Group C. Brazil, France and England will be the biggest obstacles to Argentina's hopes of ending a 36-year FIFA World Cup title drought in Qatar.

Lionel Scaloni's men are undefeated in their past 35 games, a sequence that includes the 2021 Copa America final against Brazil. They are just two games shy of the record for the longest run of international matches without defeat, currently held by Italy, who are unfortunately not qualified for this mega event.

B. Shrikant | Mumbai

There is an odd similarity between Johan Cruyff, Eusebio, Ferenc Puskas, Michel Platini, Alfredo Di Stefano, George Best and Zico. They are all legends of football, but never managed to lift the FIFA World Cup -- the most prestigious title the sport has to offer.

The duo have scored numerous goals for their respective mega clubs in Europe and led their national sides with distinction for over a decade. They have won many titles -- domestic and in the Continent -- for their clubs. But they have also faced much criticism for not being able to win silverware for/with their national teams.

Both are the highest scorers for their respective countries on the international stage with 114 goals for Messi and 117 for Ronaldo. Messi has won the Ballon d'Or, the trophy given to the best player in a year in European Leagues, seven times while Ronaldo has bagged it five times.

At the World Cups, Messi has done slightly better than Ronaldo, having taken Argentina to the

### CBI FILES CHARGE SHEET AGAINST EX-ABG SHIPYARD CHAIRMAN, 24 OTHERS IN

## Rs 22,842 cr loan fraud

"They took loan of Rs 1228 crore from Indian Overseas Bank, Rs 1244 crore from Punjab National Bank, Rs 1614 crore from Bank of Baroda, Rs 7089 crore from ICICI Bank and Rs 3634 crore from IDBI Bank. Later they didn't pay the bank their dues. Initially the bank initiated an internal inquiry in which it was found that the company was cheating the consortium of banks by diverting funds to different entities," said the CBI.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday filed first charge sheet against 25 accused in connection with the Rs 22,842 crore fraud, allegedly committed by ABG Shipyards company.

The CBI in its probe has established the transactions of Rs 5,000 crore made through various channel.

In the case, there are 28 banks involved in consortium with huge amount of disbursement. There were

different nature of bank loans including CC Loan, Term Loan, Letter of Credit, Bank Guarantee etc. that were given as advance by the banks.

The fraud is primarily on account of huge transfer by ABG Shipyards Ltd (ABGSL) to its related parties and subsequently making adjustment entries. It is also alleged that huge investments were made in its overseas subsidiary by diverting the bank loans and funds were diverted to purchase huge assets in the name of its related parties.

The CBI official said that ABG



Shipyards Ltd has been in business with SBI since 2001. The account of ABG Shipyards turned NPA on November 30, 2013. As per bank complaint, the NPA is to the tune of Rs 22,842 crore and the majority of the disbursement happened between 2005 and 2012 by a consortium of 28 banks led by ICICI Bank, including SBI. In between April 2019 and March 2020, various banks of the consortium declared the account of ABG Shipyards as fraud. The CBI is investigating this biggest fraud committed by any company so far.

### CCTV FOOTAGE SURFACES OF SATYENDAR JAIN ENJOYING MASSAGE IN TIHAR

New Delhi: A CCTV footage of Tihar Jail has surfaced in which Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain could be seen getting a massage. The footage of jail no 7 is viral in social media. Earlier, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had told a Special PMLA court that Jain was having luxurious facilities at Tihar Jail.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena had also ordered inquiry into the matter, post which Jail Superintendent of Tihar Jail, Ajit Kumar, a DANICS official was earlier placed under suspension.

"He has prima facie been found to have committed irregularities that warrant inquiry," read a recent order of LG.

As of now, no official has commented on the matter in connection with the video that has surfaced.

Jain was arrested on May 30 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Jain was in de-facto control of shell companies used for alleged money laundering, and the co-accused persons Ankush Jain and Vaibhav Jain were just dummies. Further investigation is under progress.

### EVEN GOVT TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DATA BREACH: SOURCES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In case of a data breach, even the government would be held accountable as per the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, highly-placed sources said.

The government had on Friday released the draft of the proposed Bill for public comments.

Sources informed that the Bill will cover aspects related to digital data and will hold those entities accountable which are monetising data.

In case of data breach, even the government won't be exempted, the source said.



The draft legislation has exempted certain entities notified as data fiduciaries by the government from various compliances, including sharing details for the purpose of data collection.

It has also proposed a penalty of up to Rs 500 crore in case data fiduciaries or entities processing data on their behalf violate any provisions of the Bill.

### HEAVY RAIN PREDICTED IN TN

Chennai: After a lull for a few days, Chennai and other districts are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall in the coming days from Monday onwards.

The heavy rain, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) will be due to a slow-moving weather system over the Bay of Bengal. Weather department in the statement said that on November 21 and November 22, rainfall could be extremely heavy and possibilities are there for 20 cm rainfall on these days in some districts.

The weather department also predicted that the rainfall area may change after Tuesday based on the movement of the weather system over the Bay of Bengal.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) volunteers and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) volunteers have sounded an alert on the heavy to extremely heavy rains expected on November 21 and November 22.

## Consumer court directs Ansal to refund allottee's money

Gurugram | Agencies

The Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), Gurugram, has directed Ansal Housing Limited and its promoter to refund the amount to the allottee with interest since it failed to fulfil the commitment of mutual agreement and deliver the unit on time to the allottee.

The authority gave this direction while deciding Anamika Chowdhary and Savita Madan vs Ansal Housing Limited case.

The project Ansal Heights in which the complainant booked the unit is located at Sector 86, Gurugram.

"The authority, hereby, directs the promoter to refund the amount



received by him Rs 78.04 lakh and that with interest at the rate of 10.25 per cent as prescribed under Rule 15 of the Haryana real estate (regulation and development) Rules 2017 from the date of each payment till the actual date of refund of the amount within the timelines provided in Rule 16 of Haryana Rules 2017," said the court order.

Chaudhary and Madan after waiting endlessly for three and a half years after the expiry of the due date of the possession of the unit moved an application to the RERA in February 2021 seeking a refund of their hard-earned money from the defaulter promoter.

## ISRAELI MISSILE ATTACK KILLS 4 SYRIAN SOLDIERS

Damascus:

Four Syrian soldiers were killed on Saturday by an Israeli missile strike in central and coastal areas of the war-torn country.

The Israeli missile strike launched from the Mediterranean also wounded another and caused material damage, reports Xinhua news agency quoted the local media as saying.

This is a continuation of a string of Israeli attacks on military sites in Syria, it said.

On November 13, two Syrian soldiers were killed by an Israeli attack on a military air base in the central province of Homs.





## MAHA GOVERNOR CALLS CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ 'OLD IDOL', DRAWS UDDHAV SENA FURY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari stoked a fresh controversy on Saturday, calling Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj an 'old idol'. Addressing a function at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University in Aurangabad on Saturday, the Maharashtra governor said, "If someone asks who's your idol, you don't have to go out looking for one. You will find them right here in Maharashtra. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has become an old idol now, you can find new ones - from Babasaheb Ambedkar to (Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways) Nitin Gadkari."

An emotive and iconic figure in Maharashtra, transcending political affiliations, the governor's remark on the



Maratha warrior did not go down well with leaders. A spokesperson for the Uddhav Sena faction of the Shiv Sena condemned the governor's statement saying he is known to disrespect great leaders.

"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is not only our deity but our source of inspiration. He will always be the idol for

all of us," Anand Dubey, a spokesman for the Uddhav Sena said in a statement. "Going by the governor's statements, even Lord Ram and Lord Krishna have become old idols. Must we find new deities now to worship?" Dubey asked, adding that the governor's statement should be strongly condemned.

# Devendra Fadnavis schools Rahul on Gandhi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A day after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi asked him to read V D Savarkar's letters to the British, especially the last sentences, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis produced letters of Mahatma Gandhi that also end on a similar note. Gandhi had shown Savarkar's mercy petition that ended with a sentence saying he begged to remain an obedient servant (of the British). Savarkar helped the British and betrayed the likes of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel," he had said. Fadnavis retorted with a tweet on Friday. "Rahul ji, you wanted me to read the last lines of a letter. Now, I am presenting you with some documents to read. Have you read a letter by respected Mahatma Gandhi? Are the lines written in these letters (ultimatum to Lord Chelmsford, dated June 22, 1920; a letter to the Duke of Connaught, undated) similar as



well?" he asked. The DyCM also tweeted a letter to the Savarkar National Memorial (dated May 20, 1980) by the then PM late Indira Gandhi, in which she wrote, "Veer Savarkar's daring defiance of the British government has its own important place in the annals of

our freedom movement. I wish success for the plans to celebrate the birth centenary of this remarkable son of India." In a series of tweets, Fadnavis posted appreciative letters of the NCP boss and then CM Sharad Pawar, then PM Narasimha Rao and former PM Yeshwantrao Chavan and newspaper clippings of tributes by all-party leaders.

"Anyways, the country asks you at the end what you really want to say. The coming generations will also ask you the same if you continue to read selective things..." said Fadnavis, wondering if Gandhi worried too much about vote banks.

## WOMAN LOSES ? 1.12 CRORE AFTER SCAMMERS PROMISE HER GIFT FROM UK: COPS

Alibag: A case has been registered against unknown persons for cheating a woman from Alibag in Maharashtra's Raigad district of ? 1.12 crore, a police official said on Saturday.

The woman, a retired court superintendent, accepted a friend request in June this year from a person claiming to be a resident of Manchester in the United Kingdom, he said. "He and some other accused soon started phoning her claiming there was a gift in gold and cash that had been sent for her from the UK, but she would need to pay Customs duty. On this pretext, they made her transfer ? 1.12 crore, after which the accused stopped all communication," he said.

A case of cheating, criminal breach of trust and conspiracy has been registered and efforts were on to catch the accused, the Alibag police station official added.

## Carnac Bridge to be cut into 44 pieces



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Carnac Bunder bridge in Mumbai that is planned to be removed on Saturday-Sunday night will be cut into 44 pieces and the entire operation will take 27 hours. "These spans will be removed by lifting one piece at a time with 18 pieces (16 tonnes each) + 14 pieces (3 tonnes each) + 12 pieces (10 tonnes each). They will be cut with the help of 50 gas cutters along with helpers per shift and a total of about 300 gas cylinders will be utilized. Total manpower of 400 plus 30-35 officers and 100 supervisors will be used to carry out the operation smoothly," Central Railway

chief public relations officer Shivaji Sutar said. Carnac bridge was declared unsafe for road traffic in September 2022. The 27 hours mega block will start at 11.00 pm of November 19 and will end at 2.00 am on November 21 "To avoid inconvenience to the passengers, we will be running suburban trains from Byculla, Parel, Dadar, Kurla Stations towards Thane, Kalyan, Kasara, Karjat side and vice versa.

To avoid traffic congestion, 18 pairs of Mail Express trains have been cancelled and 68 mail Express trains have been either short terminated or short originated at Dadar, Panvel Pune and Nashik stations," Sutar added.

## NEITHER SAVARKAR NOR NEHRU SHOULD BE TARGETED: SANJAY RAUT

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said V D Savarkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or any other freedom fighter should not be maligned as they are not alive to defend themselves. There is no need to counter derogatory comments against Savarkar by targeting Nehru or any other historical personality, he added.

It could affect the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance of the Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, he said. "Attempts to besmirch the reputations of both Pandit Nehru and Savarkar must stop. Freedom fighters who made sacrifices for the country's independence do not belong to any ideology or political party," the Rajya Sabha member said on Saturday. "Savarkar and all other freedom fighters are respectable to us," he said, adding these leaders are not alive and therefore cannot defend themselves now. "Just because someone badmouths Savarkar, it doesn't mean you speak negatively about Nehru," the Sena leader added. He also said that as the first prime minister of the country, Nehru took India on the path of development by embracing Savarkar's "scientific temper". "Otherwise, India would have become another Pakistan....India will be forever indebted to Nehru for that," he said.



## RANE SLAMS UDDHAV, AADITYA FOR NOT OPPOSING RAHUL'S REMARKS ON SAVARKAR

Mumbai: Union Minister Narayan Rane on Friday said Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leaders Uddhav Thackeray and his son Aaditya Thackeray did not know the history of freedom fighter VD Savarkar and slammed them for not opposing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments on the Hindutva ideology.

Speaking at a function in Dombivli here, Rane said, "They do not know the glorious history of Swatantrayaveer Savarkar. So what can they say on Rahul Gandhi's comments or oppose it."

He said Aaditya Thackeray, did not know why Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray had great belief in Savarkar and his thoughts. Slamming Aaditya Thackeray for taking part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra "to improve his image", Rane said one needs to know history to criticise and express anger at such objectionable comments.

The senior BJP leader mocked the Bharat Jodo Yatra and said the same old faces of the party were participating in the march, while local level functionaries were absent.

The Shiv Sena (UBT), the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress have different ideologies but are uniting for the march as they seek power, Rane alleged. But the move will be in vain as the country was now marching towards self-reliance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.



## Gautam Navlakha released from jail, house arrested

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Elgaar Parishad case accused Gautam Navlakha has been released from Talaja prison in Navi Mumbai and shifted to a Belapur-based community hall on Saturday evening. The 70-year-old activist-journalist was allowed to stay under house arrest instead of Talaja Jail following his frail condition. A week ago, the Supreme Court had given relief to Navlakha by agreeing to shift him to house arrest. Around 6 pm on Saturday, he was escorted by Navi Mumbai Police to the community hall owned by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) located in Agroli Village.

Navlakha's release comes a day after the Supreme Court



dismissed a plea by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to vacate its November 10 judgment allowing the house arrest, and directed its order be effected within 24

hours 'without fail'. The apex court had allowed Navlakha to be placed under house arrest due to his deteriorating health.

Giving out its order, the court also imposed certain conditions, including CCTV surveillance, restrictions on phone use of phones, and no access to the Internet. The court has allowed Navlakha's partner, Sabha Husain, instead of his sister, to stay with him. The NIA had objected to the house arrest citing security concerns over the chosen premises.

Appearing for the NIA, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General S V Raju told the court that the building belongs to the Communist party and that it was not a flat but part of a public library.

## MUMBAI POLICE RAID ILLEGAL DANCE BAR, RESCUE 8 GIRLS

Mumbai | The Mumbai Police's Social Service Branch has raided an illegal dance bar in Borivali early on Saturday and rescued eight girls and arrested 20 persons, including a dozen customers, officials said here.

Following a tip-off, the SSB sleuths and officials of Kasturba Police Station swooped on the Hotel Nishant & Orchestra Bar in Borivali east suburb around 1 a.m., Assistant Commissioner of Police Chandrakant Jadhav said.

During the raid, the team found eight girls who were allegedly forced to dance at the venue and rescued them, though the bar owner is wanted.

"The arrested include 7 staffers, an orchestra player and 12 customers, and various sections of the laws, including protection of dignity of women against them," said ACP Jadhav. The police have seized around Rs 48,000 cash, a laptop, memory card and other musical equipment and further investigations are on through the local police station, he said.

Sources say that despite the ban on dance bars in the state, some continue to run on the sly especially, on the border areas of Mumbai, and Thane, but regular raids are carried out against them.

## Maharashtra rejigs 14-member panel for border row with Karnataka

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A fortnight after the Governors of Maharashtra and Karnataka met, the Maharashtra government has recast its all-party 14-member high power committee (HPC) on the old boundary row affecting the two states, officials said here on Saturday.

The HPC headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde comprises Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, Union minister Narayan Rane, and ministers Chandrakant Patil, Suresh Khade, Tanaji Swant, Ravindra Chavan, Deepak Kesarkar, Shambhuraaj Desai from the ruling Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena (BSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The HCP has been entrusted with determining the future course to resolve the long-delayed border dispute and take necessary decision and action in the matter, as per a notification.

Established in May 2000, earlier the HPC was revamped in May 2014, June 2014, March 2015, September 2020, and has been done for the fifth time now after the change of government in the state last June. Maharashtra has laid a claim over some 7,000 sq km area along the border with Karnataka comprising 814



predominantly Marathi-speaking villages in Belgaum, Uttara Kannada, Bidar and Gulbarga and the towns of Belagavi, Karwar and Nippani. The panel, headed by former Chief Justice of India, M.C. Mahajan, with representatives from both the states had, among other things, recommended transfer of 264 border villages to Maharashtra, but kept Belgaum and 247 other villages with Karnataka.

Though Karnataka had welcomed the move, Maharashtra rejected the recommendations terming them as 'biased' and 'illogical', and the dispute continues to simmer.

## FATHER SLITS 6-YEAR-OLD SON'S THROAT AFTER FIGHT WITH WIFE

Mumbai: In a shocking incident in Mumbai's Malad, a father slit his 6-year-old son's throat on Saturday morning. The accused, identified as Nandan Adhikari, 44, allegedly killed his son Laksh, after a fight with his wife Sunita. The incident happened in the Malwani Church Market area in Malad West.

The Malwani police detained Nandan on the spot and sent Laksh's body for autopsy. The accused was residing with his wife, and two kids. Nandan was in the business of eggs in the same locality.

On Saturday morning, Sunita went to drop her 13-year-old daughter at school, and when she came back, she saw Laksh's body lying in a pool of blood on the house floor. The neighbors rushed towards her house when she cried for help and later informed the Malwani police, said an officer.

During the interrogation, it has been revealed the relationship between the couple was not good as they used to have minor disputes often. The details of the fights are yet to be investigated.

"We have conducted the Panchanama and sent the body for the autopsy. The FIR is under process," said another officer.

# VAN DRIVER MOLESTS 9-YEAR-OLD STUDENT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 25-year-old van driver has been arrested for allegedly molesting a 9-year-old girl. The incident took place on Thursday evening when the driver was dropping the student to her home in Mulund from her school in Airoli. The accused was produced before the court on Friday and has been remanded in police custody. Police officers said that when the minor's aunt picked her up from the bus stop around 6 pm as usual, she found the child crying. After reaching home, the student told her mother that the van driver touched her inappropriately and also wrote down his phone number on her notebook.

"The family immediately came to the police station and registered a complaint. We sought information from the school about the vans and learnt that the driver was Suresh Bhalerao, 25. We sent a team and



nabbed him by night," said an officer from Mulund police station. Senior Inspector Kantilal

Kothimbire said, "The accused driver is working privately on contract basis. There were other kids too

when the offence took place. The accused threatened the minor to not tell anyone about it. He also alleged-

ly shared his phone number with other girls. We will interrogate him to find out if he has done such acts before this as well."

The accused was booked under Sections 354 (assaulting woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The school principal said, "We are not aware of the incident as the parents did not inform or report this to us. Besides, we have discontinued our bus service after COVID. Parents send their wards to school via private bus services." Anil Garg, president of School Bus Owners Association-Mumbai, said, "Whether the school is providing bus service or not, they need to have the details of buses, contractors and drivers ferrying the students. It is mandatory for the school administration. What are the traffic, RTO and government officials doing?"



# MP GOVT ENSURES FOOLPROOF SECURITY FOR BHARAT JODO YATRA

A day after an anonymous letter threatening to assassinate Rahul Gandhi and state Congress chief Kamal Nath along with threats of serial blasts in Indore came to the fore, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra ruled out the possibility of threat to Bharat Jodo Yatra in the state.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Responding to an alleged threatening letter, which was reportedly received by an Indore shop owner on Thursday, Mishra said the state government has ensured to provide full security for Rahul Gandhi's yatra in Madhya Pradesh. "The government is responsible for the foolproof security of Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh. I want to assure them that it is our commitment as far as providing security is concerned,"



Mishra said on Saturday.

Mishra, a senior BJP leader, who often attacks Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, however, accused Nath of rubbing salt to the wounds of victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots by going to the Khalsa Stadium for a function earlier this month.

Taking a jibe, Mishra said, "Perhaps, Kamal Nath does not want Rahul Gandhi's yatra to come to

Madhya Pradesh, that is why he is doing all these stunts."

The anonymous letter threatened that bomb blasts would be carried out in that city if the Bharat Jodo Yatra made a scheduled night halt at Khalsa Stadium here on November 28.

Indore police said on Friday that a case has been lodged against unidentified accused u/s 507 IPC (criminal

intimidation by anonymous communication) at Indore's Juni police station.

Sources in the police also said that the top cops in Indore are mulling over slapping the National Security Act (NSA) against the accused, once they get nabbed.

The letter, which bears the photocopy of an election photo identity card (EPIC) of a Kamal-based youth, is written in Hindi. Containing abusive language, the letter, while mentioning about the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, points to Kamal Nath's alleged role in the targeted killings of the Sikh community.

Khalsa Stadium in Indore was in news earlier this month after there was a controversy over Nath being felicitated at a function held there on the occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti on November 8. Kirtan singer Manpreet Singh Kanpuri had referred to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, regarding which Nath had faced allegations in the past, and blasted the organisers for felicitating Nath. The BJP has already announced that if Nath enters the stadium during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, it will be shown black flags.

## Top priority should be given to quality and timely completion of construction: CM Chouhan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the Jal Jeevan Mission in Satna district and all other construction works going on in the district should be given top priority in terms of quality and completion within the time-limit. Action must be ensured against the negligent and those engaged in irregularities. It should be ensured that ration is available uninterruptedly in the right quantity to all the eligible persons. An FIR should be lodged against those who indulge in corruption and those who create obstacles in providing benefits of government schemes without any hassles to the general public. CM Chouhan was virtually reviewing the government schemes, construction works and law and order situation in the district. Minister of State for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare (Independent Charge) Ramkshelvan Patel was present in the review meeting held from the residence



office. Commissioner Rewa Anil Suchari from Rewa and Collector Satna Anurag Verma and other officers of the district joined virtually from Satna.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the officials should visit the rural areas regularly and ensure regular review of the progress of the houses being built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Expressing displeasure over the slow progress in street vendor schemes, CM Chouhan gave instructions to

give wide publicity to the scheme and to connect more and more people with the schemes. The Chief Minister said that while ensuring public participation in Amrit Sarovar Yojana, adequate beautification should be ensured around the lake. Commissioner and Collector should personally monitor the progress of the works to complete the development works within the time limit. Chouhan instructed to speed up the restoration work of the roads of Satna Nagar.

## Road accident turns out to be murder case

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An investigation into a road accident in Madhya Pradesh which killed a 50-year-old man revealed that it was a well-planned murder case and the perpetrator was the victim's son, police said on Saturday.

The police received information on November 10 that the victim, Chhagan Pawar, was killed in the accident in Barwani district, some 350 km from the state capital Bhopal.

As investigations continued, the police started to suspect that it wasn't just a road accident. After interrogating several people, including family members and relatives, for over a week after the incident, the police found evidence that it was in fact a murder. A CCTV footage also showed that the victim's body was thrown on the roadside by his son Anil and three of his friends and trying to make it look like Pawar was killed in an accident, the police said. "During interrogation, Anil confessed that he along with his friends killed his father. He told that there was a dis-



pute between them over money and properties. Three other accused who helped Anil to execute the crime were also arrested. They have been identified as Golu, Pintu and Karan," SP Barwani Deepak Shukla said on Saturday. The accused have been booked under section 302 of IPC and further investigation is underway.

## Kamal Nath terms Hindu insult allegations against him 'baseless'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) president Kamal Nath has said that he is not the kind of person "who wastes his energy on countering baseless allegations".

Nath, who on Friday completed 76 years of age, was responding to BJP's accusations against him of insulting Hindu religion. Nath drew courted controversy after he cut a "temple-shaped cake with the portrait of Lord Hanuman on it" during a ceremony at his home town in Chhindwara on Thursday.

For Nath, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had dropped sitting MP Gargi Shankar Mishra, who had survived the Janata wave. Since then, the Kanpur-born Nath made Chhindwara his home, won nine Lok Sabha elections and headed several ministries, besides serving as a key functionary of All India Congress Committee (AICC). If sources are to be believed, he was offered by Sonia Gandhi to become AICC president, however, Nath decided to focus on the responsibility he took over in 2018 and to bring the Congress back in power in 2023. At



a crucial juncture when the Congress leadership is making all out efforts to revive the grand old party with the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi, crisis broke out in Rajasthan, which led to twists and turns in the filing of nomination for the Congress presidential poll scheduled on October 17.

After taking charge of Madhya Pradesh Congress chief in 2018, he revived the party and the Congress

back into power after 15 years gap, however, the cherish of win ended within 15 months after Jyotiraditya Scindia jumped ship to the BJP, resulting in the fall of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government in March 2020.

Knowing that hopes are pinned on him to reestablish the Congress leadership in Madhya Pradesh as a victory in the Assembly polls will energise the entire party cadre ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, was perhaps the main reason he decided to stay in Madhya Pradesh, instead to become president of the national Congress.

Although the veteran Congress leader has been a nine-time MP from his hometown Chhindwara, Nath became active in Madhya Pradesh politics in 2018 after he became the state head of the party in the run-up to the 2018 Assembly elections.

In 2018, Nath was sworn-in as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, bringing to an end 15 years of BJP rule in the state which had become the saffron party's stronghold. Bouncing back from the 2020 crisis, Nath seems to be re-energising the party cadre ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections. Now all eyes on him to take on the ruling BJP in 2023 assembly elections.

## It is the responsibility of a doctor to follow pledge for 365 days: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that a successful life lies in performing one's duty with a sense of service. One should remember the convocation oath throughout the year. As a doctor, conduct according to every word of the vow is the path to success in future life. Governor Patel was addressing the convocation ceremony at Bhabha College of Dental Sciences today.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that oral health is an important and challenging issue of overall health. If there are no teeth, then there is no taste, the belief tells the importance of teeth in the process of digestion. He said



that the most important duty of the doctor is to make the patient physically and mentally fit. The work of any doctor is not just to get information about the vital processes

of the body. It is necessary to know and understand the causes of how the disease originates within the body. Continuous study, research is necessary along with the

work of treating the disease. Along with treatment, it is the responsibility of the doctor to give proper counseling regarding disease diagnosis and disease control.

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that efforts to prevent diseases are more effective than treating the disease. The need is to spread awareness regarding oral health and hygiene. He called for organizing awareness camps in schools and rural areas and developing a holistic model for oral health preventive and disease based treatment needs. He told the universities that with the spread of education, social responsibility, sense of duty and moral values should be developed among the students.

## BLOOD DONATION CAMP TO ORGANIZE ON THE BIRTHDAY OF SAI BABA

Bhopal| On the 97th birthday of Sai Baba, Shree Satya Sai Sewa Sangathan, Bhopal organized Blood donation camp on 20th November. The program is organized in the Sai birthday week which is celebrated from 17th November to 23rd November.

The camp will start from morning 10 am to 3 pm, at 2No. Bus stop Shantiwan Parisar near Prakash Tarun Pushkar. All the participants of the blood donation camp will get a certificate and refreshment.

## Third cheetah of 8 moves into acclimatization enclosure

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The number of cheetahs that have been moved from their quarantine area into the acclimatization enclosure in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park reached three on Friday after big cat Obaan joined male siblings Alton and Freddie, a senior forest official said.

Eight cheetahs were flown into the state from Namibia in southern Africa on September 17 as part of an ambitious initiative to reintroduce the big cat into the country and they were released into the quarantine zone in KNP by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Obaan was released into the larger enclosure, spread over an area of five square



kilometres, from the quarantine zone. Elton and Freddie were moved to the acclimatization enclosure on November 5," KNP Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Prakash Kumar Verma said.

The other five cheetahs would also be shifted to the large enclosure this month, officials said. Since September 17, the eight cheetahs, com-

prising five females and three males in the 30-66 month age group and named Freddy, Alton, Savannah, Sasha, Obaan, Asha, Cibill and Saisa, were housed in six 'bomas' (enclosures). The last cheetah died in India in Koriya district in present-day Chhattisgarh in 1947, and the species was declared extinct from the country in 1952.

## Two Minor Sisters Kidnapped, Raped In Guna: Police

Team Absolute | Guna

Two minor sisters were allegedly kidnapped and raped in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, police said on Saturday.

The police have apprehended two of the accused, one of them a minor, for the crime that took place at a village on the intervening night of November 10 and 11, an official said.

A case under section 376 (rape) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered following submissions of the victims, aged 13 and 17, in the court, superintendent of police Pankaj Shrivastava said.

One of the accused used to ferry the sisters to school and back. He conspired with his 16-year-old friend,

Dhamnava police station in-charge Gopal Choubey said, adding that efforts are on to arrest two more accused.

As per the complaint, the sisters were kidnapped when they had stepped out to relieve themselves in a deserted place on the intervening night of November 10 and 11, he said.

The accused allegedly kidnapped the girls and made them inhale a sedative. They took them to a place nearby and raped them, the official said. One of the accused used to ferry the sisters to school and back. He conspired with his 16-year-old friend, Dhamnava police station in-charge Gopal Choubey said, adding that efforts are on to arrest two more accused. The accused also allegedly warned the girls and threatened to kill their family members, he added.

## COW ROAMS INSIDE HOSPITAL IN RAJGARH

Madhya Pradesh: A similar incident was reported from the state's Ratlam district in September this year when a video of a dog sleeping on a hospital bed went viral. A video of a cow roaming inside a district hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh has gone viral on Saturday, prompting action by the authorities concerned. The incident reportedly took place on Friday and as a consequence three staff and a security guard have been expelled. The 30-second video shows a cow strolling in the ICU ward of the hospital which had patients. It was finally shoed away by a person while the man shooting the video said, "Ward boy koi nhi hai. Gai ghoom rhi hai (There is no ward boy, the cow is roaming)". "I have taken notice of the situation and have taken action against the ward boy and security guard. This incident is from our old Covid ICU ward" said Dr Rajendra Kataria, civil surgeon of the district hospital. Reports claimed the incident took place even as cow catchers are deployed at the hospital to prevent such mishaps.

## 1,351 types of bhog, including liquor & weed, offered to Lord Bhairav in Ujjain

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Scores of devotees of Lord Bhairavnath thronged the Ujjain temple to offer prayers on the occasion of Bhairav Ashtami on Thursday.

The main prayer was held following traditional rituals with decorations using four quintals of flowers and a procession of Lord Bhairavnath in the city amid chanting of 'slokas' by the temple priests. Maintaining the tradition of Kal Bhairav temple since ancient times, at least 1,351 types of bhog, including liquor, cigarette and weed, were offered to Lord Bhairavnath.

The items offered included 390 types of incense sticks, 180 types of face masks, 75 types of dry fruits, 64 varieties of chocolate, 60 types of Gujarati namkeen, 60 packets of cigarettes, 56 types of snacks, 55 types of sweets, 45 varieties of biscuits, 40 types of liquor (rum,



whiskey, tequila, vodka, beer and champagne), 'chillum', cannabis, 40 types of bakery items and 30 types of Gajak, 28 types of soft drinks, and 28 varieties of fruits.

Dharmendra Chaturvedi, a temple priest, said that the celebration of 'Ashtami' had started on Wednesday morning and concluded with prasad distribution after 'maha aarti' on Thursday night.

## Police arrest Islamic religious teacher for alleged forced conversion of man

Team Absolute | Khandwa

An Islamic religious teacher was arrested for allegedly brainwashing a youth in Khandwa, said police. The complainant Akshay Gaur, on Thursday filed a police complaint at Moghat police station in Khandwa alleging that the cleric tried to brainwash him and lured him for conversion.

The Islamic teacher identified as Aminuddin Qadri was arrested for hurting religious sentiments and under relevant sections of Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, said police.

"Akshay Gaur, a civil engineer filed a complaint with us saying six months ago he met a Qadri in a park. Seeing him upset sitting alone the Qadri took him to a mosque and lured him to convert.



Akshay alleged that the Qadri misguided him about his religion and said he will get everything if he converts into a Muslim," Khandwa superintendent of police Vivek Singh said. The SP said that Akshay was allegedly brainwashed and changed his religion and took a Muslim identity. Akshay changed his name to Fahim Khan after the alleged conversion. His friends and family also tried to convince him after seeing his name changed on social media, but he didn't listen, SP said. "However, Akshay realised his mistake after Qadri started abusing him and his religion and he reconverted into Hindu," said the SP.



Shania Twain to be honored with the music icon award



Los Angeles | Agencies

Grammy award-winning singer and songwriter Shania Twain will be honored with the music icon award at this year's People's Choice Awards. The announcement was made by NBC and E. According to the reports, Twain is known for such hits as 'Man! I Feel Like a Woman' and 'That Don't Impress Me Much'. In addition to receiving the award, Twain will perform a medley of her greatest hits and her new song 'Waking up Dreaming', set to be released on her sixth album 'Queen of Me' on February 3, 2023. "I'm so incredibly honoured to be named 'Music Icon,'" Twain said in a statement. "I have some of the greatest fans in the world. They have supported me since the early days, and it's their love and passion that keeps me going. I'm thrilled to go back on tour and bring my new music and fan favourites to them, and what better way to start than at the People's Choice Awards!"

BTS member Jin breaks record

Los Angeles | Agencies



K-pop superband BTS member Jin's hit 'The Astronaut' has become the fastest single by a solo artist to reach a million copies. Following the K-Pop boy band's collaboration with Chris Martin and company on the mega-hit 'My Universe' on the band's 2021 LP 'Music of the Spheres', star teamed up with the "Yellow" hitmakers to pen his latest track, reports.

'The Astronaut' has since broken a new astronomical record. It has shifted more than 1,024,382 copies as of November 12, according to the reports.

As well as adding to the lyrics, Coldplay play on the track and Chris plays a news presenter in the accompanying music video.

Meanwhile, Chris previously said that he doesn't think Coldplay will ever beat their BTS collaboration.

The musician said: "I don't think we'll ever be able to match the BTS surprise. That was surprising even for us."

"The journey from the first time it was mentioned - I was just like 'how could that ever work?' - To the song itself arriving and me thinking, 'that could be for BTS' - to now it feeling like the most natural collaboration in the world.

It's an amazing lesson for myself in keeping an open mind all the time, because you just never know what life or music is gonna throw you."

Two things, one for myself and one for the franchise: Daniel Craig

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Daniel Craig said that he needed to "move on" from James Bond. Discussing his decision to bow out as 007 after 15 years after being killed off in 'No Time to Die', the actor feels that his exit was necessary for both the spy franchise and his acting career. "Two things, one for myself and one for the franchise," Craig told the reports.

"One, for the franchise, was that reset starts again, which (the franchise) did with me. And I was like, 'Well, you need to reset again.' So let's kill my character off and go find another Bond and go find another story. Start at (age) 23, start at 25, start at 30."

The 'Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery' star continued: "The other was so that I could move on. I don't want to go back. I suppose I should be lucky if they were to ask me back, but the fact is that I need to move on from it."

"The sacrifice that he makes in the movie was for love and there's no greater sacrifice. So it seemed like a good thing to end on... I'm very, very fortunate as an actor to have got to a stage in my career where I can now go, 'You know what? I'm gonna pick and choose.'"

Craig explained that he was frustrated at himself for referring to the physical demands of playing 007 instead of explaining the creative aspects of the spy series.

He said: "It's my fault because I kind of didn't shut up about the fact that I had all these injuries."

"I'm p\*\*\*\*\* off at myself that I ever spoke about them. I put way more work into the creative side of those movies than I did the physical side of those movies."



Quitting alcohol was the most "liberating" thing: Drew Barrymore

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Drew Barrymore believes that quitting alcohol was among the most "liberating" things she's ever done. The actress has described her decision to quit alcohol as "one of the most liberating things in (her) journey of life", says reports.

In her magazine titled Drew, she explained: "One of the bravest things you can do is slay those dragons and finally change an awful cycle in which you've found yourself stuck. For me, it was to stop drinking." Barrymore said that her life has been transformed by her decision to quit drinking. She added: "During the holidays, when we spend so much energy trying to measure up to the picture-perfect standards set by the Norman Rockwells of the world, I'd like for you to try to remember to give yourself a pass - a hug, as it were - and I will try too."

"Take a moment, take a breath, and give yourself a squeeze. We're all just doing our best out here. And that in and of itself is something to celebrate."

The actress opened up about her relationship with alcohol during a TV interview in 2021. The actress - who shot to fame in the early 80s, when she starred in 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial' - explained: "I'm gonna say something for the first time in a long time - I have not had a drink of alcohol in two-and-a-half years. It was something that I realized just did not serve me and my life." Barrymore revealed that she'd been on a "quiet, confident journey". She said: "Now it's been long enough where I'm in a lifestyle that I know is really working on a high road for my little journey, and there's so much peace finally being where there were demons."

Tarantino opens up on his relationship with Harvey Weinstein

Los Angeles | Agencies

The disgraced film producer worked with Tarantino on nine movies. The two severed ties amid Weinstein's downfall in October 2017 over sexual harassment and assault. Tarantino said at the time that he was aware of Weinstein's behavior to a certain degree, but he stressed to Wallace that he never knew such behavior included sexual assault, reports.

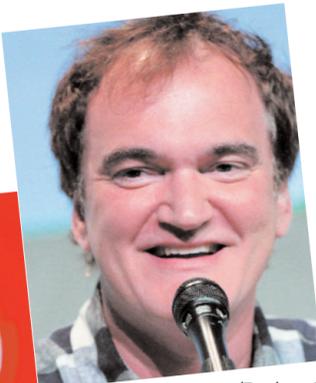
"I'd never heard the stories that later came out at all," Tarantino said.

"I heard the same stories that everybody had heard. What I wish I had done was talk to Harvey about it and says, 'Harvey, you can't do this.'"

"To tell you the truth, I chalked it up to a 'Mad Men'-era version of the boss chasing the secretary around the desk. I'm not saying that's ok. That's how I heard it in that category. There was never any talk of rape or anything like that."

Tarantino continued: "The reason I didn't [say something to Weinstein] was because that's a real hard conversation to have. I felt it was pathetic. I felt what he was doing was pathetic and I didn't want to deal with his pathetic-ness."

"I didn't think it was, 'Ok, you do this for me or you're not going to get this movie.' I never heard any actresses say anything like that," Tarantino concluded. "It was just you know,



'Don't get in the back of a limo with him.' It was easy to compartmentalize that to some degree. Anyway, I feel bad about. What I feel bad about is I feel bad that I did not have a man-to-man talk with him about it."

Tarantino revealed in October 2017 that former girlfriend Mira Sorvino confided in him about Weinstein's sexual harassment. "I knew enough to do more than I did," the director said at the time.

"There was more to it than just the normal rumors, the normal gossip. It wasn't second-hand. I knew he did a couple of these things. I wish I had taken responsibility for what I heard. If I had done the work I should have done then, I would have had to not work with him."

Back in July 2021, Tarantino appeared on Joe Rogan's podcast and said: "I wish I had sat (Harvey) down and gone, 'Harvey, you can't do this, you're gonna fuck up everything.' Maybe his brother Bob (did), but I don't think anybody talked to him about it."

"And the thing about it is everybody who was in his orbit knew about it. Probably they didn't know anything about rapes, but they had heard things."

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Eve Gale



## Asian Airgun Championship

# INDIA FINISHES WITH 25 GOLD MEDALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Indian shooters clinched both the top podiums on offer at the Asian Airgun Championship 2022 on Friday to finish the competition in Daegu, South Korea, with 25 gold medals.

On the final day, Rhythm Sangwan and Vijayveer Sidhu won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal while Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana finished top in the corresponding junior shooting competition.

Rhythm and Vijayveer beat Kazakhstan's Valeriy Rakhimzhan and Irina Yunusmetova 17-3 in the senior mixed team finals. Earlier, they had also topped



qualifying with a score of 579 while the Kazakhs came in second with 577.

Shiva Narwal and Yuvika Tomar, the other Indian team in the fray, also made a medal match after finishing fourth in the qualifying round

with 572. Up against the Korean team of Bomi Kim and Daemyung Lee, though, the Indian shooting duo fell short by a 16-6 scoreline to finish outside the podium.

In the junior event, Tokyo Olympian and junior world

champion Manu Bhaker teamed up with Samrat Rana and the duo shot 578 in qualifying, just one less than topers Uzbekistan. Facing off against the Uzbek team of Nigina Saidkulova and Mukhammad Kamalov in the final, they emerged victorious by a 17-3 score.

Much like in the senior competition, India's second pair in the event, Sagar Dangi and Esha Singh, also made one of the two bronze medal matches after finishing third in the qualification with a score of 576.

However, the two failed to get past Korea's Lee Seungjun and Yang Jiin, who edged out the medal match 16-14.

## IND v NZ T20 Series

# Rain may again play spoilsport in the match

Mount Maunganui | Agencies

After rain caused the first T20I between India and New Zealand at Sky Stadium to be washed out, it may again play a spoilsport when the two teams will be playing in the second match at Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on Sunday.

Though New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was hopeful of sunshine coming in Sunday's sell-out match at his hometown that may not be the case. With rain predicted for all day and precipitation levels between 40-97 per cent, there is a possibility of rain again halting India and New Zealand's quest for rebuilding their T20I sides. One would be hoping that Rishabh Pant



gets a decent run as an opener against New Zealand. Pant, who burst on the scene with blistering performances in IPL 2016 just after catching everyone's eye with his exploits in U19 World Cup earlier that year in Bangladesh, was largely in

and out of initial playing eleven from Asia Cup till the Men's T20 World Cup as India preferred finishing touches of Dinesh Karthik. But now with Karthik not in the squad for this series, one could see Pant opening the batting as India search

for batters who can given them a flying start in power-play. But with Ishan Kishan and Shubman Gill, uncapped in the T20I format, as the obvious looking opening options, it should be interesting to see the role clarity which India will give to left-handed Pant, who hasn't cracked the T20I code yet, as compared to Tests and ODIs. Hardik Pandya will be itching to show his leadership skills as the clamour grows for him to be made India's T20I captain till 2024 T20 World Cup, in a bid to change the side's fortunes in the format. Traditionally, Bay Oval has been a high-scoring ground for T20Is. All of this can happen in front of a sold-out crowd provided the rain stays away for cricket to happen.

## Youth World Boxing

# Ravina among three boxers to progress into quarterfinals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reigning Asian Youth Champion India's Ravina showed her class and prowess to sail into the quarterfinals in women's 63kg on the fourth day of the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.

Facing Hungary's Varga Franciska Rozi in the Round-of-16 bout, Ravina dictated terms right from the start and landed punches throughout the first round.

The second round began in the same manner as the Indian pugilist kept on dominating her opponent. As a result, the referee had to stop the contest and the Indian boxer emerged victorious.

Kunjarani Devi Thongam, the other women boxer in action on Saturday, also moved into the last-8 stage in the 60kg weight division after blanking Spain's Horche Martinez Maria 5-0 in a one-sided affair. Among the men boxers in action, Mohit (86kg) moved into the quarterfinals after his opponent Tomas Lemanas of Lithuania got disqualified in the second round. Sahil Chauhan (71kg) entered the pre-quarterfinal stage after comfortably



defeating 'zerbaijan's Daniel Holostenco 5-0 in the round-of-32 bout.

Nikhil (57kg) and Harsh (60kg) lost their respective round-of-32 bouts. The former lost 1-4 to Kazakhstan's Kalinin Ilya while the latter had to suffer a referee stopping the contest (RSC) defeat against Erik Lsrayelyan of Armenia. Nine Indians, including three women, will be in action in the last 16 stage on the fifth day of the tournament. Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Jadumani Singh (51kg), Ashish (54kg), Vanshaj (63.5kg), Aman Rathore (67kg) and Deepak (75kg) will fight in the men's section.

Bhawna Sharma (48kg), Tamanna (50kg) and Huidrom Griviya Devi (54kg) will take the ring in the women's quarterfinal.

## FIFA World Cup

# WORLD CUP IN WINTER RAISES STRESS LEVEL IN PLAYERS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Even before the start of the mega sporting spectacle in Qatar, the FIFA World Cup 2022 has already made it to the history books for its unique achievements.

It is the first World Cup to be organized in the Arab world, the first to be held in winter and the second one in Asia after the 2002 edition jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan. The Qatar 2022 World Cup starts on November 20 and will end on December 18.

It is also one of the most expensive World Cups as Qatar had to build all stadiums from scratch, creating a sporting oasis in the desert, fully air-conditioned indoor stadiums at the cost of more than \$6.5 billion. The hosts have also created new infrastructure for local fans and the millions of foreign supporters that are expected to travel to the country.

The total cost of hosting the World Cup is reportedly around \$220 billion - the biggest amount splurged by any



of the organisers for the FIFA World Cup as the 2014 edition in Brazil cost \$11.5 billion while the last edition in Russia in 2018 cost about \$14 billion.

More than a unique experience, the competition will be a huge challenge for the players as the World Cup will be held in winter -- when all the club leagues around the world except the English Premier League take a month-long break. With the 29-day Qatar World Cup being played during what would have been their winter break, the footballers will have a busy schedule post the World Cup as they will get back with their respective clubs dead tired from the fatigue of training and playing for 5-6 weeks, frequent travel and battling niggles and injuries.

# NEYMAR IN "EXCELLENT" SHAPE, SAYS BRAZIL TEAMMATE MARQUINHOS

Turin (Italy) | Brazil star Neymar Jr. is in peak physical condition as he bids to lead Brazil to a sixth FIFA World Cup title in Qatar, the forward's Paris Saint-Germain teammate Marquinhos said.

Brazil will begin the tournament against Serbia on November 24 before also facing Switzerland and Cameroon in Group G.

"The attention and pressure are inevitable, it's always been like that since he arrived in the national team (in 2010)," Marquinhos said during a break in Brazil's pre-World Cup training camp in Turin.

"He knows how to deal with it. We all do. We know the importance and the pressure involved with playing in the World Cup. This has to motivate us and drive us to be better prepared to get the best possible result. Neymar... is in excellent physical shape. I know how focused he is and the effort he has made to be fully prepared." Neymar has been in impressive form for PSG, having scored 15 goals and provided 12 assists in 19 games for the French club this season. The player has netted 75 times in 121 outings for his country and is poised to break Pele's all-time Brazil record of 77 goals in this tournament.



# NEERAJ CHOPRA AND THREE MORE TO TRAIN IN UK

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) in its 86th meeting on November 18 approved Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom (UK).

Neeraj, along with Coach Dr. Klaus Bartonietz and physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha would be training at Loughborough for 63 days and are set to leave for the UK later this week.

Besides Neeraj, the MOC also cleared the proposals for shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, who, along with his coach and physiotherapist will be training at Prisma Sports Club, Jakarta, Indonesia for 29 days, wrestler Deepak Punia, who along with his physiotherapist would be training in Michigan, USA for 34 days, and javelin thrower and Commonwealth Games medallist Annu Rani, who along with her



physiotherapist would be training at Leichtathletik-Gemeinschaft (LG) Offenburg, Germany under coach Werner Daniels who had earlier also trained Neeraj Chopra.

Funding for these would be provided under the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and would cover the player and their support staff's flight, accommodation, local travel, and food costs among other expenditures.

TOPS will also provide each athlete an out-of-pocket allowance of \$50 per day for any other expense they might incur during their stay.

The total approximate cost for the training of all the above-mentioned athletes would be around Rs 94 lakh which would be cleared under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' (MYAS) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

Digboi (Assam) | Agencies

Chandigarh's Yuvraj Singh Sandhu came from behind to record a sensational eight-under 64 to retain his title with a two-shot triumph at the Rs. 75 lakh SERVO Masters 2022 played at the Digboi Golf Links.

Sandhu (63-70-74-64) now has eight professional titles to his name including six on the PGTI's main tour. Sandhu's winning cheque worth Rs. 11, 25,000 took his earnings for the season to Rs. 62,39,768 thus extending his lead in the PGTI Order of Merit to over Rs. 11 lakh over second-placed Manu Gandas, who has four titles to his credit this season.

Yuvraj Singh Sandhu, who was the leader for the first two rounds before slipping to tied fourth and three shots off the lead after round three, came out firing on all cylinders with a flawless 64 on Saturday that featured four birdies each on the front nine and back-nine.

Sandhu's ball-striking, the best aspect of his game through the week, stood out for him once again in round four as he found the edges of a couple of par-4 greens with his tee shots and a couple of par-5 greens with his approach shots to set up chip-putt birdies there. Sandhu also sank a 15-footer on the



13th and was two-on on the par-5 15th making birdies on both occasions.

Sandhu said, "I generally don't start an event well but with my round of 63 here I told myself, if I can do it on day one, I can certainly do it on day four. The thought that inspired me at the start of the round today was that I began my golf in Assam so I have a special connection with this place and therefore I have to do well here."

"I thank my family and my entire team consisting of my coach, trainer and physio who have always believed in me. My father sent me a long text in the morning today which also encouraged me and egged me on to play well."

# Amateur Avani wins 15th leg of WPG Tour

Chandigarh | Agencies

Amateur Avani Prashanth underlined her superiority with a third straight under-par score at 2-under 70 to complete a huge 13-shot win over the field in the 15th and final leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Chandigarh Golf Club, here on Friday.

Avani, who has not played very much on the WPG Tour this season as she was busy playing around the world, shot 68-66-70 for a total of 12-under 204. So dominant was Avani that she had three of the five-under-par scores registered this week -- the others came from the second-placed Gaurika Bishnoi, who shot 70 on the second day and Seher Atwal who shot the best round of the final day with a 69 while finishing in a tie for fifth.

Avani had a sedate front nine after opening with a bogey. She then had nine pars in a row



with many of the putts not dropping in. She finally found the birdies with back-to-back efforts on Par-3 11th and Par-4 12th. A bogey on Par-5 13th was a disappointment, but she quickly made up with birdies on the 15th and the 17th for 70. India's highest-ranked amateur, Avani's win at Chandigarh follows her twin success on the Hero WPG Tour in 2021 when she won the third and 11th legs of the Hero WPGT.

# INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM LEAVES FOR AUSTRALIA TOUR

Bengaluru | Agencies

The Indian men's hockey team on Saturday left for Adelaide, Australia from the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru for a five-match series against the World No.1 side starting November 26, 2022.

The team led by Harmanpreet Singh and vice-captained by Amit Rohidas will look at these matches as a litmus test ahead of the marquee FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela in January.

"I think this is a great opportunity for us to test ourselves and the level we are at, ahead of the World Cup. Australia is one of the top contenders for the title, and playing against them will help us in the lead-up to the tournament," expressed Harmanpreet Singh ahead of the team's departure.



Harmanpreet further added that the team is excited to be back in Australia after a long time, and expressed gratitude towards Hockey Australia for hosting these matches.

"I think we haven't gone back to Australia after the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. As a team, we are excited and happy to play in Australia, which offers unique playing conditions. We are hopeful the Indian hockey supporters in Adelaide will come and watch these matches and we are grateful to Hockey Australia for organising these matches."

India will play back-to-back matches on November 26 and 27, followed by their third match on November 30. After a two-day break, the two teams will face off again on December 3 and 4. All matches will be played at the Mate Stadium in Adelaide.



## I am on cloud nine: Samantha

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Overwhelmed by the success of her latest release 'Yashoda', actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu penned a thank you note and said that she is on cloud nine over the love pouring in for her film.

Samantha took to twitter to thank that audience for the support.

She wrote: "Dear audience, your appreciation, and love for Yashoda is the greatest gift and support that I could have ever asked for. I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. Hearing your whistles and seeing the celebrations at the theatres are proof that all the hard work that the entire team of Yashoda put in was all worth it!"

"I am on cloud nine. And I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone, who were involved with the making of Yashoda. I would like to especially thank the producer, Krishna Prasad gaaru, for trusting me with this project."

The actress also expressed her gratitude to the film's director and co-stars.

She wrote: "And I am also grateful to the directors, Hari and Harish, with whom it has been an absolute pleasure to work. To my dearest co-actors Varalaxmi Sarathkumar gaaru, Unni Mukundan gaaru, and to rest of the amazing cast, it was wonderful collaborating and working with you as well. Humbled and ever grateful. With love, Samantha."



## I was ready to even play a horse in the film: Karthi

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indian actor Karthik Sivakumar, professionally known as Karthi, is a name that needs no introduction. The actor, who was most recently seen in the Mani Ratnam magnum opus 'Ponniyin Selvan: Part 1', considers the director his mentor and was ready to take up any role in the film - even of a horse - because he didn't want to miss his chance of working with the director.

Sharing his thoughts on 'Ponniyin Selvan: Part 1' and how he was cast, he said: "Ponniyin Selvan", the name itself has a huge identity for the Tamil Diaspora. People have owned this novel and resonated with its characters. The particular book has been relevant for a long time, is still having massive fandom and is a best seller with exhibitions every year."

Continuing further, he said: "Great filmmakers have aspired to make it into a movie and it has been elusive. Finally, Mani Ratnam completed the task. I received a phone call saying that Mani sir would like to meet me and that he wants me to play a part in this movie. I walked into his office which is when he offered me the role of Vandiyathevan. Who would say no to that? I was ready to even play a horse in the film if Mani Sir wanted me to do it. He is my guru."

The actor said: "Kaithi' is definitely one of the important films in my career. It came to me as a small idea but the moment I listened to it, I knew it was a big action film. We did a lot of research to design Dilli, the main protagonist. Since he became the saviour of the cops, I think his look had to be as simple and as unassuming as possible."

He further mentioned: "Through our research we knew that prisoners do not want to get noticed, so they never look the person in the eyes and speak. The sky is their only connection with nature because they're born between walls."



## VARUN, ABHISHEK BANERJEE USED TO MIMIC AKSHAY KUMAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan and his 'Bhediya' co-actor Abhishek Banerjee recalled how they used to mimic Akshay Kumar during the shoot of their film and try to follow his comic timing for perfection in their performance. Varun shared: "I remember, during the first schedule of Bhediya, we were shooting in Mira Road and it was my first scene with Abhishek. And, Kriti would come from Bachchan Paandey's shoot, and seeing her, we would start acting in Akshay Kumar Ji's style in every scene. Kriti would actually start and later on, we would jump into it."

Abhishek added: "Akshay sir's comedy timing is the best. Whenever we are confused about the approach to a scene, we would start talking or acting like him. When his energy gets into you, your performance gets better automatically."

Varun also went on to praise the host of the show, Kapil Sharma for his contribution to comedy and for making the genre popular among the audience. "There was a stigma around comedy as a genre but Kapil has broken that stigma. In our country, people assume that the ones who are dumb do comedy whereas, in reality, people who do comedy are intelligent and witty-est of all," said Varun.



## Actress Bhavvana Rao made her foray in Hindi OTT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Bhavvana Rao, who is known for her work in Tamil and Kannada cinema, has made her foray in Hindi OTT sphere with the recently released series 'Dharavi Bank'.

The series has been quite an anticipated watch given that it also stars Bollywood actors Suniel Shetty and Vivek Oberoi.

Talking about the series, the actress said: "'Dharavi Bank' is my Hindi OTT debut and I can't be more blessed to have this show as my break to the world of OTT."

"It was during the lockdown that director Kunal Shah sent me the script to audition and send it back to him. He walked me through the character and its details. Everything fell into place for me once the test went over. I have to say how my director Samit Kakkad's energy is infectious."

She said: "It took me a few days to learn all about a different culture and a whole different set of people. Within a week, Mumbai started feeling like a second home. There's something about the city that makes you a part of itself seamlessly."

The real kick for Rao was the show itself that turned out to be a truly gratifying experience. "It is a huge honour for me to shoot with Suniel Shetty (Sir). My very first shot was with him. After the first scene, he even complimented me for my work. It was a perfect start."

"We bonded over Mangalore culture. Suniel sir is such an inspiration to work with. He is so handsome and fit that one realises how important it is to push ourselves to be our healthiest and maintaining a disciplined life."

"But it is pretty incredible that I am in the same show as him. I loved him in 'Company' and 'Saathiya', which remain two of my all time favourite films till date. I have to credit Zee and MX Player for their continued support that allowed us the freer playing field to bloom".



## Asha Bhosle to gift one of her awards to best singing talent

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle needs no introduction. She has set milestones in her singing career with her voice and style. Despite her initial struggle to establish herself in the industry, she became the favourite voice of many music directors including O.P. Nayyar.

As the singer appears on the singing reality show, she decides to give one of her awards and ornaments to the best performer.

Asha said: "Today, I have come here to witness the one-take performances of these kids, to see their real talent as we used to sing in our days without dubbing. I have received various

awards to perform in one go, and I have brought one of the awards today that I received countless years ago, to give to the child whose performance will impress me the most."

She said how she has brought her personal ornaments to give it as a token of love and her blessing.

"Along with it, I have also brought some of my personal ornaments for the contestants to give to them as my blessings and love for them. All of these kids' performances are too mesmerising and it is going to be really difficult for me to choose one of these contestants to give this award to," added Asha.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Hina Khan

## Shalin Bhanot says Tina Datta used him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the upcoming episode of Bigg Boss season 16, Shalin Bhanot and Tina Datta will be seen getting in a fight after the incident with housemates MC Stan and Shiv Thakare. Tina and Shalin will be seen talking in the bathroom area. Shalin is seen telling Soundarya that he changed himself for Tina. He said: "Jo main hun bhi nahi woh utna badal gaya. Jo main tha na main marr gaya." Shalin then tell Tina that he used him for the game. To which, Tina questioned: "How did I use you? When did I use you?"

