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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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IND vs BAN Test Series : India's top-order collapses in chase ...



School students sit in an arrangement that reads 'Welcome 2023' on the eve of New Year in Mathura on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

Highest-ever arrival of tourists in Himachal to ring in New Year

FOR THE WHITE BEAUTY

- Mountain peaks viewed from Shimla, and the Dhauladhar peaks overlooking Tibetan Buddhist leader Dalai Lama's official palace in McLeodganj near Dharamsala are covered with a fresh white blanket.
- Himachal Pradesh has no high-end hotels and restaurants in far-off areas. Rural home-stays that started in 2008 have been driving tourists to the interiors and that are the best option to stay and enjoy the virgin nature and snowy landscape.
- Members of the hospitality industry told correspondent that most of the hotels across the state have been seeing close to 95 per cent occupancy.

Vishal Gulati | Shimla | Manali

Defying Covid-19 protocols amidst the scare of the new Omicron variant, crowds of holidaymakers have descended onto Himachal Pradesh's popular tourist resorts Shimla, Narkanda, Dharamsala, Kalpa, Manali, Dalhousie and elsewhere, the highest-ever arrival of tourists in the history, to ring in the New Year with carnivals and musicals amidst a snowy landscape.

After a day of snowfall in Manali, Kalpa and other destinations on higher reaches, turning them more picturesque, the Met Office in Shimla on Saturday predicted the sun will shine across the state till January 5, 2023.

But the prevailing minimum temperature in most of the places will stay close to sub-zero with chances of dense fog in low hills. After Kothi and Solang valley receiving the snowfall, Kullu Police have advised motorists not to travel beyond Nehru Kund, 7 km from Manali town, on December 31 as the road beyond is slippery.

On December 29, tourists stranded in nearly 100 vehicles overnight in the 9.02-km long horseshoe-shaped Atal Tunnel, the world's longest motorable



tunnel, for hours after the onset of heavy snowfall in the region. The local administration had a tough time in rescuing them, a majority of them tourists who were merrymaking and taking selfies amidst the snowy landscape. With easy access to the picturesque Lahaul Valley, the two-lane Atal Tunnel constructed under the 3,978 metre Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range, some 30 km from Manali, is a memorable 'tunnel tourism' destination. According to the state tourism department, more than 20,000 tourists travel through the Atal Tunnel every day during the peak tourist season and tourism, including skiing, trekking and paragliding, is a key source of income for the local people. Manali-based

Prem Thakur of The Byke Neelkanth hotel said the tourists from Manali now prefer to travel towards the Lahaul Valley via the Atal Tunnel, rather than taking the long and treacherous route of the Rohtang Pass even when it is opened for traffic. But a word of caution for the holiday makers. The police have advised them to follow the protocol as the threat of Covid-19 looms again. "We are using drones at entry points of Shimla, Parwanoo and Pandoh for accurate estimation of the number of tourists entering the state," a police spokesperson told correspondent. Tour operators in Shimla have been advising tourists to plan trips to Narkanda to enjoy the snow-laden hills.

Over 30 British-Indians in King's New Year Honours List

London | Agencies

Cambridge professor Partha Sarathi Dasgupta and COP26 President Alok Sharma are among the more than 30 people of Indian-origin who have been honoured by King Charles III in his first New Year Honours List released in London.

Former Minister Alok Sharma, 55, has been honoured with the Order of St Michael and St George for his contribution to combating climate change through his role as the President of 26th UN Climate Change Conference.

Agra-born Sharma, who moved to the UK when he just five years old, has been recognised for "driving the UK to agree a historic agreement from individual countries that will have a major impact in addressing climate change in the future".

"His (Sharma) commitment, leadership and diplomatic skill were crucial in delivering the Glasgow Climate Pact and enabling



the Conference to agree significant and historic commitments from individual countries that will have a major impact in addressing climate change in the years to come," a UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) statement read.

Sharma was previously Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and President for COP 26 between February 2020 and January 8, 2021.

Cambridge Professor Partha Sarathi Dasgupta, raised in Varanasi, has been honoured with a Knights Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) for services to Economics and the Natural Environment. He was named Knight Bachelor in 2002 in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. More than 1,100 people were honoured in the annual list, released late on Friday, who have given exceptional service to the UK abroad and internationally.

Mohun Bagan club to have special gate named after Pele

Kolkata | Agencies

As a mark of tribute to the football legend Pele, who passed away on Thursday at the age of 82, Kolkata's iconic Mohun Bagan Athletic Club, now known as ATK Mohun Bagan, has decided to name a new gate in the club premises in the Maidan area after the Brazilian icon.

Stating that the name of the gate will be 'Pele Gate',



club secretary Debasish Dutta said, "We are trying to finish the construction of the new gate, which will be thrown open for the football lovers of the city at the earliest." The gate will act as a reminder for the football

lovers that Mohun Bagan is the only Indian club against whom Pele played, representing New York Cosmos Club.

The exhibition match played at the Eden Gardens on September 24, 1977 ended in a 2:2 draw. Mohammad Habib was and Shyam Thapa scored for Mohun Bagan. While Pele captained the Cosmos team, Mohun Bagan was led by defender Subrata Bhattacharya.

STAGE SET FOR HYDERABAD'S POPULAR TRADE FAIR NUMAISH

Hyderabad: The stage is set for 82nd All India Industrial Exhibition, the popular annual trade fair, in Hyderabad. Numaish, as one of the world's oldest annual consumer exhibitions is popularly known, will get off to a colourful start with the New Year.

As many as 2,400 stalls have been set up on the sprawling Numaish Maidan at Nampally in the heart of the city for the annual 45-day-long exhibition.

Telegram launches new updates with drawing tools, zero storage use, more

San Francisco | Agencies

Telegram Messenger has launched major updates to its application with features like new drawing and text tools, zero storage use, a profile picture for your contacts, and more.

Within the "drawing and text tool", it introduced a new blur tool to redact sensitive data (or photobombers) -- and 5 high-precision ways to choose colours, including the Eyedropper tool.

When adding text to photos or videos, users can now change its size, font, and background. To quickly add shapes like rectangles, circles, arrows, stars, and chat bubbles, tap the "+" button. Telegram supports spoiler formatting to hide any



text in messages, but now with "hidden media" users can also cover photos and videos with a shimmering layer that blurs the image. With "zero storage usage" update, users can add separate auto-remove settings for cached media from Private Chats, Groups, and Channels -- with exceptions for specific chats, also new pie charts will help visu-

alise what's taking up space, and dedicated tabs for Media, Files and Music let you clear the largest items in just a few taps.

"Profile picture for your contacts" will allow users to choose a picture for their contact, which only they will see on their profile. Open a contact's Profile then Edit, then choose 'Set Photo for' or 'Suggest Photo for', to suggest a profile picture for your contact. However, if a user only allows certain users to see their profile photos, then they can set a "public profile picture" for everyone else. This update also lets you achieve ultimate profile picture privacy. You can set visibility to 'Nobody' and add some users or groups as exceptions, said the company.

Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, Dulquer Salmaan feature in Zee Studios 2023 India slate

Los Angeles | Agencies

Ajith Kumar, Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn and Dulquer Salmaan will be seen featuring in a 28-strong Zee Studios 2023 India slate.

India's Zee Studios has revealed an extensive 2023 slate of 28 titles across languages, featuring some of the best-known names in their respective industries, reports Variety.

The titles, which include 26 films for theatrical release, a direct-to-digital film and a streaming series, are Zee Studios productions, coproductions or acquisitions.

Big ticket films include H. Vinodh's Tamil-language heist thriller 'Thunivu', starring megastar Ajith Kumar that is due in January 2023 release during the Pongal festival frame; Amit Sharma's long-awaited Hindi-language soccer epic



'Maidaan', starring Ajay Devgn, due in February. Farhad Samji's Hindi-language action-comedy 'Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan', starring superstar Salman Khan, due in April during the Eid festival frame; and 'Gadar 2', a sequel to Anil Sharma's 2001 blockbuster 'Gadar', starring Sunny Deol. Deol also stars alongside fellow veterans Sanjay Dutt, Mithun Chakraborty and Jackie Shroff in

Vivek Chauhan's 'Baap'.

Other Hindi-language highlights include Rani Mukerji in Ashima Chibber's 'Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway'; Richa Chaddha in Abhishek Acharya's 'Covid Stories'; Yami Gautam in Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's streaming-bound 'Lost'; and Rahul Bose, Ishwak Singh and Aparshakti Khurana in Atul Sabharwal's 'Berlin'. Also in Hindi, there are a brace of titles from auteur Anurag Kashyap - 'Almost Pyaar With DJ Mohabbat' that premiered at Marrakech in November and 'Kennedy', starring Sunny Leone, which is bound for an A-list festival in 2023. Fellow auteur Devashish Makhija's 'Joram' will world premiere at Rotterdam in 2023. It stars Manoj Bajpayee, who also headlines Apoorv Singh Kark's 'Bandaa'. Nawazuddin Siddiqui essays a transgender's role in 'Haddi' and also stars in 'Love is Blind'.

Devotees throng Braj Mandal temples to seek New Year blessings

Agra/Mathura

Lakhs of devotees of Sri Radha-Krishna are flocking to temples in Mathura, Vrindavan and Govardhan to seek divine blessings for 2023.

Police officials said traffic regulations will be in place to control the anticipated rush from Delhi, Haryana and other areas. New parking sites have been developed to keep vehicles out of crowded areas. Lakhs are expected to join the 21 km long 'Parikrama' of the holy Govardhan hill that Sri Krishna is believed to have lifted on his little finger to



protect the Brajbasis from the wrath of Lord Indra. While most hotels in Agra region reported dull attendance, due to a slew of restrictions and fear of the pandemic, new year celebrations this year have taken a spiritual flavour. For the weekend, shrines in the Braj Mandal are drawing devotees. In Mathura, thousands have begun congregating the

famous Dwarkadheesh temple while in Vrindavan, the Banke Bihari temple remains the favourite of the devotees.

In Agra, the Archaeological Survey of India has made elaborate arrangements at the Taj Mahal and other monuments, expecting a big rush. A district official said Covid-19 precautions were being observed. This tourist season, has seen an encouraging increase in the number of visitors to Agra, after the hotels suffered a lot due to the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Agra has more than 500 big and small hotels, supporting over a lakh people through employment.



RESTAURANTS, EATERIES AT HIGH-END HOTELS TO STAY OPEN 24X7 IN DELHI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, easing licensing norms, restaurants and bars at high-end hotels in the national capital will now be allowed to stay open round-the-clock.

Accordingly, all restaurants and bars in five and four-star hotels will be permitted to operate on a 24x7 basis after the payment of the necessary fees. Similar establishments at three-star hotels will be allowed to operate till 2 a.m., and in all the other categories, they will be able to operate till 1 a.m.

Additionally, at five and four-star hotels, the ceiling of only one restaurant getting bar licence has been lifted. This will enable the hotels to obtain separate liquor licence for more than one restaurant serving liquor within the hotel premises on payment of licence fee.

The number of documents required for getting licence has been reduced and 28 documents will no longer be required to be uploaded while applying. Instead of the earlier system, where different agencies fol-



lowed different calendars - financial year or calendar year - all four agencies that include MCD, Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services and DPCC will now follow the coterminous financial year ending March 31 for the purpose of issuance and validation of licence/NOC.

In a common application form, 140 fields have been removed, making it user-friendly, and the 21-page

form has been reduced to just nine pages. Instead of multiple separate affidavits now, a single common undertaking has been introduced. Further, in a major relief, instead of the earlier system of grant of licence for one year, the period has been increased to three years for MCD, Delhi Police and Delhi Fire Services, and nine years for DPCC. Also, grant of licence has been made time-

bound, with a deemed approved clause being inserted, which will ensure that the licence has been approved and granted if the concerned agency does not take any action on the application within the stipulated time period.

An applicant will be able to get his licence within a maximum of 49 days now, with minimum human interface. The average time for grant of new licence was three years in Delhi until now. As many as 2,389 new applications for eating houses from 2022, and 2,121 applications from 2021 are pending as of now. Similarly, 359 applications for lodging houses are pending for 2022. Various industry bodies and restaurant and hotel associations had met the L-G and conveyed their concerns.

As per the rules approved by Saxena, applications for banquet halls will not be looked into by Delhi Police and applications for eating establishments on less than 90 sq mt area, and lodging establishments below 12 mt height will not be looked into by Delhi Fire Services anymore.

Assam govt merges 4 dists with 4 others ahead of delimitation exercise

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said the state government will merge four districts with four others following the Election Commission's freeze on redrawing administrative units due to delimitation.

The Election Commission has imposed a ban on creating new administrative units in Assam from January 1, 2023, as the poll panel will undertake the delimitation exercise in the state.

Sarma said that the administrative jurisdiction of a few villages has also been altered, as from Sunday onwards, the Election Commission will put a freeze on such kinds of administrative reforms in Assam. Addressing a press conference in the national capital following a cabinet meeting of the ministers, Sarma said that the decisions had been taken with a heavy heart, keeping in mind the interests of Assam and its people. He also mentioned



that the change is 'temporary' and may be rolled back in the future. However, he did not disclose the reason behind such decisions.

Sarma said Hojai district will be merged with Nagaon, Biswanath with Sonitpur, Bajali with Barpeta, and Tamulpur with Baksa district.

These four merged districts were the newly created ones by the Assam government. "I want to apologise to the people of these districts and hope that they will understand the importance of the decisions," Sarma said. He also mentioned that a

team of ministers will visit and will try to explain the situation that compelled the state government to take this decision.

Sarma, however, said the police and judicial districts of the four merged districts will continue as they are, along with other offices and officials. The Election Commission has imposed a restriction on creating new administrative units in Assam from Sunday as the poll panel will undertake the delimitation exercise in the state. It was notified by the Commission on Tuesday.

'May think of resigning if...': Union Minister from Goa on Mhadei issue

Panaji | Agencies

Union Minister of State for Tourism and Ports Shripad Naik on Saturday said that he has no problem to think on tendering resignation if the Central government fails to withdraw the approval granted to Karnataka's 'Detailed Project Report' for Kalasa-Bhanduri Nala projects.

Addressing a press conference here, Naik, whose home state is Goa, said that the dream of Karnataka to divert water to Malaprabha basin has been brought to reality by the Central Water Commission (CWC), which he termed as a 'sad' thing.

"The decision of giving approval to Karnataka by the CWC, when the matter is pending before the Supreme Court is wrong. This should not have happened," Naik lamented.

"Mhadei is the lifeline of Goa. Along with people, wildlife, flora and fauna are also dependent on this water of Mhadei. There are cases in this regard in the Supreme Court. But despite that, the CWC giving approval is injustice to Goa. If this water is diverted, it will



affect us heavily," Naik, an MP from the North Goa parliamentary constituency, said.

He said that his constituency will be badly affected if the water is diverted to Karnataka.

"This is a one-sided decision, to which we are opposing. Even the Goa government should take steps to oppose it. We will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to convince them to withdraw the approval," he said.

Jharkhand actress' murder: Accused husband, his brother are trained shooters

Kolkata | Agencies

The West Bengal Police probing the murder of Jharkhand-based actress and YouTuber Riya Kumari have found during their probe that the husband of the deceased, Prakash Kumar, and his younger brother, Sandeep Kumar, had taken shooting training. The Kumar brothers are presently in police custody for their alleged role in the murder of Riya.

This was revealed to the police by Prakash's father, Dhaneshwar Ram, who rushed to Kolkata from Jharkhand on receiving information of the arrest of his two sons.

"Dhaneshwar Ram informed that all three of his sons are trained in shooting. Although Prakash did not pursue the hobby and instead concentrated on film production, Sandeep still continues with his hobby. He also informed that his



third son, Akash Kumar, is an officer with the Indian Army and is currently posted in Rajasthan. The father said that there are licenced firearms at Prakash's residence in Ranchi," said a state police officer refusing to be named.

Riya was shot dead on Wednesday during an alleged highway robbery bid in West Bengal's Howrah district. Prakash, who is a film producer, was arrested on Thursday after Riya's family members filed a complaint against Kumar and his brothers. Sandeep was arrested on Friday.

Meanwhile, the police are searching for the firearm that was used to kill Riya. The state police have also contacted their counterparts in Jharkhand for getting the call details and tower locations of Prakash and Sandeep for the last 15 days.

Rajasthan: Cong high command asks party MLAs to take back resignations

Jaipur | Agencies

With almost a year left for the state Assembly elections in Rajasthan, the Congress high command has geared up to resolve the differences between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot camps.

Around 91 MLAs from the Gehlot faction, who resigned after boycotting the Congress Legislature Party meeting in September, have now been asked to withdraw their resignations. Some MLAs reportedly sent a letter to Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi to withdraw their resignation.

The party's new state in-charge Sukhjinder Randhawa had met the Speaker at his official residence on Friday.

It is believed that in the meeting



with Joshi, Randhawa, citing the party high command's message, discussed settling the dispute of the MLAs. Randhawa's meeting with the Speaker is being seen as part of the

efforts for reconciliation between the two factions. The budget session of the Assembly will commence on January 23. Ahead of the session, the withdrawal of MLAs' resignation

becomes a necessity for the ruling party.

Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore has filed a writ in the Rajasthan High Court regarding the resignations of the MLAs, on which the court has also sought a reply from the Speaker. The BJP has made the resignations a major issue and it is expected that during the budget session, the opposition would seek the Speaker to clarify the position on the issue. Deputy Leader of Opposition Rathore has said that there is "no provision in the law for withdrawal of resignations". The Speaker should not allow the MLAs who resigned to continue as legislators, he added. He also said that the state is being run by "an illegal government which fails to enjoy the confidence of the House".

Man arrested in Guj for repeatedly raping minor, impregnating her

Junagadh (Gujarat) | Agencies

Police in Gujarat's Junagadh have arrested a man for repeatedly raping a minor and impregnating her.

Keshod Police Inspector D.B. Koli told IANS that the 55-year-old accused Karsan alias Babu Malmer was arrested on Friday evening and will be produced before a court on Saturday.

The incident came to light only on Thursday, when the 16-year-old victim complained of stomach ache and was taken to the hospital.

Koli said when the doctor diagnosed her, the victim was found to be pregnant and also gave birth to a baby girl.

In their criminal complaint



with the Keshod Police station, the girl's parents stated that the accused raped her for the first time some nine to 10 months ago and threatened to kill her and the family if she anyone about it.

Taking advantage of that, he then proceeded to rape her repeatedly. Koli added that an investigation is currently underway and the accused will also undergo a medical examination.

MASTERMIND OF BIHAR SPURIOUS LIQUOR TRAGEDY ARRESTED IN DELHI



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested a man wanted in the cases related to the spurious liquor tragedy in Bihar's Saran which claimed the lives of 73 people, an official said on Saturday.

The accused has been identified as Ram Babu Mahto, a resident of Doila village in Saran district.

According to Ravindra Singh Yadav, the Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), information was received by the Inter-State Cell of the Crime Branch that

Mahto may be hiding somewhere in Delhi.

"On the basis of technical surveillance as well as specific inputs, Mahto was nabbed from Dwarka," Yadav said.

"Appropriate legal action is being taken and information about the arrest of the accused has been shared with Bihar Police for further action," he added.

Due to the prohibition of liquor in Bihar, the accused sensed an opportunity to make quick and easy money and started manufacturing and selling of spurious liquor, the police said.

'44 spacecraft, 42 launch vehicle missions since 2014'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A total of 44 spacecraft missions, 42 launch vehicle missions and 5 technology demonstrators, have been successfully realised, since 2014, till date, officials said on Saturday.

According to the Department of Space, in January 2014, the first successful flight with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage, in the GSLV-D5 launch vehicle was achieved and GSAT-14 was placed into GTO.

Thereafter, in September 2014, India's Mars Orbiter Spacecraft successfully entered an orbit around planet Mars, putting India into a league of select nations which had sent a spacecraft to the Red Planet.

The spacecraft is still functional even after 7 years of operation against the



designed life of 6 months and serving the nation with a lot of interesting science data.

In December 2014, the country witnessed the experimental flight of the next generation launch vehicle - the GSLV MKIII.

The LVM3-X/CARE Mission, the first experimen-

tal suborbital flight of the vehicle, launched the Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry experiment (CARE).

Among significant milestones, India's second mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-2 was successfully launched on July 22, 2019 on-board GSLV Mk III-M1, first opera-

tional flight of this new launch vehicle.

Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter is providing valuable science data for the research community. Thereafter, the launch of PSLV-C48/ RISAT-2BRI in Dec 2019 marked the 50th launch of PSLV, the workhorse launch vehicle.

Moreover, as part of Gaganyaan programme, new Test Vehicle for testing critical systems is developed. 'Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test (IMAT)' of crew module deceleration system was successfully carried out at Babina Field Fire Range (BFFR), Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh on November 18, 2022.

Recently, PSLV-C54 was successfully launched EOS-06 satellite on November 26, 2022 along with Eight Nano-satellites including INDIA-BHUTAN SAT (INS-2B).

Three die, five injured in firecracker explosion in TN



Chennai | Agencies

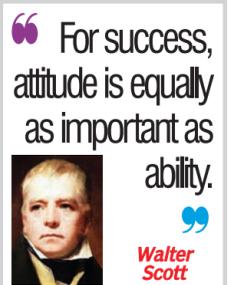
Three people including an elderly woman died on Saturday after firecrackers stored in their house in Tamil Nadu's Namakkal district exploded. Five others were seriously injured in the explosion.

The injured were admitted at the Namakkal Government Medical College and the condition of three persons is said to be critical.

Namakkal district police are investigating the cause of

the explosion that took place in early hours of the day. It may be noted that the Namakkal, Sivakasi, and Virudhunagar areas of the state produce almost 75 per cent of the firecrackers manufactured in the country.

The firecrackers, according to the police, were stored in the house for the New Year celebrations and caught fire accidentally leading to explosions and thereby killing three people including an elderly woman.



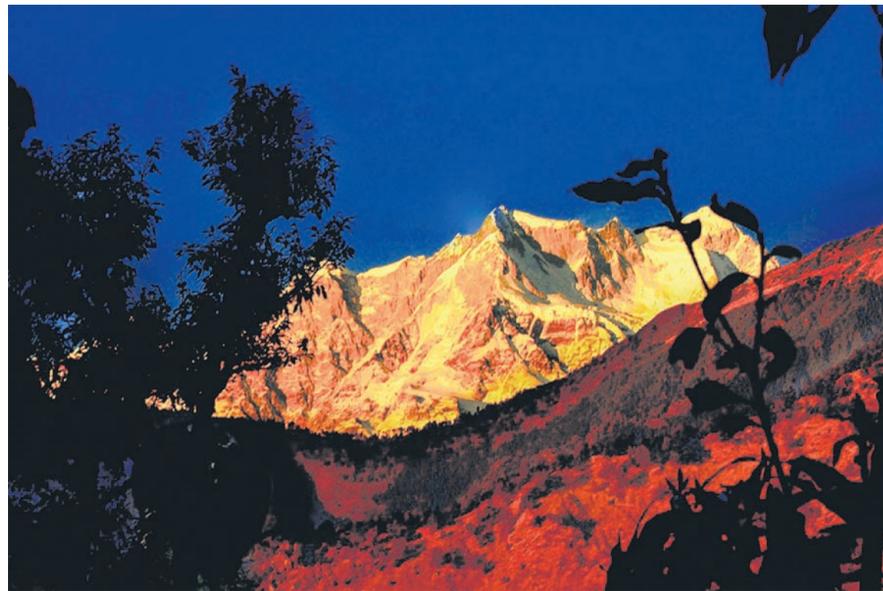
New integrated food security scheme to be rolled out today

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The rollout of the Centre's new integrated food security scheme is set to begin on January 1, 2023, officials said on Saturday. As per the decision made by the Cabinet, the new scheme would provide free food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under NFSA, for the year 2023. The scheme would also ensure effective and uniform implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, the government has social and legal commitment to the people of the nation -- a dignified life by ensuring them access to food and nutritional security through availability of adequate quantity of quality foodgrains. To fulfil this commitment to the most vulnerable 67 per cent of population which is 81.35 crore people covered under NFSA, the Cabinet decided to launch a new Central Sector

scheme to fulfill the vision of 'One Nation - One Price - One Ration'. All states and UTs are assured to implement the free foodgrain scheme from January 1, 2023. The new integrated scheme will subsume two current food subsidy schemes of the Department of Food and Public Distribution - (a) Food Subsidy to FCI for NFSA, and (b) Food Subsidy for decentralised procurement states, dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free foodgrains to the states under NFSA. Free foodgrains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) across the country and will further strengthen this choice-based platform. The Central government will bear the food subsidy of more than Rs 2 lakh crore for the year 2023. The new scheme is aimed at bringing uniformity and clarity on food security under NFSA at beneficiary level.

The Golden Mountain



■ Sun rays of sunset seen on the Himalayan hills on the last day of the year 2022 in Rudraprayag on Saturday, December 31, 2022.

AFTER IT MINISTRY'S OBJECTION, WHATSAPP REMOVES NY LIVE STREAM

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, on Saturday told Meta-owned WhatsApp to immediately fix an incorrect map of India on its New Year celebrations live-streaming link. Responding quickly, WhatsApp removed the stream and thanked the minister for pointing out the "unintended error". "We have promptly removed the stream, apologies. We will be mindful in the future," said the tech giant. The minister had earlier reiterated that all social media platforms that do business in India must use correct maps. "Dear @WhatsApp Rqst that u pls fix the India map error asap. All platforms that do business in India and/or want to continue to do business in India, must use correct maps," said Chandrasekhar in a tweet. Earlier this week, he had cautioned video calling plat-

form Zoom's founder and CEO Eric Yuan to "make sure" that he used the correct map of the countries the company does business in or wants to do business in. "You may want to make sure u use correct maps of the countries u do/want to do business in," he had told Yuan. The Zoom CEO later deleted a tweet showing an incorrect map of the country. Chandrasekhar recently spoke about the compliance with law, rules and guardrails for all social media platforms in the country. In October this year, the government had notified rules under which it will set up appellate panels to redress grievances that users may have against the decisions of social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook on hosting contentious content. The obligations of intermediaries earlier were limited to notifying users of rules but now with the new rules there will be much more definite obligations on platforms.

'BJP-RSS are my guru'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sarcastically said on Saturday that he considers the BJP-RSS as his "guru" as they "show what not to do".

OPPN SHOULD WORK IN A COORDINATED MANNER FOR 2024

"The sense I am getting is that if the opposition comes together and fight in coordinated way, the BJP will find it tough in 2024. I think the opposition should stand effectively on ground and work in a manner to counter the BJP."



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sarcastically said on Saturday that he considers the BJP-RSS as his "guru" as they "show what not to do". "I want them (BJP and RSS) to attack us aggressively, this will help the Congress party understand the ideology. In a way I consider them my guru, they are showing me the way, training me on what not to do," the Congress leader said while addressing a press conference here. "The sense I am getting is that if the opposition comes together and fight in coordinated way, the BJP will find it tough in 2024. I think the opposition should stand effectively on ground and

work in a manner to counter the BJP," he said. When asked about a Prime Ministerial face, the Congress leader said: "My main focus right now is for a united India, we should fight against hatred. My focus is only to unite India." He further said that there were many like-minded parties who want India to be in harmony. "I know Akhikeshji and Mayawatiji want India to be free of hatred and want harmony in the country." Rahul Gandhi also said that "his is not a tactical political fight the BJP has dominated the political space and to defeat

them now there should be ideological framework and this only Congress can give". For example the Samajwadi Party has position in Uttar Pradesh but its idea will not work in Kerala and Karnataka. Only the Congress can give a national vision while respecting the opposition leaders," he added. Regarding his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul Gandhi said that the foundation of the mega-walkathon is love, affection and to erase hatred in the nation. The yatra will resume on January 3 and enter Uttar Pradesh after which it will proceed to Haryana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt targets to open 10K Janaushadhi Kendras by March 2024

Team Absolute | New Delhi

While more than 9,000 stores under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) covering 743 out of 766 districts across the country have been opened, the government has set a target to increase the number of 'Janaushadhi Kendras' to 10,000 by March 2024. With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices for all, the PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008. The target of opening 3,000 Kendras was achieved in December 2017. Further, a revised target of 6,000 outlets was also achieved in 2020. The number of Kendras has now increased to 9,000. Officials said that the product basket of PMBJP comprises 1,759 medicines and 280 surgical devices covering all major therapeutic groups such



as cardiovascular, anti-cancer, anti-diabetes, Anti-allergy, gastro-intestinal medicines etc. In addition to this, various nutraceutical products like protein powder, malt-based food supplements etc., along with some AYUSH products like Ayuraksha kit, Balraksha kit and Ayush-64 tablet have been added to the product basket. According to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, medicines available under PMBJP are priced 50-90 per cent less than branded medicines.

9 KILLED, 25 INJURED IN GUJARAT ROAD ACCIDENT

Navsari (Gujarat): At least nine people were killed and 25 others injured on Saturday when a mini bus collided with an SUV in Gujarat's Navsari, officials said.

Navsari rural Police Inspector D.K. Patel told reporters that the accident took place on the national highway 48 near Vesma circle. The Fortuner SUV was heading towards Ankleshwar from Valsad, whereas the luxury mini bus was on its way to Valsad from Ahmedabad. Patel said that the bus driver had suffered a heart attack stroke which led to the accident. Of the nine victims, eight were travelling in the SUV and one a bus passenger. Seven of the SUV victims died on the spot, while one passed away in the hospital during treatment. A ninth passenger in the SUV is said to be in critical condition. Primary information says that the nine people in the SUV were from Prolife Bio-Chemical LTD, Ankleshwar. Meanwhile, the bus passengers were from Valsad and were returning home after visiting the BAPS sect event in Ahmedabad. There were a total of 30 passengers in the bus, of which 25 were injured. Of the 25, 17 were shifted to Valsad and eight others are being treated at the Navsari hospital.

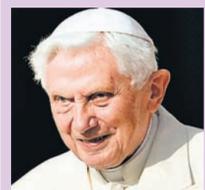
100 days of stay with family or headquarters for jawans deputed on borders: Shah



Bengaluru | Agencies

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Saturday that the soldiers deputed in border areas of the country will get to stay with their families or in headquarters for 100 days in a year. Delivering a speech after inauguration and laying the foundation stone of various projects of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in Devanahalli, Bengaluru, Shah said, "They (soldiers posted in border areas) should have this opportunity to stay with their families or at headquarters for 100 days... We are preparing rosters for this purpose." "The stress and tension of soldiers will come down. This is a difficult task, I understand. But, I believe from a humanitarian point of view it has to be done," the Home Minister added. He assured ITBP soldiers that before elections, the government will make a plan in this regard. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is dedicated to the welfare of soldiers and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)," he asserted. Shah also commended the services of the ITBP and CAPFs, stating that "they deliver service in the most difficult terrains of the country." "We can't even imagine the situations. They work in minus 42 degree Celsius and they can only get the push to face harsh conditions from a high level of patriotism."

FORMER POPE BENEDICT XVI DIES AT 95



Vatican City: Former Pope Benedict XVI passed away at his residence in the Vatican on Saturday. He was 95, according to an official announcement. In a statement, The Vatican said: "With sorrow I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today at 9.34 a.m. in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican." "Further information will be provided as soon as possible." Benedict led the Catholic Church from April 2005 to February 2013. He stood down due to his ailing health becoming the first Pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415, the BBC reported. Benedict spent his final years at the Mater Ecclesiae monastery within the walls of the Vatican.

On Covid, PM's Office holds review meeting

As an Omicron subvariant fuels an alarming wave of infections in China, another sublineage of this strain has put the US on edge: XBB 1.5. The first case linked to this subvariant was detected in India on Friday.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Genome sequencing of around 500 samples collected in December are being done at INSACOG labs across the country at present, sources said on Saturday, after a high-level Covid review meeting chaired by a top government official amid a surge in cases in some countries. Principal Secretary to the prime minister PK Mishra chaired the meeting with senior officials and experts to review the status of COVID-19 in the country and compliance of directions issued by the PM during the review meeting on December 22. During the meeting, Union Health ministry officials informed that the Ministry of Commerce has been asked to monitor exports of medicinal products and equipment to China, they said. Mishra was apprised of the evolving



global scenario of the pandemic with surge in Covid observed in some countries, including China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Brazil etc, official sources said. The focus was on enhancing awareness about Covid-appropriate behaviour, strengthening of surveillance, including ramping up of testing across the country, and uptake of coronavirus precautionary doses, they stated.

COVID VARIANT XBB 1.5 FOUND IN INDIA

XBB is a hybrid of two different Omicron BA.2 subvariants. While scientists are still in the early stages of studying the XBB subvariant, they said that an even newer version of that subvariant had emerged, known as XBB.1.5.

According to Yunlong Cao, biochemist at Peking University, while XBB.1.5 is not more immune evasive than XBB it does have a higher level of transmissibility. "XBB.1.5 appears faster and more sustained than any of the variants since Omicron's first wave [BA.1] last January," scientist JP Weiland said. XBB.1.5 was aptly first noted by JP Weiland a couple of weeks ago. While this was coincident with the beginning of a steep rise of hospitalizations there, it is not known for sure how much of this is being driven by XBB.1.5. In October, Yunlong Cao and his colleagues reported that XBB and three other subvariants had become entirely resistant to the antibodies in blood samples from people who were vaccinated or had Covid infections, New York Times reported.



SHINDE FACTION WORKERS THRASH BJP LEADER IN THANE

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Party workers from the Eknath Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, which is in power in Maharashtra with support from the BJP, today thrashed their majority partner's Thane office-bearer over a dispute regarding installing banners. The two sides threatened each other during the brawl, which left a BJP worker bloody. Both sides then went to the police. The BJP has alleged that the police aren't taking the matter seriously.

In security camera footage, a group of people could be seen trying to place a placard when suddenly a fight breaks out. One man can then be seen being beaten up by the group. A free-for-all later ensues, where several men can be seen hitting another man with wooden sticks while he stumbles to the ground. On Thursday, there was a dispute



between BJP's Prashant Jadhav and Shiv Sena's Shinde faction over the installation of banners at Parabwadi in Wagle Estate, Thane. When the police were informed, they warned both the groups and the situation calmed down. However, on Friday evening, 15 to 20 people reportedly

attacked Prashant Jadhav, who has suffered a serious head injury during the assault.

The BJP has blamed the Shinde faction's local former Corporators Vikas Repale and Namrata Bhosale for the incident.

There has been tension between the two groups since, with the possibility of another clash.

BJP's Mahila Morcha has tweeted naming the those it blames, with, "dosti ko dosti...mar ko mar...lahu ko lahu se jawab (friendship to friendship...thrashing to thrashing...and blood for blood)."

BJP MLAs Niranjan Davkhare and Sanjay Kelkar met Wagle Estate division Assistant Commissioner of Police Gajanan Kabdule regarding the incident. The BJP has accused the police of not taking the matter seriously.

The police are reportedly being pressurised from both sides.

Sheezan's sisters slam media for 'demeaning' him

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Television actor Sheezan Khan's sisters Shafaq Naaz and Falaq Naazz have issued a statement slamming the media for the way their brother has been 'targeted'.

They also asserted that people should think and analyse the overall situation before putting all the blame on their brother, requesting everyone to use their 'common sense'.

The statement reads: "It breaks our heart how our silence has been understood as weakness. This is probably what they call 'Ghor Kalyug'. Where's the research of some media portals before reporting things? Where's the common sense of the masses? For all the people demeaning Sheezan - ask yourself this - are you talking based on the situation, or are you talking



out of hate for a religion? Or are you talking out of influence from previous events? Stay woke, people!

"The journalism standards of a certain section of media have stooped so low that it only functions based on TRP. And you are their consumer. It's equally your responsibility to report news with unreliable sources," the statement read. Shafaq became popular with the mythological show 'Mahabharat'. Falaq was seen in serials like 'Sasural Simar Ka', among others.

SHEEZAN KHAN IS NOT COOPERATING: REPORTS

Sheezan, according to the police, was not cooperating with the investigation and continually altered his statements when asked about his "secret girlfriend" chats. According to some recovered chats, the accused used to talk to a lot of women, according to the police.

Modi govt failed to keep promises in 2022: NCP

Team Absolute | Mumbai

On New Year's eve, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Saturday said the Narendra Modi government had failed to deliver on its promises in 2022.

A statement by NCP spokesperson Mahesh Tapase questioned if the Union government had a roadmap for the development and repayment of debt.

Should the nation expect new 'jumlas' (poll rhetoric) in 2023, Tapase asked.

"Now that we have only a few hours left of 2022, it is time the nation revisits the promises made by the BJP government. GDP stands at



6.5 per cent against 10 per cent as promised for 2022. Farmers' income has not doubled nor 100 per cent irrigation achieved," the NCP leader said. Eradication of malnutrition, 24x7 electricity, 100 per cent broadband connectivity in all gram panchayats along with digital literacy for all as well as a USD

5 trillion economy were some of the promises made by Modi's government, he claimed.

"The government has written off Rs 10 lakh crore of bank loans and these were not majorly the credits taken by farmers and small traders. SMEs scheme for non-collateral credit is only on paper as banks refuse to entertain proposals," he alleged.

The Central government's borrowing in eight years of Bharatiya Janata Party rule has touched Rs 80 lakh crore, the rupee stood at 82 to the US dollar, while two lakh persons had renounced Indian citizenship and migrated in 2022, Tapase further said.

Quaid Najmi | Mumbai

Multi-billionaire scamster diamantaire Nirav D. Modi may become poorer by Rs 18 crore in the New Year.

The Debt Recovery Tribunal-I (DRT-I), Mumbai, Recovery Officer Ashu Kumar has ordered the auction of two prime properties belonging to Modi and others in one of the cases filed by Punjab National Bank (PNB), to recover a part of its dues.

The e-auction of these properties is considered a year-end attempt to recover a part of the PNB's staggering due of over Rs 11,653 crore, calculated till early 2023. The properties are two adjoining flats on the F1 building, 16th floor of the YOOP-UNE housing scheme at Hadapsar, Pune, measuring 398 sq. metres and 396 sq. metres.

The PNB has set a reserve price of Rs 8.99 crore and Rs 8.93 crore, respectively, for these two flats, which shall go under the hammer on February 3, 2023. The DRT-I had issued an auction notice on December 28 to Stellar Diamonds, Solar Exports,



Diamond R US, ANM Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, NDM Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. Besides these companies, their promoters, owners, directors like Nirav D. Modi, Ami Nirav Modi, Rohin N. Modi, Ananya N. Modi, Apasha N. Modi, Purvi Mayank Mehta, Deepak K. Modi, Neeshal D. Modi and Nehal D. Modi, have been issued notices as certified debtors owing a whopping Rs. 7,029-crore to the PNB. The e-auction may help the PNB and around 15 other banks recover a miniscule portion of

their massive amounts for the past five years since the country's mega-banking scam was admitted by these banks in February 2018, a month after Nirav, his wife Ami and others fled India. After the PNB's complaint on the scam estimated at over Rs 14,000-crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered the first offences in January 2018 and others like Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax Department (ITD) also entered the picture.

They were targeting the two prime accused -- Nirav D. Modi and his maternal uncle Mehul C. Choksi -- both having flown the coop, well before the scam erupted and shook the roots of India's banking sector. Later, it came to light that Modi was holed up in London and Choksi had cosily settled as a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda Isles in the West Indies, both awaiting their extradition to India -- expectedly, soon. On the upcoming e-auction, the PNB said it is not aware if these two properties have any liabilities, encumbrances, dues, or any claims made on them and shall be on an 'As is where is basis' and 'As is what is basis'.

Mumbai Police receives bomb threat call, accused held from Dharavi



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the city gears up for the new year's eve, a caller was traced and nabbed by the city cops for allegedly making a hoax call threatening bomb blasts in Mumbai, the police sources said.

According to the police, an FIR was registered on Friday night after a man called the city police's control room and informed them about the bomb threat. "He insisted on the control room to

provide him with the anti-terrorist squad's (ATS) contact number and said that he had information regarding bombs in the city," sources said.

Sources said the call was made at around 8:50 pm on Friday. He told the police control room that a person has left Uttar Pradesh with some weapons and RDX (to carry out blasts). He then told the control room official to share with him the contact number of the ATS and then hung up.

Investigations revealed that the caller

was from Mumbai and he had made a call from a mobile number. He told the control room that bomb blasts would allegedly take place at some places in the city on New Year's eve, sources added.

The accused was later identified as Narendra Kavale, who was arrested from the Dharavi area for making a hoax call and providing false information to the police, an official said.

A case was registered under sections 182 (False information, with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person), 505 (1) (Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report) and 506 (2) (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code, the official said. The Mumbai Police have tightened security ahead of the new year celebrations in the city. A total number of over 10,000 police constables, 1,500 officers, 25 deputy commissioners of police and seven additional commissioners of police have been deployed. 46 platoons of the state reserve police force (SRPF), three units of the riot control police and 15 quick response teams (QRT) have been reportedly deployed in Mumbai to avert any untoward incident.

COUPLE KILLED IN ACCIDENT, INFANT DAUGHTER SURVIVES

Team Absolute | Mumbai

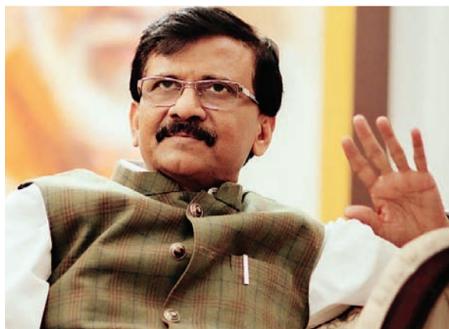
A couple going to the temple town of Shirdi from Mumbai on a two-wheeler was killed after a container truck hit them in Maharashtra's Thane district. Their three-year-old daughter survived the accident, police said. The victims, Manoj Joshi, 34, and

his 30-year-old wife Manasi died in the accident that occurred on Friday in Bhiwandi taluka on the Mumbai-Nashik highway. The couple were from Bhandup, a suburb of Mumbai, they said. "The couple and their daughter were going to Shirdi to take darshan of Saibaba. When they reached Yevai village, a speeding container knocked

them down and ran over them, killing them on the spot. Their three-year-old daughter had a miraculous escape. She is safe, but she was sent to a hospital for medical care," an official said. The bodies of the woman and man were sent to a government hospital in Bhiwandi for post-mortem, he said.

WON'T DEMAND UNION TERRITORY STATUS FOR BORDER AREAS IN KARNATAKA IF INJUSTICE STOPS: SANJAY RAUT

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Friday said his party would not demand the Union Territory status for border areas in Karnataka if the government in that state treated the local Marathi-speaking population fairly.



Team Absolute | Mumbai

After Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray demanded that disputed areas in Karnataka's border region, which Maharashtra has been claiming, be declared as a UT pending the Supreme Court's decision, some leaders in the southern state hit back saying that Mumbai be made a UT. "We demand that Belagavi and the surrounding Marathi-speaking areas in Karnataka be declared as a Union Territory because of the atrocities against Marathi people, their language, their culture," Raut told reporters.

"If the Karnataka government and local organisations stop doing injustice, we will take back our demand," the Rajya Sabha MP added.

"In Mumbai, Kannadiga people have no complaint against Marathi people. Those who say Mumbai should be made a Union Territory are fools," Raut added.

Happy New Year

2023

“ May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity. Wishing you a joyous 2023! ”

Dr. Yogesh Lakhani & Bright Outdoor Media Family

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EVERYONE SHOULD COOPERATE IN BUILDING MADHYA PRADESH

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated for the new year

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated and wished all the citizens for the English New Year 2023.



and healthy. He said that in the new year, with new resolutions, we have to re-engage in the work of public welfare with our efficiency and efficiency.

Modi's resolve of a self-reliant India, our vow is to make Madhya Pradesh self-reliant.

Kamal Nath terms 'survey' on Congress poll preparations 'misleading'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Congress' Madhya Pradesh chief Kamal Nath said on Friday that an "unauthorised survey" report is being reported in media on the party's preparations for next year's Assembly elections, and the party has not conducted any survey.



more big victory we will get in 2023," Nath added. In his statement, Nath claimed with his long experience of politics, he can read the mind of people through their expressions.

"People of Madhya Pradesh have decided to bring the Congress back in government. Congress workers are making efforts to defeat the BJP and their hard work will bear the fruit in 2023 Assembly elections. We just need to intant our focuss on our work and not to fall on baseless speculation," he added.

Medical Education Minister's new gift to the residents of Bhopal

100 bedded multi-storey civil hospital will be built in Subhash Nagar at a cost of 10 crores. Minister Sarang inspected the site in Subhash Nagar.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On the initiative of Medical Education Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang, the residents of the city are going to get the gift of another civil hospital in the new year.

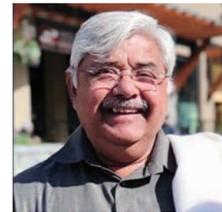


about a month. It will take about 1 year to complete the construction of this civil hospital. He said that the civil hospital, which is going to be built at a cost of Rs 10 crore in Subhash Nagar, will now get the benefit of other treatment facilities including recruitment, including Narela Vidhansabha.

Vishva Hindu Parishad demands formation of Ministry of Pilgrimage

Team Absolute | Indore

The Vishva Hindu Parishad has demanded the formation of an independent pilgrimage ministry from the central and all state governments.



been a demand not to allow non-vegetarian and drug addition in the limits of this pilgrimage area. He also demanded necessary amendments in the related notifications so that Siddha Parshvanath mountain and Tirtharaj Sammed peak could never be developed as tourist areas.

FINAL VOTER LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 5, BLO WILL CONDUCT ELECTION SCHOOL AT POLLING STATIONS

Chief Electoral Officer gave instructions to all district election officers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The final voter list will be published in the state on January 5, 2023. On this occasion, there will be an election school at all polling stations, in which BLOs will read the voter list.

state. The applications received on 26 December 2022 were disposed of. Now the final voter list will be published on 5 January 2023.

LITERATURE IS THE MIRROR OF THE SOCIETY: GOVERNOR PATEL

Governor Patel attends the closing ceremony of the Silver Jubilee of Dushyant Kumar Memorial Manuscript Museum

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel said that literature is the mirror of society, literature reflects socio-political changes. While litterateurs are engaged in the service of literature in their lives, the museum is a source of inspiration to pass on the memory of litterateurs to future generations.



Tripathi, national poet Maithili Sharan Gupta and countless other writers who have enriched Hindi with their works. The commendable work of saving the manuscripts and heritage of writers is being done in this museum.

TAX REVENUE BASE WILL BE EXPANDED

Bhopal : Finance Minister Jagdish Deora has congratulated and wished the citizens on the occasion of New Year. He prayed to God for the prosperity of all the citizens.

Madhya Pradesh is moving forward with the upliftment of all sections

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Narmada Maiya is the only river in India which is circumambulated. We see devotion, faith and public trust towards it. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, born in Jait village situated on the banks of Narmada Maiya, was rich in leadership ability since his youth.



damage was allowed in Madhya Pradesh. In the country, the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and in the state, the Chief Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, handled the situation very well.

in the country in terms of cleanliness, good governance and welfare of street vendors. Madhya Pradesh is not only included in the few states that have formed the Statistics Commission, but has also become a leader in this field.

Chief Minister Chouhan planted a sapling of Karanj in Chennai



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted a sapling of Karanj on December 31 to bid farewell to the year 2022.

everyday. Chief Minister Chouhan had taken a pledge to plant saplings daily in Amarkantak on February 19, 2021, on Narmada Jayanti.

state with public participation on a large scale regarding tree plantation. Voluntary organizations, social organizations as well as individuals have come forward to plant saplings on their birthdays, marriage anniversaries and in the memory of relatives and acquaintances.



'TAKE A VACATION FROM YOUR PROBLEMS'

Los Angeles | Agencies

The White Lotus star Alexandra Daddario went skinny dipping in her vacation and shared some steamy pictures on her social media. The 36-year-old actress took to Instagram on Thursday to share a risqué photo of herself wearing absolutely nothing, reports Fox News. Daddario showed off her fit physique as the sexy snap displayed her bare back to the camera with a thumb covering the lower half of her body. A beautiful outdoor scene is pictured in the background with mountainous nature views, as the star steps into an infinity pool. "Take a vacation from your problems, Bob," her social media caption read. In the second photo, the actress took a dip in the pool and made a splash, keeping her bare back to the camera.

Doja Cat allegedly caught doing drugs in chat room video

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Doja Cat has reportedly been caught doing drugs in a video which captured her interaction with other users of a Tinchat room.

In the video which has circulated online, the 'Kiss Me More' hitmaker was seen wearing a black long-sleeve top while smoking a cigarette.

Seemingly not having the best time of her life, she lashed out at other users for being "so f**king mean" to her.

"Are you having fun now?" one fan asked her, to which she angrily responded: "No, I'm not having fun. Because you're so f**king mean to me."

Shocked, one person simply reacted with, "Whew".

Doja then turned her back to the camera and motioned to her face. While it wasn't clear what she was doing in the video, some people claimed that it looked like she was ingesting some type of narcotic.

Another user then asked Doja, "you live alone in that big a** house?" she responded, "no, I live with security." Not impressed, the man claimed: "That's basically alone man." Doja then retorted, "shut the f**k up".

This isn't the first time Doja has been accused of doing drugs.

Back in 2020, social media users speculated that she was high on drugs during an Instagram Live, where she was gushing over Nicki Minaj.



Selena Gomez: FINALLY 'OPEN TO DATING'

Almost five years after splitting from her beau of seven years Justin Bieber

Los Angeles | Agencies

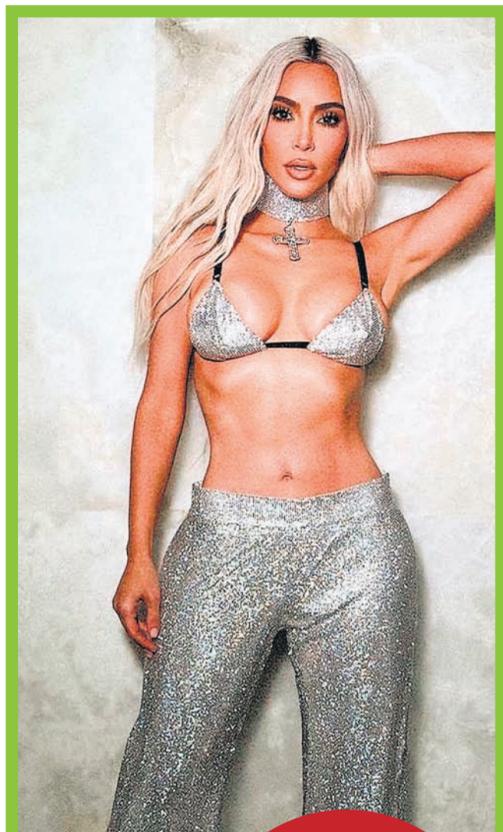
The 30-year-old pop star - who has previously dated Nick Jonas, Justin Bieber and The Weeknd - is currently thought to be single. Now an insider has alleged that she is open to the idea of dating once again. 'Selena is feeling positive and optimistic. She is open to dating,' a source told Entertainment Tonight.

In July the same site claimed she was not dating anyone but wanted to. 'She is more open to love, but she is also very much focused on herself and her work right now,' the source said. 'She's in a very healthy place. She is feeling fantastic and very mentally, physically and emotionally healthy.'

The comments come shortly after the Love You To Lose Me songstress

alleged that breaking up from Justin - who she dated on and off from 2011 until they split for good in early 2018 - was the 'best thing' that ever happened to her, reports dailymail.co.uk.

She said: 'Everything was so public. I felt haunted by a past relationship that no one wanted to let go of. Then I just moved past it, and I wasn't afraid anymore.'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has started drinking some beverages she usually doesn't pick. She revealed that she now consumes both coffee and alcohol.

"I started to drink a little bit at the age of 42. Coffee and alcohol," Kim shared on the December 27 episode of The goop Podcast, as per People. "I feel like I just gotta let loose a little bit."

As for why Kim has started drinking these, she shared that she wanted to make a change to her habit of always being in work mode, reports eonline.com.

"I just feel like I work a lot and I focus all day after school then it's like product meetings and testing things and packaging meetings and everything for SKKN," she explained. "I just don't ever feel comfortable just laying around doing nothing."

Kim continued: "So my version of that has been to spend some time with my friends and have a drink and stay out a little bit later, when I probably wouldn't have done that before."

Kim noted during the episode that her alcohol of choice is tequila, per the outlet. But even with a newfound appreciation for liquor and a little sister who founded a Tequila company, Kim tends to stick to a limit.

Why Kim Kardashian is drinking coffee and alcohol?

BRITNEY SPEARS' HUSBAND SAM ASGHARI SHOTS DOWN RUMORS THAT HE 'CONTROLS' HIS WIFE OR HER SOCIAL MEDIA

'I don't even control what we have for dinner'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Her fans have once again been spreading evergreen rumors that she is not in control of her life or what she shares on social media.

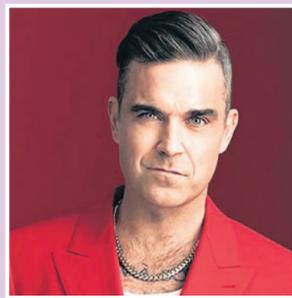
But Britney Spears' husband Sam Asghari tried to quash the rumors on Friday when he stopped to chat with a videographer in Los Angeles about his alleged 'control' over his 41-year-old wife.

According to video released by TMZ, the 28-year-old actor doesn't even get to choose what he'll eat when he's with the pop superstar, reports dailymail.co.uk.

He tried to clear up the rumors just over a week after Britney gave her fans and followers the slip when she falsely claimed she was traveling to New York City before the couple instead took a secret vacation to Mexico.

Sam was caught looking casual as he headed back to his vehicle on the overcast day in Los Angeles.

After the cameraperson asked him about rumors that he was controlling Britney, he responded with a relaxed denial.



ROBBIE WILLIAMS SEES A LOT OF HIMSELF IN HARRY STYLES

Los Angeles: Singer Robbie Williams said that he can see a lot of similarities between himself and Harry Styles when it comes to their careers as he opens up about the 'lonely' side of fame. Just like Styles, the singer, 48, found fame after joining a boy band before breaking off to launch his own solo career with his debut album 'Life Thru A Lens', reports mirror.co.uk.

Speaking to friend and presenter Scott Mills in celebration of the album, which features the hit 'Angels', Williams was told by Mills, 49, that he sees similarities between the two performers.

Williams replied: "Absolutely. I see a lot. This is inconsequential but the algorithm on my YouTube threw up a video of Harry Styles talking in between songs and what he was talking about was a bit of nonsense, like I talk about, just a bit of banter."

"It was like, I see what he's doing. He's trying to fill a space... That stage is massive and it's a lonely place. You'd better throw some shapes or you're just going to feel awkward." During the conversation, which took place on 'Robbie Williams: My Life Thru A Lens' on BBC Radio 2, Williams also discussed his initial departure from 'Take That' and the impact on his relationship with former bandmate Gary Barlow.



Bianca Wallace



Men's National Boxing 2022

MANISH KAUSHIK, ROHIT TOKAS, SACHIN OFF TO FLYING START

Hisar | Agencies

The 2019 World Championships bronze medalist Manish Kaushik and Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) duo of Rohit Tokas and Sachin put up sensational displays to start their campaign on a winning note on the first day of the 6th Elite Men's National Boxing Championships here on Saturday. Kaushik (63.5kg) was up against Prabhath Diwedi of Madhya Pradesh and living up to his name, he made lightwork of his opponent. He was on the frontfoot since the get go and after dominating the first two rounds, the bout came to an end after the referee stopped contest (RSC) towards the end of the third round. Kaushik will take on Sandeep Doni of Andhra Pradesh in the round-of-16 bout on Tuesday.



Rahul of Uttarakhand in his tournament opener. Similar to Tokas, Sachin (57kg) produced a stunning performance to prevail by 5:0 against Raman

Sharma of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Daman and Diu (DNHDD). The 2022 Asian Championships bronze medalist Govind (48kg) received a walkover against Jenish Patel of Gujarat. The Thailand Open champion will face Mansingh of Jammu and Kashmir in his Round of 16 bout on Tuesday. Priyandhu Dabas (54kg) of Haryana registered a commanding victory against Prakash Singh of Chhattisgarh with the bout ending after the referee stopped contest in the first round. The 2021 Asian Champion Sanjeet (92kg) will take to the ring against either of Sampath MP of Kerala and Jagwinder Singh of Punjab on Sunday while Narendar (+92kg), the 2022 Asian Championships bronze medalist will go head to head against the winner of the bout between Kerala's Gajalvaliyathan and Rajasthan's Sarthak Achriya on Monday.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Tokas (67kg) faced

United Cup

Swiatek wins season opener, Skatov levels tie for Kazakhstan against Poland

Brisbane | Agencies

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek showed no signs of rust in her first match of the 2023 season, defeating Yulia Putintseva 6-1 6-3 at the United Cup and giving Poland a 1-0 lead but Timofey Skatov later registered a win to level the tie for Kazakhstan, here on Saturday.



With Polish great Agnieszka Radwanska looking on from the captain's box, Swiatek needed just three games before finding the rhythm and range that made her the run-away 2022 WTA Tour Player of the Year.

Putintseva earned an early breakpoint chance in Swiatek's first game, but the Pole coolly erased it with pinpoint accuracy. Under pressure again while serving at 1-1, 0/30, Swiatek found another gear to reel off 12 consecutive points to build a 4-1 lead. Having made six unforced errors in the first

three games, Swiatek would make just one for the rest of the set, pocketing the set after 27 minutes. Swiatek underlined her reputation as the tour's preeminent front-runner in the second set. After keeping Putintseva at bay in the early games, Swiatek broke to 3-2 and held her lead to win after 64 minutes. The 21-year-old Swiatek finished the match with 22 groundstroke winners -- 17 on the forehand alone -- to just five for Putintseva. The victory extended Swiatek's head-to-head record against Putintseva to 2-0. On the other hand, Timofey Skatov leveled the tie with a gruelling 7-6(7), 6-2 victory against Daniel Michalski. The first set proved critical, with long, grinding rallies that led to the match lasting two hours and 11 minutes. World No. 142 Skatov saved all five break points he faced against Michalski to earn his first win at the United Cup. The 21-year-old had lost his first No. 2 men's singles match of the week in three sets against Switzerland's Marc-Andrea Huesler.

Third Women's T20 between India U19 and South Africa U19 abandoned due to rain

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The third Women's T20 between India U19 and South Africa U19 has been abandoned due to rain at Steyn City School on Saturday. South Africa captain Olhule Siyo had won the toss and had elected to bat first. But a wet outfield meant the start of the match was delayed. Eventually, rain once again forced the match to be abandoned without a ball being bowled. Incidentally the second match of the series was also abandoned. India, led by hard-hitting opener Shafali Verma, are currently leading the five-game series 1-0 with two matches left to play. The fourth match of the series will be played on January 2. In the opening match of the series, India registered a 54-run win on December 27. Despite Shafali getting out for a first-ball duck, Shweta Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari registered identical



scores of 40 as India managed to post 137 for 5 in 20 overs. In reply, fast bowler Shabnam MD and off-spinner Archana Devi took three wickets each while pacer Hurley Gala and left-arm spinner Sonam Yadav took a wicket each to restrict South Africa to 83 for eight in their 20 overs. India and South Africa U19 teams will also play in the opening match of U19 Women's T20 World Cup at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, on January 14. Both teams are in Group D alongside UAE and Scotland. In the 16-team tournament divided into four groups and set to host 41 matches in Benoni and Potchefstroom, top three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six round, where teams will be pooled into two groups of six. The top two teams from each group will then progress to the semi-finals, which will be played on January 27 at JB Marks Oval in Potchefstroom. The final will take place at the same venue on January 29.

Tata Open Maharashtra

India's Bhambri, Ramanathan off to winning starts in qualifiers

Team Absolute | Pune

Indian players Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan kickstarted their campaign at the fifth edition of Tata Open Maharashtra with contrasting victories in the singles qualifying opening round at the Balewadi Stadium here on Saturday. While Bhambri dominated Diego Hidalgo by 6-2, 6-2 in the lopsided match, Chennai-based Ramanathan, who entered the draw as a wildcard, registered a sensational come-from-behind 2-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory against Otto Virtanen. South Asia's only ATP 250 event, Tata Open Maharashtra is being conducted by the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association



(MSLTA) in association with the Government of Maharashtra for the fifth year in Pune. Meanwhile, other three Indians in action-Prajesh Gunneswaran, Sidharth Rawat and Aditya Balsekar suffered defeats in their respective matches. While Gunneswaran went down fighting 7-6(6), 3-6, 7-5 against the former World No. 45 Maximilian Marterer,

Rawat made Zdenek Kolar work hard before losing the match by 6-1, 6-7(4), 6-1. Balsekar was defeated by Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 6-0. In other first-round matches, Mattia Bellucci beat Vladyslav Orlov 6-4, 6-4 and Nikola Mijolevic also thrashed Nicholas David Ionel by 6-3, 6-2 in a similar fashion. Second and final round of the qualifiers will be played on Sunday as Bhambri, Ramanathan and others will look to win and secure the main draw spots for themselves. Bhambri and Ramanathan will take on Ymer and Bellucci respectively in the final round.

BCCI releases names of best India players of 2022 in all three formats

Team Absolute | New Delhi

On the last day of 2022, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday released the names of the players who were Team India's best performers in all three formats of the game this year. As per BCCI, wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah were top performers for India in Test cricket. "A look at #TeamIndia's Top Performers in Test cricket for the year 2022 @RishabhPant17 @JaspritBumrah93," tweeted BCCI. Pant scored 680 runs in seven matches at an average of 61.81 and his highest score was 146 runs while



Bumrah took 22 wickets in five matches. In the ODI format, Shreyas Iyer was adjudged the best batter while Mohammed Siraj was the best bowler. Iyer scored 724 runs in 17

matches with the highest score of 113 not out while Siraj took 24 wickets in 15 matches in the 50-over format. "@ShreyasIyer15 & @mdsirajofficial lead the charts for the Top Performers in ODIs in 2022," the

BCCI Twitter handle said. Meanwhile, Suryakumar Yadav was adjudged the best batter in T20 format after his superb performances in the T20 World Cup as well as various bilateral series and Bhuvneshwar Kumar was termed as the best bowler. Suryakumar scored 1164 runs in 31 matches with the highest score of 117 while Bhuvneshwar picked up 37 wickets in 32 matches. "@surya_14kumar and @BhuviOfficial are our Top Performers in T20s for 2022," Indian cricket's governing body, wrote on Twitter. The Indian cricket team will begin the 2023 with the home series against Sri Lanka, comprising three T20Is and as many ODIs, beginning on January 3.

Santosh Trophy

Gaurav Rawat nets winner, Delhi qualified for final round

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Gaurav Rawat's goal has taken Delhi into the final round of the 76th National Senior Men's Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy. Host Delhi beat Karnataka 1-0 in a do-or-die match played at the Dr. Ambedkar Stadium to top Group-1. On the other hand, Tripura tasted victory by defeating Ladakh 2-1 while Gujarat defeated Uttarakhand 3-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The hosts dominated in the one-sided match at the Dr Ambedkar Stadium, but Karnataka goalkeeper Satyajit Bordolo's brilliant saves kept Delhi waiting a long time for the decisive goal. The deadlock was broken in the 77th minute when Gaurav Rawat scored the only goal of the match with a quick right footer on a well-coordinated attack between Jaideep and Ajay Rawat. Karnataka created attacks on a few occasions, but Delhi's defense put up a solid performance to deny them freedom. With Saturday's win, Delhi topped the Group-1 table and qualified directly for the final round. The host has 13 points from five matches with four wins and one draw. Karnataka, who



scored four wins, slipped to second place after the first defeat. But Karnataka has every chance of qualifying for the final round as they have 12 points from five matches with four wins and one loss. Gujarat has retained its third position with its third win. On the other hand, in the second match of the day played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, there was a contest between Tripura and Ladakh, the two laggard teams of Group-1. In this secondary match, Tripura defeated Ladakh 2-1 and tasted their first win. Joykishan Gashi scored the first goal for Tripura in the 36th minute. Chinaba Tharchin converted the penalty in the 87th minute to give Ladakh a 1-1 draw. But Subhanil Ghosh scored a penalty kick in the 90+3 minute to give Tripura the win.

La Liga

Late goals help Real Madrid to home win over Valladolid; Sevilla's problems continue

Madrid (Spain) | Agencies

Two late goals from Karim Benzema, with the first from the penalty spot, took Real Madrid top of La Liga with a 2-0 win over Valladolid. Benzema scored his first goal in the 83rd minute after the VAR penalised Javi Sanchez for an involuntary handball, with Valladolid striker Sergio Leon sent off for his protests on Friday night. The striker added a second in the last minute of normal time after a good run and cross from Eduardo Camavinga to resolve a match that had been very much in the balance until the penalty. An even first half saw both sides have chances with Benzema firing over the crossbar when he looked certain to score, while Thibaut Courtois had to be alert to frustrate Alvaro Aguado. Courtois then produced excellent stops to deny Aguado again in the second half and a magnificent save to stop Sergio Leon's goalbound header with 20 minutes remaining. Those saves were to prove



vital as Madrid then resolved the game in the closing minutes. Celta and Sevilla drew 1-1 in a result that leaves Sevilla in the relegation zone, while Celta are just one

point above the drop zone, reports Xinhua. Celta controlled the first half and took the lead when Gabri Veiga ran clear and clipped the ball over Sevilla

keeper Bono. Sevilla were the better side after the break, with Kike Salas equalising with a header in the 54th minute, before Jorge Sampaoli's side ended with 10 men after defender Jorge Angel Carmona was sent off for two yellow cards. Cadiz and Almeria also drew 1-1, with Lucas Perez's 83rd-minute goal cancelling out Gonzalo Melero's opener for Almeria, although the point leaves Cadiz second from bottom with 12 points -- the same as Sevilla. Getafe ended the year with three valuable points as Borja Mayoral scored both of their goals in a 2-0 win at home to Mallorca. Getafe were much more ambitious than the visitors, who failed to get a single shot on target, and Mayoral assured the points with strikers in the 51st and 78th minute of the game. On Thursday, Atletico Madrid beat Elche 2-0, while Betis and Athletic Club Bilbao drew 0-0. FC Barcelona play Espanyol on Saturday, Villarreal face Valencia and Real Sociedad are at home to Osasuna.

Cristiano Ronaldo joins Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr FC in deal extending till 2025

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) | Agencies

Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has joined the Al Nassr Football Club of Saudi Arabia in a surprise deal that him keep him in the country till 2025. The Saudi Arabian club announced on Saturday that it has officially signed the 37-year-old Portuguese superstar, confirming the news that had broken out during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar that ended a few weeks back. "History in the making. This is a signing that will not only inspire our club to achieve even greater success



but inspire our league, our nation and future generations, boys and girls to be the best version of themselves. Welcome, Cristiano to your new home," the club based

in Riyadh said on its official social media account on Saturday. Media reports have claimed that Ronaldo could be more than 200 million U.S. dollars a year in West Asia. Some reports claimed that he will get 75 million a year, plus all the incentives and some percentage of ad revenue and sales. "I am fortunate that I have won everything I set out to win in European football and feel now that this is the right moment to share my experience in Asia," said the Portuguese captain, who will leave major European leagues for the first time in his career, reports Xinhua.

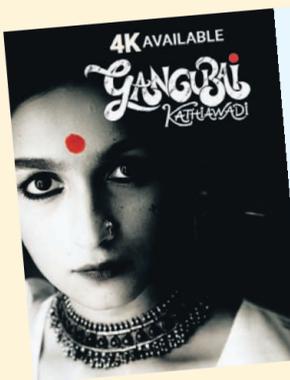


IN YEAR ENDED 2022

Films that emerged as highest grosser of the year

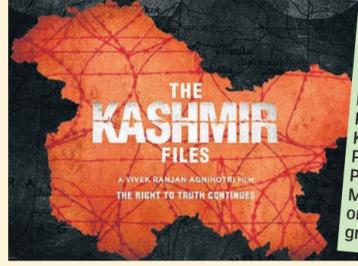
Team Absolute | Mumbai

The year 2022 has been a year of few hits and many misses for the Hindi Film Industry. While many films opted for the OTT route to release, a few films hit the theatres. Not only this, but amid the North-South debate, a few Hindi films managed to cross 200 crore mark at the box-office and emerged as highest grossers. They were also touted to be some movies that managed to put the box-office dry spell at rest. As 2022 comes to an end, here's celebrating films that kept us entertained, motivated and inspired.



GANGUBAI KATHIAWADI

Based on the life of Kamathipura indomitable lady Gangubai, the film starring Alia Bhatt was directed by ace filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Not only theatrically, but the film also performed well in digital space.



THE KASHMIR FILES

Based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s, the film directed by Vivek Agnihotri starred Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Darshan Kumar, Bhasha Sumbli, Pallavi Joshi, Puneet Issar, Chinmay Mandekar, Prakash Belawadi, Atul Srivastava and Mrinal Kulkarni. To note, be it political or commercial, the film managed to grab headlines for multiple reasons.

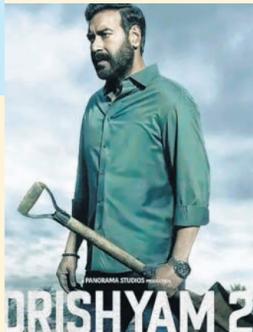


BRAHMASTRA: PART 1- SHIVA

Touted to be one of the most expensive films in making and the first ever Indian Universe, Brahmastra proved to be a splendid experience and succeeded in gravitating audiences towards theatres.

DRISHYAM 2

Starring Ajay Devgn, Tabu, Akshaye Khanna, Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta, and others, the Abhishek Pathak directorial was just the perfect sequel and box office booster. The twists, turns and thrills left the audience wanting for more.



BHOOL BHULAIYAA 2

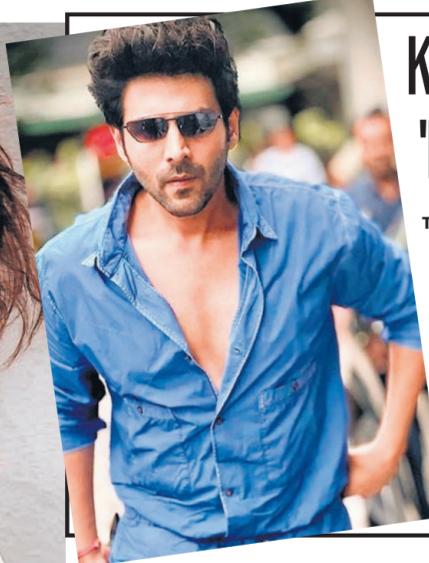
Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 starred Tabu, Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani in the lead. Skeptical about the film as it was a sequel of hit Akshay Kumar-Vidya Balan's much-acclaimed horror-comedy, the light-hearted entertainer broke all the records not only domestically, but worldwide.

Adaa Khan has high hopes from 2023

Team Absolute | New Delhi

2023 is almost here and after two years of pandemic, the excitement is even more as people can travel and enjoy get-togethers. Adaa Khan of 'Naagin' fame encapsulated her year and also discussed her plans for 2023. "2022 was quite okay for me. Initially, I did a lot of work, it started off really well. I did a special performance at the 'Bigg Boss' finale, became part of 'Naagin', and did some OTT shows and a lot of music videos. In between that, there was a slight slack. Then of course after that, I travelled a lot during the middle of the year. I did my trip to Europe, Maldives, and went to a lot of other locations as I love exploring new places. Then again it is going to end with me starting a new project. So overall it was very good," she said.

"I would definitely wish and hope that more opportunities open up for TV actors and we get to explore more roles on OTT as well. So just hoping for something positive," she concluded.



KARTIK AARYAN HOPES TO HAVE 'MANY MORE 2022'S IN MY LIFE'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan shared a post thanking 2022 for being special and hopes to have many more years like this one in his life.

The actor took to Instagram and shared a picture of himself from his 2022 release 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2'.

"Bye bye 2022, You have been really special. I hope to have more 2022's in my life. You will be remembered and how! Thank you for giving me three of my biggest blockbusters," he wrote as the caption.

In 2022, Kartik delivered two blockbusters - one horror comedy 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', which raked in Rs 200 crores and 'Freddy' which was widely appreciated after its release on OTT.

He is currently busy shooting for 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' with Kiara Advani. Kartik will also be seen in 'Shehzada', which also stars Kriti Sanon. He has 'Captain India' and Kabir Khan's yet-untitled next.

SALMAN, DHARMENDRA WILL USHER IN THE NEW YEAR WITH REALITY SHOW CONTESTANTS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra and star Salman Khan will be seen celebrating New Years with 'Bigg Boss 16' housemates in the upcoming episode.

A promo dropped by the channel Colors on Instagram shows that Dharmendra will also be seen dancing with Salman on the song 'Yamla Pagla Deewana'. The promo on the upcoming episode also shows the contestants spending some great time along with the guests.

Bigg Boss 16 contestants will be seen paying tribute to Dharmendra by dancing on his hit songs and performing his famous dialogues. Sajid Khan and Abdu Rozik can be seen performing Dharmendra's famous dialogues and entertaining Salman and the legendary actor.

Salman, who will be hosting 2022's last Weekend Ka Vaar will enter the house along with Dharmendra.

Actor-comedian Krushna Abhishek will be seen dressed up as Bollywood's iconic actor Jeetendra and will be seen on the show.



INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Ruchi Thakur

Kiara-Sidharth wedding on the cards in Rajasthan?

Jaipur | Agencies

With internet abuzz of news about Bollywood stars Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra to tie the knot, people are wondering if another palace wedding is on the cards in Rajasthan.

In December 2021, Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif had tied the knot at The Six Senses Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur. Their wedding function was a top secret affair where cent per cent privacy was maintained.

Now, the reports doing the rounds suggesting Kiara and Sidharth will tie the knot in Jaisalmer next year and the wedding date has been fixed as February 6. However, the gorgeous Bollywood couple has stayed tight-lipped on the matter.

The wedding, as per sources, will take place at Jaisalmer Palace Hotel, but, there is no official confirmation from stars as well as the hotel. The pre-wedding functions of Mehendi, Haldi and Sangeet will be held on February 4-5, while the nuptials will take place on February 6, sources say.

