

absolute india

VOL. 10, ISSUE 36, MUMBAI | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MUMBAI, BHOPAL AND NEW DELHI



NATION > 02

Amit Shah stresses on equal responsibility of states...



HOLLYWOOD > 06

"Margot Robbie as the eponymous fashion doll"...



SPORTS > 07

India edge closer to victory, despite Zakir's century...

GST COUNCIL RECOMMENDS DECRIMINALISE CERTAIN OFFENCES

It recommended reducing the compounding amount from the present range of 50 per cent to 150 per cent of tax amount to the range of 25 per cent to 100 per cent.

Measures for facilitation of trade also included recommendation on decriminalising certain offences including obstruction or preventing any officer in discharge of his duties; deliberate tempering of material evidence and failure to supply the information.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The GST Council on Saturday recommended decriminalising certain offences and doubled the threshold for launching prosecution from Rs one crore to Rs two crore, except for the offence of issuance of invoices without supply of goods or services or both.

Speaking on the deliberations at the Council's meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that no new taxes have been brought.

The 48th GST Council met under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman via virtual mode in New Delhi on Saturday. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Choudhary besides Finance Ministers of States & UTs (with legislature)



and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance and states/ UTs.

Moreover, the Council has clarified on what constitutes an SUV and the tax applicable for such categories of automobiles. The council clarified that vehicle SUVs with an engine capacity exceeding 1,500 cc and length exceeding 4,000 mm with a ground clearance of 170 mm or above will

attract a 22 per cent compensation cess.

It was also clarified that goods falling in the lower rate category of 5 per cent under schedule I of notification No. 1/2017-CTR imported for petroleum operations will attract a lower rate of 5 per cent and the rate of 12 per cent shall be applicable only if the general rate is more than 12 per cent.

As a relief measure, the Council decided to regularise the intervening period starting from the date of issuance of Circular (3.08.2022) in respect of GST on 'husk of pulses including chilka and concentrates including chuni/churi, khandal' on 'as is basis' on account of genuine doubts.

It also said that no GST is payable where the residential dwelling is rented to a registered person if it is rented in his/her personal capacity for use as his/her own residence and on his own account and not on account of his business.

E-COMMERCE ALLOWED FOR UNREGISTERED VENDORS

The GST Council approved the amendments in the GST Act and GST Rules for allowing unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs), subject to certain conditions.

There are more than 8 crore small traders in the country but a large number of traders are conducting business activities without GST registration since their annual sale is below the GST threshold limit. Such traders will now be able to trade on e-commerce. E-commerce business in India is now approximately 10 per cent of total retail.

GST ON BIOFUEL DOWN TO 5% FROM 18%

No tax increase on any item was decided at the GST Council meeting on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Council recommended reducing GST on biofuel from 18 per cent to 5 per cent.

The GST Council has made the recommendations relating to changes in GST tax rates, measures for facilitation of trade and measures for streamlining compliances in GST.

As per the Council recommendations, GST on husk of pulses reduced to nil from five per cent.

Besides, the Council also recommended reduction of GST on Ethyl alcohol or biofuel supplied to refineries for blending with motor spirit (petrol) to five per cent from current 18 per cent.

BARS, PUBS ALL SET FOR GRAND FINALE AS FOOTBALL FEVER HITS A CRESCENDO

Messi or Mbappe?

Football fever is all set to hit a crescendo on Sunday when people from across the globe will have their eyes glued to their television screens to see whether Messi has the last hurrah, or Kylian Mbappe spoils his swan song in World Cup by helping France become only the second country after Brazil to defend the coveted title.

Durga Chakravarty | New Delhi

The big screens are set, the chairs are aligned and the beers are ready to flow as bars and pubs in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai gear up for the mother of clashes when Lionel Messi's Argentina take on defending champions France in the final of the FIFA World Cup in Doha on Sunday night.

Celebrities from different corners of the world have already reached Doha to be a part of history. The night will also see Shah Rukh Khan and Nora Fatehi participate in the closing ceremony.

The pubs in India are also decked up to make the most of the memorable night, as they prepare to welcome football fanatics with great fervour and stadium-like atmosphere.

Rahul Yadav and his team from Kasa Kai Mumbai, an



event management company, are putting up big screens in Mumbai, Delhi, Gurugram, Kolkata, Chandigarh and Hyderabad, among many other places.

In Mumbai, they have put up screens at bars and pubs in as many as eight places, including at Kamala Mills, Andheri East, Khar and Borivali.

In Gurugram, the newly-launched Orale Skybar has made special arrangements for football fans.

Hemnat Nautiya, owner of

Orale Skybar, told reporter: "We are screening the match live on giant screens. We are also encouraging people to come wearing the jersey of their favourite team. The first drink will be on the house."

Prathi Tandon, Owner of Effingut, a BrewPub, agrees that "sports brings everyone together to celebrate and enjoy".

From beer on tap to '2+1' offers for three whiskey brands, BrewPub is all set to make the final special for its patrons.

Ferozepur first district in Punjab to clean legacy waste



Team Absolute | Chandigarh

Punjab Local Government Minister Inderbir Singh Nijjar on Saturday said Ferozepur has become the first district to clean all its legacy waste by disposing 7,911 metric tons

(MTs). Nijjar said Ferozepur comprising eight urban local bodies including Ferozepur, Zira, Guruaharsai, Talwandi Bhai, Mallanwala, Mudki, Makhu and Mamdot have cleared all its waste. The minister said now daily waste is being recycled. He said door-

to-door segregation is around 85 per cent, while the remaining mixed waste is segregated daily and disposed of simultaneously. Now efforts are being made to get 100 per cent door-to-door waste segregation, he said.

IISc research team develops germ-destroying air filters

Resuspension of these germs can infect people in the vicinity. The novel antimicrobial air filters were tested at the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories and were found to deactivate SARS-CoV-2 (delta variant) with an efficiency of 99.24 per cent. This technology was transferred to AiRTH, a startup that is replacing the existing germ-growing air filters with germ-destroying air filters for commercialisation, said the Ministry of Science and Technology on Saturday.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Newly-developed air filter supported by special grants from Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) can deactivate the germs, 'self-cleaning' them out of the system, using ingredients commonly found in green tea.

A research team led by Suryasarathi Bose and Kaushik Chatterjee at the

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, developed germ-destroying air filters that can inactivate germs using ingredients like polyphenols and polycationic polymers commonly found in green tea. These 'green' ingredients rupture the microbes through site-specific binding.

Impure air might make our life shorter to the extent that Indians lose 5-10 years of their lives because of air-

borne contaminants leading to respiratory diseases, adversely affecting physical health as well as mental health, according to a report by University of Chicago.

The research was supported by special grants from SERB during the challenging Covid-19 pandemic and SERB-Technology Translation Awards (SERB-TETRA) funds and a patent has been filed on this.

Over continuous usage, the existing air filters become a breeding ground for captured germs. The growth of these germs clog the pores of the filter, reducing the life of the filters.

As this innovation holds promise to develop antimicrobial filters that can prevent epidemics caused by air-borne pathogens, a patent was granted in 2022. These novel antimicrobial filters in our ACs, central ducts and air purifiers can play a crucial role in our fight against air pollution and mitigate the spread of air-borne pathogens like coronaviruses.

YASH OBLIGES 700 FANS WITH INDIVIDUAL SELFIES

Patience Personified



Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Pan-India super star Yash who proved his mettle at the box office is also known for his love and affection for fans. Recently, he proved yet again that he's a sovereign when it comes to winning hearts. At an event, Yash clicked selfies/pictures with more than 700 fans present. The organisers of the event suggested that it may be a good idea to shoot group pictures, but the star disagreed and opted to click a picture with each one of the fans present in the event. This warm yet huge gesture took another one hour for the event to actually get over. The kind and warm act of Yash was hugely appreciated by his fans in Bangalore who came from far off distances to catch a glimpse of him.

The event speaks volumes about Yash who doesn't take his stardom for granted. The actor who comes from humble background, is a self-made star who despite the massive stardom, chooses to remain grounded.

5 ways to stay safe from financial frauds during year-end sales

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The year-end is just around the corner, and with that, comes the plethora of sales from fashion houses and e-commerce websites trying to make our holiday season ready. The year-end clearance sales and discounts and customers looking to indulge in some retail therapy give scammers ample avenues to carry out their fraudulent activities. Here are five tips from Truecaller on how to stay protected against financial fraud during the year-end sales:

Be vigilant about suspicious logins and messages

Most shopping and e-commerce websites ask their users to create an account to access their collection or place orders. When creating an account, users have to provide an e-mail address or a phone number on which they receive updates on the latest offers, the orders they have placed, and exciting deals they can avail of.

Only browse secure and authorised websites

One of the most common tactics being used by scammers to steal information is by providing a link to a website that looks similar to a secure and authorised website, with slight modifications that are unnoticeable at first glance.



Never share OTPs with others

To combat scammers from using the payment information of others, banks all over India have initiated a two-factor authentication model. While this has helped combat scams and misuse of financial information to a certain extent, it can still be exploited if a user shares their OTP with others. It is incredibly important to never share your One-time password with anyone and only use it if you are in the process of placing an order, and on a trusted website or app.

Don't save your payment details on e-commerce websites for future use

While you may trust certain commonly used websites or platforms, it is always advised to never save your payment details, even if you plan to purchase products from them in the future. This is because if a site is compromised

in any way, saved cards and payment information can easily be exploited and accessed by those trying to gain access to mass information.

Only pick up calls from verified e-commerce businesses or trusted numbers

Phone scams have been some of the most common tactics that scammers often employ because of the lack of security systems with regard to telephonic conversations. It is also important to make sure that you do not pick up calls from foreign registered numbers or suspicious-looking numbers like the ones that start with digits other than 8 or 9.

Staying safe when shopping online is important for your own personal and financial safety, and by adopting these practices, you can stay away from those who are trying to compromise millions of people every year.

Gel with QR code can accurately detect Covid in hundreds of people at one go

- This test was performed on approximately 500 patients, because they had Covid-like symptoms or because they were asymptomatic but had been in close contact of a positive case.
- They had to rub their hands with the gel and then smell them after three seconds. The result was considered negative if they recognized a citrus fruit, and positive if they couldn't smell the gel or could not detect a citrus aroma.
- Once this had been done, the participants in the study had to fill in a short questionnaire with the result of the smell test and other data such as age, gender and the presence or absence of different symptoms.
- Once the participants had their answers given, they were given a PCR test to check the result.

LONDON | Agencies

Researchers have developed a hydroalcoholic gel with a QR code that enables people to access a test that assesses their ability to identify the smell of the product and eight symptoms of Covid, instantly evaluating the risk of having the deadly respiratory disease.

The team from Spain's Universitat Rovira i Virgili, in conjunction with the Pere Virgili Health Research Institute, developed this method, which is based on artificial intelligence (AI) techniques.

The AI model instantly determines which people have a low, medium or high risk of having the disease at that moment with a sensitivity of 97 per cent. The first prototype of this device has been installed at the entrance to the Sant Joan University Hospital in Reus and the research results were published in the journal Scientific Reports.

Citrus fruits and apples are two of the first aromas that people with the SARS-CoV-2 virus stop detecting. Also, a high temperature, a headache, a cough, discomfort and a sore throat are all signs of the coronavirus but also of a cold or flu. The AI system that has been patented is based on a hydroalcoholic gel to which a particular concentration of a citrus essence has been added.

The data ensured almost total sensitivity (97 per cent), which makes it useful as a method for screening the population.



AMIT SHAH STRESSES ON EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES WITH BSF TO CHECK CROSS-BORDER CRIMES

Kolkata | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that states having international borders have equal responsibility with the Border Security Force (BSF) to check cross border crimes.

He made the remark while addressing the Eastern Zonal Council meeting at the West Bengal state secretariat Nabanna.

Secretariat sources said that Shah refused to accept the arguments of some state governments that cross-border crimes like illegal infiltration and smuggling taking place due to the BSF's negligence.

The concerned state governments also have an equal responsibility in checking the cross-border crimes, he said at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her counterpart from Jharkhand Hemant Soren and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejaswi Yadav.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik did not attend the meeting



and instead deputed two members of his cabinet to participate.

Senior officials of the Central and state governments were also in attendance. The Union Home Minister further claimed that the Centre is taking the matter of internal security quite seriously and on this point, he stressed on a smooth coordination between the Union and the state gov-

ernments. He also reportedly claimed that there were certain lapses by the previous regime at the national level which the present Union government is trying to resolve. Encroachment of railway land was another important issue that was raised in the meeting.

Railway Board Member (works) Brijesh Kumar raised the issue and

sought the cooperation of the concerned state government to free the railway land from encroachments.

However, state secretariat sources said that when Shah stressed on the state government to take action on this count, Mamata Banerjee insisted that making the land encroachment-free will not be possible with proper compensation and rehabilitation.

Delhi acid attack: Accused sent to 14-day judicial custody

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi court on Saturday sent three accused allegedly involved in an acid attack on Wednesday on a 17-year-old school girl to 14 days of judicial custody.

The three individuals were presented in the court after their police custody ended on Saturday. They were arrested on December 14 after the incident had taken place earlier in the day.

They were presented before a Metropolitan Magistrate in Dwarka court, who had sent Sachin Arora, Harshit Aggarwal a.k.a. Honey and Virender Singh a.k.a. Sonu to two days' police remand.

A day after the shocking incident of an acid attack on a 17-year-old schoolgirl, the Delhi Police on Thursday also issued notice to Flipkart, from where the accused had bought the acid.

"The acid has been procured online through



Flipkart. A notice has been sent to Flipkart to provide information regarding the seller and the particular transaction. They have also been asked regarding compliance of regulations related to sale of acid," said M Harsha Vardhan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka).

The sale of acid is banned in the market but the accused Sachin had bought it online from the e-commerce platform.

The 17-year-old school girl was attacked with acid on Wednesday morning near Dwarka Mor while she was on her way to school along with her sister.

Arora, along with Harshit and Virender had planned and hatched the conspiracy a few days ago to throw acid on the girl after their friendship ended in September this year, an official said.

All the three accused are residents of the same locality where the girl resides.

Minor girl raped in Kolkata after being drugged

Kolkata | Agencies

In a shocking incident, a minor girl was allegedly raped by a youth pursuing his MBA studies after being drugged by his mother. As per the statement given by the victim to the local Haridevpur Police Station, the incident took place on October 24 this year, which was the occasion of Kali Puja. However, she filed a complaint with the police on December 16 night.

According to the police, they arrested youth, Kunal Kothari and his mother Anushree Kothari on Saturday morning and presented them at a lower court in Kolkata, which remanded them to police custody. Since the victim is a minor, police have framed charges under various sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 against the two accused persons. City police sources said that as per the statement of the victim, accused Anushree Kothari and the victim girl were undergoing a beautician course at a local institute.

"As per the victim's version, Anushree Kothari invited the minor girl to her residence



on October 24 on the occasion of Kali Puja. After she went there, the accused woman gave her some soft drink after which she became unconscious. According to her version, almost after three days she got back to her senses and realised that she had been sexually assaulted by Kunal Kothari," a local police official said. The victim has informed the police that initially she kept the matter a secret to her family members out of shame and later confided the same to one of her relatives who reportedly suggested her to report the entire incident to the police. The victim has also informed the police that in the interim period, she had also undergone treatment in the matter.

Man posing as judge tried to extort Rs 5L from cops, held

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police on Saturday arrested a man who had been impersonating as a High Court judge and was trying to extort Rs 5 lakh from police officials of Samaypur Badli Police Station.

A senior police official said that the accused was identified as Narender Kumar Aggarwal.

The police said that on December 16, a WhatsApp message was received on the mobile phone of Anurag Dwivedi, ACP sub-division Samaypur Badli Outer North District, on his official mobile number from the accused who was claiming to be a judge of Delhi High Court.

"Hi here is Justice (name withheld) sitting judge Delhi High Court call me urgently," read his message.

When the police called back on the number, the accused told them that he would visit police station Samaypur Badli in connection with a writ petition. The ACP conveyed this message to SHO Samaypur Badli, Sanjay Kumar.



"When the SHO was at his office, the accused reached there claiming himself as judge and told him that he came to the police station in connection with personal verification of a writ petition filed in connection with organised crime of our area."

"He further said that on December 15, he tried to resolve the matter with head constable Pawan posted in beat,

but he didn't respond. The accused then asked SHO Samaypur Badli to pay Rs 5 lakh for getting the writ petition set aside," said the police official.

The police got suspicious as there was no official communication from Delhi High Court regarding visit of any judge to police station Samaypur Badli. The SHO verified the person claiming himself as a judge. Latter his

name and address revealed as Narender Kumar Aggarwal.

The police took his cell phone and checked it. They were shocked to see that he had threatened a number of people including government officials.

In the meantime, head constable Pawan also reached and identified the accused.

Telangana building IT hubs in five more tier II towns

Hyderabad | Agencies

As part of its efforts to decentralise the growth of Information Technology (IT), the Telangana government is building IT hubs in five more districts.

State Information and Technology Minister K. T. Rama Rao said on Saturday that the IT hubs are coming up in Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar, Nalgonda, Siddipet and Adilabad.

The IT hubs in Warangal, Khammam and Karimnagar have already been set up and are running successfully, he said.

"As part of the 3 D Mantra - Digitise, Decarbonise and Decentralise, the state government is taking IT to District Headquarters," the minister tweeted.

KTR, as the minister is popularly known, revealed that Nizamabad IT Hub is almost ready to be inaugurat-



ed. He complimented MLA Ganesh Bigala for his persistent efforts along

with bringing in NRI led enterprises to invest in providing employment opportunities to locals.

The minister shared that Mahbubnagar IT Hub is also almost a month away from being inaugurated. He praised the efforts of Excise Minister V. Srinivas Goud.

KTR noted that Siddipet IT hub with focused efforts of Finance and Health Minister T. Harish Rao is also shaping up well. He said Siddipet hub will be unveiled in a few months.

"Nalgonda IT hub is under construction and efforts are being made to complete it expeditiously in four-six months," he said.

The state government has already formulated a policy to take IT to tier-II towns.

On many occasions, KTR said that till a couple of years ago, IT was confined to Hyderabad.

Rajkot | Agencies

A day after a 37-year-old rape victim was allegedly attacked with a knife in Rajkot, the police on Saturday asked her to lodge a complaint against the three miscreants after the CCTV footage of the incident was circulated on the social media.

According to the victim, her husband had borrowed Rs 50,000 from a private financier named Ajitsinh Chavda and his business partner in February this year. After the victim's husband, who's an auto-rickshaw driver, failed to repay the loan amount, he was asked to pay Rs 1,500 daily as interest to Chavda.

The victim alleged that when



her husband failed to pay the interest, Chavda barged into their house, raped her and filmed the act.

In the same month, the accused allegedly took the victim to a temple and forcefully put 'Sindoor' on her forehead

and proclaimed her to be his wife. Subsequently, the accused visited the victim's house several times and raped her.

After the Rajkot Taluka police refused to lodge a complaint, the victim approached the court, which directed the police

to file her rape complaint.

On Thursday, the police asked the victim to record her statement but simultaneously also informed the accused, the victim alleged.

After Chavda came to know that a complaint will be lodged against him, he along with his two associates allegedly approached the victim's husband on Friday evening. Chavda initially lured him with the promise of paying money to his wife as well as exempting him from repaying the loan amount.

However, when the accused saw the victim, he along with his aides reportedly attacked her with a knife due to which she suffered injuries on her arm.

AMARAVATI FARMERS TAKE PROTEST OVER THREE CAPITALS TO DELHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Demanding that Amaravati be developed as the only state capital of Andhra Pradesh, farmers from the region on Saturday staged protest in New Delhi.

Leaders and workers of Amaravati Parirakshana Samithi (APS), which is spearheading the movement against proposed three capitals, organised the sit-in at Jantar Mantar.

They demanded that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government drop its move to develop three capitals and fulfill the commitments made to the people of Amaravati.

With the slogan of 'Dharani Kota to Erra Kota', the APS organised the protest to mark three years of the announcement of YSRCP government for trifurcation of the state capital.

APS president Shiva Reddy, secretary G. Tirupati Rao and other leaders staged the protest to highlight their demand in the national capital. Leaders of the Left parties and farmers' organisations participated in the protest to show solidarity with Amaravati farmers.

The APS leaders will meet leaders and MPs of various political parties



on Sunday and Monday to seek their support for their movement.

The Amaravati farmers will also participate in Monday's protest by Bharatiya Kisan Sangh at Ramlila Grounds in support of various demands of farmers.

Bharatiya Kisan Sangh has included the movement by Amaravati farmers in the agenda for the meeting.

It was on December 17, 2019 that Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had announced in the state Assembly that three state capitals will

be developed reversing the decision of the previous TDP government to develop Amaravati as the state capital. The YSRCP government mooted Visakhapatnam as administrative capital, Kurnool as judicial capital and Amaravati as legislative capital.

This triggered massive protests from farmers of Amaravati, who had given 33,000 acres of land for the capital and the previous government had also undertaken the works on some components of the mega project.

As part of the protest, Amaravati farmers had launched Maha Padyatra from Amaravati to Arasavalli on September 12. It was scheduled to end at Arasavalli on November 12. However, on October 22, the organisers stopped it en route alleging that the YSRCP government is creating hurdles in their long march.

The farmers had organised a Maha Padyatra from Amaravati to Tirupati last year to mobilize public support for their demands.

Centre should take over rationing system in national capital: Delhi BJP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi BJP on Saturday urged the Centre to either take over the ration system or transfer the subsidy issued by the Centre to the bank accounts of the consumers as the Delhi government has "failed" to provide ration to the poor.

Accusing the Kejriwal-led government of depriving 72.78 lakh ration cardholders of the national capital from the ration in November and December, Delhi Pradesh BJP Working President Virendra Sachdeva and Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the rationing system in the national capital has come to a complete standstill.

The Central Government released 8,000 tonnes of rice and 11,900 tonnes of wheat for half year from April to September this year, but the Delhi government could not distribute even this, they



alleged. The reason is that more than 34,000 quintals of rice from Mayapuri, Okhla and Pusa godowns and 10,000 quintals of wheat from Mayapuri godown, sent for the month of November, were not lifted.

In a joint press conference, BJP leaders said that the central government provides ration to the consumers of Delhi under the National Food Security Act, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and 'One Nation One Card Scheme'.

The commission of ration vendors of Delhi has not

been given since the last half year whereas they should have received the commission in advance and the central government has already given this amount to Delhi.

Along with providing ration, the central government also pays the cost of transportation and commission of ration vendors to deliver ration from godowns to ration vendors. The Delhi government only needs to lift the ration from the godowns and to deliver it to the ration vendors, but the Delhi government is unable to do it and the poor of Delhi are roaming around desperately for the ration.

AFTER PUNJAB, IT'S NOW THE TURN OF 'UDTA DELHI'

THE INVESTIGATION

Easily available at various hotspots, which include JJ clusters and parks, at prices ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 5,000, anyone can get ganja in the quantities that they require. Correspondent and team visited several places across the city, including JJ clusters and found that these drugs and illicit liquor are sold openly in these colonies without any fear of authorities.

On December 5, Delhi Police said that they have arrested two drug peddlers and recovered over 100 kgs of cannabis from their possession. On interrogation of the accused, it was revealed that the said consignment was procured from Tripura, a North East state.

On December 12, with the arrest of three people, the Delhi Police claimed to have busted an interstate drug syndicate involved in supplying narcotics contrabands in Delhi and its peripherals. A total of 22,400 kg of cannabis was recovered from them.

In March this year, an interstate drug peddler was nabbed with 109.7 kg ganja worth Rs 1.02 crore packed in 51 small cartoons in a vehicle which was intercepted by the police near Mahipalpur in South Delhi.



Shekhar Singh | New Delhi

Cannabis or ganja, 'babaji ki booti' or 'maal' (what peddlers call it) has spread its roots across the national capital, which is evident as it is being openly sold at some places across the city.

The team first visited the JJ cluster built on both sides of the railway lines near Jal Vihar area in Lajpat Nagar. The team asked about the 'maal' from one of the men sitting outside the one of the shanties, who then said to go in third alley, and ask for 'Anna'.

The team then reached the third alley and after entering it

just left, and the second single room shanty was Anna's 'office', where he was sitting on a chair watching a movie on TV. The correspondent asked him about the cannabis to which he said you can buy Rs 100, 500 and Rs 1,000 packets from here.

He kept the cannabis rolled in newspapers and all the rooms were filled with those packets. He calls it his 'office'.

The team then visited JJ cluster in Chattarpur near 100 ft road where narrow lanes led to a woman who was sitting on a cot and used to openly sell ganja and illicit liquor. The ganja is sold in packets starting from Rs 100 per pack whereas alcohol quarter is sold for Rs 50.

"We don't have any other business to do. This is easy earning and once a buyer is here, he will come again to buy the stuff," said the woman on anonymity, adding that most of the people who come to buy drugs are youngsters.

She also said that whenever there is a shortage of ganja, other peddlers in the area specifically reduce quantity and sell drugs by mixing 'Avil' tablet and other chemicals.

The team then visited Neb Sarai, Freedom Fighter Colony, gate no-4, where the correspondent spoke to people who pointed out towards a general store which sells these drugs. Posing as a buyer, the correspondent asked the shop owner to give a packet of ganja. The shopkeeper pointed towards a street near his shop and asked to wait there.

As the peddler returned, he asked what would we like to buy - ganja or heroin, adding: "Heroin would cost you Rs 300 for 1 gram and a small packet of ganja would cost Rs 100 while a quarter of illicit liquor is sold for Rs 100."

Madan Giri, Subhash Nagar, RK Puram, INA, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, Munirka and JJ clusters in Jahangirpuri, Dwarka, Uttam Nagar and Rohini are also the hotspots for drug peddlers and distributors.

Most peddlers and distributors also operate in areas close to North Campus such as Majnu Ka Tila, Kashmir Gate, Indra Vikas opposite Nirankari colony and Shastri Park.

Bilkis Bano case

SC dismisses review against May judgment on remission policy



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review petition filed by Bilkis Bano challenging the apex court's May 13 judgment, which held that remission of accused, convicted for gangrape and multiple murders, should be considered as per the policy existing at the time of conviction in Gujarat, where the crime was committed.

A bench comprising

Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath dismissed the review petition filed by Bano through advocate Shobha Gupta.

In the review petition, Bano said that Maharashtra's remission policy should be applied in the present case, instead of the 1992 remission policy of Gujarat since the trial had happened in Maharashtra.

The top court's judgment came on a petition filed by

one of the convicts, Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah seeking direction to Gujarat to consider his application for premature release under the 1992 policy, which was existing at the time of his conviction.

Bano has also filed a separate petition against the release of 11 men convicted of gang raping her in the 2002 Gujarat riots, and also accused of multiple murders, saying the release of all the

Twitter suspends Koo's user query account

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Elon Musk-owned Twitter has suspended the official user queries account of the homegrown microblogging platform Koo, @kooeminence, which now shows that the account has been suspended, and its tweets are no longer visible.

Reacting to the ban, the co-founder and CEO of Koo, Aprameya Radhakrishna, tweeted: "One of the Koo handles on Twitter just got banned. For what? Because we compete with Twitter? So? Mastodon also got blocked today. How is this free speech and what world are we living in?"

Additionally, Koo co-founder Mayank Bidawatka



took to Twitter to express the loss of the account, emphasizing that the platform is the best alternative to Twitter.

"I've said this before. We run Koo and the journalists should just migrate. Migrate tools are available. Koo is the best alternative to Twitter. This place is what it is because of you and millions

of other users like us. Let's not fuel this guy's ego," he tweeted. This comes after Musk recently suspended the accounts of several prominent journalists who had been covering him, including those from the Washington Post, the New York Times, Mashable, and CNN, without warning.

However, Musk lifted the suspension of some journalists on the micro-blogging site after running a poll on the platform, asking if he should "Unsuspend accounts who doxxed my exact location in real-time".

Koo has over 50 million downloads and is actively leveraged by over 7,500 eminent personalities across fields.

INDIA IS READY IF ANYONE CASTS EVIL EYE IN IT: DEFENCE MINISTER

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday commended the Indian Army for showing unmatched bravery during the Galwan and Tawang incidents.



Addressing the 95th Annual Convention of Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi, Singh asserted that India has no intention to capture the land of other countries, but will always be ready if anyone tries to cast an evil eye. India aims to become a superpower which works for the welfare of the world, he said.

He stated that India is touching newer heights of success and has entered the category of 'fabulous five' from 'fragile five', coined by investment firm Morgan Stanley, in 2014. "India is now among the top five economies in real-time".

It took us 31 years from 1991 to become a three trillion USD economy. I am confident that the next three trillion dollars are going to be added in the next seven years," he said.

J&K bureaucrats, cops, retd judges, politicians lose excess security cover

Jammu | Agencies

In a significant development, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have withdrawn excess security from politicians, retired judges and both serving/retired IAS, IPS and J&K cadre police and civil officers.

The withdrawal was necessitated after a security audit was held during which it was pointed out that excess security needed to be withdrawn based on categorisation of protected persons, top sources said.

They said that the exercise had to be undertaken because those falling in 'Y' security category had been given security cover of 'Z' category and those of 'Z' category were enjoying the cover of 'Z Plus' category.

"This disparity has now been removed," the top sources told reporter. In addition to the with-



drawal of personal security officers (PSOs) of 20 politicians, two excess PSOs of former DGP S.P. Vaid and three of former ADGP Munir Ahmad Khan have also been withdrawn. SPOs of retired police officers, who were holding excess PSOs, have now been recalled by

the security headquarters. The retired IGP's are Mubarak Ahmad Ganie, Rouf-ul-Hassan, A.S. Bali, Mohammad Amin Anjum, Ghulam Hassan Bhat, Mohammad Amin Shah, Jagjeet Kumar, Javid Ahmad Makhdoomi and Shamas Ahmad Khan.

'THOSE WHO VOTED AGAINST BJP BETRAYED NATION': GUJARAT MINISTER

Palanpur: Gujarat MoS Cooperative, Salt industry, Printing and Small Scale Industry Jagdish Vishwakarma on Saturday said that people who voted against the BJP in Vadgam constituency in the state Assembly polls "have betrayed the nation".

Congress leader Jignesh Mevani got elected from Vadgam for the second consecutive time.

Addressing people at his native village Varnawada, which falls in the Vadgam constituency, the minister said: "I thank you for the warm welcome, but all those who have voted against the BJP have betrayed the nation. I would have been more pleased if instead of this warm welcome today, you would have voted for the party." "The villagers should understand that development is possible only if the MLA is from the ruling party," he claimed. He even reminded that all villages falling under the Vadgam taluka are connected with good roads, and as far as filling water in the Karmavat lake is concerned, it is a big project. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel is monitoring the project and it is likely to be completed soon, he said.



Shanghai schools to go online as Covid cases soar in China

Beijing | Agencies

China's largest city, Shanghai, has ordered most of its schools to conduct classes online as Covid cases soar, according to a media report.

Nurseries and childcare centres will also shut from Monday, according to Shanghai's education bureau, BBC reported.

Restrictions were eased by Chinese authorities earlier this month following a wave of protests targeting China's zero-Covid strategy.

But the easing of strict lockdown measures has led to growing concerns over the spread of Covid in China, BBC reported.

Significant changes in the country's Covid testing and reporting systems have made it difficult to know just how widespread the virus has become. But hospitals and medical facilities have come under increasing strain, with temporary health centres and intensive care facilities being set up across the country, BBC reported.

In Shanghai, it has been reported that an extra 230,000 hospital beds have been made available.

Some schools in the city have also already stopped in-person classes



because teachers and staff are ill. In a statement posted on Chinese social media site WeChat on Saturday, Shanghai's education bureau announced that most year groups in primary and secondary schools would move to online learning from Monday. Students and children who do not have alternative childcare arrangements can apply to attend school.

The statement said the measures were being put in place in order to protect the health of teachers and students in line with current coronavirus prevention measures.

RUSSIA REPORTS 7,531 NEW COVID-19 CASES

Moscow: Russia has registered 7,531 new Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, bringing the nationwide tally to 21,708,852, said the official monitoring and response centre on Saturday.

The centre added the nationwide death toll increased by 58 to 392,949, and the number of recoveries grew by 7,269 to 21,103,330, Xinhua news agency reported. Meanwhile, Moscow reported 1,396 new cases, taking its total to 3,280,301.

LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL BEDS AT LOWEST AVAILABILITY SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

Los Angeles: The number of available Los Angeles County hospital beds has fallen to its lowest level in the pandemic, according to LA County Public Health Department.

Based on data collected from 90 hospitals, there were 242 adult beds available countywide as of Monday, LA County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told reporters on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported.

The result shows not only the enduring threat of Covid-19 and the reemergence of flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), but also the needs of a populace that put off non-emergency care, the news agency reported, citing the Los Angeles Times.

Surveillance data show the coronavirus concentration in LA County wastewater exceeded the peak of the summer Omicron wave during the latest week ending December 3.

Governor's rule imposed in Mizoram tribal autonomous body



Aizawl | Agencies

After 56-months of instability, Governor's rule has been promulgated in the politically important Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC), one of the three tribal autonomous constitutional bodies in Mizoram, officials said here on Saturday.

The Governor's rule was imposed by the state government for 6 months and the Deputy Commissioner of Lawngtlai district has been appointed as caretaker on behalf of the Governor to exercise such functions or powers vested in or exercisable by the CADC with immediate effect.

Officials said that the CADC's Chief Executive Member (CEM) Buddha Lila Chakma resigned from his post earlier and the Mizoram governor Hari Babu

Kambhampati accepted his resignation on November 17 and then Rasik Mohan Chakma staked claim to be the CEM of the CADC.

"The Governor is of the firm opinion that this constant change of administration due to political maneuvering is extremely damaging for the welfare of the CADC and its people, and is certainly not what is intended by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which envisions the effective administration of the tribal areas," said a notification issued on Friday night.

It said that a Commission, constituted earlier, has submitted its report recently, stating that in the absence of recruitment rules, a number of irregular activities have occurred in the CADC without following proper procedures. Tribal leaders criticised the state government's decision.



MP IS NOW BECOMING A BIG CENTER OF INVESTMENT: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that Madhya Pradesh is now becoming a major center of investment. Possibilities of investment in Madhya Pradesh are being explored at the international level. Pravasi Bharatiya Sammelan to be held in Indore on January 8, 9 and 10. Pravasi Bharatiyas from 80 countries will participate in it. Also, 52 countries have given approval to participate in the Investors Summit on 11th and 12th January. In M.P. 5G services have been started.

CM Chouhan was addressing the youth at Startup Conclave-2022 of Laghu Udyog Bharti in Katni today. He also launched QR code giving information about government schemes.

CM Chouhan said that the state government is providing various facilities to encourage start-ups and MSMEs. In the start-up policy of the state, a provision has been made for special incentive assistance of up to one crore rupees to new startups. In case of innovative idea, capital fund is also arranged from the bank. A start-up center of experts has also been set up to help start-ups in the state.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that the efforts of Laghu Udyog Bharti in making the country self-reliant are commendable. Capital subsidy, subsidized land, capital, interest subsidy, etc. are given for setting up an MSME unit in the state. Recently, in a single day, 1900 small scale industrial units were started in the state. Now preparations are on to start 5000 industries. Chief Minister Chouhan called upon the



youth to start start-ups in the state. He said that they should be job provider. Start your own business. The government will give full help in that. The daughters will be given 20 percent additional assistance by the government in setting up startups. The Chief Minister told the youth that no one can stop them from moving forward if they are determined. India's Sundar Pichai has done a miracle.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that it should be clear to the children that in which direction they have to go after class XII. He said that on securing 75 percent or more marks in 12th, the government gives a laptop. The government is also paying the fees for higher education of meritorious students. Medical and engineering studies have also been started in Hindi in Madhya Pradesh. Chouhan said that soon one lakh government posts will be recruited in the state. Every person cannot get a government job, so it is necessary to start self-employment, the state government will cooperate fully. They can start their start-up and become job creators. 2500 children of the state have started their start-ups.

BJP bats for 'one nation, one constitution', asks Cong to clear stance

Team Absolute | Bhopal

With Bharatiya Janata Party MP Kirodi Lal Meena introducing a private members Bill in the Upper House of the parliament last week for seeking the constitution of a committee to prepare and implement a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the country, a debate over this issue has started once again.

In Madhya Pradesh where assembly elections are due at the end of 2023, the ruling BJP is leaving no stone unturned to push the issue on a large scale.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, joining the ranks of his BJP counterparts in several other states, has already announced that a committee would be constituted to implement the Uniform Civil Code in the state. Chouhan has started asserting the need of a UCC in the state with the implementation of the PESA Act around one-and-a-half months ago.

"I am in favour of the argument that the time has come for a Uniform Civil Code to be implemented in India. Why should anyone marry more than one person? Why should there be two Constitutions in one country? There should only be one,"



Chouhan stated a week ago while addressing a gathering in Barwani district.

"I am forming a committee in Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of Uniform Civil Code. If one has the right to have only one wife, there should only be one," Chouhan added.

The BJP is pushing for the UCC by citing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statement on this subject made in 1950, which read, "State shall endeavour to provide for its citizens a Uniform Civil

Code."

In an exclusive discussion on this issue, Madhya Pradesh Home and Law Minister Narottam Mishra said: "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had suggested a Uniform Civil Code, but the Congress' politics of appeasement kept the matter in cold storage despite being in power for over 70 years. The time has come when we need to progress with Ek Vidhan, Ek Samvidhan aur Ek Rashtra (one legislation, one constitution and one nation)."

When asked about the Congress accusing the BJP of making UCC an issue when elections are getting closer in the state, Mishra replied, "The Congress has always used appeasement tactics for political gain. The BJP has its clear agenda and that is nation first."

"Be it the decision to abrogate Article 370, criminalising triple talaq, Citizenship (Amendment) Act or any other progressive steps taken under the leadership of PM Modi, the Congress has found only politics in it because they have always done politics of appeasement."

Mishra challenged Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath to make his stance clear on the UCC. "The BJP has made its view clear and I would appeal to Kamal Nath that he should also make his stance clear on it." Congress MLA Ashok Matkole said: "It would be better if the government introduces a common civil code-like system in education and health."

"Our democracy gives citizens the right to cherish religious freedom and if anything goes wrong, we have separate laws to handle the situation. You can make people aware that they should not have multiple wives, but you cannot impose them."

India's first transgender judge has a suggestion

"VERY IMPORTANT TO GIVE RESERVATION IN GOVERNMENT JOBS TO THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY":

Team Absolute | Indore

India's first transgender Judge Joyita Mondal has underlined the need for reservation in government jobs for her community members, saying their entry in segments like the police force and the Railways will change society's outlook towards them and help in their advancement in life.

She said her community also needs shelter homes in adequate numbers in the country and the government should launch a scheme in this regard.

"It is very important to give reservation in government jobs to the transgender community. If I don't have a job, who is going to feed me?" she told reporters on Friday after attending a culture and literature festival, "Lit Chowk", here.

She said if by virtue of reservation, transgender persons join the police force and the Railways, it will not only help community members march ahead in life, but change society's outlook towards



them. She said authorities should be more sensitive towards her community members and issues faced by them. Indore: India's first transgender Judge

Joyita Mondal has underlined the need for reservation in government jobs for her community members, saying their entry in segments like the police force and the Railways will change society's outlook towards them and help in their advancement in life. She said her community also needs shelter homes in adequate numbers in the country and the government should launch a scheme in this regard. "It is very important to give reservation in government jobs to the transgender community. If I don't have a job, who is going to feed me?" she told reporters on Friday after attending a culture and literature festival, "Lit Chowk", here.

She said if by virtue of reservation, transgender persons join the police force and the Railways, it will not only help community members march ahead in life, but change society's outlook towards them.

She said authorities should be more sensitive towards her community members and issues faced by them.

CM slams Rahul over China remarks, drags Rajiv Gandhi into brawl; Nath seeks apology

Team Absolute | Bhopal

MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks that the Narendra Modi government was asleep while China was planning to attack the country. The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party indulged in a verbal tussle as Chouhan also said smaller nations used to scare the country when Rahul Gandhi's father Rajiv Gandhi was prime minister (between 1984 and 1989). "When Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, the smaller countries of the world used to scare us. A glorious and powerful India is being built under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Rahul Gandhi, don't talk unrestrained, now no one can scare India," Chouhan said in a tweet.

Talking to reporters in Katni earlier, Chouhan said India's soldiers had given a befitting reply to the Chinese military, and advised Gandhi "not to insult our army".

He also said Gandhi should recall 1962 (when India under Jawaharlal Nehru faced reverses in a border war with China) before speaking in such a manner. Hitting back, MP Congress chief Kamal said "the indecent lan-



guage used by Shivraj Singh Chouhan in relation to former prime minister late Rajiv Gandhi does not suit the MP CM."

"Rajiv Gandhi, who sacrificed everything for the pride of Mother India, will always be the ideal of this country," Nath said, adding Chouhan must study history to find out about the military's valour when Rajiv Gandhi was PM. As part of political vendetta, Chouhan is not only insulting Rajiv Gandhi but also the military of the country, for which he must apologise, Nath further asserted.

Addressing the press on the sidelines of his Bharat Jodo Yatra on Friday, Rahul Gandhi had claimed China was preparing for war, while the Indian government was asleep and trying to ignore the threat.

48TH MEETING OF GST COUNCIL HELD

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Finance and Commercial Taxes Minister Jagdish Deora has urged the GST Council to eliminate the double tax system on the basis of end use of sugarcane, sawdust, peel etc. obtained from the milling of pulses and keep these items in the tax free category. In the 48th meeting of the GST Council held on Saturday, through video conference. Minister Deora expressed his views on several issues. Principal Secretary Commercial Taxes Deepali Rastogi and Commissioner Lokesh Kumar Jatav also took part. Various issues were discussed in the meeting.

Minister Deora thanked the Council for considering Madhya Pradesh's proposal to make the registration process effective. With the verification of the information given by the applicant in relation to place of business for electricity bill or description of property, obtained through API from the database of various departments, the tendency of registration being done on the basis of forged docu-



ments will be curbed. He thanked Madhya Pradesh for being included in the pilot project. He also requested that since most of the registration applications are located in urban areas, there is a need to use the property related database of Urban Development Department along with Land Revenue Department for verification related to place of business. The Council approved the request.

Elected representatives of urban bodies invited to Bhopal on December 19: Bhupendra Singh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has said that the much-awaited training and dialogue program is going to be held on December 19. All of you people's representatives have been elected in total 394 urban bodies in the elections held in two phases. Reservation of other backward classes has also been ensured in the elections. All of you elected public representatives are invited for the training and dialogue program in Bhopal on December 19. It will be a confluence, in which the outline of urban development, its priorities and your goals will be discussed. In this, new chapters of development can be scripted and it will also be possible to learn from each other and get inspiration through training. Singh discussed with the elected public representatives and officials of all the urban bodies through video conferencing from Katni.

Minister Singh said that the target will be to expand better civic facilities in their wards and



bodies which is a challenge. Cities are the engine of development of the state. Everyone comes to the city to find better prospects for their future. Education, health, employment opportunities are available here. That is why the implementation of urban plans and urban development has always been a challenging task.

Co-operation from all of you is expected for the progress of the state. We will not only be able to provide civic facilities to the people of the state with your co-operation, but will also create a new model of development of cities. It is our endeavour to make the elected public representatives empowered. He said that you must bring your suggestions in writing. Such workshops will be organised later also.

Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Neeraj Mandloi said that your suggestions will be seriously considered in the workshop cum conference. Along with this, important decisions can be taken on your suggestions.

MAN BOOKED FOR POSTING "RUDE" COMMENTS ON DANCE VIDEO OF BSP MLA

Damoh: A police case was registered against a man for allegedly posting "rude" comments on the viral dance video of Bahujan Samaj Party MLA from Damoh district, Rambai Singh. A young man allegedly made rude comments on the video on Facebook. Rambai's supporters got angry and staged a protest against the man. Rambai's supporters kept creating a ruckus at the Patharia police station throughout the day following the comment made on social media and demanded that a case should be registered against him.

Patharia police finally registered a case against the accused youth after a late-night investigation. According to Damoh district station in-charge Rajni Shukla, an FIR has been lodged with the help of the cyber cell while the youth is still not in police custody. Earlier BSP MLA Rambai Singh's dance video, from Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh went viral in which the MLA was seen dancing to Sapna Chaudhary's song at her family event. This video became viral, but a party member from her own assembly constituency made an indecent comment on this video, after which a ruckus was created.



'We will win more than 200 seats in 2023 elections'

BJP president VD Sharma sets target for MP assembly elections

Team Absolute | Katni

The Bharatiya Janta Party has set a target to register victory on more than 200 assembly seats in the upcoming assembly elections in 2023 in Madhya Pradesh. The target was set by the MP BJP president, VD Sharma, in the office bearers meeting held in Katni on Saturday.

All the senior office bearers of BJP attended the meeting which was held to chalk out future strategy along with reviewing the party programs.

Interacting with media persons after the meeting, Sharma said, "We have set a target of winning more than 200 assembly seats and vast efforts are being done in this direction. A pledge has also been taken to come up with 51 percent vote share at all booths, inspired by the party's mega victory in Gujarat."

In Gujarat, BJP grabbed 53 percent vote share. Sharma further added that the BJP workers and leaders will work hard to take the public welfare schemes to the bottom level.



Taking potshots at Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said that Rahul Gandhi is walking with those who feel ashamed of being Hindu. He also accused Rahul Gandhi of echoing the concerns of China and Pakistan.

TWO ARRESTED WITH STOLEN MEDICINES WORTH RS 70L

Indore: City Crime Branch arrested two persons with medicines worth Rs 70 lakh, an officer said on Friday. They were trying to sell the stolen medicines in the city when they were arrested. They had stolen the medicines from a moving truck along the Sagar-Jabalpur bypass road in the Sagar district. Since the theft case is registered in Sagar, further investigations would be done by the Sagar police.

According to a Crime Branch officer, information was received that two persons were carrying stolen medicines worth lakhs in a vehicle and they were reaching the city to sell them. The Crime Branch team reached the mentioned place and caught two persons named Ishwar of Dewas and Badal of Jaora in the Ratlam district from the Dewas-Indore Bypass Road. The accused did not give a satisfactory reply about the medicines they were carrying. Later, they informed the police that they belong to a gang from Dewas and they had stolen 14 cartons of medicines worth Rs 70 lakh from a moving truck from the Surkhi area on Sagar-Jabalpur Bypass Road, a few days ago. They were reaching the city to sell the medicines to someone here.

Artists make 'Rudra Veena' weighing 5 tons from scraps

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A group of artists in state capital Bhopal have prepared a rare 'Rudra Veena' weighing 5 tons from scraps and trash. The veena is 28-feet long, 10-feet wide and 12-feet high. The group of 15 members took around six months to build it and spent around Rs 10 lakh in its making. The team claims that it is the world's biggest Rudra Veena ever made. It is made of vehicle scraps like chain, gear, ball-bearing, wire etc. One of the artists, Pawan Deshpandey said, "The veena has been prepared on the theme of 'Kabaad Se Kanchan'. A total of 15 artists were engaged in designing, collecting scraps and then making it for six months and finally the biggest veena made up from trash got ready." "We wanted to work on an Indian theme so that our new generation can know more about Indian culture. 'Rudra Veena' is unique



in itself. It will be installed at a place in the city where people can take selfies with it. We will also install a musical system and lights in it so that it looks more beautiful," Deshpandey added. "As of now, we have identified a place which is located at Atal Path in the city where it can be kept," the artist further added. The team that made the veena claimed, "We have researched that such a huge Veena from scrap and trash has not been ever made. It is the biggest veena not only in Bhopal but also in the world. Nearly Rs 10 lakh have been spent in making of this Rudra Veena."



IF JUDGES & JOURNALISTS FALTER, DEMOCRACY WILL CRASH: JURIST SHRIKRISHNA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

If judges and journalists hesitate in their duty to take the side of truth and speak the truth to the powers that be, then democracy will collapse, cautioned eminent jurist and retired Justice B.N. Shrikrishna.

"Speak the truth to the powers that be. There are two professions - the judge and the journalist - who have to side with the truth. If they falter, then democracy will collapse," said Justice Shrikrishna, addressing the RedInk Awards ceremony here late on Friday, organised by the Mumbai Press Club. He said that of the four pillars of democracy -- judiciary, legislature, executive and the press or Fourth



Estate, "If the first three cosy up, then it's the duty of the Press to take them to task". Reminiscing the days of the Emergency, he said that in the current times, the central probe agencies are being

misused. "People spoke of threats from the ED, CBI, surveillance, cutting off revenue to ensure the collapse of business. In such a situation, honesty is the best policy, and journalistic con-

science," Justice Shrikrishna pointed out.

The event saw a debate 'Is There A Future For Independent News Media' with the participation of former Mumbai top-cop M.N. Singh, noted criminal lawyer Satish Maneshinde, advertising professional Meenakshi Menon and others discussing the issue threadbare, said Mumbai Press Club Chairman Gurbir Singh. Singh said that as per the latest Freedom of Press Index released by the Reporters Without Borders, India had sunk eight points, from 142 (2021) to 150th position this year, and the country is considered as a very dangerous place for journalists with 3-4 being killed each year.

BJP starts 'maafi maango' agitation, targets MVA leaders

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Accusing the Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders of making controversial remarks on the birthplace of Dr B. R. Ambedkar, the ruling ally Bharatiya Janata Party started its 'maafi maang' (Beg Forgiveness) demonstrations in Mumbai, here on Saturday.

The agitation is happening simultaneously as the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and around 50 parties and groups also launched their mega-procession in south Mumbai on various issues.

State BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule, BJP Mumbai President Ashish Shelar, senior leader Pravin Darekar and others are spearheading the protests along with thousands of party workers waving black flags and placards, raising slogans and condemning the Sena (UBT) at different places in



the city. They have condemned the Sena (UBT)'s attempts to raise doubts on the birthplace of Dr. Ambedkar, the Chief Architect of the Indian Constitution and champion of the depressed classes.

"We have sent Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut a couple of official publications authored by BJP MLC Bhai Girkar on the life of Dr Ambedkar and urge him to read it to understand history... There are

attempts to rewrite history and it is not acceptable to us. They must ask for forgiveness from the people," said Shelar.

The BJP leaders also slammed the comments of Sena (UBT) Deputy Leader and firebrand orator Sushma Andhare for ridiculing Hindu Gods, saints, the Varkaris etc and demanded to know "why is Uddhav Thackeray keeping mum on all this".

"Insult" charges fly as Maharashtra opposition alliance marches



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) 'Halla Bol' protest march against the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government over various issues began here on Saturday. The foot march, which began from a

company near JJ Hospital at Byculla around noon, will conclude at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai. The protest has been organised to target the Eknath Shinde-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in the state on issues including the "insult" of Maratha warrior king

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and social reformers Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and others through their remarks; the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute and projects from the state being shifted else-where. The MVA protest is being seen as an

attempt to rally the allies after the Uddhav Thackeray-led alliance government was toppled in June this year. Leaders and workers of the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress had started gathering near the JJ Hospital since morning. When the march started around noon, they were seen carrying banners, placards and images of Shivaji Maharaj and the Phules. Talking to reporters before the march, senior NCP leader Sunil Tatkar said Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has insulted Maharashtra by staking claim to some parts of the state, even as the Shinde government has chosen not to react.

Cops arrest builder for cheating housing investors of over Rs 27 crore



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have arrested a builder for allegedly duping investors to the tune of more than Rs 27 crore by promising attractive returns on investment in his housing project in the city, an official said.

The accused builder was arrested from Punjab on Friday by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai Police, he said. "He was wanted in three related cases registered with the EOW for duping people of crores of rupees on false promises," the official said, adding that his son, who is also an accused in these cases, is missing. A 57-year-old investor and others had invested a total of Rs 19.30 crore in the project of the accused, the official said. "Initially, the complainant received returns on their invested money, but later the father-son duo told him that he will be given flats in the housing project instead of

cash returns. The housing project was going on in the Sion Chunabhatti area of the city," he said. A few months later, when the builder did not keep the promise, the investor realised that he and others were duped, following which he lodged a complaint at the Santacruz police station.

A first information report (FIR) under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (cheating) was registered against both the accused and the EOW was given the probe, he said. "During the investigation, it came to light that a few more investors of the housing scheme had lodged complaints against the father-son duo and the collective amount involved was Rs 27.57 crore," the official said, adding that at least 335 cases registered against the accused under section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act were already being heard by different courts in Mumbai.

ASHOK CHAVAN NOT TO TAKE PART IN MVA'S PROTEST MARCH DUE TO PRIOR COMMITMENT



Mumbai: Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra chief minister Ashok Chavan said he will not be able to take part in Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) protest march against the Eknath Shinde-BJP government in the state due to a prior commitment. In a tweet, Chavan said he extends his support to the morcha, but he will not be able to participate in it due to a scheduled wedding event in Nanded. He added that his wife Amita Chavan will take part in the protest march. Ashok Chavan, who was the chief minister of the state between 2008 and 2010, was among the few congress MLAs who were absent during the trust vote of the Eknath Shinde government in June this year.

SHARAD PAWAR JOINS MVA MEGA-PROCESSION TO PROTEST INSULTS TO ICONS



Mumbai: Senior-most leader and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar on Saturday morning joined the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's mega-procession to protest against the repeated slurs on iconic personalities, here.

Others who marched with him include Shiv Sena (UBT) President Uddhav Thackeray, Congress state President Nana Patole, NCP state President Jayanta Patil, Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Ajit Pawar and Leader of Opposition (Council) Ambadas Danve, Congress Legislative Party Leader Balasaheb Thorat and others. Thousands of activists of various political parties, trade unions, workers, women, youth and social groups, teachers, auto-rickshaw unions, NGOs and others have gathered at a spot near Byculla flyover for the march which will go upto the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, around 5 kms away. The Mumbai Police have deployed extra-tight security for the maha-morcha with over 2,500 personnel posted en route, drones and CCTVs monitoring all aspects of the procession and kept on standby other agencies. This is the second biggest show of strength coming after the massive procession with some 80 parties and groups organised in Pune (December 13) along with a shutdown.

The main points of protest are the continuous insults to great personalities, the removal of the state Governor for his recent remarks, the flight of industries to Gujarat, and the Maharashtra-Karnataka border row which has suddenly flared-up. The marchers are also highlighting the steep inflation suffered by the masses, the growing unemployment figures, lack of jobs for the youth, the derogatory statements used by certain ruling alliance ministers against women, and other burning issues. Coming just ahead of the Winter Session of Legislature next week, today's procession, along with a series of protests held across the state in the past fortnight has apparently unnerved the ruling Balasahebchahi Shiv Sena-Bharatiya Janata Party, and it has 'appealed' to the Opposition parties to ensure that the demonstration is peaceful.

Fire breaks out in six-storey building in Ghatkopar, 1 dead, 2 injured

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One person was killed and two sustained injuries after a fire broke out in a ground plus six-storey building in Ghatkopar East, the BMC said. The incident took place at around 2.08 pm on Saturday, a BMC official said.

The incident occurred in Vishwas building, a residential building near Parekh Hospital in Ghatkopar, the BMC said. The Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) initially declared it a level-1 fire. According to the BMC official, those injured in the incident were shifted to the nearby hospital. "Fire was triggered in an electric meter room of a hotel situated at the ground floor of the building," the BMC official said. According to the BMC, the inci-

dent was reported to the Mumbai Fire Brigade and the agencies mobilised include MFB, police, local ward staff and 108 ambulances.

The BMC said, as per the information received from Surendra Mishra (CEO-Parikh Hospital), 22 patients have been shifted in nearby hospitals and they are safe.

However, according to the information received from the CMO of Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar, three people were shifted to the hospital and have sustained injuries. A man identified as Qurshi Dedhia, 46, was declared brought dead. Two others were identified as Taniya Kamble, 18, she has sustained around 18 to 20 per cent burn injuries, Kulsum Shaikh, 20, she has suffered suffocation and she is admitted in the hospital.

17 WOMEN RESCUED FROM SPECIALLY-BUILT CAVITY INSIDE BAR; 25 ARRESTED

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Mumbai: A raid on a restaurant-cum-bar in Dahisar area of Mumbai led to several women being rescued from a specially-built cavity, while others were found dancing, a police official said on Saturday.

The raid that took place on Friday resulted in the arrest of 19 customers and six staff of the eatery, including the manager, the Dahisar police official said.

"We found four women on the dance floor, while 17 women were hidden in a specially-built cavity to hoodwink police during such raids. They were rescued and allowed to leave," he said. The accused have been booked under Indian Penal Code section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) due to the way the women had been hidden in the cavity as well as other offences related to obscenity, he added.



PMC begins special vaccination drive for measles

Navi Mumbai | Agencies

The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC) started a special drive to vaccinate children upto five with measles-rubella vaccines, following an instruction of the state government. The drive will be conducted in two phases. The first phase is conducted from December 15 to December 25, 2022 and the second phase January 15 to January 25, 2023.

As part of it, the civic body has house-to-house vaccination against measles in its jurisdiction with the help of 150 teams from 15th December. The civic chief Ganesh Deshmukh said, "All citizens should cooperate with the team visiting the houses. Citizens whose children have not been immunized should volun-



tarily come forward and complete the measles-rubella vaccination of their children. Also, if any measles-rubella patients are found in the area, the cit-

izens are requested to inform the Civil Primary Health Center of the Municipal Corporation".

MAN OPEN FIRES ON FRIEND AND FLEES ON BIKE

Pune: A feeling of terror has spread in the Vetababa Chowk locality of Warje, Pune after an incident of open firing took place on the evening of Friday. A man allegedly fired shots at one of his friend and fled away speeding on a bike. The accused is identified as Karthik Ingwale. It is alleged that he had asked his friend for a sum of Rs 500 to which he denied. Post denial, Karthik fired shots on him openly on road. Fortunately the victim fled away unharmed. The incident took place shortly after the former Additional Director General of Police (Addl DGP, CID) Ritesh Kumar took charge as the Police Commissioner of Pune. Hence, questions are raised over the security issues after firing incident took place openly on a busy road.

NMMC starts 'Dry Waste Passbook' for students, to teach them the importance of waste segregation at an early age

Team Absolute | Navi Mumbai

In order to inculcate the habit of cleanliness among children at an early age, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) has been carrying out a number of activities at school level. One of the activities is 'Dry Waste Bank', by Belapur ward. Under the initiative, students are taught different kinds of dry waste and how to segregate them. The initiative has been taken by Dr Mithali Sancheti, ward official of Belapur ward under the guidance of the municipal commissioner Rajesh Narvekar. Students have been asked to start waste segregation at their homes. "By doing it, they will understand the importance of waste segregations. Later, once a week, they have to deposit plastic bottles, chips or chocolate covers,



tetra packs or tins, glass bottles, and household plastics in school," said an official from Belapur ward, adding that in order to encour-

age them, points are given to them according to the amount of dry waste they collect and a 'Dry Waste Passbook' has been given to the students to record those points. In this passbook, the points given by the class teachers, according to the amount of dry waste collected by them, are being recorded. After every 100, 200, 500 points are accumulated, students are given as an incentive, educational materials. Similarly, 34 students at NMMC School no. 3 were given notebooks, pens, compass boxes and other useful items by Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Management Department, Babasaheb Rajale, Belapur Ward Officer Dr. Mithali Sancheti, Sanitation Officer. Vijay Padghan, Principal Surekha Mali were present. 57 students of the other schools enthusiastically participated in this activity.



When one woman is attacked, it is an attack on us all:

Jessica Chastain

Mumbai | Agencies

Actress Jessica Chastain thinks people prefer to talk to her about the war in the Ukraine instead of women's rights in Iran as the war-ravaged country contains "mostly white people."

Insisting she is "fiercely protective" of the fight for female rights, the actress said she knows her comments may be controversial, reports.

"I'm going to say something controversial right now, and I've had a margarita, so no one's stopping me," said Chastain, who travelled to Ukraine this year where she met its President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and who wore a T-shirt with "Mahsa Amini" written on it during a recent press tour in memory of the late Iranian woman also known as Jina Amini.

"I've done a lot of press recently, and a lot of people want to talk about Ukraine. But when I bring up Iran, no one wants to talk about that. I think because it's a women-led revolution, and I think because Ukraine is mostly white people."

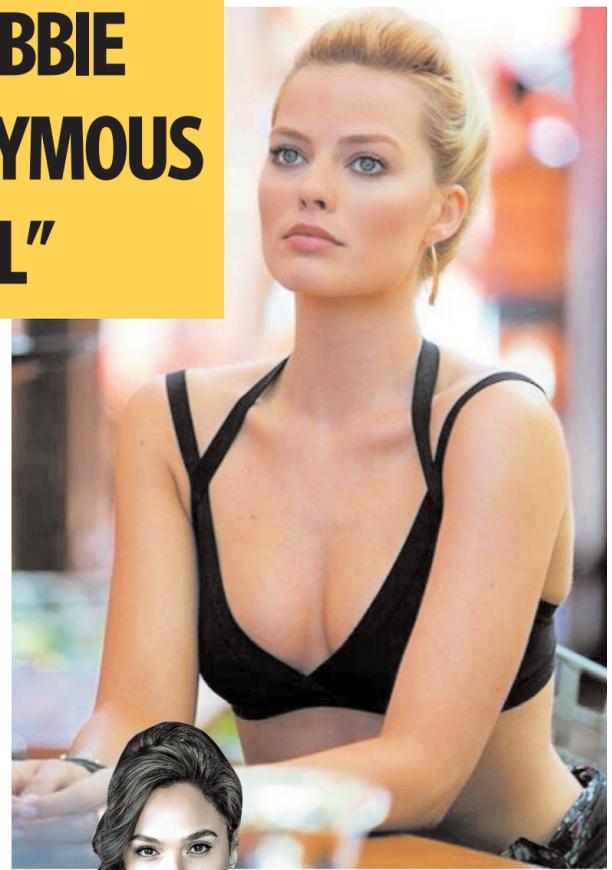
"I'm fiercely protective of women. To me it is my great fight. I use my job to try to celebrate women, but also celebrate women as human beings. Which means, yes, I can play characters that are flawed and do terrible things sometimes. It's like my job is to constantly remind society that women are human beings." Chastain has tweeted in support of demonstrators for women's rights in the nation in the wake of the tragedy, "I stand with the women of Iran and will amplify their voices from afar. When one woman is attacked, it is an attack on us all."



"MARGOT ROBBIE AS THE EPONYMOUS FASHION DOLL"

Los Angeles | Agencies

Warner Bros. has released the official trailer for Greta Gerwig's 'Barbie', starring Margot Robbie as the eponymous fashion doll, reports. Plot details have been kept tightly under wraps, but the film does find Barbie and Ken stuck in the real world, where the former discovers the challenges of being a live woman. Robbie stars opposite Ryan Gosling, who plays Barbie's longtime boy-toy Ken, adds reports. Along with Robbie and Gosling, the star-studded cast includes Will Ferrell, Emma Mackey, Connor Swindells, Nicola Coughlan, Emerald Fennell, Kate McKinnon, Michael Cera, Simu Liu, America Ferrera, Ncuti Gatwa, Issa Rae, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Rhea Perlman, Sharon Rooney, Scott Evans, Ana Cruz Kayne, Ritu Arya and Jamie Demetriou. Exclusively reported that the transgender actress Hari Nef ('And Just Like That', 'You') and 'Tick, Tick... Boom!' star Alexandra Shipp also have supporting roles in the film. Back in 2019, Robbie shared the importance of bringing Barbie to life on screen. "I think it's a great opportunity to put some positivity out in the world and a chance to be aspirational for younger kids," she said.



MACHINE GUN KELLY GOT NEW 'BEST FRIENDS'

- LEECHES ON HIS BELLY BUTTON!

Los Angeles | Agencies

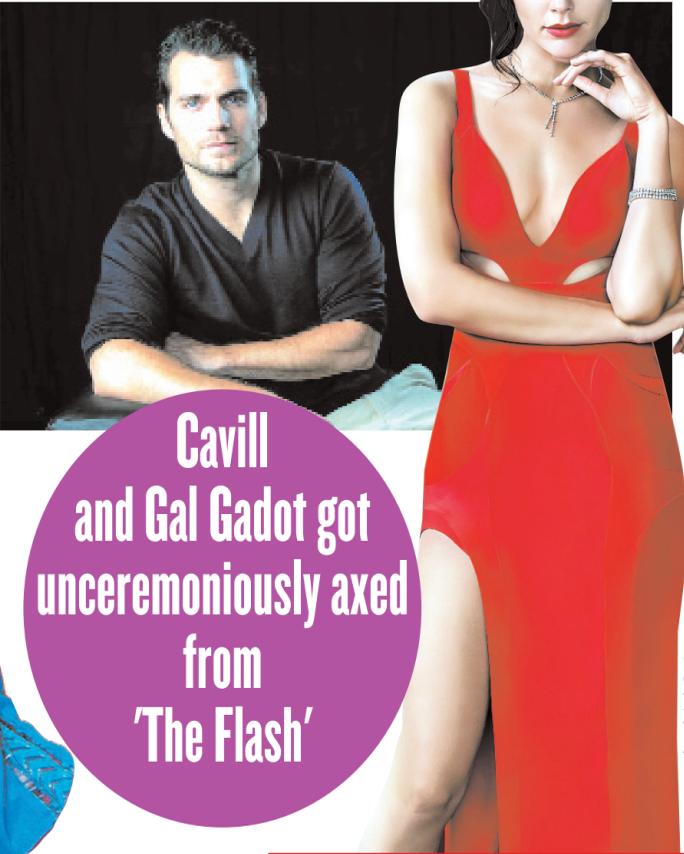
American rapper Machine Gun Kelly has a bizarre approach to wellness. The first-time Grammy Award nominee, 32, shared a short video on his Instagram story of his tatted abs with a puddle of slithering leeches covering up his belly button.

"My best friends," he wrote on the clip. With roots in ancient Egypt, leech therapy on the navel is believed to help to detoxify the liver and digestive system, while improving blood flow, reports.

MKG's fiancée Megan Fox should be pleased to hear it, as the couple has been known to drink each other's blood. "I said yes, and then we drank each other's blood," she wrote with their engagement announcement in January.

"So, I guess to 'drink' each other's blood might mislead people or people are imagining us with goblets and we're like Game of Thrones, drinking each other's blood," she said in April. "It's just a few drops, but yes, we do consume each other's blood on occasion for ritual purposes only."

"I read tarot cards and I'm into astrology and I'm doing all these metaphysical practices and meditations. And I do rituals on new moons and full moons, and all these things. And so, when I do it, it's a passage or it is used for a reason. And it is controlled where it's like, 'Let's shed a few drops of blood and each drink it,'" Fox explained.



Cavill and Gal Gadot got unceremoniously axed from 'The Flash'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actors Henry Cavill and Gal Gadot have been unceremoniously axed from upcoming film 'The Flash'. The two stars had been tipped to appear in next year's controversial movie - but have now reportedly been left on the cutting room floor.

British star Henry was expected to reprise his role as Superman, aka Clark Kent, in the upcoming superhero movie with the cameo due to be his final appearance in the role having first donned his cape back in 2013.

But reports claims that both cameos have been cut from 'The Flash' movie - which is expected to hit cinema in June next year.

According to the reports: "Cavill also shot a cameo in 'The Flash', one of four DC movies set to release in 2023, but sources say that cameo, along with that of Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, is now being cut given that the studio chose to not go forward with director Patty Jenkins' version of Wonder Woman 3."

Fans of the DC universe have reacted with fury over news that Henry has been axed as Superman.

Gal Gadot enjoyed two blockbuster outings as Wonder Woman and was expected to reprise her role in a third film that had been due to be directed by Patty Jenkins, who directed the first two.

The Flash has been steeped in controversy in recent months after lead star Ezra Miller has been arrested numerous times and has faced accusations of harassment. However, the film is expected to continue being released in 2023.

Donald Glover to produce 'Spider-Man' film on villain Hypno-Hustle

Los Angeles | Agencies

Donald Glover is set to join Sony Pictures' universe of Marvel characters, as the star and producer of a movie based on the Spider-Man villain the Hypno-Hustler.

The project is in its earliest stages, with no script or director, but Myles Murphy (the son of Eddie Murphy) is attached to write the screenplay, reports.

The Hypno-Hustler, who first appeared in Marvel comics in 1978, is one of Spider-Man's more obscure villains, with the ability to hypnotise his victims with his guitar.

By day, he's known as Antoine Desloin, lead singer of a band called the Mercy Killers - they use their music to rob their audiences.



As is the case with all of Sony's live-action Marvel movies, Spider-Man himself almost certainly won't be a part of the project. But Glover's involvement is noteworthy for Spidey fans, as the actor-musician has been a fan-favourite to play the web-slinger ever since a 2010 article by writer Marc Bernardin that pointed out there is no reason why Spider-Man has to be white.

Glover eventually appeared in 2017's 'Spider-Man: Homecoming' as Aaron Davis, the uncle of Miles Morales - the Black teenager introduced in Marvel comics in 2011 who eventually becomes Spider-Man. Glover also voiced Miles in the 2015 Disney XD series 'Ultimate Spider-Man'. Glover will next appear opposite Maya Erskine in the Amazon Prime Video series 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith', which he co-created and executive producer.

Tarantino confirms Adam Sandler was top choice for 'Inglourious Basterds'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino confirmed a long-standing rumour regarding Adam Sandler and 'Inglourious Basterds' during his latest appearance on Bill Maher's 'Club Random' podcast. Joined by host Maher and co-interviewee Judd Apatow, Tarantino finally went on record saying he wrote the role of Sergeant Donny 'The Bear Jew' Donowitz for Sandler, reports.

"(Judd and I) met each other through Adam Sandler during the time that I did 'Little Nicky,'" said Tarantino, referring to his cameo in Sandler's 2000 comedy.

"I was like hanging out with that crew for a while. We went to a bunch of different things together. But also 'Freaks and Geeks' had just went off the air or it was on its way to go off the air and I had missed it, but that whole 'Happy Madison' crowd was like crazy for it." "I feel bad because when I did 'Funny People' with Sandler, I wasn't aware that that was the exact time you were trying to use him for 'Inglourious Basterds,'" Apatow cut in. "Obviously he should've done yours because of the whole thing of it," Tarantino replied. "I mean, you start with the fucking video cassette of you guys as kids. But yeah, I wrote the Bear Jew for Adam Sandler." "When I was doing 'Little Nicky', he's telling me like, 'Oh man, I get to fucking beat up Nazis with a bat? Fucking script! Fucking awesome! I can't fucking wait! I can't fucking wait!' He was like telling every Jewish guy, 'I'm going to fucking play this guy who beats up Nazis with a fucking bat.'"



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Anais Gallagher



1st Test Day 4

INDIA EDGE CLOSER TO VICTORY, DESPITE ZAKIR'S CENTURY

Chattogram | Agencies

Bangladesh's left-handed opener Zakir Hasan became the fourth batter from his country to score a century on Test debut. But India edged closer to victory at the end of day four in the first Test at Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, making further inroads to leave Bangladesh at 272/6 at stumps.

India now needs to take out four wickets on day five while Bangladesh need 241 runs for a miraculous victory. It was a day where the visitors' were made to work hard with the ball, starting from a wicketless first session.

From there, they bounced back by taking out three wickets each in the next two sessions, two of which were taken out by Axar Patel with the new ball in the 88th over. Resuming from 42/0, Zakir batted the entire first session alongside Najmul Hossain Shanto (67) as the duo brought up Bangladesh's first hundred-run opening stand against India in Tests. Shanto began by driving and flicking Mohammed Siraj for back-to-back fours, also bringing the fifty of



the opening partnership. Siraj got to beat Shanto on a few occasions, while Ravichandran Ashwin found the inside-edge of the left-handed batters. But a breakthrough still eluded India as Zakir brought the shot of the session, going inside-out over cover off Ashwin.

Post lunch, India finally ended the 124-opening partnership when

Shanto poked outside off-stump against Umesh. But Virat Kohli fumbled at slip and Rishabh Pant showed quick presence of mind to take the catch on rebound at second attempt.

Axar got his first wicket when he got to spin past the outer edge of Yasir Ali and rattle the stumps. The visitors' could have got another wicket when Umesh went past Litton Das'

outside edge, which was heard by none. Later, UltraEdge showed there was a spike.

The final session began with Ashwin beating Mushfiqur Rahim on the outside edge, followed by the right-hander stepping out to flick the off-spinner through mid-wicket. Zakir swept off Ashwin, and then went for a lofted drive over mid-off against Kuldeep. He got his century when he swept Ashwin past short fine and soaked in the applause from the dugout and sparse crowd.

It was Shakhb's turn to be aggressive against Kuldeep - lofting him inside-out over extra cover for four, followed by a slog-sweep over mid-wicket for six. The duo would hang around for an unbeaten 34-run stand till stumps arrived.

Brief scores

India 404 in 133.5 overs and 258/2 declared in 61.4 overs lead Bangladesh 150 in 55.5 overs and 272/6 in 102 overs (Zakir Hasan 100, Najmul Hossain Shanto 67, Axar Patel 3/50, Umesh Yadav 1/22) by 241 runs.

AUS vs SA 1st Test Day 1

Head's 78 not out gives Australia edge over South Africa

The Gabba (Brisbane) | Agencies

Left-handed batter Travis Head's emphatic unbeaten 78 helped Australia get a marginal edge over South Africa on the opening day of the first Test, here on Saturday.

After South Africa were knocked over for 152 on the stroke of tea, Australia found themselves in the same strife and were reeling at 27 for 3 before Head's blazing knock and his 117-run fourth-wicket stand between with Steven Smith, took them to 5-145 at stumps. Beginning the day, Australia's opening bowlers were wayward upfront, often bowling too short and unable to maintain a consistent line.

But it was Scott Boland, who really rocked South Africa. He had Erwee caught low down by Cameron Green in the gully and in the same over had Khaya Zondo lbw to a delivery that hit him on the back pad, reducing South Africa to 27 for 4.

From there on, the responsibility was on Bavuma and Verreynne to bail out visitors from the trouble and they did



that to an extent. Their 98-run stand was built on Verreynne's aggression against the short ball and Bavuma's patience but that ended when Starc returned for a third spell to remove Bavuma. Verreynne brought up his fifty but he didn't get support from the lower order batters as South Africa went on to lose five wickets for 20 runs in 52 balls.

After getting bowled out for a low total, South Africa's bowlers kept them in the contest with statement opening spells. Kagiso Rabada started with a snorter of a short ball to dismiss David Warner. But, Head played his

natural fast-scoring game and raced to a 48-ball fifty. On the other hand, Smith also provided steady support before he was bowled by Nortje with less than five minutes to the close. Boland was sent in as nightwatcher and lasted only four deliveries before he edged Rabada to Verreynne.

Brief scores

Australia 145/5 (Travis Head 78 not out; Anrich Nortje 2-37, Kagiso Rabada 2-50) trail South Africa 152 (Kyle Verreynne 64; Nathan Lyon 3-14, Mitchell Starc 3-41) by 7 runs.

Optimist Asian & Oceanian Championship

Indian sailors steal the show in the Championship

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's young sailors stole the show late on the second day of the 2022 Optimist Asian and Oceanian Championship at the Girgaum Chowpatty.

In the fourth and fifth fleet qualification races, India's sailors shone through with excellent returns. The wind speed for both the races late on Friday was around four to five knots which meant that the conditions were excellent.

India's hero in the fourth race was the fiery girl Thanuja Kameswar finished on top in the Blue fleet with Eklavya Batham in third place and another girl Divyanshi Mishra in the tenth place. The Yellow Fleet saw another Indian Shashank Batham finishing in seventh place. The top



performers in the Blue Fleet in the fourth race apart from the Indians were: Shogo Iwanami (Japan, second place, boy), Torn Rattana (Thailand, fourth place, boy) and Isabel Veiga Thiesfeldt (USA, fifth place, girl). The best performing sailors in the Yellow Fleet in the fourth race were: Patcharaphan Ongkaloy (Thailand, first, girl), Emmanuel Lagrange (Belgium, second, boy),

Nicole Lim (Singapore, third, girl), Oh Eitan (Singapore, fourth, boy) and Shion Suzuki (Japan, fifth, girl). In the fifth qualifying race too, the Indians did well. India's Somya Patel finished eighth in the blue fleet, whereas Divyanshi Mishra retained her tenth position. Shashank Batham moved up five places to second spot in the yellow fleet.

T20 Cricket Blind World Cup title

Sunil Ramesh, Ajay Kumar Reddy lead India to its hat-trick title

Bengaluru | Agencies

Brilliant tons by Sunil Ramesh and captain Ajay Kumar Reddy guided India to beat Bangladesh by 120 runs and win their third consecutive title in the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind played here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. India remained unbeaten to the course of the winning title.

Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot presented the winners and runners up trophies.

Indian captain Ajay Kumar Reddy won the toss and elected to bat. In form batter Sunil Ramesh was joined by vice-captain D. Venkateswara Rao to open the innings. Both Indian batsmen challenged the Bangla bowling attack with conviction and played their shots all over the ground. The bowlers did not have any answer to the onslaught by the inform Indian batters. The batters put on a 248 run unbeaten partnership for the third wicket to take the final



score to a mammoth 277 in the 20 overs. Sunil scored 136 of 63 balls with the help of 24 boundaries and one six. Ajay scored 100 of 50 balls that consisted of 18 boundaries. Chasing a huge target, the inform Bangla openers Salman and captain Md. Ashiqur Rahman started the innings well but couldn't find boundaries.

Brief scores

India - 277/2 in 20 overs (Sunil Ramesh - 136 not out, Ajay Kumar Reddy - 100 not out; Salman - 2/41) beat Bangladesh - 157/3 in 20 overs (Salman 77 not out, Arif Ullah - 22, Md. Ashiqur Rahman - 21, Abid - 18; Lalit Meena - 1/49, Ajay Kumar Reddy - 1/12).

I-League

AIZAWL FC ROUT MUMBAI KENKRE FC TO COLLECT FULL POINTS

Aizawl | Agencies

Aizawl FC inflicted a heavy 4-0 defeat on Mumbai Kenkre FC in the Hero I-League 2022-23 match at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Saturday.

A first-half brace by Lalchhanhima Sailo followed by two second-half goals by substitutes David Lalhlansanga and Jeremy Laldinpuia, helped Aizawl FC register a convincing victory.

Aizawl FC had a solid start to the game as they created two goalscoring chances immediately after the kick-off.

As Kenkre stayed rooted in their own area while trying to fend off a series of Aizawl attacks, the People's



Club doubled their lead in the 25th minute. Two minutes into the second half, the hosts scored the third goal. Substitute David Lalhlansanga

pounced on a low cross by Lalthammawia from the left and beat Samdup with a deft touch. In the second half, when for the

first time in the match, Kenkre looked like having some say over the proceedings, the People's Club scored the fourth goal in the 68th minute to virtually finish off the contest. Zodingliana Ralte took a free kick in the attacking third, finding Akito Saito inside the box.

Even after getting into a four-goal lead, the hosts pressed further and almost scored the fifth goal in the add-on time when captain Lalchhanhima's fine header nearly found the target before Samdup stretched out to tip the ball over the bar. With a third home win, Aizawl FC moved to sixth place on the table with 12 points in eight matches. Mumbai Kenkre are placed 11th with seven points.

David Warner should be realistic and looking to the future: Ricky Ponting

Brisbane | Agencies

Australia batting great Ricky Ponting has urged David Warner to be realistic and look towards the future regarding his Test cricket career. On Saturday, Warner was dismissed for a first-ball duck by South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada while trying to fend a fiery short ball, and was caught by Khaya Zondo for a great one-handed catch at short leg.

"I think what he should be doing is being realistic and looking to the future as he can. Like I said before, he deserves the chance to finish the way he wants to finish. I would hate to see him get to an Indian tour or at the start of the Ashes tour and then get the tap on the



shoulder." "That would be a disappointing way for his career to end. It might be after the Sydney Test. Let's wait and see. Also, I hope that he gets some runs between now and then," said Ponting.

FMSCI National Racing

KYLE KUMARAN STEALS SHOW WITH TWO WINS

Coimbatore | Agencies

Kyle Kumaran from Chennai showed red hot form to win the first two races in the JK Tyre Novice Cup category in the Final Round of the 25th FMSCI National Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway on Saturday.

However, in the third race of the day, Kyle crashed out, which means Vinith Kumar is now the championship leader with 60 points. The two are separated by just two points with Sunday's last race set to be a virtual shootout.

On a sunny day, ideal for racing, where conditions on the 2.3km-long track were perfect, Kyle showed that he was focussed for the grand finale weekend, the fourth



round of the championship. This is the 25th year of the JK Racing Championship and assumes added significance.

The JK Tyre Novice Cup races are hard fought with not much difference between the top three, all from Dark Don Racing. Kyle, from Chennai, has proven his calibre in karting and even won events in the United Arab Emirates, where he is based.

LPL

Shevon, Jordan guide Dambulla Aura to a big win over Galle Gladiators

Colombo | Agencies

Dambulla Aura beat Galle Gladiators by 48 runs at the R Premadasa Stadium, here on Saturday, in the ongoing Lanka Premier League 2022.

Batting first, Dambulla Aura posted a competitive total of 178 runs for the loss of 5 wickets.

Chasing down the target, for Galle Gladiators, Thanuka Dabare and Captain Kusal Mendis opened the innings. The team didn't get to a good start as Kusal Mendis was dismissed by Dasun Shanaka for a duck. Shortly after that,



Thanuka was sent back to the pavilion by Pramod Madushan. Lahiru Udara and Asad Shafiq then put up a 41-run partnership to give

the chase stability. For Dambulla Aura, Pramod Madushan and Sikandar Raza were the picks of the bowlers as they took 3

and 2 wickets respectively.

Earlier, after winning the toss, Dambulla Aura elected to bat first. For Dambulla Aura, Shevon Daniel and Jordan Cox opened the innings. The opening duo put up a mammoth 163-run partnership in 17.4 overs to set up a strong platform for the team. Shevon Daniel made 80 from 55 balls, which included 5 boundaries and 5 sixes. Meanwhile, Jordan Cox made 77 from 58 balls.

For Galle Gladiators, Nuwan Pradeep was the pick of the bowler as he took 3/37 from 3 overs, while Nuwan Thushara took 1/29 from 4 overs.

Playing against Australia feels like playing against men's team: Shafali Verma

Mumbai | Agencies

Teenaged India opener Shafali Verma will appear in her 50th T20I match when the hosts take on Australia in the fourth match of the five-game series at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday.

In the series till now, the visitors have been aggressive and dominating in various departments, leading to them taking a 2-1 lead in the series. Shafali revealed that she enjoys squaring off against Australia as they often make her feel like she is playing against a men's team.

"When I play against Australia, it feels like I'm playing against men, because their game is like that. If they see a small mistake that you are making, they will take



advantage of it. So we have to be on top of our game against them," said Shafali ahead of the fourth T20I.

"You can't make mistakes against them. You have to play your best shots, which you are confident about. I learnt a lot while playing against Australia. I love playing against them. Aisa lagta hai ki ladkon ke sath hi khel rahi hain (it seems you are playing against a men's team)," she said.

CHITRANGDA BEGINS SHOOTING FOR HER INDO-ITALIAN FILM

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who is known for films like 'Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi', 'Yeh Saali Zindagi', 'Baazaar' and 'Modern Love Mumbai', is playing the lead role in Goutam Ghose's next Indo-Italian yet-to-be-titled film, which

also stars Italian actor Marco Leonardi, known for his work in the acclaimed movie 'Cinema Paradiso'.

The film is being made in English, Hindi, and partly in Italian with its story revolving around issues of human displacement, through the story of a couple and their child. The first look of the film has been released and it shows the actress in a de-glam look. Donning a plain orange saree and minimalist make-up, Chitra looks sharp and beautiful.

The official statement from the production house Life Journey Films Production LLP stated, "Chitrangda is that rare combination of beauty with talent. She has proved her mettle as an actress. We are thrilled to work with her. The role is quite challenging but we are confident that Chitrangda will bring a unique singularity to the role."

The film's shooting had started back in 2019 but had a major setback due to the pandemic. The team has resumed work now and a major portion of the shoot is scheduled for Mumbai and Jabalpur.

The film's script has been written by Goutam Ghose and Jagannath Guha, along with two Italian scriptwriters Amedeo Paganini and Sergio Scapagnini.

SALMAN KHAN LAUGHS ABOUT GETTING 'DROPPED' BY GIRLS



Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the latest episode of 'Bigg Boss 16', Bollywood superstar talked about getting "dropped" by girls along with guests Vicky Kaushal and Kiara Advani in the show. "Kiara and Vicky came on the sets of 'Bigg Boss 16' to promote their film 'Govinda Naam Mera' on the show. Vicky asked Salman Khan: "Did any girl use any pick-up line on you? And if yes, what's the worst pick-up line you have heard?" Salman replied jokingly as he laughed: "Pick up ka toh pata nahi lekin ladki ne drop zaroor kiya hai mujhe." He then added: "Well, to be honest, I don't remember any such pick up line." Directed by Shashank Khaitan, Govinda Naam Mera also stars Bhumi Pednekar and Renuka Shahane in lead roles. The film is a murder mystery and it landed online on Disney+ Hotstar on December 16.

Salman will next be seen in 'Tiger 3' and 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan'.

Deepika Padukone getting trolled for a song is misogyny: Ramya

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Kannada popular actress and former MP Ramya aka Divya Spandana has come out in support of Deepika Padukone after 'Besharam Rang', a song from the latter's upcoming movie 'Pathaan', sparked a controversy. The Hindutva activists across the country have raised objections to the song and stated that the attire of actors encourages love jihad. Ramya, a lead actress who is making a comeback to the Kannada film industry after a long gap, has blamed misogyny for Deepika being trolled for clothes.

"Samantha trolled for her divorce. Sai Pallavi for her opinion, Rashmika for her separation, Deepika for her clothes and many, many other women for pretty much 'EVERYTHING'. Freedom of choice is our basic right. Women are embodiment of Maa Durga- misogyny is as evil we must fight," Ramya stated on her social media account.

Apart from producing Kannada movie 'Swathi Muttina Male Haniye', she will also be playing a prominent role in it. Chetan Ahimsa, a Kannada actor and activist, had called opposition to 'Besharam Rang' song as trivial. On the other hand, Sri Rama Sena founder Pramod Muthalik had warned that if the song is not withdrawn, they will start nationwide campaign for banning 'Pathaan'.

I had to play Vasya and Vardaan simultaneously: Bhuvan on his character

Team Absolute | Mumbai

YouTube sensation Bhuvan Bam, who is currently gearing up for his streaming series 'Taaza Khabar', has shared that his character of Vasant Gawde was a smooth sail for him as he comes from a Maharashtrian background.

Elaborating on the same, he said: "For Vasya, I had to know how he feels and reacts under different situations. In the show, Vasya goes through a lot of emotions: misery, greed, power, selfishness. It was a difficult shoot because on some days, I had to play Vasya and Vardaan simultaneously. Vasant Gawde is a Maharashtrian boy who sits in a public convenience."



He further mentioned: "I thought that he must be dealing with so many customers on a daily basis who speak different languages. So, he didn't have a particular accent but being a Maharashtrian helped".

The show also sees him doing some action. Sharing about his preparations for the part, he added: "Apart from doing some basic exercise, I had no other option than to let them beat me up! Script just wanted me to scream in pain."

Produced by Rohit Raj and Bhuvan Bam under the banner BB Ki Vines productions, directed by Himank Gaur and written by the duo Hussain & Abbas Dalal, 'Taaza Khabar' will release on Disney+ Hotstar on January 6, 2023.

Disha Pattani makes Tamil debut



Suriya plays double role in the movie

Team Absolute | Chennai

Tamil superstar Suriya is reportedly playing a double role in the upcoming movie tentatively titled 'Suriya 42' because it is the actor's 42nd film. Directed by Siruthai Siva, the fantasy-action movie also features Bollywood actress Disha Pattani in a leading role.

The first schedule of the shoot was completed in Goa and the crew has begun shooting in Chennai. Thereafter, they will move across Tamil Nadu. The shoot is on at a brisk pace and the movie is likely to be released also in the 3D format.

According to the sources Suriya is playing a double role -- the two characters he plays live in the present and the past, respectively.

In a statement, Disha Pattani, who is making her debut in the

Tamil film industry, said: "I am super kicked to announce my next with Suriya Sir and Siva sir. It feels great to be a part of such a huge project that has got all the larger-than-life elements for the audience to experience on the big screen."

She added that the character she's playing is "quite unique" and that she was excited about bringing "my never-seen avatar to the audience".

The star cast includes Yogi Babu, Kovai Sarala, Kingsley and Anand Raj. Vetri rolls the camera and the music is by the redoubtable Devi Sri Prasad.

The movie is riding high on anticipation as it is a big-budget movie and a prestigious project for both Suriya and Siruthai Siva. According to sources in the industry, it an action-packed film with dollops of romance thrown in.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Akanksha Sharma