

# absolute india

VOL. 5, ISSUE 353, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM NEW DELHI, MUMBAI AND BHOPAL

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## Some Twitter India employees sacked, remaining staff in constant fear

# THE MUSK EFFECT

For some of the nearly 200-strong Twitter India workforce, the Friday morning came with utter chaos when they lost access to their official emails and internal Slack and group chats, as they were unfortunate to be part of the global sacking in the most brutal Elon Musk way.

- ▶ In Twitter's Slack and group chat groups, employees earlier complained about the lack of internal communication from their senior executives, after Musk took over as the new CEO last week.
- ▶ The new CEO aims to cut roughly half of its 7,600-strong workforce, about 3,800 employees.
- ▶ According to the company, the employee badge access to Twitter's offices has already been shut off "temporarily".

mentioned by the company. We are clueless on our severance pay, etc.," they lamented. Those who are still with Twitter India are living in constant fear about losing their jobs in the next round, which they think will happen sooner keeping Musk's intentions in mind. "It is one of the most inhumane ways to get rid of us. After spending so many years at Twitter India, we were left without any communication since Musk took over," the affected workers told reporter. "To help ensure the safety of each



employee as well as Twitter systems and customer data, our offices will be temporarily closed and all badge access will be suspended. If you are in an office or on your way to an office, please return home," Twitter said in an internal memo. "We acknowledge this is an incredibly challenging experience to go through, whether or not you are impacted," the memo further read. "Thank you for continuing to adhere to Twitter policies that prohibit you from discussing confidential company information on social media, with the press or elsewhere," the company added.

### Class-action lawsuit over mass layoffs without notice in US

**San Francisco:** Elon Musk-run Twitter has been sued in the US for mass lay offs without giving employees advanced written notice, the media reported on Friday. The lawsuit has been filed in the US District Court in the Northern District of California, in violation of worker protection laws including the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act as well as the California WARN Act, both of which require 60 days of advance notice, reports TechCrunch. The plaintiffs said they were "terminated on November 3 by being locked out of their accounts". "Twitter is also enacting widespread layoffs across its workforce today, on Nov. 4, 2022, it stated, adding that California's Employment Development Department had not received a notice related to the event," they said. The plaintiffs asked the court to declare that Twitter has violated the federal and California WARN Acts and "certify the case as a class action suit". The lawsuit is seeking "a range of relief, including compensatory damages (including wages owed), as well as declaratory relief, pre- and post-judgment interest, plus other attorneys' fees and costs". Under Twitter's takeover deal terms, the laid-off employees should receive 60 days of salary and the cash value of the stock.

### WOMAN FINED SEEKING TO IMPEACH MUSK OVER HER TWITTER ACCOUNT SUSPENSION

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court on Friday imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on a woman who sought to impeach Elon Musk, the new Twitter chief, as a party in a plea on the suspension of her Twitter account. "This application is thoroughly misconceived. The authority is represented and therefore, there was no need to move this application," Justice Yashwant Varma said while dismissing the plea moved by petitioner Dimple Kaul with cost. The woman was approaching the court claiming her account was suspended without any notice and affects her freedom of speech.

## The Musk Way

Edtech major BYJU's sacks thousands, and then hires Lionel Messi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Edtech major BYJU's, in the process of laying off thousands of employees as part of restructuring its business, on Friday hired football star and sports icon Lionel Messi as the global brand ambassador for its social impact arm, and the move has not gone well with the industry as well as people. The long-term engagement, which begins as Messi embarks on his final campaign to win the World Cup as captain of Argentina, will see him feature in campaigns promoting BYJU's 'Education For All'.



Abhishek Desai, Founder, CricHeroes, told IANS that it does sound like an irony that where you are laying off people on one side and hiring Messi as your global brand ambassador. "But I think that's the cost everyone pays for growing too fast. It's not that the company does not have money but in growing too fast it creates a lot of redundancy in the organisation. Sooner or later you have to fix that and I think these layoffs are a result of that," said Desai. "Not only BYJU's but we are seeing something similar in Twitter also right now which is a public company. Until and unless we come out of this mindset, such

incidents are bound to happen," he added. BYJU's founder and CEO Byju Raveendran has told employees that there is a huge price to pay for walking on the path to profitability and the company will part ways with 5 per cent or 2,500 employees to "avoid role duplication across our businesses". Earlier this year, BYJU's made history by becoming the official sponsors of the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar. Football has roughly 3.5 billion fans worldwide, and Messi has a social media following of nearly 450 million.

## Imran says Minister, PM and Maj Gen Faisal plotted to kill him

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Imran Khan said on Friday that Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Major General Faisal plotted to kill him, according to a media report. The former premier said that three others, separate from the ones he had named in a tape stashed abroad, had plotted to kill him, Dawn reported. "How did I find out? Insiders told me. The day before Wazirabad... that a religious extremist killed Imran Khan," the PTI chief claimed, Dawn reported. Khan said that he had already narrated this plan to the public during a September 24 rally. "This [the attempted assassination] happened exactly according to the script," he said. Earlier on Friday, Khan had claimed that four people plotted to kill him, stating that the "handlers" were taking the decisions at the back but the people were turning out to his rallies in record numbers, Dawn reported.



spected religion and then their plan was what they did in Wazirabad... that a religious extremist killed Imran Khan," the PTI chief claimed, Dawn reported. Khan said that he had already narrated this plan to the public during a September 24 rally. "This [the attempted assassination] happened exactly according to the script," he said. Earlier on Friday, Khan had claimed that four people plotted to kill him, stating that the "handlers" were taking the decisions at the back but the people were turning out to his rallies in record numbers, Dawn reported.

## KERALA GOVERNOR COMPLAINS TO PRESIDENT AGAINST CM

Thiruvananthapuram: With daggers already drawn and a few rounds of clashes having taken place between Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, the latter on Friday sent a letter to his appointing authority - the President of India - complaining of Vijayan's violation of precedents, conventions, and protocols.



Khan complained to the President that Vijayan failed to officially inform him when he went on a European trip early last month and nor did he get in touch with him after he returned to the state after his trip. Incidentally Vijayan is understood to have conveyed this to Khan orally, when the two met briefly at the funeral of senior CPI-M politburo member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan. Hours after that, Vijayan travelled to Norway and returned after 10 days.

## Stone pelting on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's convoy

Amaravati | Agencies

The chief security officer of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was injured when unidentified persons pelted stones on his convoy at Nandigama in NTR district on Friday. The incident occurred when the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) president was addressing a road show as part of an anti-government protest in the town. Naidu's chief security officer Madhu Babu sustained bleeding injury when a stone hit him on the chin. He was provided first aid. Following the attack, National Security Guard (NSG) com-



mandos went on alert and formed a cordon around Naidu. The incident triggered tension in the town. Additional security personnel were deployed around Naidu's vehicle. Police also asked him to wind up the road show. Naidu condemned the stone pelting. He said poor security by the police led to the attack.

## MUMBAI RIOTS: SC ISSUES DIRECTIONS ON COMPENSATING VICTIMS' FAMILIES, TRACING ABSCONDING ACCUSED

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Friday issued a slew of directions for payment of compensation to the families of victims in the 1992-93 Mumbai communal riots and also for the revival of dormant cases, by constitution of a special cell, in connection with absconding accused. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Abhay S. Oka, and Vikram Nath noted that Article 21 of the Constitution of India confers a right on every citizen to live with human dignity and it encompasses into itself the right to live a meaningful and dignified life. "If the citizens are forced to live in an atmosphere of communal tension, it affects their right to life guaranteed by Article 21. The violence witnessed by Mumbai in December 1992 and January 1993 adversely affected the right of the residents of the affected areas to lead dignified and meaningful life. It cannot be disputed that certain groups were responsible for the large-scale violence in December 1992 and January 1993," it said. Justice Oka, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench, said one of the root causes of their suffering was the failure of the state government to maintain law and order. Therefore, the affected persons had a right to seek compensation from the state government, he added. The top court said the state government would provide details of 97 cases on dormant files to the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court within one month from Friday. It added that on receipt of the details, the high court should issue necessary communication to the courts concerned in which the cases are pending to take necessary steps to trace the accused.

## Diwali marks beginning of air pollution season in northern states: CPCB data



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Diwali is the start of the air pollution season in the Indo-Gangetic Plain states, and the worst of the season may be ahead of us, as per data from the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station. Local emissions, coupled with winter meteorology and increased stubble burning in the region, are some of the leading causes of the high pollution levels during this season. According to the analysis by NCAP Tracker, average PM 2.5 levels in October

this year were higher as compared to 2021 in capital cities of Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Patna. The PM 2.5 levels in October 2022 have surpassed those in October 2021, despite delayed withdrawal of monsoon and a cleaner Diwali in comparison across the last five years. The rains also delayed the stubble burning season this year. The only exception was Kolkata which saw a decrease in levels in comparison to last year. The five capital cities were selected for the analysis as representatives of the IGP. Jharkhand's capital Ranchi couldn't be included due to the unavailability of a

Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in the city. Data for the months of October to February was considered representative of the winter season. The average PM 2.5 levels for October 2022 in Delhi, Patna, Lucknow and Chandigarh were higher despite the meteorological conditions and cleaner Diwali indicating that the last few days of October 2022 saw higher pollution levels in comparison to those in the same month in 2021, thereby increasing the monthly average in. The PM 2.5 levels for October 2022 in Delhi and Patna remained above CPCB's daily safe limits of 60 ug/m3. Delhi recorded an average PM 2.5 of 105 ug/m3 in October 2022 as opposed to 74.88 ug/m3 in the previous year. The rains also meant a delayed stubble burning season which meant its share in the PM 2.5 levels in Delhi was around seven per cent until October 28. Similarly, Patna's PM 2.5 concentration breached the safe limits to 67 ug/m3 from 2021 when it was 45.25 ug/m3. It was only Kolkata which saw its PM 2.5 levels dip in comparison with 2021.

## Isudan Gadhvi is AAP's CM face in Gujarat, announces Kejriwal



Ahmedabad | Agencies

Aam Aadmi Party national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Isudan Gadhvi as the party's Chief Ministerial face for the upcoming Gujarat Assembly polls. Kejriwal said that the people of Gujarat have selected Gadhvi as the CM face. "The party had received 16,48,000 responses to select

the CM face, of which 73 per cent responders selected Isudan Gadhvi as the CM face," Kejriwal said here on Friday. Kejriwal said, "Today AAP is not announcing the party's CM face but it is announcing the next Chief Minister of Gujarat. He said there is a wave in favour of AAP and also said that all opinion polls will be proved wrong when the Gujarat Assembly poll results are out."



# SC UPHOLDS VALIDITY OF EMPLOYEES' PENSION (AMENDMENT) SCHEME OF 2014

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the validity of the 2014 Employees' Pension (Amendment) Scheme.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia, declared the provisions of August 22, 2014 notification as legal and valid. "The provisions contained in the notification no. G.S.R. 609(E) (notification) dated 22nd August 2014 are legal and valid."

The 2014 amendment had capped the maximum pensionable salary (basic pay plus dearness allowance) at Rs 15,000 per month - and prior to the amendment, it was capped at Rs 6,500 a month.

The top court also quashed the threshold limit of Rs 15,000 monthly salary for joining the pension fund. "The requirement of the members to contribute at the rate of 1.16 per cent of their salary to the extent such salary exceeds Rs 15,000 per month as an additional contribution under the amended scheme is held to be ultra vires the provisions of the 1952 Act," it said.

The bench said the pension scheme ought to apply to the employees of the exempted establishments in the same manner as this



scheme applies to the employees of unexempted or regular establishments. "Amendment to the pension scheme brought about by the notification no. G.S.R. 609(E) dated 22nd August 2014 shall apply to the employees of the exempted establishments in the same manner as the employees

of the regular establishments," it said. The bench said there was uncertainty as regards validity of the post amendment scheme, which was quashed by the judgments of three high courts. Thus, all the employees who did not exercise the option though being entitled to do so but could not

due to the interpretation of the cut-off date by the authorities, ought to be given a further chance to exercise their option, it added.

The top court said that employees who, due to lack of clarity, did not join the scheme will be given another four months to avail the option. "Time to exercise option under paragraph 11(4) of the scheme, under these circumstances, shall stand extended by a further period of four months. We are giving this direction in exercise of our jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution of India," said Justice Bose, who authored the judgment on behalf of the bench.

The top court said it agrees with its 2016 judgement in R.C. Gupta vs Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, where the court held that there can be no cut-off date to avail benefit of the option under the scheme.

It also clarified that employees, who retired before the amendment on September 1, 2014 without exercising the option under para 11(3) of the unamended EPS, will not be eligible to the exercise option under the scheme.

The top court judgment on appeals filed by Employees Provident Fund Organisation and the Centre challenged the verdicts of the high courts of Kerala, Rajasthan and Delhi, which had quashed the 2014 scheme.

## Bihar Police sets up 92 dedicated teams to make state crime-free



Patna | Agencies

The Bihar Police on Friday announced a plan to make the state crime-free.

Sharing the plan, ADGP, Law and Order, Jitendra Singh Gangwar, said that 92 dedicated teams have been constituted for the purpose of tackling the criminals.

"The special unit will be only dedicated to keeping an eye on criminals, gangsters, and history sheeters and put them behind the bars. We have given the list to the dedicated team to work on it and arrest the criminals as soon

as possible," he said.

"The special dedicated team will have only one responsibility - to deal with criminals. We will not place an additional burden of other police jobs," he added.

The ADGP said that the team will be deployed according to the numbers of criminals and their activities, and the maximum teams will be deployed in state capital Patna.

"One dedicated team will be deployed in one district and it will be increased if the crime graph rises in the particular district," Gangwar said.

## Bridge tragedy: Morbi civic body CEO suspended

Morbi (Gujarat) | Agencies

In wake of the Morbi bridge collapse that left 141 persons, including 51 children dead, the Gujarat Urban Development Department has suspended Morbi Magarpalika Chief Executive Officer Sandipsinh Zala.

According to Urban Development Department sources, Zala has been posted at the Regional Municipal Commissioner's office in Rajkot with an instruction to not to leave the station without permission of higher authorities or government.

IANs tried to get confirmation of the development from the Secretary, Urban Development, Regional Commissioner, Municipalities, Morbi District Collector, but they did not respond.

On Thursday evening, investigation



officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police S.A. Zala had questioned Zala for almost two hours in connection with the contract signed between Morbi Nagarpalika and the Ajanta Manufacturing Company of Oveva group.

Police, during the investigation, have collected documents from Oveva's office, in which they have found documents of 2007 contract too.

## WRESTLER SUSHIL KUMAR GETS INTERIM BAIL IN MURDER CASE

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday granted interim bail to wrestler and two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar who was arrested in connection with the case of murder of a former junior national wrestling champion, Sagar Dhankar. Sushil Kumar's counsel Pradeep Rana told IANS that his client has got interim bail to look after his ailing wife. "Savi -- his wife, is ill. He wanted to meet her during this crucial time. The court heard the matter and allowed the interim bail," Rana said. Sushil was lodged at Tihar Jail. He is facing murder charges.

As of now, the police have arrested 18 people in connection with the matter. Two chargesheets have been filed against Sushil Kumar and others by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police.

The case is pending before Rohini Court.

## Madras HC permits RSS route march at 44 places across TN on Nov 6

Chennai | Agencies

Madras High Court on Friday granted permission to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to conduct route march at 44 destinations across Tamil Nadu on November 6.

Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan of the Madras High Court said that he had gone through the sealed intelligence report submitted by the Tamil Nadu police. The court said that there was no adverse report on the RSS except for some minor incidents affecting law and order. The judge said that these minor disturbances could not be considered for denial of permission.

Tamil Nadu government had on Wednesday said that the permission for the RSS route march could be



allowed only at three of the 50 places sought by the organisation. The police cited the Coimbatore blasts and the monsoon fury for denial of permission.

However several petitions were filed by RSS men. After hearing this, Madras High Court pronounced the judgment allowing the route march to be held at 44 places across the state. However, the judge denied permission for conducting route march at Coimbatore city, Mettupalayam, Arumanai, Nagercoil, Pollachi, and Palladam till the prevailing tense situation following the Coimbatore car blast was over.

The court also directed the RSS to file a fresh petition to conduct the route march at the six places where it was denied permission due to the law and order situation at the moment.

## Truck entry into Delhi banned, govt offices to run with 50% capacity: Gopal Rai

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi government on Friday banned the entry of trucks other than essential services in the national capital following the introduction of GRAP IV, and also set up a 6-member committee to monitor truck entry in the city.

Environment Minister Gopal Rai said: "Only CNG and electric trucks will be allowed to enter Delhi other than those serving essential services. The Delhi government has constituted a 6-member monitoring committee to oversee the same."

Addressing a press briefing, he also said that the Delhi government's offices will run at 50 per cent capacity while 50 per cent employees will work from home and 500 new eco-buses will be run in the state.

A special task force will be formed for the hotspots, while a total of 33 teams have also been formed to monitor industrial pollution.

"In view of the severe situation of pollution in Delhi, CAQM had directed us to implement the fourth phase of GRAP. In view of this, the restrictions imposed in Delhi from today are being tightened even more. There is already a ban on



construction and demolition work, but till now some categories of construction and demolition activities were exempted. Among them, the work of highways, flyovers and roads, pipelines and power transmission is also being banned," the Environment Minister said.

He said that the decision was taken after a meeting with the officials of MCD, construction agencies, the General Administration, Revenue, Environment, and other departments concerned, and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

"Only CNG, petrol and electric vehicles will be allowed to enter Delhi. There will also be a ban on medium and heavy vehicles of diesel registered in Delhi, which are not connected to essential services. Small vehicles with diesel engines which are not BS6 compliant will also be banned," Rai said.

"In the offices of Delhi government, it has been ordered to ensure 50 per cent attendance of the employees, the remaining 50 per cent will work from home. Along with this, advisory is being issued for private offices to do the same," he added.

## Minor raped by her neighbour in Delhi hospital, accused nabbed

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A minor girl was allegedly raped in a room of the Rajiv Gandhi hospital in east Delhi, police said on Friday.

Police said that the incident occurred on Thursday and the accused is a neighbour of the victim.

According to a senior police official, a call regarding a rape incident at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital was received at the GTB Enclave police station, following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"The victim, who is a minor, told police that her neighbour, who works as peon (contractual employee), had raped her. In her statement to police, she also said that he was her friend and



both have known each other for some time," the official said.

A police official privy to investigation said that the victim had called the accused and went out with him.

A case under Sections 376 (punishment for rape) of the Indian Penal Code and 4 of the PcoSO Act has been registered and the accused has been nabbed. The girl was also medically examined,

## Gehlot reaches Delhi amid political crisis in Rajasthan

Jaipur | Agencies

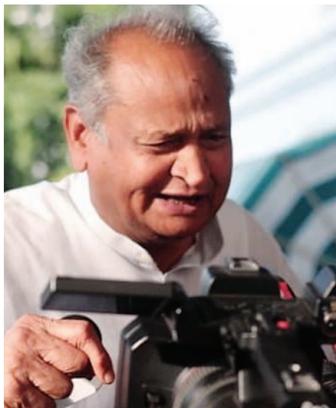
Amid the ongoing political crisis, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday left for Delhi.

He is supposed to reach Delhi in a special plane at 4 p.m. where he will meet senior Congress leaders.

Gehlot will make a night halt in Delhi. Next day, on November 5, he will be on an election tour of Gujarat for three days from November 5 to November 7. Gehlot will address 10 public meetings and will also hold a press conference in Rajkot. He will also visit Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth place and native village in Karamsad.

Gehlot, who is the senior observer of the Congress party in the Gujarat assembly elections, will be accompanied by Raghu Sharma, election in-charge for the state. In all public meetings, Gehlot will appeal to the general public to vote in support of the Congress candidates in the assembly elections.

Meanwhile, political uncertainty prevails in Rajasthan as former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot on Wednesday had asked Congress high command to take disciplinary action against three Gehlot loyalists, two ministers and one RTDC president, who convened a parallel meeting when an official



meeting was already called by Congress high command on September 25.

Pilot also termed it as an interesting development after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Gehlot, saying that Modi praised Ghulam Nabi the same way as he did praise Gehlot. We know what happened thereafter, Pilot quipped.

## WIDOW OF SLAIN KASHMIRI PANDIT TO GET J&K GOVT JOB: LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lt governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that the widow of the Kashmiri Pandit killed by the terrorists in J&K's Shopian district last month will get a government job.

Puran Krishan Bhat was killed by terrorists outside his home in Chaudharigund village of Shopian on October 15.

"Met the family members of martyr Shri Puran Krishan Bhat Ji at their residence in Jammu and offered my condolences. Administration to provide a permanent Govt job to his wife and every possible help to the family," the Lt Governor said in a tweet.

## Delhi MCD polls: Voting on Dec 4, results on Dec 7

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi State Election Commission on Friday announced that voting for the 2022

Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls will be held on December 4.

Counting will be held on December 7 and the results will be announced the same day.

With the announcement of the Delhi civic polls, the Model Code of Conduct has come into force in the national capital.

"The notification for the civic body poll will be issued on November 7. The last day for filing the nomination is November 14 and the scrutiny of the nomination will be held on November 16. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is November 19," Delhi State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev said.



"The MCD has jurisdiction in 68 assembly constituencies," Vijay Dev said, adding "as per 2011 census, out of 250 wards, 42 have been reserved for the SC. Out of those 42 seats, 21 are reserved for women."

"As on today, we have total 1.46 crores voters in Delhi. Around 13,665 polling stations will be set up for the polls," he said. This year, the Central gov-

## ODISHA CONSUMER COURT ORDERS SHOPPING MALL TO PAY RS 25K FOR CHARGING FOR CARRY BAG

Bhubaneswar: An Odisha consumer court has asked a Cuttack-based shopping mall to pay Rs 25,000 to a consumer for charging Rs 6 for a carry bag.

The district consumer dispute redressal commission, Cuttack has issued this order on a petition filed by Padmalochan Rout.

The court has directed the authorities of the shopping mall to pay the consumer Rs 10,000 towards compensation for his mental agony and harassment and a compensation of Rs 15,000 towards his litigation expenses.

The court has directed the shopping mall authorities to release the compensation amount within 30 days from the date of the receipt of the order.



## 11 KILLED AFTER SUV COLLIDES WITH BUS IN BETUL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

At least 11 people were killed and nearly six injured after an SUV they were travelling in collided with a bus in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, said police.

The accident happened late Thursday. Preliminary investigation found that due to high speed the SUV driver lost control over the vehicle and it collided with a bus.

The SUV was coming from Amravati (Maharashtra) and collided head-on with the bus, resulting in deaths.

The Superintendent of Police said that the accident happened around 2 a.m. when an empty bus was moving on the road and the SUV collided head-on. "All the persons who died were labourers who had been working in the Kalamata village in Amravati district for the last 20 days. They left from Amravati at around 9 p.m. on Thursday and met with an accident here," the



Betul Police said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the accident and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased. "Pained by the loss of lives due to an accident in Betul, MP. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakh

from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. Rs. 50,000 would be given to the injured," PM Modi tweeted.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also expressed his condolence and announced a compensation of Rs two lakh to the kin of each deceased and Rs 10,000 to injured persons.

## Pithampur is Industrial and employment generating capital of MP: Chief Minister Chouhan

CM dedicates development works worth Rs 1371 crores. Loan amount of Rs 2577 crores to connect 3.19 lakh youth with self-employment distributed. Bhoomi-pujan of Mahila Udyami Park, land allotment letters given to 21 women entrepreneurs. Vagdevi's statue will be brought to Madhya Pradesh. Statue of Maharana Pratap and Shivaji Maharaj unveiled. Employment day and 'One District - One Product' program in Pithampur.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Pithampur has become an industrial and employment-generating capital of Madhya Pradesh. Large scale industries have been established here and the flow of investment for industries is going on. A separate Women Entrepreneurs Park is being set up here for women.

Chief Minister was addressing the Employment Day and 'One District - One Product' program in Pithampur. He dedicated development works worth Rs 1371 crore and distributed loans worth Rs.2577 crore to 3 lakh 19 thousand youth to make them self-employed. He also unveiled the statues of Maharana Pratap and Shivaji Maharaj. The Chief Minister also handed over land allotment letters to 21 women entrepreneurs by performing bhoomi-pujan of Mahila Udyami Park.

Chouhan said that cultural revival work has started in Madhya Pradesh to establish cultural values. Efforts are



being made to bring the statue of Vagdevi, which is presently in England, to Madhya Pradesh again. The legal process is being completed. Mahakal Lok has been built in Ujjain. The work of establishing the statue of Adi Shankaracharya is going on in Omkareshwar.

Chief Minister said that Madhya Pradesh government is working day and night to provide employment and self-employment to the youth.

Recruitments will be made on one lakh vacant government posts in the next year. Advertisements will be issued for the recruitment of 40 thousand vacant posts in the month of November.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that in Pithampur, 1100 MSME units have an investment of Rs 12 thousand 777 crore and 38 thousand 770 people have got employment. 95 large industrial units are established here, in

which Rs 26 thousand 320 crore have been invested and 53 thousand 493 people have got employment. In this way a total of more than one lakh people have got employment. The pharma sector of Pithampur has done a wonderful job by delivering medicines in Covid to the world.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that a new investment area would be set up in 12,500 hectares by taking land from farmers, in which one lakh people would get employment. Pithampur is a wonderful industrial area. Industrial units are continuously investing here. Industrial products worth Rs. 11 thousand crores are exported to various countries.

Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that Rs 15 crore would be given for the construction of roads in Pithampur. SDM office will be setup permanently by creating a revenue section here. Pithampur Hospital will be upgraded to Civil Hospital. The regional development demands made by the local people's representatives will also be fulfilled.

## Kamal Nath reviews preparations for Bharat Jodo Yatra in MP

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With two weeks left for the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' to enter Madhya Pradesh from Maharashtra, the state unit of the Congress headed by Kamal Nath reviewed preparations.

All senior party leaders, Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPPCC) office-bearers assembled at Kamal Nath's residence at Shyamla Hills in Bhopal on Thursday night. Sources said more meetings will be held for the next two weeks.

During the meeting, Kamal Nath took stock of the preparation for the yatra. The party leaders were assigned their roles for the yatra.

Madhya Pradesh Congress has planned to organise as many as 17 sub-yatras from different parts of the



state that will pass one after another and will reach at Burhanpur district

where Rahul Gandhi's pan-India Bharat Jodo Yatra will enter the state

on November 20.

The state party unit has also planned to organise several events during the period and Rahul Gandhi will address several meetings. As the state Assembly elections are also getting nearer, the Madhya Pradesh Congress has planned to use the Bharat Jodo Yatra as a campaign exercise in all 230 seats of the state.

According to Congress MLA P.C. Sharma, who is in-charge of the Madhya Pradesh leg of the yatra, the participants will cover a distance of nearly 25 km per day. Rahul Gandhi will also interact with the people gathered along the route. During the yatra in the state, he will also offer prayers at the famous Mahakaleshwar temple, which is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in the country.

## 2 killed as boat capsizes in Narmada

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Two persons, including a six-year-old boy, drowned after a boat capsized in the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district, police said on Friday.

The boat was ferrying at least 13 persons, of which 11 were rescued safely.

All the people hailed from neighbouring Gujarat and were in Khandwa to offer prayers at Omkareshwar temple.

"The deceased have been identified as Darshana (45) and six-year-old boy Lakshya. Eleven others onboard were rescued with the help of divers. The incident took



place at 5 p.m. on Thursday, when water from Omkareshwar Dam was released into the river," said a police official in Khandwa.

Police said a case has been registered against the boatman in connection with the

mishap. "Soon after the incident, a rescue team was deployed and 11 persons were rescued. A child and a woman could not survive. A case has been registered and the matter is under investigation," police said.

## Action will be taken against celebrity promoting substandard material in MP: Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Action will be taken against celebrity branding substandard food items or products in Madhya Pradesh. This was stated by the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Bisahul Singh while addressing the seminar of a two-day workshop on Challenges of Implementation of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 at National Law Institute University. Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Singh said that a provision has been made to check misleading publicity



about products or services. If any popular person or celebrity promotes or promotes any product or service which has caused or is likely to cause harm to the consumer, the manufacturer or service provider of the product as well as the celebrity shall be held liable. MBBS Like law studies should also be started in Hindi. Hindi medium students will also be

able to study law with ease. The Minister said that in this era of globalization, with the increase in the sale of consumer goods and services, consumer problems are also increasing. In this changing environment, it has become necessary for the consumers to know what precautions they should take while making a purchase. If there is a problem, how will it be resolved? The correct information should also reach the consumers. Minister Singh said that the consumer can also register his complaints online if he wants. The system of registering complaints online through the e-Dakhl portal has been started in the state.

## RACE TO BECOME CHIEF SECRETARY IN MADHYA PRADESH HARDENS

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Administratively, the month of November is very important for Madhya Pradesh. Because Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bais is retiring this month and a new Chief Secretary is being sought in his place. Many eyes are on this post and amidst the gimmicks of the officers, the government wants to put such an officer on this post, which is important for it in terms of the 2023 assembly elections. A new name is fast emerging in this case and that of Additional Chief Secretary SN Mishra. The tenure of the current Chief Secretary of the state Iqbal Singh Bais is ending this month. The chances of extension of the 1985 batch IAS is less as he himself is not even trying to get extension. In this situation, the government is looking

for such a Chief Secretary whose tenure is till the next assembly i.e. from December of the year 2023 onwards. Elections are coming in front of the government, so among the names coming out, such a person is being reviewed who does not create any kind of obstacle for the government.

There is a discussion about the possible names of the Chief Secretary in the state that the government is also churning the names of Anurag Jain posted in Delhi and Mohammad Suleman posted in the state. On the basis of seniority, apart from Sanjay Kumar Singh and Ajay Tirkey of 1987 batch, Sanjay Bandopadhyay of 1988 batch are on central deputation, but the chances of any of them coming back are negligible.

In this situation, the government's eyes are on the Additional Chief

Secretary of the Water Resources Department, SN. Mishra is also there. Although the name of Mishra is at number 14 in the seniority list, but his identity is among the officers working according to the government. Not only this, he is also posted in the department of Tulsi Silavat, a minister close to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. In this situation, Mishra is reaching out to Scindia through his departmental minister Silavat and wants to occupy the chief secretary's chair by getting his support. According to the ongoing discussions in the administrative corridors, while Mishra is an officer working according to the wishes of the Chief Minister, on the other hand he is close to the Scindia faction. In this situation they are trying to keep their claim firmly.

On the other hand, Anurag Jain,

posted on central deputation, is in constant touch with the Chief Minister and he has had several meetings with the Chief Minister along with the top leaders of the state. In the past too, Jain has worked with the Chief Minister.

If you look at the seniority list of Indian Administrative Service officers of the state, then Bais is followed by Sanjay Singh, Ajay Tirkey, Sanjay Bandyopadhyay, Shailendra Singh, Veera Rana, Anurag Jain, Mohammad Suleman, Ashish Upadhyay, Rajiv Ranjan, Vinod Kumar, J.N. Consotia, Rajesh Rajoura and S.N. Mishra's name comes up. Out of these, the government would like to put him at the head of the administrative machinery, which will prove to be helpful for him in winning the assembly elections.

## Social worker hits street with RTI documents on bullock cart with drums and drums in Shivpuri

Team Absolute | Shivpuri

A strange sight was seen in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh, when a social worker got the documents sought under the Right to Information after a long struggle, he was so happy, the papers found in the document were nine thousand, so the bullock cart for him resorting to. He came from the office of the city council keeping the documents in the bullock cart while coming home with drums. Makhan Dhakad wanted to get some information about the disturbances going on in Bairad Municipal Council of Shivpuri district. He allege that there is a disturbance in the poor welfare schemes of the government running in the city council, the beneficiaries are getting the benefits only on paper. There is nothing on the ground. For this, he had filed RTI, but to get the documents of the plans, he had to travel to Gwalior and Bhopal.

It has been told that at first he did not get cooperation from the office, when the information was received,



it was nine thousand pages. Rs 25 thousand was deposited from him. When there was no arrangement of so much money, he took a loan.

The applicant Makhan Dhakad had the pain of having an empty pocket after so much struggle but

was also happy to get the information. To celebrate this happiness in a unique way, he asked for a bullock cart of one of his acquaintances and reached the city council office with two drummers for five hundred rupees. Makhan took four people

along to count the RTI information documents, which took two hours to count. He took the documents found from the office on his head to the bullock cart and then rode on the bullock cart and left for home with drums.

## Two teachers booked for punishing student who raised 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogan

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The police in Madhya Pradesh have booked two teachers of a private school for allegedly punishing a student for raising 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogan during the school assembly.

The incident happened at Christ Senior Secondary School in Guna on Wednesday. On Thursday, the family members and a few social organisations staged a protest in front of the school campus.

A group of right wing members also joined the protest and organised 'Hanuman Chalisa Path' at the school premises.

Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra on Thursday intervened in the matter and directed Guna district police to lodge an FIR against teachers who punished the student for raising slogans. Mishra said that as soon as the matter came to his notice, he immediately spoke to the officials. Teachers -- Justin and Jasmeena Khatun, have been booked under sections 323, 506 and 34 of the IPC, and Section 75 in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, according to the police. In his complaint, the student -- Shivansh Jain, told the police that after the national anthem, he raised the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.



"In the meantime, Justin sir came and he took me out of the line and said, 'what are you saying, go to the Father'. After that, my Hindi teacher came and said to go to your class teacher. When I met the class teacher, she said that I should raise it at home.

"After that, I reached the classroom. One of my classmates has been chosen as vice-captain of the Red House on which my class teacher Jasmeena Khatun said that 'one boy is making the class proud and I am tarnishing the class's name'. After that Madam made me sit on the ground for the next four periods," the student wrote in his complaint.



EDITOR'S SPECS

## Seven decades of political assassinations in Pakistan

October 16, 1951, stands out in the history of Pakistan as a date when the first Prime Minister of the country, Liaquat Ali Khan, was shot dead during a public rally in Rawalpindi's Company Gardens. The bullets fired in 1951 at the Company Gardens, later renamed Liaquat Bagh, led to the first major assassination but, unfortunately, it was not the last attempt as PTI chairman and former premier Imran Khan has become the latest to join the long list of politicians, who have faced such attacks. The Express Tribune reported. The shootings and terrorist attacks that have continued with frequent intervals for more than seven decades took the lives of several politicians, including former premier Benazir Bhutto, her brother Mir Murtaza Bhutto, Gujrat's Chaudhry Zahoor Elahi, Punjab's former home minister Shuja Khanzada and former minister for minorities Shahbaz Bhatti. Several others, including Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Assembly member and ANP's Bashir Ahmed Bilour and his son Haroon Bilour; religious scholar and former senator Maulana Samiul Haq; MQM's Syed Ali Raza Abidi; and PTI's Sardar Soran Singh were also killed in such attacks. Benazir Bhutto was murdered on December 27, 2007 by a suicide bomber after she had just finished an election rally in Rawalpindi. Her brother was shot dead along with six associates in a police encounter near his home in Karachi on September 20, 1996, during her tenure, The Express Tribune reported. Zahoor Elahi was assassinated in Lahore in 1981 by Al-Zulfikar, reportedly, by a terrorist organisation led by Murtaza Bhutto. It claimed responsibility for the attack. Khanzada was assassinated in a suicide attack at his political office in Shadikhah, Attock on August 16, 2015. A militant group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, had claimed responsibility for his murder. Maulana Samiul Haq, who was known as the "Father of Taliban" for the role his seminary Darul Uloom Haqqania played, was killed at his residence in Rawalpindi in November 2018, The Express Tribune reported.

# WHAT INDIA CAN EXPECT AT COP27 CLIMATE SUMMIT IN EGYPT?

Vishal Gulati

Against a backdrop of weather extremes and geopolitical crises, two upcoming UN summits -- the climate change conference in Egypt and the biodiversity summit in Canada to which India is a crucial Party to both -- are considered to be pivotal moments in global efforts to address the interlinked global warming and extinction crises. Unlike other "gap" reports, including last week's UNEP Emissions Gap report, which describe a divide between mitigation ambition and the emissions reductions needed to achieve the climate goals to be discussed at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6-20. The biodiversity meeting named COP15, the biggest conference in a decade, in Montreal, Canada, is expected to deliver a biodiversity agreement on par with the Paris Agreement -- a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 Parties at COP21 in Paris in December 2015 with the goal to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

What India can expect at COP27? The main focus this year will be on climate financing where India will push for better financing for G20 countries. Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R.K. Singh said the International Solar Alliance would "take up the cause" of demanding delivery of the Paris Agreement's \$100 billion per year climate financing pledge, which was supposed to run from 2020 to 2025 before increasing thereafter.

According to the latest OECD analysis, the climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries for climate action in developing countries reached \$83.3 bil-



lion in 2020. This is a further four per cent increase from 2019 and followed a one per cent increase from 2018 to 2019. However, it still falls short of the goal for developed countries to provide and mobilise \$100 billion a year for developing countries by 2020. The increase in 2020 climate finance was primarily driven by a rise in public flows.

India's updated climate plan comprises 45 per cent reduction in emissions intensity by 2030 and to reach 500 GW of non-fossil installed capacity by 2030.

Future technologies including green hydrogen, offshore wind, off grid and decentralized renewable energy applications need to be adapted. A new report by BloombergNEF (BNEF) states that India will require \$223 billion investment in order to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030 as in its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India has committed to 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. This will necessitate the need to attract private finance. Climate negotiators say the recent slew of policies show India is serious about meeting its 2030 decadal targets, which can set the pathway for its 2070 net-zero decarbonisation, pledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland.

UNFCCC defines climate finance

as "local, national or transnational financing, drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing, that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change".

Climate finance is necessary for mitigation because large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions. It is also equally important for adaptation, as significant financial resources are needed to adapt to the adverse effects and reduce the impacts of a changing climate.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) will play a major role in supporting India to make this transition. But central banks and other financial institutions will have to step up their game. What's needed is a multi-sovereign de-risking mechanism.

R.R. Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute, said India hasn't benefited much from the \$100 billion climate finance. "The capital flows to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) have been very little, the total capitalisation of GCF is \$10-12 billion and out of that only \$3-4 billion has come from international sources.

"Further to that only six projects are being implemented in India with GCF funding and those too are very small in size. Almost 95 per cent of the \$100 billion finance has gone to other developing countries. Therefore, \$100 billion is not so important for India but it is important for other developing countries

and gives an important signal. "It's an unresolved issue that is still pending. We have resolved the question of NDCs, the question of mitigation largely, maintaining 1.5-2 degrees goals and large economies now have net zero goals, but this \$100 billion discussion is yet to be resolved."

On the expected focus areas at COP27, he said: "We will have to come up with a principle for finance just like we've come up for NDCs, whether it is relative or absolute, we need a certain principle for contribution. There are some principles already in existence, like the UN principle, but for the GCF and any finance operating entities of COP, there are no principles. I think establishing this principle will become one of the main finance issues at this COP." Shreeshan Venkatesh, Climate Policy Lead with Climate Trends, believes the COP is happening at a time of global churn and a lot of the issues important in the collaborative climate effort are now magnified. "Being the COP of implementation and the global contexts, climate finance has assumed special importance. While climate finance is scaling, this seems to be circumstantial and skewed towards low-risk developed markets. There are a lot of reforms that need to take shape for a comprehensive financial response to the challenge that climate change and climate action pose. "While one cannot imagine all the questions around required reforms to be answered during the COP, it could be a point of convergence for these discussions and the expression of these needs. Financial risk mitigating mechanisms, long-term finance goals and some clarity on how carbon markets and pricing will shape up are likely to be important points that determine the course of global climate finance flows." With the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the energy crisis in

Europe compounding the woes of world that has been wrecked by extreme weather events and its devastating impacts, particularly in the developing world, TERI delegates note that COP27 should be resolving issues related to enhanced transparency framework, mobilization of long-term climate finance, adequacy of mitigation commitments by the Parties, the Global Goal on Adaptation, implementation of Article 6 (market-based mechanisms), the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage, and the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions. The TERI delegation headed by Vibha Dhawan, Director General, said: "Considering the particularly fraught world in which COP27 is set to unfold, and the continuing and devastating impacts of extreme weather events felt across the globe, it is imperative that the session at Sharm El-Sheikh engages with and tries to resolve issues related to long-term climate finance and the mechanisms for loss and damage." As UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres says: "COP27 must provide a clear and time-bound roadmap on closing the finance gap for addressing loss and damage. This will be a central litmus test for success at COP27."

The UN estimates that the current cost of meeting adaptation needs is \$70 billion. By 2050, it could reach \$500 billion. According to the Carbon Disclosure Project, just for water risks alone, the costs of doing nothing is five times that of acting today. As recent extreme weather events across the developing and developed world showed adaptation is not just for the most vulnerable, host Egypt in a message sums up the world needs to come together to act now to save lives and livelihoods. It is time for implementation.

## international

## PTI LEADER CALLS ON SUPPORTERS TO AVENGE ATTACK ON IMRAN

Islamabad: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Anwar Zeb Khan has called on supporters to enter Islamabad armed and avenge the assassination attempt on party chairman Imran Khan. A video has gone viral on social media that shows Anwar, who is also Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Social Welfare, speaking to a charged crowd, Samaa TV reported.

In the video, he can be seen wielding an AK-47 as he challenges Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah.

As he waived the assault rifle in the air, Anwar dares Sanaullah to stop the PTI protesters as he announced that they will come to Islamabad armed. "We will take revenge of the attack on Imran Khan," Samaa TV quoted Anwar as saying in the video. Fazal Elahi, who was elected on a PTI ticket from Peshawar, has threatened Sanaullah that he is coming to avenge the attack on his party chairman.

A video of Elahi posted on social media shows him using foul language and call the Interior Minister names as he dares the latter to step out of his house. Following the attack on Thursday evening, PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar had said that Khan suspects three people to be behind the assassination attempt -- Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Sanaullah, and a senior military officer.



## Israel polls: Netanyahu-led alliance wins majority, Lapid concedes defeat

Jerusalem | Agencies

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a comeback with a decisive victory in the country's general elections, poll results showed on Thursday.

As the final thousands of votes were being tallied Thursday evening, Prime Minister Yair Lapid called opposition leader Netanyahu to concede the race and congratulate him on his election victory, The Times of Israel reported.

"The State of Israel is above any political considerations," Lapid said in a statement. "I wish Netanyahu good luck for the people of Israel and the State of Israel."

Netanyahu will control not just the largest party in the Knesset (Israeli parliament), but is poised to return to power leading a 64-strong majority bloc of his religious and right-wing allies in the 120-member Knesset.

Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party won 32 seats and his right-



wing religious and nationalist bloc won 64 in the 120-seat parliament, or Knesset, according to Israel's Central Elections Committee.

Lapid's Yesh Atid party won 24 seats and his bloc of right-wing, left-wing and Arab parties secured 51.

Reacting to Netanyahu's victory, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a tweet, said: "Mazel Tov my friend @netanyahu for your electoral success. I look forward to

## FOREIGN TOURISTS TO CAMBODIA'S ANGKOR UP 2,224%

Phnom Penh | Agencies

Cambodia's famed Angkor Archaeological Park received 169,349 international tourists in the first 10 months of 2022, up 2,224 per cent compared to the same period last year, said an official report on Friday.

The park made \$6.76 million in revenue from ticket sales during the January-October period this year, up 2,155 per cent year-on-year, the state-owned Angkor Enterprise's report revealed.

Holidaymakers from 125 countries and regions visited the site during the period, Xinhua news agency quoted the report as saying.

Located in the Siem Reap province, the 401-square-km Angkor Archaeological Park, inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List in 1992, is the most popular tourist destination in the Southeast Asian country.

The Park contains the remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century, including the famous Temple of Angkor Wat.

During the pre-Covid era, the Angkor park received up to 2.2 million international visitors in 2019, generating \$99 million in revenue from ticket sales, the Angkor Enterprise said.

According to Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday, high vaccination rates have in part helped revive the kingdom's tourism industry.

He said Covid-19 vaccines have built herd immunity in Cambodia that has allowed the country to reopen its borders with confidence since late 2021.



## Europe could risk gas shortage in 2023: IEA

Paris | Agencies

Europe could face a shortage of as much as 30 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas during the key summer period for refilling its gas storage sites in 2023, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) warned.

"Europe needs to take immediate action to avoid the risk of natural gas shortage next year," meaning urgent action is required by governments to reduce gas consumption amid the global energy crisis, IEA said.

Gas storage sites in the European Union (EU) are now 95 per cent full, it noted.

However, it warned that the cushion provided by current storage levels, as well as recent lower gas prices and unusually mild temperatures, should not lead to overly optimistic conclusions about the future, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the IEA, the process of filling the European Union's gas storage



sites this year benefited from key factors that may well not be repeated in 2023.

Europe "could face a challenging supply-demand gap" in the event of a full cession of Russian pipeline gas supplies to the EU, the IEA added.

For the Russian pipeline gas supply, "it is highly unlikely that Russia will deliver another 60 bcm" for 2023.

"Russian deliveries to Europe could halt completely," the IEA said.

"With the recent mild weather and lower gas prices, there is a danger of complacency creeping into the conversation around Europe's gas supplies, but we are by no means out of the woods yet," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

## Massive forest fire ravages 3,600 hectares of land in Chile

Santiago | Agencies

A massive forest fire in central Chile's Maule region has ravaged at least 3,600 hectares of land, damaged several homes and is yet to be brought under control, authorities said.

The fire, which has been burning since Monday in the communes of Molina and Rio Claro, some 200 km south of the capital Santiago, presents a threat to nearby homes, Xinhua news agency quoted the country's National Forestry Corporation as saying in a statement.

While "the fire is generally of low intensity and spreading slowly", aerial firefighting has been hampered "due to thermal inversion" preventing the smoke from



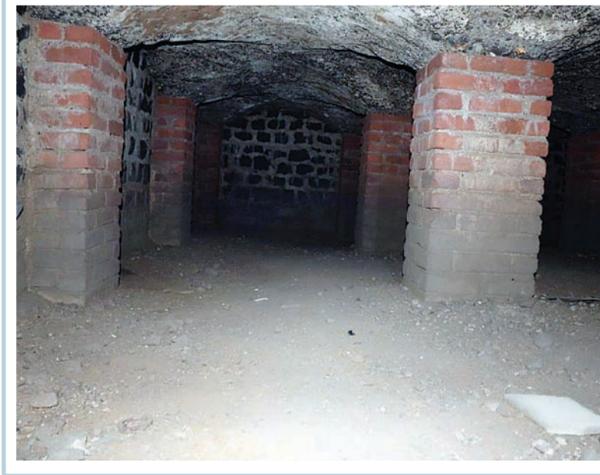
dissipating, the statement said.

The flames have damaged eight houses and destroyed two warehouses, according to the latest report from the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Safety.

Military forces, private forestry brigades and government institutions have been working together to combat the blaze.

## ECUADORIAN POLICE ARREST 668 PERSONS OVER VIOLENT ATTACKS

Quito: Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso announced that 668 people have been arrested in the wake of violent attacks by criminal gangs during a prisoner transfer. Since Tuesday, Ecuador has experienced a series of attacks, including shootings, car bombs, in the provinces of Guayas, Esmeraldas and Santo Domingo, resulting in the deaths of five policemen and a civilian, reports Xinhua news agency. The attacks occurred when 1,002 inmates were to be transferred to other prisons from the Litoral Penitentiary in Guayas, the largest prison in Ecuador. Among those inmates are leaders of drug trafficking organizations, according to the Ecuadorian government. Lasso declared a 45-day state of emergency in Guayas and Esmeraldas on Tuesday, imposing curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. In face of the violent armed attacks, over 1,000 policemen and soldiers intervened to regain control of the prison on Thursday. The Ecuadorian president ordered the security forces to act harshly within the framework of the law against what he called the "acts of sabotage and terrorism".



132-year-old British-era tunnel dug up on Mumbai govt hospital campus

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A 132-year-old tunnel constructed during the British era was dug up at the state government's Sir J.J. Hospital grounds, officials said here on Friday.

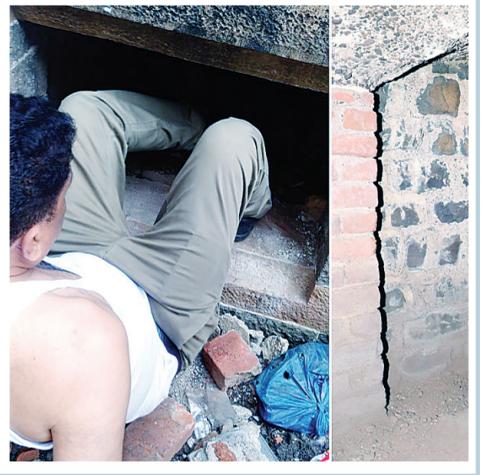
The tunnel, measuring around 200 metres long, has a date mentioned on the foundation stone '1890' and was accidentally found by a resident medical officer on Wednesday, said the hospital Dean Dr. Pallavi Saple.

She told mediapersons that the building under which the tunnel with brick walls has been discovered was the erstwhile Sir D.M. Petit Hospital for Women and Children, which was opened in March 1892, on the sprawling hospital campus at Byculla. The building is now being converted into a nursing

college, and though there was speculation of a tunnel on the campus, there were no official records or maps to locate it, added Dr. Saple. A hospital medic, Dr. Arun Rathod, while on a routine round, found a hole near the nursing college wall, and explored it to discover the tunnel almost accidentally, and carried out a preliminary exploration. The tunnel may have been built purportedly to connect the former women and children wards, though exact details are still sketchy.

Incidentally, the foundation for the Sir J.J. Hospital was laid on January 3, 1843, and as per the date (1890) on the stone found now, indicates that the tunnel may have been constructed much later.

The hospital authorities plan to provide all details of the discovery to the Collectorate and the Archaeological departments in Mumbai for further investigations.



MAHARASHTRA, KARNATAKA GOVERNORS MEET TO BOOST BORDER RELATIONS

Team Absolute | Kolhapur

In a major initiative, the Governors of Maharashtra and Karnataka met in this Maharashtra town on Friday to boost cooperation in the border districts of the two adjoining states.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and his Karnataka counterpart Thawarchand Gehlot held the meeting along with Collectors and Superintendents of Police of 9 border districts - five of Maharashtra and four of Karnataka - at the Residency Club here this afternoon.

The meeting, held at the behest of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, assumes significance in view of the sentimental and long-pending boundary dispute between the two states that creates regular political friction.

"There is good coordination between the border districts of the two states and this meeting will definitely be beneficial in the future. The



state governments will be informed about the problems that need to be resolved at the state-levels through discussions among the officials on both sides," said Koshyari.

"The meeting was satisfactory.. As per the discussions held today, all the concerned administrations should create better coordination among

each other and try to get the government schemes' benefits to the citizens living in the area," noted Gehlot.

The Collectors and SPs also made their presentations at the meeting and along with the deliberations outcome, all the inputs would be compiled and sent to the Raj Bavans of the two states which would act fur-

ther.

Kolhapur Collector Rahul Rekhawar said that as per the meeting held on June 26, 2020, it was decided that the water levels in the Almatti Dam should be around 517-517.50 metres to reduce the impact of floods from the Krishna River.

The participants also felt that the Excise Departments of both the states need to coordinate more with each other to prevent illicit liquor trafficking from Goa by thoroughly inspecting vehicles on the Shinoli, Sankeshwar, and Kognoli routes.

Other major points discussed were steps to curb the incident of lumpy skin disease in the cattle of the two states, easier trade and market for cattle fodder, the problems of migration of elephants from Karnataka to Maharashtra, growing animal-human conflicts, compensation to victims of Covid-19 from Kolhapur who died in Karnataka and stringent implementation of the PCPNDT Act to stop illegal sex determination tests in the border areas.

Pop band Vengaboys arrive in Mumbai, all set to rock the stage



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular Dutch party pop band Vengaboys has arrived in Mumbai.

The band is all set to perform spectacular concert at Phoenix Marketcity Mumbai. The band is also scheduled to

perform in Mumbai on Friday and will next perform in Bengaluru on November 6.

The group is known for their hit singles 'We Like to Party', 'Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom!', and 'We're Going to Ibiza'. The group was the creation of Dutch producers

Wessel van Diepen and Dennis van den Driesschen. It consists of lead vocalist Kim Sasabone, female vocalist Denise Post-Van Rijnswijk and male vocalists Robin Pors and Donny Latupeirissa. Casting and selection of the act was done by van Diepen.

BJP to equip young women with 'self-defence' techniques

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a unique initiative, the Maharashtra unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will train young women in self-defence techniques all over the state as part of its 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, a top leader said here on Thursday.

BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule said the programme will be taken to the remotest villages in the state, and help all women protect themselves better and supplement the state government's crusade to eradicate crime. Inaugurating the self-defence programme, he suggested that the self-defence training drive must also be coupled with launching new voters' registration for all girls attaining the age of 18. "While imparting self-



defence training to women, it is necessary that their self-confidence is also boosted. The cell must extend this initiative to every booth in different parts of the state. The party organization will extend all possible support for it," assured Bawankule. Present on the occasion were state general secretaries Adv. Madhavi Naik and Vikrant Patil, Cell coordinator Shubha Padhye and co-convenor Vinay Tripathi.

MEN POSE AS COPS ON HIGHWAY, ROB 4 TAXI PASSENGERS IN MUMBAI

Mumbai: Four passengers of a taxi were allegedly robbed by a group of men posing as policemen on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai, police said on Friday.

The incident took place near Kherwadi junction on Tuesday night, when the victims were on their way to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport to catch a flight, an official said.

The taxi was intercepted by a group of men who claimed to be policemen. The victims were asked to alight the vehicle, following which their passports were snatched and they were asked to sit in another vehicle, which they claimed was a police car, he said.

The car was driven to Goregaon, where the accused allegedly robbed the victims of their luggage, cash, valuables and mobile phones, the official said. Based on a complaint, an offence under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and a probe has been launched, senior inspector Rajendra Mulik said.

Team Shinde MLA accused of entering Mantralaya without signing register

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena MLA Santosh Bangar has been accused of trying to enter the premises of Mantralaya, the Maharashtra state secretariat here, along with his supporters without making the mandatory entry in the police register at the gate, allegations the legislator refuted.

As per officials, the incident happened on Thursday afternoon and Mr Bangar allegedly even used an explosive when he was asked to sign the register by police personnel posted at the gate.



The MLA from Kalamnuri in Hingoli district was allowed to enter after one of the persons in his entourage signed the register after filling

in visitor details, they added. Officials said no complaint was filed with Marine Drive police station, though a report on the incident was

submitted to the office of the Director General of Police as well as the state Home department. Meanwhile speaking to a news channel, Bangar said the allegations were baseless. "We were stopped at the (Mantralaya) gate by a police personnel there. One of my supporters told him I was an MLA, after which he greeted me and I returned the gesture. I also told him my personal assistant would fill entry details," he claimed. He said police may have made an entry of the incident in their diary thinking he would complain being an MLA.

Walking, push-ups as Maha Congress leaders prep for Rahul Gandhi-led march

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of the arrival of Congress's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Maharashtra, several senior party leaders in the state have been practising brisk walking and doing exercises to keep pace with Rahul Gandhi during the public outreach programme. The Bharat Jodo Yatra is scheduled to arrive at Deghur in Nanded district of Maharashtra

from neighbouring Telangana around 7 pm on November 7. Former state chief minister Ashok Chavan said he and other leaders have been practising brisk walk and exercising to match Rahul Gandhi's steps, while state Congress president Nana Patole said he has been doing warm up exercises and push-ups to keep himself fit for the yatra. "Citizens in Nanded are all set to participate in the yatra.

We are practising and exercising as and when we get time. Walking is good for health," Chavan, who hails from Nanded, said. Patole said that as the party's state unit chief, it was his duty to travel the entire 382-km-long stretch of the yatra in the state with Rahul Gandhi. DP Sawant, Congress leader and MLA from Nanded, said the party leaders from the state will try to walk during the yatra as much as they can.

BUSINESSMAN NABBED AS GST SLEUTHS BUST RS 45 CR FAKE BILLS SCAM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Goods & Services Tax Department has busted a GST scam involving fake invoices worth Rs 45 crore and arrested a businessman for the alleged fraud, an official said here on Friday.

Launching a special operation, GST sleuths raided Arnav Creations on Wednesday as part of the ongoing probe into the malaise of fraudulent invoices

to cheat the exchequer.

The team of Assistant Commissioners Arjun P. Suryawanshi, Ramesh Awaghande and Pradnya Brahmande, along with Inspectors, executed the operation with guidance from State Tax Joint Commissioner Anil Bhandari and Deputy Commissioner Mohan R. Bagade.

Jagdish Jagannath Patil, 48, who is said to be the proprietor

of Arnav Creations, with a GST Registration in the firm's name since August 2018, was nabbed in the raid.

The probe revealed that Patil had availed fake Input Tax Credit of Rs 7.08 crore from certain non-existent tax-payers by means of returns only and without any movement of goods and services worth Rs 47 crore.

In this manner, he passed on credit of Rs 6.79 crore without actually supplying goods or

services worth Rs 45 crore.

Patil was produced before the Esplanade Court Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Mumbai who sent him to 14 days judicial custody, said Suryawanshi.

In the current fiscal, this is the 49th arrest made by the department which has again sternly warned tax evaders to beware of declaring bogus turnover and claiming fake ITC benefits.

Reliance Capital COC divided on Challenge Mechanism

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Committee of Creditors (COC) of Reliance Capital, which met on Friday to decide on the Challenge Mechanism process, remained divided and undecided on the modalities of the proposed process to be adopted in the bidding process.

The COC failed to arrive at a decision on how the Challenge Mechanism process shall work. Instead, the Committee recommended the Black Box approach, which means that the modalities of the Challenge Mechanism process will be decided by the COC, and not communicated to the bidders right now. It will be communicated to them at a later date.

This also means that the bidders will have to submit their Resolution Plan with complete uncertainty on



how this process will work and impact the bidding process, after the submission of their binding bids. According to a bidder, the uncertainty on the Challenge Mechanism is likely to lead to a depressed valuation. As it is, bidders are not happy with the insertion of this clause at an advanced stage of the bidding process. It was decided in Friday's meeting that all the bidders while submitting their resolution plan, will be required to give written consent that they will agree to and participate in the Challenge Mechanism, in whatever form it is implemented by the lenders at the

later stage.

Though in the meeting, the COC adviser KPMG strongly supported an ascending e-auction process as has been recently done by the government in the 5G auction, but the lenders failed to reach a consensus.

Sources revealed that the bidders like Piramal, Hinduja, Torrent, Zurich, Oaktree, Advent had raised a red flag on this clause which was not in the original Request for Resolution Plans (RFRP) document issued to the bidders. Bidders have argued that there was no such clause in the bidding process of DHFL, which was the largest resolution done through NCLT in the financial services sector, for over Rs 95,000 crore worth of debt. Bidders have said that the winning bidder was evaluated only on one simple criteria of the Net Present Value (NPV), as per the RFRP of the bid.

Notably, KPMG, who is the COC advisor, and Luthra & Luthra, who is the legal advisor to the COC had proposed multiple options on the Challenge Mechanism:

- Option 1 is the Swiss Challenge Process where the highest bidder will be declared as an Anchor Bidder, and will be offered the Right of First Refusal (RoFR) and the other bidders under option 1 for RCap CIC can participate.
- Option 2 is a bilateral negotiation by the CoC with each bidder.
- Option 3 is an electronic auction for bidders to participate in, and to declare the highest bidder
- Option 4 is a combination of all the above

Notice for Tender.

Second Extension

Supply of Bullet Proof Tyre/Runflat System/Rims 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 Bullet Proof Tyre/Runflat System/Rims.

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

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 10.11.2022 up to 11:00 a.m.

Sd/- (Nishikant More) Addl. Commissioner of Police, Motor Transport, Mumbai.

ROC-2022-23 / No.5 / C 3796



Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Ryan Coogler's memories of late actor Chadwick Boseman still leave him with overwhelming emotions whenever he talks about the late actor. The director got emotional as he recalled his last conversation with the 'Black Panther' star, says reports. In the first episode of 'Wakanda Forever: The Official Black Panther Podcast', the filmmaker said he just finished writing the 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' script about T'Challa grieving the loss of time from the five-year 'Avengers: Endgame' Blip when he reached out to Boseman. "I just finished (the script). My last conversation with him was calling him asking him if he wanted to read it before I got notes from the studio. That was the last time we spoke," he said. "He passed maybe a couple of weeks after I finished."

## Ryan Coogler gets emotional after recalling his last conversation with Chadwick Boseman

When the interviewer asked for details about Boseman's response, Coogler took a moment to compose himself. In between what sounded like tears, he told host Ta-Nehisi Coates: "He was tired, bro...I could tell he was tired." (Boseman) called me, and I could tell he was laying down when we were talking," he continued. "Simone (Boseman's wife) was with him, and he kicked Simone out because he told her he didn't want her to hear nothing that could get him in trouble with an NDA. And she didn't want to leave him. So I could tell something was up." Coogler said the couple was in good spirits and "joking and laughing," as he remembered Boseman talking about their upcoming wedding in South Carolina. "Then he said he didn't want to read (the script) because he didn't want to get in the way of whatever notes the studio might have. So he said he'd read it later," Coogler recalled. "But I found out later he was too tired to read anything." The 36-year-old revealed he and Denzel Washington, Boseman's long-time friend and producer of his film "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom", had been trying to reach Boseman for days by the time he got Boseman on the phone.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Comedian Pete Davidson is "still obsessed" with reality TV star Kim Kardashian. A source has alleged that the pair, who used to date from October 2021 until this August, are still in contact and even though the reality TV star is the one who messages him, she still turns down his requests to meet up, says reports. A source said, "Pete is still obsessed with Kim. She is in touch (with Pete although) she's turning down all of his requests to get together. There's been contact and Kim is actually the one who texts him a lot, she's always messaging and sending pictures."

The insider went on to explain that it must be "hard" for the former "Saturday Night Live" star because Kim, who was previously married to rap star Kanye West and has children North, nine, Saint, six, Chicago, four, and Psalm, three with him, knows now is not the time but claimed that the recent incident that reportedly saw Pete break his TV in half and throw coffee at his dressing room walls was a reaction to her blowing "hot and cold."

"It's got to be hard for Pete though - she's going hot and cold, she doesn't want to string him along but she can't be with him right now. Everyone suspects that's the reason behind his meltdown last week," according to the source. "When Kim called it off a few months ago, he was understanding because he thought she was (worried about) her current stress-esses of the kids, the long distance, Kanye and her crazy schedule," the source said.

Pete Davidson 'still obsessed' with Kim Kardashian



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-singer Selena Gomez shared the unexpected style hiccup she experienced at the 2022 Emmys, telling Kelly Clarkson on her daytime talk show, "A lot of people saw something they didn't want to see." "My dress was actually riding up the entire time," Selena told host Kelly Clarkson about her wardrobe malfunction. "So a lot of people saw something they didn't want to see."

Despite having a fashion hiccup at the 2022 Emmys, the Rare Beauty founder handled it like a total pro. After all, wearing head-turning looks has become second nature for Selena, who recently wowed at the world premiere of her new documentary Selena Gomez: My Mind & Me. Between Selena's bold makeup and her gown's striking fuchsia colour, it's safe to say she commanded the red carpet at the TLC Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

And while the actress celebrated the premiere of her new Apple TV+ documentary, her mom film just yet. "It's something that I feel, 'cause I didn't really want to do a lot," Mandy Teefey explained at the Paw Works Animal Rescue event on October 29. "And it kind of just put me in a headspace that you just don't want to revisit after you've grown through so much."

Selena had a wardrobe malfunction at the 2022 Emmys



## Amber Heard 'deletes Twitter account'

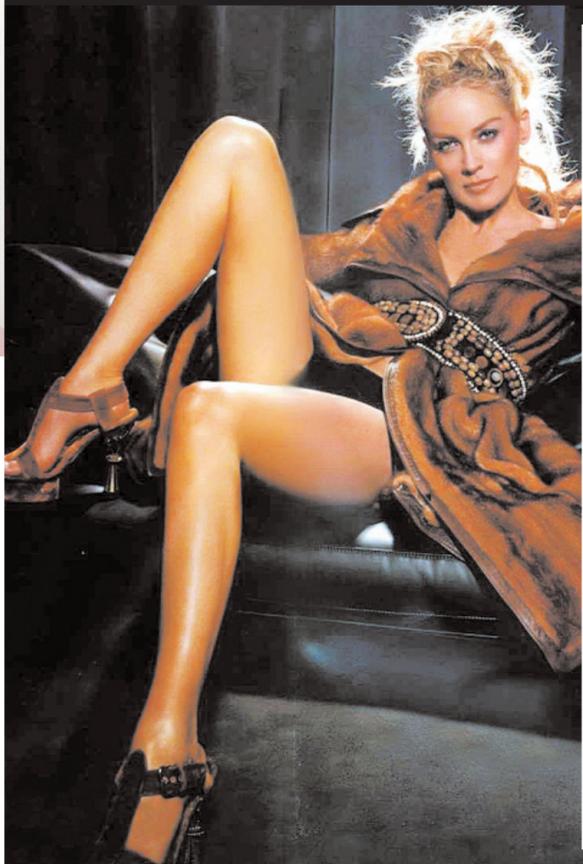
Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amber Heard appears to have deleted her Twitter account, just days after her former beau Elon Musk's controversial takeover. He finally closed his \$44-billion takeover of the social media platform last week, and promptly set about announcing a string of changes, says reports. In the wake of the move, a string of famous faces announced their plans to leave the platform, including Shonda Rhimes and Mick Foley. Heard, who previously posted under the handle @realamberheard, is no longer visible on the microblogging site, sparking speculation that she has followed suit. According to reports, the account went down earlier today, but the reason behind this has not been made clear. Amber, who has taken a step back from the spotlight after losing her highly-publicised court battle against Johnny Depp, has not spoken publicly about the changes to her account.

## Sharon Stone to undergo surgery

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Sharon Stone is expected to go under the knife to have a "large fibroid tumour" removed following a misdiagnosis. The "Basic Instinct" actress will have the surgery 21 years after she suffered a brain haemorrhage and stroke that almost killed her, says reports. While encouraging her fans to seek second opinions from doctors, she said the new growth, which develops in or around the womb, was found in her body after a previous medical misdiagnosis. Taking to her Instagram Stories with an update on her health, she said that she had "just had another misdiagnosis and incorrect procedure" and went for a "double epidural" to treat her pain. She added the agony grew worse and when she went for a second opinion from a different doctor and they revealed she had a "large fibroid tumour" that "must come out." The actress warned her followers: "Ladies in particular, don't get blown off. Get a second opinion. It can save your life." Sharon said it was going to take her between a month and six weeks to recover from the trauma and thanked fans for their concern, signing off, and "It's all good." Sharon, mum to sons Roan, 22, Laird, 17, and Quinn, 16, through adoption, told earlier this year how she has lost nine children by miscarriage. She addressed her other health woes in her 2021 autobiography "The Beauty of Living Twice", in which she said benign tumours were removed from her body in 2001 she said were "gigantic" and bigger than one of her breasts. She was also hit by a stroke and cerebral haemorrhage the same year.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Natalie Portman



### Men's T20 World Cup

# NEW ZEALAND BECOMES FIRST TEAM TO QUALIFY FOR SEMIFINALS

Adelaide | Agencies

New Zealand became the first team to qualify for the semifinals of the Men's T20 World Cup 2022 after Afghanistan restricted Australia to 168/8 in their Super 12 match on Wednesday.

After New Zealand beat Ireland by 35 runs in their final Super 12 group, defending champions Australia needed to score 185 against Afghanistan to overtake the Net Run-Rate of their Trans-Tasman rivals. However, the hosts scored 168 for 8 in 20 overs after being invited to bat first by Afghanistan, allowing New Zealand to qualify for the knockout stage.

The Aussies also had a chance of getting past England's Net Run-Rate if they would have restricted Afghanistan to 106 or a lower total. However, Afghanistan lost the game by a close margin of just four runs.

As of now, New Zealand are the only team to qualify for the semifinals and they are at the top spot with seven points and a Net Run-Rate (NRR) of +2.113 in Group 1 standings. It's a direct competition now between England and Australia for the second semifinal spot from Group 1. If England wins against Sri Lanka on Saturday, they will be through to the semifinal. If England lose, Australia will qualify and if it's rained out and it's no result then also Australia will go to the semis.

Notably, both England and Australia qualified for the semis last time around, but this time, one of them will have to return empty-handed from the multi-nation mega event.



### Australia survive Rashid Khan cameo in four-run win

Adelaide| Australia managed to survive a late cameo from Rashid Khan to edge Afghanistan by four runs in their final Group 1 match in Super 12s of Men's T20 World Cup at the Adelaide Oval on Friday. After Glenn Maxwell made an unbeaten 54 off 32 balls to carry Australia to a competitive 168/6, Gulbadin Naib and Ibrahim Zadran were leading Afghanistan to a famous win with their 59-run stand off 46 balls for the third wicket. But he had too much to do in the end for a famous victory, even though he gave Australia an almighty scare as Afghanistan ended at 164/7 in 20 overs. Australia now need Sri Lanka to beat England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday to give the hosts and defending champions a ticket to the semifinals. In the chase, Rahmanullah Gurbaz got Afghanistan off to a quick start and was looking dangerous but Kane Richardson struck in his opening over to send him back for a 17-ball 30 while Josh Hazlewood took out Usman Ghani cheaply. Naib and Zadran joined forces to power Afghanistan's charge for a famous win. Rashid hit some late boundaries to ensure Afghanistan were in the reckoning for a late win. After Darwish Rasooli was run-out in the 19th over, Australia were able to defend 22 off the final over despite Rashid hitting two fours and a six against a bowling attack minus Mitchell Starc which needed to bowl out Afghanistan for 106 or less to overhaul England's net run rate.



#### Brief scores

Brief scores: Australia 168/8 in 20 overs (Glenn Maxwell 54 not out, Mitchell Marsh 45; Naveen-ul-Haq 3-21, Fazalhaq Farooqi 2-29) beat Afghanistan 164/7 in 20 overs (Rashid Khan 48 not out, Gulbadin Naib 39; Adam Zampa 2-22, Josh Hazlewood 2-33) by four runs.

# Draw with Nice not enough for Cologne in UEFA Europa League

Berlin | Agencies

Cologne came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Nice, but were still eliminated from the UEFA Europa League. The Billy Goats started brightly on home soil, knowing that only a win could put them through.

Cologne came close twice in the opening stages but Nice goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel was on guard and denied Sargis Adamyan in quick succession on Thursday night. Nice defended deep and lurked for counterattacking opportunities, while Steffen Tigges tested Schmeichel with a dangerous header at the half-hour mark.

The visitors from France eventually came to life in the closing stages of the first half and flabbergasted Cologne with two quick goals, reports Xinhua. Gaetan Laborde broke the deadlock against the run of play in the 40th minute after finishing off a fast break, before Billal Brahimi benefitted from a turnover to make it two three minutes later.

Cologne came out with all guns blazing after the restart as Schmeichel denied Adamyan with a great reflex early on. Schmeichel was hapless though moments later after Denis Huseinbasic slotted home from a tight angle to halve the deficit in the 48th minute.

The hosts pressed frenetically for more goals and got rewarded for their efforts as



Ondrej Duda made the most of Huseinbasic's cutback to beat Schmeichel at the hour mark. Steffen Baumgart's men thought they had turned the tide with the next play, but Adamyan tapped home from an offside position.

Cologne remained on the front foot and started an onslaught on Nice's goal, but the visitors' defence stood firm to see the French side progress into the next round.

Meanwhile, there was no surprise for Fenerbahce as they beat Dynamo Kyiv 2-0

to seal first place in Group B of the UEFA Europa League.

Just before the break, the hosts made another defensive mistake, and this time they paid for it. Dynamo left Willian Arao unmarked in the penalty area, and the Brazilian midfielder's header at the near post allowed Fenerbahce to make it 2-0 just before the break.

Fenerbahce thus topped Group B with 14 points, followed by French side Rennes. Dynamo finished bottom of the group with just one point from six games.

### Para-Badminton World

# PRAMOD BHAGAT REACHED IN SEMI FINALS

## Doubles semis; Sukant Kadam too advances

Tokyo (Japan) | Agencies

ACE shuttler Pramod Bhagat remained on course to defend his double gold as he reached the semifinals in singles and doubles men's SL-3 section at the ongoing Para-Badminton World championship. Meanwhile, world No.3 Sukant Kadam has also reached the semifinals in the SL-4 category.

The Padma Shree awardee defeated Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrkov in straight sets to confirm his spot in the last four. The score read 21-17, 21-19 at the end of the 30-minute encounter. Next, he will face Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in the semifinals. In SL-3 men's doubles, Pramod and his partner Manoj Sarkar defeated South Korea's Joo Dongjae and Shin Kyung Hwan to top their group and book a spot in the semifinals. The match went into



three sets with the scoreline of 21-17, 16-21, 21-10. Now the duo will face the French pair of Guillaume Gailly and Mathieu Thomas.

In the SL4 men's category, world No.3 Sukant Kadam defeated Singapore's Chee Hiong Ang in straight sets, beating him 21-10, 21-15. Now the shuttler will face Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan to book a place in the final.

### Asian Elite Boxing

# Shiva Thapa moves into quarters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

FIVE-time Asian Championships medallist Shiva Thapa rode on his experience to score a hard-fought win and progressed to the quarterfinals of the Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan on Friday.

Thapa (63.5kg) was up against Mongolia's Byambatsogt Tuguldur in the pre-quarterfinal bout. Both boxers went toe-to-toe from the beginning with their aggressive approach and landed some heavy blows on each other, making it a very close contest.

In the end, it was the seasoned Indian boxer's experience and quick movement that helped him prevail over his opponent and secure a 3:2 victory by split decision in this fiercely-contested bout.

Thapa will now take on the winner of the bout between Haidara Alasaly and Minsu Choi in the quarterfinals.

# PKL 9: Meetu Sharma shines with 75 raid points

Pune | Agencies

Haryana Steelers' Meetu Sharma has been going great guns in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 9, scoring 75 raid points in nine matches so far and fulfilling a long-cherished dream.

Playing in the PKL has always been a dream for the 20-year-old and his family was particularly thrilled to see him in action on TV when he made his debut in the last season.

"My family watches my matches on TV. They were very thrilled when they saw me play on TV for the first time. There are a lot of youngsters in my village (Naultha) in Haryana, who are budding kabaddi players at the moment as well. The people in my village are very happy to see one of their people playing in the Pro Kabaddi League."

The raider also spoke about how he developed a dream of playing in the PKL. "I come from a farming family in Haryana. I started playing kabaddi in my



village when I was 12 years old. There are a lot of Pro Kabaddi League players who have emerged from our village, such as Vikas Jaglan and Naveen Sharma. First, we used to play the sport for fun in our village, but once we got to know about the Pro Kabaddi League, we developed an even bigger interest in the game. We started dreaming of playing in the PKL."

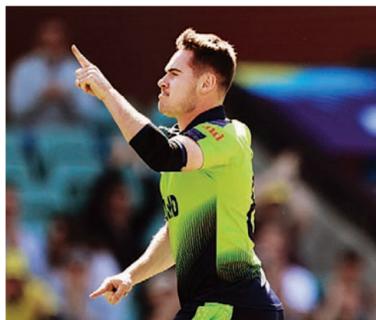
# T20 World Cup: Ireland's Josh Little shines with a sensational hat-trick

Adelaide | Agencies

Ireland's left-arm pacer Josh Little on Friday took a sensational hat-trick against New Zealand.

New Zealand were cruising at 174/3 in the 19th over and looked set for crossing 200-plus when Little removed skipper Kane Williamson, James Neesham and Mitchell Santner on successive deliveries to become only the second Ireland bowler to take a hat-trick in T20 World Cups after his team-mate Curtis Campher achieved the feat last year in Abu Dhabi.

After having Williamson pull straight to fielder in the deep to depart for 61, Little's consecutive lbw decisions in his favour on the final two deliveries of the over, earned him the unlikely achievement.



"I guess it was a little bit of tail back into the left-handers, wanted to execute it two times in a row and I got lucky to have managed it. I think I was a bit short early on, then went a bit greedy and went full," said Little in the mid-innings chat with broadcasters. Campher's hat-trick at last year's event came against the Netherlands in the first round of the competition as he picked up the wickets of Colin Ackermann, Ryan ten Doeschate, Scott Edwards and Roelof van der Merwe to complete an even rarer double hat-trick. There have now been a total of six hat-tricks at T20 World Cups over the years, with two of them coming at this year's event in Australia. UAE leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan picked up the first hat-trick of this year's T20 World Cup in Australia during his side's loss to Sri Lanka in Geelong in the first round.

# Praggnanandhaa and Nandhidhaa becomes Asian champions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

TOP seed Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa and Woman Grandmaster Nandhidhaa PV became the Asian champions in the Open and Women's sections respectively in the Asian Continental Chess Championship.

Praggnanandhaa started the final round with a lead of half-a-point over the nearest contenders and drew his ninth-round encounter with compatriot B. Adhiban in 63 moves to emerge as clear champion with seven points.

A six-way tie for the runners-up position with six-and-a-half points was resolved by tie break score and Harsha Bharathakoti finished ahead of the rest while B Adhian completed the Indian domination with a third-place finish. Narayanan SL, Vokhidov Shamsiddin of Uzbekistan, Sethuraman SP and Karthik Venkataraman had to be satisfied with fourth to seventh-place finish.

In the women's category, Nandhidhaa drew her final-round game against Divya Deshmukh to take her points tally to seven-and-a-half

points to win the yellow metal.

Priyanka Nutakki, Divya Deshmukh and Thi Kim Phung Vo of Vietnam finished equal on six-and-a-half points but a better tie-break score helped Priyanka to finish as runners-up. Divya finished third and Vo was placed fourth.

Meanwhile, Grandmaster Rinat Jumabayev of Kazakhstan and Divya Deshmukh became the Asian Blitz champions in the open and women's categories respectively.

# Mohammad Nabi resigns as Afghanistan captain

Adelaide | Agencies

ALL-rounder Mohammad Nabi resigned as Afghanistan's captain after losing to Australia in the T20 World Cup, citing his disappointment at the team's preparation for the mega event and disagreements with the selectors and management.



three defeats and two no-results, making them the only team to leave the tournament without a win.

"Our T20 World Cup journey came to an end, with a result that not us nor our supporters were expecting. We are as frustrated as you are with the outcome of matches," Nabi said in a statement

posted on his Twitter account.

"From the last year, our team's preparation was not to a level that a captain would want it or needed for a big tournament. Moreover, in some of the last tours the team management, selection committee and I were not on the same page which had implications on the team balance." "Therefore, with due respect, effectively immediately I announce to STEP DOWN as a CAPTAIN & will continue to play for my country when the management & team need me.

# ROARING INDIA FIGHT BACK TO OVERPOWER NEW ZEALAND 7-4

Bhubaneswar | Agencies

INDIA scored six goals in a row from the start of the second quarter to midway through the fourth to storm brilliantly back from a 1-3 deficit to overpower New Zealand 7-4 in a thrilling encounter in the Men's FIH Pro League Season Four cluster at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

Having opened their FIH Pro League 2022-23 campaign with a 4-3 win against the same New Zealand squad, scored twice through drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh and Karthi Selvam while Raj Kumar Pal, Sukhjeet Singh, and Jugraj Singh contributed one goal each to India's score. Simon Child, Sam Lane, Jack Smith and Nic Woods scored for New Zealand in the 11-goal thriller.

The hosts, who had suffered a narrow defeat to Spain last week in their second match of this cluster, looked in trouble when New Zealand went ahead through a goal by veteran Simon Child in the first minute and though Harmanpreet Singh con-



verted a penalty kick to make it 1-1, the Black Sticks scored twice through Sam Lane in 8th minute and Jake Smith in 13th to take a 3-1 lead at the end of the first quarter.

However, the Indians showed nerves of steel and played superb cohesive attacking hockey to shred the New Zealand defence to pieces as they turned

the match on its head in the next two quarters.

India snatched the initiative from the Black Sticks in the third quarter when they went ahead 4-3, just 33 seconds after half-time when another youngster Raj Kumar Pal scored a field goal in the 30th minute.

The Men in Blue then took complete control of the match, attacked in waves and left the rival defence in shambles, scoring three goals in the next 22 minutes to overpower New Zealand. Karthi struck his second goal and India's fifth of the match in the 37th minute and Sukhjeet Singh made it 6-3 when he scored through a cute little deflection off a pass by skipper Manpreet Singh in the 49th minute. In between, seasoned forward Mandeep Singh slammed a ball just wide of the New Zealand goal from the top of the shooting circle.

But Young drag-flicker Jugraj Singh scored his first goal since the Birmingham Commonwealth Games semifinal to make it 7-3 for India, slamming in the final nail in the coffin for the hosts.



## Ayan Mukerji shares he re-edited his 1st from Astraverse for the streaming release

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ayan Mukerji teased new details about the upcoming *Brahmastra Part Two: Dev*, the second instalment of his *Brahmastra* trilogy. Despite mixed reviews, the first instalment was released in September amid high expectations and grossed over Rs 400 crore globally. Ayan has been promoting the trilogy even before producer Karan Johar could officially confirm it and has stated that the second instalment will most likely not take as long to complete as the first.

Ayan spoke about his vision for part two in a new interview with a leading por-

tal, on the eve of the film's streaming release on OTT, and said that it will be more clash-oriented. The first film ended with a showdown between Ranbir Kapoor's Shiva and his villainous father Dev, a role that has yet to be filled.

Ayan also denied rumours that everyone from Ranveer Singh to Hrithik Roshan and Yash had been approached for the part. "I'm sure they'll be saying Prabhas next. I can't say anything about any of this stuff, but it's fun," he said.

The filmmaker also revealed that he re-edited the film for the streaming release and that he went back and tweaked Shiva and Isha's love story in response to audi-

ence feedback. It was generally agreed that Alia Bhatt's character Isha didn't have much to do, and her love story with Shiva felt unearned. "It's subtle stuff, so you may not realise it unless you've seen the film three or four times," Ayan commented on the changes, noting that they are mostly limited to lingering glances and stray lines of dialogue.

Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna, and Mouni Roy also appeared in *Brahmastra*, as did Shah Rukh Khan, Dimple Kapadia, and Deepika Padukone.



## Took me two months to gain weight: Sonakshi Sinha

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha took two months to gain weight but the toughest part was losing those extra kilos. Talking about her body transformation for the film, Sonakshi in a conversation with media said: "It took me two months to put on weight which was not a big deal but it took me a year to get rid of the weight I had put on. There are two ways to do it. You either do it the healthy way or the unhealthy way. However, I went the healthy way." Life is a full circle for Sonakshi, who started off as a costume designer before making her debut in acting in the year 2010 with the Salman Khan-starrer 'Dabangg', as she plays Saira Khanna, a fashion designer in the movie. She calls the film her "life story".

The 35-year-old actress also shared her mantra to deal with trolls and body-shamers.

"Whether you are short, tall, thin, fat, dark or fair, you are likely to get body shamed. People say what they want to say just ignore it. Don't waste your energy," she said.

The actress, who launched her own beauty brand in 2022, shared that 'Double XL' is a very personal film for her. "It's a very personal film for me and I want to remind everyone that women are slammed for many things, but don't let anyone pull you back," added the actress, who released her debut single 'Aaj Mood Ishqholi Hai' in 2015.

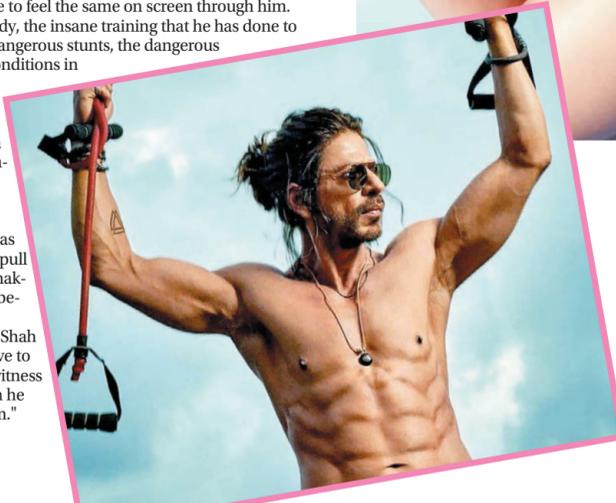
## SRK has shown incredible dedication to prepare his body: Siddharth Anand

Team Absolute | Mumbai

SRK pushed his body to breaking point for the physically challenging action sequences designed for his upcoming film 'Pathaan'. Anand said: "Shah Rukh Khan has pushed his body to breaking point for Pathaan. So, all the love that he is getting for Pathaan's teaser, he deserves all that and much more. I remember when I first met him on Pathaan, we discussed how physically challenging it will be for him and he was game from the get go and it shows on screen." He added: "He wanted the adrenaline rush and he wanted the audience to feel the same on screen through him. The way he built his body, the insane training that he has done to pull off the extremely dangerous stunts, the dangerous terrains and climatic conditions in which he has thrown his body to and the commitment that he has shown to give India its biggest action spectacle is incredibly commendable."

The director further said that the way SRK has endured all the pain to pull off the action that the makers had designed, is unbelievable.

"There is no one like Shah Rukh Khan and you have to wait to see the film to witness his intensity with which he has approached the film."



## Uorfi Javed joins dating reality show

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Uorfi Javed is all set to be seen on the reality show MTV 'Splitsvilla X4'. Uorfi, who is known for her unique fashion sense and has been part of several TV shows such as 'Meri Durga', 'Bepannaah', and many more, said about participating in the show.

Uorfi said that she has been fond of the dating reality show for quite long and being 'romantic' the actress is more excited about being part of it. She was dating the TV actor Paras Kalnawat in 2017 but later, they parted ways. Although recently, a video of dancing with her ex-boyfriend went viral on social media.

She said about being part of the show: "I've been following MTV 'Splitsvilla' for ages, and being a part of this iconic dating reality show is just insane. The show is all about finding an ideal match, and this season brings back that old-world charm of winning your love. I'm a die-hard romantic so there was no doubt I wanted to be a part of this." 'Splitsvilla X4' is going to be hosted by Arjun Bijlani and Sunny Leone. While the last season was being hosted by Rannvijay Singh and Sunny, the new season will see Arjun replacing Rannvijay. Jay Duhane and Aditi Rajput defeated Shivam Sharma and Pallak Yadav and emerged as the winners.

## MILI: A MEDIOCRE REMAKE OF A WELL-ACCLAIMED THRILLER

**Synopsis:** Janhvi Kapoor plays a woman trapped in a freezer fighting for her life. 'Mili' is the official Hindi remake of the Malayalam thriller 'Helen'.

**Review:** A remake of a well-acclaimed 2019 movie Helen, Mili, begins by giving a synopsis of the whole film. The beginning of the film serves as the film's scoring part. It begins with an ant (metaphor) depicting the life journey of the girl Mili (Janhvi) as it passes through each and every photo and medal of hers until the ant falls and ends up in a freezer, which is exactly what the film's story is about.

In terms of the script and the concept of the film, in a nutshell, it is a well-written story but offers nothing new.

Coming to the star performances, Sunny Kashaul's role is substantial. He is basically a supporting actor which plays Mili's love interest. Because the character lacks depth, his presence makes little difference.

When it comes to the movie's central character, Janhvi, she is cute and a good fit for the role, but how many times do we have to see Janhvi in the same role? There is no difference between her character from Good Luck



FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

**Cast:** Janhvi Kapoor, Sunny Kashaul and Manoj Pahwa

**Director:** Mathukutty Xavier

**Runtime:** 2 hr 7 min

**Rating:** 2/5

Jerry, and this one. Although she does justice to the role, it is past time for Janhvi to step out of her comfort zone and show her other sides.

Manoj Pahwa knows how to nail a role. What is surprising is Jackie Shroff's Cameo in the film, which is a 5 min sequence yet a strong one.

In terms of technical aspects, there is nothing to question. Despite the fact that the film has good cinematography and well-captured frames and shots throughout.

About background score and music, but in this case, the soundtrack falls short.

Apart from the basic plot, the film subtly attempts to address the issue of a corrupt system and the stereotype that if a girl is not home by midnight, she is probably hoeing

with her boyfriend.

**Conclusion:** This is a straightforward story about a middle-class girl. Only a few scenes have a secondary meaning. It's a decent film that can be watched once, but it's nothing to write home about.



Shanaya Kapoor