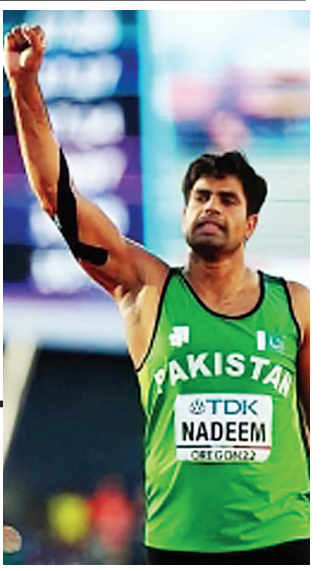


# absolute india

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PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BHOPAL, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI



**NATION** > 02  
**'PM, BJP nexus of corruption': INDIA represents 60% ...**



**HOLLYWOOD** > 06  
**Madonna returns to rehearsals for her world tour after hospital dash...**



**SPORTS** > 07  
**I am happy that Neeraj bhai won gold, says Pakistan's...**

## INDIA coordination committee's first meeting on Sept 16-17, say sources

# I.N.D.I.A WITH DIFFERENCE

**Amid all the bonhomie on display, the third meeting of the INDIA alliance also saw one of the first major differences emerge between the opposition parties since they decided to band together in June. While an election resolution was adopted at the Mumbai meeting, a political resolution had to be dropped after a disagreement over the inclusion of a demand for a caste census, sources told**

The INDIA bloc on Friday announced the 14 member coordination committee with Venugopal, Pawar, Baalu, JMM's Hemant Soren, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, RJD's Tejashvi Yadav, Trinamool Congress' Abhishek Banerjee, AAP's Raghav Chaddha, Samajwadi Party's Javed Ali Khan, JD-U's Lallan Singh, CPI's D Raja, National Conference's Omar Abdullah, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti as its members. The CPI-M will give the name of their party leader for the committee later.



They said that the 14 member coordination committee will be the highest decision making body of the INDIA alliance and it will start the discussion on seat sharing in the states. Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, NCP supreme Sharad Pawar and DMK's TR Baalu will lead the coordination committee till the time a national convener is decided, said the sources. The sources added that during the informal meeting on Thursday night, Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee informed the leaders that she

was battling the BJP all alone in her state and if she is given an opportunity then she can lead in the role of convener. The sources said that Bihar Chief Minister and JD-U leader Nitish Kumar too told the leaders that he had initiated the talks for bringing all the like minded parties together for the

2024 Lok Sabha elections and he too is ready for all the responsibilities he will be given. The two-day third meeting of the INDIA alliance took place here with 63 leaders from 28 parties participating. They discussed several issues to take on the BJP in next year's crucial Lok Sabha polls.

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Even as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Friday announced a 14 member coordination committee, its first meeting will take place in the second week of this month, sources said. According to the sources, the meeting of the INDIA alliance coordination committee will take place on September 16 and 17, once former Congress president Rahul Gandhi returns from his three-nation European tour. The sources said that soon some Congress secretaries will be appointed to assist in the work.

**"Now everybody is unhappy with the BJP to whom they had given power... The government does not have its feet on the ground."**

**Sharad Pawar**

### INDIA WILL WIN, MODI GOVT WILL BE OUSTED IN 2024: OPPN LEADERS

Mumbai: Several leaders from the Opposition parties on Friday said the INDIA bloc will oust the "arrogant and corrupt" BJP-led government at the Centre in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"It will be the outcome of the INDIA bloc that those who are at the Centre will now lose. It is clear that they will go," said Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar while addressing the media after the conclusion of the third meeting of the INDIA bloc. Taking a swipe at the ruling dispensation, Kumar said, "They want to change the history of the country, but unitedly we will not allow them to do so." He informed that the INDIA bloc will start its campaign at various places, adding that the elections may be held before the scheduled time. Echoing a similar sentiment, former Chief Minister and national president of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Lalu Prasad Yadav said, "From the very beginning, we are fighting against the BJP. We have taken a pledge to oust (Narendra) Modi ji. Since the Gujarat riots, I have been fighting against Modi and Amit Shah. You all know what their history is."

## Centre forms panel to study 'one nation one election' proposal under ex-Prez Kovind

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Central government on Friday announced the setting up of a high-level panel to study the proposal of 'one nation, one election'. Former president Ram Nath Kovind will head the panel and submit a report on the proposal. The move comes a day after the government announced a special session of Parliament from September 18 to 22. Soon after the announcement of the special session, speculation began over the 'one nation, one election'



proposal, which a section of the media had reported, could be discussed during the session. The proposal refers to holding the Lok Sabha and state Assembly polls simulta-

neously across the country. The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have spoken on the issue on several occasions, and it was also a part of the party's manifesto for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. Conducting polls simultaneously was the norm in India until 1967 and four elections were held this way. The practice stopped after some state Assemblies were dissolved prematurely in 1968-69. The Lok Sabha was also, for the first time, dissolved a year ahead of schedule and mid-term elections were held in 1971.

## Countdown for India's rocket mission to the Sun begins at 12.20 pm

Chennai | Agencies

The countdown for the Saturday morning launch of India's third interplanetary mission -- this time to the Sun - Aditya-L1 -- will begin at 12.20 p.m. on Friday, said a senior official of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).



"The countdown will begin at 12.20 p.m. today (Friday)," the official told reporter. The Aditya-L1 -- named after the Sun God in Hindu mythology -- will be carried by the Indian rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-XL variant (PSLV-XL). On Saturday, the rocket will blast off at 11.50 a.m. from the Sriharikota rocket port in Andhra Pradesh, the ISRO said. Initially, Aditya-L1 will be ejected in a low earth orbit (LEO). Then the orbit will be elliptical. As the spacecraft travels towards L1, it will exit the earth's gravitational Sphere of Influence (SOI). The total travel time from launch to L1 would take about four months for Aditya-L1 and the distance will be about 1.5 million km from the Earth. The distance between the Earth and the Moon is about 3,84,000 km. Aditya-L1's seven payloads are

expected to provide the most crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, propagation of particle and fields and others, the Indian space agency said. The ISRO said the major science objectives of Aditya-L1 mission are: Study of solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics, study of chromospheric and coronal heating, physics of the partially ionised plasma, and initiation of the coronal mass ejections, and flares. It will also observe the in-situ particle and plasma environment providing data for the study of particle dynamics from the Sun.

## 5 killed, 20 injured in Manipur in last three days, non-stop firing still on

Imphal | Agencies

At least five persons, including a tribal song composer and a Village Defence Volunteer, were killed and 20 others injured in Manipur's Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts during the past three days while gunfights between Kukis and Meiteis were still on till Thursday night, officials said. Sources said that the death toll in the incessant firing exchanges was six to seven in three days but officials were yet to confirm it. The five slain people included L.S. Mangboi Lungdim, 50, who composed the song "I Gam Hilou Ham (Is this not our land?)" after the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3. His songs became a rallying cry for tribal unity. The dead also included VDV Jangminlung Gante. Firing was continuing in the foothills of

Bishnupur and adjoining areas in Churachandpur district till late Thursday evening, after a fresh gunfight between two rival ethnic groups started early morning, police officials said in Imphal. Two persons, who sustained splinter injuries during firing in Manipur's Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts, succumbed to their wounds on Thursday. Police said that a youth, who sustained splinter injuries on his head from a bomb blast on Wednesday, died while he was being shifted to Guwahati hospital for medical treatment via Mizoram. Another injured person of Wednesday's firing died on Thursday in Churachandpur district hospital, where he was undergoing treatment, a police official said. Defence sources said that in a prompt and effective response, the Army's quick action team foiled an attempted arson incident near Leimakhong on Thursday evening.

## New China map draws more rejection, Asian countries back India's call

New Delhi: Vietnam said China's official map released this week violates its sovereignty over the Spratly and Paracel Islands and jurisdiction over its waters, according to a statement posted on the nation's government news website.

China's sovereignty and maritime claims based on the nine-dotted line on the map are "invalid," said the statement, which cited Pham Thu Hang, the spokesperson for Vietnam's foreign affairs ministry. Vietnam "resolutely opposes all China's claims in the South China Sea based on the dotted line," Hang added in the statement. Other countries have also rejected the map. India on Tuesday took issue with a part of the map that shows sections of Arunachal Pradesh under China's control. And the Philippines said it doesn't recognize China's expansive claims in the South China Sea. Governments of Malaysia and Taiwan have also issued strongly worded statements accusing Beijing of claiming their territory.

## CCI grants approval for merger of Vistara and Air India

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted approval on Friday for the merger between Tata Group's airlines - Vistara and Air India. This significant development opens the door for Air India to potentially become India's largest international carrier and the second-largest domestic carrier, trailing only IndiGo. This decision follows several months of scrutiny, during which the CCI had issued a show cause notice to Air India back in June, seeking clarification on why the proposed merger with Vistara should not be subject to investigation due to concerns regarding competition within the aviation sector. "C-2023/04/1022 CCI approves the merger of Tata SIA Airlines into Air India, and acquisition of certain shareholding by Singapore Airlines in Air India subject to compliance of voluntary commitments offered by the parties," the regulator said in a tweet on X (formerly known as Twitter) on Friday evening. Vistara and Air India, both full-service airlines under the Tata Group, have a significant connection. Singapore Airlines (SIA) has a 49 per cent ownership stake in Vistara. Under this agreement, SIA is set to invest Rs 2,059 crore into the increased share capital of Air India, securing a 25.1 per cent stake in the company. The remaining majority stake of 74.9 per cent will be held by Tata Sons in the newly-formed entity.



## RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das rated 'A+' in Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated "A+" in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023, Central Bank said on Friday. Taking to X (former Twitter), RBI said, "We are happy to announce that Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. Das has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated A+." The Bank Governors who earned an "A+" grade in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 are Shaktikanta Das from India,



Thomas J. Jordan (Switzerland), Nguyen Thi Hong (Vietnam)," an official statement issued by Global Finance magazine said. The Central Banker Report Cards, published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade the central bank governors of 101 key countries, territories and districts, including the European Union, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the Bank of Central African States and the Central Bank of West African States.

## 2 sisters including one minor gang-raped in Raipur; 10 arrested

Raipur | Agencies

Two sisters, including a minor, were allegedly gang-raped here when they were returning to their home, the police said on Friday, adding 10 people have been arrested in connection with the incident. Police said the incident happened on Thursday when the women who had gone to celebrate Raksha Bandhan at some other location in the capital city of Chhattisgarh, were on their way back home along with a man on a two-wheeler. The accused individuals, on several motorcycles, cornered them. Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Prashant Agrawal said the accused first forcibly took



both the sisters to an isolated place and raped them while the man who was accompanying them was beaten up mercilessly. Agrawal said a search operation was

launched soon after the victims lodged an FIR at a police station late on Thursday. The police officer said that as many as 10 accused involved in the case had been

arrested by Friday. "All the accused have been booked after being booked under relevant sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act," Agrawal added.

## Former PM Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna disqualified as MP

Bengaluru | Agencies

In a major development, the Karnataka High Court on Friday disqualified JD-S Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. A bench, headed by Justice K. Natarajan, declared that the election of Revanna null and void. The decision came on a petitions contesting his election, filed by advocate G. Devarajegowda, and the BJP's defeated candidate in 2019 parliamentary elections A. Manju, alleging that Revanna did not provide the details of full assets to the Election Commission. The bench has also directed the Election Commission to initiate action against Revanna in connection with



election malpractice, as per the Conduct of Election Process Rules. However, the court has rejected the petition by Manju seeking declaration by the court that he is the winner. The court has refused his submission following allegations of malpractice in elections being also proved against him.



# 'PM, BJP NEXUS OF CORRUPTION': INDIA REPRESENTS 60% POPULATION, SAYS RAHUL GANDHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that it is impossible for the BJP to win as the 60 per cent population is represented on the stage of INDIA. He slammed the government saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP is a nexus of corruption and that is the first time the alliance will demonstrate and prove. Addressing the press conference here after the two-day meeting, Rahul Gandhi said: "Two very big steps were taken. The most important thing is to understand that this stage represents 60 per cent of the population. If the party on the stage unite, it is impossible for the BJP to win the election." He said that the task in front of us is to come together in the most efficient ways. He said that the two steps taken by INDIA is formation of the coordination committee and committees under it and the second step is that we will expedite the seat sharing decision and discussions. "These are two powerful steps to ensure we defeat BJP," he said, adding there is a clear nexus between the Prime minister and the particular businessman.



He said that G20 is taking place and it is very important for India's credibility that the Prime Minister makes his position clear and begins an inquiry in regard to Adani. "The PM and the BJP are a nexus of corruption, and that is the first thing that the INDIA alliance will demonstrate and prove," Rahul Gandhi said. He said that the idea behind Prime

Minister Modi's government is to extract money from the poor people and transfer it to a limited few. "So we are going to propose a clear path, a development path, a clear set of ideas that will once again involve the poor people, the farmers, and the workers in the progress of this country," Rahul Gandhi said. "There are people more senior to

me but real work in this alliance is the relationship forged between the leaders and I can say with confidence that these meetings have done a huge good to build rapport among the leaders. I can see that there is flexibility among all the leaders in the way we are approaching things. There are differences but I am impressed to see how these differences are being minimised and ironed out." Talking about his recent visit to Ladakh, Rahul Gandhi slammed Prime Minister Modi and said: "I spent a week in Ladakh and went to Pangong Lake. Right in front were the Chinese. I had detailed discussions with politicians and especially with the shepherd of Pangong Lake. They told me that the Chinese have taken Indian land, and Prime Minister Modi is lying when he says that the Chinese have not taken our land. Every single person in Ladakh knows this. The people in Ladakh and India have been betrayed." "There is clearly accommodation between the government and the Chinese. The borders have changed. This is known to everybody. Unfortunately, the media does not talk about these issues. It is shameful what has happened in Ladakh."

## Long-standing BJP leaders continue to abandon party in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, former MLA is 4th in last 5 months

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) continues to witness jolt after jolt in the run-up to the Assembly elections as several leaders continue to quit and join other parties. A day after a sitting MLA from Kolaras in Shivpuri district resigned, two-times former MLA Girija Shankar Sharma, a strong leader from Narmadapuram, also left the party and is likely to join the Congress very soon. His resignation from the BJP may be deemed the routine musical chairs politicians perform during the elections, but on the other hand, if he shifts into the opposition, he would be the fourth leader associated with the BJP for decades to be poached by the Congress. Sharma resigned from the BJP, accusing the saffron party of ignoring veteran leaders and workers after the advent of new leaders in the party. The former MLA said he would ensure that the BJP candidates don't win from the seat, as the return of the

present government isn't in the state's larger interest. About his political future, Sharma admitted that he has recently met state Congress chief Kamal Nath and senior leader Digvijaya Singh once, but he is yet to take any final decision on joining the opposition party. "I will support the best opposition candidate from Hoshangabad Assembly seat. But it remains to be seen whether that will be done by being inside the Congress or outside. It's still a month and half before polls are announced, whether I'll join the Congress, the AAP or any other opposition party will be decided later," he said. The Hoshangabad seat is one of the four seats of Narmadapuram district (earlier named Hoshangabad). All four seats were won by the BJP in 2018. Sharma is the son of veteran BJP leader and former state assembly Speaker Sitasaran Sharma and the family have been influential in Narmadapuram since 1990. However, Sharma's resignation BJP's primary membership happened amid reports of possibility of the

BJP denying ticket to anyone from the Sharma family on the Hoshangabad seat for the first time in 33 years. Key sources in the BJP claimed that the Sharma family is also dejected over being ignored in the recent cabinet rejig by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Sharma is the fourth from old BJP family to get disenchanted with the party in five months. Before him, Rao Yadendra Singh Yadav who is the son of three-time former BJP MLA (late) Rao Deshraj Singh Yadav, quit the party to join the Congress in March. In April, former BJP MP from Khargone-ST seat, Makhan Singh Solanki also quit and joined the Congress. His nephew Sumer Singh Solanki is the BJP member of the Rajya Sabha. In May, former CM late Kailash Joshi's son and former state minister Deepak Joshi also ended his decades-long association with the BJP to join the Congress. He is keen at contesting against Chouhan from the latter's political pocket-borough Budhni in central MP's Sehore district.

## Raise A Collective Voice Of Conscience: Save Dol Ka Badh Forest

Lalit Sharma | Jaipur

This is first and foremost a non violent movement against the destruction of Dol ka Badh forest. We are here to raise our collective voices against the plunder of our trees, plants, animals and insects. We recognize the need to take actions in accordance with climate justice to fight global warming and make our planet more hospitable to all. We are gathered here to protect Jaipur from further pollution and harm. We are peacefully protesting the destruction of our earth. Our fight is not against development or fintech, it is against the cutting of a vibrant ecosystem. Any participants in this movement agree to respect the principles of peace and cooperation. We refuse any abuse of the sit in spaces and no attempts at using any form of violence. While engaging with the group, please take cue from some of the older participants when wanting to jump into action as every slot of picketing has some people in a leadership role. We are here to help take collective



decisions. This is not a free for all but rather a space for everyone to take responsibility for our environment.

All political parties till now are welcome to sit with us as residents of this city and not to raise the slogans of their party. This is a citizens movement made up for people whose agenda is to save this forest.

## INDIA RECORDS 49 NEW COVID CASES

New Delhi: As many as 49 people have tested positive for Covid-19 in India during the last 24 hours, the Health Ministry said on Friday. With the addition of the 49 new cases, the total caseload rose to 4,49,97,216, as per the ministry. On the other hand, 71 people have recovered from the disease, taking the tally to 4,44,63,788. The recovery rate stood at 98.81 per cent. According to the Health Ministry, the death toll stands at 5,31,930, while active cases at 1,498. Over 220.67 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine have been administered so far.

## TOURIST FOOTFALL IN UP GOES UP BY OVER ONE CRORE

Lucknow | Agencies

Over 14 crore tourists visited various destinations in Uttar Pradesh in the first half of the year, according to an official data shared by the UP tourism department. "This is almost 1.1 crore over the number recorded in the previous year for the same period. This is an outcome of the steps taken by the state government towards boosting the tourism sector," said the official spokesman. Officials said that the tourism sector has massive potential for income generation and job creation the sector has to offer, especially with the Ram Temple in Ayodhya set to open in the beginning of 2024. Officials also revealed that in 2022, nearly 31.86 crore tourists came to UP - a 190 per



cent increase over the previous year. "The UP government is poised to open the doors of employment opportunities through domestic tourism. Last year witnessed an astounding 190 per cent surge in the number of tourists, and the current year's pace is even more remarkable. In January, once the Ram Temple's sanc-

torum is unveiled, we will witness a surge of pilgrims from across India. The tourism sector has huge potential for employment, and, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, will act as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation," said the official. Jaiveer Singh, minister of tourism and culture said, "The

growth in the number of tourists in UP is a promising sign. The continuous development of religious, historical, and cultural sites is expected to further boost tourism. Simultaneously, employment opportunities will also expand. Our goal is to establish UP on a global map in the tourism sector."

## Heavy rain likely in Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar in next 5 days: IMD

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department on Friday forecast an increase in rainfall activity over East and East Central India from Saturday, while isolated heavy rain is likely over Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Islands during next five days. In Northeast India, till September 3, there is a forecast of light to moderate scattered to fairly widespread rainfall, with isolated heavy rainfall expected in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. The next five days in East India will likely bring light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning. "Isolated heavy rainfall is expected over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On September 3, Gangetic



West Bengal is likely to experience these conditions, and from Saturday to September 5, Odisha may see similar weather patterns," said the IMD. In Central India, from September 3-

5, there is a forecast of light to moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning. Isolated heavy rainfall is expected in Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh.

Moving to South India, on Friday and Saturday, there is a prediction of light to moderate scattered rainfall, with isolated heavy rainfall expected in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, and South Interior Karnataka.

"On September 3 and 4, North Interior Karnataka may experience similar conditions, and from Friday to September 5, Kerala is expected to see this pattern," said the weather forecast agency.

Additionally, on September 3 and 4, Rayalaseema is likely to have these weather conditions, and from September 3 to 5, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana may experience them. However, for the rest of the country, subdued rainfall activity is expected over the next five days, the IMD predicted.

## Ahead of G20 summit, Delhi HC declares Sep 8 holiday for itself, lower courts

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued a notification declaring a holiday on September 8 for itself and all district courts ahead of the G20 Summit, which is scheduled to be held in the national capital on September 9 and 10. It was announced that September 8, has been designated as a holiday for both the high court and the subordinate courts, and to compensate for the holiday, the high court would be in session on December 16 (Saturday), and trial courts would operate on December 9 (a second Saturday). Regarding cases scheduled



for hearings, orders, and judgments on September 8, the notification outlined that these matters would be taken up on September 11, in addition to the cases already listed for that day. The declara-

tion of September 8 as a holiday aims to facilitate preparations and security measures for the G20 Summit, which is expected to host prominent leaders from various member countries.

## 'Fan' deceives Pune's 'Gold Man' over 18 tola gold chain

Team Absolute | Pune

Social media figure Monu Badekar, known as the 'Gold Man', was deceived by a supposed fan, Mahesh alias Mallappa Sahebanna Hosmani (31) from Katraj in Pune district. Badekar, who boasts a following of 4.6 lakh on Instagram, loaned an 18 tola gold chain to Hosmani in January. Instead of returning the chain, Hosmani pawned it for Rs 20,000, citing urgent financial need. Despite Badekar promptly transferring the required sum to retrieve the chain, Hosmani continued to evade him with various excuses over the following months. Matters intensified as Badekar learned of Hosmani's criminal past and his involvement in theft cases. Confronting him for the chain's return led to threats from Hosmani, who insinuated Badekar's involvement in his illegal activities. Hosmani then made defamatory online statements, claiming Badekar owed him money. Ultimately, Badekar was fleeced of Rs 2 lakh by Hosmani under threat of further defamation and legal action. The Loni Kalbhori police have lodged a case

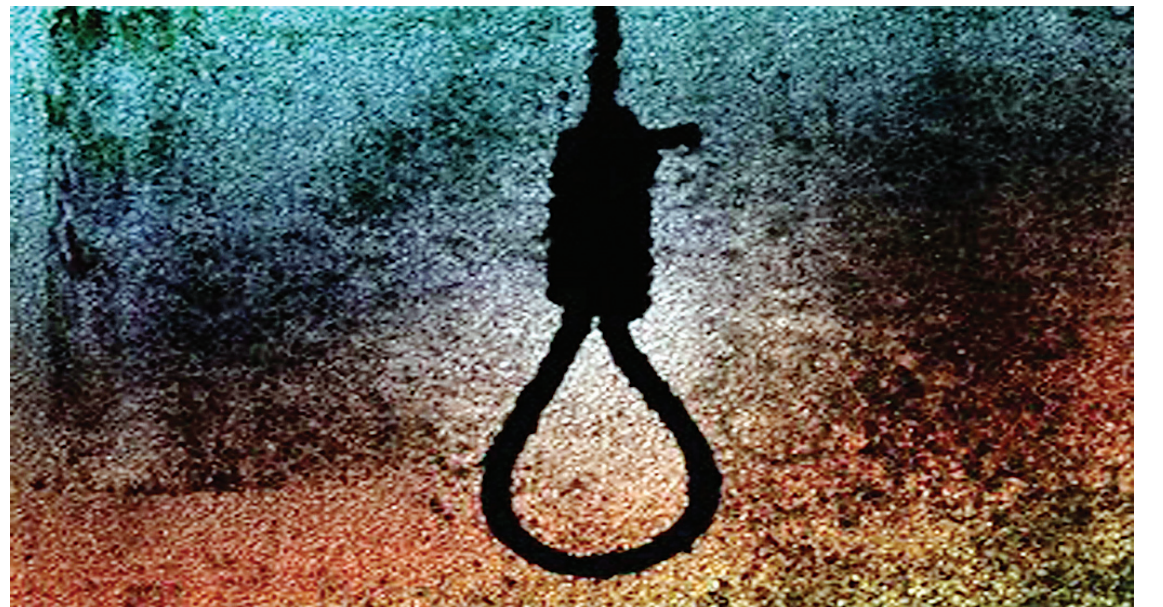


against Hosmani, charging him under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code, including criminal breach of trust, extortion, and defamation.

## WOMAN FOUND HANGING IN GHAZIABAD, BOYFRIEND ARRESTED

Ghaziabad | Agencies

A woman was found hanging at her house in the Vaishali area, the police said on Friday, adding that her boyfriend has been arrested as her death looks suspicious. The deceased has been identified as Pinky Gupta, who lived in a rented accommodation in Sector-3, Vaishali. Initial probe suggests there was some dispute between the couple who had been in a relationship for about four years. Pinky used to work in a gym. Though her family stays in Ghaziabad, she was living separately with her partner, Shahid Khan, in Sector-3 for the past three months. According to the police, at around 10.30 p.m. on Thursday, a PCR call was received from Pinky's neighbour, stating that a girl was found hanging in a house in Sector-3 following which a police team was rushed to the spot. "The body was shifted for post-mortem. Based on the information gathered by the police, Shahid has been taken into custody," said



Swatantra Singh, ACP, Indirapuram. Pinky's family also demanded the filing of a complaint against Shahid for allegedly pushing Gupta into committing suicide. According to the police, Pinky and

Khan had been in a relationship for four years and were living together in Vaishali for the past three months. Pinky had maintained a personal diary since 2021, in which she chronicled her daily life and expressed her

thoughts through poetry. Prior to her tragic demise, Pinky seemed to have written about her feelings of unreciprocated love and her willingness to do anything for her partner.



## BJP'S SECOND LIST OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES 'One Nation, One Election': WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON It needs consent from all states, says Kamal Nath

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The churning of the Bharatiya Janata Party on the assembly seats it lost in Madhya Pradesh is over. BJP may release the second list of candidates in the first week of September. This list will be released after 39 seats for the remaining 64 seats. Names will be announced soon.



### THESE NAMES ARE ALMOST FIXED

According to sources, The name of Siddharth Malaiya, son of former minister Jayant Malaiya from Damoh, is believed to be fixed. While Bunty Sahu from Chhindwara, Arun Bhimawat from Shajapur, Rakesh Shukla from Bijawar, Ram Pyare Kulaste from Niwas, Vijay Kumar Uike from Lakhnadon, Bodh Singh Bhagat former MP from Katangi, Mukesh Pandya from Badnagar, Imarti Devi from Dabra, Raghoghar's Heerendra Singh Bunty, Rajnagar's Arvind Pateria, Betul's Hemant Khandelwal, Burhanpur's Archana Chitnis, Nagda's Dilip Singh Shekhawat, Malhargarh's Jagdish Deora, Mandsaur's Yashpal Singh Sisodia, Jawad's Omprakash Saklecha are almost certain to get tickets.

### TWO NAME PANELS ON THESE SEATS

A panel has been formed in the names of Ashish Thakur and Nathan Shah Kavareti from Junnardeo (ST) assembly seat, Uttam Thakur and Kamini Shah from Amarwara (ST) seat, Tarachand Bawaria and Jyoti Daheria from Parasia (SC), Abhilash Pandey and Prabhat Sahu in Jabalpur West, Jabalpur North. Dheeraj Pateria and Rohit, son of former minister Sharad Jain, Mangal Singh and Gangabai Uike from Betul's Ghodadongri seat, Brijbihari Pateria and Mangal Singh Lodhi from Deori, Hardeep Singh Dang and Vinay Jangid from Suwasra, Madhav Maru and Kailash Chawla from Manasa, KK Singh and Rajendra Pandey from Javra. Reeti Pathak, Vishwamitra Pathak from Sihawal seat, Lavkush Shukla and Uma Soni from Kotma, Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Rao Uday Pratap Singh from Tendukheda, Gautam Patel and Sadhna Shthapak from Gadarwara, Hazarilal Dangi and Dinesh Purohit from Khilchipur, Ramesh Malviya and Jitendra from Alot. Gehlot, Vikas Arya, son of former minister Antar Singh Arya from Sendhwa and Dr. Rehlas Senani, Antar Patel and Subhash Patel, former MPs from Rajpur (ST), Jaswant Jatav and Ramesh Khatik from Karaira, Girraj Dandotia and Shivmangal Singh Tomar from Dimni, Narayan Singh Kushwaha and Anoop Mishra from Gwalior South were empanelled.

### PANEL OF 3 NAMES MADE ON THESE SEATS

A panel has been prepared in the names of Shankar Lal Tiwari, Ratnakar Chaturvedi Shiva and Lakshmi Yadav from Satna Assembly seat, Pratima Bagri, Rani Bagri and Pushparaj Bagri from Raigaon (SC), Amar Singh Yadav, Pratap Singh Mandloi and Haricharan Tiwari from Rajgarh. Om Malviya, Madhu Gehlot and Gopal Parmar from Agar (SC), Guman Singh Damor, Narayan Meda and Sangeeta Cheral from Sailana, Durgalal Vijay, Mahavir Singh Sisodia and Brajraj Singh from Sheopur, Raghuraj Singh Kanshana, Rustam Singh and Rakesh Rustam Singh from Morena Diwan Singh Patel, Shyam Barde and Vikas Dabur from Pansemal (SC), Devi Lal Dhakad, Rajesh Sethia, Shyam Singh Chauhan from Garoth.

### NAMES OF MORE THAN 3 CONTENDERS FOR THESE SEATS

Sources provide information about the formation of the panel that Khargone Bhikangaon (ST), Khargone and Bhagwanpura (ST), Jhabua Thandla (ST), Dhar Sardarpur (ST), Gandhwani and Manawar (ST), Indore Depalpur and Indore - names of more than three claimants on one assembly seat.

Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath on Friday said that the implementation of 'One Nation, One Election' won't be possible only through amendments passed in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha but needs approval from all the states as well.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In BJP-ruled states like Haryana and Maharashtra, they can decide and pass a proposal in the cabinet to dissolve their respective assemblies. It has to be seen if they want to conduct Lok Sabha election along with the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and other states," Kamal Nath said during a press conference in Neemuch district on Friday. The Modi-led government has constituted a committee headed by former president of India Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of 'One Nation, One Election'. The government has also called for a special Parliament session between September 18 and 22, the agenda for which is under wraps.



Assembly polls are due in five states in November-December of 2023 which will be followed by the Lok Sabha elections in May-June next year.

## Woman dragged, thrashed in public as 5-month-old infant lies on ground; three held

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In an inhumane act, a woman in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar was seen being dragged, thrashed, and kicked even in public as she cried and pleaded for mercy, even as her five-month old infant lay unattended on the ground, as per a viral video. The woman was being punished allegedly for arguing with a shop owner for milk to feed her baby. As per the officials, the video showing disgraceful incident was recorded on August 12 at a bus stand in Sagar district, and surfaced on social media from Wednesday night. Coming to know about the incident, local police started investigation and found that the incident occurred after the woman had a spat with a shopkeeper. "Preliminary investigation revealed that the woman had gone to shop for milk for her child, when she had a verbal argument with shopkeeper. She was asked to leave the place, but she resisted, subsequently, some people started thrashing and beating her. Further details are being collected,"



Additional SP, Sagar, Lokesh Singh said. He also told the press that three accused involved in thrashing the woman have been arrested on Thursday evening and sent to jail. The accused have been identified as Pravin Raiwar, 26, Vikki, 20, and Rakesh, 40. In the viral video, the distraught woman can be heard wailing: "Bhaiya, mujhe mere parivaar se milwa do," (brother, please help me find my family), even as the mob continued to thrash her. It was also claimed that the woman would sit on the roadside and abuse passersby and shopkeepers, however, police was yet to say anything on this part so far.

## Sick Leopard abused, harassed by Dewas villagers dies in Indore

Team Absolute | Indore

Leopard, with whom villagers were spotted playing and taking selfies at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas, died at a zoo in Indore during treatment on Friday. The leopard was seriously ill and was undergoing treatment at a veterinary hospital in Indore, an official said. "The animal was brought from the Dewas forest range around 10 am and the treatment began at 11 am. The primary symptoms were noticed yesterday neurologically," Dr Uttam Yadav, in-charge of Kamla Nehru Prani Sangrahalaya, said. There could be multiple reasons for the death, he said, adding that the villagers were treating and handling the leopard like a calf, which was very surprising.



"This is a case of neurological disorder in which the animal forgets its identity. It was seen in the viral video that the leopard neither roared nor attacked anyone. The villagers were treating it like a calf," Dr Yadav told news agency. "A team of Dewas Forest Department came to Indore with the leopard and we started treating it.

There can be many reasons - either a dumped form of rabies or the canine distemper virus," Dr Yadav said. According to the veterinarian, partial blindness was also found in the leopard and it was having fits every half an hour, like in epilepsy. The animal's body was stiff and the body temperature was high. However, it was brought under control. There was also dehydration due to the leopard being hungry and thirsty for a long time. According to him, the leopard's fits and epilepsy reduced in the last 24 hours but its condition remained critical. A team of Wildlife Forensic and Health from Jabalpur collected samples from the animal for further examination. The age of the leopard was about 10 years and there were no injury marks on its body.

## Senior BJP leader Girija Shankar Sharma resigns from the party

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prior to Madhya Pradesh assembly elections, the neglect of office bearers and seniors in BJP is coming to the fore. On Friday, Girijashankar Sharma, former BJP MLA from Narmadapuram, resigned from the primary membership as he is angry with the party. He is the brother of Dr. Sitasaran Sharma, former Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly and a two-time MLA from the BJP. A day ago, Kolaras MLA from Shivpuri district Virendra Raghuvanshi had resigned from BJP. He also accused the BJP government of corruption and arbitrariness. Former MLA Sharma held a press conference on Friday at his home in Narmadapuram. He said that the party has been neglecting him for more than 10



years. New people have come in the organization, who are sidelining the old people. He said that the old leaders are not being questioned. Many times it seems that talks should be held with the organization, but there is no one to listen even in the organization. Girijashankar Sharma said that the BJP government in the state is completely failing. Inflation, unemployment and corruption are at their peak here. Not much good happened in terms of infrastructure. Regarding Vyapam scam, Patwari recruit-

ment scam, Girijashankar Sharma said, "The number of unemployed youth is more in the state. The government makes only a select number of recruitments. Corruption takes place in that too. Recently there was a scam in Patwari recruitment also. Because of this the youth are not getting employment." It is said that Girijashankar Sharma is in talks with State Congress President Kamal Nath. Congress wants him to contest from Narmadapuram seat while Girijashankar Sharma wants ticket from Sohagpur. Reason- His brother is former Assembly Speaker and current MLA Dr. Sitasaran Sharma. If BJP re-nominates Sitasaran Sharma from Narmadapuram seat, Girijashankar Sharma does not want to contest against his brother on Congress ticket.

### BANSAGAR CANAL BURST, WORLD CLASS TUNNEL BUILT BETWEEN REWA-SIDHI FLOODED

Rewa: Late Thursday night, the world class tunnel built between Rewa-Sidhi was filled with canal water. Traffic on National Highway 39 remained closed for 2 hours. The water of the canal was closed at night itself. The tunnel has been reopened after the water was drained on Friday morning. The tunnel was inaugurated by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on 10 December 2022.

## CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan plants saplings along with public representatives

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted saplings of Neem, Moulshri and Gulmohar in the garden located at Shyamla Hills. Mayor Malti Rai and former MLA Sudarshan Gupta were present on the occasion. Along with Chief Minister Chouhan, girl child Vaibhavi Jha planted saplings on her birthday. Krishna Mohan Jha, Abhishek Singh, Dr. Manju Mehta and Mihir Kumar also planted saplings. Along with CM Chouhan, Rajesh Aggrawal, Amit Sogani, Ravindra Jain and Abhijeet Goyal of Confederation of All



India Traders district Guna participated in the plantation. Along with CM Chouhan, Corporator Aarti Aneja and her family members and public representatives Amit Sharma, Devansh Sharma, Ashutosh Pandey, Pratyansh Tripathi, Malti Tripathi took part in the plantation. Along with CM Chouhan, members of Sanatani Yuva Vahani also planted saplings.

## British Deputy High Commissioner Scott pays courtesy visit to Governor Patel

Team Absolute | Bhopal

British Deputy High Commissioner Christina Scott paid courtesy call on Governor Mangubhai Patel at Raj Bhavan. Governor Patel was apprised about the Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth Programme run by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the British Government. Minister of Science and Technology Omprakash Sakhlacha and international stakeholders associated with the Infrastructure for Climate Resilient Growth Programme were present. Dr. Anil Kothari, Director General, Madhya Pradesh



Council of Science and Technology, informed that under the Infrastructure for Growth Programme Portfolio, the climate information service tool Crisp-M has been designed by the Council in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development. CRISP-M has been developed in collaboration between Ministry of Rural Development and Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the British Government to essentially support the rural

communities which are potential challenges of climate change. Madhya Pradesh is a pioneer in the country, where its pilot project was launched in Raisen and Sehore districts in October 2021. The CRISP-M tool helps rural households respond to the climate crisis by facilitating access and sharing of local climate data. It facilitates access to resources to safeguard their livelihood. By making the communities aware about the effects of climate change, about the future climate scenario, groundwater status of the land, surface rain water flow and rainfall patterns etc., it helps in making long-term plans for water conservation.

## JUSTICE IS SERVED TO SIDHI TODAY: CM CHOUHAN

Citizen of Sidhi and near vicinity will get high level treatment and need not go to Rewa-Bhopal-Indore. CM Chouhan performs bhoomi-pujan of Sidhi Medical College. Lays foundation stone of 100 bedded civil hospital Rampur Naikin. Number of medical colleges will be increased to 31. 100 MBBS seats will be available every year

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that today is a lucky day for Sidhi. With the establishment of a medical college in Sidhi, people will not have to go to Rewa, Bhopal or Indore for treatment. They will have access to high level medical facilities in Sidhi itself. Justice is served to Sidhi today. With this number of medical colleges in the state will increase to 31. Till the year 2003, there were only 5 medical colleges in the state. Chief Minister was addressing the gathering present on the occasion of bhoomi-pujan ceremony of construction of Sidhi Medical College building complex in Naudhiya of Sidhi. With the establishment of a medical college in



Sidhi district, 100 MBBS seats will be available

every year for the students of the state. With the opening of medical college, patients coming from Sidhi district and neighbouring districts will be able to avail better medical facilities. Chief Minister Chouhan performed bhoomi-pujan amidst chanting of mantras at the proposed site for the medical college in Naudhiya village. Chouhan also laid the foundation stone of 100 bedded Civil Hospital Rampur Naikin costing Rs 24 crore 8 lakh 84 thousand. In the programme, Minister in-charge of Sidhi Meena Singh, MP Sidhi. Reeti Pathak, MLA Kedarnath Shukla, Kuwar Singh Tekam and other public representatives were present. On Chief Minister Chouhan's arrival at Sidhi, the Laddi Behna Sena welcomed him by showering flowers and with Kalash Yatra.



NURTURING INDIA'S FUTURE

# National Nutrition Month 2023 and the power of everyday choices

Vikas Datta

As a dietician, I've had the privilege of witnessing the transformative impact of nutrition on individual lives and the collective strength of our nation. In this article, I want to highlight the immense importance of National Nutrition Month 2023 and its profound message: "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat." This theme emphasises on the fact that a nourished nation is a more educated, empowered, and sustainable one.

This year the major focus is on- 1. Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding-

One of the fundamental aspects of nutrition is the gift of exclusive breastfeeding for infants. It's not just about providing essential nutrients; it's about giving our children a head start in life. Complementary feeding, introduced at the right time, ensures a smooth transition to solid foods, setting the stage for a lifetime of healthy eating habits. As a society we need to work on it as they're building blocks for a brighter future.

Swasth Balak Spardha (SBS) I've witnessed the positive impact of the Swasth Balak Spardha firsthand. It's a celebration of health and vitality among our youth. By fostering a sense of healthy competition, SBS encourages families to make nutritious choices while having fun. It's about more than winning; it's about winning at life by choosing health.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi (PBPB) Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi harmoniously combines nutrition and education. Imagine the potential when well-fed children engage in learning! Their attendance and academic performance soar, opening doors to a brighter, more prosperous India.

Improving Nutrition through Mission LiFE- Mission LiFE exemplifies how a focus on nutrition can be synonymous with sustainability. By improving the health of our citizens, we contribute to a healthier environment. Sustainable practices, from farm to fork, are vital for a greener, healthier tomorrow.



Meri Mati Mera Desh (MMDM)- Meri Mati Mera Desh honors our roots and traditions. It's a reminder that the path to good health often starts with embracing local and seasonal foods. These choices not only nourish us but also support local farmers and reduce our carbon footprint. It's a win-win for everyone involved. The nutrient density and bioavailability of nutrients in local and seasonal food helps to prevent triple burden of malnourishment. Tribal Focused Nutrition Sensitization- In my work, I've seen the incredible strides made in addressing the unique nutritional needs of tribal communities. Every effort counts, and every healthy choice we make collectively contributes to a more inclusive and thriving India. Education and awareness programs can play an important role in improving the nutritional health of the indigenous communities.

Test, Treat, Talk Anaemia- Anaemia is a silent challenge, but it doesn't have to be. More than 50% Indian women

suffers from it, compromising the quality of life. Testing, treating, and talking about anaemia is a crucial step towards healthier lives. It's a reminder that every small choice we make, from our daily diet to seeking medical advice, matters.

As a dietician, I implore each one of us to recognize the power we hold in our daily choices. National Nutrition Month 2023 is not just a month-long celebration; it's a reminder that nutrition is a daily commitment to ourselves, our families, and our nation.

Let's spread awareness about the significance of nutrition, advocate for sustainable practices, celebrate our diverse diets, and choose local and seasonal foods whenever possible. By doing so, we nurture not only our own well-being but also the prosperity of our beloved India.

Remember, every bite counts, every meal matters, and every day is an opportunity to make a better choice for ourselves and for the nation we aspire to be.

## Study suggests long Covid-brain fog linked to blood clots

Researchers have found that blood clots after a Covid infection may be due to ongoing cognitive problems, commonly referred to as 'brain fog'.



Brain fog is common and debilitating, and can affect the ability to work, yet their biological underpinnings remain unknown. It can affect people's thinking, concentration or memory for at least six months.

Researchers from the University of Oxford, UK said that high levels of two proteins at the time of Covid-19 have been found in patients who later experienced cognitive problems, including 'brain fog'.

The study gave a major clue as to one cause of their symptoms: blood clots, said researchers from the University of Oxford, UK.

The team looked at blood tests from 1,837 people who had been hospitalised with Covid to find potential proteins (biomarkers) associated with subsequent cognitive problems, with symptoms including serious and persistent problems with thinking, concentration and memory.

Their memory was assessed at six and 12 months after hospitalisation using both a formal test and by asking them their own subjective view about their memory.

In a new paper published in Nature Medicine, they identified two separate profiles of biomarkers. The first was having a high level of a protein called fibrinogen, and the second was a raised level of a protein fragment called D-dimer.

"Both fibrinogen and D-dimer are involved in blood clotting, and so the results support the hypothesis that blood clots are a cause of post-Covid cognitive problems. Fibrinogen may be directly acting on the brain and its blood vessels, whereas D-dimer often reflects blood clots in the lungs and the problems in the brain might be due to lack of oxygen," Dr Max Taquet and colleagues from the varsity.

"In line with this possibility, people who had high levels of D-dimer were not only at a higher risk of brain fog, but also at a higher risk of respiratory problems," Taquet said.

Other aspects of the profiles suggested they are likely to reflect blood clots. The main findings were replicated using electronic health records in a separate population.

Professor Paul Harrison, from the University who supervised the study, said: "Identifying predictors and possible mechanisms is a key step in understanding post-Covid brain fog. This study provides some significant clues."

"The ultimate goal is to be able to prevent and reverse the cognitive problems seen in some people after Covid-19 infection. Although our results are a significant advance in understanding the basis of these symptoms, more research is needed into the causes and effects before we propose and test interventions," Taquet said.

## international

## COVID HOSPITALISATIONS RISE IN US AMID CALLS TO MAKE MASKS MANDATORY

Washington | Agencies

The nationwide Covid hospitalisations in the US have increased by nearly 19 per cent in a single week and deaths by more than 21 per cent, as the country goes through a late-summer spike in Covid infections.

According to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, up to 10,000 people a week have been hospitalised with Covid, reports NPR.

The rising Covid cases have prompted some schools, hospitals and businesses to encourage, or even require, people to start masking up again.

CDC Director Mandy Cohen cautioned that Covid remains risky for people who are unvaccinated.

The risk is especially high for unvaccinated individuals who haven't gotten the virus before



and those who are older or have underlying health conditions.

"About 70 per cent of hospitalisations are among those who are 65 and older," she was quoted as saying in the report late on Thursday.

The health officials are watch-

ing two new variants -- Omicron variant EG.5 (Eris) which is dominant in the US and BA.2.86 which is starting to spread.

The CDC warned last week that BA.2.86 may be "more capable of causing infection" in people who have previously had

the Covid virus or vaccines. "All of that has driven some institutions around the country to reinstate mask mandates, at least temporarily," said the report.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated EG.5 or Eris as a "variant of interest" as cases rise globally. "EG.5 is a descendent lineage of XBB.1.9.2, which has the same spike amino acid profile as XBB.1.5. EG.5 was first reported on February 17, 2023, and designated as a variant under monitoring (VUM) on July 19, 2023. With this risk evaluation, we are designating EG.5 and its sub-lineages as a variant of interest (VOI)," according to the WHO.

According to WHO, the largest portion of EG.5 sequences are from China (30.6 per cent, 2247 sequences). However, it believes the variant does not pose a significant risk.

## 9 soldiers killed, 5 injured in suicide attack in Pakistan

Islamabad: Nine Pakistani soldiers were killed and five others injured in a suicide attack in Bannu district of country's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

A motorcycle-borne suicide bomber exploded himself near a military convoy in the Jani Khel area of Bannu district of the province on Thursday, army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The area has been cordoned off by security forces and an operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, Geo news reported quoting the statement. Security forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of soldiers would further strengthen the resolve, Pakistani Army said. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that he was "heartbroken" by the loss of nine "valiant soldiers" to a cowardly terrorist act that injured many. Earlier last week, six soldiers and four terrorists were killed in a clash in South Waziristan district of KP province, according to the military.

## US woman sets record for world's longest female mullet

Washington | Agencies

A 58-year-old US woman has earned Guinness World Record for the longest mullet of any female measuring 172.72 cm (5 ft 8 in), media reports said.

The woman, Tami Manis, who is a public health nurse in Knoxville city in the US' Tennessee state, had last cut her hair on February 9, 1990.

She told Guinness that she began growing her hair in the 1980s, after watching 'Til Tuesday's' music video for its song, 'Voices Carry'.

"The girl had a rat tail and I really wanted one of those," she said.

In 1989, when Manis had went to salon, hairdresser told her that the style did not suit her, after which she decided to go for the hair do. However, she immediately regretted the decision and has not cut it since, as per New York Post.

"I've been blessed that my hair grows and now it's the world's longest mullet and I'm very happy



with it, she told Guinness.

She shared that her friends and family ask questions about her mullet which has become frequent topic of conversation.

Manis said that people recognise her from 20 years ago because she has kept the same hairstyle.

She credited her good genes for so long and thick hair and said her hair care involves washing her mullet with hask hair products, including shampoo and conditioner. In 2022, Manis competed in the "Femullet" division of the 2022 US Mullet Championships in which she stood second and took home the \$300 prize.

## PHILIPPINES: SUPER TYPHOON SAOLA LEAVES 1 DEAD, DISPLACES OVER 3,87,000

Manila | Agencies

Super typhoon Saola, which triggered floods and landslides in the Philippines, has left at least one dead and displaced 3,87,242 people across the country, the government said on Friday.

Saola grew into a super typhoon, dumping heavy rain and severe winds in the main Luzon island and central Philippines, Xinhua news agency reported.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said more than 21,000 are still in temporary shelters.

The country continues to experience rain even after Saola exited the country this week, with many areas flooded, including Metro Manila. Meanwhile, severe tropical



storm Haiqui, which intensified into a typhoon on Friday, is enhancing the southwest monsoon and threatening to dump more rain over the weekend, the state weather bureau said. The bureau last spotted Haiqui 785 km north-east of Batanes province, blow-

ing westward at 20 km per hour, packing 120 km per hour winds and gusts of up to 150 km per hour.

Haiqui is the eighth typhoon to lash the archipelago country this year. The bureau added that another severe tropical storm is also approaching.

## Trump pleads not guilty in 2020 Georgia election case

Washington | Agencies

Former US President Donald Trump has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempting to overturn his 2020 presidential election defeat in the southeastern state of Georgia. "As evidenced by my signature below, I do hereby waive formal arraignment and enter my plea of NOT GUILTY to the Indictment in this case," Trump said in a court filing on Thursday in Fulton County Superior Court, Xinhua news agency reported.

Trump and 18 others were indicted on August 14 over alleged efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election in Georgia.

Trump was charged with 13 counts, including violating the state's racketeering act, soliciting a public officer to violate his oath, conspiring to impersonate a public officer, conspiring to commit forgery in the first degree, and conspiring to file false documents.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee had set arraignment hearings for Trump and other defendants charged in the case for



September 6. That plea means the former Republican president will not appear in person in court next week to face the charges.

Trump's lawyers also asked the judge to separate his case from some of his co-defendants who sought a speedy trial in the case.

Last week, Trump turned himself in at the Fulton County jail in Atlanta, Georgia, becoming the first former president to have a mug shot taken. Trump, the front-runner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary, has been indicted in four criminal cases -- two by the Justice Department, and two by state prosecutors in New York and Georgia, separately. The Georgia case is the fourth criminal case to be brought against him.

Trump has criticized the cases against him as part of a politically motivated attempt to keep him from recapturing the White House.



# IGNORING ALL FLAK, INDIA LEADERS SAY 'CHEESE' AT MUMBAI CONCLAVE

## JUDEGA BHARAT JEETEGA INDIA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Working President Supriya Sule, All India Trinamool Congress President and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, PDP President

Over five dozen top leaders of the National Opposition INDIA bloc on Friday morning stood motionlessly and said "cheese" for a group photo session before they started their conclave here on Friday.

Representatives of around 28 parties attending the third INDIA meeting stood up - very 'close' to each other - and almost managed to smile or grin for the clicks at the huge display of Opposition strength and unity.

There were a few women who "stood out" in the group picture - including Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Nationalist Congress Party

and ex-CM of Jammu & Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti. The Conclave host, Shiv Sena (UBT) President and Maharashtra ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray stood at the centre of the group, flanked by top leaders of various parties, displaying warmth and bonhomie, against the backdrop of the slogans, "Judega Bharat, Jeetega INDIA".

Two of the senior-most leaders, NCP President Sharad Pawar, 83, also stood 'upright', while National Conference leader and ex-CM of J&K Farooque Abdullah, 85, who reached the hotel beaming and smiling in a wheelchair, later stood up with the support of a hand-staff for the photo shutters. Later, the INDIA leaders stepped inside the auditorium for a half-morning and half-afternoon brainstorming session, followed by lunch hosted by the Maharashtra and Mumbai Congress.

# 'India a Hindu Rashtra': Sizeable citizens accept this fact, says Mohan Bhagwat



Team Absolute | Nagpur

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said India is a Hindu Rashtra and a sizeable population of the country firmly believe in the concept.

He said a few people do not understand this fact and refuse to accept it, but the fact is, "India is a Hindu nation and significant people accept it."

The RSS Chief was addressing the inauguration ceremony of a new office of Shri Narakesari Prakashan Limited in Nagpur which publishes RSS's Marathi daily Tarun Bharat.

The RSS Chief said that a section of people may not

accept 'India as a Hindu Rashtra' for their selfish motives. "It is a Hindu land with Hindu culture where everyone has a bond." "Hindustan (India) is a Hindu Rashtra and this is a fact. Ideologically, all Bharatiyas (Indians) are Hindus and Hindus mean all Bharatiyas. All those who are in Bharat (India) today are related to Hindu culture, Hindu ancestors and Hindu land, nothing other than these."

Addressing the gathering at the office of the newspaper, he said reporting should cover everyone and be done fairly and based on facts while "keeping our own ideology intact."

Maharashtra Deputy Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnis, who also joined the stage with Bhagwat and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, cited the media's influence and called it necessary for it to propagate "proper ideas".

"The media must work to raise social consciousness. The media are expected to bring positivity to the thoughts of the citizens and should aim to eliminate negativity. Thoughts are expected to get priority over business," Fadnis said.

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who was the chief guest at the ceremony, said inclusiveness should be the identity of a newspaper. "Readers love media that are inclusive along with ideological identity."

## BE READY FOR MORE ATTACKS, GOVT NERVOUS WITH INDIA STRENGTH: KHARGE

Mumbai: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during the third INDIA meeting on Friday asked the alliance partners to be ready for more attacks from the ruling party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the coming days due to vendetta politics and said "INDIA strength is making the government nervous".

He also targeted the BJP and the RSS for increase in hate crime in the country and also accused it of trying to keep the states under check. Addressing the INDIA bloc leaders here on second day of the meeting, Kharge said, "The success of both our meetings first in Patna and second in Bengaluru can be measured by the fact that the Prime Minister in his subsequent speeches has not just attacked INDIA but has also compared the name of our beloved country with a terrorist organisation and a symbol of slavery. "We should be prepared for more attacks in the coming months, more raids and arrests due to this government's vendetta politics," he said. The Congress leader asserted that the more ground INDIA alliance gains the more the BJP government will misuse agencies against the opposition leaders. He cited the example of the central agencies actions in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and recent actions in the states of Jharkhand and in Chhattisgarh.

## Marital dispute ends in tragedy as woman jumps to death with infant son

Team Absolute | Thane

In what seems to be a fallout of a marital dispute, a 26-year-old woman allegedly leaped to her death from a high-rise building, along with her one-year-old son, in this district of Maharashtra on Friday.

According to police, the incident took place after a heated argument between the woman and her husband over a trivial matter.

Priyanka Mohite lived with her husband and their son in a building located on Ghodbunder Road.

The incident took place at around 1.30 am, Inspector (Crime) Y.S Awhad of



Kasarvadavali Police Station said. The couple had a disagreement after the man disallowed his wife to visit her sister's house for Raksha Bandhan. He voiced his reservations against travelling with their infant child. A distraught Mohite then jumped off the balcony along with her son. They were

found in a pool of blood by the neighbours who rushed them to a nearby hospital.

Both were pronounced dead upon arrival by the doctors.

The bodies have been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem.

A case of accidental death has been registered.

## SC doubts its earlier order permitting house arrest for Bhima Koregaon accused Gautam Navlakha

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to file a reply in four weeks' time to activist Gautam Navlakha's plea seeking to be shifted to a house in the Alibaug area of Maharashtra.

Navlakha is currently under house arrest at a Mumbai public library in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case.

In a turn of events, the apex court on Friday raised doubts on its November 2022 order allowing Navlakha to be released from detention and placed under house arrest on grounds of his deteriorating health. Such an order, the court orally observed, might set the 'wrong precedent'. On November 10, last year, the top court had allowed Navlakha to be placed under house arrest after considering his deteriorating health and also asked him to provide local surety of Rs 2 lakh by November 14.



Nablakha's counsel apprised a bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and J.B. Pardiwala that the top court had directed the NIA to file its reply in April but it has not submitted its response to date. The court then adjourned the hearing for eight weeks until the end of October. Stressing on the urgency of his application the

court was told that he would have to vacate his current residence soon.

On the other hand, Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju reiterated the central agency's concerns over the order of house arrest.

He said: "This is an unusual order of house arrest. Probably the first of its kind... And this plea for house arrest was on grounds of his sickness. He said one lady would stay with him. But she is not staying with him most of the time, when in jail, there would be a force to look after so many people." To which, Justice Sundresh said that the court had its reservations about its earlier order and said that such an order for one person might set the wrong precedent. The judge said: "Prima facie we have our reservations, but a lengthy order has been passed... Without going into the merits of the case, this might set a wrong precedent. His plea may have one hundred per cent merit and we are not saying anything on that."

## MAHA LEADERS SLAM CENTRE'S MOVES FOR 'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The state Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders slammed the purported moves by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to push through the agenda of 'One Nation, One Election' at the upcoming Special Session of Parliament, here on Friday.

Congress' Leader of Opposition (Assembly) Vijay Wadettiwar attacked the move, saying that "the BJP government is running scared and indulging in such things, but all the national opposition leaders attending the INDIA Conclave will discuss the issue today". Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said that already three committees have been constituted earlier for 'One Nation, One Election' and have submitted their reports as well. "So this 4th committee is nothing but a red herring to take attention away from INDIA and Peoples' agenda... When will the



Centre form a committee on record-breaking price rise, unemployment, growing atrocities against women, Adani Group financial frauds, farmers' unrest, China adding Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin in its territorial maps? Till the core issues are unresolved, this is nothing but a distraction," said Chaturvedi sharply. Chaturvedi questioned how the

government can do this without accepting the previous committees' reports, taking the consent of the Election Commission of India, all the parties, state CMs, and others, and vowed that the entire Opposition will oppose it. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) National Spokesperson Clyde Crasto wondered "how any proposal for 'One Nation, One Election' can pos-

sibly be pushed through in a democracy, the infrastructure is not in place, the Opposition parties are not consulted, and the people of the country are not prepared for it."

"What is the BJP's motive... Is it so scared of the INDIA alliance's growing influence and wants to ground it before it takes off? Why is the BJP suddenly being desperate and trying to push the country to a precarious position without taking the nation into confidence...?" asked Crasto.

Congress' former CM Prithviraj Chavan said that "this means the BJP is rattled by the INDIA alliance" and is resorting to such diversionary tactics, but they will not succeed.

Sena (UBT) MP and Chief Spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the Opposition parties will oppose any such moves strongly at the INDIA Conclave where many crucial decisions are likely to be taken.

## INDIA will sweep 2024 LS elections: Uddhav Thackeray

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Shiv Sena (UBT) President and former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Friday proclaimed here that the National Opposition INDIA bloc is marching ahead confidently and is poised to win the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"We are moving ahead step-by-step and the third INDIA meeting was concluded successfully. We are all nation-lovers and we shall fight those who are opposed to the country, you all know who they are," said Thackeray, who hosted the conclave attended by 28 political parties from all over India. Without naming the Bharatiya Janata Party, he reiterated that the INDIA bloc will unitedly fight against autocracy, the 'jumlas', the corruption, speak for the 'India family', combat atrocities in different parts of the country, and work for a 'new India'. "We had heard of 'sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', but thereafter, allies were forgot-



ten and friends only benefitted. For years there was 'loot', during election time 'chhoot' (rollback of gas cylinder prices). We will stop all this," declared Thackeray.

Aditya Thackeray MLA and MP Sanjay Raut also spoke on the occasion on the political resolutions adopted and different panels formed in the presence of the top leaders of all parties attending the INDIA Conclave.

## 30 Investors duped of Rs 32 crore by firm near Mumbai, case against 2: Police

Team Absolute | Thane

The police have registered a case against two people, including the owner of a firm, in Maharashtra's Thane district for allegedly cheating 30 investors of nearly Rs 32 crore on the promise of large returns on investments, an official said on Friday.

The case was registered against Parag Thakker, the proprietor of Indo-Pacific Global Services Company, and its manager Sagar Chinnarampelli, he said.

"Between January 2022 and February 2023, the accused lured people into investing in their firm and promised to give 12 per cent returns on investments," the police official said, quoting the complaint. "A total of 30 people invested money



between Rs 50 lakh to a crore each in the company. The accused issued promissory notes to the investors and later gave them cheques. But the cheques bounced as the bank accounts were already frozen," he said.

On realising they have been cheated of Rs 31.95

crore collectively, the victims approached the police and filed a complaint, he added. An offence under relevant Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for cheating, criminal breach of trust, and common intention was registered today, but no arrests have been made so far, the police said.

## VP Dhankhar launches MDL's 4th stealth frigate 'Mahendragiri'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday launched 'Mahendragiri', the fourth Stealth Frigate of Project-17 Alpha, being built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL).

The fourth and final ship of the Nilgiri Class being constructed by the MDL, the 'Mahendragiri' has been designed by the Indian Navy's Bureau of Naval Design and will be fitted with advanced state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, communication facilities and other systems.

The first ship in the P-17A 'Nilgiri' was launched in September 2019 and is expected to go for sea trials around mid-2024, the second ship P-17A 'Udaygiri' was launched in May 2022 with sea trials in the second half of 2024, and the third 'Taragiri' was launched in September 2020 with delivery expected by August 2025.

Named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats in Odisha, the keel of 'Mahendragiri' was laid in June 2022, and like the previous versions, is being built with integrated construction methodology.



The P-17A series is valued at a total Rs.27,500 crore and the MDL Mumbai is constructing four of the seven ships in this class.

The 'Mahendragiri' will be around 149 metres long and 16 metres wide, with a displacement of around 6,600 tons and a speed of some 30 knots.

Akin to the other three frigates, the steel used in the hull construction is indigenously developed DMR 249A, a low-carbon micro-alloy grade steel manufactured by SAIL.

The P-17A ships are far more advanced than any other frigates operated by the Indian Navy and come with powerful weapons and sensor packages which are capable of neutralising threats from three dimensions - air, surface, and sub-surface. The indigenously-designed 'Mahendragiri' will have state-of-the-art weaponry, sensors, advanced action information system, integrated platform management system, world-class modular living spaces, sophisticated power distribution system and other modern features.

It will be fitted with a supersonic surface-to-surface missile system, and its air defence capability designed to counter enemy aircraft threats and anti-ship cruise missiles will revolve around the vertical launch and long-range surface-to-air missile system.

The ship will have two 30-mm rapid-fire guns for close-in-defence capability and an SRGM Gun will provide effective naval gunfire support, plus other 'punches' like an indigenously developed triple tube lightweight torpedo launchers and rocket launchers for anti-submarine operations.



## Taylor Swift's Eras Tour set to get its own concert film in US theatres

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift is currently riding on swift winds with her Eras Tour, traversing all of Europe and North America. With the success of her tour, the singer's Eras Tour is set to be played in the US theatres, with 'Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour'.

Swift's Eras Tour has become a cultural phenomenon. With record demand for tickets and smashed world records in attendance and concert tour revenue, Swift offers fans a 44-song set list crossing the many eras and albums of her career, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

The surprising thing is, that the film is set to cast in the AMC theatre chain, America's biggest theatre chain which is currently greatly impacted by the SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes apart from early Covid-19 damages, but that has had no impact on the sales for the movie tickets of this concert film.

The cinematic giant who is going to be the theatrical distributor will also screen the concert film in certain areas of Canada and Mexico, and is braced for glitches, including "possible outages", mindful of the concert ticket demand that crashed the Ticketmaster website.

The company said in a statement, "AMC is also aware that no ticketing system in history seems to have been able to accommodate the soaring demand from Taylor Swift fans when tickets are first placed on sale.

The statement further read, "Guests wanting to be the first to buy their tickets online may experience delays, longer-than-usual ticket-purchase waiting-room times and possible outages. AMC is committed to ensuring any delays or outages are addressed as quickly as possible".

## 'The Batman 2' narrows down villain choices to Clayface or Mister Freeze



Los Angeles | Agencies

The Robert Pattinson-starrer 'The Batman' had already announced its sequel for 2025.

While date is likely to be pushed due to the Hollywood strikes, director Matt Reeves has revealed the villains, narrowing down the options to either Clayface or Mister Freeze.

Matt Reeves had earlier also expressed great interest in wanting to use either Clayface or Mister Freeze for the sequel, along with the Court of Owls, Professor Pyg or the Calendar Man instead of constantly focusing on the Joker.

The sequel will kick off production in March 24, 2024, instead of the originally

scheduled to begin filming this November, due to the ongoing WGA strike, though a delay in release date, while likely hasn't been confirmed, Achesowbiz reported.

'The Batman' was noted for its dark and gritty tone, and in particular its neo-noir style of filmmaking and focusing more on the detective aspects of Batman, making it one of the more comic accurate movies.

The X (formerly Twitter) user MyTimeToShineHello who is known for keeping track of all the updates regarding 'The Batman' confirmed that Clayface has been the confirmed villain.

Earlier, Andy Serkis who played Bruce Wayne's butler Alfred in the first film had also said that Clayface was a very likely option as Matt Reeves was particu-

larly fascinated with him, although what version of Clayface he will use is unknown.

A prominent enemy of Batman, Clayface possesses clay-like bodies and shapeshifting abilities. The character has appeared on adult animated black comedy superhero series 'Harley Quinn', voiced by Alan Tudyk, and in the DC Animated Universe (DCAU), voiced by Ron Perlman. Live-action versions of the character also appeared on the television series 'Gotham', portrayed by Brian McNammon, and 'Pennyworth', portrayed by Lorraine Burroughs.

The first film also stars Zoe Kravitz, Colin Farrell, Jeffrey Wright, Andy Serkis and Paul Dano. No release date is set just yet for the sequel.



## Madonna returns to rehearsals for her world tour after hospital dash

Los Angeles | Agencies

Veteran pop star Madonna has revealed she is back to rehearsals for her Celebrations Tour, just months after she was rushed to an intensive care unit after being found unconscious.

The Queen of Pop was forced to reschedule her world tour after her worrying hospital dash, reports Mirror.co.uk. She was intubated for at least one night back in June after suffering a "serious bacterial infection".

After being released from hospital, Madonna spent time recovering in her New York home, where she was looked after by her children. She's now taken to her Instagram Stories to announce she's back to work.

Sharing a picture of herself dancing,

the 65-year-old wrote: "I heard about what happened with pre-sales to my NEW Los Angeles shows. Good news!!! They are being extended for you! Back to Rehearsals now. See you on the Road!"

As per Mirror.co.uk, Madonna's message referred to the fact that some fans didn't receive a pre-sale code for their tickets, despite being promised an opportunity to purchase new tickets after the original Los Angeles dates were rescheduled.

In the snap she shared, Madonna wore a black lace corset and moved her long blonde hair around as she danced. She accessorised her look with two gold necklaces. The singer also opted for a minimal amount of make-up, wearing some eyeliner and light pink lip-gloss.

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Ricky Martin and Jwan Yosef have reached a settlement agreement in their divorce. People magazine, citing legal documents, said the 'Livin' La Vida Loca' singer and the painter have entered into an uncontested written agreement about their divorce.

The court documents, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, state that the dissolution is "uncontested" and that "the parties have entered into a written agreement regarding their property and their marriage or domestic partnership rights, including support."

Now, the Grammy-award winning singer, 51, and Yosef, 38, need a judge to sign off so it can become

## RICKY MARTIN, EX-HUSBAND JWAN YOSEF REACH DIVORCE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Last month, the two had announced they were divorcing in a joint statement.

"We have decided to end our marriage with love, respect and dignity for our children and honoring what we have experienced as a couple all these wonderful years," the Puerto Rican superstar and the Syrian-Swedish artiste said.

"Our greatest desire now is to continue having a healthy family dynamic and a relationship centered on peace and friendship to continue the joint upbringing of our children, preserving the respect and love we have for each other," the ex-couple, who share two kids: daughter Lucia, born in 2018, and son Renn, born in 2019, said.

Martin previously welcomed twin sons Matteo and Valentino, born in 2008, whom he'll continue to raise as a single parent.

The filing comes weeks after Martin confessed that his separation from Yosef started before the pandemic.



## Miley Cyrus shares throwback viral photo of herself revealing she is bisexual

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop singer Miley Cyrus spoke about a viral photo of herself wearing sweat pants and boots next to a glammed-out Taylor Swift, Demi Lovato and 'Hannah Montana' co-star Emily Osment, and said: "If you guys didn't know I was bisexual."

Cyrus, 30, while going through her archives, unearthed a memory from a night out with Swift, Lovato and Osment.

Speaking on the latest installment of her 'Used to Be Young' TikTok series, she wondered how no one picked up on her bisexuality based on a viral meme from 2009.

"This picture has become a meme - where it says, 'Be the Miley of your friend group,'" the singer recalled on TikTok, before joking, "If you guys didn't know I was bisexual from this damn picture, I don't know what's wrong with you."

After noticing laughter off-camera, Cyrus defended her reaction, saying she was only stating the obvious

and offering a bit more context. "I mean, hello! Look at 'em," she said, flipping the photo around for everyone to see.

Cyrus came out as pansexual in 2016, reports Eonline.

The picture in question was taken after the group attended the red carpet premiere of 'Hannah Montana: The Movie', where Miley Cyrus rocked a turquoise fringed dress, leather jacket and heeled boots before swapping into something more casual.

Reflecting on how the image has since become a meme encouraging people to "be the Miley of your friend group", the Disney Channel alum revealed the story behind their night out is equally relatable.

"Me and Emily and Taylor Swift and Demi Lovato are going to The Cheesecake Factory," she shared. "These are some classy ladies."

The singer's walk down memory lane is a part of her 'Used to Be Young' TikTok series, which supports her newly-released single of the same name.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Amanda Holden



## Asia Cup

# FOCUS ON INDIA'S MIDDLE-ORDER IN FACE-OFF WITH CONFIDENT PAKISTAN AMIDST RAIN THREAT

Pallekele (Sri Lanka) | Agencies

In the cool and serene surroundings of Sri Lanka, fans from around the world will witness another chapter being added to the India-Pakistan rivalry when the two neighbours clash in a Group A match of the Asia Cup at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

In India's opening match of the Asia Cup, they will be without wicket-keeper-batter K.L. Rahul due to a niggle unrelated to his right thigh injury, which has kept him out of action after May 1 this year. Though they have a like-to-like reserve player in Sanju Samson, it seems that Ishan Kishan could bat in the middle-order to fill in for Rahul's absence.

Though Kishan hit three consecutive fifties in ODIs against West Indies in July, the top three of Shubman Gill, captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have been set for a long time. Especially with the Men's ODI World Cup squad selection deadline on September 5, the Indian team won't be looking at tinkering the top three just to fit in Kishan for a stop-gap period.

Moreover, Kishan brings in the left-handedness in the middle-order, something which India has missed and can be sandwiched between



right-handers Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav.

Amidst the middle-order headache, India will be glad that Iyer is back. His return solves India's concerns at No.4, with Iyer's ability to use his feet and dominate the spinners taking the team's charge in middle-overs batting.

On the bowling front, the long-awaited return of Jasprit Bumrah and his testing the likes of Pakistan captain Babar Azam, Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan will be keenly witnessed.

India will need to see who between Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna will be joining

Bumrah in leading the charge with pace. Regarding the composition of their spin attack, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav will be the front runners, but if conditions aid more spin, then Axar Patel can come into play too. It's a no-brainer that India's batting will be largely tested by the Pakistan fiery pace trio of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf in the early part of their innings with the bat. In their unique ways, the trio provide fire, pace and variety to rattle the batters, with leg-spin and left-arm spin duo of Shadab Khan and Mohammad Nawaz to complement them.

With the bat, Azam scored his 19th

ODI century in the opening game of the Asia Cup against Nepal under testing conditions in Multan and was ably supported by power-hitter Iftikhar Ahmed's first international century. Pakistan would be hoping that their other batters like Rizwan, Imam and Fakhar Zaman come to the party against India's bowlers.

According to weather.com, there is an 84 percent chance of thunderstorms and an 80 percent chance of rain on Saturday, putting the match under serious doubt. With a capacity crowd expected to throng the stadium for the high-octane India-Pakistan clash, expect another humdinger to be added to their rivalry provided the rain stays away.

### Squads:

**India:** Rohit Sharma (captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (unavailable for first two games), Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Ishan Kishan, Hardik Pandya (vice-captain), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna and Sanju Samson (travelling reserve).

## Zurich Diamond League

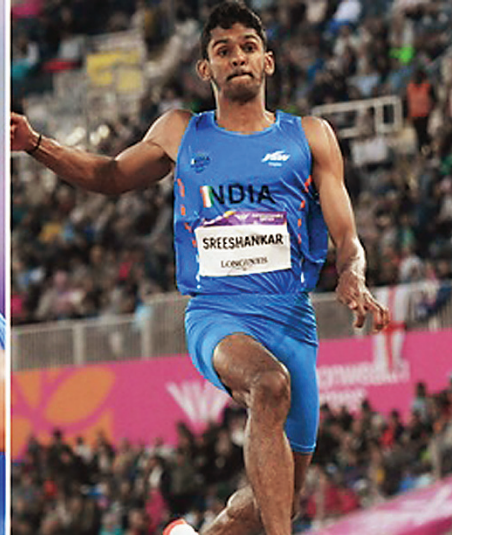
# Neeraj Chopra finishes 2nd with 85.71m throw; Sreesankar 5th with 7.99m jump



Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's javelin throw event at the Zurich Diamond League meet on Thursday night behind Jakub Vadlejch (85.86).

The start was not impressive as he threw 80.79m in his first attempt and could not register a mark in his next two attempts. Chopra then



threw 85.22m in his fourth attempt.

He produced his best throw of the night with his final attempt, an 85.71m heave that secured him the second spot.

The Indian's best effort was just 15 centimetres short of Vadlejch's best throw on the night.

After 4 Diamond League events, Chopra finished at third spot with 23 points.

Meanwhile, India Murali Sreesankar has also qualified for the Diamond League final after finishing fifth (best attempt: 7.99m) in the men's long jump.

He accumulated 14 points (6+4+4) from the three Diamond League events he participated.

The Diamond League finals is scheduled for September 16-17 in Eugene (US).

## Kohli, Bumrah among Lisa Sthalekar's five players pick for dream ODI XI for World Cup

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two-time World Cup winner and ICC Hall of Famer, former Australia captain Lisa Sthalekar, has revealed the first five players she would pick if she were selecting a dream XI for this year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup which includes two India star-Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah.

Sthalekar knows what it takes to win a World Cup having tasted success with the powerful Australian teams in 2005 and 2013 and keeps a close eye on the modern-day game in her role as a commentator.

Ahead of the start of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India in October, Sthalekar's first pick was star pacer Bumrah, who made a stunning comeback after a long injury layoff.

In the batting line-up, she chose to go with flamboyant batter Kohli, who boasts an exceptional track record in 50-over format.

She then went on to pick Pakistan skipper Babar Azam saying "the way the 50-over format is played will suit him."

Australian batter Steve Smith was on fourth in Sthalekar's list. She said "He is someone



who has adapted his style to all types of conditions. He is a good player of spin, which I think will be important in those middle overs and he will be able to control the innings from there." Pakistan pace sensation Shaheen Afridi completes Sthalekar's five-player pick. "My last player will be left-arm quick from Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi. He is so damaging with the ball. What he can do with his pace and if he gets a bit of movement.

## Medvedev, Zverev, Rublev advance to third round; Veterans Murray, Isner out

New York | Agencies

Russian Daniil Medvedev secured his 250th hard-court victory late at night against Australian Christopher O'Connell on Day 4 in the US Open. In the third set tie-break, Medvedev outclassed the Australian with his depth of the court and ability of ground coverage.

With this win, he went straight into the third round clocking back at 2021 when he won the US Open final defeating Serbian Novak Djokovic straightaway in three sets.

Another Russian, Andrey Rublev, the eighth seed, also impressed, showcasing his resiliency and consistency in defeating Gael Monfils. Both players' tenacity was on display during their protracted rallies, but Rublev's higher level of consistency allowed him to move to the third round. Alexander Zverev, who had previously reached the US Open final, also kept up his quest for a major championship. The German increased his prospects of making it to the



ATP Finals after defeating countryman German Daniel Altmaier in a gripping match. Former champion Andy Murray and American powerhouse John Isner saw their journey come to an end on a day of intense action and compelling matchups. Under the hot sun at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Murray had to contend with Grigor Dimitrov. Meanwhile, Isner, who is renowned for his extended bouts, made a spirited attempt but was ultimately unsuccessful in the sin-

gles competition. The American became well-known for playing Nicolas Mahut in a historic 11-hour, 5-minute Wimbledon match in 2010.

However, Isner declared his retirement plans but was unsuccessful in claiming a victory to round off his career. Isner didn't get the send-off he had anticipated when fellow countryman Michael Mmoh came back from being down two sets to overcome him. Earlier in the tournament defending champion Carlos Alcaraz continued his dominance and propelled to third round after a dominant performance against South African Lloyd Harris. Alcaraz will face British player Daniel Evans in the following round as he moves on to face yet another tough foe. Some outstanding performances in the women's competition raised the excitement of Day 4 much more. With a score of 6-3, 6-1, third-seeded Jessica Pegula easily defeated Patricia Maria Tig in her match. By coming back from a set down to overcome American Sofia Kenin, Russian Daria Kasatkina demonstrated her tenacity.

## On a given day anyone can beat anyone, says Rohit Sharma ahead of key clash with Pakistan

Pallekele (Sri Lanka) | Agencies

Ahead of India's opening match in the Asia Cup against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday, captain Rohit Sharma insisted that his team has to play at its best in the competition and focus on getting things right on-field as any side is capable of beating anyone on any given day.

"There are six very competitive teams in the Asia Cup and on a given day anyone can beat anyone. Rivalry is there for people to talk about. As a team, what we see is we have an opposition to play tomorrow and see what we want to do. What is going to help us is to keep doing the right things on the field," he said in the pre-match press conference.

Pakistan recently became the top-ranked ODI team and came into the



highly-anticipated clash on the back of thrashing Nepal by 238 runs in the tournament opener in Multan. Rohit stated that his batters will

bank on their experience to counter a fiery fast-bowling challenge from the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf.

"Pakistan have played really well in recent times in both T20Is and ODIs. They worked really hard to be No.1 and it'll be a good challenge for us tomorrow. Look in the nets, we don't have Shaheen, Naseem or Rauf. We practice with who we have. They are all quality bowlers. We just have to use our experience to play them tomorrow."

With the Asia Cup being a preparatory tournament ahead of the Men's ODI World Cup in India, Rohit stressed being in the present and taking things one step at a time. "We try to keep our goals small and see what's in front of us. We have Pakistan to face tomorrow and we will focus on that first and then look ahead."

## BREMEN STRIKER FULLKRUG JOINS DORTMUND

Berlin | Agencies

Borussia Dortmund has bolstered its offense after signing last season's Bundesliga top scorer, Niclas Fullkrug, from Werder Bremen.

The 30-year-old striker has joined Dortmund with immediate effect, inking a three-year deal, Xinhua reports.

"Niclas has proven his goalscoring skills over the years and won the top scorer trophy last season. Thanks to strong performances, he is rightly an important pillar in the attacking center of the national team. Niclas is a proactive attacker, very good in the air, physically present, he excels in one-on-one situations and is hard to cover. With all these skills, he embodies the profile we were looking for,"



said Dortmund's sporting director, Sebastian Kehl. Fullkrug, since 2019, played for Bremen, where he made 124 competitive appearances, netting 49 goals and providing 16 assists. His performances with the Green-Whites earned

Dortmund's new addition a spot in Germany's national team for Qatar 2022. Fullkrug made his debut in November 2022 against Oman and scored the only goal. Since then, he has earned nine caps and recorded seven goals.

## Avani, Yuvraj to lead charge at World Amateur Championships

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Asian Games-bound golfer, Avani Prashanthi, who is having a sensational season, will lead the Indian team for the Espirito Santo Trophy competition for women at the World Amateur Team Championship (WATC) in October. The Indian Golf Union (IGU) has also selected Nishna Patel and Mannat Bar as the other two players for the prestigious amateur golf event to be held in Abu Dhabi from October 25 to 28.

Avani, winner of the Queen Sirikit Cup individual title earlier in the year, has been in great form, having won the title at a pro event on the



Ladies European Tour's Access Tour. She became the first Indian to win a title on the LET Access Tour.

Nishna was runner-up at the APGC Juniors in Manila, where Avani had earlier achieved her Queen Sirikit success. Mannat has also been in good form and contended at even the pro events on the Hero Women's Pro

Golf Tour. A week before the women's event will be the men's competition for the Eisenhower Trophy and the IGU has named the three-member team which includes Yuvraj Singh, Shaurya Bhattacharya and Rohit Yuvraj Singh, India's top amateur golfer. Shaurya has played at the Asia-Pacific Amateurs and will again be playing in the event in Melbourne this year. He has had a lot of experience this season and last year, having been sent to numerous events by IGU.

Rohit has also been doing well on the domestic circuit. All three are playing the Eisenhower Trophy for the first time.

## I am happy that Neeraj bhai won gold, says Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem after winning silver in World Athletic Championship

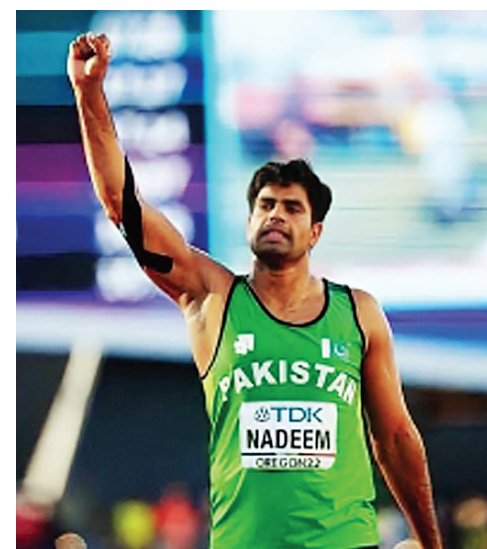
Lahore | Agencies

In the recently-concluded World Athletics Championship, Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan won the silver medal in the final, whereas India's Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal scripting history for India. Talking exclusively to BBC, Nadeem reflected on the Championship tour and his bonding with Neeraj.

"Neeraj bhai won the gold medal and I am very happy that both countries from Asia clinched the top two spots. Sometimes he will win the gold, sometimes I will so it will continue like this but I am very happy that Neeraj got the gold medal."

"I went to Guwahati, India for South-Asian Games and won the bronze medal there. Neeraj got the gold medal that time. I also broke the previous National Record in men's javelin throw. As we played more games together, we came close, and our friendship bond got stronger."

Arshad also expressed his gratitude towards



Neeraj's mother who previously congratulated the Pakistani thrower on winning the medal and called him like a son too.

Arshad said, "Rumours aside whatever they say that Pakistan did this or India did this, thoughts like these hold both the nations together and give us the positive energy to perform well in the tournament. I sincerely congratulate Neeraj's mother and also the whole of India for the achievement." Soon after the final results, a picture went viral of all three medalists together in which Arshad was not seen with his country flag. Talking about it Arshad told BBC, "After the final throw, I was packing my bag as we carry lots of stuff. Neeraj called me for the photo-shoot and I just went."

"My flag was with me but since Neeraj called me, I thought of just going. Later, I got clicked with my National flag also. The pressure of a big tournament is always there, players from across the world compete against you, so it's never easy to perform," he added.



## BADSHAH CALLS RAFTAAR INDIA'S 'MOST SKILLED RAPPER'



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Judge of reality show 'India's Got Talent' season 10, Badshah heaps praise on the special guest of the show rapper Raftaar in the upcoming episode as he calls Raftaar "India's most skilled rapper."

The two are also set to perform with the contestant UNB on 'Illuminaughty', 'Ye Ladki Paagal Hai', and 'Call me a Player'.

'Illuminaughty' is a song sung by Raftaar, while 'Ye Ladki Paagal Hai' is by Badshah.

The show promises an evening filled with music on Saturday, as it welcomes Raftaar, and the composer-singer, Jasleen Royal, who will be promoting her chart-topping track, 'Heeriye.'

Speaking about his bond with Raftaar, Badshah said: "We practice the commercial form of Hip Hop, but Raftaar is the most skilled rapper in India. Why I call him the most skilled and my favourite is because he is the only person who does both, the purest form of hip hop and commercial hip hop, and he excels in both." "And more so, he's not just a great rap-

per; he's a true brother. We've built a relationship where you can truly count on each other. Just a phone call away, and he's there," shared Badshah.

One of the highlights of the upcoming episode is the mesmerising rap performance by contestant UNB from Sikkim.

Praising the act, Badshah said: "I'm glad that you are exploring more singing in your acts. Your tone is new and it's very contemporary. Everyone has their own

vibe and for me, UNB is a vibe, and it won't be long before this vibe becomes an emotion. Keep at it."

In awe of UNB's performance, Raftaar shared: "UNB, I envy you. You're from Gangtok, Sikkim. But in your rap, there was Punjabi, a bit of Hindi, and your own language; that's the beauty of India and you define India."

## DIVYA AGARWAL was 'hesitant' to accept her role in web series

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Stepping into her most challenging role in the web-series 'Fuh se Fantasy', actress Divya Agarwal said initially like many other Indian girls, she was hesitant to portray the character of 'Anjali', a young woman brimming with desires and fantasies. Known as the reigning queen of reality TV, Divya dauntlessly ventures beyond her comfort zone, captivating audiences with a mesmerising performance that has truly spellbound them. In 'Fuh se Fantasy', Divya takes on the character of Anjali. To breathe life into these intricate roles, she embarked on an extraordinary journey of embodying a bold and immersive transformation.

Reflecting on her experience, Divya said: "At first, I reacted just like many other Indian girls--hesitant to reveal our true desires and wants. I attempted it once during a reality show, but the experience left me feeling embarrassed and ashamed. However, this new opportunity presented itself, and I realised that it was time for a change."

"We should be able to openly discuss our fantasies without feeling any guilt. I believe that by taking this step, I can inspire numerous girls to break free from these confines and pursue their aspirations. This is why I embraced this role - to empower other girls to feel confident in sharing their own fantasies," added Divya.

Following the success of its first season, which took audiences on romantic and fantasy escapades, the latest installment of the show features a star-studded cast including Milind Soman, Divya Agarwal, Arijit Taneja, Nyrraa M. Banerjee, Smaran Sahu, Poulomi Das and Anuj Sachdeva.

## 'BETTER PREPARED YOU ARE, MORE SPONTANEOUS YOU CAN BE ON SET', SAYS JIM SARBH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Jim Sarbh, whose captivating performance as Adil Khanna in the web-series 'Made in Heaven' season 2 has left his fans enthralled, feels that the more prepared an actor is, the more spontaneous and fluid they can be on set in terms of their performance.

At a recent event in Mumbai, Jim has shed light on his unique approach to acting. He said: "I don't think it is easy. Like any other job, preparation is key, and without it you haven't got anything. The better prepared you are, the more spontaneous you can be on set."

"A lot of people speak about not losing their spontaneity, and so they don't rehearse, and in the absolute opposite school of that, I believe through rehearsal you can achieve spontaneity," he added.

Season Two of the show beautifully reveals the dichotomy of tradition, modern aspirations and societal belief systems set against the canvas of lavish Indian weddings. It takes the viewers into the lives of its lead characters, who were at the crossroads at the end of season one. With new brides and new challenges, our favourite wedding planners deal with their professional and personal setbacks.

The show has returned with the franchise's stellar cast including Sobhita Dhulipala, Arjun Mathur, Jim Sarbh, Kalki Koechlin, Shashank Arora, Shivani Raghuvanshi and Vijay Raaz reprising their roles, and features new faces such as Mona Singh, Ishwak Singh and Trinetra Haldar.

Produced by Excel Media and Entertainment and Tiger Baby, the International Emmy nominated series is directed by Alankrita Shrivastava, Neeraj Ghaywan, Nitya Mehra, Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar. It's streaming on Prime Video.



## Falaq Naaz calls completion of 12 years in TV industry a 'very big milestone'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Popular TV actress Falaq Naaz, who is well known for her roles in 'Sasural Simar Ka', 'Bharat Ke Veer Putra: Maharana Pratap' and 'Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush', has completed 12 years in the TV industry, calling it one of her biggest milestones.

Upon completing a dozen years, she said: "It feels good. I didn't know that I would make it till here but I am happy and truly grateful to be here. Now people know me, my audience knows me by my name Falaq and not any charac-

ter's name. After 12 years, I think this should be a time to celebrate. It is a very big milestone for me."

Detailing her 12-year journey, she said: "During my journey, I will say that I have played many characters, many beautiful, beautiful characters throughout. I have always been choosy about my work, and I believe I have done good work. People remember the work I have done, and it all started with the show 'Sasural Simar Ka', which is the biggest one because it gave me recognition as Jahvi in front of everyone."

Elaborating further, she added: "After

that, I've played such beautiful characters, which means I can say that young people, especially like the character I did in 'Devki'. I really enjoyed playing that role."

Falaq Naaz also made her entry on reality show with 'Bigg Boss OTT 2', where she was seen in the house with Salman Khan and was one of the contestants and lasted for a long time, until she was later eliminated back in July 24, after a vote-out by her fellow contestants Elvish Yadav, Jiya Shankar and Avinash Sachdev.

## 'BETTER PREPARED YOU ARE, MORE SPONTANEOUS YOU CAN BE ON SET', SAYS JIM SARBH

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The first look of actor Abhishek Banerjee from his upcoming film 'Stolen' has been unveiled and it shows the actor wounded and battered with a swollen eye and scars on his face.

The film had its special premiere at the Venice Film Festival alongside impressive international features notably David Fincher's 'The Killer', Bradley Cooper's 'Maestro' and Sofia



Coppola's true-story movie 'Priscilla' recently.

Abhishek Banerjee said: "'Stolen' is such an extraordinary film and it has been incredible working on it. It feels so special and I've immense gratitude

to have received so much love for our film during its premiere at the Venice Film Festival. The standing ovation that our film received was an unforgettable moment and has been the biggest reward as an actor."

He further mentioned: "Here we are unveiling the first look image to thank our audiences for all the love they are sending in for the film and each one of us. It's been one of my most challenging yet fulfilling roles as an actor. Even though it was emotionally and physically challenging, I cherish every bit of this experience and nothing truly could have made it more special."

The film received a five-minute-long standing ovation after the screening. 'Stolen' narrates the tale of a five-month-old baby being abducted from her mother, and this incident draws the attention of brothers Gautam and Raman, leading them to face various challenges that test their relationships and convictions.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Allison Fiona