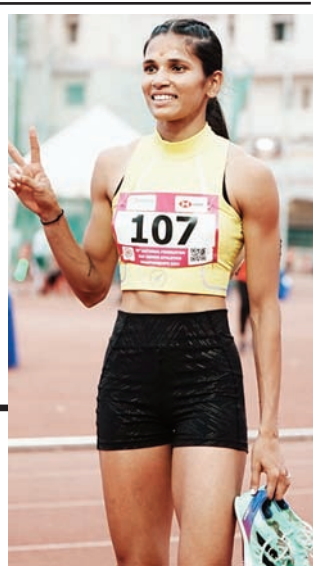


# absolute india



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## SC stays Rahul's conviction in 'Modi surname' defamation case

# BIG RELIEF TO CONGRESS

In March, the sessions court in Surat had dismissed Gandhi's plea seeking suspension of his conviction by the magistrate court, stating that his disqualification will not result in an irreversible loss to him. The Congress leader was disqualified under a rule that bars convicted MPs from holding the Lok Sabha membership.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

In a big win for Rahul Gandhi, the Supreme Court on Friday stayed conviction of the former Congress President in the 'Modi surname' defamation case, which cost him his Lok Sabha membership, saying that no reasons were given by the trial judge for imposing the maximum punishment of two years in the case.



Further, the bench remarked that had Gandhi been awarded a sentence of 1 year, 11 months and 29 days, he would have been disqualified as a Member of Parliament. No doubt that the utterances by the petitioner were not in good taste, the Supreme Court said today, "and the petitioner ought to have been more careful in making speeches". Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, termed the conviction as "strange" while referring to many other judge-

ments of the Supreme Court to justify that Gandhi's conviction in the case deserves to be suspended. "Everybody aggrieved is a BJP office-bearer or a karyakarta (party worker)," he said. On the other hand, senior advocate Jethamalani, appearing for the complainant BJP MLA in the defamation case, said that Gandhi's intention was to defame every person with the surname 'Modi' just because it is the same

### PROCEDURE FOR RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court's big relief to Rahul Gandhi has paved the way for his re-entry in Parliament. The big questions now are how long the Lok Sabha secretariat takes to restore his membership and whether he will be able to participate in the debate on the no-confidence motion against the government, which is scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

As per the procedure for restoration of membership, Gandhi will need to make a submission to the Lok Sabha secretariat stating that his conviction has been stayed and his status as the Member of Parliament from Wayanad should be restored. He will also have to submit a copy of the Supreme Court's order to the secretariat, which will go through it and then issue a communiqué.

**"If a constituency in Parliament goes unrepresented, is it not a relevant ground (to suspend conviction)? No whisper by the trial judge for the need to impose the maximum sentence. Not only is the right of one individual being affected, but the entire electorate of the constituency."**

Supreme Court

**"Come what may, my duty remains the same. Protect the idea of India."**

Rahul Gandhi

### ASI SURVEY OF GYANVAPI TO CONTINUE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to stay the Allahabad High Court's recent order allowing the ASI to survey the premises of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, except for 'wuzu khana'.

A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra recorded the undertaking given by the Archaeological Survey of India that it will not make any excavation at the site during the survey.

It further directed that ASI will complete the survey process using non-invasive methodology without causing any damage to the existing structure.

The bench refused to entertain the request made by senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque management committee, that the ASI report be kept in a sealed cover until another pending plea pertaining to maintainability is decided by the Supreme Court.

## Delhi HC issues notice to Centre, EC in PIL against Oppn parties using acronym 'INDIA'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to Centre on a PIL seeking direction to stop the opposition parties from using the acronym INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) for their alliance.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Amit Mahajan sought response from the Central government, Election Commission of India (ECI) and 26 political parties.

The court posted the matter to come up for hearing next on October 31 remarking that this has to be heard. "It requires hearing," it said.

Advocate Vaibhav Singh appeared for the petitioner and Additional Solicitor



General Chetan Sharma for the Centre. The writ petition has been filed by a businessman Girish Bharadwaj, who contests that to date Election Commission of India (ECI) has not taken any action on the representation given by him to prevent the respondent political parties to use the acronym I.N.D.I.A for their political alliance. The petitioner, who seeks a direction on the ECI and the Centre to take necessary

action in the matter, has said that the acronym has been used only to take undue advantages in the upcoming general elections in 2024.

Citing violation of Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, and relevant Rules, Bharadwaj has said that the acronym being the essential part of the national emblem cannot be used for any professional, commercial purpose and political purpose.

## Landslide in Uttarakhand; 19 missing, 3 bodies recovered

Dehradun | Agencies

At least 19 people went missing in Uttarakhand's Gauri Kund town -- a key halting point for pilgrims moving towards Kedarnath, following a landslide in the area that also affected some business establishments, an official said on Friday.

The landslide struck the town at around 11.30 p.m. on Thursday night. Several people were said to be present at the shops which were damaged by the landslide.

According to sources, of the missing individuals, most are of Nepalese origin.

Meanwhile, the State Disaster Response Force personnel, looking after the relief and rescue operation, have retrieved three bodies.

An official said that the deceased are being identified, adding it is being suspected that those missing might have been swept away by



the strong current of the Mandakini river. The Kedarnath Yatra has been suspended for now.

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 stations on Sunday

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Keeping in focus to enhance the experience of passengers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country on August 6 worth Rs 24,470 crore.

Sharing the details of the historic initiative, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "Improving passenger experience is a major focus of our government."

The Railway Minister said, "Our Prime minister will be laying the foundation for the redevelopment of 508 stations across the country." These stations will be redeveloped at a cost of more than Rs 24,470 crore and the work is expected to be complete in two years.

"These 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories, including 55 each in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, 49 in Bihar, 44 in Maharashtra, 37 in West Bengal, 34 in



Madhya Pradesh, 32 in Assam, 25 in Odisha, 22 in Punjab, 21 each in Gujarat and Telangana, 20 in Jharkhand, 18 each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, 15 in Haryana, 13 in Karnataka among others," it said. The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and well designed signage for guidance of passengers. The design of the station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage and architecture, the ministry said.

### "There will be transition period": Government on new Laptop import norms

New Delhi: Restrictions on the import of laptops, tablets, all-in-one personal computers, and ultra-small computers and servers will not be imposed immediately and there will be a transition period to implement them, the centre said today.

This transition period can be up to four months, keeping in mind the already-ordered shipments that are in transit.

"There will be a transition period for this to be put into effect which will be notified soon," Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a tweet.

## Mobs loot huge cache of arms, ammunition from Manipur Police posts, one cop killed

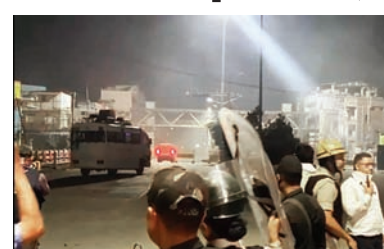
Imphal | Agencies

Mobs ransacked two security posts in Manipur's Bishnupur district and looted a large cache of arms and ammunition on Thursday, police said.

A security personnel was killed at Koutruk in Bishnupur district when the armed attackers engaged in an encounter with the security forces.

A Manipur Police statement late on Thursday night said that a mob stormed Keirenphabi Police outpost and Thangalawai Police outpost of Manipur Armed Police's 2nd Battalion in Bishnupur and took away a huge cache of arms and ammunition.

The mob, comprising men and



women, also attempted to snatch arms and ammunition from Heingang police station and Singjamei police station in the same district but security forces repelled them. The statement said that exchange of fire between the armed attackers and security forces occurred at Koutruk, Haraoethel, and Senjam Chirang areas in which two persons

including a security personnel sustained bullet injuries.

Security forces retaliated to the firing and drove away the attackers.

As an unruly crowd of 500-600 persons assembled at Phougakchao Ikhai along the borders of Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts, security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob in which around 25 persons sustained minor injuries.

During the last 24 hours, the situation in the state is still volatile and tense with sporadic incidents of firing and gathering of unruly mobs in different places.

Security forces conducted search operations in the vulnerable and fringe areas of the state and destroyed seven illegal bunkers of the attackers.

## Bombay HC judge resigns in open court, 29 months before retirement

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In an unexpected development, Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench judge, Justice Rohit B. Deo resigned in the open court here on Friday noon.

Announcing his decision to quit, the second senior-most judge of the bench, he said that he "couldn't work against his self-respect".

At the time, he was heading a division bench along with Justice M. W. Chandwani, apologised to the lawyers and called them his family.

Apologising to every lawyer present in the court, Justice Deo said: "I scolded you because I wanted you to improve... You people work hard."

He added how he never intended to hurt anyone as all were like a family to him, and "I can't work against my self-respect".



On October 14, 2022, a division bench of Justice Deo and Justice Anil Pansare had discharged Prof. G. N. Saibaba, a former Delhi University faculty, and five others accused in an alleged Maoist links case, and also ordered their immediate release.

However, after the verdict was challenged by the Maharashtra government, the Supreme Court stayed the release order. On April 19, 2023, the apex court set aside the verdict and remanded the case back with specific directions to assign it to another bench for hearing it afresh.

## Ram Temple consecration ceremony from January 21 to 23, PM to be invited

Ayodhya | Agencies

The temple trust will hold the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 21, 22, and 23 next year, a trust member said.

The trust members had earlier said they would be sending an official invite to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the event.

"The consecration ceremony of Ram Janmabhoomi will take place in the third week of January next year. Three dates - 21, 22, and 23 of January - have been fixed for the consecration ceremony. We will invite Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the ceremony, which will also be attended by prominent sadhus and other dignitaries," Ram Mandir Trust General Secretary Champat Rai told news agency.



"The main event would be kept non-political. Guests from different political parties will also be invited, provided they have the intention to come. There will be no stage in the programme,

nor any public meeting," he said.

The trust plans to invite over 25,000 Hindu religious leaders of 136 Sanatan traditions to the ceremony. A list of such saints is

being prepared by the temple trust and soon an invitation letter will be sent to them with the signature of trust president Mahant Nitya Gopal Das, he said.

## FPIs have been sellers in 6 trading sessions at Rs 7,990 cr

Team Absolute | New Delhi

FPIs have been continuous sellers in the last six trading sessions with a cumulative sell figure of Rs 7,990 crore, says V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

In the two-day correction in the market, Nifty has lost 350 points. More importantly, higher corrections have happened in the large-caps with the broader market holding on, he said.

With the 10-year US bond yield spiking to 4.16 per cent, the FPIs may continue to sell or at least refrain from buying aggressively. The positive factor is that the DIIIs are buying aggressively more than compensating for FPI selling, he said.

During the last six sessions, DIIIs have bought stocks for around Rs 9,000 crore.

Investors may take cues



from Warren Buffet's response to the Fitch downgrade that, "There are some things that people should not be worried. This is one".

This is the time to nibble at high quality large-caps, particularly in banking, capital goods, construction and autos, he added.

BSE Sensex is up 252 points in Friday trade at 65,493 points. IT stocks are leading the gains with Wipro up more than 2 per cent, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, TCS are all up more than 1 per cent.



# 'AFTER PM VISITS, NOW 200 MLAS FROM BJP-RULED STATES TO TOUR RAJASTHAN'

Archana Sharma | Jaipur

The saffron party will be roping in 200 veteran party MLAs from states like Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh etc, who will prepare the ground survey in 200 Assembly seats of Rajasthan and will submit a report to the party's Central leadership, according to BJP sources.

Each MLA from these states will stay for seven days in one Assembly constituency of Rajasthan and will monitor the ground situation in this constituency.

The idea is to figure out the ground challenges in a particular location and find out solutions for them, party sources added.

This unique survey will be completed in August and a report will be submitted to the BJP's Central leadership so that the challenges which have emerged can be overcome.

The initiative is being undertaken under the 'Khilega kamal, jitega kamal' campaign by which



the Centre is taking the reins in its own hands.

The Centre is going active in Rajasthan and they are preparing their own political strategy, said sources. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will again visit the poll-

bound state to hold three election rallies, sources added. Modi, who has done seven tours and meet-

ings in Rajasthan during the election year, and has now called all the 28 MPs of the state to Delhi on August 8.

Of these, 24 BJP MPs are from the Lok Sabha and four from the Rajya Sabha. According to political experts, they will call the MLAs to Delhi and take their feedback.

## MINOR KIDNAPPED, GANG RAPED IN RAJASTHAN; 1 ARRESTED

Jaipur: A minor girl studying in class 10 was allegedly kidnapped and gang raped by five boys in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district, police said, adding that the main accused has been arrested.

According to the police, a manhunt is currently underway to nab the remaining accused. Dungarpur SP Kundan Kanwariya said the arrested person has been identified as Raju Meena, a resident of Mandwa Khaparda.

The SP said that the five accused persons, including Raju who already knew the girl, kidnapped her while she was returning home from school on Wednesday.

She was taken to the Bichiwada forest, about 40 km from her village.

In her complaint, the victim alleged that after the rape, the accused left her on the Mathugamda Road in Dungarpur city and fled.

Taking a phone from a vegetable seller, the victim called her relatives for help and informed them about the incident.

A case was registered against the accused on Thursday.

## Conference on Advantages and Opportunities For Gas-Based Industries in Rajasthan

Jaipur | Agencies

Rajasthan, a state blessed with abundant natural resources, holds a prominent position in both the petroleum and natural gas sectors as well as renewable energy. It stands as the leading producer of onshore crude oil and onshore natural gas in India. The potential for solar energy production is estimated to reach an impressive 142 GW, while wind energy potential exceeds 127 GW. The current tenure of the Rajasthan Government has proven to be a prosperous period for industries and investments in Rajasthan. The state ranks second in corporate investments due to progressive policies and practical decision-making by the government. This was stated by Industries & Commerce Minister, Government of Rajasthan, Shakuntla Rawat. She was speaking as the Chief Guest at a Conference on Advantages and Opportunities For Gas-Based Industries in Rajasthan organized by RIICO and FICCI at ITC Rajputana in Jaipur.

The Minister further said that steps like freeing MSME industries from obtaining state-level approvals for the initial 3 years - which has now been extended to 5 years, Mukhyamantri Laghu Udyog Pratsahan Yojana, the one-stop shop facility to streamline approvals for investments above Rs 10 crore, among others, are revolutionary policies for the growth of industries and investment in



State. She also threw light on the numerous projects which are currently underway, with the Petroleum Refinery cum Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Barmer district taking center stage as the most significant and ambitious endeavour. To maximize value addition within the state, the Rajasthan Petro Zone has been established in close proximity to the refinery. This strategic move is expected to not only boost industrial investment but also drive investments in commercial, educational, and social infrastructure, particularly in western Rajasthan. Additional Chief Secretary - Industries & Commerce and Mines & Petroleum, Government of Rajasthan Venu Gupta said that Rajasthan possesses 80 types of minerals and has become a significant player in India's petroleum and natural gas sectors, ranking second in natural gas reserves. The recent addition of GIGL and GAIL has addressed the supply network issues in the State. The increasing availability of CNG opens doors for energy-intensive industries in the state.

## Union Home Secretary Ajay K. Bhalla gets another extension



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The government on Friday granted another extension to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla for a period of one year.

In an order, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said:

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in service of Ajay Kumar Bhalla, IAS (AM:84) as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs for a further period of one year beyond August 22, 2023 up to August 22, 2024."

The 1984 batch IAS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya

cadre was first appointed as the Home Secretary on August 22, 2019 for a fixed two year tenure till August 2021. However, the government gave him an extension twice subsequently.

Bhalla has served as the Union Power Secretary before becoming Home Secretary.

## It took 24 hours to disqualify him, will see when they will reinstate Rahul Gandhi's membership: Kharge

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday dubbed the Supreme Court judgement staying the conviction of Rahul Gandhi in the Modi surname defamation case as the victory of democracy and the Constitution and said that it then took 24 hours to disqualify him, now we will see when Parliament will reinstate his membership.

Following the Supreme Court judgement, hundreds of party workers arrived at the party headquarters and distributed sweets and played songs. They raised slogans in favour of Rahul Gandhi, once he entered the party headquarters flanked by his sister and party General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to attend a Tamil Nadu strategy meeting on preparations for the 2024 Lok Sabha



elections.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters with Rahul Gandhi, with Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, K.C. Venugopal and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury by his side, Kharge said: "Today it is the victory of democracy and the victory of

Constitution. Satyamev Jayate, which is written below the symbol of the country, it is its victory."

He said that they are happy with the judgement. "I welcome the Supreme Court judgement. The Constitution is still alive and justice can be delivered," he said.

Kharge asserted that it is not only Rahul Gandhi's victory, but it is the victory of democracy, the Constitution. "When a person fights for the truth, for the country and to help the country strengthen, for youths, who raises voice against inflation and tries to aware the people and walks from Kanyakumari to Kashmir meeting people. So I think it is the blessings of the people."

Taking a swipe at the BJP, Kharge said that after the trial court order, it took them only 24 hours to disqualify Rahul Gandhi.

"Now we will see how many hours they will take to reinstate his membership," Kharge said, adding that the Supreme Court is situated just a few km from Parliament.

"Now we will see how long they will take to reinstate his membership. We will wait for the order of the Parliament."

## Hilshaw Group inks Strategic Aircraft Leasing Joint Venture with Aeolus

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hilshaw Group diversifies into the Aviation Industry. The move comes with the announcement of a Strategic Aircraft Leasing Joint Venture with the leading global aviation company, Aeolus. The venture will be focused on aircraft leasing, special flight operations and related services with an initially planned fleet of 20 commercial aircraft (combination of narrow body and wide body) to be available to the global leasing market.

Hilshaw Group is a Multi-Family Office & Investment Advisory. The Company primarily invests in low-supply, finite, time-specific opportunities. The Company had previously allocated USD 175 Million

towards UAE Real Estate, specifically towards facilitating the Remote Work Visa program. The Group is also involved in the financial facilitation of Sustainable Projects across Europe and Africa. AEOLUS is an airline advisory, aircraft brokerage and trading organization with over 20 years of experience. AEOLUS serve and advise both UHNNWI and Airlines in the UAE and around the world for their requirements.

The JV will have Aeolus render its expertise and two decades of experience in fleet management. Hilshaw Group's mandate is to design and manage the finance and capital structure for acquiring the fleet. This joint venture represents a significant milestone for both companies, combining their

expertise, resources, and market reach to deliver unmatched solutions in the aviation industry. The collaboration aims to capitalize on the increasing demand for aircraft leasing services and the growing opportunities in the global aviation market.

Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, both companies will pool their expert portfolios to establish a diverse and comprehensive fleet of commercial aircraft, ranging from narrow-body to wide-body and regional jets.

This synergistic partnership will enable the new entity to offer a wide range of options to airlines, catering to their specific operational requirements and ensuring the highest level of customer satisfaction.

## EXPERIENCE THE AUTHENTIC FLAVOR OF ITALIAN FOOD ALONG WITH LIVE BAND

Jaipur: If you are fond of Italian food, then enjoy the rich Italian menu here at Holiday Inn from 4th August in the Italian Food Festival "Gusto Italiano".

Here you will get to experience the flavour of food along with some soothing music.

If you're a fan of pasta, pizza and lasagna, don't hold yourself back and try Roadhouse Bar & Grill. The premium hospitality address is hosting a 10-day food festival, where you will get a chance to savor a variety of authentic Italian cuisine prepared by expatriate Chef Ramesh along with the in-house culinary team.

Seafood Risotto with Sea Bass, Fresh Homemade Pasta, Pumpkin and Sage Stuffing Chocolate Ravioli Pasta and much more. Among the sweet you will find authentic siphon tiramisu, zupanglies, chocolate and pistachio semifreddo and almond semifreddo.

## Security enhanced in Gurugram in view of Friday namaz, Nuh SP transferred

Gurugram | Agencies

Security was beefed up in several parts of Gurugram in view of the Friday namaz; and in the fall-out of the July 31 violence the Nuh district Superintendent of Police was transferred.

The security was enhanced as several parts of the city witnessed disturbance on Tuesday due to violence in Nuh district.

A community leader in Gurugram had on Thursday announced that the members of the Muslim community will not offer Friday namaz at any mosque or open space in Gurugram in view of the communal violence. "There is complete



peace in the city. Our teams are deployed across the district. No fresh incident of violence took place in the district on Thursday," said Varun Dahiya, ACP (Crime).

Besides this, Nuh Superintendent of Police (SP), Varun Singla has been

transferred days after the clashes broke out in the district. The SP was on leave when the violent clashes took place at the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) rally. Bhiwani SP Narendra Bijarniya has been made the Nuh SP.

## Telangana announces job, flat for widow of Jaipur Express firing victim

Hyderabad | Agencies

The Government of Telangana on Friday announced a government job and a double-bedroom flat for the family of a man from Hyderabad who was killed in the firing by a Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable on Jaipur-Mumbai Superfast Express on July 31.

Syed Saifuddin (48) was among the four persons gunned down by RPF constable Chetan Kumar.

Saifuddin, a resident of Bazar Ghat in Hyderabad, was returning after a visit to Ajmer along with the owner of the mobile shop he was employed at.

Minister for industries and information technology K. T. Rama Rao announced in the state Assembly on Friday that the government will provide a job to the widow of Saifuddin. "We will give her a job in GHMC or HMDA or QGSU-DA. I will issue the orders tomorrow," said Rama Rao, who is also minister for municipal administration and urban development. Minister KTR also



announced that a flat under the government's double bedroom housing scheme will be allotted to the family.

He made the announcement when the issue was raised by All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Akbaruddin Owaisi in the Assembly.

On Owaisi's demand for compensation to the family, KTR said a decision in this regard would be taken by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

KTR, who is also working president of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), announced that the party will deposit Rs 2 lakh each for three daughters of Saifuddin. He suggested to AIMIM to come forward to provide some financial assistance to the family. Saifuddin, a native of Hamilapur village in

Karnataka's Bidar district, is survived by three daughters of which the youngest one is just six months old. The other two are aged six and four.

Raising the issue, Akbaruddin Owaisi said the RPF constable shot dead three Muslim passengers who had long beards. The AIMIM leader said the killings were the result of growing radicalization and hatred being spread to create enmity between Hindus and Muslims.

Owaisi alleged those who captured power by spreading hatred were destroying the country. Stating that Telangana kept communal forces away for the last nine years, he appealed to the state government to set an example by extending assistance to the victim's family. KTR termed the killing of Saifuddin and others unfortunate. He remarked that everybody knows who is responsible for this incident and the violence in Haryana and Manipur.

He termed as disgusting attempts to spread hatred and create anarchy in the society in the name of religion for political gains.

## IMD predicts subdued rainfall in peninsular India, heavy showers in Bihar & Jharkhand

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday forecasted subdued rainfall activity over peninsular India during the next five days, while Bihar and Jharkhand will see an increase in downpours two days after the influence of remnants of a low pressure area.

In its bulletin, the IMD said that in Northwest India, there will be light to moderate scattered rainfall with fairly widespread occurrences till August 8.

Isolated heavy rainfall is expected in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh during this period.

"Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi will experience such rainfall from Friday to Sunday. East Rajasthan will witness rainfall on Friday and Saturday, while Jammu will experience it on Saturday," said the IMD.

Additionally, East Uttar Pradesh is likely to have isolated very heavy rainfall from Friday to August 7, and Uttarakhand from Friday to Sunday, with West Uttar Pradesh expecting it on Friday. In Central India, Madhya



Pradesh will experience light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls on Friday and Saturday, with a possibility of very heavy showers. "In Northeast India, there will be light to moderate fairly widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall over

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Manipur during the next five days," the IMD predicted.

The weatherman also said that West India's Konkan, Goa, and ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra will see light to moderate scattered rain-

fall with isolated heavy rainfall, likely to continue on Friday and reduce thereafter. South India will experience subdued rainfall activity over the next five days. "Hot and humid weather conditions are expected to prevail over Tamil Nadu on Friday and Saturday," the IMD added.



## CM JAN SEVA MITRA WILL CREATE A NEW HISTORY FOR THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE-CM CHOUHAN

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the sons and daughters who were selected six months ago as MukhyamantriJansevaMitra, have done a very good job. All these youth will create history. Swami Vivekananda used to say that you are not just a three and a half hand flesh and bone effigy, you are a storehouse of infinite powers. You can do everything in the world. Help in creating a new history for the progress and development of the state. The job you've got is a job to carve and build and learn on your own. Do it with all seriousness. Try to reach the benefit to the last person. Cooperate fully in other public welfare schemes including LadliBahnaYojana. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing CM JansevaMitras at the MukhyamantriJansevaMitra Boot Camp Batch-2 at Lal Parade Ground today. Initially, Chief Minister Chouhan welcomed the youth by showering flowers.



Gram Panchayat which has been given to you to work continuously. Talk to everyone politely and explain about the plans. To complete the task, try better by keeping yearning in your heart. There should be a positive attitude behind doing work. If you serve people as worship of God, then you will get happiness.

**Madhya Pradesh has to be made the leading state among the states of the country and the world**

Chief Minister Chouhan said that at one time the condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh was bad. There was very little electricity. There was no arrangement for drinking water and irrigation. Madhya Pradesh was called as a Bimaru State. Today the

per capita income has increased from Rs 11 thousand to Rs one lakh 40 thousand. The production of electricity has increased from 2900 MW to 28 thousand MW. Irrigation has been arranged in about 47 lakh hectare area. The condition of the roads has improved. The budget of the state has also increased. We are setting up CM Rise School. Madhya Pradesh has to be made a leading state among the states of the country and the world.

**MukhyamantriSeekho-kama-yojna will be launched on August 13**  
Chief Minister Chouhan said that the state government is getting the fees for higher education and studies abroad covered under the MukhyamantriMedhaviVidarthiYojana. The Chief Minister's Seekho-KamaYojana will be launched on August 13. The youth will also be given Rs 8,000 per month while learning work.

**Vehicles will be made available to CM fellows**

Chief Minister Chouhan said that vehicles will be arranged for the CM Fellows to reach among the people, so that they can easily make their visits. A mobile data pack of Rs 200 will be provided to Chief Minister's jansevamitra for online work.

## Reasonable price of crops to farmers due to agricultural produce market system: Chief Minister Chouhan



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that due to the excellent arrangement of agricultural produce market in the state, farmers are getting fair price for their crops. All this is the result of the continuous efforts of all of you that the market committees have achieved the highest ever increase in the arrival of commodities and the income of the market. My best wishes to all the farmers of the state and the entire team of Mandi Board. Chief Minister Chouhan was

addressing the Golden Jubilee Festival of Madhya Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board at the Academy of Administration today. The Chief Minister duly inaugurated the festival by lighting the lamp and worshipping the girl child.

Chief Minister Chouhan said that basically all of us are farmers. I have done farming and plowed. Therefore, he understands the pain and sufferings of the farmers. The government is continuously working for the welfare of the farmers and to provide them fair price for their crops. Chief Minister

Chouhan said that the remaining class IV employees of the board will also be absorbed. Union Agriculture Minister Tomar said that under the leadership of Prime Minister NarendraModi, the country is progressing day and night. Madhya Pradesh is continuously winning the Krishi Karman Award by doing remarkable work in the field of agriculture. This is the result of the hard work of the farmers of our state. Agriculture Minister Patel said that the government has given many gifts to the farmers.

## MP Congress celebrates SC's verdict, terms it 'victory'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Jubilant Congress workers in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh hailed the Supreme Court's decision about defamation case against former AICC president Rahul Gandhi. Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) office bearers along with party workers and leaders celebrated, at RoshanpuraChowk in Bhopal, the court verdict terming it as 'justice'. Former chief minister and state Congress president Kamal Nath expressed his happiness soon after the top court granted relief to Rahul Gandhi. Kamal Nath, who is considered to be close to the Nehru- Gandhi family, congratulated Rahul Gandhi calling him "favorite of the people and the respected



leader of the Congress." "Congratulations to the voice of democracy in the country - Rahul Gandhi, the favorite of the people and the respected leader of the Congress for getting relief from the Supreme Court. Senior advocate and RajyaSabha MP VivekTankha called the Friday's development historic and said that the maximum punishment was never given in the history of Indian Penal Code's 200 years and also there was no solid reason to give maximum punishment. He said that this decision would boost up a new energy and new confidence in

the Opposition - INDIA. He said that Rahul Gandhi will now be in the Parliament in the next couple of days. "The Supreme Court has found several loopholes in the judgment of the lower court in Rahul Gandhi's case. Stay on conviction will restore his membership. A new energy for the opposition alliance INDIA," he said. SC on Friday stayed the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a 2019 defamation case over his Modi surname remark, restoring his status as an MP. A three-judge bench of Justices B R Gavai, P S Narasimha and Sanjay Kumar said no doubt that the utterances were not in good taste and that a person in public life is expected to exercise caution while making public speeches.

## IISER-BHOPAL TEAM UNRAVEL GENETIC SECRETS OF PEACOCK

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have constructed a high-quality genome assembly to decipher the genetic secrets of peacock -- India's national bird. The ornate features of the peacock's tail have always fascinated scientists and nature enthusiasts. Even Charles Darwin, known as the father of evolution, had expressed bewilderment over the paradoxical grand display of the male peafowl, which made it more vulnerable to predators. Darwin resolved this puzzle with the theory of sexual selection, suggesting that such ornamental traits play a crucial role in attracting mates and enhancing reproductive success. Despite such understanding, the underlying genetic basis for these spectacular birds has always remained a mystery. In the new study, published in the journal Heliyon, the team focused on the Blue Peafowl, also known as the Indian Peacock, native to the Indian subcontinent, and the Green Peafowl,



found in Southeast Asia. These two species of birds were chosen because despite being the only two species from the Pavo genus, the Blue Peafowl is classified as a

their differential adaptability that makes the Blue Peafowl less endangered than the Green. Researchers found that genes related to nervous system development, immunity, and skeletal muscle development have undergone adaptive evolution in both bird species. However, the Blue Peafowl has more pronounced adaptive evolution, possessing a higher number of expanded gene families, segmentally duplicated genes, species-specific gene clusters, and genes with evolutionary signatures. "Our findings highlight the distinct genomic divergence between the two Asian peafowl species and provide valuable genomic clues to explain their contrasting population sizes," said Vineet K. Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal, in a statement. "The reduction in their population has resulted in decreased gene flow, increased inbreeding, and lower genetic diversity, ultimately raising the risk of extinction for this species," Sharma added.

## BJP MLA'S SON OPENS FIRE ON TRIBAL IN MP'S SINGRAULI

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A tribal youth was allegedly shot at by the son of BJP MLA RamlalluVaish in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli. The incident happened on Thursday evening. The accused, VivekVaish got into a verbal argument with the victim, Surya PrakashKhairbar, a resident of Morba, and all of sudden pulled out his revolver and opened fire on him. Police said the accused has been booked under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of IPC and 25/27 (Arms Act). He was yet to get arrested, said Shiv Kumar Verma, additional Superintendent of Police (ADSP). It is not the first time that VivekVaish has been involved in hooliganism. In July last year, he was booked for thrashing and misbehaving with forest guards. A local BJP leader said that Vaish was involved in illegal coal supply and wood smuggling, and uses his father's influence and takes the help



powerful people in Singrauli. "The fire incident came to light because there were many people at the spot at that time. Vivek would often create terror among the tribals and beat them whenever he wished and no one would stop him. He has a strong nexus, which has been involved in illegal coal mining and wood smuggling. Even if he gets arrested, his father would use his

power to get him out of jail and this has been happening for the last several years," a Singrauli-based BJP leader said. The incident comes a month after the urination case in Sidhi district. Singrauli, the hub of coal mines, was the part of Sidhi district, and was made a separate district in 2008. Responding to the incident, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath hit at the BJP saying that "tribals are being attacked" regularly in Madhya Pradesh. He claimed that the BJP leaders were indulging in harassment of the tribal community. "I want to know from the Chief Minister whether the only work left for the BJP leaders is to harass tribals, Dalits, women and people of all communities. Far from curbing such crimes, you are seeing the promotion of criminals happening. Recently, you have made it clear how fast you are progressing in the campaign of forming a criminal BJP, by including the person convicted for running a sex racket from Harda in the BJP," said Kamal Nath.

## Patna HC verdict on caste census will pave way for social and economic justice: Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Terming the Patna High Court's decision on caste-based census in Bihar as paving the way for "social and economic justice" for deprived people, Congress' Madhya Pradesh chief Kamal Nath on Thursday hit out at the ruling BJP accusing it of conspiring to stop the "caste survey" by engaging in legal arguments. The former Chief Minister, who supported the voices raised for caste-based census and has in fact announced the same in Madhya Pradesh if his party wins the Assembly elections slated for later this



year, said: "When the people standing at the last line of the society will stand together for their rights, then these domineering people cannot stand anywhere in front of this enumeration to ensure social justice." He claimed the caste-based census will open the way for proportional share of rights of all and the direction of democracy will really move from bottom-to-top. He alleged that the BJP's feudal thinking has been "of inequality and oppression" and that is why it is against the caste census "to kill the rights of the poor and weak". "People will ostracise the BJP which is stopping the caste census in the next elections in such a way that neither their leaders nor their candidates will be visible on the day of counting of votes," he claimed. Addressing a mega convention of other-backward-class (OBC) on July 24, Kamal Nath had announced that the caste-based census would be conducted if Congress formed a government in the state.

## Another suicide attempt at Bhopal's GMC, doctors on strike after Dr Bala's death

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Days after a junior female doctor died by suicide at Madhya Pradesh's prominent Gandhi Medical College (GMC), a medical trainee attempted suicide on Thursday even as junior doctors and teachers of the institution were on strike. KartikeyParasar, a resident of Gwalior, who has completed his MBBS course this year and was a trainee at the GMC, was under psychiatric treatment due to depression for the last few months. He consumed an overdose of medicines and got unconscious following which he was admitted to the Hamidia Hospital, the largest government-run hospital in the state and in whose campus the GMC is located. Parasar's condition was out of danger but he has been kept on regular monitoring by the doctors, a doctor said. For the past three days, OPD and emergency medical services were suspended at Hamidia Hospital as all junior doctors and medical teachers have



gone on protest after the death of Dr.SaraswatiBala. Around 50-55 surgeries have been postponed in the last 24 hours. Dr Bala, who hailed from Hyderabad, was 14 weeks pregnant and was pursuing her post-graduation

in gynaecology. Her husband has lodged an FIR, alleging that she was under acute pressure as she was regularly harassed by Dr.Aruna Kumar - head of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology in the GMC. After a meeting held between state Medical Education Minister ViswasSarang and GMC Dean Dr.ArvindRai, a decision has been taken to remove Dr.Aruna Kumar from the department on Thursday, sources said. Dr.Bala was the second female junior doctor died by suicide within a period of seven months at the GMC. On January 24, AkankshaMaheswari, 27, a resident of Gwalior had died by suicide after consuming overdose of anesthesia at her hospital room in the campus. The GMC, a prominent medical institution of Madhya Pradesh, has set several milestones for medical research, and also is the first medical institution where the state government has introduced the Hindi medium of MBBS as an experiment.

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**DEMAND NOTICE**  
(under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

**SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE U/s. 13 (2) of SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.**  
Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL), their loan accounts have been classified as **Non-Performing Assets** in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire outstanding amount together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice as on Date
1	1. RITA PANWAR, Plot At Survey No. 15/5/1, P.H. No. 57, Rm-2, Katju Nagar, Ward No.28, Village-Kumhari, Tehsil-Jawara, District-Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457001. 2. SHUBHAM SINGH PANWAR, Plot At Survey No. 15/5/1, P.H. No. 57, Rm-2, Katju Nagar, Ward No.28, Village-Kumhari, Tehsil-Jawara, District-Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457001. 3. MANGALA DEVI Plot At Survey No. 15/5/1, P.H. No. 57, Rm-2, Katju Nagar, Ward No.28, Village-Kumhari, Tehsil-Jawara, District-Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457001. 4. RITA PANWAR House No. 72, Ward No. 28, Kadiju Nagar, Jaora, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 5. MANGALA DEVI House No. 72, Ward No. 28, Kadiju Nagar, Jaora, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 6. SHUBHAM SINGH PANWAR Survey No. 15/5/1, Ward No. 28, Kanju Nagar, Jaora, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 7. RITA PANWAR Survey No. 15/5/1, Ward No.28, Jaora Rattlam, Katju Nagar (Kumhar), Jaora Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 8. SHUBHAM SINGH PANWAR Survey No. 15/5/1, Ward No.28, Jaora Rattlam, Katju Nagar (Kumhar), Jaora Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 9. MANGALA DEVI Survey No. 15/5/1, Ward No.28, Jaora Rattlam, Katju Nagar (Kumhar), Jaora Rattlam, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. 10. RITA PANWAR C/O TIRUPATI BALAJI TIFFIN CENTER Katju Nagar, Jaora, Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457226. Loan Account No. LNIND0HL-01220118826, LNIND0HL-01220118829, LNIND0HL-08190055390 & LNIND0HL-08190055394	01-June-2023	01.08.2023	Rs. 25,13,902.15/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Two and Fifteen Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 18.07.2023

**DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED:** Item 1: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Village Kumhari P.H.No. 57 R.N.M. 2 In Tehsil Jaora District Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457001, Survey Number 15/5/1 Rakba 0.188 Hectare Land Has Been Converted According To The Case Number 156/A-2/2017-18 Dated 07/07/2018 Of Mr. Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Jaora, With The Land Rights And Loan Book Number LI-516131 Related To Agriculture. Sale Of 0.007 Hectare I.E. 800 Square Feet Land, Whose Detailed Description And Boundary Is As Follows: East: Kaccha Rasta West: Agricultural Land Of Others North: Plot Sold To Pinki Patidar South: Remaining Land Of Previous Seller Mumbhai Item 2: All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Village Kumhari P.H.N. 57 R.N.M. 2 Tehsil Jaora District Rattlam, Madhya Pradesh-457001, Survey Number 15/5/1 Rakba 0.188 Hectare Land Has Been Converted According To The Case Number 156/A-2/2017-18 Dated 07/07/2018 Of Mr. Sub-Divisional Officer Mr. Jaora For Agricultural Purpose, Related To Which Land Rights And Loan Book Number LI-516131 Out Of Which Sale Of 0.004 Hectare I.E. 400 Square Feet Of Land, Whose Detailed Description And Boundary Is As Follows: East: The Remaining Land Of The Same Survey Number Of The Seller West: Kaccha Rasta North: The Rest Of The Seller's Land South: The Land Sold To Manoj S/O Shankarlal

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s)together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences.

Please note that as per section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 05.08.2023  
Place: MADHYA PRADESH

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY - 6 AUGUST 2023

# FRIENDSHIP A BOUQUET FULL OF HAPPINESS IN LIFE

Lalit Garg



International Friendship Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of August in many countries of the world. The spirit behind it is the same everywhere - friendship and respect for friendship. The philosophy of friendship is very vast; it is the most important part of human's life. One who establishes friendship without any insistence and selfishness, he aspires for the welfare of all sees him in the emergence of all and new dimensions of development keep opening in his life. Life seems beautiful. In this, there is no distinction between one's own alien, there is no competition and there is no boundary line between big and small.

Despite being such an ideal situation and its importance, the question arises why there is so much lack of friendship between human beings today? Why is there so much mutual animosity? Why is there ideological animosity? Why is publicity sparring with differences? Even after being wise, prudent, sensible, why does man fight every day? Why does the tense stand entangled in the midst of controversies? He neither sees with the eye of reason, nor listens with neutrality and balance, nor thinks and decides with relativity. This is the reason why individual creativity is dying out. The feelings of family co-operation and participation are breaking down. Social disintegration is coming to the fore. Religious beliefs are starting to weaken. Man has been counting the links of the chains of selfishness in the captivity of words, holding the accepted concepts. In such times, the bond of friendship infuses new energy in relationships.

Well-known American author Dale Carnegie has written many books on the art of making friends and they sell in millions. He has written in a book - 'Take all my wealth and give me a true friend.' Giving the example of American Richie Henry Ford, he has written that - he was once asked by journalists - you have immense wealth, pleasures

are available, what do you miss in life when you have all this? Friends were found a lot, but that friendship was only about eating, drinking and having fun. I have not found a single friend who truly wants me and I want him. This is a huge gap in my life.

International Friendship Day has more relevance today, this festival started in South American countries on July 20 in Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, on July 30 in Paraguay, while in other countries of the world including India, Malaysia, and Bangladesh etc. South Asian countries. It is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of August. Friendship is a relationship that you decide for yourself, whereas all other relationships are made by you. Just imagine how restless you get if you don't meet your friends one day and try to know their well being as soon as you get a chance. You can understand how special this relationship is.

The technological age we live in today has brought people very close to each other. But at the same time this technology has taken away from us that time of relaxation which we can share amongst ourselves. Today we have imprisoned the whole world in our fist, but with this we have become so engrossed in ourselves that in a way we are cut off from the whole world. Celebrating International Friends Day is a worthwhile undertaking to give new energy to such human sensibilities in a new civilization and new culture.

Friendship is such a relationship that in

the present environment, when the ground of human sensibilities and mutual relationships is drying up, in such a time, staying connected to each other is a powerful medium to make life happy and to awaken magical feelings in the heart. Friendship based on momentary and selfishness is not really friendship, it is only an identity, such friends sometimes become very dangerous too. For whom a thinker has written - "Earlier we used to say, O Lord! We have to be saved from enemies but now we have to say, "O God, save us from friends." Friends are more dangerous than enemies. Friendship day is an undertaking to make friendship a blessing, not a curse. This day provides a rare opportunity to develop the attitude of sharing happiness and sharing positive thoughts to others, keeping personal interests aside. The basic heart of celebrating this day is that even though there may be differences of opinion or thoughts between friends, there should not be any differences of their feelings because difference of opinion brings revolution whereas difference of feelings brings rebellion. Revolution is the knock of construction; rebellion is a sign of destruction.

The feeling of friendship is the protective shield of our self-development. Acharya Shri Tulsi directed seven sutras for this. Friendship requires trust, self-sacrifice, non-attachment, tolerance, forgiveness, fearlessness, coordination. This Saptapadi Sadhana is the background of the meaning and success of life. It is an indicator of development. This Day of Friendship is inviting us, with outstretched arms, to run away and hold on to the trail of friendship without hesitation. Life is colorful, it is white and it is also black. Sometimes this gamut of friendship dissolves in the ears as a rage of life, and then somewhere the noise of doubt arises. Makes friendship strong, our resolve, our life expectancy, our compassion, but it requires dedication and warmth of belonging. It teaches to live, gives life a colorful look.

Inspires to live in such a way that you go beyond yourself. If you can do this then every feeling, every step and every moment will be beautiful and life will become beautiful together.

We need a companion of loneliness, a ruler of happiness, and someone who reprimands us with love for mistakes. If all these qualities are found in any one person, then surely he will be your friend. The same friend, in whose relationship there is no selfishness or deceit, but for your interest, your development, your happiness, in which there will always be a passion and intimacy. Although there is a rich tradition of festivals in Indian culture and history, now in our country it has increased due to the increasing attraction and trend towards International Days. Now every day there is some festival or day. We have made many new or imported festivals and days like Friendship Day a part of our culture and lifestyle. Friendship Day means forgetting all the grievances and strengthening the relationship of friendship with the strings of trust, affinity and harmony. In fact, only those friends are called friends, in whom there is a passion for affection, instead of selfishness, there is a feeling of selfishness, such friends are confined in the flute of breath, such friends are very rare in the world. The friendship of Shri Krishna and Sudama, Vibhishana and Shri Ram is an invaluable heritage of history. Joseph Fort Newton said that "people are lonely because they build up walls of enmity instead of building bridges of friendship." Friendship day is an undertaking to make friendship a blessing, not a curse. We have to create new values-standards of friendship, establish friendship in a meaningful way in life. Friendship should be synonymous with compassion; not love. Because in love there is selfishness, there are rites of attachment and aversion, whereas compassion becomes synonymous with charity.

## international

## WILDFIRE RAGING IN CALIFORNIA, NEVADA SPREADS TO 94,009 ACRES

Los Angeles | Agencies

A wildfire raging across the US states of California and Nevada since July 28 has so far spread to 94,009 acres of land.

The fire, dubbed York Fire, was first reported on private property in the New York Mountain Range inside California's Mojave National Preserve (MNP) and crossed the state border lines into Clark County of Nevada on Sunday, reports Xinhua news agency.

It is California's largest fire of the year.

According to InciWeb, an interagency all-risk incident information management system available to the public and media, the fire was estimated at 63 per cent containment and the full contain-



ment was expected by August 14. Containment had been steadily increasing over the past days, thanks partly to monsoon rains that slowed the fire's advance, local media reported, adding that containment lines had been built and reinforced by over 400 firefighters.

Joshua trees only grow in the Desert Southwest and far northwestern Mexico.

One of the densest Joshua tree forests is within the burning area.

It's unclear exactly how many Joshua trees and other plant and animal life had been lost to the blaze, an MNP spokesperson told CNN on Thursday.

Firefighters had to suppress the fire while carefully protecting resources such as cultural histories, threatened wildlife, and rare plants commonly found in the region, InciWeb noted in its latest report Thursday.

It added they had collaborated with natural and cultural resource specialties including wildlife biologists, plant ecologists, archaeologists and geologists.

## Over 50 injured in Sweden festival clashes

Stockholm: More than 50 people were injured as violent clashes broke out at an Eritrean cultural festival in the Swedish capital of Stockholm with at least 100 detained, according to local authorities.

Fifteen of the injured have been taken to hospital, including eight in serious condition, Swedish broadcaster SVT reported, citing Region Stockholm, the healthcare and public transport authority in Stockholm County.

Three police officers were also injured, Xinhua news agency quoted SVT as saying.

Around 1,000 anti-Eritrean government protesters on Thursday stormed the festival event and threw stones at police officers, according to local media. The Eritrea-themed festival is an annual event held since the 1990s to mark the cultural heritage of the African country, which gained independence from Ethiopia three decades ago. Yet it has been criticised for gathering people who support the Eritrean administration. At present, tens of thousands of people of Eritrean origin are reportedly living in Sweden. Police said that an investigation has been launched into violent riots, arson, and sabotage of emergency services, and that they remained at the scene in a suburb northwest of Stockholm.

## 17 dead as bus with six Indians onboard plunges into ravine in Mexico

Mexico City | Agencies

Six Indians were onboard a passenger bus, which plunged into a 164-foot-deep hillside in the western Mexican state of Nayarit early Thursday, killing 17 people and injuring 23 others.

A source from Nayarit's firefighting service said six Indian citizens had been aboard the bus, part of the Elite passenger line, which departed from Mexico City on Wednesday, the Daily Mail reported.

The bus's destination was Tijuana, the border town across from southern California.

An official list with the names of survivors published by Mexican newspaper El Financiero identified four of the India nationals as Rajan Singh, 21; Mandip Kumar, 22; Adama Kane, 46; and Hanidou Kane, the British daily reported.

The driver, identified as Francisco, survived the crash and was taken into custody as part of the investigation. He told investigators that he fell asleep behind the wheel



and eventually lost control of the vehicle before it crashed through a guardrail.

Footage showed first responders trekking down the slope in search of survivors.

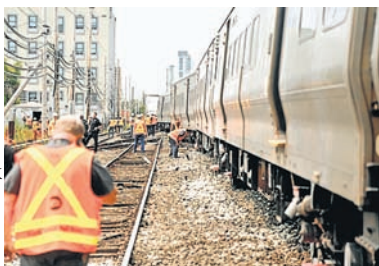
Jorge Rodriguez, the security and civil protection secretary for the state of Nayarit, told reporters that the rescue mission was "extremely difficult" because of how deep the ravine was, the Mail reported.

Last month, another bus crash in the southern state of Oaxaca left 29 people dead, and in February, a bus carrying migrants from South and Central America crashed in central Mexico, killing 17 people.

## 13 injured after train derails in New York City

New York | Agencies

At least 13 people were injured after a passenger train derailed in New York City, authorities said.



A Long Island Rail Road train was heading toward Hempstead when it derailed east of Jamaica Station at 175th Street and 95th Avenue, in the city's Queens borough, at around 11.12 a.m. on Thursday, according to a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) official.

All eight cars of the train derailed, Xinhua news agency quoted MTA Chairman and CEO Janno Lieber as saying at a press briefing later in the evening.

Those hurt suffered leg and back injuries. None of them were considered critical.

Video footage showed fire-

fighters on the scene transferring passengers from the derailed train to a rescue train, with a small platform connecting the two.

"Our top priority is ensuring all passengers and railroad workers are safe and that train service resumes as quickly as possible," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said in a statement.

The cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

MTA Officials said that service disruptions would likely continue until Friday morning.

## At UN, India tells Pakistan to concentrate on its own problems

Arul Louis | United Nations

It is best to concentrate on its own problems instead of flinging allegations against others, India told Pakistan when it resorted to terrorism while being designated as one of the "Hunger Hotspots" by UN agencies.

Responding to Pakistan bringing up the Kashmir issue while the Security Council was discussing food security on Thursday, R. Madhu Sudan, a counsellor in India's UN Mission, said: "To best utilise this Council's time, I suggest the concerned delegation concentrate on addressing their internal matters and restoring order within their own borders, rather than indulging in frivolous allegations against my country."

"Unfortunately we saw one delegation misuse this forum yet again, to divert the attention of this Council from the important topic of food security."

More relevant to the subject of the Council debate, but ignored by Pakistan's Deputy Permanent Representative Aamir Khan, was a report by Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme in May on "Hunger Hotspots" that issued "early warnings on food insecurity" and linked the situation in Pakistan to its political crisis.

It warned that Pakistan's "acute food insecurity is likely to further deteriorate over the coming months, if the economic and political



crisis further worsens, compounding the effects of the 2022 flooding".

While exporting terror abroad, Pakistan has also been unable to deal with internal terrorism and political violence, in the most recent instance of which a suicide bomber killed 54 people at a political rally of a member of the ruling coalition last month.

Sudan said that this "delegation has consis-

tently shown a tendency to exploit various event platforms to further their own agenda".

"It's unnecessary to engage in arguments or debates, particularly with those who resort to terrorism to advance their unlawful goals. I would like to emphasise that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India is non-negotiable," he said.

He did not mention Pakistan by name

while exercising India's right of reply to comments by Khan.

Pakistan brings up Kashmir when speaking on any topic regardless of the relevance even though it ends up as a cry in the wilderness as hardly anyone pays heed.

Khan acknowledged it saying that it has been "virtually abandoned by an indifferent international community".

He tried the old ploy of linking Kashmir to the Palestine issue, asserting that they "suffered foreign occupation for seven decades".

He said that the Council must ensure that a plebiscite is held in Kashmir and food insecurity is not utilised there.

However, the 1948 Council resolution on the plebiscite in Kashmir demanded that first Pakistani withdraw its troops and people it sent in as "tribesmen".

India could not hold a plebiscite because Pakistan refused to follow the Council directive on withdrawing its personnel and since then New Delhi maintains that by participating in the elections in the state the Kashmiri people have exercised their democratic rights integrating with India.

After Sudan spoke, a second secretary in Pakistan's UN Mission, Rabia Ijaz, repeated Islamabad's claims about the Council resolution on a plebiscite but without mentioning its demand for Pakistan to first withdraw from Kashmir.



# CORPORAL' PUNISHMENT TO NCC STUDENTS: MAHA POLICE LAUNCH SUO MOTO PROBE

Team Absolute | Thane

The Thane Police have taken suo moto cognizance and were probing the disturbing case of several National Cadet Corps (NCC) trainees who were brutally flogged and tyrannised by their trainer at the Vidya Prasarak Mandal's college, here, a top official said here on Friday.



Gawade.

Soon after an undated video -- showing the corporal-style thrashing by some unidentified senior NCC trainer to the junior students -- went viral on August 3, the matter was raised by several leaders, including Nationalist Congress Party (SP)'s Dr. Jitendra Awhad, and activists of Shiv Sena (UBT).

As the video sparked outrage in academic and political circles, the VPM's KG.Joshi-NG Bedekar and BN Bandodkar College authorities jolted into action and started an internal inquiry into the incident.

Locals said that the NCC training is imparted jointly to the students of the three colleges at a common location in the Joshi-Bedekar campus, to

prepare them for future prospects with the Army and Navy.

As per the video more than half a dozen unidentified students were made to lie down on the ground full of rainwater and muck, or forced to stand in the muddy water, and some senior trainers assaulting them in a bestial manner with a stick.

The terrified students are seen crying and pleading but the beatings don't stop in the video-clip, believed to be shot by a conscientious student.

Apprehensive of their academic career, most students and their parents preferred to keep quiet, but the Joshi-Bedekar College Principal Dr. Suchitra Naik on Thursday appealed to them to come forward, identify the seniors and lodge complaints.

Later, Dr. Naik told mediapersons that the incident is condemnable and said they have started initiating action and nobody would be spared, amid reports that many students are reluctant to volunteer for the NCC training.

The college authorities have also claimed that the person seen assaulting the juniors is not their staffer and more details would emerge in the police probe.

# Nitin Desai named people he was upset with in audio messages

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Nitin Chandrakant Desai, the Bollywood art director who was found dead in his Karjat studio near Mumbai on Wednesday, had recorded 11 audio messages before his death, the police said. The audio recorder has been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for examination.

According to the police, Desai has named some people with whom he was upset in the audio messages. The police are not yet revealing the names of the people, but they say that the direction of the investigation may change after the FSL report.

Desai, who was found hanging in his studio, was struggling to repay a Rs 180 crore loan which had increased to Rs 252 crores, and a bankruptcy court had recently approved an insolvency petition against his company, ND's Art World Pvt Ltd.

Presently, the case has been registered as an accidental death report (ADR), however, the police are also probing the financial angle in it. The police are investigating whether the loan burden was a factor in the art director's death. As per the autopsy report following a post-mortem examination of Desai's body at the state-run JJ Hospital in Mumbai, the death was caused by hanging.

The police have seized mobile phones and electronic devices found on the premises and will examine them as part of their investigation. They also recorded statements from Mr



Desai's attendants and caretakers at the facility. Desai's body is currently at the JJ Post Mortem Centre, where Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar paid their respects today. His last rites will be held at ND Studios, as per his family's wishes, the police said.

Desai, created lavish sets for blockbuster films such as "Jodhaa Akbar" and "Lagaan" and the popular TV quiz show "Kaun Banega Crorepati".

# Ajit Pawar warns against political meddling in Nitin Desai suicide probe

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Minister M. P. Lodha, BJP Mumbai President Ashish Shelar, other political leaders and film personalities paid their homage to Nitin Chandrakant Desai, here on Friday.



The dignitaries went to the Sir J. J. Hospital where Desai's body was kept after the autopsy late on Wednesday which confirmed his 'death by hanging' -- hours after he was found hanging on a set in the ND Art Works Pvt. Ltd. in Khalapur, Raigad on August 2 morning.

Speaking with mediapersons, Pawar said that as per the assurance of Deputy CM and Home Minister Devendra Fadnis in the

legislature on Thursday, Desai's suicide and the circumstances leading to it shall be probed 'thoroughly'. "I want to make it clear that it will be a fair and impartial probe covering all aspects resulting in the (Desai)' extreme step. No political interference of any kind from anyone will be tolerated," warned Pawar. This would include the top

officials of the Edelweiss group of companies against whom Desai has purportedly named in a series of audio-recordings he left behind in his studio before his suicide.

Between 2016-2018, Desai had availed loans of Rs 181 crore, which piled up to Rs 252-crore by 2022, and the Mumbai NCLT had initiated insolvency resolution proceedings in late-July.

# Prove allegations against Sharad Pawar or apologise: Ambedkar to PM

Adopting an aggressive stance, the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) on Friday called upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prove his multiple allegations against Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) President Sharad Pawar or tender an apology.

Team Absolute | Pune

VBA President Prakash Ambedkar had said that at a BJP booth workers' meeting in Bhopal last month, the Prime Minister had levelled several allegations against the 83-year-old NCP supremo, sparking a furore after which the party split vertically and the breakaway faction led by his nephew Ajit Pawar joined the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra.

"They included the scams in the irrigation sector, the Maharashtra

State Cooperative Bank and illegal mining. The allegations made by Modi were broadcast, played multiple times on television channels and reverberated on social media," said Ambedkar, the grandson of the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

If the Prime Minister of the country is making such allegations publicly, then it must be coming from concrete information and proof, which he may have authenticated with the probe agencies -- ED, CBI, IT -- available at his disposal, Prakash Ambedkar argued.

"Therefore, we request the Prime Minister, that within 10 days, he should file criminal cases against the said person (Sharad Pawar) involved in the corruption and initiate the recovery process for the said allegations involving Rs 70,000 crore."

He also said that either the Prime Minister should prove the allegations or apologise to Sharad Pawar for defaming him as slandering a senior leader, without concrete evidence, for electoral gains is not ethical and should not be done in politics.

Addressing mediapersons here, the VBA President warned that if Modi



does not apologise to Sharad Pawar within 10 days, the party will launch strong agitations on this issue.

# Jalgaon minor raped & killed, body dumped in barn; 19-year-old boy nabbed

Team Absolute | Jalgaon (Maharashtra)

An 8-year-old girl was allegedly raped, murdered and then dumped into a barn by a 19-year-old neighbourhood boy, officials said here on Friday.

The incident -- which took place on July 30 -- came to light this week and hundreds of shocked citizens on Friday trooped out in a silent procession in protest against the crime.

Taking strong note of the incident, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde called up the victim girl's family and consoled them while assuring that the culprit would not be spared.

According to Police, on July 30 afternoon, the girl was alone at her home when the accused lured her to a nearby shed reportedly owned by him.

Taking advantage of the situation, Swapnil allegedly forced himself upon her ignoring her cries, protests and threats to "inform her family".

Panicking, he grabbed a stone nearby and smashed her at least twice on the face and head,



and the profusely bleeding girl succumbed soon afterwards in the shed.

Swapnil then hid her body under a haystack there and decamped from the scene, even as her family and neighbours launched a massive search for her, and later lodged a 'missing' complaint with the Bhadgaon Police.

A couple of days later, some villagers complained of a stench emanating from the barn, and when they searched it, stumbled across the girl's decomposing body there and summoned the police.

The victim's parents identified her body and along with other villagers staged a sit-in protest demanding arrest of the culprit and strong action.

Swinging into action, police finally caught Swapnil on August 3 (Thursday) from his village, and the matter was raised in the legislature on Friday. According to police and the government, the accused has confessed to his heinous deeds, after which he was arrested.

Besides the police, the local Crime Branch and forensic experts have launched investigation into the shocking case.

## PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN FOR NIA PROBE IN DRDO ESPIONAGE CASE

Mumbai: Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Thursday wondered why the espionage case involving a high-ranking DRDO official has not been transferred to the NIA, reported news agency.

Raising the demand in the Maharashtra Assembly for an NIA probe in the case, Chavan also questioned why the accused Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) official, Pradeep Kurulkar, has not been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Jayant Patil (NCP) demanded Kurulkar be booked for sedition.

Earlier, The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has told a court here that it does not need the consent of DRDO scientist Pradeep Kurulkar, arrested in an alleged espionage case, for subjecting him to voice layer and psychological analysis tests.

Kurulkar, director of a laboratory affiliated to the Defence Research and Development Organization, was arrested by the ATS on May 3 on charges of leaking confidential information to a Pakistani intelligence operative.

The prosecution had earlier requested the court to seek his consent for a poly-graph test, voice layer analysis (VLA) and psychological analysis.

# Hilshaw Group inks Strategic Aircraft Leasing Joint Venture with Aeolus

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Hilshaw Group diversifies into the Aviation Industry. The move comes with the announcement of a Strategic Aircraft Leasing Joint Venture with the leading global aviation company, Aeolus. The venture will be focused on aircraft leasing, special flight operations and related services with an initially planned fleet of 20 commercial aircraft (combination of narrow body and wide body) to be available to the global leasing market.

Hilshaw Group is a Multi-Family Office & Investment Advisory. The Company primarily invests in low-supply, finite, time-specific opportunities. The Company had previously allocated USD 175 Million towards UAE Real Estate, specifically towards facilitating the Remote Work Visa program. The Group is also involved in the financial facilitation of Sustainable Projects across Europe and Africa.



AEOLUS is an airline advisory, aircraft brokerage and trading organization with over 20 years of experience. AEOLUS serve and advise both UHNWI and Airlines in the UAE and around the world for their requirements.

The JV will have Aeolus render its expertise and two decades of experience in fleet management.

Hilshaw Group's mandate is to design and manage the finance and capital structure for acquiring the fleet.

This joint venture represents a significant milestone for both companies, combining their expertise, resources, and market reach to deliver unmatched solutions in the aviation industry. The collaboration aims to capitalize on the increasing demand for aircraft leasing services and the growing opportunities in the global aviation market.

Under the terms of the joint venture agreement, both companies will pool their expert portfolios to establish a diverse and comprehensive fleet of commercial aircraft, ranging from narrow-body to wide-body and regional jets. This synergistic partnership will enable the new entity to offer a wide range of options to airlines, catering to their specific operational requirements and ensuring the highest level of customer satisfaction.

# Health tests, treatment at govt hospitals in state to be free of cost

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra government on Thursday decided to make medical tests and treatment at public hospitals free of cost, reported news agency.

The decision was taken in the state cabinet meeting which gave its nod to the Right To Health.

Free of cost facilities will be available at 2,418 hospitals and medical centres run by the state government under the scheme that is likely to be launched from August 15. More than 25.5 million people avail treatment in these facilities. However, the decision will not be applicable to hospitals and medical colleges that come under the Medical Education department.

"Primary health centres, rural hospitals, women hospitals, district general hospitals and super speciality hospitals



will treat patients free of cost in the state," an official said. Cancer hospitals in Nashik and Amravati will also offer the treatment free of cost, the official added.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday told the legislative assembly that the state government will send to the Centre an environmental cost-benefit analysis report on redeveloping 25,000 slums along Mumbai's coastline in the next two months.

He made the announcement while replying to a calling attention notice by BJP MLA Ashish Shelar. "An environmental cost-

benefit analysis report is being prepared through the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) regarding the redevelopment of these slums that fall under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)-2," Shinde said.

"This analysis report is crucial for the redevelopment of these slums. It will be ready and sent to the central government in the next two months," he added.

Shelar said the chief minister's assurance meant the fate of nearly 25,000 slums housing nearly 1.25 lakh people in Mumbai will be decided in the next two months.

According to the CRZ notification dated January 6, 2011 issued by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, conditions were placed on the redevelopment of these slums.



## CARDI B CLEARED OF BATTERY CHARGES OVER MIC HURLING

Los Angeles | Agencies

**R**apper Cardi B is in the clear after throwing a microphone at a fan in Las Vegas, as the criminal battery investigation has been dropped. Cardi's lawyers, Drew Findling, David Chesnoff and Richard Schonfeld, told TMZ: "This afternoon we were notified by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, that as a result of their investigation, there will be no charges against Cardi. On behalf of Cardi, we appreciate the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept's diligent and prompt resolution of this matter."

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement: "After a thorough review of this case and with the consultation from the Clark County District Attorney's Office, this case has been closed as having insufficient evidence."

They concluded: "No charges will be filed in relation to this case."

Cardi was caught on camera throwing a microphone into the crowd after a fan threw a drink at her during her performance at Draï nightclub on Saturday, July 29.

Cardi asked the crowd to splash water on her to cool her down in the burning Vegas heat, but when someone threw a cup with an unknown liquid and ice, she hurled the mic at the person. It ricocheted and hit another person.

Security then intervened while the rap star yelled from the stage. After getting her microphone back, she told the audience, "I said splash my p\*\*\*y not my face b\*\*\*h."

A woman, who claimed that she got hit by the mic but did not throw the drink, later reported Cardi for battery.

The 26-year-old woman said she stood next to the person who threw the drink and got hit by the microphone on the right shoulder. She claimed she's "experiencing pain because of the incident and is going to go get medical attention after she returns home."



**Taylor Swift adds six more stops for Eras Tour at Canadian PM's request**

Los Angeles | Agencies

**N**orth America has not yet seen the last of Taylor Swift as the country-pop singer has added six additional dates to her Eras Tour at the request of Canadian

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Taking to her social media, the singer wrote: "Turns out it's NOT the end of an era, Miami, New Orleans, Indy and Toronto: The Eras Tour is coming back to you in 2024 with @graceieabrams! As such, the Eras Tour will also embark to Canada and hit its concluding dates in November 2024 with six shows in Toronto and Ontario at the Rogers Centre.

However, Swift did not say these were the final dates of the tour, leaving the door open for possibly still more additions to the tour, after it makes its unexpected stop back to North American home territory following an existing 2024 itinerary that takes the Eras Tour throughout Europe.

According to 'Variety': "Also added prior to that are three shows each in Miami, New Orleans and Indianapolis, also a year from this fall. The concerts are at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium Oct. 18-20, New Orleans' Caesars Superdome Oct. 25-27 and Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium Nov. 1-3."

Initially back in 2022, the Eras Tour had hit a big hiccup due to the problems with Ticketmaster, the platform responsible for distributing the tickets for Taylor Swift's big concert. But since then, the tour has been a massive success hitting both American cities such as New York City, San Francisco and Austin, as well as European countries such as the UK, Germany, France, Spain, Belgium and Portugal among other stops. Swift is currently scheduled to do a concert in Los Angeles on August 9, following which she will embark to Latin America hitting territories such as Mexico and Brazil among others. From there on the singer will depart to Asia for her gig in Japan, South Korea and Singapore among other territories. After that she will embark to Australia before hitting Europe and then back to North America.

## Late Angus Young gets an emotional farewell at candlelight vigil in hometown Oakland

Los Angeles | Agencies

**A**merican actor Angus Young got an emotional farewell at his hometown of Oakland with a candlelight vigil paying tribute to the late 'Euphoria' star.

According to TMZ, the town's local artist Darin Balaban, painted a 9-foot-tall mural on the wall of an Oakland car wash with over 50 people showing up at the mural for a candlelight vigil, with many bringing flowers and pictures of Angus and placing them at the base of the wall.

Others brought liquor and beer, then the group began playing music, sang songs together, danced and exchanged stories as part of both paying tribute and celebrating Angus' life and legacy at the mural.

The whole town witnessed a mix of silence and cheers, as the area lit up with the small flames of candle light in a beautifully heartfelt moment to the young actor who passed away at the age of 25. There were tears at the mural initially as many who knew Angus personally cried, and after that there was celebration in his remembrance.

Angus died on Monday, July 31 at his family's home in Oakland. Following his death, his family gave out a statement in which they said "It is with the heaviest heart that we had to say goodbye to an incredible human today. As an artist, a friend, a brother and a son, Angus was special to all of us in so many ways."

"Last week he buried his father and intensely struggled with this loss," his family said in a statement. They also acknowledged his struggle with mental health as they urged others to "not fight this on their own in silence", the statement further read.



## Francis Lawrence opens up on casting Rachel Zeglerin 5th 'The Hunger Games' movie



Los Angeles | Agencies

**F**rancis Lawrence, the director of the fifth installment of the cult-favorite 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes', has opened up on his choice to cast Rachel Zegler as Lucy in the film. He also spoke about the four-hour meeting between the two.

The film is a dystopian science fiction action thriller film with screenplay written by Michael Lesslie and Michael Arndt. It is based on the 2020 novel 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' by Suzanne Collins.

The film stars an ensemble cast including Viola Davis, Peter Dinklage, Hunter Schafer and Tom Blythe.

Talking about casting Rachel Zegler, Francis

Lawrence said, "I mean, you know, the thing is, she's one of the most talented young actresses out there right now. But, you know, the character of Lucy Gray is a really tricky one, right? Because she's a mercurial character."

He further mentioned, "So she's emotional, but she's also damaged, and she's lived quite a lot more honestly than the character of Snow has. But she also has to be a fantastic singer. And you know, Rachel's a phenomenal singer. And so, yeah, we sat down and talked about the character and talked about the books and just had a fantastic meeting."

Lionsgate and PVRINOX Pictures will release 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' in theaters in India on November 17.

## Freddie Mercury's belongings such as T-shirt, cloak to be auctioned

Los Angeles | Agencies

**L**ondon: Frontman of iconic rock band 'Queen' Freddie Mercury's belongings, including T-shirt, cloak, piano, will be auctioned at Sotheby's auction house, here.

Of the 1,400 belongings, some of the biggest items include his 'Flash' T-shirt, which he used in the 1981 Queen World Tour. This will be sold alongside his red vinyl trousers for an estimated 25,458 pounds.

Other items include jewel laden crown and cloak worn in his final stage appearance in 1986 which are expected to be sold for as much as 1,01,835 pounds and some of his big stage dresses, furniture, old photographs, and lyrics for songs that never made it to the board as well as some more interesting items such as letters and books that reflected Freddie's eclectic tastes and flair for grandeur.

It is unknown how much these will fetch, but it is safe to say that music enthusiasts, hardcore 'Queen' fans and collectors will pay a great price for these items, which can range from anywhere between 38,188 pounds to 1,14,565 pounds and possibly even 1,27,294 pounds for the lyric sheets that never made it.

The piano that Freddy used to compose some of 'Queen's biggest classics such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'Big Bottom Girls' and 'Don't Stop Me Now', is likely to fetch 3.8 million pounds.

Mercury was well known for his amazing and diverse voice, particularly his high pitch and operatic vocals which even ended up influencing other big singers such as Robert Plant, Rob Halford and Bruce Dickinson, Ronnie James Dio among others.

'Queen' was formed in 1970 in London, and since then the band began ruling the board with their unusual music style. While some of the band's earliest and most iconic works such their debut album to their 1975 album 'A Night at the Opera' were primarily hard rock albums infused with strong elements of heavy metal, arena rock, progressive rock, art rock, jazz and even classical, the band expanded to a more mainstream approach. The band soon began going into pop rock territory but never lost its approach for the artsy style.

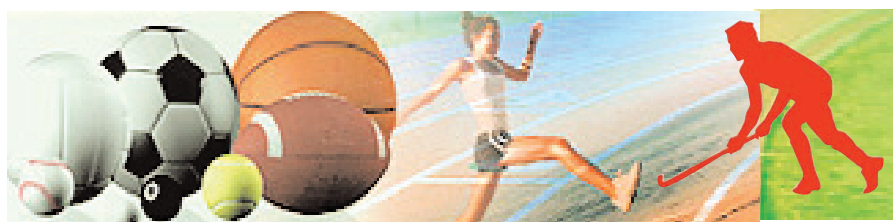
Mercury died on November 24, 1991.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Gia



### World Archery Championships

# INDIAN WOMEN'S COMPOUND TEAM CLINCHES HISTORIC GOLD MEDAL

Berlin (Germany) | Agencies

The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parnet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami won the gold medal at the World Archery Championships 2023, here on Friday. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.

The Indian trio defeated the Mexican team of Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon and Andrea Becerra 235-229 in the final.

In the semifinals, the second-seeded Indian women's compound team defeated defending champions Colombia 220-216. The team overcame the challenge of Chinese Taipei and Turkey in the quarterfinals and the pre-quarterfinals respectively after receiving a bye in the first round.

Before this Berlin meet, India had won 11 medals -- nine silver and two



bronze -- at the World Archery Championships.

This gold was India's fourth consecutive medal in the compound women's team at the world championships, after silvers in 2017 and 2021 and a bronze in 2019. Jyothi Vennam has been a part of all four medal-winning teams.

On the other hand, the Indian compound men's team featuring Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar lost to the Netherlands 230-235 to bow out from the quarterfinals. In the mixed compound team event, Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam suffered a 154-153 defeat in the quarterfinals at the hands of the USA.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parnet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami will be in action in the individual women's compound quarterfinals on Saturday while Ojas Deotale is the lone Indian in the top eight of the men's category.

### Australian Open

# Priyanshu Rajawat shocks Srikanth, Prannoy stuns Ginting; Sindhu ousted in quarters

Sydney | Agencies

India's young shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat stormed into the semifinals of the Australian Open badminton tournament here with upset straight games win against compatriot and former World No.1 Kidambi Srikanth here on Friday.

India's top men's singles player H.S Prannoy also caused an upset, beating the top-seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in three games to storm into the semifinal where he will run into his compatriot, Priyanshu Rajawat. Prannoy defeated Anthony Ginting 16-21, 21-17, 21-14 in 73 minutes. Rajawat, the Orleans Masters 2023 champion, cruised through to his first semifinal in a BWF World Tour Super 500 event this year as he got the better of compatriot Srikanth 21-13, 21-8 in men's singles quarterfinals.

The world no. 31 Indian will face the winner between



another compatriot HS Prannoy and Indonesia's top-seeded Anthony Ginting here on Saturday.

While Priyanshu and Prannoy kept the Indian flag flying in this BWF World Tour event with a total prize fund of US dollar 420,000, compatriot and two-time Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu crashed out of the event, losing to Malaysia's fourth-seeded Beiwenzhang in straight games. Sindhu lost the quarterfinal encounter 12-21, 17-21 to the Malaysian shuttler. The 28-year-old Indian conceded an early 5-10 lead in the first game and could not

recover. The Malaysian player maintained her upper hand in the second game and capitalised on her chances to win the match.

Prannoy conceded an early lead in the first game when Ginting won four points in a row to lead 5-1. He maintained his advantage to win the first game 21-16.

The two players went neck-and-neck in the second game as the lead changed hands more than once till 9-9 before Prannoy won five points in a row to open up a 14-9 lead. He extended the lead to 18-12 and went on to win the second game and levelled the game score 1-1.

Prannoy started the decider on a strong note and took a 4-0 lead before Anthony Ginting reduced it to 4-3 and levelled scores at 5-5. Prannoy surged to an 8-5 lead and though his Indonesian opponent brought the score down to 8-7, the Indian World No.9 won five consecutive points to go 13-7 up.

### World University Games

# Jyothi Yarraji breaks national record to clinch bronze medal

Chengdu (China) | Agencies

India's Jyothi Yarraji clocked 12.78 seconds, a new national record, to clinch the bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles at the FISU World University Games 2023, here on Friday.

In the final, Jyothi bettered her previous national record of 12.82s, logged at the 2022 National Open Championships, by 0.04 seconds. The reigning Asian champion, had earlier clocked 13.12s and 13.05s in the heats and semi-finals, respectively, to make the eight-woman final.

Slovakia's Viktoria Forster took the gold with a personal best of 12.72 while China's Wu Yanni finished with 12.76 to bag the silver.

The 23-year old Jyothi was just a whisker away from matching the Paris 2024



Olympics qualifying standard of 12.77s, set for the event.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Tejaswin Shankar failed to win a medal in the men's high jump event. On the other hand, Amlan Borgohain won a

bronze in the men's 200m event. The Indian runner clocked a season's best 20.55, just 0.03 seconds short of his personal best and national record, to come in behind South Africa's Isadore Tsebo Matsoso (20.36) and Japan's Yudai Nishi (20.46).

Earlier in the day, India's Tamilarasana Sathya finished seventh in the women's pole vault with a 3.60 clearance. Sindhuresh Ganesha, who was competing in the same event, failed to log a legal mark.

In the women's 3000m steeplechase, Susmita Tigga finished 13th with a timing of 11:10.77 while compatriot Bhagyashree Navale didn't finish the race.

India's medals tally at the FISU World University Games 2023 now stands at 25 medals -- 11 gold, five silver and nine bronze.

# Gukesh, 17, overtakes Anand in live ratings, becomes India's No.1 chess player

The 17-year-old Dommaraju Gukesh won two games in his second-round match with GM Misratdin Iskandarov in the first round of the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan to surge past Viswanathan Anand in Live Rating and become the highest-ranked Indian chess player in the World.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The win in the first round on Thursday evening against Iskandarov (Elo 2559) helped him rise to 2755.9 in the live rating, taking him past Anand's rating of 2754, making him the second Indian player after Pentala Harikrishna in March 2016 to overtake Anand in live rating as India's

No.1 chess player, a position the five-time World Champion has held for 37 years since 1986. Harikrishna was India's No.1 chess player for just one day as Anand won his game the next day and took back the position.

That would be the first time since 1986 that an Indian will overtake Vishy Anand in the 'published' FIDE Rankings. With Anand, rarely playing in the chess circuit for the last few years, there are chances that Gukesh will maintain become India's No.1 player for a long time and maintain that position for many years.

Gukesh, the youngest player to reach the 2750 rating in the World breaking the record held by Magnus Carlsen, will now have to maintain his rating above 2754 when FIDE publishes the rankings next on September 1.

Gukesh, who became the youngest Indian Grandmaster at 12 years, 7 months, 17 days in March

2019 missed becoming the youngest GM in the World and falling short of the record held by Sergey Karjakin by just 17 days. In 2022, Both of them have since been surpassed by an American player of Indian origin Abhimanyu Mishra at the age of 12 years, 4 months, 25 days.

The Chennai-born Gukesh, who made it to the top 100 in the World in April 2022, continued his rapid rise in the rankings and was rated 11th in the World with a rating of 2751 when the Rankings were last published on August 1.

In October 2022, at the age of 16, Gukesh, who is trained by GM Vishnu Prasanna, became the youngest player ever to defeat then-world champion Magnus Carlsen in a game at the Aimchess Rapid Tournament.

Currently, in Live Ratings, Gukesh is ranked 9th in the World with a rating of 2755.9 with Anand (2754) at 10th.



### Durand Cup 2023

# Parthib hattrick leads NorthEast United to 4-0 win over Shillong Lajong

Guwahati | Agencies

Home side NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) got their Durand Cup 2023 campaign off to a flying start with a fluent 4-0 victory in the North East derby over Shillong Lajong courtesy an impressive hattrick from Parthib Gogoi at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, here on Friday.

Assam boy Parthib scored his first hattrick at the senior level, adding to the joy of home supporters as the Highlanders took pole position in Group D.

The Highlanders certainly appeared the more organized side from the moment the referee blew his whistle and their upper-hand in the game finally paid dividends in the 26th minute of the first-half.

Rochhazrela turned his marker and made a run inside the top of the box to unleash a pile-driver which dipped under slippery ground conditions in-front of Shillong keeper Neithoville Chalieu. The custodian managed to parry it away feebly and it fell on a platter for a young and lurking Parthib Gogoi who deftly lobbed Chalieu to open the scoring.

That lead was doubled when Romain Philippoteaux drove in skillfully to send the Shillong defense in disarray, resulting in Kenstar bringing the Frenchman down inside the box. The referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Romain made a mistake in finishing what he had begun.



With the score still reading 2-0 in favour of the Highlanders, Jithin MS, who came on in the second-half, set up Parthib with a good cross five minutes post commencement, but the young striker's

attempt was straight at Chalieu.

Both coaches, Spaniard Juan Pedro Ben Ali and Shillong's Bobby Lyngdoh kept ringing in the changes at the hour mark, but it was NEUFC which reaped the dividends, thanks to Parthib's awareness inside the box and clinical finishing.

Phalguni Singh it was, who found the run of yet another substitute Gani Nigam on the right. Gani fended off his marker and found Parthib in the clear who tapped in for the third.

The local lad then completed his hattrick when Philippoteaux found Jithin with an impeccable through on the left flank and this time, Parthib made no mistake with the cross, sliding in to beat Chalieu for the third time himself and fourth time overall in the match.

To Shillong's credit and has been their credo, they did not stop running and chasing the game and trying to pull one back, but there was nothing serious to challenge NEUFC keeper Mirshad and in the end it was a canter for the Highlanders. The win will be crucial with FC Goa and Downtown Heroes of Kashmir coming up next for both the teams.

The game was preceded by an elaborate cultural programme and opening ceremony with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in attendance.

# Greece's PAOK crush Beitar Jerusalem in qualifier

Jerusalem (Israel) | Agencies

Greek side PAOK Thessaloniki advanced to the third qualifying round of the UEFA Conference League after an impressive 4-1 away win over Israel's state cup holders Beitar Jerusalem on Thursday evening.

After a 0-0 draw in the first-leg match in Thessaloniki last week, about 27,000 fans at Teddy Stadium in Jerusalem saw PAOK take an early lead in the 12th minute from an own goal by Beitar defender Edi Gotliv. Gotliv unsuccessfully tried to return the ball to his goalkeeper Miguel Silva, reports Xinhua.

Beitar was close to an equaliser in the 42nd minute, but PAOK's goalkeeper Dominik Kotarski saved Yarden Shua's penalty kick after



Douglas Augusto brought Shua down in the box and was sent off with a red card.

PAOK doubled the score in the first half's additional time with Spanish striker Brandon Thomas after a pass by Andrija Zivkovic.

Beitar, however, cut the score just before halftime, with an accurate cross by Shua and a header by

Nigerian striker Fred Friday finding the net.

Beitar scored again in the 66th minute, by Shua, but French referee Benoit Millot disallowed the goal due to passing player Giorgi Morozov's offside position.

Fred Friday could have made it 2-2 in the 71st minute but released a poor kick from a sure position, allowing Kotarski to save.

PAOK secured the win in additional time, with an own goal by Cote d'Ivoire midfielder Trazie Thomas, and another goal by Giannis Konstantelias, from a pass by Theocharis Tsingaras.

In the third qualifying round, PAOK will face Croatia's Hajduk Split, also in a home-away format, with the overall winners advancing to the playoff stage.

# India, West Indies fined for maintaining slow over-rate in first T20I

Tarouba | Agencies

India and West Indies have been fined for maintaining a slow over-rate in the first T20I at the Brian Lara Cricket Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago.

India was fined five per cent of their match fee for falling one over short of the minimum over-rate, while West Indies have been fined 10 per cent of their match fee for falling two overs short of the minimum over-rate.

Richie Richardson of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Hardik Pandya and Rovman Powell's sides were ruled to be one and two overs short respectively of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted



time, subject to a cap of 50 per cent of the match fee.

Pandya and Powell pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the proposed sanctions, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Gregory Brathwaite and Patrick Gustard, third umpire Nigel Duguid and fourth umpire

Leslie Reifer levelled the charges. Coming to the match, West Indies suffered a slow slowdown in the middle overs -- going from 54/2 after the end of the first six overs to 96/3 at the end of 14 overs. India's spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel took three wickets between themselves in their nine overs combined.

After Nicholas Pooran fell for 41 off 34 balls, Powell took centre stage by hitting 48 off 32 balls and taking West Indies to 149/6 on a slow pitch. In reply, Tilak Varma shined in his debut with a fine 39 off 22 balls.

But all-round Jason Holder's spell of 2-19, including a double-wicket maiden, helped West Indies get over the line, apart from Romario Shepherd defending 10 runs in the last over, restricting India to 145-9 in 20 overs.

West Indies now have a 1-0 lead in the five-game series and will play the second T20I against India at the Providence Stadium in Guyana on Sunday.



## 'Renu Dalal said you remind me of my mother': Huma Qureshi

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A cinematic masterpiece that defies age and inspires women of all stages in life to find their 'something', actress Huma Qureshi starrer 'Tarla' is a remarkable journey from an ordinary housewife to a vision ary.

The biopic based on the life of late celebrity chef and cookbook author, Tarla Dalal, has received positive reviews, and the audience has praised the storytelling.

Huma, who starred in and as Tarla, has revealed the 'best compli-

ment' that she has received for her performance in the movie.

"The best compliment I have received was from Tarla Dalal's daughter- Renu Dalal. Renu told me that 'Oh my god you really remind me of my mother'. That was a very overwhelming thought for a daughter to say that, really means everything. And the love of course keeps coming from the fans," Huma said.

Tarla Dalal was a food writer, chef, cookbook author and host of cooking shows. Her first cookbook, 'The Pleasures of Vegetarian Cooking', was published in 1974. She also ran

the largest Indian food web site, and published a bi-monthly magazine, 'Cooking & More'. Her cooking shows included 'The Tarla Dalal Show' and 'Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal'. She passed away on November 6, 2013.

Narrating the story of such a legendary person who is not with us anymore, how difficult was the filming process?

Huma said: "It is difficult, as you are playing a real life character. I would have loved to meet Tarla ji, but unfortunately it was not written in my destiny. I met her family, chil-

dren and fans, who still listen to her so fondly and with love. So, I knew the responsibility... I have to play such a legend."

The 37-year-old actress shared that she wasn't stressed to play the character, but was excitedly nervous.

"Because I didn't know how it was going to happen. For me half of my job is also like it involves other people's conviction. Piyush Gupta, my director, had a lot of faith in me, even on days when I did not have that conviction in myself. So that's a really nice feeling, to work with people who are backing you," she said.

## Neil Nitin on his music video debut: 'Born in Mukesh family, music is of great importance to me'

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Born to singer Nitin Mukesh and grandson of Mukesh, actor Neil Nitin Mukesh, who has made his debut in a music video titled 'Tu Meri Aashiqui', said coming from a legacy of singers, music has always been of great importance to him and his films.

Nitin Mukesh Mathur is known for his work as a playback singer in Hindi films as well as Bhajans. He has worked with notable music directors like Khayyam, R. D. Burman, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Bappi Lahiri, Rajesh Roshan, Nadeem-Shravan, Anand-Milind during the 1980s and 1990s. He also sang for actors like Manoj Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Jeetendra, Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff and others.

Talking about the same, Neil said: "Born in the Mukesh family, and coming from a legacy of singers, music has always been of great importance to me and my films. So when I decided to debut as an actor for my first ever music video it had to be something so powerful that stays with us forever."

The song 'Tu Meri Aashiqui' weaves a mesmerising tale of love, betrayal, and redemp-



tion. Featuring Neil Nitin Mukesh and Shreya Sharma in Ankit Tiwari's mesmerising voice and Rashid Khan's enchanting music and lyrics, this music video is directed by Adhyayan Suman.

Elaborating on the song, he said: "The song that I can guarantee will be a clutter breaker. It will be loved by all music lovers, across all genres, all over the world. It has great music that boasts a strong melody and a haunting theme that instantly sits on your lips," said Neil.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actor Syed Raza Ahmed, who is currently seen in the fiction show 'Meet', revealed that he is a guitarist and a singer too, and music is his secret "mantra" to keep calm in any situation.

Most actors go through umpteen trials and detailed research to prepare for their character and play it in the best possible way, however, Raza could actually relate to his character in the show very well.

Just like his character, he has been in love with music since childhood and it is really helping him do complete justice to the character.

Talking about the same, Syed said: "I have always been a music enthusiast, and have been playing the guitar, and singing

Syed Raza Ahmed reveals how his 'secret talent' helped him ace his role

## KYA MILI HOGI FREE YA FREEZE?

## This Saturday, Full on thrills guaranteed with the & pictures premiere of Mili

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Imagine being stuck in a walk-in freezer all alone and the temperature hits -12 degrees. Doesn't the visual itself make you shiver uncontrollably? And even as you cry for help, while screaming at the top of your lungs for help, no one can hear you or come to your rescue. What would you do with the temperature constantly dipping down and the fact that you're running out of time, would you give up or fight? Tune into & pictures this weekend to witness Mili's ultimate survival plan.

Based on actual events, the escape thriller 'Mili', starring the charismatic Jahnvi Kapoor revolves around the story of an aspirational young girl with a never give-up attitude. A series of unforeseen events struck her she then finds herself stuck in a walk-in-freezer with no way out. The star cast of Jahnvi Kapoor, Manoj Pahwa, and Sunny Kaushal have sworn to keep you hooked throughout the survival journey of Mili. This thriller-packed movie has achieved it all with a roller-coaster ride of overwhelming emotions of fear, anxiety, love, and much more.

While addressing the upcoming premiere, Jahnvi Kapoor said, "Mili Naudiyal's character holds a special place in my heart, having invested significant time and effort in bringing her true story to the big screen. The challenges we faced while portraying her life-saving escape in the peculiar shooting location were undeniably challenging, but I embraced them with determination. With unwavering support from the remarkable cast and crew, Mili has undoubtedly become my favorite character to date"

Manoj Pahwa says "The moment I heard about the Mili project, I knew I had to be a part of it without hesitation. Working alongside the talented Jahnvi Kapoor, one of the hardest-working actors in the industry, was an absolute privilege on the sets of Mili. Her unique and endearing nature made it easy for me to slip into the role of her father seamlessly."



## Rapper Shubh brings his tour to India: It's my homecoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Punjabi-Canadian rapper of Indian descent Shubhneet Singh, popularly known as Shubh, is gearing up for his first-ever live performance with the much anticipated multi-city 'Still Rollin India Tour'.

Shubh said: "India is home for me in more ways than one, and this is an extremely special moment for me as it's my homecoming tour. I get to kick off my debut in the live arena domain in a country that has been instrumental in the evolution of my creativity and my growth as an artist. I can't wait to step on that stage and interact with all my amazing desi fans."

The three-month long tour, starting September, will see the viral artist perform across 12 cities including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Jaipur.

The 'Still Rollin India Tour' is part of the 24-year-old artist's World Tour that will see him travel to the UK, the UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US.

Joji George, CEO, Percept Live states, "The endeavor at Bollyboom has always been to provide a platform to South Asian



artists from the burgeoning Indian music industry and be a torchbearer towards fostering Indian sounds and promoting desi artists."

In 2021, Shubh became an overnight internet sensation, courtesy his breakout single 'We Rollin' which went on to garner over 201 million views on YouTube. This was followed by the release of his singles 'Elevated', 'Offshore' and 'Baller' which made it to the Billboard Canadian Hot 100.

Earlier this year, he released his debut four-track album titled 'Still Rollin'. His dominance as one of the highest streamed Indian artists continues with over 12 lakh monthly listeners on Spotify to his credit.



Ameesha Patel