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TWO-FINGER TEST ON RAPE SURVIVORS PATRIARCHAL & RE-TRAUMATISES THE WOMEN

'Affront to dignity, patriarchal, sexist'

Justice Chandrachud, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said the probative value of a woman's testimony does not depend upon her sexual history. "It is patriarchal and sexist to suggest that a woman cannot be believed when she states that she was raped, merely for the reason that she is sexually active," he said.

"This so-called test has no scientific basis and neither proves nor disproves allegations of rape. It instead re-victimises and re-traumatises women who may have been sexually assaulted, and is an affront to their dignity. The 'two-finger test' or pre-vaginum test must not be conducted."

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud



ELECTORAL ROLL WITH AADHAAR LINKING WILL BE EXAMINED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a petition against the Central government's decision to enable linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, representing the petitioner, contended that the right to vote cannot be denied on the ground of not having an Aadhaar card.

The bench said the so-called test has no scientific basis and it re-victimises and re-traumatises the women. "The test is based on an incorrect assumption that a sexually active woman cannot be raped. Nothing can be further from the truth," the bench added.

The bench queried Divan that his argument seems that for one who does not have Aadhaar, voting should not be denied to that person, or even on having Aadhaar, it should not be compulsory. At this, counsel replied that the right to vote is one of the most sacred rights. It scheduled the matter for further hearing in mid of December.

The bench added that it is regrettable that "two finger test" -- the invasive procedure adopted to determine sexual history -- continues to be conducted even today. The top court directed the central government to ensure the test was not conducted on rape survivors and the copy of its

HEARING ON PETITIONS CHALLENGING CAA ON DECEMBER 6

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday scheduled, for December 6, the hearing on over 200 petitions challenging the validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. The bench granted time to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to file response on behalf of Tripura and Assam in the matter. It also nominated two advocates Pallavi Pratap, representing one of the petitioners, and Kanu Agrawal, representing the Centre, to make a common compilation of documents to facilitate smooth hearing in the matters arising out of more than 230 petitions. A battery of senior advocates appeared on behalf of the petitioners. The top court said all counsel should share written submissions not exceeding three pages. "Nodal counsel can designate one or two other matters as lead matters," it added.

order should be sent to the police heads of all the states. The apex court's judgment came on an appeal challenging the Telangana High Court judgment, which overturned the conviction by a trial court in a rape case, and it restored the conviction in the matter.

Morbi bridge tragedy: Nine arrested so far

A total of nine persons have been arrested so far in connection with cable bridge collapse in Gujarat's Morbi on Sunday evening, in which 141 persons have lost their lives, including 56 children, and 76 adults, police said on Monday.

A day after the Morbi bridge collapse, the West Bengal Public Works Department (PWD) on Monday sought a detailed report on the condition of all the cable bridges in the state. These cable bridges are mainly scattered in the jungles of the Terai and Dooars regions and the hills of Darjeeling in North Bengal. Following bridge mishap in Morbi, Odisha government woke up and closed down suspension bridge over Mahanadi river in Dhabaleswar in Cuttack district for one day (Tuesday) to carry out repair works.



Massive rescue and search operation was carried out in Macchu river where suspension bridge collapsed on Sunday causing several lives.

Devang, Alpesh Gohil, Dilip Gohil, and Mukesh Chauhan.

Police will produce them before the court and seek their remand, the IG said. On Sunday night, a criminal complaint was registered with the Morbi B-Division police station against the repair, renovation, maintenance and management agency, its managers, and others. Police had, however, not mentioned the company name in the complaint. Ajanta Manufacturing Company has signed a lease for renovation, maintenance, and management of the cable bridge for 35 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Morbi cable bridge collapse site and also meet the victims on Tuesday afternoon. His all other public functions for Tuesday are cancelled, the media was informed. Congress spokesman Pawan Khera has alleged that Ajanta has little experience in construction and renovation of such specialised bridges, and on the contrary, the company is into quartz watches, and CFL and LED bulbs manufacturing. Khera has demanded that Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel should take moral responsibility for the tragic incident and resign.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that anybody who conducts the two-finger test on rape survivors would be guilty of misconduct, and declared the invasive procedure as 'patriarchal and unscientific', which also re-victimises and re-traumatises the women. A bench comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said it was patriarchal to suggest that a woman cannot be believed when she states that she was raped merely because she was sexually active. It emphasized that the use of two finger test in cases alleging rape and sexual assault has been criticised time and again.

RBI'S BOARD REVIEWS ECONOMIC SCENARIO

New Delhi: Even as the RBI's monetary policy committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet on November 3 to discuss its report to the government as inflation continues to remain beyond its comfort zone, the central bank's board on Monday reviewed the current economic scenario. With retail inflation remaining above its 2 per cent to 6 per cent tolerance limit for the past nine months, the RBI's MPC will meet on November 3 to deliberate upon the issue.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The rupee on Monday touched a high of 83.01 against the US dollar ahead of the key Federal Reserve Bank meeting this

Rupee touches 83.01 against dollar



week. The rupee opened at 82.57 but touched a high of 83.01 during intraday trade. It eventually closed at 82.74. There are expectations of another rate hike by the US Federal Reserve when it meets

on Wednesday (November 2). Traders are also awaiting the manufacturing PMI and trade deficit data, which is expected to be released on Tuesday as it may significantly impact the rupee movement.

Compulsory car seat-belts for all regime from Nov 1, but Mumbai not 'fully ready'

From November 1, the Mumbai Traffic Police will implement the rule making it compulsory for all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles to wear seat-belts, officials said, even as a top automobile expert feels the city is still "not fully prepared" for it.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Traffic Police had given time to all vehicle owners who do not have seat-belt facility for all to install them by the deadline of October 31.

The order was issued on October 14 following the amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act's Section 194(b)(1), which has mandated that any person driving without a seat belt or carries passengers not wearing the same shall be liable for punishment.

From Tuesday, all motor vehicle drivers and commuters in such vehicles on Mumbai roads must compulsorily wear the seatbelts or



face punitive action under the laws. Western India Automobile

Association (WIAA) Chairman Emeritus and ex-Member of Parliament, Y.P. Trivedi lauded the move as "very positive from the safety aspect" but feels enough time was not given to the vehicle-owners to implement it. He suggested that the police and transport authorities should adopt a lenient attitude with the offenders at least till December 31, and thereafter clamp down as per laws on the violators as many of the old vehicles still don't have seat-belts in the rear seats. Last month, Union Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari had declared that henceforth wearing seat-belts would be mandatory for all passengers in a car failing which penalty would be imposed.

'US MARKET IMPACT FOR SENSEX TO CROSS 60K'

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex on Monday closed at 60,746.59 points, up by 786.74 points, mainly due to the US factors, said a senior official of Geojit Financial Services. According to Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, the US market rally, in turn, has been triggered by the strong US Q3 gross domestic product (GDP) data which surprised on the upside with a 2.6 per cent growth. The market, which had discounted an immediate recession, is now discounting a possibility of a soft landing for the US economy, that is, the Fed might succeed in taming inflation without pushing the economy into recession, Vijayakumar said. He said in India, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) turning buyers is another positive for markets.

According to the data, There were 121 cases of foeticide registered last year with the largest number of cases reported in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat (23 each) followed by Chhattisgarh (21) and Rajasthan (13). There were 359 cases of abetment to suicide of children also reported. The data revealed that 49,535 children were abducted last year from across the country. Maharashtra (9,415) topped the list followed by Madhya Pradesh (8,224), Odisha (5,135) and West Bengal (4,026). There were 982 cases registered under the Child Labour Act last year with the highest number of cases reported in states like Telangana (305) followed by Assam. It also stated that 1,062 cases were registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act last year with the top three states being Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Assam.

Every third crime against children relates to sexual offences: NCRB

The NCRB data revealed a disturbing picture as 140 children were raped and murdered in 2021, while another 1,402 were also murdered. The maximum number of incidents of crime against children were reported in Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest states in India.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The spurt in incidents of crime against children across India has raised serious concern with 53,874 cases registered in 2021 alone under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act, according to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). According to the NCRB, overall a total of 1,49,404 cases relating to crime against children were registered in 2021 against 1,28,531 cases in 2020, a rise of 16.2 per cent. If statistics of the NCRB are an indication, every third crime against a child was



registered under the POCSO Act. In 2021, a total of 33,348 incidents were registered under Sections 4 and 6 (punishment for

penetrative sexual assault and aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of the POCSO Act and in these cases 33,036 were girls while 312 were boys. However, cases of kidnapping of children were more with 67,245 registered, posing a challenge for the police forces across the country. Delhi topped the list among the Union Territories with 7,783 crimes against children registered in 2021, while Nagaland registered the lowest number of crimes against children. The total crimes against children rate went up from 28.9 per cent in 2020 to 33.6 per cent in 2021.

WOMAN FOUND LYING UNCONSCIOUS ON BHOPAL ROAD, ALLEGES ATTEMPTED RAPE



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 18-year-old woman was found lying unconscious on the roadside in a posh area of the Madhya Pradesh capital on Monday, and claimed an attempt by two men to rape her, police said. Admitted to the AIIMS for treatment, the woman, in her statement to police later, claimed she became unconscious during a fight with two unidentified men, who overpowered her when she was on her way home, and sought to molest her, but she resisted their attempts. The incident was reported in Katara Hills area. "The woman said she was on her way to home, two men molested her and attempted to rape her. But, she fought against them, during which she lost consciousness. She was admitted at AIIMS and has recovered now. On the basis of her statement, a case has been registered and search for the preparators has been initiated," a policeman at the Katara Hill Police station said.



PM MODI SLAMS CONGRESS FOR 'INSULTING' SARDAR PATEL

Tharad (Gujarat) | Agencies

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday mocked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' without naming it, and said that the party has ignored Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary.

Citing Congress' advertisements in local newspapers in Gujarat on Monday, Modi said after laying the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 8,000 crore here, "Though today is Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, none of Congress' ads carries his photo or his name. Sardar Patel was such a tall Congress leader and a minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet. You can't unite over Sardar Patel, and now you are out to connect India. Why is the Congress insulting Sardar Patel? Gujarat will never toler-



ate this insult."

The Prime Minister added, "Life in Gujarat is full of struggle. Every decade we have faced droughts, the devastating earthquake had also tested us, but we, the courageous Gujaratis, could never be defeated by tough times. We have always confronted adverse situations with whatever resources we had at our disposal. Banaskantha district is an example of this."

Recollecting his old days in

north Gujarat, Modi said, "Don't you remember there were very few surface water sources here? North Gujarat was dependent on underground fluoride water, which had side-effects on our health. But since you gave me an opportunity to serve you, we worked on water harvesting by constructing check dams on rivers and deepening the traditional lakes, which helped the region meet its water needs."

HAD PATEL BEEN PM, INDIA WOULD BE FREE FROM MOST OF ITS PROBLEMS: AMIT SHAH

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended a programme organised at Sardar Patel School in Delhi on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Addressing the students, he said that there is a general opinion in the country that had Sardar Patel been India's first Prime Minister, India would not have faced most of the problems it is facing today.

In view of the Morbi tragedy in Gujarat, the programme was cut short and it began after observing a minute's silence. Shah told children that Sardar Patel got maximum votes in the Congress Working Committee. He could have become the Prime Minister but he chose otherwise.

Shah added that Patel was the force behind India's cooperative movement in the form of AMUL. The map of India would not be like it is today without Sardar Patel's efforts. It would be incomplete. If Jammu & Kashmir is the country's crown, that is also because of him. The Home Minister also mentioned that India is the fifth largest economy in the world, surpassing Britain. "The country has left behind the ones who ruled it for 150 years."

"Sardar Patel has also given us mature democracy. It was he who gave the task of drafting the Constitution to Ambedkar and also intervened to balance it," Shah added.

Don't want to politicise Gujarat bridge tragedy: Rahul Gandhi

Hyderabad | Agencies

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday declined to blame anybody for bridge collapse tragedy in Gujarat, saying he doesn't want to politicise it.

"I don't want to politicise this incident. People have died and it is disrespectful to them to politicise it," he said in reply to a question at a press conference in Rangareddy district near Hyderabad during Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress MP was asked who he would blame for the bridge collapse at Morbi which claimed more than 130 lives.

Replying to queries about Gujarat elections, he exuded confidence that the Congress will emerge victorious. He also claimed that there is strong anti-incumbency in Gujarat.

"Congress is fighting effectively. It will win. There is strong anti-incumbency," he said.

He did not agree that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has any presence on the ground.

"AAP is only in air. It's not there on ground," he said adding that a false impression is being created about AAP's strength.

The Congress leader said Party president Mallikarjun Kharge will decide his role in the elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. "Kharge Ji will decide how I am going to be utilised," he said.

On Gujarat not being covered by his Yatra, he said the route was decided from



Kanyakumari to Kashmir and it's not possible to cover every state. "We are covering as many states as possible we can."

Gandhi alleged that lot of damage has been done to institutional framework of the country under the BJP rule. "There has been systematic attack on different institutions. You know how press is controlled, pressurised, and threatened. It's not just media. Judiciary, bureaucracy and all others are under attack. This is extremely damaging to the country," he said. "When Congress comes back to power, we are going to make sure that these institutions are freed from the grasp of RSS and certain independence is maintained in these institutions. That is our record and that is what we will do very aggressively," he added. Replying to another query, he said those who damaged the institutions would have to pay a price.

TN police to provide conditional permission for RSS march on Nov 6

Chennai | Agencies

Tamil Nadu police will provide conditional permission for the proposed route march of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) across the state on November 6.

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police, C. Sylendrababu, in a communique to all the district superintendents/commissioners of police said that the permission is being granted taking into account the safety of the public, participants in the march, traffic scenario, and the prevailing law and order situation in the areas to be covered by the march.

Tamil Nadu police had earlier filed a petition in the Madras High Court seeking to review the permission it had granted to conduct the march on September 22. The petition was based on the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raids and arrests of leaders of Popular Front of India (PFI) and the subsequent ban on the organisation.

The police had said that the situation was not conducive for conducting a march and the subsequent public programme, given the communally sensitive nature in many parts of the state.



The high court had accepted the police report which presented seven intelligence reports that indicated possible communal tension in the wake of raids at PFI centres. The court then directed the police to grant permission for the route march on November 6.

Warring Eknath Shinde-Fadnavis supporters kiss and make peace

Team Absolute | Mumbai

After an ugly war of words between their independent supporters, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis intervened and finally hammered out a reconciliation here on Monday.

The spat between independent legislators Bachhu Kadu, who is founder of the Prahar Janshakti Party and Ravi Rana of the Yuva Swabhiman Party - both hailing from Amravati - came to a point where the former threatened to withdraw support to the Shinde regime if the latter did not withdraw certain allegations, prompting the Shinde-Fadnavis duo to mediate.

Rana had publicly accused Kadu of allegedly taking '50 Khokhas' (slang for Rs 50 crore) to switch allegiance with the rebel Shinde group in June after he engineered a split in the erstwhile Shiv Sena and toppled the



Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

Kadu challenged Rana to prove his allegations by November 1 and even served an ultimatum to Shinde-Fadnavis to clarify if the contentions were true or there could be dire consequences for the government.

While Shinde said that since both

hail from the same district, there were local issues which would be sorted out, even as Kadu and Rana called on the CM and Deputy CM independently in Mumbai.

After the meeting, Rana emerged and said: "I withdraw my statement. Even Kadu should do the same."

Though saying he was satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations, Kadu said he would take a decision in the matter only after consulting his supporters on Tuesday.

Shinde said that all the rebel and other independent MLAs had joined him out of conviction, while Fadnavis, endorsing the same, said that Kadu had gone to Guwahati after he called him up just once.

For the present, the matter has apparently subsided and political sources hint that Kadu may also come around to accepting the understanding with Rana by Tuesday.

Incidentally, Kadu was a Minister in the MVA government led by Uddhav Thackeray and was among the earliest to join the rebel group, while Rana and his wife, MP Navneer Kaur-Rana shot into the limelight in April 2022 for the Hanuman Chalisa row outside Thackeray's private residence.

Heavy rain in Chennai, adjoining districts till Wednesday: IMD

Chennai | Agencies

The Regional Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of heavy rain in Chennai and the adjoining districts of Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalapatu till Wednesday.

After the northeast monsoon hit Tamil Nadu on October 29, several areas of the state has been witnessing rain followed by thunderstorms.

A yellow alert has been issued for Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur, where heavy to very heavy rain are predicted for the next two days.

The heavy downpour is due to the likely movement of a trough in easterlies across Tamil Nadu.



The weather department has also warned of heavy to very heavy rain in Villupuram, Tirupattur, Kallakurichi, Pudukottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur and Myladuthurai districts. In many places of

Chennai, Erode, Salem, and Kancheepuram, the stormwater drain work is yet to be completed.

Heavy water logging had resulted in inundation of homes in Chennai and Kancheepuram.

Myanmar-bound war-like stores, explosives seized in Mizoram; 4 held

Aizawl | Agencies

In the second significant operation in less than a week, Assam Rifles has seized a large cache of Myanmar-bound tactical and war-like stores, including explosive materials, from Mizorams Siaha district and apprehended four persons in connection with the case, officials said on Monday.

Defence spokesman Lt. Col. Mahendra Rawat said that acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Assam Rifles and Mizoram Police launched the operation at Tuipang village in Siaha district on Sunday night and seized Myanmar-bound arms, ammunition and explosives.

"The team had specific information about the movement of tactical and war-like stores for insurgents based in



Myanmar. The security personnel intercepted and searched one Kenbo bike (Chinese made) and one Yodha pickup vehicle and recovered arms and ammunition from them," he said. Rawat said that the stores

recovered were of military grade and hence the same being used for anti-national activities by insurgents based in Myanmar cannot be ruled out.

The seized items include one shotgun, 2,483 rounds

ammunition, 169 Gelatin sticks, 1,500 Cal 4.5 mm and 0.177 mm pellets. Four detained smugglers and the seized items have been handed over to the Siaha police station for further investigation and legal proceedings.

HIMACHAL POLLS: ILLICIT LIQUOR, CASH AND JEWELLERY WORTH RS 18 CRORE SEIZED

Shimla: Illicit liquor, cash and jewellery worth Rs 18 crore have been seized by the police, and the Excise and Mining departments since the model conduct came into force for the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh, an official said on Monday.

In the past 24 hours, cash amounting to Rs 31,80,800 and 2,109 litres of illicit liquor, worth Rs 6,16,832, was seized, a spokesperson for the Election Department said. Besides, the police seized charas and heroin of Rs 9,29,950.

The spokesman said that during the inspection by the Income Tax Department, Rs 16,00,000 cash and gold valued at Rs 1,56,345 was also seized. The Excise Department also seized 2,046.175 litres of illicit liquor, worth Rs 12,05,605.

A total of 148 cases of illegal mining with a fine of Rs 5,80,600 were imposed by the Mining Department since the model code of conduct came into force.

SONIA, KHARGE PAY TRIBUTES TO INDIRA GANDHI ON HER DEATH ANNIVERSARY



New Delhi: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress Parliamentary party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Monday offered their homage to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary. Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her bodyguards on this day in 1984 at her residence in Safdarjung Road.

Later, Kharge and Sonia Gandhi paid tributes at the Indira Gandhi memorial also. Indira Gandhi was prime Minister of the country from 1966 to 1977 and then from 1980 till her death in 1984.

Telangana weavers send thousands of postcards to PM

Hyderabad | Agencies

In a novel protest, thousands of handloom weavers from Telangana on Monday sent postcards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding rollback of Goods and Service Tax (GST) on handlooms.

Thousands of postcards were deposited at the General Post Office (GPO). Weavers and handloom supporters gathered at Nizam College Grounds and marched to GPO in a rally.

The participants were carrying pictures of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and state Handlooms and Textiles Minister K. T. Rama Rao as well as placards with the demand to roll back the GST. The weavers demanded the Centre to immediately roll back five percent GST on handlooms products and its raw materials.

The weavers wrote the post cards responding to the call given by Rama Rao who launched the cam-



paign on October 22 demanding GST rollback. The campaign received massive response from weavers spread across the state.

Addressing people gathered at the college grounds, Ramana demanded that the GST should be rolled back. He has also demanded the union government to restore the schemes for weavers which were

scrapped, including ICICI Lombard Health Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana.

Ramana said that Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao took several measures to protect the handlooms sector. Some of them are Nethanna Ku Bima, Chenetha Mitra, Nethannaku Cheyutha and loan waiver to weavers.

7 KILLED IN TWO ROAD ACCIDENTS IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad: Seven people were killed and 10 injured in two separate road accidents in Telangana on Monday, police said.

Four people, including a woman, died when the car in which they were travelling rammied into a container truck in Adilabad district in the early hours of the day.

The accident occurred on National Highway 44 near Sitagondi in Gudihathnoor mandal. The car with five persons was on its way from Hyderabad to Adilabad town. The deceased include three members of the same family and driver.

They were identified as Syed Rafatullah Hashmi, Wajhat Hashmi, Sabiha and driver Shamshu. Another young woman, who was injured, was shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad. The car was badly mangled in the collision and the police had to use a crane to separate it from the container truck and retrieve the bodies.

In the second accident, three persons were killed and nine injured in Medchal Malkajgiri district near Hyderabad. The accident occurred when a tempo in which they were travelling collided with a truck near Kandlakoya.

The injured were shifted to Yashoda hospital Secunderabad where the condition of two of them is stated to be critical. The victims were returning after darshan at Srisailem temple in neighboring Andhra Pradesh.

CHANGE OF NAME

The general public is informed that in the past my name was AL SANA. Which has changed to ALSANA KHAN. So now I should be known and recognised by my new name ALSANA KHAN D/o ABDUL HAFIZ. Address : 105, Nandanvan colony, Khatiwala tank, Manik bag road, Indore (M.P.) - 452014

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MUMBAI PRE-POLLS STING

SHINDE-FADNAVIS ORDER CAG PROBE INTO BMC AFFAIRS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a significant move ahead of the upcoming BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections, the Maharashtra government on Monday ordered the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) to inquire the civic body's affairs and certain decisions taken in the past couple of years, here on Monday.

The probe would cover the measures taken during the two pandemic years -- 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 -- and into the allegations of corruption and irregularities in awarding various contracts without tenders.

These included setting up several Covid Care facilities in the city and procurement for the Jumbo field hospitals erected during the pandemic years, according to an official statement from the CMO on Monday.

The probe comes in the wake of a clamour by several Bharatiya Janata



Party leaders alleging scams in the construction of and purchases for these Covid facilities and the Jumbo hospitals. Besides this, the BMC's land purchase deal in Dahisar-Eksar from Alpesh Ajmera of Nishalp Realities worth Rs 349 crore, which was reportedly bought by the builder

from the owner family for just Rs 2.55 crore.

Several top BMC officials, including Commissioners had raised objections to the land deal after which the builder moved the courts and demanded Rs 900-crore, and the state government feels it is one of the

biggest BMC scams that needs a thorough investigation. "The investigation is not ordered out of vendetta... It's to get at the truth. Let the probe be completed and the real picture will emerge," Shinde told the mediapersons later.

Lauding the move, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena Spokesperson Sandip Deshpande alleged that "the corruption in BMC had exceeded the lootings carried out by the banditry of K. M. Veerappan" -- the jungle criminal of south India who was shot dead in a police encounter in October 2004.

The state Congress President Nana Patole flayed the government's decision saying those who are facing 'Khokha' (slang for crore rupees) are now accusing the Opposition of corruption.

Luxurious facilities at renovated terminal for private jets at Mumbai airport

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Starting from Tuesday, the Mumbai International Airport is set to launch the all-new, renovated General Aviation terminal facility, exclusively for private jets.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) introduced its all-new, revamped General Aviation (GA) terminal offering luxury and convenience at its best to its travellers. The GA terminal is set to welcome the passengers with luxurious interiors accentuated with height, light and space. The guests will be warmly welcomed at the resplendent reception area by attentive and friendly staff on call 24 X 7. The terminal offers expansive lounges with butler service all complemented with a curated menu of super-food lite bites, a stylish bar to global cuisine served via a buffet and as per an a la carte menu.

The guests can reserve the meeting and conference room facilities with state-of-the-art audio and video aids



in advance. From essential business requests to indulging when on leisure travel, CSMIA's GA terminal, spread over 753.26 sq. mt, redefines luxury.

The terminal has been built with an aim to support the movement and processing of passengers flying through chartered flights from the airport. The all-new GA terminal at Mumbai Airport is a modern and stellar space that prioritizes the safety, security and well-being of passengers at all times. The terminal offers an efficient processing area with Customs and Immigration and immediate access to private jet aircraft stands from the Terminal. Besides, having access control system, Wi-Fi enabled services, IT system

integrated systems, passengers are efficiently processed through all interaction points such as enabling the boarding pass, dedicated porter service, check in and hand baggage processing, with minimum waiting period. In addition, the terminal is fully accessible to our passengers with special needs and passengers with reduced mobility. The Terminal can handle over 50 passengers every hour, thus ensuring that passengers board their flights on time, every time. With the GA Terminal and the newly developed General Aviation Aircraft Parking stands being co-located, passengers will find it more convenient to travel to and from the aircraft for boarding or de-boarding in no time.

Confer Bharat Ratna on Mulayam Singh Yadav: Maha Congress leader

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A senior Congress leader of Maharashtra on Monday demanded that the Centre should confer the country's highest civilian honor, Bharat Ratna on former Defence Minister and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, the late Mulayam Singh Yadav.

State Congress Working President M. Arif Naseem Khan has written a letter to the President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging them to confer the honour on Mulayam Singh, who passed away on October 10, aged 83.

Khan said that though born in a backward family in a small village Safai of Uttar



Pradesh, Yadav remained at the centre of national politics for over six decades, working for all sections of society in his long public life.

"He was elected MLA for 8 times, as MP for 7 times, UP CM thrice and also served as the country's Defence Minister once. His entire life was marked with struggle for

justice to the poor, down-trodden, minorities of society and upholding the secular traditions of the Indian Constitution," said Khan.

He said that Yadav's demise earlier this month sent a wave of grief among people all over the country, especially the socialists and secularists, and the government should recognise his contributions by conferring him the Bharat Ratna posthumously.

The founder-President of the Samajwadi Party, Yadav was groomed by stalwarts like Ram Manohar Lohia, Jaiprakash Narain and others, was elected the UP CM in 1989, 1993 and then in 2003, besides serving as Defence Minister in 1996.

"Fake Narrative" that projects going out of Maharashtra: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said that he was grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the PM had approved the electronic manufacturing cluster in the state.

Fadnavis during a press conference in the city had said that a "fake narrative" was being set that big projects were going out of Maharashtra and this was wrong.

The deputy chief minister said, "First about Foxconn, I already mentioned that Subash Desai (former industries minister) said that Foxconn project would not come to Maharashtra." He also said that there is the first "fake narrative" that the government had come and the project had gone out of the state.

"About Tata Airbus project, they



are setting a fake narrative," The deputy chief minister also said, adding that, "When I come to know that Tata is going to Gujarat but I requested Tata come to Nagpur when we are in Opposition."

He said: "When I was the Opposition leader, Tata spokesperson of the project said it was not

suitable for business here in Maharashtra."

He added that, "Tata official said to me that they are going to Gujarat one year before."

On Safran project, the deputy chief minister said, "The project went to Hyderabad and they were doing a fake narrative about us."

The deputy chief minister said in two years, he would bring Maharashtra on No. 1 and added that investors were not coming to the state because of these fake narratives.

Fadnavis said "Some people are saying that all projects are going to Gujarat but this is not right. Projects and investments are going to other states, also."

"Maha Vikas Aghadi is responsible for this," he said, adding that, "those projects that went away from Maharashtra, we are not responsible."

UNWELL SHARAD PAWAR ADMITTED TO MUMBAI HOSPITAL

Mumbai:

Nationalist Congress Party President Sharad Pawar was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital for some health



problems here on Monday morning, a party official said. Pawar, 82, will be kept in the hospital for three days as per the medical advice, and is likely to be discharged on November 2. Later, on Thursday he will travel to Shirdi in Ahmednagar district and participate in the NCP's two-day training camp scheduled there on November 4-5.

The party has not revealed the nature of Pawar's illness, but an official said he had been experiencing weakness after his recent tour of some flood-hit regions of Pune district. All party leaders and activists have been requested not to crowd at the hospital, said the NCP.

WOMAN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE AFTER KILLING TWO CHILDREN

Mumbai: A 32-year-old woman allegedly killed her two minor children and then tried to commit suicide in Navi Mumbai township of Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Ghansoli area on Sunday and the reason behind it was yet to be ascertained, an official from Airoli police station said.

The woman's husband was out for work when she allegedly slit the throats of her four-year-old daughter and one-year-old son at their home, he said. When her husband returned at around 4 pm, he found the two children dead and his wife lying with her wrist slit, the official said.

The woman was admitted to a local hospital and the bodies were sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, he said. The family was planning to go to their native place in Uttar Pradesh in a few days, the official said.

The police have registered a case against the woman, who is still in the hospital, on the charge of murder and other relevant provisions, he said.

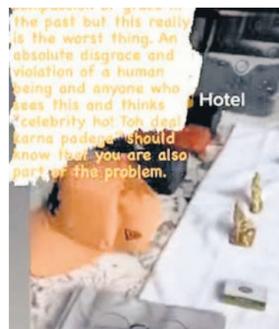
ANUSHKA SHARMA IS FUMING OVER LEAKED VIDEO OF KOHLI'S HOTEL SUITE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma is miffed over a video of her husband Virat Kohli's hotel room that got leaked by a fan and probably a staff member of the hotel that he was staying in.

Earlier in the day, Virat took cognisance of the video that was being circulated online and shared the same on his Instagram telling his fans how upset he was with such behaviour and total lack of privacy.

Anushka too took to the story section of her Instagram and shared the video. She wrote on the video: "Have experienced a few incidents where some fans have shown no compassion or grace in the past but this really is the worst thing". Calling the video "an absolute disgrace and violation of a human being", she further mentioned in her note: "Anyone who sees this and thinks celebrity ho toh deal Karna padega (If you are a celebrity then you will have to deal with this) should know that you are also part of the problem. Exercising some self control helps everyone. Also, if this is happening in your bedroom then



where is the line?" This is not the first time that Anushka has reacted strongly to the issue of breach of privacy. The actress had earlier come down heavily on paparazzo who clicked picture of the Sharma-Kohli couple, Vamika Kohli.

On the work front, the actress is prepping up for her upcoming film 'Chakda Xpress'. The biopic, directed by Prosit Roy, is based on the Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami. The film will be released on OTT platform Netflix.

Bharti Airtel posts Rs 2,978.9 crore net for Q2

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mobile communications major Bharti Airtel Ltd on Monday said it closed the second quarter of FY23 with a higher net profit of Rs 2,978.9 crore.

According to Bharti Airtel, the company had posted a consolidated revenue of Rs 34,728.7 crore for Q2FY23 (against Rs 28,435.2 crore in Q2FY22) and a net profit of Rs 2,978.9 crore (Rs 1,998.1 crore in Q2FY22).

The company said its average revenue per user for the quarter under review stood at Rs 190 as compared to Rs 153 in Q2'22 owing to feature phone to smart-phone upgradation and data monetisation.

Bharti Airtel's postpaid customer base stood at 31.6 million and 17.8 million for 4G service.

ARPU continues to be the best in industry, average data usage per data customer at 20.3 GBs/month and voice usage per customer at 1,082 mins/month.

MD and CEO, India & South Asia, Gopal Vittal said: "We are now rolling out 5G and are confident that Airtel 5G Plus will deliver the best experience in India while being kinder to the environment."



Vittal said the low return on capital employed is a matter of concern and there is a need for tariff correction as the pricing is the lowest in the world and large investments required to drive digital adoption in India.

During the quarter under review, the

company increased its tower strength by about 8,000 towers and also became the first telecom operator in the country to roll out 5G service in eight Indian cities.

Bharti Airtel plans to cover all of urban and key rural areas of India by March 2024.

Another Leopard spotted at Aarey colony, SGNP rescue team in action

Mumbai | Agencies

Even as a second leopard, a male, walked into the cage in Unit 15 early on Sunday, SGNP rescue team and Aarey locals reported seeing another big cat lurking around the same area throughout the day. Sources said that this wild cat could be a female.

"After a leopard was trapped and taken to the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) on Sunday morning, the sighting of another leopard continued in the area in broad daylight," said a resident not willing to be named. The male leopard, second to be trapped within a week, was captured in the cage around 200-300 metres away from the spot where a girl was killed on Monday. The first



leopard was trapped around 1 km away from this spot, said sources.

G Mallikarjun, the chief conservator of forests and director of the SGNP, confirmed to mid-day, "A male leopard walked into the trap cage set at Unit 15 in Aarey Milk Colony in the wee hours of Sunday. The animal was taken to the leopard

rescue centre at the SGNP. We are investigating if it is the leopard suspected to be behind conflicts with humans. Based on the result, we will take further decisions. The camera trapping exercise will continue along with day and night patrolling."

Locals in the area told mid-day that they spotted two leopards together close to where the male big cat was trapped on Sunday.

Vasim Athaniya, a member of Aarey camera trapping team, said, "Late last night, the dogs in our area were continuously barking in the direction of the forest. While heading home, I saw a leopard walking towards the forest and within a few seconds, I saw another one following the first. They could be either siblings or a mating pair." After the male leopard

was captured around 6 am on Sunday, at least 20-30 local residents claimed to have spotted a leopard lurking in the area. Stray dogs were constantly barking in the direction of the forest all day, too, said locals, adding that this is an indication that the wild cat was present in the area.

A forest department official said, "As multiple sightings continued in broad daylight on Sunday, our team was stationed in the area to prevent people from venturing into the forest." The team also conducted patrolling in the area.

The forest department has instructed the camera trapping team members to check the traps and go out in a group of three, considering the leopard is on the prowl in broad daylight.

Notice for Tender. First Extension

Supply of Electric, Hardware, Upholster, wood Materials to Police Motor Transport Section, Mumbai

Addl. Commissioner of Police, Motor Transport, Mumbai invites proposals from reputed and experienced Primary/Original manufacture or Authorised Dealer, Authorised distributor, in the competitive Bidding process to supply of Materials.

For the detailed Tender Document, interested bidder should visit <http://www.maharashtra.gov.in> or <http://mumbaiipolice.maharashtra.gov.in>

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 03.11.2022 up to 11:00 a.m.

Sd/- (Nishikant More)

Addl. Commissioner of Police, Motor Transport, Mumbai.

ROC-2022-23 / No.5 / C 3666



EDITOR'S SPECS

INDIAN LEDS PROVIDE BETTER WIRELESS COMMUNICATION

The replacement of Chinese Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) with Indian made ones during the festive season led to a marked improvement in Very High Frequency (VHF) radio communication this year. A senior officer of the West Bengal Police noted how communications between the control room and personnel on the ground used to be a big challenge due to severe interference during Durga Puja, Kali Puja and Jagaddhatri Puja in previous years. Millions of LED chains are used to decorate Puja pandals and surrounding areas during the festive season in the state. Even government agencies use LED chains to decorate structures in public places like parks and gardens during the festival. "This used to be a big problem as our personnel involved in law-and-order duties and crowd control during the festivals remained cut-off from the control room. Their handheld radios were practically useless. This was a major threat to the security. We didn't know the reason till amateur radio operators from the West Bengal Radio Club (WBRC) carried out their own research," the officer said. Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary, WBRC, said that they detected the phenomenon while carrying out tests on their VHF sets. Such tests are carried out for sometime daily to check signal strength. It took a bit of doing to get to the bottom of the interference. According to Prof. Pashumati Mondal, a physicist associated with WBRC, Chinese LEDs have three prongs or legs and are made of inferior quality material. "Chinese LEDs use tin while Indian ones use metals like copper. All this interference has to do with photon particles that are key to emission of light by the diodes. Whenever the cheap Chinese LEDs are used, a noise is emitted that travels along the radio waves, causing interference. As a result, the receiver can't hear any voice."

Diwali and discounts fail to draw viewers

Vinod Mirani

A yet-to-be-released film comes up with a display ad offering a 25 per cent discount on admission rates. Has that ever happened before? Now, in the multiplex era, or in the single screen era? It has not. Ajay Devgn's 'Drishyam 2' opens on November 18, but the advance booking has already commenced and for those who booked opening-day tickets on October 24 and 25 were offered a discount of 25 per cent!

Does it make business sense to lure viewers to book tickets for a film due three weeks later on the day when they have two new releases in the cinemas - 'Ram Setu' and 'Thank God', both fresh Diwali offerings. If cinemas are not drawing footfalls for new films, can one expect viewers for a forthcoming film?

What is strange is that no such offer was made for another Ajay Devgn film, 'Thank God', released on October 25. It is all happening now. Cinema viewing is being marketed like most consumer products. Buy one, get one free. Weekly discounted ticket days, flat Rs 400 weekdays, and so on.

The cinemas were gradually losing their ground. The footfalls were thinning. But the admission rates remained high, unaffordable and impractical. I think there was something called cost accountancy and all manufacturing companies had these cost accountants. To qualify as one, you needed a university degree.

The cost accountant's job was to determine a product's selling price according to its merit, quality and cost of manufacturing. But when it came to our multiplexes, whatever the film, the admission rates did not adjust to other factors such as face value (which draws the audience)



or the merit of the film.

They seemed to follow the story one had heard in one's childhood about Andher Nagari. The story went thus: 'Andher nagari aur chau-pat raja; takke ser bhaji takke ser khaja'.

It seems the multiplexes were under the wrong impression that films pulled crowds and succeeded because of the attraction of their property and not the film they screened. These cinemas may be run by some marketing genius, but they could have done well to study and research the exhibition trade as it was practised in India. The cinema sustained because of films and once the multiplexes came, they were starved of films and started perishing.

There were cinemas in Mumbai such as Roxy, Opera House, Swastik and Imperial that offered no luxury and no food courts. But these cinemas had a reputation of sustaining a film for silver and golden jubilees. One needs to visit the Imperial cinema in Mumbai. It is in the same

condition now as it was when Amitabh Bachchan's first blockbuster, 'Zanjeer', released here. The film ran for 50 weeks at this cinema. A good film had that power.

There were times when filmmakers such as Manoj Kumar and Shakti Samanta and distributors like Shankar BC waited for weeks to release their film at one of these cinemas while the film running there completed its run. A film and the cinema house complemented each other's reputation. Is there any cinema anywhere, especially of the multiplex kind, which can claim to draw an audience unless the film or the star had that drawing power?

These multiplexes were compelled to screen films such as 'Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari' on the maker's terms to get footfalls. Now that these cinemas are facing tough times, various schemes are being introduced to lure viewers. They screened huge Hollywood classic hits such as 'Star Wars', 'ET: The Extra-terrestrial', and so on. Then there was an Amitabh Bachchan

retrospective, to coincide with his 80th birthday, which was a huge success. And finally came the Indian Cinema Day, when tickets were sold at the flat rate of Rs 75. That was also a success.

Through their own experiments, the cinemas have proved that if the admission rates are affordable, viewers will come to watch even a 40-year-old 'ET' and 47-year-old Bachchan film, 'Deewaar'. At the prevailing rates, they don't even venture out to see a new film.

It made sense that all the single-screen cinemas in India accommodated almost 70 per cent of its viewers in the stalls, which had varied rate slabs, and the few who came with families and could afford it in the balcony class. That was a fair division considering the buying power of film lovers. A cinema had a seat for all.

At these single-screen cinemas, one had the option of buying a pack of

wafers or samosa and wash it down with a glass of water. None of that was costlier than the rates charged outside the theatre. One also had the option to walk out and buy vada pav.

I often watch a film at the mass generating G7 Complex in Bandra, Mumbai, and can enjoy the same facilities. But you can't leave a multiplex in the interval and come back to continue watching the film!

To prove the point, cinemas had a great run when Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar and Hrithik Roshan continued to deliver hits, drawing the crowds. Now they don't.

Exhibitors lost the plot somewhere along the line. More so after the Covid-19 lockdown. OTT platforms replaced cinema entertainment. At the same time, the actors were gradually losing their following by indulging in things they should not. Social media has also been spelling doom for a lot many stars.

Otherwise, what explains that despite Diwali holidays and the popular interest in Lord Ram and Ayodhya for both reasons of faith and the debates surrounding the two topics, 'Ram Setu' could not bring in the audience and still needs to give out inflated figures? After all, Akshay Kumar is known to further the issues of national and social interest! The other release, 'Thank God', has also not made much of the Diwali festival.

I think between cinema management and filmmakers, they would do well to introduce more schemes to bring the audience back to the cinemas. In the past, films brought in the crowds. Now that they don't, so let us see if your cola and popcorn help if made affordable.

international

EX-BRAZILIAN PREZ LULA DEFEATS BOLSONARO IN RUNOFF POLLS

Brasilia | Agencies

Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva defeated sitting President Jair Bolsonaro in the second round of the presidential elections, paving the way for his third four-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

Figures released by the Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE) showed that Lula of the Workers' Party (PT) obtained more than 60 million votes, or 50.89 per cent of the ballots, cast on Sunday, surpassing Bolsonaro of the Liberal Party, who received over 58 million votes, or 49.11 per cent, reports Xinhua news agency.

This is the smallest margin in a second-round presidential election in Brazil's history. In the first round held on October 2, Lula garnered 48.3 per cent of the vote, compared to 43.2 per cent for Bolsonaro.

Lula, 77, served as the President



for two terms between 2003 and 2010.

This is a comeback for the former President who could not run in the 2018 election because he was in jail and banned from standing for office.

He had been found guilty of receiving a bribe from a Brazilian construction firm in return for contracts with Brazil's state oil company

Petrobras. Lula spent 580 days in jail before his conviction was annulled and he returned to the political fray.

In this year's presidential elections, his strength lay particularly in voters from the impoverished northeast of Brazil. He focused his campaign on social issues, making pledges including minimum wage increases, strengthening of state-owned companies, and efforts against hunger and poverty.

"The first measures of our government will be to free 33 million people from hunger and more than 100 million Brazilians from poverty," Lula had said in an open letter last week.

Proposing an economic policy featuring both state actions and private initiatives, he said, "it is possible to combine fiscal responsibility, social responsibility, and sustainable development, and that is what we are going to do, following the trends of the world's main economies".

"We will initiate the digital transition ... with an industrial policy that supports innovation, stimulates public-private cooperation, strengthens science and technology, and guarantees access to financing at adequate costs." Lula also pledged to expand trade and technological cooperation between Brazil and other countries, help enhance regional integration, and promote "fairer and more democratic relations between countries".

Meanwhile in his victory speech on Sunday, Lula said he would govern for all Brazilians and not just those who voted for him.

"This country needs peace and unity. This population doesn't want to fight anymore," he was quoted as saying. Bolsonaro however, is yet to concede. Just a day before the runoff, he had said: "There is not the slightest doubt. Whoever has more votes, takes it (the election). That's what democracy is about."

Russia launches massive missile strikes across Ukraine

Kiev | Agencies

Russia on Monday launched massive missile strikes across Ukraine, including the capital Kiev, causing power and water outages, according to officials in the war-torn country.

At least two blasts were reported in Kiev, while strikes also hit the central Vinnytsia region, as well as Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia in the southeast, and Lviv in the west, the BBC reported citing the officials as saying.

In the north-eastern city of Kharkiv, critical infrastructure facilities were hit, the local authorities said.

The strikes come after Russia blamed Ukraine for a drone attack on its Black Sea Fleet in the annexed Crimea. Ukraine's Air Force



spokesman Yuriy Ihnat told local media that Russia had used its strategic bombers to carry out the attack.

Andriy Yermak, the head of President Volodymyr Zelensky's office, said that "Russian losers are continuing to fight against peaceful objects", the BBC reported.

On Saturday, one Russian warship was damaged in the port city of Sevastopol in a drone attack, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

It also accused British specialists of having trained the Ukrainian soldiers who then carried out the strikes in Crimea, Ukraine's southern peninsula, annexed by Russia in 2014.

Moscow however, provided no evidence to back its claims.

Ukraine has not commented on the issue, while the UK Defence Ministry said Russia was "peddling false claims on an epic scale".

RECENT TRIBAL CONFLICT IN SUDAN KILLS 287 PEOPLE

Khartoum: At least 287 people have been killed and 239 others injured in the recent tribal conflict in Sudan's south-eastern Blue Nile State, a local official confirmed.

Expecting the number of victims to continue to rise, Health Minister of Blue Nile State Jamal Nasir said in a statement that a new survey began on Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency.

Forensic medicine teams would determine the causes of deaths of a number of burnt bodies to see whether they had suffered weapon attack or beatings, he noted.

On October 19 and 20, fighting broke out between the Hausa and Berta tribes in the state, reportedly because of disputes over land ownership.

On October 21, Blue Nile State Governor Ahmed El Omda Badi issued a decision to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the tribal fighting in the state. The Governor also issued a decree declaring a state of emergency in all parts of the Blue Nile region for 30 days.

4 killed in Colorado house shooting

Denver | Agencies

Four people were killed in a shooting at a house in Aurora, a city in the US state of Colorado, with the suspect still at large, local police said.

In a statement on Sunday, the Aurora Police Department (APD) said it received a report of a shooting at the house downtown at roughly 2 a.m., reports Xinhua news agency.

Officers found four adults, three men and one woman, dead from gunshot wounds when they arrived three minutes later.

The suspect was identified as Joseph Castorena, 21, supposedly the domestic partner of the woman killed in the house.

A relative of the dead woman told local MSNBC 9 news chan-



nel that it was an ambushed shooting.

The suspect hid in the house and opened fire when the victims returned from a party.

Shortly after the shooting, a reverse 911 alert was issued in a one-mile radius for all residences to shelter in place, while officers searched the neighbourhood in the dark.

The APD classified this investigation as a homicide case but warned the suspect was dangerous and may have a gun.

S.KOREA, US KICK OFF COMBINED AIR DRILLS AFTER 5 YRS

Seoul | Agencies

South Korea and the US have kicked off their first large-scale joint air drills in nearly five years, with more than 240 aircraft mobilised, including their advanced stealth jets, as the allies strive to bolster deterrence against evolving North Korean threats, according to officials here.

The Vigilant Storm exercise will run through Friday over the sky of the Korean Peninsula amid concerns that Pyongyang could may soon carry out a nuclear test.

The North may also try to show its own firepower with the firing of ballistic missiles or artillery shells in response to the allies' drills. The South is deploying some 140 planes, including F-35A stealth fighters, and F-15K and KF-16 jets, while the US is dispatching about 100 assets, including F-35B stealth fighters based in Okinawa, Japan, and EA-18 electronic warfare aircraft,



as well as KC-135 tankers and the U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft.

The allies plan to perform a total of more than 1,600 sorties during the drills, with the Korean Air and Space Operations Centre operating the forces to enhance operational capabilities.

The Australian Air Force is taking part in the practice as well, with a KC-30A multi-role tanker transport.

South Korea and the US launched such a major combined air training program in 2015 under the name of Vigilant ACE, but it had been held every year until late 2017, when the

then Moon Jae-in administration staged a proactive campaign for inter-Korean reconciliation.

This year's exercise comes after a series of provocations by Pyongyang in recent weeks, including its firing of two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea on October 28.



CM CHOUHAN WILL DISTRIBUTE THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF LADLI LAXMI 2.0 ON NOVEMBER 2

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day, the "Foundation Day Festival" is being organised throughout the state during the whole week from 1st to 7th November. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will distribute the first installment of Rs. 12 thousand 500 to about 1437 girls as incentive amount for higher education under Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0 at 3 pm on November 2 at Ravindra Bhawan. It is noteworthy that during the Ladli festival, CM Chouhan had announced an incentive of Rs. 25 thousand in two installments for higher education under Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0. In this sequence, the first installment amount of Rs. 12 thousand 500 will be distributed in this programme.

Many efforts are being made in the direction of girl empowerment in Madhya Pradesh. In the series of organ-



CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan is distributing Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day, on 2nd November, 'Ladli Laxmi Vatika' and 'Ladli Laxmi Path' will be dedicated in the entire state. CM Chouhan will dedicate 'Ladli Laxmi Vatika' in Smart City Park at 10:30 am in the state level

programme being held in Bhopal. Ladli Laxmi Vatika is being developed as a theme based garden in the state. This Vatika can also be used in the birthday celebrations of Ladli girls or other programmes related to them. The logo of Ladli Laxmi will also be installed in the Vatika with the plaque inscribed 'Ladli Laxmi Vatika'.

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will dedicate Link Road No.-2 as 'Ladli Laxmi Path' at Bharat Mata Square on 2nd November at 11:30 am. All the collectors have been instructed by the government that it should be ensured the path which is being selected as 'Ladli Laxmi Path' should not have been named after any other person in the past. Adequate number of signage should be installed on both sides of the path. On which the logo of Ladli Laxmi Path should be inscribed. Live streaming of foundation day programmes organised in the districts of the state will be done.

ACTIVITIES OF MAA AMRITANANDAMAYI MATH WILL BE EXPANDED IN THE STATE: CM

Bhopal Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that activities like opening schools for poor daughters, providing nutritious food and encouraging self-help groups by Maa Amritanandamayi Math will be expanded to make women self-dependent. Chief Minister Chouhan said this after a discussion with Maa Amritanandamayi at Amritpuri Ashram in Kollam. CM Chouhan said that a team of Math would soon visit the state and submit an action plan.

Governor Patel unveils portrait of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel unveiled an oil painting of India's first Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel installed in the Banquet Hall of Raj Bhavan on the occasion of National Unity Day. He garlanded and paid homage at the statue of Sardar Patel located in Sandipani Auditorium of Raj Bhavan. Principal Secretary to Governor DP Ahuja was present on the occasion.

Governor Mangubhai Patel also administered the oath of National Unity Day to the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan in the banquet hall. He urged those present to dedicate themselves to maintain the unity, integrity and



security of the nation made possible by the vision of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, to spread the spirit of unity among the countrymen and

commit to contribute sincerely in ensuring internal security. The oil painting was prepared by Raj Saini.

Village levies Rs 10/month swachh cess on household

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a first, a village panchayat in Satnahas imposed a mandatory cess of Rs 10 per month per household as 'sanitation cess'.

Bada itma panchayat headed by a female sarpanch, Geeta Pandey, passed this resolution along with other reforms including door to door collecting garbage collection, installation of dustbins all across the village, waste water management and planting 1000 trees in the next couple of months.

The panchayat is situated in Ramnagar janpad of Satnadistrict. Panchatwith a population of around 7000 people it has 3100 voters.

sarpanch Geeta Pandey, 75, mooted the resolution which was passed by the gram sabha by consensus of



sarpanch, deputy sarpanch and all the other panchs on October 27.

"A garbage collection vehicle has been purchased and it will be operational from November 1 onwards and from the month of november a mandatory cess will also be applicable to all households in the panchayat," Subhash Pandey, son of sarpanch Geeta Pandey said.

"Waste management has been a major issue in our panchayat and my mother is very focused on sanitation. As it is a common problem faced by the residents, everyone readily agreed to the proposal of imposing cess," Pandey said.

THE FIRE IS BURNING INSIDE THE CONGRESS IN STATE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The fire has started smoldering again within the Madhya Pradesh Congress and the signs of this have also started coming to the fore. The letter of Digvijay Singh, former Chief Minister and in-charge of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, has also given rise to a new debate on the internal situation of the party. Rahul Gandhi's India Jodo Yatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari will enter Madhya Pradesh in December. Along with the promotion of this yatra, publicity material is being prepared for the purpose of connecting the common man. Former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh's picture is also being put up in posters, banners and hoardings along with other leaders, but the former Chief Minister himself does not want his picture to be put in this publicity material.

Former CM Digvijay Singh has also written a letter to State President Kamal Nath, in which he has said that my photo should not be used in the material published by the State Congress Committee, I wish that this yatra in Madhya Pradesh establishes new dimensions of success. And



infuse new enthusiasm and enthusiasm among the workers.

Digvijay Singh has written in this letter that I request you that the material which is being prepared by the Pradesh Congress Committee for the promotion of the Yatra in

Madhya Pradesh, includes former party President Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and elected national president Mallikarjuna. It would be appropriate to use your (Kamal Nath) photo as state president along with Kharage's photo.

The political meaning of the letter written by former Chief Minister Singh to the state president Kamal Nath is being extracted. Political analysts believe that Digvijay Singh does not want to let the message go among the people of the state that he is increasing his interference in the politics of the state, while he is also having some rift with the state president. Along with this, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh wants to conduct the journey after entering the state by staying behind the scenes.

It is also believed that the relationship between the former Chief Minister and the current State President is not as warm as before. This has been proven from time to time as well. Now the letter of the former Chief Minister has given rise to a new debate in the political corridors.

Those keeping a special eye on the politics of Congress also believe that in the step taken by Digvijay Singh for the national president of the party, he did not get Kamal Nath's support, since then the distance between the two has started increasing and Digvijay Singh has written this letter and brought it to the fore.

Fierce scuffle in IMA meeting, Indore-Bhopal and Gwalior doctors fight

Team Absolute | Jabalpur

There was a tremendous uproar in the meeting of IMA in MP's Jabalpur on Sunday. In the welcome address, the President of Jabalpur IMA made remarks about the members of IMA Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore and Gwalior. The members of Gwalior IMA protested against this, after which the doctors clashed with each other on the stage itself and kicked and punched each other fiercely. At the same time, the video of this assault is now going viral on social media.

According to the information, the annual meeting of the Indian Medical Association Madhya Pradesh was held in Jabalpur on Sunday. In the welcome

address during the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Amarendra Pandey, President of Jabalpur IMA, spoke inappropriately about the members of Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore and Gwalior IMA, on which the members of Gwalior IMA protested. After this, after taking out the members of Gwalior IMA and abusing them, the members of Gwalior IMA pushed the President Dr. Amarendra Pandey off the stage and he was beaten up fiercely.

Seeing the growing controversy, the officials of IMA Jabalpur called the police, but the police had to stay outside the house when the state president Dr. Anil Bhatia protested. It is said that after a long uproar, the President of Jabalpur IMA, Dr. Amarendra Pandey,



A 10 bedded Respiratory ICU with ECMO facility was inaugurated at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal. This state of art facility consists of High-end ventilators, High-end motorized beds, Critical care monitoring and ECMO. The state of art facility was inaugurated by the Executive Director Prof Ajai Singh. Executive Director-Prof Ajai Singh highlighted that ECMO will be a boon for patients of Madhya Pradesh. This is first ECMO facility in government setup in Madhya Pradesh.

Uma Bharti calls for instilling fear in officials to press for prohibition

Team Absolute | Chhatarpur (Madhya Pradesh)

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP leader Uma Bharti said that she will create such conditions regarding the liquor ban within the next six months to a year that all the officials and the administration will be afraid.

She made the remark while talking to the media persons in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday. Bharti said, "Bhay bin preet na hoye (No love without fear). It may happen next time that if I came, the liquor shops will get closed."

"I don't want shops to close on my arrival and open after my departure. I want a decision or policy to be made that these shops are shut permanently. It does not mean that I consider myself as Tees Maar Khan (someone who considers him/herself to be the smartest and most cunning person). I actually wanted to be a 60 Maar Khan (double one)," she added.

Besides, Bharti also said that those who consume alcohol themselves want to leave it.



They were not consuming it by the choice, they are forced to drink due to addiction, she said. She said the government is helping people quit drinking in rural areas. She said, "The government is running a drug de-addiction campaign. The MLAs have been instructed. The Chief Minister is talking about it in his speeches and he is administering oath to the people for the same," she said.

HC EXPUNGES WORD 'KIND' FROM RAPE CASE JUDGEMENT

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The MP high court modified one of its own judgements that reduced punishment of a rape convict from life imprisonment to 20 years in jail, saying that certain inadvertent mistake had crept in the order. The Madhya Pradesh high court has expunged the words "kind enough to leave the prosecutrix (girl) alive" and modified the order of reducing punishment of a rape culprit from life imprisonment to 20 years in jail by saying that certain inadvertent mistake had crept in the judgment.

In a new order given on October 27, a division bench of justices Subodh Abhyankar and Satyendra Kumar Singh said, "It is brought to the notice of this court that certain inadvertent mistake has crept in the judgment delivered by this court on October 18 where in the word kind has been used to refer to appellant who stands convicted of rape."

On October 18, the court said "The court does not find any error in appreciation of evidence by the trial court and considering the demonic act of the appellant who appears to have no respect for the dignity of a woman and has the propensity to commit sexual offence even with a girl child aged 4 years, this Court does not find it to be a fit case where the sentence can be reduced to the sentence already undergone by him,



however, considering the fact that he was kind enough to leave the prosecutrix (girl) alive, this court is of the opinion that the life imprisonment can be reduced to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment."

The criminal appeal is partly allowed and the appellant be made to suffer the period

of 20 years in accordance with law, said the order. The court said on October 27 that it is apparent that the aforesaid mistake is obviously inadvertent in the context, as this court has already held the act of the appellant as demonic. In such circumstance, while exercising our powers as conferred

under Section 362 of CrPC, the aforesaid paragraph is modified and replaced as under.

"However, considering the fact that he didn't cause any other physical injury to the victim, this court is of the opinion that the life imprisonment can be reduced to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment," the order said in the modified judgment. However, the father of the rape survivor, who is unable to challenge the verdict, said, "Only my family and my daughter know how much we faced. She faced both physical and mental trauma for years and it will continue till death but the culprit will get rid of it in the next five years as he already spent 15 years in jail."

"I appealed to the government to move to the Supreme Court against this judgment and ensure capital punishment for the heinous act with my four-year-old daughter," he added.

A resident of Dabra town of Gwalior district, Ram Singh, 45, raped the four-year-old girl in Indore in 2007 and the session court sentenced a punishment of life imprisonment to him in 2009. He appealed before the court that he has been falsely implicated in the case as barring eyewitnesses there is no cogent evidence available on record to connect him with the offence as even the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report is not brought on record in support of the case of the prosecution.

Major reshuffle in administration in state

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government led by CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan has made a major reshuffle in the administration. The state government has released the transfer list of IAS officers. Three orders have been issued by the government to reshuffle the administration. IAS officers Ashok Varnwal, JN Kansotia, Ajit Kesari, Abhijit Agarwal and Manoj Govil have been transferred.

IAS officer Ashok Varnwal, who was till now the Principal Secretary of the Forest Department, has been promoted. He has been made Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Department. Ashok Varnwal is a 1991 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre. At the same time, JN Kansotia (IAS officer JN Kansotia), working as Principal Secretary in Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department and Horticulture and Food Processing Department, has

got the responsibility of Forest Department. JN Kansotia is a 1989 batch IAS officer. Ajit Kesari, a 1990 batch IAS officer, has been posted as Additional Chief Secretary to the Finance Department. Abhijeet Aggarwal has got the responsibility of IAS officer and Managing Director of State Wide Area Network (SWAN) Abhijit Agarwal has got the responsibility of Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Corporation. Abhijit Agarwal is a 2010 batch IAS officer. At the same time, Suresh Kumar, an IAS officer of 2010 batch, has been posted as the secretary of the Revenue Division, Gwalior. Suresh Kumar is still the Managing Director of Gwalior Industrial Center Development Corporation. In the same order, Deputy Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh and 2016 batch IAS officer Anshul Gupta has been made the Managing Director of State Wide Area Network (SWAN).



I want roles that focus on my acting ability than my appearance: Florence Pugh

I was told to 'lose weight', 'change face shape' to make in Hollywood

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Florence Pugh got candid about her early days in the entertainment industry. She shared that she was told to "lose weight" and "change the shape" of her face if she wanted a successful career in Hollywood.

The actress revealed that she was horrified when she headed to Los Angeles as a teenager and industry bosses told her to make a number of changes to her appearance.

She told a daily newspaper: "I felt very lucky and grateful, and couldn't believe that I had got this top-of-the-game job ... (But) all the things that they were trying to change about me - whether it was my weight, my look, the shape of my face, the shape of my eyebrows - that was so not what I wanted to do, or the industry I wanted to work in."

The actress' first big role came in 2014 movie 'The Falling' and she went on to land a part in a TV movie called 'Studio City', but Florence felt disappointed with her experience in the States and worried she'd made the wrong career choice.

She went on: "I'd thought the film business would be like (my experience of making) 'The Falling', but actually, this was what the top of the game looked like, and I felt I'd made a massive mistake."

However, Pugh continued with her acting career back in her native UK and she scored a leading role in 2016's 'Lady Macbeth' and she said the project made her "fall back in love with cinema."

She added: "I think it's far too easy for people in this industry to push you left and right. And I was lucky enough to discover when I was 19 what kind of a performer I wanted to be."

Pugh went on to insist that she wants to tackle roles that focus on her acting ability rather than her appearance, explaining: "When I could be naked at whatever size I was, and bare-faced, and the acting could speak for itself. There's nothing for people to be distracted by - they can't be like, 'Oh, I don't like the make-up.' It was a wonderful reminder, 'Oh, yeah - this is who you are.'"



DANIEL RADCLIFFE ON NEXT WOLVERINE RUMORS

There's never been any actual truth to it

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Daniel Radcliffe has done a lot of work to shed his days as the hero in the Harry Potter film franchise.

Even though rumors pointed to him succeeding Hugh Jackman as the next Wolverine in the X-Men movie franchise, the English actor is debunking all those claims.

"It's purely a press tour rumor; I say something, and then occasionally I get bored of answering that way so I say something different, and that sets it off again. I should just never open my mouth," he recently told GQ in an interview.

Being easily identifiable by a role is something Radcliffe knows can be difficult to shake off and that's why he says he doesn't "ever want to get locked into something that I am not sure I will be able to love the same amount the whole time."

Earlier this year and while appearing on The View, co-host Ana Navarro asked Radcliffe about the rumors he was next to play Wolverine, something that he denied.

"This is something that comes up every so often, I think because in the comics Wolverine is short, so every so often they're like, 'Who's a short actor?' There's never been any actual truth to it," he said on the ABC talk show.

"Every so often I get bored of answering the questions sensibly, so I just make a joke like I did the other day and that sort of has reignited the rumors of it, but there's nothing going on." The only thing that is certain is that for now, Wolverine will be continued to be portrayed by Jackman. In September this year, Jackman confirmed he would be reprising his role as Wolverine for Deadpool 3 which is expected to be released on November 8, 2024.



Martin Luther King Jr and his wife paid hospital bill for my birth: Julia Roberts

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Julia Roberts says the late Martin Luther King Jr and his wife Coretta Scott King paid the hospital bill for her birth. The actress revealed the couple made the gesture as her parents couldn't afford the fee, and said her mum and dad befriended the Kings while living in Atlanta running a theatre school.

She told Gayle King, in a clip showing her in conversation with the journalist last month that has now been shared online by a fan: "One day Coretta called my mother and asked if her kids could be part of the school because they were having a hard time finding a place that would accept her kids. 'My mom was like, 'Sure, come on over', and so they all just became friends, and they helped us out of a jam.' It has been reported that a Ku Klux Klan member blew up a car outside one of Julia's parent's Betty and Walter Roberts' plays in 1965 in response to King Jr's daughter Yolanda being cast in a role in which she kissed a white actor. Gayle hailed Julia's parents' decision "extraordinary" because people didn't see "little black children interacting with little white kids in acting school" at the time.

Roberts has also paid tribute to her husband Danny Moder and their life with their children, 17-year-old twins Hazel and Phinnaeus and son Henry, 15, saying: "The life that I have built with my husband, (and) the life that we've built with our children, that's the best stuff. To come home at the end of the day, triumphantly, to them."



The project has to be excellent to spend time away from my children: Anne Hathaway

She admits motherhood makes her pickier with acting roles

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Anne Hathaway has become pickier when it comes to work since she had children.

A mother to Jonathan, six, and two-year-old Jack with her husband Adam Shulman, the actress explains that any project she is asked to take on has to be good enough for her to justify spending time away from her children as well as worthwhile for her audience.

"The kids thing has made me a bit choosier because something has to be so excellent to spend time away from them because they're so

precious to me and they're the most sacred part of my life by a long shot," she said.

"So, when I do accept something it puts greater pressure on me to make it worth the time I've spent away

from them. I've always felt a responsibility - with mixed results - for the audience who are going to see the project that I'm going to work on, I take it very seriously."

"Your time is your life and your

life is worth while it together. And the idea that I'm asking you for your time and your money to watch me do this thing that I love to do, it has to be worth it, it really does."

The Oscar-winning star, who has played roles in films such as Disney comedy "The Princess Diaries" and took on the role of tragic prostitute Fantine in musical drama aLes Miserables', added that she wants to be the "best actor" she can be with her choice of roles.

Speaking on aThe Jess Cagle Podcast with Julia Cunningham', she added: "So there's that side of it, and then also I want to be the best actor I can." "I don't think I will ever stop learning and that means I want to work on as many different roles as I can for me the most crucial part of that approach is that I have to work with the best directors who will have me. I have to do that, it's the only way I'm going to learn."

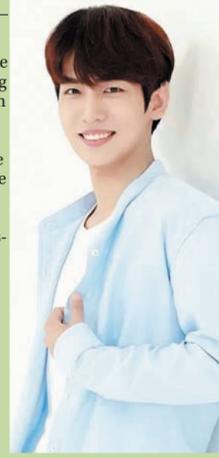


K-POP SINGER LEE JIHAN DEAD IN ITAEWON STAMPEDE

Seoul | Agencies

Singer and actor Lee Jihan is confirmed to have passed away in the crowd crush that occurred during Halloween celebration in Seoul, South Korea over the weekend. His agency 935 Entertainment confirmed the sad news on Sunday, October 30, "It's true that Lee Ji Han passed away due to the accident in Itaewon on October 29."

The representative of the agency continued: "We also hoped that it wasn't true, and we were very shocked to hear the news." Asking public to respect the family's privacy in this period of mourning, the agency added: "The family is suffering immense grief right now, so we are being very cautious. May he rest in peace." The news of Lee Jihan's passing first reached the public when several of his 'Produce 101' castmates, Park Heeseok, Jo Jinhyung and Kim Dohyun, paid tribute on social media. They wrote on Instagram " 'Ji Han has left this world and gone to a comfortable place. We ask that you say goodbye to him on his final path." Lee Jihan was one of 154 people killed in the stampede, which occurred on Saturday in Itaewon, a busy nightlife district in the capital city. Thousands of people assembled in the narrow streets of the district to celebrate Halloween festivities when the crowd size became overwhelming, leading to panic and an eventual fatal crowd surge. Over 80 people were reported injured and thousands of missing person reports were filed in the days since the tragedy. The Korean government has announced a period of national mourning that will last until November 5. Several K-pop music releases and events have been cancelled or postponed in the wake of the tragedy.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bae Suzy



INDIA ON NEW ZEALAND TOUR

HARDIK, SHIKHAR TO LEAD; ROHIT, VIRAT, RAHUL RESTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

All-rounder Hardik Pandya will captain India in the upcoming bilateral T20I series in New Zealand while Shikhar Dhawan will lead the ODI squad, with regular skipper Rohit Sharma being rested for the tour, which begins five days after the T20 World Cup final in Australia.

Apart from Rohit, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul have also been rested from the entire tour of New Zealand. Rishabh Pant, who has already led India before, has been appointed as the vice-captain for both legs of the tour.

The likes of Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson will have a chance to impress once again in the absence of the senior Indian players.

Meanwhile, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was ruled out of the T20 World Cup with a back injury, continues to miss out. On the other hand, speedster Umran Malik has been included in both the squads.

Dinesh Karthik also misses out from the T20I squad and when queried about it, chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma during a virtual press conference, pointed towards workload management as the reason for his exclusion. Mohammed Shami, R Ashwin and Axar Patel are the other players in the T20 World Cup squad, who aren't part of the squad for the T20Is against New Zealand.



Zealand.

Notably, Hardik had also led India earlier this year, during the two T20Is in Ireland, when Rohit was unavailable for the two T20Is in Ireland. Shikhar has also captained ODI sides at many occasions in recent times.

India will play three T20Is and three ODIs in New Zealand from November 18. The T20Is will be played in Wellington (November 18), Mount Maunganui (November 20) and Napier (November 22), while the ODIs are in Auckland (November 25), Hamilton (November 27) and Christchurch (November 30).

India last toured New Zealand in 2020, when they won the T20I series 5-0, lost the ODIs 3-0, and suffered a 2-0 defeat in the Test series.

played in Wellington (November 18), Mount Maunganui (November 20) and Napier (November 22), while the ODIs are in Auckland (November 25), Hamilton (November 27) and Christchurch (November 30).

Squad for NZ T20Is:

Hardik Pandya (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), W Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Mohd. Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umran Malik.

Squad for NZ ODIs:

Shikhar Dhawan (C), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson (wk), W Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Shahbaz Ahmed, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Deepak Chahal, Kuldeep Sen, Umran Malik.

Jadeja returns for B'desh tour, Bumrah continues to miss out

Mumbai: Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja will make a comeback to India's Test and ODI squads for the tour of Bangladesh in December, the chairman of selectors Chetan Sharma announced on Monday. The 33-year-old Jadeja had missed out on the ongoing T20 World Cup because of a knee injury he suffered during the Asia Cup in August and subsequent surgery. Chief selector Sharma mentioned that Jadeja's inclusion in the squad is subject to his fitness test.

However, Jasprit Bumrah, who also missed the ongoing T20 World Cup in Australia because of a back injury, continues his recovery from a back injury and will miss out for the tours of New Zealand and Bangladesh. When asked about the timeframe of his return, Sharma said the selectors did not want to rush him back into the side.



BAI announces cash

BAI announces cash rewards for Muthusamy, Satwik, Chirag



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Badminton Association of India has announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh each for both Sankar Muthusamy and the men's doubles pair of Satwik Reddy and Chirag Shetty for their commendable performances at the BWF World Junior Championships and French Open 750 World Tour event respectively.

The doubles duo of Satwik and Chirag continued their fine form to defeat Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao & Yang Po Han to clinch the French Open title and become the first Indian doubles pair to win a BWF Super 750 tournament. They had also defeated the World Number 1 pair of

Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in the quarterfinal. The pair will get five lakh for winning the historic gold in Paris.

While former Junior World number 1 Sankar Muthusamy impressed everyone with his gutsy play throughout the World Junior Championships before going down in the summit clash against Chinese Taipei's Kuo kuan Lin.

He became the ninth Indian shuttler to bag a medal at the premier junior championships, and was awarded five lakh for the silver medal he will bring home. He also became the fourth Indian to win a silver medal in this prestigious competition.

TORINO STUN AC MILAN IN SERIE A

Rome | Agencies

Torino earned a shock victory in Serie A on Sunday, beating AC Milan 2-1 on home turf to condemn the Rossoneri to their second defeat of the league season.

AC Milan came into game off the back of four straight Serie A wins, but the reigning champions came back down to earth as Rafael Leao missed two promising chances in the opening minutes.

The setback, coupled with Atalanta's 2-0 away victory over Empoli, saw AC Milan drop to third place with 26 points, six points adrift of leaders Napoli.

Elsewhere, Lazio also fell to their second defeat of the season as they were stunned by Salernitana 3-1. Mattia Zaccagni put the Aquile ahead in the first half, but the away side staged a second-half show to register a comeback win.

Also on Sunday, Fiorentina edged past Spezia 2-1, while Cremonese and Udinese played out a 0-0 draw.



Asian Continental Chess

Harsha Bharathakoti emerges sole leader

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Harsha Bharathakoti, seeded 12th, continued his fine form and put it across International Master Koustav Chatterjee to snatch the sole lead with four-and-a-half points at the end of the fifth-round matches of the Asian Continental Chess Championship at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel here.

Playing with white pieces, Harsha exerted pressure on his rival to secure advantage in the middle game to garner full point after 49 moves. A pack of seven Grandmasters, including top seed R. Praggnanandhaa, is now trailing the leader by half a point. Praggnanandhaa split the point with Leon Luke Mendonca, while the other overnight leaders, Maksat Atabayev Maksat of Turkmenistan and Karthikeyan Murali, signed the peace treaty. Meanwhile in the women's section, Woman Grandmasters Nandhidhaa PV and Priyanka Nutakki scored victories over Thi Kim Phung Vo of Vietnam and Soumya Swaminathan, respectively to become joint leaders with four-and-a-half points.

Verstappen records 14th victory of season; breaks Schumacher, Vettel record

Mexico City | Agencies

Dutch Formula 1 driver Max Verstappen made history as he beat Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton to claim his 14th victory of the 2022 season in the Mexican Grand Prix after an intriguing strategic battle at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez here on Sunday.

Verstappen, who has already clinched the world title, finished ahead of former world champion and fiercest rival Hamilton and Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez.

It secures another record for the young Dutchman, as he



now boasts the most wins in a single F1 campaign, moving one clear of the 13 achieved by Germany's Michael Schumacher (2004) and Sebastian Vettel (2013).

Verstappen, whose Red Bull team opted for a soft-medium tyre strategy, took the chequered flag some 15 seconds ahead of Hamilton, who was left to question why Mercedes swapped their starting set of mediums for hard tyres, according to formula1.com.

Verstappen has expressed his surprise at winning a record 14 races in a year. "I think quite early on, we figured that we could make it to the end. Another great race but also, it's just an incredible season for us as a team. I never thought I would be able to win 14 races in a year, but of course, incredibly proud."

T20 WORLD CUP

AUSTRALIA HAMMER IRELAND BY 42 RUNS

Brisbane | Agencies

Australia produced a clinical all-round performance to hammer Ireland by 42 runs in a Super 12 game of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Gabba, here on Monday.

With this win, Australia moved to the second spot in Group 1 standings with five points in four matches. On the other hand, Ireland are in fourth spot with three points.

Australia skipper Aaron Finch played an excellent knock of 63 from 44 deliveries to guide his team to a commanding total of 179/5 in 20 overs, after they were invited to bat first. Apart from Aaron, all-rounders Marcus Stoinis (35) and Mitchell Marsh (28) also made valuable contributions with the bat for the hosts.

Chasing a challenging total, Lorcan Tucker was the lone warrior for Ireland, who kept losing wickets at regular intervals. He looked in control, kept the scoreboard ticking and remained not out with his brilliant knock of 71 off 48. Tucker got some support from the lower order, but in the end he was



left with too much to do as Ireland were eventually bowled out for 137-10 in 18.1 overs, losing by 42 runs. The likes of Glenn Maxwell (2/14), Adam Zampa (2/19), Pat Cummins (2/28), Mitchell Starc (2/43) shared two wickets each for Australia.

Earlier, Australia got off to a slow start as the Ireland bowlers used the conditions well to keep hosts quiet. Barry McCarthy dismissed David Warner in the third over of the innings before Australia could get any sort of momentum going.

Finch and Mitchell Marsh tried their best but they could

take Australia to a score of 38/1 at the end of the powerplay.

Things changed soon, though. Marsh and Finch started taking on the bowlers after the powerplay and added the necessary impetus to the Australian innings. Finch was involved in two crucial partnerships of 52 and 70 with Marsh and Marcus Stoinis respectively, which helped Australia in getting to such a competitive total. It was Barry McCarthy who brought an end to Finch's knock while Stoinis also played a good innings of 35 from 25 deliveries. Matthew Wade and Tim David, who remained unbeaten on seven and 15 respectively, also added valuable runs towards the end.

Barry McCarthy (3/29) was the pick of the bowlers for Ireland, while left-arm pacer Josh Little (2/21) scalped two wickets.

Brief scores

Australia - 179 for 5 in 20 overs (Aaron Finch 63, Marcus Stoinis scored 35; Barry McCarthy 3/29) beat Ireland 137-10 in 18.1 overs (Lorcan Tucker 71 not out; Glenn Maxwell 2/14, Adam Zampa 2/19) by 42 runs.

Real Madrid drop points in La Liga title race

Madrid | Agencies

Real Madrid dropped two points in the race for La Liga when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home to struggling Girona on Sunday afternoon.

Although his side kicked off the game third from bottom, Girona coach Michel said in his pre-game press conference that they were not going to the Santiago Bernabeu to make up the numbers, and that was how it proved to be.

In the first half, Girona restricted Madrid to long-range chances and it wasn't until the 70th minute that they took the lead, when Fede Valverde's low cross was turned in by Vinicius Jr,

reports Xinhua.

Veteran Girona forward Cristian Stuani came into the game in the 75th minute and five minutes later scored from the penalty spot after Marco Asensio had hand-balled. Toni Kroos was sent off for a second yellow card in the last minute, and despite nine minutes of injury time, Real Madrid were unable to find a winner. Real Betis moved up to fourth after goals from Juan Cruz and Borja Iglesias in the 85th and 93rd minutes gave them a 2-0 win away to Real Sociedad. Elsewhere, Inaki Williams' second-half goal following an excellent pass from Raul Garcia saw Athletic Bilbao return to winning ways against Villarreal.

We want to focus on India, says AFC President Shaikh Salman

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The FIFA and AFC are happy with India's success as the hosts of major tournaments like the just concluded FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, and want to focus more on the country as a growing football destination, said AFC President Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, who was in Navi Mumbai.

The World Cup has been hosted across three cities - Bhubaneswar, Goa, and Navi Mumbai - with the AFC President attending the summit clash between Colombia and Spain at the DY



Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, on Sunday. Speaking to the aiff.com, the AFC President said, "FIFA and AFC want to focus on India to host more future events, and over the last few years since I've taken over at the AFC, I think India has played a big role in

Asian football. You have hosted two World Cups and the Senior Women's AFC Asian Cup here. India is a major country in Asia and hopefully it can take its position at the same level in football, in the coming years."

The AFC President feels that India has a greater chance for success in the future. "It's a country of more than 1.3 billion, so there must be enough talent in India. They need all the support they can get from the stakeholders, the AIFF, the government, private sector, and all other parties for the game to succeed. I'm sure football has great potential to succeed in India," he said.

Melbourne | Agencies

Former Australia all-rounder Simon O'Donnell has indicated talks are likely underway for India and Pakistan to play a Test match Down Under, following the grand success of the clash between the arch-rivals in the ICC T20 World Cup at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on October 23. More than 90,000 spectators witnessed India's thrilling last-ball T20 World Cup



Super-12 win against Pakistan at MCG, while millions across the world watched the match on television, resulting in a revenue windfall for Cricket

Australia (CA). "That (their T20 World Cup clash) was extraordinary," O'Donnell said on SEN Breakfast on Monday. "That game itself is

the one that's held the tournament up so far, people keep referring back to it. There was 90,000 at a neutral venue, there was extraordinary emotion, the scenes of the game, the tightness of the game, the pressure. There's also the possibility of a triangular One-Day series between India, Pakistan and Australia or a Test match between India and Pakistan. My word there are (conversations happening), in the wake of this (T20 World Cup clash).



I want these contestants to evolve and become fearless in the show: Neeti Mohan



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Singer Neeti Mohan, who is seen as a judge on the singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs' along with Shankar Mahadevan and Anu Malik, praises them for being fabulous co-judges. She said: "I have worked with Shankar before but this is the first time I am a co-judge with Anu Malik. Initially, I was very nervous but slowly three of us developed a very close bond with each other and there is so much fun and positivity around them. I am quite junior compared to them. They have been in the industry for so long. But still they never make me feel that I am so junior. I am learning a lot from them."

Praising Anu Malik, she said: "He is an incredible shayar and in the beginning when I came to know, I couldn't believe that but later on when I listened to his shayari, I realised he is so good at it." Talking about the talent coming on the show, she said: "We have talents from different parts of the country. It is difficult to decide, who among them the best is. They are so young but still excellent in their craft. There was a small girl and she performed a ghazal. One can't believe that at such an age when she hardly understands the meaning of those words can sing so well. Their talent is phenomenal and they are well-trained." Among all, whom she found very talented in the show, she said: "9-year-old Atanu Mishra is really very talented. He idolises Manna Dey and sings his renditions with so much perfection and proper sur-taal."

"I just see so much potential and much of the possibilities with these contestants. It is not easy for them to give their best in front of so many cameras, audience and judges especially when they know that they are being judged. I want to see these contestants evolving, becoming fearless and progressing in the show."

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Bigg Boss 14' fame Jasmin Bhasin shared her view on honeymoon and said that for most people, it is about the place they are travelling to, but for her, it is more about the accompanying person. She is seen in the film 'Honeymoon' opposite Gippy Grewal.

HONEYMOON IS MORE ABOUT THE PERSON THAN DESTINATION: JASMIN BHASIN

The actress is quite famous for her role in 'Tashan-e-Ishq' and 'Dil Se Dil Tak'. She was initially seen in South movies including Tamil film 'Vaanam', Telugu films 'Veta' and others. Jasmin often makes headlines for her relationship with Aly Goni post their stint in 'Bigg Boss 14'.

While talking about the film and what 'Honeymoon' is means to her, she said: "People always talk about a fancy destination or a long blissful holiday when it comes to the term 'Honeymoon'. Personally for me, when it comes to a honeymoon it's not the destination but the person you're with that matters." Directed by Amarpreet Chhabra, 'Honeymoon' is about a young couple that decides to go for a honeymoon but the story takes a hilarious and interesting turn when their family joins them as they are unaware of its literal meaning.

Directed by Amarpreet G. S. Chhabra, the Punjabi film stars Gippy Grewal and Jasmin Bhasin as lead actors. The movie is written by Naresh Kathooria. The music is given by B. Praak and it is produced by T-Series Films and Baweja Studios Production.



Friends become foes: Priyanka, Archana lock horns

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the upcoming episode of 'Bigg Boss 16', "good friends" Priyanka Chouhary and Archana Gautam will be seen locking horns after Shekhar Suman roasting session in the controversial reality show. A promo shared by the channel Colors on Instagram shows Shekhar roasting the housemates. He is seen asking Shiv Thakare the name of one contestant who likes to interfere in everything. Shiv said Priyanka. Soon, Archana interfered and talks about an incident that took place about a week ago in the 'Bigg Boss' kitchen. The two are seen fighting and Priyanka asks Archana to make 50 rotis as she would not work with her in the kitchen.

The fight got heated as Priyanka told Archana: "Yahan koi mil nahi raha hai tujhe. Koi ghaas nahi daal raha hai. Give me a break. Abhi tak bahut achi lag rahi thi." Archana keeps yelling, to which Priyanka reacts by telling other housemates in the Colors show: "Yeh mere saath paheli baar ulji hai. Ab batati hun isko."



'Sushrii' perfectly fits the bill, with her looks as well as her action abilities'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Femina Miss India United Continents Sushrii Shreya Mishraa is going to play the female lead opposite Aayush Sharma in the movie 'AS04'.

The actress has done certain small roles in her previous projects including 'Zero' starring Abhay Deol and also in romantic drama film 'Malaal'. She is going to play a lead character for the first time in this movie.

While praising her and the reason to portray Sushrii as female lead in the film, Aayush said: "We were looking for a new name for 'AS04', who is not only a fresh face but also someone who can grab your attention with her personality."

According to him, she is perfect for the character because she is a national level swimmer, horse rider and is trained in mixed martial arts.

"Sushrii perfectly fits the bill, with not only her looks as well as her acting skills and action abilities. We have already shot a few portions and we are thrilled to have her on board."

Produced by K.K. Radhamohan, under the banner of Srisathyasai Arts, AS04 is directed by Katayyan Shivpuri. The film is slated for release in 2023.



Aayush Sharma finds Sushrii Shreya Mishraa a perfect choice for his movie

Never played such a role before: Chandan Roy Sanyal

Team Absolute | Chennai

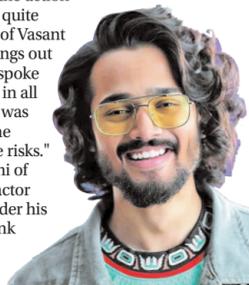
Actor Chandan Roy Sanyal, who has impressed audiences with his unconventional roles multiple times, is all set to shine again in Jai Mehta's thriller web series 'Lootere'. Helmed by director Jai Mehta, 'Lootere' is a tale of greed, survival, terror, and chaos. Talking about this project, Chandan said: "It was amazing to work with Hansal sir and Jai for a series that had such a unique plot. I have never played a role like this before. This is something I'm looking forward to and I am sure the audience will also enjoy it as much as I did shooting for it." Chandan will be seen sharing screen space with Vivek Gomber, Deepak Tijori, Rajat Kapoor, and Amruta Khanvilkar in 'Lootere'. On the work front, Chandan's upcoming projects include Aashram Season 4, Amazon Prime's Lakhot, Arbaaz Khan's production Patna Shukla, and a few more unannounced projects.



I am a perfectionist: Bhuvan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Comedian, singer, and YouTube personality Bhuvan Bam, who is all set for his next project, a web series named 'Taaza Khabar'. He talked about doing action sequences in the series. He said that he insisted on doing action sequences because he believes in perfection when it comes to acting. "I would like to believe I am a perfectionist so until and unless I don't do it I don't feel satisfied. When there were discussions about the action sequence for 'Taaza Khabar' I insisted I would do the action sequence. From the teaser you can see the action scenes are quite intense and that's just the teaser." Bhuvan is playing the role of Vasant Gawde, a Mumbai-based sanitation worker and the story brings out his struggle to come out of poverty and lead a better life. He spoke about the challenges and said that it was not easy but he put in all his efforts to give his best. "There is a whole series to go to. It was not easy at all but as an actor it gives you that satisfaction. The series has a terrific cast and the story is worth taking all these risks." It also features 'Satya' star A.J.D. Chakravarthy, Deven Bhojani of 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai' fame, Shriya Pilgaonkar and Marathi actor Prathmesh Parab. Bhuvan is also co-producing the series under his home production BB Ki Vines Production. Helmed by Himank Gaur, the show will be streaming soon on Disney+ Hotstar.



Bhuvan Bam to perform action sequences in upcoming series

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Zahrah S Khan