

absolute india

VOL. 6, ISSUE 17, NEW DELHI | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022 | ₹5 | PAGE 08

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INDIAN STARTUP 'KHEYTI' WINNER OF 1 MILLION-POUND EARTHSHOT PRIZE

Indian startup Kheyti, a pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers to reduce costs, increase yields, and protect livelihoods on the frontlines of climate change, was among five winners of The Earthshot Prize for their groundbreaking solutions of the greatest environmental challenges facing planet.

THESE FIVE EARTHSHOTS 2022 WINNERS ARE:

- Protect and Restore Nature, Kheyti, India
- Clean our Air, Mukuru Clean Stoves, Kenya
- Revive our Oceans, Indigenous Women of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia
- Build a Waste-free World, Notpla, United Kingdom
- Fix our Climate, 44.01, Oman



a world in which communities, oceans and biodiversity can thrive in harmony.

Each year over the course of this critical decade for the planet, five winners are chosen for their groundbreaking solutions to five of the greatest environmental challenges facing our planet. Over 1,000 applications from around the world were considered, with 15 finalists from 10 countries chosen through a selection process supported by an expert advisory panel.

The five 2022 winners are:
Protect and Restore Nature: Kheyti -- a pioneering solution for local smallholder farmers to reduce costs, increase yields, and protect livelihoods in a country on the frontlines of climate change.

India is home to 100 million smallholder farmers, many of whom are impacted by severe impacts of climate change, including heatwaves and pests. It also trains and supports

farmers to ensure their greenhouse is as effective as possible.

Using less water and fewer pesticides, they are protecting the planet too. Today, 1,000 farms have a Kheyti greenhouse, and by 2027, Kheyti hopes they can reach 50,000 farmers with Greenhouse-in-a-Box.

Clean our Air: Mukuru Clean Stoves, Kenya -- a start-up providing cleaner-burning stoves to women in Kenya to reduce unhealthy indoor pollution and provide a safer way to cook.

Revive our Oceans: Indigenous Women of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia -- an inspiring women-led program that combines 60,000 years of indigenous knowledge with digital technologies to protect land and sea.

Build a Waste-free World: Notpla, United Kingdom -- a circular solution creating an alternative to plastic packaging from seaweed. Notpla is a natural and bio-degradable plastic alternative made from seaweed and

plants and can be used to create a range of packaging products, such as a bubble to hold liquids, a coating for food containers, and a paper for the cosmetic and fashion industry.

Fix our Climate: 44.01, Oman -- Created by childhood friends who have developed an innovative technique to turn CO2 into rock, and permanently store it underground.

Oman-based 44.01, named after the molecular weight of carbon dioxide, eliminates CO2 by turning it into rock, removing it from the atmosphere safely, efficiently, and permanently by mineralizing it in peridotite, a rock found in abundance in Oman, the US, Europe, Asia, and Australasia.

Prince William, The Prince of Wales believes that the Earthshot solutions you have seen this evening prove we can overcome our planet's greatest challenges. And by supporting and scaling them we can change our future. Alongside tonight's winners and finalists, and those to be discovered over the years to come, it's my hope the Earthshot legacy will continue to grow, helping our communities and our planet to thrive.



Prince William, The Prince of Wales



RAJAMOULI TO BEG NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE

Hyderabad | Agencies

S.S. Rajamouli bagging the best director award from the New York Film Critics Circle (NYFCC) for his epic adventure film 'RRR' is yet another feather in the cap of the well-known filmmaker.

The award has also set off the talk if this is a prelude to the filmmaker winning the Oscar award as well.

Congratulations poured in for Rajamouli on winning the coveted award and many of his well-wishers hope that he will script history by bagging the world's most prestigious movie award.

'RRR' has been submitted for consideration in various categories for the Oscars next year.

Junior NTR, who played

one of the two main characters in 'RRR' took to Twitter to congratulate 'Jakkanna', as Rajamouli is fondly called in film circles.

"This is just the beginning of your journey to worldwide glory. It's time for the world to know what I know about you all along," wrote the popular actor.

The celebrated writer responded "Haha. Small recognition 'Taraka Beginning of OUR JOURNEY...'"

The award for Rajamouli coincided with recognition for Ram Charan, who played the lead role in 'RRR' alongside Junior NTR.

The young actor was honoured for achievement in entertainment with the True Legend award.

"I don't care, I get it or anybody gets it. I truly wish

Rajamouli gets it. He deserves it," Ram Charan said when asked if he would get an Oscar for the movie.

The entire team of 'RRR', one of the highest-grossing worldwide box office from India, congratulated Rajamouli for winning the NYFCC award.

"Words can't do justice to describe how happy and proud we are," reads a tweet from 'RRR Movie'.

Congratulating Rajamouli for bagging the NYFCC award, actor Adivi Sesh described him as the pride of India. "Someone told me 16 out of the last 22 times, the winner went on to win Best Director at the Oscars. What a man. What a Journey. He truly is the Pride of our Nation."

'Ladies' Tailor' a story of hope, ambition & starting afresh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Journey back in time and experience the refugee spirit as Priya Hajela's 'Ladies Tailor' (HarperCollins) captures you with all its romance, adventure and one man's iron will to not just survive, but thrive with new beginnings. This is a story that captures a setting and a group of characters that represent the immigrant spirit, the refugee spirit, the spirit of never giving up on what you want and a spirit of adventure and entrepreneurship that to this day is the driving force in Delhi and Punjab. 'Ladies Tailor' is a book about Gurdev and his cohort, a group of refugees who travelled east from Pakistan after Partition. It is a story of falling apart and coming together. It is also a story of that which was torn asunder and will never be one again - a marriage, a country, a friendship. The story will take you back in time and catch you by the scruff till your uncertain feet



hang off the floor. It will also bring you back to the normalcy of fit and fashion, and of fabric and style. It will let you settle in and get comfortable with Gurdev and Noor's romance and then take you on a speedy adventure in fast American cars behind enemy lines.

"It's not what sets us apart but what brings us together that's important. How we resist the forces that are intent on separating us is what defines us. How we recover from past transgressions is what carries us forward.

Ladies Tailor takes a resolute look at stumbling and making amends, at holding close and letting go and at turning back in order to move on," says Hajela.

Ayurvedic drug Fifatrol effective in treating respiratory infections: Study

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Fifatrol, an ayurvedic formulation composed of time-tested herbs, is effective in treatment of upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), a contagious viral and bacterial infection, according to a study published in the International Research Journal of Ayurveda and Yoga.

A team of researchers had carried out the study on 203 patients with URTI in various health centres across the country.

During the treatment, the health parameters of the patients, who were given Fifatrol twice a day, were checked on the first, fourth and seventh day. As per the study, the

patient's condition was found to be improved by 69.5 per cent and 90.36 per cent within the fourth and seventh days respectively.

"Effectiveness was evaluated by examining the reduction in symptoms scores at day four and seven respectively. This observational study has gathered evidence about the effectiveness and safety of Fifatrol on the amelioration of the symptoms of URTI," said the authors.

The researchers also did not find any adverse impact of the formulations on the patients.

Fifatrol has not only been found to be effective in treating URTI but also well accepted by the physicians of Ayurveda for the successful manage-

ment of conditions like flu and associated symptoms like fever, nasal congestion, running nose, etc, it added.

In fact, Fifatrol as an immunity-boosting ayurvedic drug has found a mention as Covid-19 combating formulation in the 'Compendium of Indian Technologies for Combating COVID-19 (Tracing, Testing & Treating)', compiled by the state-run National Research Development Corporation last year. AIMIL Pharma Executive Director Sanchit Sharma said. Normally, the ayurvedic medicines have been seen as supplements to increase immunity, he added.

However, the government has been taking several steps to boost the Ayurveda sector. There has been

compelling evidence that medicinal herbs can be a first line of defense against infectious diseases.

It also helps fast relief from nasal congestion, body ache, sore throat, and headache, it said.

The study on effectiveness of the Ayurveda formulation holds importance given that usually, to treat the infection which is common during winters, people resort directly to antibiotics.

It has a huge economic burden as well as high as USD 22 billion a year, leaving a hole in the pocket of the patients. URTI accounts for around 10 million outpatient consultations in a year especially because of the severity of its symptoms.

Chennai Arignar Zoo to receive two lions from Gujarat in exchange for two white tigers

Team Absolute | Chennai

The Arignar Zoo in Chennai will soon receive two Asiatic lions from a zoo in Junagadh, Gujarat in exchange for two white tigers.

The arrival of the two Asiatic lions will lead to the breeding of lions in Arignar Zoo, Vandalur, Chennai.

A female lion will also reach the Arignar Zoo from Lucknow taking the total number of Lions in the Chennai Zoo to 11.

Sources in the Arignar Zoo said that the arrival of new lions from different areas will lead to a fresh gene pool.

Tamil Nadu forest department officials said that permission for the transfer of two Asiatic Lions from Junagadh Zoo and the exchange of two white tigers from the Arignar Zoo was taken from the Central Zoo Authority of India (CZAI).



Sources in Arignar Zoo said that the last time a lion cub was born in the zoo was in 2016 but that was not a purebred Asiatic Lion and

with the arrival of the two new Asiatic lions, the possibilities of purebred Asiatic Lions being born are on the higher side.

TIKTOK, BUMBLE JOINS INITIATIVE TO PREVENT SHARING OF NON-CONSENSUAL IMAGES

San Francisco: Social media platforms TikTok and Bumble have joined an initiative to prevent the sharing of non-consensual intimate images online.

The social media platforms partnered with StopNCII.org (Stop Non-Consensual Intimate Image Abuse), which hosts a tool developed in partnership with Meta.

TikTok, Bumble, Facebook and Instagram will detect and block any images that are included in StopNCII.org's bank of hashes, reports Engadget.

The website uses on-device hashing technology through which people being threatened with intimate image abuse can create unique identifiers of their images, (also known as 'hashes' or digital fingerprints). This process takes place on their device. To protect users' privacy, StopNCII.org only uploads a unique string of letters and numbers rather than actual files, according to the report.

Moreover, hashes submitted to StopNCII.org are shared with participating partners. If an image or video uploaded to TikTok, Bumble, Facebook, or Instagram matches a corresponding hash and "satisfies partner policy requirements", and then the file will be forwarded to the platform's moderation team.

STANDALONE

AWARENESS MARCH HELD ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



■ Bhubaneswar: An awareness march for disability rights being taken out on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities from Indira Gandhi park to Utkal Mandap in Bhubaneswar on Saturday, December 03.



RSS LEADERS URGE CENTRE TO RESTORE OLD PENSION SCHEME, RAISE IMPORT DUTY

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), the RSS-affiliated central trade union, has urged the Central government to restore the old pension scheme.

The demand was made during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's meeting with RSS leaders that took place between November 21 and November 29.

The meeting was the part of the exercise in which the Finance Minister discusses and takes suggestions from various organisations, industry chambers and experts to draw the outline of the Union Budget.

In series of meetings, various organisations associated to the RSS gave several suggestions to the Finance Minister, keeping in view the interests of farmers and labourers.

RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) urged the government to increase the amount of financial benefit provided under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana and sought to link it with the inflation.

Similarly, the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM)



expressed concern over the ever-increasing trade deficit with China and suggested the Finance Minister to raise duty on imported goods. The SJM also suggested several steps to make India self-reliant.

Interestingly, the restoration of the old pension scheme has become a major political issue with the Congress party raising the issue vigorously in its campaigning for assembly elections.

The Congress is also preparing to make it a big issue in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In such a situation, the advice by the BMS

becomes politically crucial.

The 2023 budget to be presented by the Finance Minister will be the last full budget of the second term of the Modi government, and thus the organisations associated with the RSS have called for a populist budget.

It has been suggested to draft the budget in a way that would provide more financial benefits to the people.

National General Secretary of BMS, Ravindra Himte told IANS that during the meeting with Sitharaman, the organisation has urged the Finance Minister to restore the old pension system, increase the

amount of minimum pension from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 and to provide better health facilities to retired people under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The BMS has also urged the Finance Minister to strengthen social security scheme for workers and to take various other steps to protect the interests of the weaker section of the society.

Further, suggesting the government to change its policy regarding the loss-making PSUs, the BMS demanded payment of outstanding salaries to all the employees associated with such PSUs.

Speaking to reporter, National Co-Convenor of SJM, Ashwani Mahajan said that during the meeting with the Finance Minister, the forum expressed concerns over the increasing trade deficit with China reaching \$ 100 billion and asked her to raise the import duty.

He said that this will on the one hand reduce India's dependence on import and save the country's foreign exchange, while on the other hand it will encourage manufacturing in India, which would help in increasing the domestic production and creating more employment opportunities in the country.

Praising the government's project under ambitious 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' scheme, the forum suggested to the Finance Minister to make efforts to promote non-farm economic activities and industries in rural India.

Mahajan said that he also suggested making rules for R&D on the lines of CSR fund so that companies spend a part of their income or revenue on research and development work.

Mohini Mohan Mishra, All India General Secretary of BKS, told reporter that the BKS has urged Union Sitharaman to make all agricultural inputs GST free, and to increase the amount of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in proportion to the increased cost of cultivation.

It has been suggested to increase all subsidies or financial assistance including fertiliser subsidy to farmers, besides more funds for irrigation and river-linking projects were also sought by the organisation. The BKS also provided several other suggestions including taking necessary steps to increase the income of farmers, setting up of Cow University and promoting organic farming in the country.

Bengal govt's decision on jobs for transgenders under general category to face legal challenge

Team Absolute | Kolkata

The recent decision of the West Bengal government to allow people from the transgender community to apply for state government jobs under 'general' category is all set to face legal challenges as a prominent face of the transgender rights movement has decided to move the Calcutta High Court challenging the decision as a violation of a Supreme Court judgement on this count.

Ranjita Sinha, former member of the West Bengal Transgender Development Board and one of the most popular faces of transgender rights movement in the state, told IANS that the decision of the state government to allow people from the community to apply for state government jobs under general category is a clear violation of the apex court's verdict of 2014, which ordered reservation for people from the 'third gender' in the spheres of education and employment.

"Following the spirit of the Supreme Court order, a number of states, including Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, introduced reservation for the community in certain categories of



state government jobs. In such a situation, West Bengal government's decision to allow people from the transgender community to apply for state government jobs under general category is nothing but an eyewash, and totally against the spirit of the apex court judgement.

Hence, we have decided to move the Calcutta High Court against this move and demand reservation as provided by some other state governments," Sinha told reporter.

Even some of the reputed legal brains echoed Sinha's views on this count.

According to senior advocate of the Calcutta High Court and CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, without the provision of reserva-

tion, jobs under general category really does not help the people belonging to the transgender community, who have been deprived for years of their legitimate rights.

"So, in a way, the decision of the West Bengal government is against the spirit of the Supreme Court judgement and the people from the community are justified if they challenge the decision in court," Bhattacharya said.

Senior counsel of Calcutta High Court, Kaushik Gupta, said that it is unfortunate that the executive machinery of the state has twisted the legal provisions to bypass the spirit of the Supreme Court order.

However, state ministers like Chandrima Bhattacharya and Manas Bhunia have their own logic.

Excise policy case: Kavitha writes to CBI to share documents cited in notice

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu's daughter K. Kavitha has written to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking copies of the complaint from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the FIR registered in the Delhi liquor policy case.

A day after receiving a notice from the CBI seeking clarifications in the case, the MLC of Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) sent a letter to the CBI on Saturday.

"The requested documents may be provided at the earliest to enable me to acquaint myself and answer appropriately within a reasonable period of time. Date of our meeting can be fixed at Hyderabad after the receipt of the documents," she stated in the letter to Ashok Kumar Shahi, Deputy Superintendent of Police, CBI, ACB, New Delhi.

Kavitha had confirmed on Friday that she has been issued a notice by the CBI under

Section 160 of CrPC, seeking her clarification. "I have informed the authorities that I can meet them at my residence in Hyderabad on December 6 as per their request," Kavitha had said in a statement.

The CBI, in its notice, had mentioned that the case was registered on the basis of written complaint received from Praveen Kumar Rai, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, against the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, and 14 others regarding the allegations pertaining to the excise policy of Delhi for 2021-22.

"During the course of investigation, certain facts have emerged which you may be acquainted with, hence your examination of such facts is required in the interest of the investigation," read the CBI notice.

On November 30, Kavitha's name had surfaced in the remand report filed by the ED in a Delhi court seeking the remand of businessman Amit Arora in the Delhi liquor policy case.

DELHI RIOTS: COURT ACQUITS UMAR KHALID IN STONE PELTING, TORCHING CASE

New Delhi: Delhi's Karkardooma Court has acquitted 2020 Delhi riots' accused Umar Khalid and Khalid Saifi from the counts of arson, vandalism, and stone pelting on Saturday.

Khalid is a former JNU student leader while Saifi is the founder of the United Against Hate organisation. While hearing the matter, Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala discharged Khalid and Saifi. Earlier, they were named in the FIR on the basis of Constable Sangram Singh's statement which said that a violent mob pelted stones and set ablaze several vehicles near Main Karawal Nagar Road on February 24, 2020. An FIR was registered against Khalid and Saifi along with others at the Karawal Nagar police station under various sections of the IPC, including rioting and criminal conspiracy, sections of the Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Property Act.

K'taka: BJP minister dares Siddaramaiah to consume beef

Team Absolute | Bengaluru

Karnataka Minister for Animal Husbandry Prabhu Chauhan on Saturday challenged Congress' Opposition leader Siddaramaiah to consume beef in his presence, adding he would then see to it that the former chief minister is sent to jail.

He made the remarks while responding to a question on Siddaramaiah's statement "if Congress returns to power, he will take back the Cow Slaughter law enacted by the ruling BJP".

Addressing Siddaramaiah, Chauhan questioned: "Who is he to revert the Cow Slaughter law?" "You state that you will cut and eat cow, if you have guts do it in front of



me, I will see to it that you are sent to prison," he said. Cow slaughtering has come down

in the state after the implementation of the Karnataka Prevention of cow slaughter and cattle preservation act, he said.

He further stated that the accused in cases of cow slaughtering will be awarded imprisonment of 2-7 years. Also, a fine between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh would be imposed.

"There are no losses due to the law banning cow slaughter. Congress is spreading false rumours in this regard," he added.

The Minister further said that the Congress is opposing the government without any base.

"After becoming minister, I am taking care of cows. For the first time in the country, ambulance for the cattle has been launched in Karnataka," he said.

PUNJAB POLICE RECOVER 10 AK-47 ASSAULT RIFLES

Chandigarh | Agencies

Punjab Police have arrested a few drug smugglers and recovered 10 AK-47 assault rifles and 10 foreign-made .30 bore pistols in the past three days, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said here on Saturday.

The Counter Intelligence (CI) wing of Amritsar had arrested two Rajasthan-based drug smugglers - Sukhvir Singh and Bindu Singh -- after recovering 13 kg heroin from their possession in Amritsar on November 21, which further led to the arrest of two more of their aides, Manpreet Singh and Balkar Singh alias Lovepreet Singh, both resident of Ferozepur, from Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, where they were staying at a rented accommodation.

Yadav said based on the revelations made by the arrested drug smugglers, police teams in a joint operation with the Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday recovered five AK-47 rifles and five .30 bore pistols along with nine magazines concealed near a pillar in the area of a forward post in Ferozepur.

"Acting swiftly on the specific inputs from CI Amritsar, the BSF recovered another chunk of five AK-47 rifles and five foreign made .30 bore pistols



along with 19 magazines concealed in the area of border outpost Jagdish in Ferozepur on Friday," he said.

AIG Amarjit Singh Bajwa said that as per preliminary

investigations, the arrested persons used to smuggle the consignment of drugs and weapons from their Pakistani associates to deliver them in different states of the country.

BSF seizes 27 kg heroin dropped by Pakistani drone in Punjab

Team Absolute | Chandigarh

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday recovered 27 kg heroin and a pistol dropped by a Pakistani drone in Punjab's Fazilka sector.

The BSF said jawans deployed at border heard a buzzing sound of a suspected flying object or drone entering from Pakistan into Indian territory in the area falling near Churiwala Chusta village in Fazilka district.

The troops tried to intercept the suspected flying object by firing. The whole area was cordoned and the police and other security agencies were informed.

The BSF troops chased the sound of the drone and reached in an agricultural field where they again fired



in the direction of the drone. They observed the movement of three-four suspected persons in the nearby area.

In a prompt action, troops challenged them and fired towards the direction of suspected movement of miscreants. However, they managed to flee away from the

spot. During the search, the BSF party recovered 10 big size packets wrapped with yellow adhesive tape. On opening the packets, the suspected heroin, approximately 26.850 kg, one pistol, two magazines, among other items, were recovered.

CCTV in classrooms ensure students' safety, right to privacy not violated: Delhi govt to HC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi government recently told the High Court that one major reason behind its 2017 decision is to save and secure students from sexual abuse and bullying in view of a plea filed by Delhi Parents Association and Government School Teachers Association on installing CCTV cameras inside classrooms in all state-run schools.

The plea challenges two cabinet decisions dated September 11, 2017, and December 11, 2017, passed by the Delhi government on making provision for the installation of CCTV cameras

inside classrooms of government schools and live-streaming of such video footage to parents.

However, the respondent argued that its decision is not absolute and would always be subject to reasonable restrictions by the state like any other fundamental right.

"It is submitted that in balancing the interest of the State to ensure the safety and protection of the students along with the right of privacy in a classroom, it is to be borne in mind the extent to which the expectation of privacy would be reasonable in a public classroom," the government told the court.

It further contended that the deci-

sion of installing cameras in classrooms of all its schools is to ensure the safety and security of children, especially in light of the rampant incidents of sexual abuse and bullying.

The defendant added that the decision was not only taken due to the spike in child abuse cases in 2017, but it was also in the pipeline for a long time. The defendant further added that it is also to improve the teacher-learning processes for better learning outcomes.

"It is submitted that with the consent of the teachers some of the lecturers can be recorded for further dissemination and the recordings can also be used to analyse and provide feedback



to the teachers to improve the teaching processes in order to ensure better understanding amongst the students," the government stated.

On the other hand, the plaintiff argued that the decision to install CCTV cameras inside classrooms, without obtaining specific consent from the students, their parents, or the teachers, is a gross violation of their fundamental right to privacy.

The parents association has opposed the idea of cross-sharing classroom footage with other parents or unauthorised third persons. They fear that such footage may be misused for morphing and dissemination on social media.

Leaders don't create followers, they create more leaders.



Tom Peters

Systemic Delays, Red Tape Plague Disability Rights Space in India: Experts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The development of inclusive systems related to health, online education and tourism are the need of the hour according to disability rights activists.

Most say that systemic delays due to an unaware or insensitive bureaucracy - along with defunding - have adversely impacted the sector in the recent past.

Activists The Wire spoke to said they believe that there have not been too many gains on the ground in the area of disability rights in recent years in spite of conversation on the same.

Founder-convenor of Javed Abidi Foundation (JAF) Shameer Rishad said that over the past couple of years, he has discovered that the process of change in the space of disability rights is "plagued with systemic delays due to an unaware, insensitive/desensitised bureaucracy".

In August this year, scholars selected for the NFPwD had written to Union ministers and University Grants Commission chairperson, calling the delay in disbursement of fellowships a violation of the fundamental right to equality, The Hindu had reported.

Stating that "disability rights activists need to target access to basic services provided to persons with disabilities through government", Rishad



said, there are "numerous schemes for people with disabilities but none of them are being implemented due to the aforementioned challenges. Further as a sector, activists need to focus on working simultaneously on issues, intersecting or collaborating when there is a genuine need."

He urged the authorities to "stop defunding disability and properly manage the allocated budget" and said that a recent parliamentary committee report had shown that "there was massive underutilisation of funds which led to arbitrary decision to reduce the funding towards persons with disabilities".

Disability rights activist and doctor at University College of Medical Sciences and GTB Hospital, Delhi,

Satendra Singh, stressed the need for urgent development of disability-inclusive health systems.

Singh, who was an adviser to the recent Missing Billion report, said there should be improved access to assistive technology within all key development sectors.

"We are still relying on an outdated charity model of distributing low quality products in this regard," said Singh, while calling for developing "an essential assistive products list based on the model WHO priority assistive products list."

Singh also called for including disability competencies in nursing and dental professions; preparing a national template for reasonable accommodations; amending the con-

stitution to explicitly prohibit disability-based discrimination and repeal Section 3 (3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, ensuring that its legislation recognises direct and indirect disability-based discrimination.

Finally, he said, there was also a need for disability-inclusive vaccine equity framework in emergencies like COVID-19.

Finally, there should be availability of accessible digital technologies involving mobile applications and websites of accommodations, transports, tourist places and tour operations that are designed to be in accessible format for visually and hearing-impaired, he said. This report is published from courtesy with The WIRE.

FIR against four over controversial book being taught in govt law college; ABVP stages protest

Team Absolute | Bhopal

An FIR was registered on Saturday against the author and the publisher of a book, which has been taught at a government-run law college in Indore, along with its principal and a professor on charges of promoting enmity between different groups and hurting religious feelings, police said.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has alleged the book, "Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System", contains very objectionable content against the Hindu community and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which encourages religious fundamentalism. The First Information Report (FIR) was registered following the complaint lodged by a student of Government New Law College, and hours after state Home Minister Narottam Mishra directed Indore's commissioner of police to register a case after conducting a probe in 24 hours into the contents of the book.

"An FIR has been registered against Dr Farhat Khan, author of the book titled 'Collective Violence and Criminal Justice System', Amar Law Publication, principal of the institute Dr Inam Ur Rahman, and professor Mirza Mojib Baig. They are



booked under sections 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence), 295-A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and other sections of the Indian Penal Code," said Bhawarkuan police station in-charge Shashikant Chaurasia.

Before the registration of the FIR, ABVP activists staged a protest and raised slogans against the book on the premises of the Law College. A heavy police force was also deployed. ABVP's college unit president Dipendra Singh Thakur said Farhat Khan's book contains "very objectionable content against Hindu community, RSS, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, and Durga Vahini".

He said the book has been "promoting religious bigotry" and has been taught to students in the college library for the last five years. The book

was removed from the library by the college management quickly after controversy, he said. On the other hand, Hitesh Khetrapal of Amar Law Publications, the Indore-based publisher of the book, said, "The first edition of this book was published in the year 2015. When we came to know about its controversial parts in 2021, we discussed it with its author Dr Farhat Khan and got the related pages of the book changed," he said. According to Khetrapal, the book's author has already submitted a letter of apology regarding the disputed portions of her book.

Meanwhile, the college's principal Dr Inam Ur Rahman resigned from his post amid the controversy.

Higher Education Department's Additional Director Kiran Saluja said the principal in his resignation letter sent to the department's commissioner said he is "hurt" by the agitation of the college students and unknown people from outside and was leaving the post.

Explosives, ammunition, foreign currencies seized in Mizoram; 6 held

Aizawl | Agencies

The Assam Rifles on Saturday in two separate raids in Mizoram seized a huge quantity of Myanmar-bound explosives, war-like stores, foreign currencies, and detained six persons including four Myanmar nationals, defence sources said.

Assam Rifles officials said that acting on a tip-off, it recovered a huge cache of explosives and war-like stores near Block Tuipang in the bordering Saiha district.

The seizure was done when the explosives, weapon and war-like stores were ferrying on three Chinese Kenbo bikes, which tried to evade the mobile vehicle check-post Tuipang.

Four Myanmar nationals were apprehended in this connection.

The seized explosives, war like stores include gunpow-



der 22.42 kg, 60 rounds of .22 ammunition, three boxes of .177 pellets, one .22 rifle and various other tactical stores including tactical vests, tactical gloves, combat uniform and boots. In a separate raid at Zawngling in Block Tuipang of the same Siaha district, Assam Rifles inter-

cepted a vehicle and recovered a huge amount of Myanmar and Indian currencies. Two persons have been arrested in this connection.

The seized currencies include, Myanmarese 73,43,700 kyat (equivalent to Rs 2,84,568), and INR (Rs) 2,33,910.

SACHIN PILOT'S VIDEO ON 'BHARAT JODO YATRA' A HIT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Jaipur: Rajasthan Congress is all set to welcome Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo yatra' into the state at Jhalawar on Sunday. In view of this, former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot on Saturday released a video on his social media platforms, which soon started trending on Facebook and Twitter.

On Twitter, the video was viewed 533.3K times, garnering 31.9K likes while 7,000 users retweeted the same. On Facebook, the video garnered 70,000 views, 2,000 shares, 8,000 likes and 1,300 comments. In the 30-second video, Pilot makes an appeal to the people of Rajasthan to join and support the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Pilot posted the video with the caption, "Rajasthan is ready to join Rahul ji's #BharatJodoYatra, are you coming?"

MLAs' poaching case: Kerala doctor moves Telangana High Court

Team Absolute | Hyderabad

A Kerala-based doctor, who is accused in the sensational MLAs' poaching case, has approached Telangana High Court seeking a stay on the lookout notice issued by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Telangana police.

Kottilil Narayan Jaggu, alias Jaggu Swami, has filed a quash petition, challenging the notice served to him by the SIT and also the subsequent lookout notice issued for him by the probe team.

Arguing that he is no way involved in the case, the petitioner has sought a stay on the proceedings against him.

The petition is likely to come up for hearing on Monday.

The SIT issued a lookout notice for Jaggu Swami on November 22, terming him a "wanted person" in the case. A doctor with the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Ernakulam, he allegedly played a key role in the conspiracy to lure four MLAs of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to



defect to the BJP by offering huge sums of bribe.

A probe team which had earlier visited Kerala, found him to be absconding from his residence and workplace. The SIT has requested all police unit officers across India to communicate the lookout notice to police stations under their jurisdictions and furnish any clues regarding the wanted person to the Hyderabad City Control Room, ACP Rajendranagar, DCP Shamshabad

Zone and the Moinabad Police Station.

According to the notice, Jaggu Swami is wanted in a "case of inducement of bribe to MLAs of the TRS Party to defect and also to discharge their duties improperly and dishonestly and criminal intimidation to topple and destabilise the democratically elected State government".

Earlier, he was served a notice by the SIT directing him to appear before it for investigation on November 21.

CAMPAIGNING ENDS FOR 2ND PHASE OF GUJ ASSEMBLY POLLS

Gandhinagar:

The campaigning for the second phase of Gujarat Assembly elections -- scheduled to be held on December 5, ended on Saturday with all the three major parties -- the BJP, Congress and the AAP, putting their last-minute efforts to woo the voters.

The first phase of the polling -- held on December 1, witnessed a low turnout of voters.

Chief Electoral Officer P. Bharathi said that in 93 seats, there are 2,51,58,730 voters in 14,975 polling centres.

Of them, 2,904 polling centres are in urban areas and 12,071 in rural areas. There are a total of 26,409 polling booths.

The smallest constituency is Dariapur (Ahmedabad city) spread over 6 sq. km, whereas Radhanpur is the biggest constituency spread over 2,544 sq. km.

At least 1,13,325 election staff will be on duty. The voting will start at 8 a.m. on Monday and continue till 5 p.m.

There are 74 general seats, 6 reserved seats for Scheduled caste and 13 for Scheduled Tribe.

A total of 833 candidates are contesting the elections.



TN district to create world record by planting 6L tree saplings in 6 hrs

Chennai | Agencies

The Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu will be planting six lakh tree saplings in order to improve the green cover in the district in a span of six hours.

The move is likely to fetch the district a Guinness World record.

The saplings to be planted include medicinal plants, fruit-bearing trees and rainforest trees. The district administration is joining hands with Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) Department, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Tamil Nadu Forest Department to achieve the feat.

The six lakh saplings will be planted on 1,017 acre across Oddanchatram and Idayakottai taluks of the Dindigul district. The district has already planted five lakh tree saplings block-wise.

Tamil Nadu Agricultural University students will do the preliminary work, including pre-cultivation works. The district administration has already set up borewells and other facilities with the support of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and



Waterworks Department.

Dindigul District Collector, S. Vishakan told reporter, "The project is aimed to increase the green cover of the district and this is a follow-up of the five lakh saplings that have already been planted."

The Forest Department of the district is actively involved in

procuring the saplings along with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and HR&CE Department.

Dindigul District Forest Officer, S. Prabhu told reporter, "The idea is to plant six lakh saplings in six hours and this is to create awareness on the impact of trees and

how it reverses climate change. In future, the district will be abode to dense forest that will provide shelter to several species."

The Forest officials said that Idukottai panchayat has been given the responsibility to maintain the trees.

SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP ON PRETEXT OF MARRIAGE: SC GRANTS ANTICIPATORY BAIL TO ACCUSED

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted anticipatory bail to an accused facing rape charge, where the victim alleged that the accused established sexual relationship with her on the pretext of marriage. A bench comprising justices Sanjiv Khanna and M.M. Sundresh said: "We have examined the office report, and also perused the assertions made by the informant in the FIR. On consideration, we are inclined to grant the appellant -- Mukesh Kumar Singh -- the benefit of anticipatory bail with the direction that in the event of the appellant being arrested, he shall be released on bail by the arresting officer on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court. In addition, the appellant shall comply with the mandate of Section 438(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973." The allegations levelled in the FIR registered in Jaipur said that the accused had established physical relations with the prosecutrix multiple times, promising her that they will get married. The petitioner moved the apex court, through criminal lawyer Namit Saxena, challenging the Rajasthan High Court order which dismissed his plea for grant of pre-arrest bail. The bench said, "Grant of anticipatory bail to the appellant would not be treated as expression of opinion on the merits of the case... Miscellaneous Petition... pending before the high court of judicature for Rajasthan, bench at Jaipur, will be decided on merits and in accordance with law, without being influenced by this order."



SWARAJYA MEMBERS SHOW BLACK FLAGS TO MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR, DETAINED

Team Absolute | Pune

The Pune Police detained some members of the Swarajya organisation for showing black flags to Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's convoy on Friday. The Swarajya members were protesting against Governor Koshyari's remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj made a few days ago. The Maharashtra Governor on November 19 stoked a fresh controversy as he called Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj an 'old idol'.

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

An emotive and iconic figure in Maharashtra, transcending political affiliations, the Governor's remark on the Maratha warrior did not go down well with leaders. The statement sparked a massive furor and drew censure from Maratha organisations and opposition leaders alike.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar slammed Koshyari over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and said that Maharashtra Governor has crossed "all limits".

He further sought intervention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the matter. While addressing a press conference, Pawar had said "The Governor has crossed all limits."



The President and the Prime Minister should intervene in this matter. It is wrong to give big posts to people who make irresponsible statements."

Moreover, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's descendant and Raja Sabha MP Udayanraje Bhonsle wrote a letter to President

Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on the Maratha warrior demanding the Governor to be sacked from his post.

Shiv Sena (Uddhav) leader Sanjay Raut demanded the removal of Maharashtra Governor Koshyari over the issue.



Insults to Chhatrapati won't be tolerated, fumes royal descendent

Team Absolute | Raigad

Sounding the war-bugle against those who keep "insulting" Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, his 13rd direct descendent and Bharatiya Janata Party MP Chhatrapati Udayanraje Bhosale on Saturday issued a strong warning against tolerating any more slights to his illustrious predecessor.

Addressing a huge rally atop the historic Raigad Fort, Bhosale thundered against those who have been continuously speaking ill of the legendary Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj through films, books and statements and warned that "now the time has come to show them their place".

Referring to the recent controversial utterances by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, he slammed political parties for becoming "selfish" and not taking a clear stand against such persons while hiding behind protocols, in a veiled attack at his own party.

"The Governor has lost all rights to continue in his post... Despite occupying such a high constitutional office, he has repeatedly insulted icons of the state like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj,

Mahatma Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule... It's a shame that such people are being supported," Bhosale said without naming Koshyari or any party.

On the occasion, he announced a plan to tour entire Maharashtra and propagate the teachings of the Chhatrapati including 'Sarva Dharma Sambhavana' (equality for all religions) which is being "diluted" with people being "divided" in the name of religions and castes, while promising to hold his next rally plus agitation in Mumbai soon.

Bhosale added that he would go to meet the President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue shortly, and has already written to them complaining against the Governor - whom he labelled as a "third-class person" last week, demanding that he must be sacked.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut urged Bhosale to quit the BJP to protect his dignity, while a worried BJP Minister Chandrakant Patil folded his hands and appealed to the angry royal to end the matter immediately, but found no takers.

"THERE SHOULD BE SOME CRITERIA": UDDHAV THACKERAY ON APPOINTING GOVERNORS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) chief Uddhav Thackeray today said some criteria must be fixed for the selection of persons for the post of state governors.

Thackeray said Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been insulting revered figures like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and social reformers Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule.

A state minister compared Eknath Shinde's "betrayal" (rebellion in June that brought down the MVA government) to the warrior king's escape from Agra and "such people continue to remain in office", he added. "A governor is the representative of the President of India and there should be some criteria on who can be appointed to such a post. I demand such rules be framed," the former chief minister said.

Reiterating his appeal to people and citizens to join hands against those insulting the state and its icons, Thackeray said, "We will announce a program in the coming days. We don't want to just limit ourselves to a Maharashtra bandh (shutdown)."

Speaking on the border row between Maharashtra and Karnataka, Thackeray



said CM Eknath Shinde was mum on the statement of his counterpart Basavaraj Bommai that ministers from here were not welcome to Belgaum there.

Bommai on Friday took exception to the proposed visit of Maharashtra ministers Chandrakant Patil and Shambhuraj Desai to Belagavi next week, saying the visit was not good. "Shinde and his MLAs should have gone to Guwahati (Assam) to pray to Kamakhya Devi to get Belgaum and other Marathi-speaking

areas of Karnataka into Maharashtra," Thackeray said.

Slamming the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government over the construction of the metro rail crashed in Mumbai's Aarey Colony, he said the facility could have come up in Kanjurmarg. "But the attitude of the state government is to protect its ego at the cost of environmental damage," he claimed. Thackeray also said his party had not split but was growing strong with each passing day.



MINISTER'S SLUR ON SUPRIYA SULE: GOVERNOR SENDS WOMEN'S PLEA TO SHINDE-FADNAVIS GOVT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Taking cognizance of a complaint pertaining to a Minister's slur against Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule last month, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has sent a complaint by women leaders to the state government for appropriate action, officials said here.

The development comes around a fortnight after an all-party delegation of women MPs, including NCP's Fauzia Khan and Samajwadi Party's Jaya Bachchan, several MLAs and other prominent women called on the Governor on November 14.

Drawing his attention to certain scurrilous remarks made by Agriculture Minister Abdul Sattar against Sule which sparked off a massive political furor, the women's group had submitted a memorandum demanding strict action against and his sacking from the cabinet. Days after the meeting, the Governor informed Khan that he had forwarded the plea to the state government for appropriate action. Confirming, Khan said that the delegation had informed the Governor how ministers holding responsible positions in the government were making insulting statements on women, and the delegation had protested in the matter. "We are thankful to the Governor for taking note of this and sending it to the state government for suitable action," said Khan on Saturday.

Liquor shops, in Dadar and areas nearby, remain shut on December 6

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Liquor shops and bars in Dadar and its nearby areas have been asked to remain shut on the occasion of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's death anniversary on December 6, according to a circular issued by Mumbai Collector Rajeev Nivatkar. Pravin Tambe, deputy superintendent of the state excise department, informed this is an annual occurrence.

The circular issued by the Mumbai Collector on November 30 stated that it is Babasaheb Ambedkar's 66th "Mahaparinirvan Divas" and people will visit Chaityabhoomi every year. Hence, it has been declared as a 'dry day'.

"I request that all liquor shops and beer bars in the area of Chaityabhoomi and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maidan remain shut from 05.12.2022 to



06.12.2022," the Mumbai Collector said in the circular. Liquor shops and bars in Dadar, Shivaji Park, Mahim, Dharavi, Sion, all areas up to Curry Road Station, Worli Sea Face, Worli Koliwada to Sangam Nagar and Sion Koliwada, Kings Circle, Wadala, Sewri, Kalachowki and Bhoiwada will remain shut on December 6, as per the circular.

Dilip Giyanani, chairman of the Maharashtra Wine Merchants Association (MWMA), said, "We have not received any order yet. But, the order is issued every year because there are religious sentiments attached to the day. So, we respect that. Even if we receive the order a day or two days prior, we have to accept it."

Giyanani further added that it affects the business in that particular area. "There is only inconvenience to a few vendors, but a majority of them are not affected. Even if there was no 'dry day', it is difficult to manage the crowd on that day, because so many people are pouring in from across the country and are stationed in those areas. I remember, years ago, even though there was no 'dry day' still shopkeepers used to keep wine shops closed in those areas. It is that crowded," he shared.

GOVT HAS 'MODIFIED' 62 COAL MINES TO MAKE THEM ATTRACTIVE FOR BUYERS

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

Out of the 141 coal blocks which the Centre has put up for commercial auction, 62 mines are old which had gone unsold during previous attempts. Therefore to make them more attractive to the bidders, these reserves have been modified.

Coal Ministry sources informed that the areas around these mines have been altered by removing hindrances and obstacles to ensure proper connectivity and easy transportation of dry fuel.

Excessive vegetation has been removed and unapproachable terrain around these 62 coal mines has been made accessible to ensure smooth passage.

After these modifications, the 62 Old mines have been put up for



commercial auction again, they added. The remaining 71 mines out of the 141 are new reserves.

Of the 141 blocks, the ones which would be bid out will be termed as monetised assets under the Government's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), sources informed further.

Also, eight blocks among the 141 reserves are those which had received single bids in earlier rounds

of auction, and have been put up for bidding again.

Coal Ministry has been holding roadshows across the country to attract bidders for these 141 mines.

Today it has organised an investor conclave in Bengaluru, where Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi and senior officials of both coal and mines ministries as well as Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would be present. The Ministry had organised a similar conclave in Mumbai last week.

It plans to conduct a series of investors' conclaves at several locations across India to attract prospective bidders. These mines are spread all across the country in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Rajasthan, among others.

TWO BOOKED FOR EXTORTION IN ULHASNAGAR

Team Absolute | Thane

Ulhasnagar cops have booked Omie Kalani, son of ex-MLA and strongman Pappu Kalani and one more for allegedly attempting to extort money from a developer. According to the complaint, a man visited a commercial building developed by the complainant and asked him to pay Rs 50 lakh. He alleges that the building was developed after forging documents and will be demolished if the developer does not pay money to them. Team Omie Kalani has refuted the claim and said this is fabricated complaint to book someone from Kalani in criminal case.

The complainant Dhiraj Wadhariya, a developer, son of an ex-corporator, residing in Ulhasnagar. On December 1, Wadhariya received a call from one of the shop owners from his building that, a man has arrived at the building and had been told to receive a notice written on a letter pad mentioning "Team Omie Kalani". When asked about who has sent the notice, the man replied saying "Team Omie Kalani" and dialled a number on

mobile.

"The notice mentioned that, my father has done forgery in records and developed this illegal building and it needs to be demolished. The man gave the mobile phone to one of the shop owners. The man on the other end of the call identified himself as Thackeray and claimed he is talking from Kalani's bungalow" told Wadhariya in his statement to police.

An FIR was lodged against both under IPC action 385 (putting person in fear of injury in order to commit extortion) and 34 (common intention) in Ulhasnagar police station.

Manoj Lassi, the official spokesperson of Team Omie Kalani refused the allegations leveled by complainant. "This is another attempt to frame someone from Kalani family by present government. Even last week they tried to do same but the attempt was foiled as we had evidences. The complainant alleges extortion has developed the building by forging documents and Omie Kalani's wife has repeatedly raised her voice against it. Hence, the complainant filed a police complaint to stop them from following the matter," he added.

Electric AC double-deckers to hit streets by January 14

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The BEST has planned to begin electric AC double-decker services by Makar Sankranti, on January 14. In the first phase, 50 AC double-decker buses will be operated while the existing non-AC double-deckers will be phased out by June 2023. Currently, 45 of these vehicles are in service.

The bus launch has been delayed as approvals from the Automotive

Research Association of India (ARAI) are awaited. "Once they come in, the buses will be launched. The plan is to have 50 of them in public service," BEST General Manager Lokesh Chandra said. The BEST will also launch its own electric cab aggregator and ferry service soon in order to improve last-mile connectivity. The process of floating tenders to invite agencies is on. These cars will have the BEST logo and accept bookings from bus passengers using the Chalo app, Chandra said. He added that BEST will start premium app-based bus services next week. Initially, four buses will be introduced between Thane and BKC. The undertaking will also install 330 EV charging stations for the public. These charging stations will be set up at 55 locations in the city, including south Mumbai and the suburban areas.





Thousands of victims of the Bhopal gas disaster manifest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the 38th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy, thousands of victims of the Union Carbide gas disaster of 3 December 1984 demonstrated at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, demanding that the government release accurate figures of deaths and health hazards caused by the disaster. The petition, signed by 40,000 survivors of the tragedy, demands an improvement in their curative petition for additional compensation. Whose hearing will be done on January 10, 2023 by the Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court. Advocate Karuna Nandi, who fought the Supreme Court case for the Bhopal victims, and Dalit labor rights activist Nadeep Kaur, along with other eminent personalities and common citizens joined the fight and struggle of the Bhopal victims at Jantar Mantar and demanded justice for the victims.



Karmachari Sangh, said that 93 percent of the survivors of Bhopal have been kept in the temporary injury category and given only Rs 25,000 as compensation. This is a kind of injustice, which was resolved by the Manmohan Singh government in 2010 when it filed a curative petition for additional compensation from

US corporations. However, justice cannot be done until the quantum of deaths and injuries caused by the disaster is revised by the present government. On this occasion, Balkrishna Namdev, President of Bhopal Gas Victim Destitute Pensioners Sangharsh Morcha said, The current

chief minister had written to Manmohan Singh that the injuries suffered by the Bhopal victims were permanent. Not temporary, as submitted in the curative petition. However, the state government has not yet reiterated this point before the Supreme Court.

Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group for Information and Action said, Madhya Pradesh government in another case has told the Supreme Court that 15,242 people died as a result of the Bhopal gas disaster. However, the state government failed to take steps to revise the incorrect figure of 5295 deaths presented in the curative petition.

Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group of Information and Action, Shehzadi B of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha, and Rashida B of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmachari Sangh met the Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya and asked him about present situation and even conveyed and presented a set of documents.

National Investigation Agency (NIA) Police Station to come up in Bhopal: Mishra

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Home Minister Narottam Mishra spoke to the media persons at his residence on Saturday. He informed that the police station of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is going to open in Bhopal. Its work area will be the entire Madhya Pradesh. He added that National Investigation Agency Police Station will come up in Jahangirabad and notification in this regard will be issued shortly.



RAHUL HAS LIMITED KNOWLEDGE: MISHRA

Narottam Mishra said Rahul Baba's knowledge is limited till 'Baba Baba Black Sheep'. He asserted that the name of Ram starts from the word 'Shri' and 'Shri' resembles Goddess 'Laxmi' and 'Mata Sita'. Ram and Krishna are incarnations of Lord Vishnu. On Saturday, while addressing the media, Mishra at his residence claimed that Rahul Gandhi neither turned the pages of Geeta nor has, possibly, read Ramayana. How he will know that the name of Ram starts from "Shri"? He said Rahul Gandhi might have been advised by some pandit who got the temple-shaped cake cut by the hands of Kamal Nath. He even advised Rahul Gandhi to at least use the net to know the meaning of the word 'Shri'.

MP High Court accepts petition challenging Waqf Board's unfettered powers

Team Absolute | Indore

After the Delhi and Allahabad high courts, Indore Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court also accepted the petition challenging the unlimited rights and provisions given to the Waqf Board under Waqf Board Act 1995. In this matter, the High Court has directed the Central and State Government to respond.



According to the petitioner's advocates Manish Gupta and Sunil Jain notices were issued to the central and state governments after the hearing before the double bench of the Indore High Court on Friday. The advocate said that according to the points mentioned in the Waqf Act 1995 the Waqf Board has many

uncontrolled and autocratic rights which are not available to any other religious trust or religious institutions and this shall be considered as violating the basic principle of secularism under the Constitution of India. The unrestricted and autocratic powers obtained by the Waqf Board violates the right to equality of other people of other religions which is a fundamental right given to the citizens of the country by the Indian Constitution.

Balance of development and environment is necessary: CM Shivraj Chouhan

ALL RELIGION PRAYER MEETING HELD ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that balance of development and environment is necessary. Destruction of nature in the name of development is not right. Today everywhere pollution is increasing in rivers. If we don't think about, the conditions of global warming will be created. He said that the state government would always be cooperative towards the citizens affected by the gas tragedy. CM Chouhan was addressing the tribute and all-religion prayer meeting at Barkatullah Bhawan Central Library, Bhopal on the 38th anniversary of Bhopal gas tragedy today. CM Chouhan thanked the religious



leaders that today they have given a meaningful message at the all-religion prayer meeting.

When someone passes from the world due to some human error that is very tragic. The loss of life

was due to the fault of Union Carbide, the error and negligence of those responsible for controlling it. Hundreds of innocent children and youths passed away. It has been 38 years since this tragedy, but it is not possible to forget it. Chouhan said that we have to learn a lesson from Bhopal. Everyone responsible should fulfill his duty. Today natural agriculture is being talked about, which is done without using destructive chemicals and pesticides. CM Chouhan said that it is necessary to save the environment. The Bhopal gas tragedy gives a message. While exploiting the nature, we should use as much as we can compensate.

He said that everyone should save the environment collectively. To give a message to the general public, let us work to increase the amount of oxygen for our breaths. Efforts have been made to give this message by planting saplings daily. Think and act for the benefit of future generations by saving the earth. Chouhan said that the state government is standing with the people affected by the gas tragedy. On behalf of the people of the state, the CM paid homage to the brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the tragedy and offered floral tributes. The CM said that I pray to God to give peace to the departed souls and give us wisdom so that no city becomes Bhopal. Let us all perform our civic duties.

School teacher suspended for taking part in congress' BJT

Team Absolute | Barwani

A government school teacher has been suspended for attending the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district, an official said on Saturday.

Rajesh Kannoje, a teacher with a primary school under the state's Tribal Affairs Department in Kanasya, was suspended on November 25, a day after he took part in the yatra. The issue came to light after his suspension order surfaced on social media.

"Kannoje was suspended for violation of service conduct rules and attending a political rally. He had sought leave citing important work, but he posted photographs on social media after attending a political event," Assistant Commissioner NS Raghuvanshi of the Tribal Affairs Department said.

As per the order, Kannoje violated service conduct rules by attending Bharat Jodo Yatra being taken out by a political party on November 24.



Meanwhile, state Congress media department chairperson K K Mishra in a tweet said the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has allowed employees to take part in the shakhas of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), but sus-

pends a tribal, Rajesh Kannoje, for gifting 'tir-kaman' (bow and arrow) to Rahul Gandhi during a non-political march. The yatra, which arrived in Madhya Pradesh on November 23, will enter Rajasthan on Sunday.

MASS MARRIAGE AND INTRODUCTION CEREMONY IS A GOOD INITIATIVE FOR THE SOCIETY: CM CHOUHAN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Chouhan virtually addressed the two-day introduction and mass marriage ceremony of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamarkar Samaj in Satna district from Dindori. He said that it is a good initiative of the society to reduce the expenses in marriage programs by conducting introduction ceremony and subsequently mass marriage ceremony. The CM said that I am proud of Haihay Vanshiya Kshatriya Tamarkar Samaj. The issues of the society will be discussed after meeting the delegation members of the society in Bhopal. Along with this, every possible effort will be made for the betterment of the society. CM Chouhan also blessed the bride and groom present in the ceremony.

AFTER WAITING FOR 38 YEARS, MP GETS ITS FIRST RESPIRATORY DISEASES HOSPITAL

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Regional Institute for Respiratory Diseases, which was established few months back in Bhopal's Idgah Hills area, receives around 150-200 patients every day, of them nearly three to five per cent are follow-up patients affected by the toxic gas leak back in 1984, a senior doctor associated with the institute said.

It is however not the only hospital to look after the MIC gas leak survivors. Bhopal has at least five state and centrally funded hospitals dedicated to treating patients affected by the gas leak.

In May, the then President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of Regional Institute for Respiratory Diseases after which a separate respiratory department was established at the



TB Hospital premises. The much needed department has indeed added the facilities for screening and treatment of lung cancer, respiratory diseases, and snoring.

The newly established respiratory department, which is first in Madhya Pradesh and fourth in the country, was introduced 38 years after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984 which left the lakhs of survivors of the world's worst chemical disaster struggling to get back their life normal.

"ANUGOONJ" PROGRAM ON 4TH AND 5TH DECEMBER

Team Absolute | Bhopal

School Education Department will organise cultural programme "Anugoonj" for the students of government schools in Madhya Pradesh on 4th and 5th December, which is held every year under "Kala Se Samridha Shiksha" (education enriched with art). Minister of State for School Education (Independent Charge) Inder Singh Parmar will inaugurate on December 4. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will be the chief guest in the concluding evening of this program on December 5.

This fourth program of "Anugoonj" is being organised at Government Subhash School of Excellence, Bhopal, in which more than 700 students of government schools of Madhya Pradesh will exhibit their art at the state level.

"Anugoonj" is an innovative programme of "art-enriched education" in the direction of the global education system STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) of School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh. Now the programs of Anugoonj are being conducted in other divisions also. Some attractive presentations of these divisions are also included in the state level program of capital Bhopal. Madhya Pradesh has been grouped with the North Eastern States, Manipur and Nagaland for cultural exchange in the "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat" program envisioned by the Central Government, to provide an opportunity to learn about the interstate culture, arts and styles. In this sequence, cultural glimpses of these states will also be seen in Anugoonj 2022.

CONGRESS WORKER ON WAY TO ATTEND BJT DIES OF HEART ATTACK

Bhopal: A Congress worker on the way to attend Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra in Sunser in Madhya Pradesh's Agar-Malwa district died of a heart attack on Saturday, a health official said. He was identified as Mangilal Shah (55), a resident of Zirapur town in Rajgarh district, the official said. "He was on his way to attend Bharat Jodo Yatra in Sunser in Agar-Malwa district when he suffered a heart attack. He was rushed by Congress workers to Sunser civil hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival," Block Medical Officer Manish Kuril said. Doctors insisted on conducting post mortem but his supporters took the body for the last rites, the official said.

The doc who saw it all remembers the cold and horrific Dec night

Team Absolute | Bhopal

H.H. Trivedi, who's now in his 80s and still runs a clinic in Bhopal's Arera Colony, takes a long breath while recalling the fateful night of December 2-3, 1984, when the Bhopal turned into a chamber of toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) fumes. Trivedi, then an additional professor at Gandhi Medical College, was one of the three senior doctors who saw people lying unconscious on roads, gasping for breath. He is also one of those persons, whose testimony on the disaster was recorded in a court in the US in 1989.

On the 38th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy, Trivedi, in an interview, shared his memories of that fateful night and the entire havoc that engulfed around 3,000 people within the next 24 hours, and the toll continued to grow in the coming days. Trivedi recalled that it was midnight and he was getting ready to go to bed when he received a call from the Hamidia Hospital, asking to come immediately for an emergency.

"I was driving my car at full speed, heading towards Hamidia Hospital. When I reached the New Market area, I was surprised to see a large crowd running here and there and crying."



"As I reached Raj Bhavan, from where the old Bhopal area starts, I was shocked to see people lying on the road and gasping for breath, crying, shouting. At one point, a large crowd stopped my car and asked me not to go in that direction because gas had leaked from the Union Carbide factory. I told them that I am a doctor and I have to go to the hospital," he said.

Trivedi recalled: "I saw a pregnant woman lying on the roadside. A man jumped in front of my car and started thumping on the bonnet. I took the couple in my car and dropped them at J.P. Hospital.

The couple was from Kerala, which I came to know later. The woman gave birth to a child and they came to meet me after six months, and that was the only good feeling I had on that fateful night."

"When I reached Hamidia Hospital, I came to know about the whole incident. But, here is where the problem began. We were clueless about what to do, which medicine to use etc. People's eyes were burning, their mouths were filled with foam and they were dying. It was havoc. We were not aware of the toxic chemical. So we followed the basic treatment procedures. There was no space to even hang a saline bottle for the serious patients."

"All the doctors were following my instructions, but at that moment I was completely clueless because dead bodies were piling up there. At around 7 a.m., I came out of the ICU only to find more bodies lying in the hospital premises," Trivedi recalled. Notably, Trivedi also inhaled the toxic gas while treating the patients, but fortunately he survived. In 1989, he was among those who went to the US to record his testimony in a court.

"I was asked to narrate the incident and I told what I saw. I won't make any controversial comment, but yes, I would say that the people of Bhopal are still awaiting justice," he concluded.



CARA DELEVINGNE SAYS MEN LACK 'RIGHT TOOLS' TO SATISFY WOMEN

Los Angeles | Agencies

Supermodel-actress Cara Delevingne said in her new documentary 'Planet Sex', which sees her travel the globe to explore gender, sexuality and bedroom fantasies that men lack the "right tools" to satisfy women sexually.

Delevingne says on the show while exploring female orgasms, and the lack of them during heterosexual intercourse: "I do feel that generally, men are not equipped with the right tool to be able to handle women, especially sexually, reports. "I don't wanna go into the art of making a woman c** but it's a lot more complicated and a lot more fun. I get it, it's a lot more complicated for a woman to have to tell you, 'You're not doing it right, you have to sit down and listen to what I say'. Yeah, it's an ego killer that most men can't handle." Delevingne, who identifies as queer and gender fluid, is also seen taking part in a 10-minute solo sex act in Germany while her blood is taken for a scientific experiment that measured the levels of endocannabinoids in her system before and after orgasm. She tells viewers: "I'm here to have an orgasm and donate it to science. I think female sexual desire has definitely been repressed. I know from my own love life just how sexual women can be so you'd think in the 21st century men and women should be having equally satisfying sex lives, right?"

"Well, prepare for a shock. When it comes to the orgasm there is a definite gender gap. Scientists say that 95 per cent of straight men orgasm during intercourse but only 65 per cent of straight women do." "To be honest I think that sounds way too high, most of my straight female friends say it's probably more like 15 or 20 per cent. Lesbians and queer women definitely seem to have it better."



BILLIE PIPER BELIEVES FAME IS 'POISONOUS' AND 'DEPRESSING'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Billie Piper has admitted she believes fame is 'poisonous' and 'depressing' and that she has decided to act 'less and less' in the future. The singer-turned-actress, was thrust into the spotlight at the tender age of 15 with her debut single, 'Because We Want To', but has now revealed she's been left disappointed by stardom.

In a new interview, she described life in the public eye as 'awful', 'gross', and a 'dark thing', adding that her 'happiest' times happened pre-celebrity.

The Doctor Who star said: 'Fame is awful. It's gross. It's such a dark thing. And it will change your everyday experience of life in a way that is depressing, frankly, in my experience of it. When I imagine some of my happiest, and my freest times, most of them are pre-fame.'

'It's annoying because I love creating things. I love production. As I'm getting older, I'm enjoying making things from the ground up more and more and I think probably in the future, I'll act less and less. I love what I do.'

'But I'm tiring of the nonsense of it all.'

To be honest, I have been since I was 19. It felt quite poisonous from a very early age. Now I'm so grateful that I had those experiences a long time ago, and now I can pretty much entirely focus on the work, and not the bulls**t.'

Ciara lead the guests attending NYLON bash in Miami

Miami | Agencies

Ciara put on a daring display on Friday evening as she attended a NYLON House event at Mediterranean bar-restaurant Strawberry Moon in Miami, during the city's annual art week.

The singer showed off her gorgeous figure in a satin black dress, which featured a mesh panel and mini-maxi hem. Ciara's gorgeous garment featured a satin wrapped choker-neck, before falling into the draping dress on one side. While the other side displayed her figure with its mesh panel, which was joined by a sequined silver bra cup and spaghetti strap.

The Level Up songstress teamed the daring dress with a pair of thigh-high heeled boots, which met the high-low hem. She added a collection of silver bracelets and rings, styling her balayaged brunette tresses in a free-falling tousled look as they fell down her back.

Ciara finished the look with a glamorous palette of makeup with a lined black eye soft pink lip. She posed alongside American football player Victor Cruz, who showed off his sense of style in a pastel satin shorts and shirt co-ord.



'Los Espookys' Canceled After Two Seasons at HBO

Los Angeles | Agencies

"Los Espookys" has been canceled after two seasons at HBO, Variety has confirmed. The series starred Ana Fabrega, Julio Torres, Cassandra Ciangherotti, Bernardo Velasco, and Fred Armisen. It originally debuted in 2019 with Season 2 launching in September 2022.

In the show, a group of friends in Mexico City turn their love of horror movies into a business by concocting scary situations and making people think they are real.

"We are thrilled we could deliver the unique and hilarious second season of 'Los Espookys' to viewers finally, more than three years after the series premiere, due to pandemic delays," HBO said in a statement. "We thank Julio, Ana and Fred for this imaginative and delightfully bizarre world they created. We are not currently planning on a third season, but we would welcome the opportunity to work with this cast and crew in the future." Torres will remain in business with HBO, as he currently has a first-look deal with HBO and HBO Max. Under that deal, he has two comedy series currently in development - "Little Films" and "Lucky."



Los Angeles | Agencies

Olivia Attwood is still struggling with the way she was asked to leave I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! After just 24 hours last month. The former Love Island star was forced to leave the jungle after a blood test showed she was 'dangerously anaemic', which prompted a trip to A&E before show bosses denied her reentry into the camp.

On Friday, the television personality admitted she'd had an emotional week after Sunday's final of the show, with Olivia claiming she had still not come to terms with her exit. Seeming fed up in a clip on her Instagram Stories, Olivia said: 'I probably underestimated that I'm finding it hard that it was the jungle final this week and I was told to f**k off after 24 hours, and I wanted to stay to the end. I think I pretended like it's fine but deep down I'm probably not fine really.'

The TV star looked visibly shaken as she took to her Instagram Stories to recount the experience, explaining that a passing woman had dubbed her 'that f***ng crazy b**ch from the telly'. Admitting it was the first time she'd cried since leaving the jungle, Olivia said: 'I can't believe I'm literally crying on my Stories but I literally just had the most awful experience. I've had the most awful experience, I literally can't believe what people are actually like. 'This is the first time I've cried in like, well since after the jungle, and before that was like two years so you know I literally never f***ng cry. I was just in the park with the dog and there was like a medium sized cockapoo and Lola went over to say hello and they were all wagging tails like no issues.'

I think I pretended like its fine but deep down I'm probably not fine: Olivia Attwood

Adam Sandler doesn't think he will ever star in a big superhero movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Adam Sandler doesn't think he will ever star in a big superhero movie franchise. Quizzed on whether he would consider being a part of a major tent-pole such as the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), the actor doubts that the opportunity will come, reports.

"I've never thought about it, maybe because no one has ever asked me. I don't know. I'm very into, I love that stuff. I see that stuff and go wow, these amazing movies, but no it hasn't happened and probably won't happen," Sandler told.

The 'Happy Gilmore' star has explained that he tries not to get "too shook up" by negative responses to his films but wishes that his family and friends didn't have to read some of the harsh reviews.

Asked if critical comments sting, he said: "Sometimes. Mostly because I invite all these amazing people I care about to make movies with me, and I wish they didn't have to read s*** about whatever we've made. But I don't get too shook up."

Sandler recalled his father advising him that not everybody will "like him" and that he will "fail" at times during life.

He said, "I always remember something my father said. He was a tough b*****. He went through ups and downs in his life, like not having work for a year or two and not telling us."

"I recall one time that something didn't go right for me. I bombed onstage or didn't get an audition. I was upset and probably embarrassed. And he said, 'Adam, you can't always be happy. People aren't always going to like you. You're going to fail.'"



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Bella Thorne



FIFA WORLD CUP

NETHERLANDS BEATS USA BY 3-1, QUALIFIES FOR QUARTERS

Doha | Agencies

Denzel Dumfries did the star act for The Netherlands as he provided two assists and scored a goal against the United States to seal a 3-1 win and a place in the FIFA World Cup quarterfinals for his team.

On Saturday at the Khalifa International Stadium, the Dutch opened the scoring in the 10th minute as Memphis Depay received the ball from Dumfries and finished off a combined move in which several players had a hand and which started from the defense.

The U.S. had a bright start to the game but have since been outsmarted by their opponents. They enjoyed more than 60 percent of the ball possession in the first half against a stronger side. However, they failed to make effective use of that possession and were punished for losing the ball too easily. The U.S. had a bright start to the game but were outsmarted by their opponent and when the U.S. looked close to finding an equaliser, Daley Blind netted Dumfries' low cross to extend the lead for the European side.

The Netherlands thus took a comfortable 2-0 lead at the break. Overall, the USA have had good spells throughout the tournament, especially for portions of their game in the



group match against England. But their big weakness has been the inability to make the most of their opportunities. Most of the time they could not find the goals they needed and it was very much evident on Saturday.

In the quarterfinals, the Netherlands will meet the winner of the clash between Argentina and Australia, who meet later on Saturday.

CAMEROON STUNS BRAZIL 1-0 BUT FAIL TO QUALIFY FOR KNOCKOUT

Doha (Qatar) Cameroon defeated a second-string Brazil 1-0 but could not make it to the knockout stage with Switzerland upstaging them after their 3-2 win over Serbia in the other Group H match played at Lusail Stadium on Friday night.

Vincent Aboubakar headed the match winning goal in stoppage time but his joy immediately turned to disappointment as he was given a second yellow card for taking his shirt off. Cameroon had acquitted themselves well throughout as Bryan Mbuemo shot saw Brazil keeper Ederson, deputising for Liverpool keeper Alisson bringing off a superlative save.

Cameroon's chances of qualifying vanished in thin air with Switzerland's victory over Serbia ended their chances of reaching the last 16. With his side having already qualified after their first two games, Brazil coach Tite made 10 changes and Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli took the chance to impress with a fine performance in which he was thwarted on several occasions by Cameroon keeper Devis Epassy, who had an outstanding match bringing off at least seven saves.

The Brazilian defeat means no team won all their group games in Qatar. The first knockout round line-up is now complete with eight European sides, two South American teams, two from Africa, three from the Asian Football Confederation including Australia, and the US.

Brazil, the Group G winners, will take on South Korea on December 5 at 974 Stadium. At the end of the opening half the teams shared two goals apiece.



I-LEAGUE

RAJASTHAN UNITED REGISTER 1-0 WIN OVER NEROCA FC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rajasthan United registered a 1-0 win over NEROCA FC in a fifth-round match of the I-League 2022-23 at the Ambedkar Stadium, here on Saturday.

A first-half header by Kyrgyz defender Aidar Mambetaliev was enough for the hosts to collect three points as they remained unbeaten for the third straight game. The game kicked off on an aggressive note as Rajasthan used their wings to score. However, the first quarter of the game went by without any clear-cut chance for either side.

Rajasthan were put under pressure in the 20th minute when their custodian Mohammad Rafique Ali Sardar came off his line to deal with a long through ball sent by NEROCA's Sardor Jakhonov. Ali Sardar tried to lob the ball to his teammate Melroy Melwin Assisi but misplaced his pass and it fell to NEROCA's Lumminlen Haokip, who chipped the ball towards the goal but it was off target.

The first half ended with Rajasthan getting multiple chances to double their lead but the NEROCA defence ensured they went into halftime with a single-goal deficit.

The second half began in a similar fashion to the first half as both teams displayed a level of caution as they ventured forward. In the 63rd minute, Rajasthan's Nuha Marong was fouled by NEROCA captain David Simbo on the right wing.

Fletcher took a long-range shot in the 76th minute but it was easily collected by Ali Sardar. Fletcher was again in the thick of things as he took a corner kick in the added time but it was punched away by the goalkeeper. The visitors tried to launch a comeback in the final minutes of the game but fell short.

Rajasthan now have 10 points with three wins and a draw in their five games played while NEROCA sit seventh on the points table with six points in as many games.

SWITZERLAND BEAT SERBIA 3-2; QUALIFIES FOR ROUND OF 16

Doha (Qatar) Switzerland booked a last-16 showdown with Portugal at the World Cup on Friday after a 3-2 win over Serbia in a bad-tempered match secured them second place in Group G. Xherdan Shaqiri's deflected strike put the Swiss ahead but Aleksandar Mitrovic's fine header brought Serbia level at Stadium 974. Dusan Vlahovic then gave Serbia the lead only for Breel Embolo to equalise before half-time.

Remo Freuler's brilliant goal early in the second half sent the Swiss through to the knockout rounds for the fourth time in five World Cups.

Shaqiri missed Switzerland's 1-0 loss to Brazil but returned with a bang as he fired his side in front on 20 minutes.

Serbia hit back within minutes as Switzerland lost the ball in midfield, Dusan Tadic bending in a cross for Mitrovic to meet superbly and nod into the far corner. But Switzerland equalised a minute before the break as Sow picked out Silvan Widmer in acres of space on the right and his driven low cross was turned in by Embolo.

The Cameroon-born striker's pressure on a lumbering Pavlovic gave Switzerland their third goal right after half-time, a brilliant team effort finished by Freuler. Shaqiri clipped in a delicate ball after Embolo won it back high up, and Ruben Vargas's cushioned backheel left Freuler to guide in from around the penalty spot.



BADMINTON ASIA JR C'SHIPS

Unnati scripts history, becomes first Indian to enter U-17 singles final

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda created history at the Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2022 by becoming the first Indian to enter the U-17 singles final after thrashing Japan's Mion Yokouchi 21-8, 21-17 in Nonthaburi, Thailand on Saturday.

The U-15 singles player Anish Thoppani and the U-17 men's doubles pair of Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat also posted brilliant victories to move into their respective finals.

Top-seed Unnati once again lived up to the expectations and stamped her authority in the U-17 women's singles semifinal when she wrapped up the match in straight sets. The Odisha Open champion has not yet dropped a set in her campaign at the prestigious event. Unnati will now take on Sarunrak Vitidsarn of Thailand in the gold medal match.

The in-form duo of Arsh and Sanskar also showcased a similar dominating display against Chinese Taipei's Chi-Ruei Chiu and Shao Hua Chiu to ease into



the U-17 men's doubles final with a commanding 21-15, 21-19 win in the lopsided Last-4 contest.

They will now face another Chinese Taipei opponent, Lai Po Yu and Yi-Hao Lin, in the final.

Later in the men's U-15 semifinal, Anish made a sensational comeback after being one set down to stun the second seed Lee Yu-Jui of Chinese Taipei with an 18-21, 21-12, 21-12 win.

In the final, Anish will be up against Chung-Hsiang Yih of Chinese Taipei, who beat India's Gnana Dattu 21-16, 19-21, 21-13 in another semi-final.

IND V BAN ODI SERIES

Dhaka | Agencies

With T20 World Cups happening in 2021 and 2022, there was very little focus on ODI cricket. But now with the 2023 ODI World Cup less than 12 months, suddenly the format seems to have gained high importance in the eyes of teams and fans.

After a young side went to New Zealand and lost the only ODI of the series with the next two matches being rain-affected, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and KL Rahul are back as India brace themselves for the challenge from Bangladesh in the series opener on Sunday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SNCS) in Mirpur, Dhaka.

The ODIs against Bangladesh will also mark the re-uniting of Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan and Kohli as the top three. Since the 2019 World Cup, the trio has featured in just 12 ODIs together.

It remains to be seen if the opening pair of Rohit and Dhawan will be able to give India an aggressive start in the first ten overs and whether Kohli can carry his sizzling T20I form into a format where he has been a master of acing chases.

The focus will also be on India's middle-order, especially on who will

ROHIT, KOHLI RETURN AS INDIA BRACE THEMSELVES FOR BANGLADESH CHALLENGE



bat at four, five and six. Rahul had established himself in the middle-order through stellar performances, and Shreyas Iyer has been consistently impressive in whatever opportunities he has got in absence of star-tudded players in the format.

In terms of bowlers, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are the favourites for the spin combination. As far as fast-bowling is concerned, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Deepak Chahar, Kuldeep Sen, and Umran Malik are in the mix. It should be interesting to see what balance India opt for in the ODIs in Bangladesh.

INDIA HAVE TO PLAY VERY WELL TO BEAT BANGLADESH TEAM: ROHIT SHARMA

Dhaka India skipper Rohit Sharma feels that his team will have to put its best foot forward in every department when it squares off against a very challenging Bangladesh team in the three-match ODI series, starting on Sunday. The last time these two teams played here in an ODI series, Bangladesh won 2-1 in 2015. India, who lost to New Zealand 1-0, will be boosted by the return of Rohit, K.L.Rahul and Virat Kohli for the three-match series. "It is going to be an exciting series as always has been whenever we have come to Bangladesh. They have been a very challenging team and we have to play well to beat them. It's a very simple equation for us. Of course, we are playing them in their own backyard, so we expect them to challenge us in every bit, whether it's batting, bowling and fielding as well."

"They are going to be a very competitive team in their backyard, so we have to be at our best to win the series. But for us, winning a series is not what we are looking at, we are looking at one game at a time and trying to see how we play well in that one game and then think about second and third games. Thinking too far ahead sometimes doesn't help," said Rohit in the pre-match press conference. "We have had to play good cricket to win against them. In the T20 World Cup, it was a close game and in 2015, we lost the series here. By no means, we are thinking that it's going to be a cakewalk for us because we know they are a much-improved side in the last few years."



HOCKEY SERIES

Hayward scores a brace as India slump to 1-5 defeat in the fourth match

Adelaide | Agencies

The Indian men's hockey team's bitersweet tour of Australia continued on Saturday with another defeat for Harmanpreet Singh and his boys and losing the five-match series 3-1.

Australia came up with a clinical performance to outclass India 5-1 in the fourth match of the tour at the Mate Stadium, here. With this victory, Australia sealed the five-match series 3-1, with one more match to be played.

Jeremy Hayward (29', 41') scored a brace for the home team while Jake Whetton (30'), Tom Wickham (34') and Matt Dawson (54') were the other goal-scorers. Dilpreet Singh set the ball rolling

for India in the 25th minute after a goal-less first quarter but it was all downhill after that.

After the initial few minutes of struggle to make space in the striking circle, India made the breakthrough in the 25th minute when Dilpreet put his skillset on display to score and give the visitors the lead. However, the visitors could not hold on to the lead as Australia responded with a goal in the next four minutes. It was in-form Hayward who converted a penalty corner in the 29th minute. Only a minute later, they put another one in the net through Jake Whetton.

Two goals in the third quarter via Tom Wickham in the 34th minute and Hayward in the 41st minute further put India under pressure. The final quarter

saw Australia ride on the momentum as they increased the lead to 5-1 from a penalty corner in the 54th minute.

"Australia were definitely a better team today. They played defensively right from the start and we could not capitalize on the lead by putting pressure on them. As I had said earlier, this tour has given us great exposure and playing against a quality side like Australia is always a learning experience. We now know the areas that we need to further work on ahead of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar-Rourkela," said captain Harmanpreet Singh.

"We will try and bounce back in tomorrow's match and look to end the tour on a good note," he signed off.





I look up to the way Ekta markets her films: Tusshar Kapoor

Aakruti Bagla | Mumbai

Being stereotyped as a comic actor

Tusshar Kapoor's much-talked film, *Maarich*, is all set to hit the theatres on December 9. Ahead of the release, Absolute India News caught up with the actor for an exclusive interview.

About the film and box-office pressure In the film, Tusshar plays the role of ACP Raj Dixit, who is in pursuit of a killer who has shaken up the city. Talking about the role being out of their comfort zone and how the director convinced him, Tusshar said, "When this role came to me, my initial reaction was this works for me. The cop I played in *Khakee* was quite different, but it was Dhruv Lather's motivation that prompted me to take this leap of faith."

Talking about the box-office pressure, the actor-producer said, "Friday jitters are double this time as I am a producer as well now. But I also believe that if we have worked hard, it will yield desired results."

Dealing with lows

The actor made his debut in 2001 with *Mujhe Kuch Kehna Hai* and later appeared in several films which were box office duds. Tusshar shared, "Earlier I used to get worried, but today I am much stronger. I used to be selective and choosy since there was pressure to have the right choices after my debut. I even blamed myself when films didn't work. But today if I retrospect, I feel that I could have taken more risks. I was very careful that time."

Despite doing a wide range of characters in films like *Khakhee*, *Shootout at Lokhandwala*, *Shor In The City*, and *The Dirty Picture*, he sort of got stereotyped in comedy roles, especially because of the success of the *Golmaal* film franchise. Talking about how he reflects on it, the actor said, "I had done successful films which are not in comedy space. I have experimented with roles and it has worked for me. I think people should realize that I am not typecasted. But I think the industry tries to stereotype me because of *Golmaal* Franchise's success."

Taking notes from Ekta Kapoor

The actor ventured into production with *Laxmmi* in 2020. When asked if he takes notes from sister Ekta Kapoor, Tusshar averred, "We help, guide, consult, and advice each other. But we do not interfere with each other's work. We are independent and give space to each other. I really look up to the way she markets her films and does promotional activities."

On *Golmaal 5*

The *Golmaal* franchise is the most loved film by the audience and they are anticipating the fourth part. Spilling beans on its future plans of it, Tusshar Kapoor said, "Well, that's something the director and producer Rohit Shetty can answer better"

I HONESTLY LOVED DELIVERING THE PUNCHES IN THE FILM:

BHUMI PEDNEKAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Bhumi Pednekar, who plays Vicky Kaushal's bombshell wife in the upcoming streaming movie *'Govinda Naam Mera'*, shares that her character has the most hilarious dialogues in the film and that the makers have subverted the industry norm by giving the punchlines to the female character.

Elaborating on the same, the actress says, "I honestly have loved delivering the punches in the film and I have to admit that I have been given some of the most hilarious punchlines by Shashank (Khaitan, the director). What I love the most about my dialoguebaazi (punchy dialogues) in *'Govinda Naam Mera'* is that they are from the heroine's side and that's refreshing for a romantic comedy in the Hindi film industry because traditionally only heroes used to get all the great dialogues in a genre like this and make people laugh."

She lauds the film's producer Karan Johar and the director as she adds, "I'm glad that my producer Karan Johar and my director Shashank Khaitan thought of subverting the norm and empowering a girl to deliver some of the most cracking dialogues that I have seen on screen in recent times. Gauri Waghmare is literally one of my most favourite characters that I have played on screen."

Talking about her character, Bhumi mentions that she is an equal to a man and constantly reminds a man that her gender doesn't make her inferior and that she is the master of her own actions and decisions. The film, which also stars Kiara Advani and Vicky Kaushal, is produced by Dharma Productions.



POOJA HEGDE SHARED HOW HER CO-STARS MADE HER 'TUMBLE' WITH LAUGHTER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Pooja Hegde, who is currently awaiting the release of her upcoming comedy movie *'Cirkus'*, has shared that the film and her co-actors made her feel at home. The actress can be seen decked up in the 1960s-era Bollywood fashion in the trailer of the movie which was released recently. The actress shared that the film will bring much respite to the already struggling Hindi film industry which didn't have a great run at the box-office this year. *'Cirkus'* is directed by Rohit Shetty, who has an excellent track record at the box-office. She said, "*'Cirkus'* is the ideal film to round up this stunning year. It is an out-and-out family entertainer. I always looked forward to going back the following day since Ranveer, Rohit Sir and the entire cast were so hilarious and humble on set." She further mentioned, "This has been a family production in a way."

Even though I was a new entrant I just felt at home. This movie is extremely special to all of us. It is from our hearts to yours."



Ram Charan gets another award for RRR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ram Charan gets another award yet again as he receives the True Legend - Future of Young India Award Recently, Mega Power Star Ram Charan attended an award event in Delhi, where he added to his already lengthy list of honours. The actor was honoured with the True Legend - Future of Young India Award. Apart from being a fantastic actor, he is also a humanitarian who has always utilised his position in society to make a positive difference. Even the characters he chooses to portray in films positively inspire people all around the world, especially young people.

It is hardly surprising that he has gotten this honour. The artist has always been acclaimed for portraying characters who convey a message to the viewer. His films have received critical recognition not just in India but even beyond. Even his role in the smash hit *RRR* was significant and well-received by audiences all over the world. Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan's father, has also taken to Twitter to congratulate him and express his pleasure.

Red Sea Festival

SHARON STONE GASPS; SHE CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S NEXT TO SRK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who recently attended the Red Sea International Film Festival, left the 'Basic Instinct' actress Sharon Stone gasping at the event after she realised that it was him who was sitting next to her all the while. The *'Pathaan'* actor was recently honoured at the fest for his contributions to the Indian cinema, as his name was announced and he stood up, Sharon was in total disbelief upon noticing him. In a video which is going viral on social media,

Sharon can be seen clapping and seemed to mouth "oh my god".

In response to Stone's reaction, SRK can be seen humbly greeting the actress with a 'salaam' (a gesture of greeting in Islamic culture). SRK fans have since then been going gaga over the clip. One fan wrote, "My favourite part of today's event, Sharon Stone's reaction when she realised Shah Rukh Khan is sitting next to her. We can't blame her, can we?"

On the work front, SRK will be seen in the spy-thriller movie *'Pathaan'* from the house of Yash Raj Films.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Nikki Tamboli