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LS: Rare display of unity by Congress, Trinamool in protest...



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Trust factor in our team is our biggest strength: Harmanpreet...

EXTREME HEAT WAVES MAY BREAK HUMAN SURVIVABILITY LIMIT IN INDIA: WORLD BANK REPORT

► The World Bank report further cautioned that rising heat across India can hit economic productivity, observing that 75 per cent of India's workforce or 380 million people depend on heat-exposed labour, at times working in potentially life-threatening temperatures.

far longer periods. "In April 2022, India was plunged into the grip of a punishing early spring heat wave that brought the country to a standstill, with temperatures in the capital, New Delhi, topping 46 degrees Celsius. The month of March, which witnessed extraordinary spikes in temperatures, was the hottest ever recorded," it said. The World Bank further said that lost labour from rising heat and humidity could put up to 4.5 per cent of India's GDP at risk by the end of this decade.



“By 2030, India may account for 34 million of the projected 80 million global job losses from heat stress associated productivity decline.”

The report said

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Extreme heat waves are increasing with alarming frequency across India in the past few decades and soon the country may become one of the first places in the world to experience heat waves that break the human survivability limit, a World Bank report said. The report titled "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector", said that severe heat waves are responsible for thousands of deaths across the country, where higher temperatures are arriving early and staying for

RBI's inflation control measures turn home loan EMIs inflationary

FLAME IN INFLATION

After a raise of 40 basis points in May and 50 basis points each in June, August and September, this is the fifth consecutive hike, taking the repo rate to the highest since April 2019. While Wednesday's rate hike is only a smaller one, it will still weigh heavily further on the already stretched monthly household budgets dealing with higher borrowing costs and a rise in the price of almost everything. Indian banks are certain to pass on the latest RBI rate hike to customers immediately, as seen in recent months, making loans costlier and leading to higher equated monthly instalments (EMIs).

► EXPERTS SAID HOME LOAN BORROWERS CAN LOOK AT THE OPTION OF SWITCHING THE LOAN TO ANOTHER LENDER AT LOWER INTEREST RATE OR ASK FOR EXTENSION OF THE LOAN PERIOD, WHICH IN TURN WILL REDUCE THE EMI QUANTUM.

► SWITCHING LENDERS WILL BE EASY FOR FLOATING RATE BORROWERS, PROVIDED THEY HAVE A GOOD REPAYMENT HISTORY, EXPERTS SAID.

► THE IMPACT WILL BE MORE ON THE BORROWERS WHO TOOK LOAN RECENTLY, AND THEY WILL HAVE TO HOPE FOR SALARY HIKES.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India hiked its key lending rate by a more modest 35 basis points to 6.25 per cent, citing slowing inflation after three consecutive 50-bps (basis points) increases to manage price pressures that have remained persistently above the upper end of its target band.

The monetary policy committee (MPC), which is made up of three members from the RBI and three outside members, hiked the key lending rate, also known as the repo rate, by 0.35 per cent to 6.25 per cent with a five out of six majority.

The standing deposit facility rate and the marginal standing facility rate were also increased by the same



quantum to 6.00 per cent and 6.50 per cent, respectively.

The RBI cited slowing price pressures for the smaller rate hike after consumer-price-based inflation eased to a three-month low of 6.77

per cent in October from a year ago.

That lines up with broad market expectations for a moderation in rate hikes given that the central bank had front-loaded its tightening policy, with predictions for inflation to have likely peaked in September and favourable base effects guiding the price rise trajectory to below 6 per cent from early next year.

But RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said inflation remains elevated and the battle against inflation has to continue as risks remain. The MPC's majority view is the withdrawal of an accommodative stance.

That statement comes amid expectations that price pressures have likely peaked and concerns around economic growth resurfaced.

DELHI MCD GOES TO AAP

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With 134 seats, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday won the prestigious battle for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), ending the 15-year-rule of the BJP.

However, the saffron party also crossed the 100 mark and secured 104 seats. The Congress won nine wards, while three independent candidates have also managed to win, as per official trends.

A total of 126 seats were required to win the election. Counting for the 250 wards of the civic body began at 8 a.m. amid tight security arrangements at 42 centres.

There were a total of 1,349 candidates in the fray. This was the first election after the MCD was reunified earlier this year.

The polls on Sunday witnessed a voter turnout of only 50.48 per cent, just over 73 lakh people from the total of 1.45 crore eligible voters.

As the result was



announced, scores of party workers started gathering at

the AAP's headquarters in the national capital.

AAP Councillors Getting Calls: Manish Sisodia

New Delhi: Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday alleged that the BJP was trying to poach newly-elected AAP councillors and asserted that none of them will fall prey to their "game".

He said the newly elected councillors have been instructed to record "such phone calls" in case they receive one.

"BJP's game has begun. Our newly elected councillors have started receiving phone calls. None of our councillors will be sold. We have told all our councillors that if they get a phone call or if someone comes to meet them, they should record those calls and meetings," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"We don't believe in negative politics and don't do the politics of abusing one another. We had asked the vote in the name of good governance, better education system and healthcare and for the honest government, and the people have blessed us with their support."

Arvind Kejriwal, CM, Delhi

Int'l publishers to print UG English textbooks in Indian languages: UGC

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Textbooks for undergraduate programmes such as BA, BCom and BSc would now be available in different Indian languages. Besides Hindi, these books will be translated in Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese and Punjabi, among others.

Accordingly, the University Grant Commission (UGC) has constituted an apex committee to prepare a roadmap and work towards bringing out textbooks in different Indian languages.

The UGC held a high-level meeting with international book publishers on Wednesday to discuss the possibilities of bringing out undergraduate English textbooks in Indian



languages. During the meeting, the international publishers expressed their willingness to join hands in this national mission, the UGC said. Representatives from Wiley India, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Cambridge University Press, Cengage India, and McGraw-Hill India participated in the interaction, among others.

SUBMIT RECORDS CONNECTED WITH DEMO DECISION: SC TO CENTRE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to submit relevant records in connection with the government's 2016 demonetisation decision for its perusal.

After hearing detailed arguments on a batch of petitions challenging the demonetisation move, a bench headed by Justice S.A. Nazeer reserved the judgment.

The bench said: "Counsel of the Union of India and Reserve Bank of India are directed to produce the relevant records." Attorney General R.



Venkataramani represented the Centre and senior advocate Jaideep Gupta represented the RBI, and senior advocates P.

Chidambaram and Shyam Divan appeared for some of the petitioners.

Reserving the judgment on the petitions, the top court directed the parties to file written submissions by December 10.

The AG contended that he will submit the relevant records in a sealed cover. The Centre had told the Supreme Court that the November 2016 decision to withdraw legal tender of Rs 500 and 1,000 currency notes was one of the critical steps in the series of transformational economic policy steps and this decision was taken after extensive consultation with the RBI and advance preparations.

4 SENTENCED TO 4-YR RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT IN 2013 MP POLICE RECRUITMENT SCAM

New Delhi: A Special CBI judge in Gwalior awarded a four-year rigorous imprisonment to four persons, including two students and two impersonators, who appeared for them in a police constable recruitment test, conducted by the Madhya Pradesh government.

The court awarded the jail sentence to Umesh Chandra Sonkar (impersonator), Anil Kumar (candidate), Pawan Kumar Meena (impersonator) and Jagdish Kumar (candidate) and also imposed a fine of Rs 14,100 each on them. The CBI had registered this case following the instructions of the Supreme Court.

The case was earlier registered at Kampoo police station, Gwalior, on the allegations of cheating by impersonation in the Police Constable Recruitment Test (II), 2013.

KERALA GOVT TABLES BILL TO REMOVE GOVERNOR AS CHANCELLOR

Thiruvananthapuram: The Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala government on Wednesday tabled a Bill seeking removal of Governor as Chancellor amid controversies over appointments in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation.

Apparently, the ongoing nine-day special session has been convened after an Ordinance on the same continues to be with Governor Arif Mohammed Khan with no action taken. State Law Minister PRajeev piloted the Bill which was vehemently opposed by the Congress-led Opposition, especially Leader of Opposition V.D. Satheesan who said that the Bill does not mention the qualifications required for the chancellor. Now, the Bill will be sent to the Subject Committee of the Kerala Assembly and will come back to the floor of the Assembly on December 13 with 98 members (excluding the Speaker) in the treasury bench compared to the 41 in the opposition benches, it will be passed instantly.

SITHARAMAN, HARRIS AMONG FORBES' 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

► Besides Sitharaman, other Indians on the list include, HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra -- the youngest Indian woman on the list; Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw; Madhabi Puri Buch, the first female chair of the Securities and Exchange Board of India; Soma Mondal, the first woman to chair the state-run Steel Authority of India; and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar.

► This is the fourth year in a row that Sitharaman made it to the list. Last year, she was in the 37th spot, 41st in 2020 and 34th in 2019.

► In 2021, Harris became the first woman, the first Black person, and the first South Asian-American to become the American Vice President.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Vice President Kamala Harris are among Forbes' 19th annual list of 'World's 100 Most Powerful Women' of 2022.

While Harris is ranked third, Sitharaman is at number 36 on the list that was released on Tuesday highlighting "innovators and instigators who are leading on the world stage to redefine traditional power structures".

A California native, Harris was born in Oakland to immigrant parents -- her mother was from India and father from Jamaica. Apart from Harris, Bela Bajaria, head of Global TV at Netflix, is another Indian-American on the list who is ranked at number 71.

Bajaria is responsible for hits includ-

ing 'Bridgerton', 'The Queen's Gambit', 'Lupin' and 'Cobra Kai'. Before joining Netflix in 2016, Bajaria was president of Universal Television, where she made history as the first woman of color to oversee a studio. London-born Bajaria was named to TIME's 100 Most Influential People list in 2022.

Sitharaman was appointed as India's first female Finance Minister in May 2019. Before her career in politics, she held roles at the UK-based Agricultural Engineers Association and the BBC World Service. Every year, the American business magazine releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world.

This year's list was topped by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen "for her leadership during the Ukraine war, as well as her handling of the Covid-19 pandemic".

Bihar Congress demands rollback of liquor ban in state



Patna | Agencies

Congress Legislative Party leader Ajit Sharma has claimed that the Bihar government is unable to effectively implement the liquor ban in the state. Hence, it is better for the government to lift the ban.

"Liquor was banned with good intentions but the ban's implementation is not proper. Liquor is available every-

where in the state. Hence, it is better for the government to lift the ban," Sharma said.

"At present, the state government is losing revenue to the tune of Rs 10,000 crore because of the liquor ban," Sharma said.

The Congress is one of the alliance partners of the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar. It is for the first time that a senior Congress leader has demanded the rollback of the liquor ban.



PANCHAYAT REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD MAKE THE VILLAGE HARMONIOUS & CLEAN: CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that a new concept of Gram Swaraj has been conceived in Madhya Pradesh by empowering Gram Panchayats. This vision will be realised. The State Government will always be cooperative in providing guidance to the Panchayats. Today, by giving maximum powers to the Panchayats in this sequence, the limit of Gram Panchayats for giving sanction to administrative works is being hiked from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh. Set a new example of development through public participation. Make villages harmonious, clean and environment friendly and model villages. CM Chouhan said that an amount of Rs. 1472 crore of the 15th Finance Commission has been released.

CM said that Panchayat officials should make efforts that minor disputes are settled inside the villages itself and no FIR is lodged. The problems of the village should be solved at the village level, this concept should be implemented.

CM was addressing the state level



Important announcements of CM

- The honorarium of Sarpanchs will be increased from Rs. 1750 to Rs. 4250 per month.
- A new SOR (rate list of materials used in construction work) will be made. This list will soon be issued.
- The vacant posts of secretaries of panchayats will be filled.
- Rights of administrative approval to Gram Panchayats will be increased from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh.
- Rojgaar Sahayak will be appointed in every Gram Panchayat.
- Rojgaar Sahayak can be transferred from one panchayat to another panchayat.

orientation training conference of

newly elected Sarpanchs focused on

local sustainable development goals at Bhopal's Jamboree Maidan.

CM told the Panchayat officials that you and me are equal. I am the sarpanch of a big panchayat and you are the sarpanch of a small panchayat. In a democracy, the elected system is at the top. Coordination of rights and duties is necessary in the three-tier Panchayat Raj system. Panchayat officials should do better work using dialogue, coordination and contact. Don't have feelings of bitterness towards anyone. All are ours. The post-election approach should be comprehensive.

CM said that Madhya Pradesh is number one in cleanliness in urban areas of western region. We should also endeavour to make our panchayats clean village panchayats

CM said to keep an eye on the implementation of the schemes. The work of house construction should be done without any monetary deal. The state government will not pardon the corrupt persons, but the panchayat officials should provide cooperation in this direction so that the houses constructed are of quality.

CM Chouhan provides contribution on Armed Forces Flag Day



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was pinned the flag symbolising Flag Day by Commander Uday Singh, Joint Director, Sainik Kalyan, on Armed Forces Flag Day at the CM residence premises 'Samatva' building. CM Chouhan contributed funds on his behalf.

It is worth mentioning that the soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces attain martyrdom while performing their duty in defence of the

country, internal security and natural calamities. Every year since 1949, December 7 is celebrated as Armed Forces Flag Day to remember, honour and show respect to the soldiers by the citizens of the country. On this day, financial assistance schemes related to the welfare and rehabilitation of dependent families of martyred soldiers, Divyang soldiers, ex-servicemen, serving soldiers and their dependents are conducted with the amount collected by distributing car flags and emblem flags to be installed in motor vehicles.

CM Chouhan will perform bhoomi puja of works worth Rs 1512 crores and dedicate works worth Rs 10 crores in Mandsaur on December 8

Team Absolute | Bhopal

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan will dedicate construction works worth Rs 1512 crore and dedicate works worth Rs 10 crore on Mandsaur's Pride Day on December 8. Chief Minister Chouhan will pay the installment of Rs 400 crore for the construction of houses to the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban with a single click. Chief Minister Chouhan will perform griha pravesh of 50 thousand beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban and bhoomi-pujan of houses of 51 thousand beneficiaries, and will distribute Rs 10 thousand each to 1.5 lakh beneficiaries of the first phase of PM Swanidhi Yojana and Rs 20 thousand each to one lakh beneficiaries of the second phase with a single click. Along with this, he will inaugurate the

third phase of the scheme by disbursing a loan of Rs 50 thousand each to two street vendors. Chief Minister Chouhan will perform bhoomi-pujan of Shivna river purification costing Rs 2891 lakh, Gandhi Sagar-1 group water supply scheme costing Rs 1462 crore 49 lakh, central lighting work in Mandsaur Nagar costing Rs 325 lakh 44 thousand, Rs 750 lakh worth 100 bedded ward of District Hospital Mandsaur, asphaltting of Ratlam-Nasirabad road costing Rs. 221 lakh 78 thousand, Pashupatinath access road costing Rs. 41 lakh 26 thousand and bhoomi-pujan for the construction of new pump house in Mandsaur town at a cost of Rs 18 crore. Chief Minister Chouhan will dedicate Joint Tehsil Office Building Mandsaur costing Rs 640 lakh 27 thousand and 100 seater Boys Hostel Mandsaur costing Rs 385 lakh 37 thousand.

2022 Asian Rowing Championships: MP's Prabhakar Rajawat rows to gold

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Sports Academy's rower won gold medal at the 2022 Asian Rowing Championship, which was held in Thailand from November 30 to December 4. It was also called 21st Asian Rowing Championships. Madhya Pradesh's rower Prabhakar Rajawat won gold medal in the under-19 men's single sculls 2000-metre event. Rajawat was a part of junior category of India squad, which included seven rowers from all over the country.

During the tournament, the Indian squad won a total of seven medals. In the senior category, India won four medals, including one gold, two silver, and one bronze. In the junior competition, India won three medals, including two gold and one silver. Out of three medals, Madhya Pradesh's rower Rajawat won one gold medal.

4-yr rigorous imprisonment sentenced to 4 in 2013 MP police recruitment scam

Team Absolute | Bhopal/ New Delhi

A Special CBI judge in Gwalior awarded a four-year rigorous imprisonment to four persons, including two students and two impersonators, who appeared for them in a police constable recruitment test, conducted by the Madhya Pradesh government.

The court awarded the jail sentence to Umesh Chandra Sonkar (impersonator), Anil Kumar (candidate), Pawan Kumar Meena (impersonator) and Jagdish Kumar (candidate) and also imposed a fine of Rs 14,100 each on them.

The CBI had registered this case following the instructions of the Supreme Court.

The case was earlier registered at Kamppoo police station, Gwalior, on the allegations of cheating by impersonation in the Police Constable



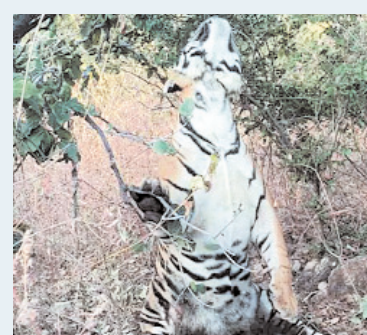
Recruitment Test (II), 2013.

It was further alleged that Sonkar was caught by the investigators during the said examination, as his face did not match with the photo in the RASA sheet and the test admit card. He was also carrying the photo ID of another accused.

The Central Forensic Science Laboratory report also established that the impersonator Sonkar and Meena had appeared in the examination in

place of candidates Anil Kumar and Jagdish Kumar, respectively. After investigation, a charge-sheet was filed against the said accused in 2017. The trial court found the accused guilty and convicted them.

A supplementary charge-sheet was also filed against a juvenile (middleman) before Juvenile Justice Board, Gwalior, who was sentenced to a probation of two years for good conduct with a fine of Rs 10,000.



2-YEAR-OLD TIGER FOUND HANGING BY NECK IN TIGER RESERVE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In a shocking incident, the body of a 2-year-old tiger was found hanging from a tree in the Panna Tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday.

According to forest officials, they were alerted to a male tiger being found dead in the Vikrampur forest on Tuesday night. When the officials reached the spot on Wednesday morning, they found the animal hanging from a tree with a clutch wire (usually found in vehicles) around its neck.

The wire is generally used by poachers to trap animals but officials suspect that the trap may have been laid by the villagers to catch another animal and accidentally caught the tiger.

"A dog squad from Satma has reached the scene along with the state Tiger Strike Force. After the findings from the dog squad's initial assessment, we will know the cause of the death. We are asking villagers in the area to come forward and share any information about this incident," said Sanjeev Jha, senior forest conservation official.

The body of the animal has been sent for postmortem to ascertain the cause of death. Situated in the tiger heartland of Madhya Pradesh, the Panna Tiger Reserve covers an area of 3500 sq km and is home to 15 to 32 tigers in Vindhyan Hills. The national park area also covers nearly 13 villages some of which have been relocated.

Madhya Pradesh has six tiger reserves, namely Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura, Panna and Sanjay Dubri.

India will host 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore: S Jaishankar

Team Absolute | Indore

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Wednesday informed the Parliament that India will be hosting the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore in January 2023. "After a gap of two years, India will be hosting the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas in Indore from 8-10 January 2023. President of Guyana Irfaan Ali will be the chief guest of the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas," Jaishankar said in Rajya Sabha while delivering his remarks on the 'Latest Developments in India's Foreign Policy'. Guyana President Mohamed Irfaan Ali is set to be the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) Convention, scheduled to be held in Indore next month. "Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, will be the Chief Guest at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) Convention which will be held from 8-10 January 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh," the External Affairs Ministry said in an earlier statement.

Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs and provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians.

Australian Member of Parliament (MP) Zaneta Mascarenhas will be the guest of honour at the Youth Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas.



"Zaneta Mascarenhas, Member of Parliament of Australia, will be the Guest of Honour at the Youth Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas which will be held on 8 January, 2023," the MEA added.

Last year, the 16th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas Convention was organized on January 9, despite the ongoing Covid pandemic.

The Convention was held in a virtual format. The theme of the 16th PBD Convention 2021 was "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

The Youth PBD was also celebrated virtually on the theme "Bringing together Young Achievers from India and Indian Diaspora" on January 8, 2021.

Team Absolute | Betul

A massive rescue operation continued for the second day on Wednesday to save an eight-year-old boy who fell into a 400-foot-deep borewell in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district, officials said on Wednesday. The boy, Tanmay, was stuck at a depth of 35 ft to 40 ft after falling into the borewell in Mandavi village on Tuesday evening, they said, adding no movement was seen there on Wednesday morning. The earthmoving machines have so far dug a 25-ft-deep parallel tunnel. Hectic efforts were on to reach the child and rescue him, the officials said.

The incident took place at around 5 pm on Tuesday. The boy was playing in a field when he fell into the borewell



which was dug recently, police earlier said. The rescue operation continued through the night to save Tanmay. The administration, police and rescue teams were present on the spot, Betul Collector Amanbir Singh Bains said on Wednesday.

Work was underway to make a parallel tunnel to reach the boy, he said.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan also directed the officials to make adequate arrangements to bring out the boy safely.

Success of T.B. Free India campaign depends on people's co-operation: Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel has said that public co-operation is the basis of success in the efforts of the system. Individual and collective involvement of the public community with any campaign greatly increases the chances of its success. The participation of people and system of the state with the Pradhan Mantri T.B. Free India campaign is the message of its success. He said that Bagudi is not planted with tobacco as it is not eaten by animals. It is a matter of concern and contemplation for humans to spoil their health by consuming it. It is a matter of concern and contemplation for humans to spoil their health by consuming it. Hence it is important that along with the intake of regular medicine, nutritious food for prevention and treatment of T.B., awareness should be spread



widely regarding the dietary precautions.

Governor Patel was addressing the T.B. Free India Campaign M.P.'s "Ni-Kshaya Mitra" function today at Kushabhau Thackeray

International Convention Center, Bhopal. Governor Patel said that under the leadership of our successful PM Modi, India's ideology and working method is to keep the country ahead in the world.

India has set an example in facing the global pandemic Covid. The efforts being made in the state for eradication of T.B. are commendable. He said that to make the T.B. eradication campaign a mass movement, it is necessary to let everyone know that the prevention of the disease is simple. Accessible, effective and free treatment is available.

The Governor administered the oath of T.B. free India too those present. He dedicated publicity, print-material and film "Meri Tab Ki Kahani". He listened to the experiences of the T.B. champion. He distributed citations to Nikshay Mitras. An amount of Rs 4 lakh 33 thousand 500 was provided as community support for one thousand 355 tuberculosis patients of Anuppur and Umaria districts, through direct benefit transfer. Food baskets were distributed to Bhopal's 20 T.B. patients.

Class 5 girl paraded with shoe garland over theft suspicion

Team Absolute | Betul

A Class 5 girl student was allegedly paraded with a garland of shoes by the superintendent of a hostel on the suspicion of stealing money, prompting the Betul district administration in Madhya Pradesh to order a probe into it, an official said. The incident took place last week at a government tribal girls' hostel in Damjipura village. The girl's family members went to the office of district Collector Amanveer Singh Bains on Tuesday to complain about it.

After hearing the complaint of the girl's father, Mr Bains said he has ordered an inquiry based on which action will be initiated.

The woman superintendent of the hostel has been removed from the post, an official from the tribal affairs department said.

The girl's father told reporters that his daughter, a Class 5 student and staying at the hostel run by the tribal affairs department in Damjipura, informed about the incident to him when he went to meet her.

He alleged that make-up was applied on his daughter to look like a ghost and she was paraded on the hostel campus with the garland of shoes by the superintendent on the charge of stealing 400 belonging to another girl.

He said after the incident, his daughter was not ready to stay in the hostel.

Assistant Commissioner, Tribal Affairs Department, Shilpa Jain said following the complaint, the hostel superintendent has been removed from the post. A probe has been ordered and further action will be taken on the basis of it, Ms Jain said.



EDITOR'S SPECS

New dispute between Nepal, India

Nepal and India have engaged in a new diplomatic row after Nepali citizens pelted stones at Indian nationals on the order side of the border over the embankment construction by the Indian side.

The incident on Sunday led to the injuries of four Nepali nationals, including a minor. The locals at Khalanga, the district headquarters of Darchula on the Nepali side, had sternly protested against India's unilateral construction of an embankment to divert the flow of the Mahakali River. The irate locals fear that their settlement could be at risk due to the embankment. They had demanded that the construction work be halted immediately. In Kathmandu, the Ministry of Home Affairs has written a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs urging them to take up the matter with the Indian side regarding the incident. The Indian side has taken up the matter saying that some of the citizens were also injured during the course of stone pelting and urged to take action against the perpetrators. According to Rajan Bhattarai, head of the CPN-UML's international relations department, Mahakali is a border river. If the structure made on the border affects the other side, such unilateral works should be stopped immediately. On Monday, officials of Nepal and India discussed Sunday's incident. According to the Chief District Officer (CDO) of Darchula Dirgha Raj Upadhyay, both sides have agreed not to construct the embankment in such a way that incurs a loss to both sides. Present in the meeting were chiefs of the security agencies and representatives of political parties from the Nepal side while the talk team of the Indian side included Additional District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Magistrates. The Indian side has installed a gabion net some 7 to 10 meters from the site where the embankment was under-construction. The Nepali side requested the Indian side to remove it immediately.

India needs to add shine to its future

Ajay Agnihotri

In his opening remarks at COP27, Antonio Guterres, the U.N. Secretary General, gave a warning - "We are in the fight of our lives, and we are losing. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator."

There is no gain saying that there is a strong case for an enhanced thrust to renewal energy for reduction of the carbon footprint and attempt to slowing down the climate change. For India, it will come with the multiple benefits - reduced dependence on imports of oil and coal, reduced pressure of forex reserves, earning tradeable carbon credits and global leadership in fighting climate change.

India is blessed with a huge potential for harnessing solar power. India added a record 10 Gigawatt (GW) of solar energy to its cumulative installed capacity in 2021. This has been the highest 12-month capacity addition, recording nearly a 200 per cent year-on-year growth. India has now a cumulative installed solar capacity of 59 GW as on August 31, 2022. This is a milestone in India's journey towards meeting the renewable target set for by 2030 and generating 50 per cent of it from solar power.

Solar power generation capacity in India is now contributing nearly 6.5 per cent of the global cumulative capacity of slightly over 700 GW. India generated over 70 billion units in the first nine months of 2022, an increase of 36 per cent over the corresponding period last year. However, the total generation of power is now over 1600 billion units and far more needs to be done quickly to increase share of solar. India has also achieved a record low tariff for solar power generation of Rs 1.99 per unit.

Domestic manufacturing capacities of solar cells and modules are far short of targets for solar power generation in the country. According to research published by Mercom India, domestic module manufacturing capacity was around 18-20 GW. In 2021-22, India imported nearly \$76.62 billion worth solar cells and modules from China, accounting for 78.6 per cent of India's total



imports in the year.

Moreover, backward integration in the solar value chain is absent as India has no capacity for manufacturing solar wafers and polysilicon. Other ancillary industries such as for tempered glass, EVA sheets, Aluminium frames and junction boxes are in nascent stages.

In order to simultaneously achieve the objective of augmenting solar power generation, through domestically manufactured solar cells and panels, the Government raised customs duties on solar cells to 25 per cent and modules to 40 per cent. This move is retrograde since sufficient capacities for manufacture of solar cells are not likely to come on stream in the next 10 years. If India is to achieve a generation of at least 200 billion units in next 2 years unrestricted, duty free imports of PVs are a must.

This was, in manner of speaking, a classic case of "Guns Vs Butter". In a setting where India wishes to multiply its capacity by five times in the next seven years, it is faced with

a production possibilities curve where a choice has to be made between solar power generation versus solar power generation through made-in-India cells at the other. Despite the high rate of duties, the module manufacturers are not exactly competitive. The high rates of duty on solar cells have made module assembly expensive, leaving little or no incentive to procure domestically manufactured modules, which are as it is in short supply.

Either way, modules are now dearer, which eventually impacts the viability of projects awarded earlier and under execution. Industry found novel ways to combat this issue by resorting to an import route available under "project imports", entitling imports of solar power plants at 5 per cent duty. The Finance Ministry promptly raised the duty to 7.5 per cent without any provisions for grand-fathering. Some developers took a punt by setting up solar parks as customs bonded warehouses, which allows for

duty deferment but not exemption. It is quite a big financial exposure since duties are merely deferred and not exempted. However, the Finance Ministry promptly closed that route through issue of instructions to its field formations.

China virtually controls the solar market, producing 86 per cent of solar cells and two-thirds of modules produced globally. Knowing that building capacities will take time, countries are using regulatory innovation to augment solar power capacity. Recently, Biden invoked the Defence Production Act to waive tariffs on solar panels from Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam to serve as a "bridge" till US ramps up manufacturing, (Reuters report dated June 7, 2022).

Given the strategic importance of solar power, there is a room for MNRE and Tax officials to go back to the drawing board for building the right road map for the healthy growth of the industry. Priority must be given to generating renewable energy. Stronger incentives are required to nurture and build capacities for the solar module and solar panels industry, even if that means allowing import of solar cells on zero or concessional duties. More importantly solar cell manufacturing industry has to be assured of tariff protection at the appropriate time.

Closer consultations with power producers and panel manufacturers will help in correcting anomalies in current tariffs, while also following a nurturing approach towards solar cell and ancillary industries. For example, the sudden removal of anti-dumping duty on solar glass has exposed a nascent industry to the onslaught of imports from China.

Achieving full scale backward integration and with it an export capacity in a globally emerging industry, requires strategic thinking and deftness in policy making. There is a need for devising a more realistic phased manufacturing programme.

(The author is a retired Indian Revenue Service officer)

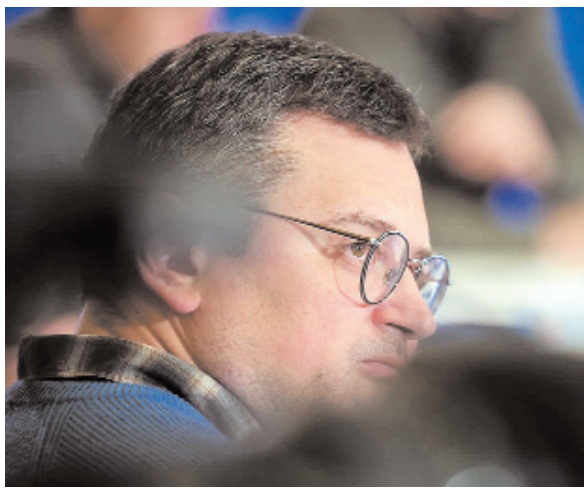
international

Ukraine warns Iran of 'consequences' over arms supplies to Russia

Kiev | Agencies

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has warned Iran of "consequences" over supplying arms to Russia. "Our signal to them (the Iranian side) was very clear: first, either you stop or you will face a set of the most severe consequences. Second, no matter what benefits you have from cooperation with Russia in the supply of drones or other weapons, the negative consequences for you will outweigh any benefits," Kuleba said at an online briefing.

Ukraine is closely following Iran's "every step" in the matter of military-technical cooperation with Russia, Xinhua news agency quoted the Minister as saying.



In October, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry accused Iran of sending combat drones to Russia for use in its ongoing war against Kiev. Last month, Iranian

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that the country had given "a limited number" of drones to Russia months before the start of the war.



ARGENTINE VP SENTENCED TO 6 YEARS IN JAIL FOR CORRUPTION

Buenos Aires: Argentina's Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has been sentenced to six years in jail for corruption and a lifetime ban from holding public office. An Argentine court on Tuesday convicted the 69-year-old of "fraudulent administration" over irregular public works contracts awarded during her two-term presidency between 2007 and 2015, reports Xinhua news agency. The Vice President will not face immediate imprisonment and is also expected to appeal against the sentence. She denied the allegations and called the court a "firing squad". It is the first time that a sitting Vice President has been convicted of a crime in the country.

Also on Tuesday, Fernandez de Kirchner wrote on social media after the ruling that she will not be a candidate for any political office in 2023 general elections.

Germany arrests 25 accused of plotting coup

Berlin | Agencies

Twenty-five people have been arrested in raids across Germany on suspicion of plotting to overthrow the government.

German reports say the group of far-right and former military figures planned to storm the parliament building, the Reichstag, and seize power, the BBC reported.

A German man referred to as a prince called Heinrich XIII, 71, is alleged to have been central to their plans, the reports said.

Among those arrested in 11 German states were two alleged ringleaders according to federal prosecutors.

The plotters are said to include members of the extremist Reichsbürger (Citizens of the Reich) movement, which has long been in



the sights of German police over violent attacks and racist conspiracy theories.

They also refuse to recognise the modern German state.

An estimated 50 men and women are alleged to have been part of the group who

are said to have plotted to overthrow the republic and replace it with a new state modelled on the Germany of 1871.

"We don't yet have a name for this group," said a spokeswoman for the federal prosecutors' office.

PANEL PROBING US CAPITOL RIOT TO MAKE 'CRIMINAL REFERRALS'

Washington | Agencies

The chair of the US House select committee investigating the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot said that they will make "criminal referrals". "We have made decisions on criminal referrals," Congressman Bennie Thompson told reporters late Tuesday.

Thompson did not reveal which witnesses the committee is considering for referrals.

Former President Donald Trump has repeatedly lashed out at the panel and its members made up of seven Democrats and two Republicans.

On January 6, 2021, Trump's supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and disrupted a joint session of Congress to affirm the 2020 presidential election results.

Approximately 140 police officers were assaulted in the mayhem to which at least five deaths have been linked.

Over 900 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the Capitol, according to the Department of Justice.



Hawaii activates National Guard as lava flow nears critical highway

Honolulu | Agencies

The world's largest active volcano, the Mauna Loa in Hawaii, has prompted the US National Guard to help as residents and tourists flock to witness the rare scene.

Since its eruption on November 27, Mauna Loa has been shooting jets of lava toward the sky and down the massive mountain, reports Xinhua news agency.

While officials said there is still no immediate risk to communities on Hawaii's Big Island, lava has now crept within 2 miles of the main highway connecting the eastern and western halves of the Big Island.

"The leading edge of the lava flow continues to have minimal movement ... and is approximately 2 miles from Daniel K. Inouye highway," the County of Hawaii's hazards website said on Tuesday.



"It does not pose a threat to any communities at this time."

During the past 24 hours, the lava flow advanced at an average rate of about 25 feet per hour (8 metres per hour), according to the update of the US Geological Survey (USGS) on Monday.

Though the advance rate has slowed in the past several days, the lava flow remains active with a continuous supply from one active fissure,

known as the fissure 3 vent, according to the USGS.

As residents and tourists flocked to witness the rare eruption, officials have enlisted the help of the National Guard.

Hawaii's Defence Department said Governor David Ige and Major General Kenneth Hara activated 20 Hawaii National Guard service members and placed them on active duty.

Officials also created a safe

viewing spot on a one-way route accessible through the Daniel K. Inouye Highway, said the Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency.

"If the eruption continues, it might cover the highway. But at this stage, it's still about 2.3 miles away from the highway. But it is advancing every day," said Natalia Deligne, a volcanologist with the USGS at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory.

"We don't know how long this eruption is going to last, and that will dictate whether or not the highway becomes more threatened," Deligne said.

The Mauna Loa volcano is erupting for the first time since 1984.

In the week since the eruption, the stream of lava has coursed northeast, away from the volcano's summit.

The eruption has attracted waves of visitors.

NEPAL TO LIFT BAN ON IMPORT OF VEHICLES, LIQUOR PRODUCTS

Kathmandu | Agencies

Nepal's cabinet has decided to lift an eight-month-long ban on the import of some vehicles, liquor products and expensive mobile sets from December 16, a cabinet minister said.

Maheshwor Jung Gahatraj, Minister for Youth and Sports, told Xinhua on Tuesday that a decision to lift the ban was made by the cabinet.

The ban was first imposed in April this year amid depleting foreign exchange reserves over surging imports, targeting luxuries, including tobacco, diamonds as well as some vehicles, liquor products and expensive smartphones, Xinhua news agency reported.

In late August, the government relaxed the ban, barring only the entry of targeted vehicles, expensive mobile sets and liquor products till October 13, and the ban was extended later till mid-December.

The business community in Nepal has been demanding an end to the import ban, citing business losses and the move's failure to stop the decline in forex reserves.

The Nepal government is also under pressure to increase its revenue as the ban means reduced tariffs. According to the Department of Customs, Nepal's total imports during the first four months of the current 2022-23 fiscal year starting in mid-July dipped by 18 per cent to 532.69 billion Nepali rupees (about \$4 billion).





"CONSPIRACY BEING HATCHED TO BREAK MAHARASHTRA": SUPRIYA SULE IN LOK SABHA

NCP leader Supriya Sule today sought intervention of the Union Home Ministry in the ongoing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha during zero hour, Sule said people of Maharashtra are getting "beaten up" every day despite the BJP being the ruling party in both the states.

Team Absolute | Mumbai/New Delhi

NCP leader Supriya Sule today sought intervention of the Union Home Ministry in the ongoing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha during zero hour, Sule said people of Maharashtra are getting "beaten up" every day despite the BJP being the ruling party in both the states. "In the last 10 days a conspiracy is being hatched to break Maharashtra. (Home Minister) Amit Shah should intervene in the matter," she said.

BJP MPs from Karnataka objected to Sule's remark, saying the matter is subjudice. Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla said it is a sensitive issue and is a matter between two states.

NCP members staged a walk out from the House in protest. The border dispute has led to clashes between the two states recently.

The border issue dates back to 1957 after the reorganisation of states on linguistic lines.

Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency as it has a sizeable Marathi-speaking population. It also laid claim to 814 Marathi-speaking villages which are currently part of the southern state. Karnataka, however, considers the demarcation done on linguistic lines as per the States Reorganisation Act and the 1967 Mahajan Commission Report as final.



Amid Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Row, Sanjay Raut's Big Accusation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Wednesday targeted the Centre and claimed incidents of violence amid the raging border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka cannot take place without "Delhi's support". Raut also hit out at Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, saying the state appeared weak to counter such attacks.



Amid the rising tension between the two states over the border row, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his Maharashtra counterpart Shinde spoke to each other over the phone on Tuesday night and agreed there should be peace and law and order should be maintained on both sides. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also spoke to Bommai on Tuesday over stone pelting on vehicles from Maharashtra entering the southern state and said he will also take up the matter with the Centre. A Maharashtra ministerial delegation's proposed visit to Belagavi in Karnataka did not materialise on Tuesday amid the simmering tension over the boundary row, while Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation suspended bus services to the southern state citing a police advisory.

Rajya Sabha member Raut in a tweet on Wednesday targeted the central government

by claiming that Marathi people and vehicles from Maharashtra cannot be attacked in Belagavi without "Delhi's support".

"Workers of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti have been arrested. The game of ending Marathi self-esteem by breaking its backbone has started. The attacks in Belagavi are part of the same conspiracy. Get up Marathas get up!" Raut said. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde says he has created a revolution, he pointed out. "What kind of a revolution it is can be seen in the manner how the state is looking weak to counter these attacks," Raut said. Those who quit the Shiv Sena saying they have self-respect have now decided to stay silent, he tweeted. Later, talking to reporters, Raut said, "Declare Belagavi a Union Territory." People are ready to go to Belagavi under the leadership of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar, he said.

11 villages seek merger with Karnataka over basic facilities

Team Absolute | Pune

Eleven villages in Akkalkot tehsil of Maharashtra's Solapur district have asked the district administration to provide them basic facilities or grant them permission to merge with adjoining Karnataka.

The merger demand has come at a time when the decades-old border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka has flared up once again. Both states stake claim on certain border areas under each other's control.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had earlier staked claim over Jat taluka and some "Kannada-speaking" areas of Akkalkot tehsil and Solapur.

The gram panchayats of Kallakarjal, Kegaon, Shegaon, Korsegaon, Aalge, Dharsang, Andewadi (Khurd), Hilli, Devikavathe, Mangrul and Shawal in Akkalkot tehsil on Monday submitted a list of their demands to the Solapur collector.

The villages, in the list, have asked the district administration to provide them basic facilities or permit them to merge with Karnataka if their demands are not met.

Sagunabai Hatture, the sarpanch of Aalagi, one of the 11 villages, claimed that there were no proper roads, power supply and water in these areas.

"As there is no proper road to our village, teachers and medical staff at the primary health centre cannot come to the village. Youngsters find it difficult to go out to access education and for other works due to lack of

connectivity," Hatture said.

A resolution was passed in the gram panchayat to submit a letter to the district collector asking the government to provide basic facilities to these villages or allow them to merge with Karnataka, she said.

A resident of Aalagi, Mahantesh Hatture said the adjoining areas in Karnataka have enough water and good road connectivity.

These villages faced water problems and the road connectivity was deplorable, said Appasaheb Shatgar, the sarpanch of Hilli village.

"A lot of water is released during the monsoon season from the Ujani dam and due to improper management, sugarcane fields and houses get flooded. However, in summers no water is released to our areas. We have to beg politicians and officials concerned for water," Shatgar said.

He further said the school infrastructure was inadequate and the healthcare system was also not up to the mark.

Shatgar pointed out that all basic facilities such as motorable roads, street lights and adequate power supply were available in Karnataka.

"We have no affection towards Karnataka, but for how long can we face this injustice? It has been 75 years now," he said, arguing that if the Maharashtra government had provided basic facilities to villages they would not have demanded merger with the adjoining state. Multiple phone calls and a message to Solapur collector Milind Shambharkar went unanswered.

Maha-K'taka border flare-up: Bus services suspended, trucks grounded



Team Absolute | Mumbai

For the second day, thousands of state transport and private buses, and goods truck services from Maharashtra to Karnataka remained suspended in view of the disturbances in the border districts, officials said here on Wednesday.

This has badly hit thousands of passengers, students

or local commuters travelling between the two states for different reasons, besides stopping the transportation and supply of all types of materials, including commercial goods, foods, etc, from Maharashtra to Karnataka and vice-versa.

A Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) Spokesperson said that since Tuesday around 750 ST bus services from here to Karnataka have been suspended till further orders.

The Bombay Good Transport Association committee member Deepak Verma said that around 2,500 trucks cross into Karnataka from Maharashtra carrying all types of materials, including perishable foodstuffs, which have been stranded at various points en route. Verma said these include

goods trucks from other states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh which ferry stuff to Karnataka via Maharashtra border routes.

Besides there are around an estimated 1,000 private buses, mini-buses, vans, tempo or other smaller transport vehicles which are stuck owing to the skirmishes on both sides of the border over the past 24 hours, though the number of vehicles exiting Karnataka to Maharashtra is not available.

The simmering situation abruptly flared up on Tuesday after some alleged activists of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike attacked several buses and trucks entering the state from the Belagavi (Belgaum) border. This sparked off a retaliation against the Karnataka vehi-

Sharad Pawar gives 24-hr ultimatum to stop attacks on Maharashtra vehicles

Mumbai: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday blamed Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai for the "worrisome" situation in the border areas with Maharashtra and warned the state's "patience" will take a different turn if attacks on vehicles entering the southern state from Maharashtra are not stopped in 24 hours. He said the Karnataka government and the Centre will be responsible if law and order deteriorates. Pawar also said the time has come to take a stand in view of the situation in the areas on the Maharashtra-Karnataka border. "Maharashtra has taken a stand of observing patience and it is still ready to do that. But even that has a limit. In 24 hours, if the attacks on vehicles are not stopped then this patience will take a different path and the responsibility will be completely on the Karnataka chief minister and the Karnataka government," Pawar told reporters. Pawar said MPs from Maharashtra will meet Union Home minister Amit Shah to ensure normalcy is restored. "But Karnataka CM gives provocative statements, and if attacks by his associates continue then it is a jolt for the unity of the government. If someone takes law and order in their hands, then the responsibility is with the Karnataka government and Centre," he said.



cles in Maharashtra and also snowballed into a massive political fracas that has now reached the Centre's court. Unless the situation becomes normal soon in the borders -- Maharashtra's Kolhapur, Sangli and Solapur districts

share a boundary with Karnataka -- officials from the state are planning optional routes via other states to divert traffic between the two states to avert a possible economic fallout of the political dispute.

MAN THRASHED FATHER, KILLS MOTHER AFTER DISPUTE OVER HOUSE

Team Absolute | Palghar

A man allegedly killed his 50-year-old mother after a dispute in Palghar district, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday evening in Vikramgad area and the 30-year-old accused was arrested on Wednesday, they said. The accused had a dispute with his father over the construction of their house under a government scheme. On Tuesday, the accused beat up his father over the issue. When his mother intervened to save her husband, the accused allegedly attacked her with a roof tile and killed her, police spokesperson Sachin Navadkar said. Their neighbours alerted local police who rushed to the spot and sent the body to a government hospital for post-mortem, he said. Based on a complaint by the deceased woman's husband, the police arrested the accused and registered a case against him under relevant provisions, the official said.

State can gain Rs 5,700 cr by 'repurposing' old coal plants for clean energy: Report

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Repurposing some of the oldest and most expensive coal power plants by using the land and some of its old infrastructure to generate clean energy can give benefits of around Rs 5,700-crore, a new study has said.

The first of its kind analysis -- commissioned by Climate Risk Horizon -- was conducted by Dr. Gireesh Shrimali, Head of Transition Finance Research, the University of Oxford's 'Oxford Sustainable Finance Group'.

It has made a quantification of costs and benefits associated with retiring and repurposing 4,020MW of the old coal units at Nashik, Chandrapur, Bhusaval (Jalgaon), Koradi and Khaparkheda (both Nagpur). Dr. Shrimali's report states how Maharashtra can maximise financial gains from repurposing the older units, gradually reducing its dependence on coal in the coming decade, in tune with India's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Climate Accord.

"Maharashtra is among the leading states in the country's energy transition efforts. The study demonstrates how the repurposing of the state's older expensive coal plants can provide a financially attractive opportunity to accelerate the

He added that these old coal units are near or past their end of life and have high running costs, up to Rs 6/kWh, plus they need to be retrofitted with air pollution control equipment to comply with emission standards, at considerable expense.

Earlier studies have already shown how retiring old coal plants and replacing them with new, renewable energy can generate huge savings by way of reduced electricity costs.

However, he said the CRH analysis specifically considered the plants in Maharashtra, the detailed decommissioning costs and financial benefits that



could be derived from repurposing the existing assets like land, electrical infrastructure for a combination of a solar PV, battery storage and grid stabilization services, he said.

"The financial gains of repurposing some or all of these (old) coal plants could be between 2-4 times the costs of decommissioning and would cover a substantial proportion of the new capital expenditure required for solar, batteries and synchronous condensers, said Dr. Shrimali on his findings.

The total decommissioning costs for the units assessed was around Rs 1,756 crore, while the one-time benefits from repurposing for solar PV with battery storage would be Rs 4,357 crore, as per the study. If the old power plant turbo generator is also repurposed to serve as a synchronous condenser,

the benefits would go up to Rs 5,700 crore, said the CRH-commissioned study.

All these would reduce the cost of renewable energy generated to Rs 1.87 and Rs 2.69 per unit for solar PV and PV with battery storage, respectively, providing the Maharashtra State Power Generation Company with a cheap source of flexible power, added Dr. Shrimali.

With the severe air and water pollution problems caused by coal plants, it is imperative that Maharashtra reduce its dependence on expensive and obsolete coal plants, long term solutions not just for public health but also to arrest the rise in electricity prices, urged Green Plant Society President Suresh Chopane.

MUMBAI CIVIC BODY WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IN CASE OF ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENT DUE TO OPEN MANHOLES: HC

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday said while it appreciates the work being done by the city's civic body to cover open manholes, but until then if there is any untoward incident, then the corporation would be held responsible. A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Abhay Ahuja said it was concerned over the issue of open manholes across the city and sought the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to come up with a permanent solution. The bench was hearing a bunch of petitions raising concerns over the increasing number of potholes across Maharashtra and also open manholes.

BMC's counsel Anil Sakhare told the court on Wednesday that the civic body was addressing the issue of open manholes on a "war-footing basis" and work was on to close all such manholes.

The bench then said while the corporation's efforts are appreciated but if till then there was any unto-



ward incident, then the BMC would be held responsible. "Good you (BMC) are working but till then if harm is caused to anyone, we will hold you responsible. We are appreciating the BMC but what happens if a manhole is open and someone falls down," Chief Justice Datta said.

"In such a situation, we won't ask the aggrieved person to initiate civil suit (for compensation)...we will say that your officers are responsible," he added.

The bench suggested the BMC make use of modern science and technology and devise something by which the officer concerned is alerted the moment the lid of a manhole is removed.

"In this modern day of science and technology, can't we think of something else. Why don't you (BMC)

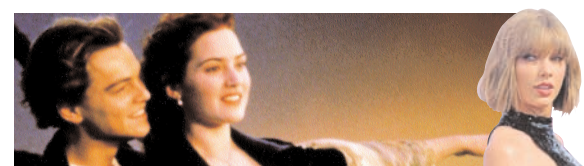
devise something by which you come to know if someone even touches the cover. Then a beep goes off in your office. Why don't you come up with something like a sensor?" the court said.

The bench also suggested use of iron grills below the manhole cover.

"You must do some progressive thinking. It is your job. We cannot keep saying what needs to be done," the court said.

The bench further said there has to be some standard operating procedure to address the issue of open manholes.

"A solution has to be provided by you. What should be the appropriate solution for this... you tell us. We need permanent measures," the HC said posting the matter for further hearing on December 19.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Idina Menzel's ex-boyfriend almost abandoned her in Paris after they spent the whole vacation fighting. The actress went on her "first romantic vacation" with an old boyfriend in her 20s and revealed that they fought so much in the French capital that he almost split up with her but they eventually returned home together, reports. Speaking on "The Kelly Clarkson Show", she said: "When I was like 25 I went on my first kind of grown-up romantic vacation and we went to Paris but he almost left me there, just in front of this restaurant because I was driving him crazy. I remember thinking 'This is Paris! Every time we would fight about something, I just thought 'You can't fight in Paris' and it got just got worse and worse. He kept me around though. I don't know, he was so Type A and I'm a creative. He was so in his

Idina Menzel's ex-boyfriend almost abandoned her in Paris after fighting

head and was a lawyer-type. I hope he's not watching!" "It was like, career, working mom trying to get back for trick-or-treating and basketball games and I was doing IVF at the time. I was late in the game, I have my beautiful little son but in my 40s I tried. It didn't work out but I tried hard and I was doing it. "On the morning of Madison Square Garden, I had to go to the doctor and check my hormones and do all this stuff. So the documentary ended up being less about a girl trying to have a great rock concert at MSG and more about me just trying to live my life."

Los Angeles | Agencies

IT IS A TOTALLY NEW AND EXCITING EXPERIENCE FOR ME: CHERYL

Los Angeles | Agencies

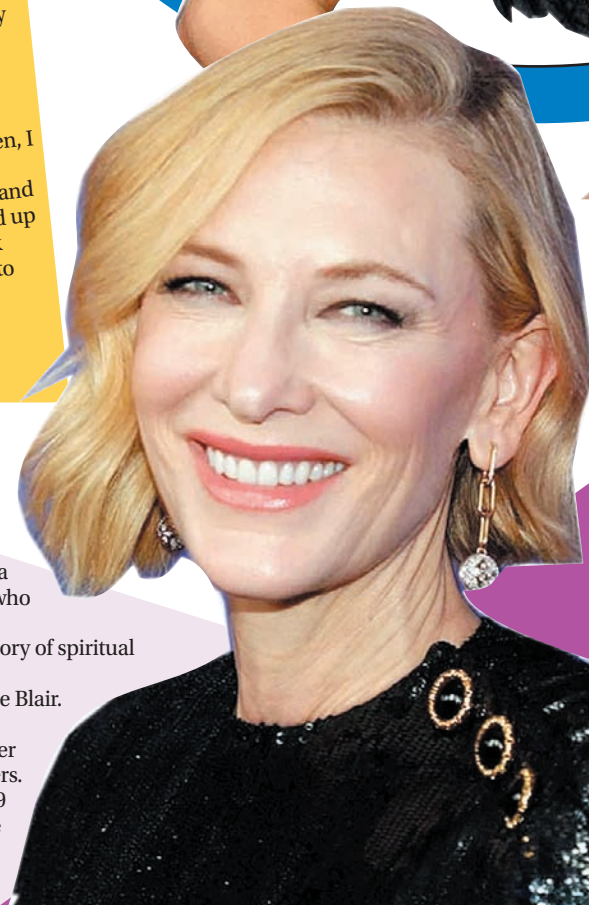
Cheryl will make her West End debut next year in 2:22 A Ghost Story. The Girls Aloud singer has been announced as the new lead in the popular play, taking over the part of Jenny, which is currently being played by Laura Whitmore. Cheryl, excitedly shared the news on Instagram, gushing that 'it is a totally new experience for me.' The star has previously played herself in Hollywood movie what to Expect When You're Expecting and had a small role as a cutthroat music agent in 2020 film Four Kids and It. 'Hey!!!... I am SO excited to be starring in the west end thriller @222aghoststory!! I will be playing the role of Jenny from January - April!' Cheryl wrote on Instagram alongside her cast photo.

'I went to see the show with a previous cast and LOVED IT!! It is a totally new and exciting experience for me so if you're looking for a fun night out & some entertainment in your new year tickets are available now....whenver you're ready!! #222aghost-story.'



Hollywood star Cate Blanchett has wrapped up shooting for 'The New Boy', a drama film by Australian Indigenous filmmaker Warwick Thornton. Blanchett takes both a starring role and a producer credit in the film, reports. Set in 1940s Australia, 'The New Boy' is the story of a nine-year-old Aboriginal orphan boy (portrayed by newcomer Aswan Reid) who arrives in the dead of night at a remote monastery, run by a renegade nun (Blanchett). There his presence disturbs the delicately balanced world in a story of spiritual struggle and the cost of survival.

Other established names in the cast include Deborah Mailman and Wayne Blair. An ensemble of new faces including Shane Brady, Tyrique Brady, Laiken Woolmington, Kailen Miller, Kyle Miller, Tyzailin Roderick and Tyler Spencer round out the cast. Thornton is one of Australia's most celebrated filmmakers. His 'Samson And Delilah' won the Camera d'Or for best first film at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival. His 'Sweet Country' won the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival and the Platform Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2017.



Cate Blanchett wraps up her upcoming drama film shooting

Kanye West once again made another round of anti-semitic comments

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West once again made another round of anti-semitic comments. On Tuesday, the rapper/designer had a sit-down with Proud Boys founder Gavin McInnes where he claimed that Jewish people need to "forgive Hitler", reports.

Titled "Saving Ye", the 45-minute interview saw McInnes and Ye discussing the disgraced artist's hate speech against the Jewish community. In the beginning of the video, McInnes, who founded right-wing extremist group Proud Boys in 2016, said that he set up the interview to try to "prevent Ye West from becoming an anti-Semite or a Nazi."

He explained, "I'm going to talk him off the ledge and bring him back to the understanding that our problem is liberal elites of all races, Kamala Harris is a major problem. Barack Obama is a major (problem). Barack Obama is what started this whole



mess. I would argue we weren't really into racism before he came along."

Kanye, however, opted to double down on his views instead.

"Jewish people can't tell me who I can love and who I can't love," he said in the discussion, which was moderated by far-right personality and one of Ye's campaign team member Nick Fuentes. "You can't force your pain on everyone else."

He then urged Jewish people to stop hating on Adolf Hitler. "Jewish people - forgive Hitler today," he added. "Let it go. Let it go. Stop trying to force it on other people."

Kanye went on to say that Jews gave the Nazi leader a bad reputation because "they were upset that Hitler was kicking them out of the country." He later compared the Holocaust to abortion.

ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Olivia Wilde

Grandmother at 37! The best thing ever happened to me: Elizabeth Elliott

Los Angeles | Agencies

Yorkshire mum revealed how she was thrilled to become a grandma at the age of 37 after her daughter battled through endometriosis to give birth at 18. Elizabeth Elliott, from Pontefract, West Yorkshire, welcomed her granddaughter, Elizabeth-Hope, into the world last year and is delighted with how her daughter Chloe, has taken to motherhood.

After having Chloe at a young age, Elizabeth assumed her daughter would not follow in her footsteps, even encourage her to wait to have a baby.

Chloe had struggled with endometriosis and polycystic ovaries and Elizabeth had not thought she would ever be a grandma, so the pregnancy came as a happy surprise.

Elizabeth explained: 'Becoming a grandma



at 37 was the best thing that ever happened to me.

'It was just a miracle that came out of a bad situation with Chloe being so unwell.

'When she got pregnant it was a shock, but it was a welcomed shock as she's still doing her A-levels, but she's doing it from home and her baby is now in the midst of it all.

'I think her having a baby saved her life, it's something she's always dreamt of as we were worried it would never happen because of her endometriosis - it was a real blessing.

'People are always shocked I'm a grandma. People think I'm the mum, but I point out Chloe is the mum.

'I get told I look too young to be a grandma.'

Elizabeth is proud of how Chloe has worked hard to make sure she is the best mum possible.



FIFA WORLD CUP

RAMOS NOTCHES HAT-TRICK AS PORTUGAL ROUT SWITZERLAND 6-1

Doha | Agencies

A hat-trick from Benfica striker Goncalo Ramos helped Portugal to coast to an emphatic 6-1 win over Switzerland and set up a quarter-final clash with dark horses Morocco.

On Tuesday at Lusail Stadium in Qatar, the 21-year-old striker, who replaced Cristiano Ronaldo in the starting lineup, scored three decisive goals in the 17th, 51st and 67th minute to notch the first hat-trick of the tournament and to live up to the faith reposed by Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

Switzerland pulled one back in the 58th minute with Manuel Akanji scoring a consolation goal.

Felix, was not afraid to move deep in the Switzerland with his dribbling skills and also had the foresight to slice open the defence with his prodding runs in the rival half. He also fell back and also showed his defending skills along with his offensive ones.

After much attacking play, Portugal opened the scoring with a gem of a goal from Ramos, who beat Switzerland keeper Yann Sommer with a thunderbolt. He received the ball with his back towards goal, took a touch to turn and let fly and it took off with incredible venom and flew into the top corner, 1-0.

Ramos, who plays in the Portuguese Primeira Liga has been in terrific form



this season, scoring 14 goals and six assists for his club this season across all competitions and is also the top scorer in the league, with nine goals in 11 appearances. Portugal added a second one through Pepe, who finished off the set piece with a towering header from a corner taken by Bruno Fernandes to double the lead, 2-0. In the second half Portugal continued to draw Switzerland in circles and it took them six minutes into the second half to make it 3-0.

Ramos, a product of Benfica's youth academy, scored his second one of the night as he met a hard, low cross of Dalot and darted in to guide it at the far post for Portugal's third, 3-0.

Defender Guerreiro, who time and again joined the attacking flock got his name on the goal scorers list, finishing off a move with another thunderbolt

after set up by Ramos, 4-0. Three minutes later, Akanji made it 5-1 pulling one back for the Swiss, tapping home a corner at the far post which travelled above everyone's head and ended at the feet of the Swiss striker, 4-1.

Ramos added his personal third catching the Swiss defence napping as he latched on to a pass from Felix inside the box and chips over the onrushing Sommer to make it 5-1.

Hat-trick beyond 'wildest dreams': Ramos

"Not even in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be in the starting 11 in the knockout phase. Cristiano as our captain did what he always does. He helped us and he encouraged us - not only me but all of my teammates."

Mumbai Kenkre hold Raj U'ted to 1-1 draw

New Delhi: Hosts Rajasthan United were held to a 1-1 draw by Mumbai Kenkre in the sixth-round tie of the Hero I-League 2022-23 at the Dr Ambedkar Stadium, here on Wednesday. In a game which lived up only in the second half, it was Mumbai Kenkre's Aman Gaikwad who put his team in the lead before it was cancelled out by Rajasthan United's Kyrgyz midfielder Bektur Amangeldiev.

I-League Gokulam Kerala register 3-0 win over Sudeva Delhi



Manjeri: Gokulam Kerala FC registered a 3-0 win against Sudeva Delhi FC in their I-League 2022-23 sixth-round clash at the Payyanad Stadium, here on Wednesday.

Dodi Ndo's second-half strike, followed by a Shijin T brace gave the defending champions their first win in four matches, taking them to third place on the standings. However, for the visitors, the result means a fifth straight loss as they remain rooted to the bottom of the points table.

The first half was a tense affair, with the action limited mostly to the middle of the pitch and scoring chances only a few and far between. Gokulam Kerala continued to dominate proceedings right till the end of the match, coming close to scoring on a couple of occasions and also keeping their clean sheet intact. At the final whistle, the final score read 3-0 in favour of the hosts.

World Weightlifting Championships

Mirabai Chanu clinches silver despite wrist pain



Bogota | Agencies

Star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu battled wrist pain to clinch a silver medal in the women's 49kg division at the World Weightlifting Championships 2022, here.

Mirabai lifted a total weight of 200kg (87kg snatch + 113kg clean and jerk) on Tuesday night for her second world championships medal. She won the gold in 2017 and finished fourth in the 2019 edition.

The Indian hurt her wrist during training in September. She then competed at the National Games the following month despite the injury.

"It's an emotionally proud moment for me to bring another world championship medal back home after five

long years. The competition at the world championship is always intense with the best Olympian competing at the highest level," said Mirabai after winning the medal.

"I had a wrist pain but I am always ready to push myself to cross the line for my country....I hope I'll be able to give India more of such moments, preferably a Gold at the Asian Games and Paris Olympics as well," she added.

Apart from overall silver, Mirabai Chanu also won silver in the clean and jerk.

Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medallist Achinta Sheuli (men's 73kg), CWG silver medallist Bindyarani Devi (women's 59kg) and CWG bronze winner Gurdeep Singh (men's +109kg) are also competing in the event for India.

Trust factor in our team is our biggest strength: Harmanpreet Kaur

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Ahead of their five-match T20I series against Australia starting from December 9 in Mumbai, India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur feels that the trust factor within the current women's team is their biggest strength as a unit.

"The most positive thing I feel is that they are opening up in front of me because if they don't open up, then even I won't be able to help them. They are trusting me, my plans and my powers and all these things are very important."

"I feel the support we are receiving from the other team members and the efforts the team is putting in is the reason for getting these positive results because if you have that trust on your team, you cannot lag anywhere on the field."

"So, it's the trust factor that



we have within the team, is the strength we have right now. The reason we are improving as a team and are able to give results every tournament is the trust factor that is helping us."

"For me, it is very important keeping all the players together because according to me, everyone should be able to share their views and be treated with equal importance. I know there are a few team performers who can go

out and do well for the team, but you still need your other players who are with the team that need to be treated equally too because sometimes, some players need higher support."

"So, as a captain, and as a leader, it is my responsibility that I go out and speak to them on how they are feeling and how they can improve as a cricketer. So, I think all this is really helping me to lead them on the field."

IND v BAN 2nd ODI

India lose to Bangladesh by 5 runs

Dhaka | Agencies

Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel and an injured Rohit Sharma hit valiant half-centuries, but their efforts went in vain as India lost the second ODI to Bangladesh in a thrilling encounter at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SNCS) in here, on Wednesday.

India was in troubled waters, and was steered out of it by 82 from Shreyas and run-a-ball 56 from Axar. Rohit, despite a tapping on his injured left thumb which didn't allow him to open, hit an unbeaten 51 off 28 balls and threatened to take the match away from Bangladesh.

Joining from 65/4 in 18.3 overs, Shreyas began by paddle-sweeping left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed, while Axar slammed a six over the bowler's head. Shreyas was quick in getting a brace of boundaries off Mehidy while Axar employed slog-sweep against Shakib for a huge six. Post reaching his fifty, Shreyas used his feet well against spinners for boundaries and was fluent in his square drive, slice against fast bowlers. Just as he looked to go big for another six, Shreyas picked out



Brief scores

Bangladesh 271/7 in 50 overs (Mehidy Hasan Miraz 100 not out, Mahmudullah 77; Washington Sundar 3/37, Umran Malik 2/58) beat India 266/9 in 50 overs (Shreyas Iyer 82, Axar Patel 56; Ebadot Hossain 3/45, Shakib Al Hasan 2/39) by five runs.

deep mid-wicket off Mehidy, bringing the 107-run partnership off 101 balls to an end. But Axar continued with his clean lofts and slog-sweeps against Nasum and Mehidy to get his second fifty of this year. Axar's stay, though, ended in 39th over, when Ebadot cramped him for room and forced the batter to hit straight to extra cover. Things got tougher for India as Shardul Thakur was easily stumped while Deepak Chahar holed out in the deep. Rohit came out to bat at number nine and swivel-pulled Ebadot for a brace of sixes, before timing an elegant off-drive in the 46th over. But with Mahmudullah conceding just a solitary run in the 47th over and

Mustafizur bowling a maiden 48th over, things looked tough for India.

Rohit slog-swept and pulled Mahmudullah for a brace of sixes in the 49th over, where he was dropped twice in the deep, though the all-rounder castled Mohammed Siraj on the final ball. With 20 needed off the final over, Rohit sliced Mustafizur through third man and in the gap between point and short third man. He swatted the left-arm pace down the ground on the fifth ball, but Mustafizur had the last laugh as Rohit couldn't get a run on a yorker, depriving him of the room to swing hard, to give Bangladesh an unassailable lead in the series.

ROHIT SHARMA SUFFERED BLOW TO LEFT THUMB

Dhaka | India skipper Rohit Sharma had been sent to hospital for an X-ray after suffering a blow to his left thumb while fielding in the ongoing second ODI against Bangladesh.

Rohit suffered the injury in the second over when he attempted to take a catch at second slip of Anamul Haque off pacer Mohammed Siraj. Siraj pitched the length ball outside the off-stump and Haque hung his bat in the corridor without any footwork.

The ball went to Rohit, who could not hold on to it as the ball dipped on him, despite trying to get both hands to it. The ball hit his thumb, and he went off the field immediately for treatment, with Rajat Patidar coming in as a substitute fielder.

BWF World Tour Finals

HS PRANNOY LOSES TO JAPAN'S NARAOKA IN OPENER

Ace Indian badminton player HS Prannoy lost to Kodai Naraoka of Japan in his opening men's singles group A match of the BWF World Tour Finals 2022, here on Wednesday.



Bangkok (Thailand) | Agencies

Prannoy, 12th in the badminton world rankings, went down to the world No. 14 Japanese shuttler 12-21, 21-9, 17-21 in a clash, which lasted exactly one hour.

The Indian was playing with a strap-up on the right knee and made a tentative start to the match while Naraoka was much quicker and led Prannoy 11-6 at the break. Eventually, Naraoka exploited

Prannoy's lack of movement by making back-and-forth placements and took the 1-0 lead. Prannoy countered his opponent in the second game by playing more at the net. The tactic helped him win seven points on the trot after being tied at 3-3 and then level the match 1-1.

The Indian badminton player stepped up his attacks and started the decider leading 7-5. However, Naraoka's cross-court shots from the net helped him go into the break with an 11-9 lead.

Despite not being able to take the lead, Indian equalised thrice after the change of ends in the decider. However, Prannoy's three unforced errors after the game was tied at 17-17 saw Kodai Naraoka win the game and match.

Prannoy will play world No. 17 Lu Guang Zu on Thursday before facing off against Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in his final group match on Friday. The top two players from the group will advance to the semi-finals.

FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022

Indian women's hockey team is making final adjustments to their game



The Indian women's hockey team is busy making final adjustments to their game as they gear up to compete in the FIH Women's Nations Cup 2022, which begins on December 11.

Valencia (Spain) | Agencies

India is grouped in Pool B along with Canada, Japan and South Africa. The other teams in the fray are Ireland,

Italy, Korea and Spain, who are grouped in Pool A. The team, led by goalkeeper Savita, lost the first practice match 0-1 before drawing 1-1 and losing 1-3. They will play Ireland in another practice

game on Thursday before starting their campaign against Canada on Sunday.

On December 11, India will take on Canada in their opening match at 1845 hrs IST.



I try to find a deeper meaning in my performances: Kirti Kulhari

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Actress Kirti Kulhari is all set for her short film 'Rest Of The Night' opposite Vishwas Kini. She talks about playing a woman stuck at home during the pandemic and brings out her emotional turmoil.

She says: "Rest Of The Night' is about being stuck mentally and emotionally. It's about relationships... How they give us so much, but also take away so much... It's a story of a woman unable to move on and find closure. The film emphasises the need to take care of one's mental health and how it's important to express and share your emotions." Kirti was seen in movies such as 'Shaitan', 'Pink', 'Blackmail', 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', and the web series 'Four More Shots Please'. The actress says she loves playing complex and challenging characters. In the short film, she depicts a personality going through a feeling of loneliness because she is confined at home and has no one to understand her emotions. She is suffering from insomnia also.

Kirti adds: "It's a complex character and I love playing such roles. I am, as an actor, always trying to push the envelope and find a deeper meaning in my performances."

On the work front, Kirti will be seen donning the hat of a producer for her upcoming feature film 'Nayeka'.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE BALANCE IN EVERY RELATION: SHRADDHA ARYA

Team Absolute | Mumbai



'Kundali Bhagya' actress Shraddha Arya talks about her off-screen chemistry and the friendly bond she shares with her co-actor Shakti Arora on the sets of her show.

The actress says that both of them enjoy spending time with each other and they love to discuss different topics. "Shakti and I share an extremely different bond than what viewers watch on screen. Shakti is a very supportive co-actor and a gentleman at heart. In between our shots, when we rehearse for our scenes, sometimes we end up chatting about something totally different and then we lose track of time."

Shraddha is a known face of the TV industry and has been part of several shows including 'Main Lakshmi Tere Aangan Ki', 'Tumhari Paakhi', and 'Dream Girl'. She joined 'Kundali Bhagya' in 2017 and gained a lot of popularity for her portrayal of Dr Preeta Arora.

"Shooting with him has become easy and fun now because we have this unsaid understanding between us. I think it is important to have a balance in every relationship and it is wonderful that Shakti and I keep our personal and professional bond separate," she adds.

Proud to be part of show that raises issues people cringe to talk about: Rupali Ganguly

Team Absolute | Mumbai

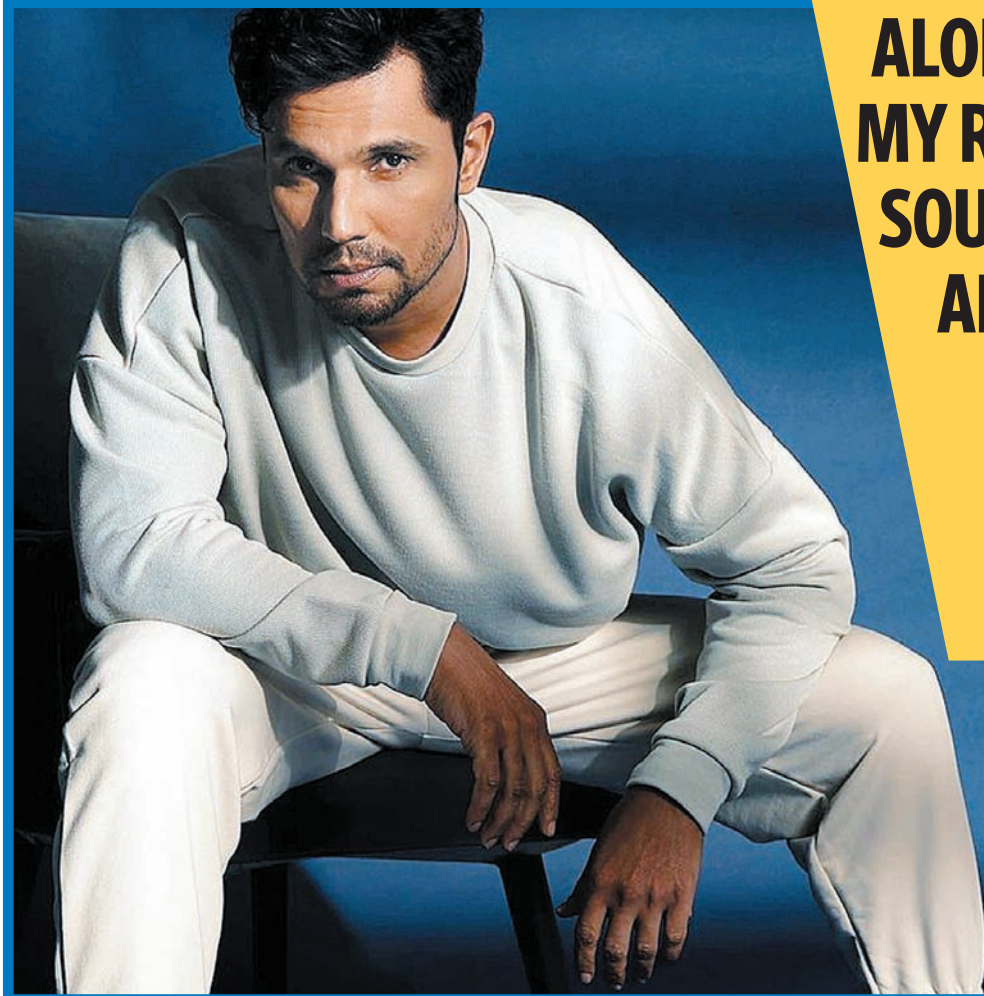
Rupali Ganguly, who is currently seen playing the titular role in the show 'Anupamaa' talks about the ongoing track where Anupamaa is helping the rape victim in fighting her battle for justice. The actress says that raising such issues is quite important and she is fortunate to be part of a show which is trying to give out a strong message.

She says: "I feel very proud that I am a part of a show which raises the issues about which people cringe to talk about. People want to kind of put topics under the rug and forget about them. I am glad that we are raising issues that need to be brought forth. My producer is very gutsy to pick a subject like this. The entire point was to bring people out of their comfort zone and say, 'Hey, this happened. And what better to say than to say it through Anupamaa?'" Rupali, who became a household name with shows such as 'Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai', 'Sanjivani', 'Baa Bahoo Aur Baby', and many more, shares further that the current track is meant to motivate people to understand the importance of opening up about such abuse because hiding it is not going to resolve any problem. "The idea behind bringing up this topic was that such things have been happening for years but still talking about such things has been considered a taboo with our current plot. We want people to be comfortable talking about such things," she adds.



ALONG WITH MY ROLE, THE SOUNDTRACK APPEALS TO ME A LOT: RANDEEP HOODA

Team Absolute | Mumbai



Randeep Hooda, who is currently making headlines for his upcoming web series 'CAT', gives a brief about his role and the compositions that go in sync with the entire plot and feel of the show.

The 'Highway' actor will be seen playing the role of Gurnam Singh, who is a simple and innocent man trapped in a drug trafficking conspiracy and the story revolves around what all he has to face because of the involvement of some powerful people. "The character of Gurnam Singh is very close to my heart because of how complex and layered he is. You could love or hate him, and you wouldn't be wrong to do either."

There are about eight tracks in the album that are composed by V Rakx Music and penned by Toofan Singh Gill and CA Rudra. They are sung by Swarjit Singh, Jaz Dhama, Sanj V and Lovleen Kaur. He adds about the songs and music of the series which he found as exciting as his role. "Along with my role, the soundtrack appeals to me a lot. V Rakx and the others really did a stunning job all around, especially with 'Tutde Star'."

Actress Hasleen Kaur adds about her working experience with Randeep and says: "It has been an enriching experience to work with someone as accomplished as Randeep Hooda. I have learned so much from him and the entire cast. While 'CAT' is intense and action-packed, it brings out an authentic Punjabi setting be it the dialogues, the locations, and even the soundtrack... which I really hope makes it into everyone's playlist soon." The crime thriller is directed by Balwinder Singh Janjua. It is centered around a simple and innocent man, who gets trapped in a drug trafficking conspiracy between gangs, police, and politicians. How he deals with it is what is to be seen in the series.

GURU RANDHAWA 'GROUNDED, CREATIVE AND AN INTELLIGENT MAN': NARGIS FAKHRI

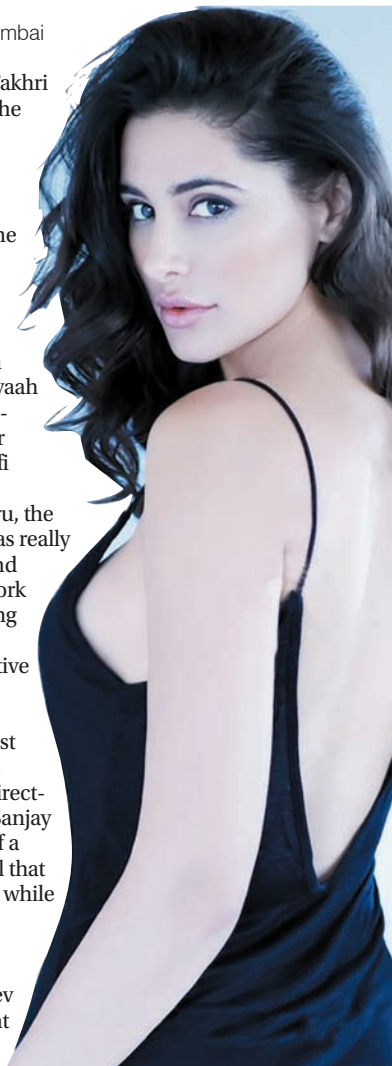
Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Nargis Fakhri is ecstatic for the release of her upcoming number 'Fayaah Fayaah' with Guru Randhawa, whom she calls a "grounded, creative and an intelligent man".

The actress posted on Instagram about their song 'Fayaah Fayaah' with the caption "Cannot wait for you to enter the Sci-fi Universe with us!"

Talking about Guru, the actress shared: "It was really fun shooting for it and Guru was great to work with. I enjoyed getting to know him. He's a very grounded, creative and an intelligent man."

The actress was last seen in 'Torbaaz', an action thriller film directed by Girish Malik. Sanjay Dutt plays the role of a medical professional that lost his wife and son while he was placed in the Indian Embassy in Kabul, while Nargis Fakhri and Rahul Dev play other prominent characters.



VADH: A NO-FILTER SELFIE OF THE HARSH WORLD

FILM REVIEW

BY SHACHI CHATURVEDI

Director: Jaspal Singh Sandhu & Rajeev Barnwal

Cast: Sanjay Mishra & Neena Gupta

Runtime: 1 hr 50 min

Ratings: 3/5

Synopsis: The story revolves around an elderly married couple who were content with their ordinary middle-class life until their son decided to pursue further education in the United States. The couple has sacrificed everything to send their son overseas, but in exchange they receive nothing.

Review: Vadh, starring Sanjay Mishra and Neena Gupta, depicts the harsh realities of the world in a direct manner. The film comes across as a no-filter selfie of many houses. The film opens with an introduction to the characters of Sanjay Mishra and Neena Gupta. Initially, the film offers the impression that it is about a middle-class couple, but as we progress you realise that this film has several layers to it. The title of the film, Vadh, is self-explanatory.

The term 'Vadh' means 'to eliminate the wicked,' which is precisely what



Sanjay Mishra does in the film. This film depicts middle-class despair, the realities of ungrateful youth, and a monster in human form.

When it comes to stellar performances, Sanjay Mishra is the master of his craft. From funny parts to serious ones like this, the man can do it all. Concerning Neena Gupta, it appears that the lady has resolved to deliver all of her greatest performances this year. This year, Neena has exhibited all of her shades. From Goodbye to Vadh, the lady is killing it.

Coming up, technical aspects of filmmaking and music. Although there aren't many songs in the film, the back-

ground soundtrack is so fantastic that it creates the necessary tension for the audience. When it comes to the camera, it's always nice to witness a film with the necessary close-ups and pans, as well as effective use of space and location.

A thing to notice is that, while the filmmakers attempted to add a humorous element to a few sequences in order to make the film digestible, it appears that the film is still too dark, and audiences may avoid viewing it as a result.

Conclusion: This film is an honest attempt to depict the harsh truth of the world, and it is worth seeing.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Raai Laxmi