

▶ INDICES LIKE FREEDOM IN THE WORLD INDEX, V-DEM INDICES AND EIU DEMOCRACY INDEX HAVE PLACED INDIA AT THE SAME LEVEL AS DURING THE EMERGENCY OF THE 1970S.

▶ MOREOVER, INDIA HAS BEEN PLACED BELOW COUNTRIES LIKE NORTHERN CYPRUS.

▶ THE GOVERNMENT HAS TERMED THESE AS "PERCEPTION-BASED INDICES".

Govt punches holes in global indices ranking India poorly on democratic parameters

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government on Tuesday raised serious doubts over a clutch of studies, which have indicated that India's rankings have declined on a number of global-based indices like democracy, freedom, civil liberties and political culture among others, in recent years.

It has come out with a working paper titled "Why India does poorly on global perception indices", which is part of a working paper series prepared by the prime minister's economic advisory council (PMEAC), where it has raised questions about the methodology used by the three indices.

The paper is a point by point analysis of the methodology used by the three indices.

"The first index in this paper is the Freedom in the World Index which has been published since 1973 by Freedom House. India's score on Civil Liberties was flat at 42 till 2018 but dropped sharply to 33 by 2022; that for Political Rights dropped from 35 to 33. Thus, India's total score dropped to 66 which places India in the 'partially free' category - the same status it had during the Emergency," the paper has noted.

On the second index, the working paper said: "The second index we look at in this paper is the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index. This index is published by EIU, which is the research and consulting arm of the firm that publishes the Economist magazine. India is placed in the category of 'Flawed Democracy' and its rank deteriorated sharply from 27 in 2014 to 53 in 2020 and then improved a bit to 46 in 2021. The decline in rank has been on account of decline in scores primarily in the categories- Civil Liberties and Political Culture. The maximum decline has been in the category Civil Liberties, for which the score declined from 9.41 in 2014 to 5.59 in 2020. In the same time period, India's score for Political Culture declined from 6.25 to 5.0. India's rank then recovered marginally to 46 in 2021, primarily on grounds that the government rolled back farm-sector reforms, which lead to improvement in scores on the categories - Civil Liberties, Functioning of Government and Political participation."

NEED A CEC WHO CAN EVEN TAKE ACTION AGAINST PM: SC

Not a 'YES MAN'

▶ THE SUPREME COURT ON WEDNESDAY SAID TO ENSURE INDEPENDENCE OF THE POLL PANEL, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA (CJI) COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER (CEC).

▶ A FIVE-JUDGE BENCH IS HEARING A CLUTCH OF PETITIONS SEEKING A COLLEGIUM-LIKE SYSTEM FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS (ECs) AND THE CEC.

▶ THE TOP COURT SAID ANY RULING PARTY LIKES TO PERPETUATE ITSELF IN POWER AND CAN APPOINT A 'YES MAN' TO THE POST UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM.



'PRODUCE THE FILES OF APPOINTMENT OF GOEL AS EC'

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday told the Centre that it wants to see the files relating to the recent appointment of Arun Goel as Election Commissioner and emphasised that it wants to see by what mechanism, "he was picked up", and "there is no danger to produce it files)".

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing a petitioner, raised the issue in connection with the appointment of Goel. He said Goel was a sitting Secretary, was given voluntary retirement on Friday, the appointment was issued on Saturday, and on Monday, he started working as EC.

Bhushan said he had filed an application in connection with the appointment and the court was hearing the matter, yet the government made the appointment. Pointing out that the Centre appointed someone in a single day, he asked what process they have followed and what are the safeguards?

Justice Joseph told Attorney General R Venkataramani: "Produce the files of appointment of this officer... you say there is no hanky-panky in this. Was he appointed on the basis of voluntary retirement... how was he appointed, what is the mechanism by which he was picked up... the matter is being heard".

"We need a CEC who can even take action against a PM."

The bench queried the Centre's counsel that was it not a complete breakdown of the system. The CEC is supposed to be insulated from political influence and should be independent.

It further added that these are aspects on which "you (the Centre's counsel) must delve into, and why we require an independent larger body for selection and not just Cabinet".

The bench orally observed that committees say dire need for changes, and politicians also shout from rooftop but nothing happens.

The bench said it understands that CEC is appointed from amongst the ECs, but then there is no basis, and why is the Centre only confined to civil servants?

RECEIVED 55,497 REQUESTS FOR USER DATA FROM INDIAN GOVERNMENT: META

India with 55,497 requests was once again second only to the US in terms of asking Meta to provide user data in the first half of this year, and the social network restricted access in India to 597 items in response to directions from the IT Ministry in the reporting period. In the second half of 2021, India had made 50,382 requests to Meta for user data.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

According to Meta, the access to 597 items was restricted for violating Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, including content against security of the state and public order.

Meta also restricted six items in response to directions from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for violating Rule 16 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

"We restricted access in India to 23 items reported by the Election Commission of India relating to electoral complaints under the Indian Penal Code, Representation of the People Act, including spreading candidate misinformation and promoting sectarian violence," Meta said in its latest transparency report. Of these, 19 items were restricted only temporarily (during the designated blackout period) in the country.


"We also restricted access to 71 items due to other court orders, to 13 items for IP infringement, and to two items in response to private reports of defamation," said the company.

As the Centre notified amendments in new IT Rules, 2021 to put more obligations on social media platforms, Meta took down over 30.7 million pieces of bad content across 13 policies for Facebook and over 3 million pieces of such content across 12 policies for Instagram in India in September. According to Meta, during the first six months of 2022, global government requests for user data increased 10.5 per cent from 214,777 to 237,414.

Of the total volume, the US continues to submit the largest number of requests, followed by India, Germany, Brazil, France and the UK.



ENSURE NAME IN VOTERS' LIST TO AVOID DETENTION UNDER NRC: MAMATA BANERJEE



Kolkata | Agencies

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday cautioned the people of West Bengal, especially those having their original roots in erstwhile East Bengal presently Bangladesh, to get their names checked in the electoral rolls to avoid any kind of detention under the garb of National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"The process of revision in the election rolls is currently on and this process will continue till December 5, 2022. I will advise everybody to personally visit the camps set up for that purpose and check whether your names are in the electoral rolls. Also check whether the spellings of the names are correct. If not, get them rectified. Otherwise, you might be sent to the detention camps under the garb of NRC," the Chief Minister said while addressing a government function on the occasion of distribution of land deeds to marginalised families in the state.

Claiming that sending people to detention camps under the garb of NRC is a matter of utter shame, she said the people should take all possible precautions on their part to avoid harassment on this count.

Speaking at the function, Banerjee specially referred to those people who had come as refugees from neighbouring Bangladesh losing everything in different phases starting from the time of participation till the time of Bangladesh liberation war.


3 UKRAINIAN NUKE PLANTS CUT FROM GRID AFTER FRESH RUSSIAN STRIKES

Kyiv: All three nuclear power plants still under Ukrainian control were disconnected from the electricity grid, Ukraine's nuclear operator said Wednesday, after fresh Russian air strikes hit the country.

Energatom said in a statement that the strikes had activated emergency protocols at the Rivnenska, Pivdenonukrainska and Khmelnytska nuclear power plants and that "as a result ... all reactors were automatically disconnected" from the electricity grid, the company said on social media.

1971 was not military but political failure: Pak Army Chief

Rawalpindi | Agencies



Pakistan Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday said that East Pakistan debacle was political failure not a military one, the media reported on Wednesday.

Touching upon history during his address, the outgoing army chief said that he wanted to "correct" some facts regarding the events of 1971, ARY News reported.

"1971 was not a military, but a political failure. Our army fought courageously in East Pakistan," the COAS highlighted.

General Bajwa, during his address, said that the basic job of the armed forces is to protect the geographical boundaries.

"No single party can take Pakistan out of the current economic crisis," he said, adding that lessons should be learned from such mistakes so the nation could move forward, Geo News reported.

The COAS went on to say that a true democratic culture has to be adopted in Pakistan by eradicating the climate of intolerance.

RAHUL GANDHI LOOKS LIKE SADDAM HUSSAIN NOW: ASSAM CM

Ahmedabad: Addressing a public meeting in Ahmedabad for a BJP candidate ahead of next month's Assembly elections in Gujarat, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday that nowadays Rahul Gandhi looks like Saddam Hussain. Questioning Rahul Gandhi's few visits to Gujarat ahead of the elections, Sarma said, "He is invisible in Gujarat. He comes to the state like a visiting faculty... He also did not campaign in Himachal Pradesh. He is visiting only those places where there are no elections... May be because he is scared of defeat." The Assam Chief Minister also alleged that the Congress must have paid Bollywood stars to join Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo yatra, in an indirect reference to actors Pooja Bhatt and Amol Palekar who had joined the Yatra.



FOUR CAR-BORNE WOMEN ALLEGEDLY ABDUCT MAN, SEXUALLY ABUSE HIM IN PUNJAB

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Four women, all in their early 20s, in Punjab's Jalandhar city allegedly abducted a man, who works as a labourer in a leather factory, on the pretext of asking for an address and sexually abused him. However, no police complaint has been lodged by the victim.

The victim claimed the women made him unconscious and abducted him when he was showing them the address.

He said he was abducted in a white car after some chemical was sprayed in his eyes. Later, he was dumped at a secluded spot late in the night.

The man said he has not complained about the crime to the police. He, in fact, narrated the sequence of the crime with the local media. However, the authenticity of the victim's video cannot be verified. Even senior police officials said if he was sexually abused, he should lodge a complaint with the police.

In an interview with a vernacular daily, the victim claimed his wife asked him not to file a complaint. He alleged that the kidnapping by four car-borne women was done for sexual abuse.

As the car stopped, one of the girls asked about an address written on a slip. As he was reading the address, one of them allegedly sprayed something in his eyes, after which he was blinded.

The women took him to a secluded location where they drugged him, he alleged.

▶ The government had taken serious note of complaints of bottled water or packaged food items and drinks being sold at prices higher than the MRP.

▶ The Consumer Affairs Department had earlier said that it keeps receiving complaints of products being sold at a price higher than the MRP.

Outrageous popcorn, cold drinks prices baffle movie goers



Noida | Agencies

The exorbitant prices of eatables in cinema halls have been burning a hole in the pockets of patrons with many claiming to shell out more money on eatables than on movie tickets.

Most of the movie goers prefer watching the latest releases on the big screen while munching on popcorn and sipping cold drinks.

However, a massive difference has been noticed between the prices of cold drinks, popcorn and other food items available in the cinema halls compared to the general marketplace or shops.

The manager of Carnival Cinemas in Noida's GIP Mall said the prices of eatables are decided at the 'head office' and the rates are displayed on boards at the counter.

Cinema halls that were closed during the Covid pandemic have been receiving footfalls of late.

Even as cinema halls and multiplexes are facing competition from the OTT platforms, the films of big production houses are still screened there.

However, the sky-rocketing price of eatables are coming as a spoiler to many.

DA ARREARS: SCUFFLE BETWEEN STATE GOVT STAFF AND POLICE CREATES RUCKUS OUTSIDE BENGAL ASSEMBLY

नाम परिवर्तन
 विवाह पूर्व मेरा नाम Namrata Tiwari
 W/o Devesh Tiwari था। किंतु मैंने
 हेन्दू से मुस्लिम धर्म अपना लिया
 है। विवाह पश्चात धर्म परिवर्तित
 होकर मेरा नाम Iqra Khan W/o Taha
 Ahmad Khan हो गया है। अतः अब
 मेरे नए नाम Iqra Khan W/o
 Taha Ahmad Khan से जाना व
 पहचाना जाए। पता : 30, बड़ई पुरा,
 नौली नं. 2, नूर महल रोड, भोपाल
 म.प्र.) - 462001



BJY ENTERS MP, RAHUL GANDHI TO ADDRESS MAHASABHA IN UJJAIN ON NOV 29

Team Absolute | Bhopal

After winding up its Maharashtra leg, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY) on Wednesday entered Madhya Pradesh.

The foot-march began around 6.30 a.m. after Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole handed over yatra flag to Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath at a village in Burhanpur district around 5.30 a.m.

Of the total 120 people, who are marching along with Rahul Gandhi from Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) and will be part of the entire 3,070 km yatra (from Kanyakumari to Srinagar), 11, including four women, hail from Madhya Pradesh. The list excludes two-time former chief minister Digvijaya Singh, who is the convener of the Yatra.

During a press conference at Burhanpur, Congress general secretary and in-charge of communication, publicity and media department Jairam Ramesh said that the yatra will cover around 21-22 km every day in two parts.

"Padyatra will start every day between 6 a.m. to 6.30 a.m. and continue till 9.30 a.m. During this period, it will cover 14-15 km and second part of the yatra will begin at 3:30 p.m. covering around 8-10 km till 7.30 p.m.," Jairam Ramesh said.

He added that the schedule for yatra will remain the same for next 11 days in the state, except days fixed for rest for yatri.

Giving further details about some other programmes in the state, Jairam Ramesh said on November 26, Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit Mahow - the birth place of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Rahul Gandhi is expected to attend



a public rally on November 28 in Indore and address a mahasabha in Ujjain on November 29.

"A press conference will also be organised on November 28 in Indore, the seventh time when Rahul Gandhi

will answer the media persons' queries since the Yatra started on September 7," Jairam Ramesh added.

Jairam Ramesh also informed that November 30 has been fixed as the rest day. "Here, I would like to make it clear that Rahul Gandhi will rest in Madhya Pradesh, during which he will also meet with people, but will not go to Delhi. Bharat Jodo Yatra will enter Rajasthan on December 4," Jairam Ramesh added.

Digvijaya Singh, meanwhile, took dig at the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government, saying, "Today, when yatra began in Burhanpur, the entire area was filled with dust from damaged road. The BJP always target me on roads issue, but this is the real condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh."

RAHUL TAUGHT CONGRESS LEADERS HOW TO HOLD THE TRICOLOR

Burhanpur: Rahul Gandhi appeared in the role of a teacher for Congress leaders during their entry into Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh, as he taught these leaders how to hold the tricolor flag.

Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra yesterday entered Burhanpur district. In this journey, a large number of people are walking holding the tricolor in their hands, out of which one person has a big tricolor in his hand. When Rahul Gandhi was on the dais with all the big leaders of the state, the young man holding the tricolor was called on the dais and Rahul Gandhi handed over the tricolor to the Congress leaders.

When Rahul Gandhi handed over this tricolor to the Congress leaders, there were many leaders who were holding the tricolor like a party flag pole, this thing did not go down well with Rahul Gandhi, then Rahul Gandhi holding the tricolor flag pole Caught it and told those leaders how the pole of the tricolor flag is grabbed. In fact, there is also a protocol to hold the tricolor flag.

During this, none of the Congress leaders present on the dais expressed any reaction, but everyone kept on watching the lessons being taught by Rahul Gandhi with a surprised eye.



CM Chouhan plants Khirni, Karanj and Harsingar saplings

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Khirni, Karanj and Harsingar saplings in the Smart City Garden. The organisation that conducts company secretary courses the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) Chairman along with others joined in the plantation.

Van Mahotsav, blood donation camps, career awareness and cleanliness related campaigns are conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, News Editor of Akashvani Bhopal Sanjeev Sharma also planted saplings on his marriage anniversary.



Efforts to woo the youth in Madhya Pradesh intensify; more than one lakh will be recruited

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Before the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, the efforts to woo the youth through employment have intensified. The government is preparing to give jobs to more than one lakh youth in the next eight months. The state government has been continuously claiming to have taken necessary steps to provide better employment opportunities to the youth. The government has set a target of providing employment to more than one lakh youth.

It has been told that the campaign to fill the vacant posts started from August 15 will continue for 12 months. The process has been started to fill one lakh 12 thousand 724 government vacancies in the state. The work has been done at a rapid pace in the month of November. Necessary process is being followed to fill about 60 thousand posts. All departments are active in this work.

It has been told that 1,271 posts of class I, 20 thousand 728 of class II, 82 thousand 879 of class III and 9091 of class IV are vacant. Necessary



action is being taken after permission from the Finance Department to fill these posts. From August 15 to October 31, 36 thousand 235 posts have been advertised. In the month of November, 3 thousand 926 posts have been advertised. About 19 thousand posts will be advertised by the end of this month. 1595 appointments have been made in eight departments in the last three months. In the last quarter, 722 appointments have been made in the Tribal Affairs Department and 852 in the Health Department. 15 thousand 196 posts have been advertised in the School Education Department and 15 thousand 618 in

the Tribal Affairs Department. Recruitment is going on continuously in all the departments. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that employment of the youth is the biggest need of the day. Whether employment is in government sector or in private sector, it is very important to get work according to qualification. There is a natural communication of enthusiasm in the youth by coming to the services. With adequate staff, the functioning of institutions and departments also becomes smooth and easy. Chief Minister Chouhan said that in the government departments, an initiative has been taken to appoint 6,000 constable posts in the home department alone. The effort is to provide appointment letters to all in a ceremonial manner on any one day.

Along with the action to fill the posts of the departments by the General Administration Department, action is also being taken to fill the posts in the public undertakings of the state. The present ministers described the work being done in the field of employment and self-employment as important.

ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS WILL NOW GET ELECTRICITY BILLS ON WHATSAPP



Bhopal : There is good news for the electricity consumers of Central Region Power Distribution Company. Now electricity consumers will get SMS on mobile immediately after the bill is generated after taking the reading by the company. Along with this, electricity bills will also be received on WhatsApp. The facility of sending electricity bills on WhatsApp has been made available by the company from the current month and so far more than six lakh consumers have been provided electricity bills on WhatsApp.

This system has been implemented for all categories of electricity consumers in 16 districts of Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior and Chambal divisions of the company's jurisdiction. Various facilities have been made available by the company for the electricity consumers. Their electricity bills are now available on email, sss, upay app, company portal portal.mpcz.in as well as on WhatsApp.

The company's Managing Director Ganesh Shankar Mishra is doing excellent work in many innovations with the application of IT in the Central Region Power Distribution Company sector, which has increased the efficiency of the company and also increased the satisfaction of the consumers. Managing Director Mishra has assured the power consumers that the Central Region Power Distribution Company is determined to provide better services to the consumers and every possible effort is being made to expand the facilities of the consumers .

CONGRESS LEADER FILES REVIEW PETITION IN SC AGAINST JUDGMENT UPHOLDING EWS RESERVATION

Team Absolute | New Delhi/Bhopal

Congress leader Jaya Thakur has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court challenging its recent judgment upholding the validity of the 103rd Constitution Amendment providing 10 per cent reservation to economically weaker sections (EWS) persons in admissions and government jobs.

The petition said: "The 10 per cent reservation provided to the EWS of only forward caste, is breach of equality code amounting to discrimination. Neither the parliamentary debate while passing the impugned amendment nor the majority judgments give insights as to what rationale was adopted to come to this figure of 10 per cent."

It further added that the only ad-hoc commission established in this regard was the Sinho Commission and even this was unable to justify or give any reasoning for provisioning of 10 per cent reservation for EWS category. "In the present amendment, OBC/SC/ST are not entitled to take the benefits of the Reservation.

This is in violation of the Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India," said the petition.

The petition said in the Madhya Pradesh OBC population is more than 50 per cent but OBC reservation in MP State Service & Educational institution only 13 per cent. It added that this is an admitted position in Madhya Pradesh that Schedule Caste community is 16 per cent of the total population and they have got proportionate reservation of 16 per cent, similarly Schedule Tribe are 20 per cent of total population and they have got proportionate reservation of 20 per cent.

"While OBC community is getting only 14 per cent reservation despite their population being approx 50 per cent. The forward caste population is only 6 per cent. Post the impugned amendment 10 per cent reservation for EWS will be provided to the poor of forward caste. The numbers clearly show that this reservation of 10 per cent is disproportionate and there is no grounds or justification whatsoever for arriving at this figure....," said the plea.



For the first time, regular posts of yoga science were approved in the government colleges

Approval order issued for 536 posts for eight new model colleges

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Orders were issued by the state government for the creation of 336 academic and 200 non-academic total 536 posts for 8 new model graduate colleges Damoh, Rajgarh, Barwani, Chhatrapur, Guna, Khandwa, Singrauli, and Vidisha in the RUSA project of the Higher Education Department.

Higher Education Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that for the first time in the state regular posts of Yoga Science have been sanctioned in government colleges. He said that teaching would start in these colleges from the next academic year. New buildings of new schools are ready in 5 districts.

As per the recommendation of NITI Aayog, all model colleges are being opened in aspirational districts.

According to the order, 8 posts of principal, 312 posts of assistant professor, 8 posts each of sports officer and librarian have been approved in total 336 posts. In regular non-academic post, 8 posts each of Chief Clerk, Accountant, Assistant Grade-1, Assistant Grade-2, 16 of Assistant Grade-3, 40-



40 posts of Laboratory Technician and Attendant, 8 of Book Lifter, 32 of Peon and Sweeper And 16-16 posts of Chowkidar have been sanctioned.

कार्यालय, नगर पालिका परिषद गुना (म.प्र.)

Ph.No. 252622 (का.) 254555 (सी.एच.ओ. ऑ.)

क्रमांक./3917/22 गुना दिनांक: 22/11/2022

निविदा विज्ञप्ति

"द्वितीय आमंत्रण"

निविदा विज्ञप्ति सूचना, निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। अतः जो ठेकेदार इस कार्य को करने हेतु इच्छुक हों, वे अपनी-अपनी ऑनलाईन निविदाएँ म.प्र.न.प्र. एवं वि.वि. एस.ओ.आर. दिनांक 02.08.2021 से प्रभावशील पर कम/अधिक/एटपाव प्रतिशत दर पर प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। विस्तृत निविदा सूचना व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

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- टेंडर खोलने की तिथि

07/12/2022
07/12/2022
09/12/2022

Savitri Gupta
अध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका परिषद गुना (म.प्र.)

Rajendra
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर पालिका परिषद गुना (म.प्र.)



MAHA TO PROBE POLICE 'INACTION' ON SHRADDHA'S SOS LETTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

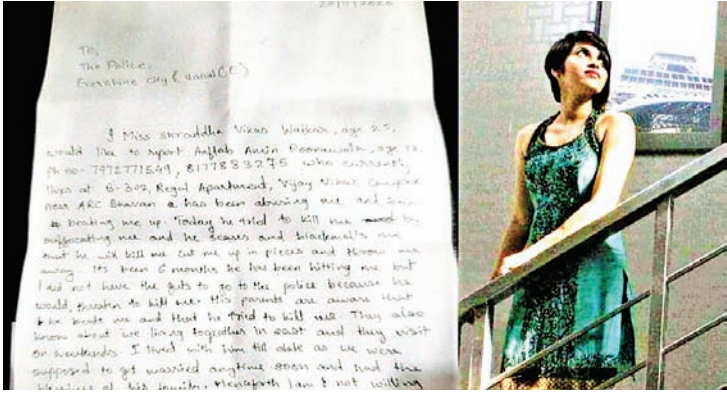
Taking strong cognisance, the Maharashtra government has ordered a probe into the Palghar Police's 'inaction' on a letter written by Shraddha Walkar in November 2020, apprehending death threats from her live-in partner Aftab Amin Poonawala.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who also holds the home portfolio, said he had seen the contents which were "very serious", and said the matter needs to be investigated.

"Without blaming anybody, we need to know the truth... If the police had acted in a timely manner, this (killing of Shraddha by Poonawala) could have been avoided," Fadnavis told mediapersons.

On November 23, 2020, Walkar had submitted a written complaint to the Tulj Police Station expressing apprehensions from her Aftab and how he threatened to "kill and cut her into pieces".

The letter, which has just surfaced, was duly acknowledged by the local police, who also said that though they had probed the matter, Shraddha



later gave another letter withdrawing her previous complaint, signalling an end to the issue.

In her hand-penned plea, she sounded distressed, stating that Aftab was beating her up, blackmailing her and was threatening to murder her and cut her body into pieces.

Nearly two years later now, Shraddha's worst fears proved true with Aftab's arrest on November 12 for her gory killing in Delhi on May 18, chopping her body into many pieces and then disposing them off over several weeks.

In her letter, Shraddha, then 25, mentioned how she and Aftab, then

26, were living together in Vijay Vihar Complex, but he had been abusing and beating her up for six months.

"Today he tried to kill me by suffocating me and he scared and black-mails me that he will kill me cut me up in pieces and throw me away."

"It has been six months he has been beating me. I did not have the guts to go to the police because he would threaten to kill me," she wrote in the letter. In a shocking revelation, Shraddha said that Aftab's parents "are aware that he beats me and that he tried to kill me". "They also know about we living together and they visit us on weekends. I lived with him

til date as we were supposed to get married anytime soon and had the blessings of his family."

Apparently fed up, she declared that "henceforth, I am not willing to live with him, so any kind of physical damage should be considered coming from him as he has been blackmailing to kill me or hurt me whenever he sees me anywhere".

Shraddha had withdrawn her 2020 complaint, so closed case: Police

"Whatever necessary action had to be taken in that matter was done by police at that time. The application that was given by the complainant was also investigated. After the investigation, the complainant herself gave a written statement that there is no dispute. Her friend's parents also cajoled her to resolve the dispute. She gave the written statement and after that the case was closed."

Suhas Bavache, DCP, Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar Commissionerate

Governor B.S. Koshiyari wants to 'leave' Maharashtra, claims Ajit Pawar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

All in a new twist, Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition Ajit Pawar on Wednesday claimed that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari doesn't want to continue in his post here.

"He had himself told me that he is no longer interested in continuing in Maharashtra and was keen to be relieved of his post," the NCP leader revealed during a media interaction this afternoon.

Again, raising eyebrows at the Governor's recent remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Pawar even wondered whether Koshiyari was "deliberately making such contentious statements to compel the Centre to transfer him" away from this state.

"I told him (Koshiyari) that he should simply request his seniors to give him some other posting," Pawar contended, while saying he prayed to the Almighty to give "sense" to the Governor, who was appointed to the state in September 2019.

The beleaguered Koshiyari, 80, last week earned the ire of the entire state for his statement that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was "an icon of the old era" and persons like the late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar or Union Minister Nitin Gadkari are the modern-day icons.

Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale directly attacked the Governor, calling him a "third class" person who deserved to be shunted out of the state or to an old-age home for his statements, even as widespread protests rocked the state since Monday.

The Governor's utterances evoked sharp



reactions from all political parties - the ruling alliance of BJP-Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, the opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena-UBT, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, the direct descendants of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, organisations like Marathia Brigade, Jijau Brigade, etc, who demanded his ouster from the state. On several occasions in the past over three years, the Governor managed to raise the heckles of the then Maha Vikas Aghadi government on several occasions, besides statements on Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, the contributions of the Marwari-Gujarati communities to the development of the state, and now on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, etc. which were not exactly lauded.

There have been no reactions from either the Governor's side or the state government on Pawar's claims so far.

Cong slams BJP for 'blaming Nehru' on Maha-K'taka border row

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra unit of Congress slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for pointing fingers at the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru over the simmering Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary dispute, here on Wednesday.

BJP Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar, while reacting to Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's new claim to 40 border villages of Sangli, stated that "the entire boundary row was a blunder

of Nehru", enraging the Congress.

"Even after over eight years in power, they (BJP) have to blame Nehru for everything to hide their own failures on various counts... The people of the country have realised this," said Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe sharply.

Elaborating, he said the BJP is having its government in Maharashtra, Karnataka, at the Centre and a majority even in the Parliament, and they can take any decision pertaining to the boundary row. "Then why don't you do

it instead of blaming Nehru for everything, whether it is the state borders issue, inflation or the falling Rupee. For how long will you keep blaming others to cover up your own failures?" Londhe questioned.

Karnataka CM Bommai's statements evoked sharp reactions from all political parties -- the ruling alliance of BJP-Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena, the Opposition Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Shiv Sena (UBT), Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and other organisations too.

'NO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS': THACKERAY JR. AFTER MEETING TEJASHWI YADAV

Team Absolute | Mumbai/Patna

Shiv Sena-UBT leader Aditya Thackeray, who met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in Patna on Wednesday, said that it was a courtesy call with "no political discussions".

Accompanied by party MPs Anil Desai and Priyanka Chaturvedi, he met the Bihar leaders in Patna during his daylong visit there, considered significant in view of the upcoming Mumbai civic elections.

"Tejashwi and I are of the same age. We have been speaking over the phone since the time I was in government and he was in the (Bihar) opposition. We met for the first time," said Thackeray, son of former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray.



Earlier, Tejashwi Yadav accorded a warm welcome to the Sena-UBT leaders at his mother and ex-CM Rabri Devi's home and presented them a copy of a book on his father

Lalu Prasad Yadav - a former Union Minister and ex-CM - to the visiting dignitaries.

He shared photos of his meeting on social media, saying "Gave broth-

er Aditya Thackeray a warm welcome on reaching Patna".

Both the young leaders - Tejashwi Yadav, 33 and Aditya Thackeray, 32 - said that more than anything else, they would cooperate to "save the Constitution and Democracy" that are under threat in the country, and Thackeray emphasised how during the Maha Vikas Aghadi rule, the government worked as per the Constitution for the progress of Maharashtra. The Sena-UBT team also had a brief unscheduled meeting with CM Nitish Kumar who received them, taking time off his engagements, said a party leader in Mumbai. Aditya Thackeray insisted that the meeting was not political and appreciated the good work being done by Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav for the people of Bihar.

Maha drug body asks states to stop Jab for Anaemia as patient dies

Pune | Agencies

The Maharashtra Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has asked all drug controller authorities in the country to stop the use of a particular batch of drug Orofer FCM following the death of a patient at a Mumbai hospital.

A person died at Saifee Hospital in Mumbai due to suspected adverse reaction of the drug, said a senior official from FDA's Pune division on Wednesday.

Orofer FCM injection is used to treat iron deficiency anaemia.

Emcare Pharmaceuticals, the manufacturer, was asked to recall the particular batch of the drug, said S B Patil, Joint Commissioner (Drugs) FDA.



The death of a person at Saifee Hospital was due to suspected adverse reaction of this drug, he said.

As per the company, there could be spurious drugs available in the market in the name of INJ OROFER and because of such spurious drug the suspected adverse reaction might have taken place, he said.

The company also told the FDA that spurious versions of one of its other drugs was already being sold in the market, he said.

"Mumbai FDA team is carrying out a probe in the matter," Patil said, adding that samples from the batch of the drug have been collected from the distributors and sent for analysis.

Nagpur joins list of airports with 5G services

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur has joined a growing list of airports in the country to enjoy the ultrafast 5G service.

The new terminals in Bengaluru, Pune and Varanasi are the other three airports that have Airtel 5G Plus. Nagpur was one amongst the first eight cities in the country to get the service. Customers flying in and out of the 'Orange City' can enjoy high speed 5G Plus across the airport terminal.

Passengers can enjoy blazing speeds on their mobile phones while they are at the



arrival and departure terminals, lounges, boarding gates, migration and immigration counters, security areas, baggage claim belts, parking area. Commenting on the launch, George Mathen, CEO, Maharashtra & Goa, Bharti Airtel said: "I am thrilled to announce the beginning of a new chapter in Maharashtra as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur

becomes the second airport in the state to have the Airtel 5G Plus services after Pune airport. I thank the authorities in Nagpur Airport for all the support extended to make this project live."

Airtel 5G Plus service is now live in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur, Varanasi, Panipat, Gurugram and Guwahati.

KENYAN WOMAN FORGOT BAG WITH RS15 LAKH IN CAB, POLICE RETURNS IT

Mumbai: Mumbai Police on Tuesday returned a bag with Rs 15 lakh cash to a Kenyan woman who had forgotten it in a taxi.

The woman had lodged a complaint at Colaba police station on Monday that she had forgotten her bag with Rs 15 lakh cash in a taxi, said police.

Colaba Police soon started scanning CCTV footage to trace the taxi.

The taxi driver was found in Kalbadevi area and police took the bag from him. It was later handed over to the woman.

Open manholes are death traps, cover them: Bombay High Court to BMC

Mumbai | Agencies

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday took serious note of open manholes in the city terming them as "death traps", and directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to cover these up immediately.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Abhay Ahuja was hearing petitions raising concerns over potholes on city roads causing accidents.

On Tuesday, advocate Ruju Thakker, representing one of the petitioners, pointed out that there were around 300 open manholes on the service road of the Eastern Express Highway.

Though several complaints had been lodged with the authorities, not a single manhole has been covered, she claimed.

The bench then asked the BMC's counsel Anil Sakhare to verify if this was true.

The court said it wants all the open manholes covered by November 28 and directed the



civic body to submit a compliance report on December 1.

Thakker further cited a recent incident where a woman fell into an open manhole at Vasai and died.

Advocate Swati Sagwekar appearing for the Vasai Virar Corporation then said that only

a few manholes were open and these were less than three feet deep.

To this, Chief Justice Datta remarked, "So three feet open manholes are not death traps?"

"Even if one does not die, people may fracture themselves," the court said.

Amid border row, Devendra Fadnavis's retort to Bommai

► MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DEVENDRA FADNAVIS ON WEDNESDAY SAID NO VILLAGE IN MAHARASHTRA HAS SOUGHT A MERGER WITH KARNATAKA RECENTLY, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ANY BORDER VILLAGE "GOING ANYWHERE".

Nagpur/Mumbai | Agencies

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai claimed on Tuesday that some village panchayats in Jat taluka of Maharashtra's Sangli district had passed a resolution in the past seeking to merge with Karnataka when they were facing a severe water crisis.

The Karnataka government had devised schemes to help them by providing water,



and his government was seriously considering the proposal of Jat villages, he said.

"These villages had introduced a resolution on the issue of water scarcity in 2012. Presently, none of the villages have introduced any resolution," Fadnavis told reporters. When he became Maharashtra chief minister, his government entered into an agreement with Karnataka to sort out the water issue, he said. A water supply scheme was chalked out for the Jat villages when Girish Mahajan was water resources minister in his cabinet, the BJP leader added. "We are now going to give approval to that scheme. Perhaps because of Covid,

the previous (Uddhav Thackeray-led) government could not approve it," Fadnavis added. "Presently, none of the villages have raised such demand (of merger with Karnataka). The demand is of 2012," he said. "Not a single village of Maharashtra will go anywhere," Fadnavis stressed. Earlier in the day, Maharashtra minister Shambhuraj Desai said the Karnataka chief minister's claims should not be taken seriously. The decades-old border dispute over Belagavi (earlier Belgaum) between Maharashtra and Karnataka is in news again due to recent statements from both sides.

Kourtney Kardashian

has son Reign's hair in her 'secret drawer'

Los Angeles | Agencies

American reality television star and socialite Kourtney Kardashian is a proud mom and her obsession with her son Reign's hair proves the fact. Kourtney has a "secret drawer" in which she has kept Reign's hair, as per the reports. She revealed that she didn't cut her son's hair until he was five.

Talking about the same, she was "pressed" by her younger sister, Khloe Kardashian, about the contents of her "secret drawer" for the Interview magazine. "I will tell you one thing that's in my secret drawer," a reluctant Kourtney told Khloe in the conversation, prompting Khloe to respond: "I'm really happy I pressed the issue."

Kourtney then said, quoted by People: "I have Reign's hair, because we didn't cut his hair until he was five. So I have his long braid and I smell it often."

Khloe offered a sentimental response to Kourtney's confession: "Okay. That's nice, what else could she have said, afterall?"

Kourtney also vowed to show Khloe the lock of hair "when you come over later." However, Khloe was uninterested. "Oh no, I'm fine with that. It's like, oh my gosh. Rapunzel?" Khloe said.

Kourtney shares Reign Aston, Mason Dash and Penelope Scotland with ex Scott Disick.

The 'Kardashians' star is hoping to become a mother of four and welcome a child with husband Travis Barker.



Los Angeles | Agencies

American rapper Kanye West is being warned that he could lose full custody of his four children with Kim Kardashian, legal experts have said. A judge could rule against the rapper having access to the kids he shares with his ex-wife after he chose not to turn up to his scheduled deposition on November 16, says reports.

Court documents seen by a show that Kanye has one last chance to be questioned by Kim's legal team on November 29. But the outlet said that if he again does not show, it could have dire implications over his chances of custody of the children he shares with Kim - North, Saint, Chicago and Psalm.

According to the reports, New Jersey-based family law attorney Lexie Rigden from Rigden Law LLC, said: "If Kanye refuses to show up to his deposition, the judge could sanction him monetarily,

KANYE WEST
COULD LOSE
FULL CUSTODY
OF CHILDREN

make him pay counsel fees, and if it is an egregious enough discovery violation, the judge may be able to bar him from putting on a case at trial."

Rachel Fiset, managing partner of Zweiback, Fiset Zalduendo LLP, added: "Avoiding a deposition in litigation is treated seriously by the judge, particularly when it is a repeated offence...overall, this can hurt his case. In the most severe instance, the judge can rule against him and he could get a lesser custody award and a less favourable monetary disposition." It has been reported that Kim, is happy to give Kanye 50/50 custody, but he has since claimed on social media she has them 80 per cent of the time.

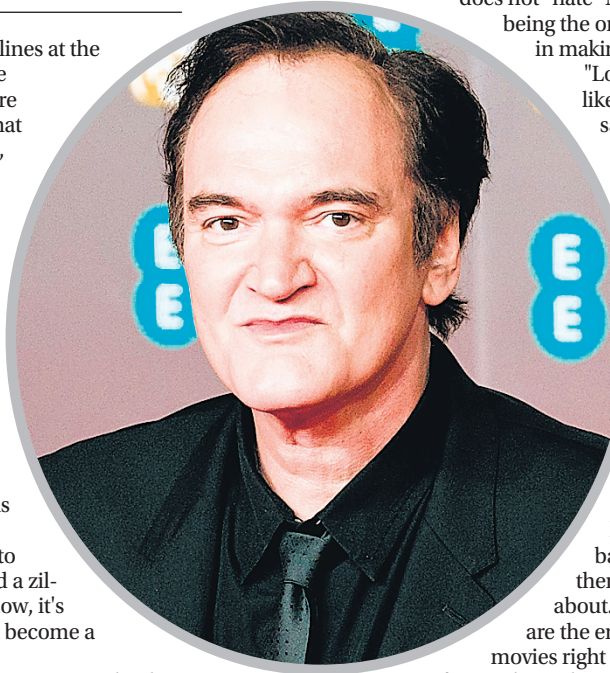
Captain America and Thor are the stars: Quentin Tarantino

Los Angeles | Agencies

Jennifer Aniston made headlines at the start of November when she declared, "There are no more movie stars." It's a statement that Quentin Tarantino agrees with, as evidenced by the director's recent interview on "2 Bears, 1 Cave" podcast (via Mediaite). Tarantino attributed the loss of movie stars to the "Marvel-ization of Hollywood."

"Part of the Marvel-ization of Hollywood is...you have all these actors who have become famous playing these characters," Tarantino said. "But they're not movie stars. Right? Captain America is the star. Or Thor is the star. I mean, I'm not the first person to say that. I think that's been said a zillion times...but it's like, you know, it's these franchise characters that become a star."

Tarantino also clarified in the interview that he



does not "hate" Marvel movies but dislikes them for being the only product Hollywood is interested in making these days.

"Look, I used to collect Marvel comics like crazy when I was a kid," Tarantino said. "There's an aspect that if these movies were coming out when I was in my twenties, I would totally be fucking happy and totally love them. I mean, they wouldn't be the only movies being made. They would be those movies amongst other movies. But, you know, I'm almost 60, so yeah. No, I'm not quite as excited about them."

"My only axe to grind against them is they're the only things that seem to be made," he added. "And they're the only things that seem to generate any kind of excitement amongst a fan base or even for the studio making them. That's what they're excited about. And so it's just the fact that they are the entire representation of this era of movies right now. There's not really much room for anything else. That's my problem."



Caitlin and Lou Taylor Joins Ryan Kwanten's upcoming movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

"Smile" star Caitlin Stasey and Lou Taylor Pucci have joined the cast of Jonathan auf Der Heide's upcoming horror-thriller film "Devil Inside." They join the previously announced Ryan Kwanten.

Pitched as an elevated genre film in the vein of "28 Days Later" and "It Comes at Night," the picture explores the 'what if' question of a cross-species contagion, in this case from a Tasmanian Devil, the last of the marsupial carnivores.

Stasey is fresh from Paramount's \$200 million-grossing hit "Smile" and is also known for her genre work on "I, Frankenstein" and "Tomorrow When the War Began." Pucci won the Sundance Jury Prize and the Berlin Silver Bear for "Thumbsucker" and was star of the Sam Raimi-produced "Evil Dead" in 2013.

In the film, Stasey plays the role of Eva, a young virologist, who helps the local park ranger (Kwanten) research, the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumor Disease - a contagious cancer that has wiped out nearly 90% of the species population. But when her husband, Alex (Pucci), is bitten by a sickly stray dog, Eva suspects the virus has mutated across species and is causing violent outbursts in the hosts. Infection soon spreads through the locals and Eva must choose between saving the man she loves or the rest of humanity.



Fiery Palestinian's drama wins top prize at Cairo Film Festival

Los Angeles | Agencies

Palestinian filmmaker Firas Khoury's fiery coming-of-age drama "Alam" (The Flag) took home the Golden Pyramid at the Cairo Intl. Film Festival, which wrapped with a glitzy award ceremony in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday night.

Khoury's politically charged debut, which world premiered at the Toronto Intl. Film Festival, struck a chord with both the international jury, headed by Japanese filmmaker Naomi Kawase, and moviegoers in Cairo, who also handed "Alam" the audience award. At a rousing Middle East premiere on Nov. 18, moviegoers burst into applause several times during the screening.

Khoury, who addressed the audience at Cairo's Opera House with a pre-recorded message, was unable to attend the festival. The director, an Israeli citizen traveling on a Palestinian passport, was not granted a visa by Egyptian authorities.



WHY MARGOT ROBBIE ACCEPTED THE ROLE IN 'BOMBSHELL'?

Los Angeles | Agencies

Australian actress Margot Robbie has revealed why she took the role in 'Bombshell', the 2019 drama about the women who worked together to expose Fox News CEO Roger Ailes for his ongoing sexual misconduct. The actress, admitted she didn't know the definition of sexual harassment and took the role to help her better understand it, reports.

"I realised that I - as a person with an established position in the industry, financially set up and self-sufficient - I didn't know the definition of sexual harassment, and that's shocking," she said during a BAFTA Life in Pictures talk celebrating her career, according to the reports. According to the reports, Robbie also said that it "horrified" her that she knew so little about the topic, and 'Bombshell' taught her that sexual harassment and bad behaviours truly "flourishes in the grey area."

"Roger Ailes or Harvey Weinstein, they take advantage of the area," the 'Barbie' actress added. "The situation isn't black and white."

When reflecting on the fact that she had only worked

with a single female director on a feature film by her 20th big screen project - with 'Mary Queen Of Scots' director Josie Rourke - Robbie said that she sees no difference between men and women behind the camera and "couldn't put it down to gender."

"I'd love to say Josie has a particular insight as a woman, which she does, but then on something like 'Bombshell' with a male director, (Jay Roach) is the most emotionally intuitive person I know," Robbie said. "It didn't work better because he's a man, but every single director has a totally different personality and process." The actress tends to gravitate to hard roles that challenge her. "I'm a masochist," she told earlier. Adding that no matter how daunting or draining a role - Tonya Harding in 2017's 'I, Tonya' would seem to certainly count - the actress "can always find a fifth gear."



Paula Patton

WOMEN ATHLETES WIN BIG AT NORTH-EAST OLYMPIC GAMES

Shillong | Agencies

At the 2nd edition of the North-East Olympic Games held in Meghalaya this month, women athletes Glorify Kurbah, Rinalis Ingti and Diva Tang brought accolades by displaying tremendous sporting potential and winning seven medals.

Glorify Kurbah, Rinalis Ingti and Diva Tang received training and end-to-end support from Dream Sports Foundation (DSF), under the long-term Athlete Development program.

Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. Of Meghalaya, said, "We would like to thank Dream Sports Foundation for their partnership to enable sports developments in the region. The team worked hard to train and support these athletes which has enabled them to bring home these medals. Because of their efforts, Glorify Kurbah, Rinalis Ingti, and Diva Tang, have emerged victori-



ous. "We hope partnerships like the one with Dream Sports Foundation grow over the coming years, both in Meghalaya and other North-Eastern states, and our athletes get the best opportunity to shine and represent

the states and the country on national and international platforms."

A spokesperson of Dream Sports Foundation said, "We congratulate all the athletes for their incredible performances at the North-East

Olympics. The impetus and impact that DSF has been able to create for athletes with our partnership with the state government is a testament to how adequate training, nutritional, lodging and overall support to young sports talent can strengthen India's position as a sporting nation."

The North-East Olympics 2022 proved to be a significant stage for over 3000 young sportspeople across the eight states to compete and showcase their skills. The aim of organising the Games is to encourage greater participation of youth in sporting activities to discover sports talent for national and international level competitions at an early stage.

The athletes supported by DSF will now look to use these achievements as a motivator and confidence booster, ahead of the upcoming Khelo India Youth Games scheduled to take place from 31st January 2023 in Madhya Pradesh.

Shooting Championship

Sift Kaur Samra crowned national champion

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Punjab's Sift Kaur Samra was crowned national champion in the women's 50mm Rifle 3 Positions (3P), here at the Vattiyoorkkavu Shooting Range in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, venue of the 65th National Shooting Championship Competitions (65th NSCC) in Rifle events.

Sift handed out a 16-10 defeat to Rajasthan's Manini Kaushik, who had topped the qualifying charts a day earlier. Odisha's Shriyanka Sadangi won bronze.

Sift, who had finished sixth in qualification, emerged on top of the ranking round, with a score of 404.2. Manini was second with 402.9, which earned her the right to take on Sift in the gold medal match. Shriyanka was further back with 402.1, but that was enough for bronze.

They were followed by two current India internationals in Anjum Moudgil and Mehuli Ghosh, who finished fifth and sixth with scores of 401.2 and 347.8 respectively. Ashi Chouksey, Lajja Gauswami and Himany Poonia completed the top eight in that order. Madhya Pradesh's Ashi was not denied a



title on the day however, winning gold in the junior women's 3P, where she defeated Surabhi Bharadwaj Rapole of Telangana 17-9, in the gold medal match. Haryana's Nishchal won bronze.

Both Sift and Ashi in-fact picked up double golds winning the women's and junior women's 3P team titles respectively.

Youth World Boxing

FOUR MORE BOXERS CONFIRM MEDALS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Youth Asian champions Muskan, Tamanna and two other Indian pugilists posted dominating victories to reach semifinal at the IBA Youth Men's and Women's World Boxing Championships 2022 in La Nucia, Spain.

The 2022 Youth Asian Championships silver medallist Kirti (+81kg) and Devika Ghorpade (52kg) were the other two boxers to confirm medals by securing their spots in the Last-4 stage. With addition of four more medals, India's total medal count now climbs to 11-same as the last edition, held in Poland. Tamanna began the day for India on an aggressive note as she outperformed Japan's Juni Tonegawa by unanimous decision in the women's 50kg quarter-final. Devika also notched up an easy 5-0 win against the German boxer Asya Ari. Muskan (75kg) and Kirti proved too strong for their respective opponents-Mongolia's Zeyinyep Azimbai and Livia



Botica of Romania-as they were declared winners by the Referee Stops the Contest verdict within the first three minutes of the bouts. Meanwhile, Preeti Dahiya (57kg), Rhythm (+92) and Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (51kg) made exit after conceding losses in their respective quarter-finals.

FIFA World Cup 2022

Japan stuns Germany by 2-1

Doha | Agencies

It was deja vu all over again as fans were treated to another upset in the World Cup when 4-time Champions Germany succumbed to Japan 1-2 in their Group E encounter on Wednesday.

This is the punishment for a lack of killer instinct - a charge one can never lay at the door of the very best German sides. Hansi Flick's men should have been out of sight by the halfway point of the second half, but were not ruthless enough. The longer it stayed 1-0, the longer Japan felt they could get something out of the game. Soon after their goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda made multiple saves to keep his team in the game, Japan went to the other end and tested Manuel Neuer.

It was a warning Germany didn't heed properly as immediately afterwards, Arsenal's Takumi Minamino's shot was parried by the German custodian, only for Ritsu Doan to slam home the rebound.

And the match turned on its head when Takuma Asano latched on to a long ball from his own half, and despite the attention of a close-marking defender, beat Neuer at his near post. Japan floored Germany in the most simplest of ways. A long ball over the top found Asano with ample space, making most



of the abysmal German offside trap. Asano coolly held off Sule and squeezed in a finish past the imposing Neuer at the first post. Doesn't hold well for an experienced keeper like Neuer conceding at the near post.

For the first goal, 4 mins and 9 seconds since he came on as a substitute, Doan thundered home from close range to draw the game. Mitoma began the attack down the left and crossed across goal. It's palmed away tamely by the dominating Neuer but found Doan who slots it in.

Croatia held Morocco in goalless stalemate

Doha | Croatia's World Cup campaign got off to a stuttering start with a 0-0 draw against battling Morocco on Wednesday as the 2018 runners-up lacked the punch of the side that went so close in Russia.

Chances were at a premium at Al Bayt Stadium as an even Group F contest produced little goalmouth action, and ended in the third goalless draw in nine games at the World Cup so far. There were glimpses of goal for both sides, with Nikola Vlasic going close for Croatia at the end of the first half while Noussair Mazraoui had a header saved for Morocco. Morocco were perhaps the better side in the second half, but for all



their efforts their only other chance of note was Achraf Hakimi's swerving shot from distance that was punched away by Livakovic. The two sides will likely be happy with a point from a match in which there really was nothing to separate them, with both having seven attempts at goal and just two on target.

FRANCE RALLY FROM A GOAL DOWN TO TROUNCE AUSTRALIA 4-1

Doha: A brace by Olivier Giroud and a goal each by Adrien Rabiot, and Kylian Mbappe helped defending champions France to carve out an emphatic 4-1 win over Australia in their Group D match at the Janoub Stadium in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday evening.

The World Cup holders bounced back from early scare when Craig Goodwin gave Socceroos shock lead in the 9th minute but goals by Rabiot (27th minute), Giroud (32nd and 74th) and Mbappe (68) paved the way for full points for manager Didier Deschamps side.

France next face Denmark on November 26, who earlier in the day shared points with Tunisia in a goalless draw at Education City Stadium and wind up their group engagements against Tunisia on November 30.

ICC Men's ODI rankings

England lose top spot to New Zealand after loss against Australia

Dubai | Agencies

Following their 3-0 series defeat against Australia, England slipped to the No 2 in the latest ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings released on Wednesday, making way for New Zealand to take the pole position.

The current ICC Men's Cricket World Cup champions suffered a rare loss that meant they went from winning the T20 World Cup 2022 title to being swept clean in Australia and losing the top ODI rankings tag within 10 days.

England suffered a big defeat of 221 runs (D/L method) in the rain curtailed third ODI on Tuesday after losing the first two ODIs by six wickets and 71 runs respectively.



New Zealand, who had lost pole position to England in September this year, have now regained the No.1 status in the ODI Team Rankings chart.

Before the start of the series, England sat comfortably on top with 119 rating points, five clear of New Zealand. However, three successive defeats resulted in them losing six points, eventually

falling behind New Zealand (114) with 113.

India is No.3 with 112 rating points and 3802 overall points while Australia are No.4 with 112 and 3572 respectively.

England will get their next opportunity to reclaim the top spot when they face South Africa for a three-match series away from home in January 2023.

I HAVE SUCCEEDED BECAUSE MY DAILY ROUTINE IS MONOTONOUS: SUNIL CHHETRI



New Delhi | Sunil Chhetri, the captain of the Indian men's football team as well as Bengaluru FC in the ongoing Indian Super League (ISL), is third on the all-time active scorers' lists with 84 goals scored internationally - only behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and Argentina's Lionel Messi.

Now, the star forward reveals how he has managed to be successful for long in the football scene. "If you want to be a Ronaldo, you have to take a different path. And not many people are choosing this because it's difficult, boring and monotonous," says Chhetri to Kunal Shah, founder of CRED, for a fireside chat on the latest episode of CRED Curious show on Youtube.

Chhetri, considered to be the versatile talisman of the Indian football team for more than a decade, has had his share of heartbreaks as well on the path of being a successful footballer. One of those heartbreaks came off the field. "I got a ligament-2 tear in my ankle and I rushed it. I could've waited for 2 to 3 weeks more, but I rushed it. And then, I was out for 6 months and I think that was the darkest point of my life. No one was talking to me because I was so negative. I think that was my worst time because I didn't like myself at that time."

Currently at tenth place in the points table, Bengaluru FC's next match in the ISL will be against FC Goa at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Goa on November 26.

Constantly trying to learn from experienced players: Arshdeep Singh

Napier | Agencies

The steady rise of India's young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh continued as he picked his best-ever figures in T20I cricket with 4/37 in four overs in the third and final T20I against New Zealand at McLean Park in Napier.

Apart from this, Arshdeep had taken out openers Finn Allen and Devon Conway too. He also showed his ability to bowl the knuckle-ball too. He credited senior pacers in the Indian team for helping him with adding more variety to his bowling skills.

"It's all from the guidance from the experienced play-



ers in the team. I constantly try to learn from them. I try to learn hard-length deliveries from you (Siraj). I am learning knuckleball from Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) bhai."

"Earlier I learned how to use yorkers from (Mohammed) Shami bhai. I try to improve myself and

hope to step-up and perform well when the team requires you to stop runs or get a wicket," said Arshdeep in a chat with Mohammed Siraj in a video. Arshdeep was also on the verge of a hat-trick, but Siraj made it a team hat-trick by running out Adam Milne with a direct-hit from backward point.

Arshdeep has been the find for India in T20Is this year, stepping up admirably in Jasprit Bumrah's absence to pick ten wickets in the Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. Since his T20I debut against England in July this year, he has picked 33 wickets in 21 matches at an average of 18.12 and economy rate of 8.17.

Ronaldo banned two games for smashing fan's phone

Doha | Agencies

Cristiano Ronaldo, who left Premier League side Manchester United by mutual agreement on Tuesday, has been suspended for two matches by an independent regulatory panel for smashing a teenage fan's phone after a defeat at Everton last season.

Video footage appeared to show Ronaldo angrily slapping the phone out of the boy's hand as he walked down the tunnel after United's 1-0 defeat at Goodison Park in April.

The boy's mother said he had been left with a bruised hand and his phone screen had been



smashed. Ronaldo was cautioned by the police in August and charged with improper conduct by England's Football Association (FA) in September.

Ronaldo, who had apologised on social media, was warned as to his future conduct and also fined 50,000 pounds

(\$59,875). The ban means Ronaldo will miss two games if he joins another Premier League club.

Ronaldo's exit from United followed an explosive interview in which he said he did not respect manager Erik ten Hag and felt betrayed by the club.

SIKKIM SET TO HOST ITS FIRST EVER RANJI TROPHY MATCH

Gangtok (Sikkim) | Agencies

Sikkim is set to host its first ever Ranji Trophy match this December after receiving the go-ahead from the BCCI.

The Sikkim Cricket Association (SICA), in a press statement, said the association has received BCCI approval to host Ranji Trophy matches in Sikkim, after having met the standards required for hosting the first-class tournament.

"It gives us immense pleasure to officially announce that BCCI has approved SICA ground as the venue for the first ever Ranji Trophy match to be hosted in Sikkim starting from December 13," SICA said.

There was a doubt that the state won't be able to host the matches amid concerns of failing to complete the relevant infrastructure required for the tournament on time.

BCCI manager for cricket operations, Anant Datar, who was here recently to inspect the infrastructure and facilities, was impressed with the recently-developed facilities at SICA cricket ground at Mining, about 35km away



from State capital Gangtok. Sikkim will be playing its Ranji Trophy matches at home against Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The venues for the remaining Plate Group matches, against Meghalaya and Bihar, are yet to be announced. Along with Ranji Trophy matches, Sikkim was also allowed to host two Cooch Behar Trophy matches and three Col CK Nayudu Trophy encounters at Mining SICA ground.



Niharika Chouksey drew inspiration from cricketer Harmanpreet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Tv actress Niharika Chouksey, who plays the titular role in the new show 'Faltu', said she drew inspiration from cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur for her role in the show.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who is an all-rounder, is the captain of the Indian National Women's Cricket Team. Among her various achievements, she became the first woman from India to score a century in Women's Twenty 20 International in November 2018.

The 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actress spoke about the cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur and how she has inspired her for her role.

She said: "Growing up, I didn't know how to play cricket but for this role, I had to understand the basics of it. And during that journey of training from the scratch, I found my inspiration in Harmanpreet Kaur. I love how she has paved the way ahead in this career and has achieved major milestones."

Niharika has been part of films such as 'Jahaan Chaar Yaar' in which she played the character of Swara Bhasker's daughter, and she was also seen in 'Janhit Mein Jaari', playing the sister of Nushrratt Bharucha. Now, she is playing the lead in 'Faltu' which is all about the attitude of people living in rural parts towards a girl child and how certain times they end up giving them names like 'Faltu' with a belief that the next child will be a boy.

She added that the ace cricketer motivated her: "I am inspired by her way of conduct and how fearlessly she backs her team. I love her for her fierce approach and confident persona."



Vivek Oberoi is a brilliant one-take actor : Director Samit Kakkad

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Samit Kakkad, the director of the recently released streaming series 'Dharavi Bank', has called Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi, a "one-take actor". He was impressed by how well the actor was prepared for his part in the series.

Elaborating on the same, Kakkad said: "It is always a very enriching and fruitful experience when we get to work with actors such as Vivek who are aware of the pre-requisites and inner workings of the craft. He's undoubtedly one of the hardest-working actors, and with his level of commitment from beginning to end, the process is made significantly simpler. The kind of preparation that he brings to the table is unparalleled."

The director continued: "Vivek Oberoi is a brilliant one-take actor, he is a director's actor, a rather intelligent one. We had no second takes throughout the shoot and if we did, it was for technical reasons like for different camera variations and angles. He goes above and beyond for every shot; instead of using glycerin during emotional sequences, he genuinely brings the character to life and sheds actual tears. Working with him was an absolute pleasure."

Anushka Sen Wraps up first schedule of her Korean debut film

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Anushka Sen, who is known for her work in the television show 'Jhansi Ki Rani', will be soon making her foray in South Korean cinema with her upcoming movie titled 'Asia'. The actress has returned to India after completing the first schedule of the film.

Talking about the film, Anushka said: "The film that I'm doing is called 'Asia'. It's a very unique concept. It has people from all over Asia coming together to make a film about Asia. Playing a pivotal character, I'm representing India in the film in a way. I had a really great experience filming in South Korea and it's been going really well."

She further mentioned: "First schedule was really nice, I have a very strong character I am playing an assassin for the very first time, never done a role of an assassin in my career so this is going to be really new and unique and of course its international so it's much bigger and I'm really really grateful that I'm representing India in a way."

Drawing parallels between the Indian film industry and the South Korean film industry the actress said: "Mostly there are a lot of similarities in the Indian industry and the Korean industry when it comes to passion for a project, everybody is really hard working on set, everybody wants the best output and everybody wants to give their best. The aesthetic of this film was different, the shot type was different, I saw some new cinematic style used in the film, very creative, very new, very raw. I've learned new things in South Korea."

'Asia', which will be released as a multilingual film, has been conceptualised, written and Directed by Lee Jung-sub. It features actors from various countries like India, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and the U.S.



Suhasi Dhami learnt horse riding for a movie

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Yahan Main Ghar Ghar Kheli' actress Suhasi Dhami is currently playing the role of Queen Velu Nachiyar in the historical drama 'Swaraj'. She was the queen of Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu from 1780-1790 and was the first queen who fought against the East India Company or British rule in India. Suhasi said: "To be getting an opportunity to play a freedom fighter, was a first for me. I was even more excited to know we were shooting in my village, Umar Gaon. It's such a great feeling reading such a well-written script about freedom fighters and getting to know their truth. We've only seen visuals, pictures, and references, so imagining their journeys and sacrifices filled me with an immense sense of gratitude." She further said: "However, we forget to value this freedom in our day-to-day lives. But when you get the opportunity to play such a character, you remember the blood that's been spilled and you truly appreciate the freedom we enjoy today." The actress has acted in shows such as 'Aaj Ki Housewife Hai...', 'Sab Jaanti Hai', 'Piya Albela', 'Jeet Gayi Toh Piya Morey', 'Kumkum Bhagya', and many more. She went on to explain about her character and how she prepared for her role in the show: "Velu Nachiyar displayed such strength, power, honour and passion to win her kingdom back despite losing her husband and being left alone with a child. I had such a great experience because I had to train for fight sequences and learn horse riding, and while we've read about these things in our history books, when we see the final visuals, we understand the impact it brings."



Tusshar Kapoor's upcoming movie has multiple endings

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming movie 'Maarich', which stars Tusshar Kapoor, and marks the return of Seerat Kapoor to Bollywood, has multiple endings, which will keep the audiences glued to their seats.

Speaking about this, director Dhruv Lather said: "We wanted to keep the audiences glued till the end of the film; we wanted them to guess and let them feel they are right and then suddenly we would blow them with a twist. Hence, we decided to shoot multiple endings to increase the intrigue and curiosity level even more."

The final ending will be zeroed in upon based on the audience's reactions through the promotional campaign. Actor and producer Tusshar Kapoor, who essays the role of a cop in the movie, said: "We decided to shoot multiple endings to increase the suspense level in the film. We are yet to choose the final one as our aim is to surprise the audiences and give them something they didn't expect at all." Helmed by Dhruv Lather, 'Maarich' also stars Naseeruddin Shah in a pivotal role. The film, presented by Tusshar Entertainment House in association with NH Studios, is produced by Tusshar Kapoor, Narendra Hirawat, Shreyans Hirawat and co-produced by Girish Johar, Priyanka V. Jain.



IT'S A CLICHE THAT ONLY WOMEN WATCH DAILY SOAP OPERAS: RAHIL AZAM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

'Maddam Sir' actor Rahil Azam, who will be seen playing the lead role in the new show 'Aashao Ka Savera Dheere Dheere Se', shared his thoughts on how men tend to shy away from accepting everyday soap operas on TV.

He said: "There is no shame attached to men watching everyday soap operas; this is just an assumption made by those around us and it is completely false. The cliché in society is that only women watch daily soap operas, therefore it's amazing to see that there are males who enjoy watching serials but are reluctant to admit it. I think it shouldn't be generalised, but I think after a hard day's work in the evening, one can find the entire family watching daily soaps."

He further added that the substance of daily soap operas is well-known, and they give families something to speak about together. "The majority of these programmes have captivating plotlines that are very accurate about what occurs in ordinary people's lives. There is something for everyone to appreciate because these shows deliver what the viewers want. The daily soap opera is an entertainment medium for everyone; thus, it is not required that only women would watch it. Men who find it intriguing can watch it and accept watching it," he added.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Krissann Barretto