

# absolute india



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AFFIDAVIT BEFORE SC CLAIMS THAT SEBI BROUGHT AMENDMENTS TO BENEFIT ADANI

## THE SAVIOUR!

Team Absolute | New Delhi

One of the petitioners in Adani-Hindenburg matter has filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court claiming that the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) brought a series of amendments only to benefit the Adani Group and the market regulator has a conflict of interest in investigating the violations of law committed by it.

The affidavit sworn by Anamika Jaiswal alleged that not only has the SEBI suppressed important facts from the Supreme Court and slept over DRI (Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) alerts, but there is also an apparent conflict of interest in SEBI conducting Adani investigation.

"Mr. Cyril Shroff Managing Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas has been a member of SEBI's Committee on Corporate Governance, which looks at offences like insider trading.....Cyril Shroff's daughter is married to Karan Adani, son of Gautam Adani, showing clear conflict of interest," said the affidavit, adding that 5 out of the 24 SEBI investigation reports on Adani group companies are on insider trading allegations.

The affidavit further claimed that the frequent amendments brought in to the regulations and definitions have "provided a shield and an excuse to the Adani Group, due to which their regulatory contraventions and price manipulations remained



undetected". It said that all 24 investigation reports prepared by the SEBI should be made available to the Expert Committee appointed by the Supreme Court and to all the petitioners, adding that the market regulator has failed to either detect or act against violations in a timely manner and thereby, causing financial losses to unsuspecting small investors which run into crores.

The Adani-Hindenburg matter is likely to be taken up for hearing by a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud on September 15, as per the details available on the website of the Supreme Court.

On August 25, the market regulator, in a fresh status report, said that it had examined 24 matters in compliance with orders of the top court, adding that the SEBI will take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in the Adani-Hindenburg matter.

"Out of the said 24 investigations, 22 are final in nature and 2 are interim in nature. As on date, the said 22 final investigation reports and 1 interim investigation report are approved by the Competent Authority in accordance with the SEBI's extant practice and procedures," said the status report filed by the SEBI's Executive Director V.S. Sundaresan.

It said that in respect of one remaining matter, interim findings are approved by the Competent Authority and the SEBI has sought information from external agencies or entities."Upon receipt of such information will evaluate the same vis-a-vis the interim investigation report to determine further course of action, if any, in the said matters," it said.

On August 14, the SEBI had sought an extension of 15 days to conclude the investigation process and file an updated status report in the matter.

Earlier, the SEBI had filed its views before the Supreme Court on various recommendations made by the Court-appointed Expert Committee in connection with the Adani-Hindenburg case.

It had opposed the suggestion of prescribing timelines for initiation of investigation and proceedings and said that "prescribing specific timelines to complete the investigation may compromise the quality of investigation".

The apex court on March 2 had formed an expert committee headed by Justice A.M. Sapre, former judge of the Supreme Court with an objective to review and strengthen the existing financial regulatory mechanisms. It had directed the SEBI to expeditiously conclude the investigation within two months and file a status report.

Later in May, the Supreme Court had granted an extension of time till August 14 to the market regulator to submit its report.

## Seat sharing to be discussed at INDIA alliance first coordination committee meet



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Seat sharing among the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) alliance will be discussed at its first coordination meeting.

The first coordination meeting will take place on September 13 at Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Chief Sharad Pawar's residence.

The INDIA alliance had announced a 14 member coordination committee during its third meeting in Mumbai on September 1.

Besides Pawar, the coordination committee has Congress' KC Venugopal, DMK's TR Bala, JMM's Hemant Soren, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, RJD's Tejashwi 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 Omar Abdullah,

PDP's Mehbooba Mufti as its members. The CPI-M is yet to give name of their party leader for the committee.

Sources said that during the first meeting of the coordination committee of INDIA the issue of seat sharing will come up for discussion.

They said that during the three meetings previously, the INDIA leaders did not have a single discussion on seat sharing till date.

The source said that the discussion for seat sharing in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states will be on the agenda of the leaders. The source said that a detailed discussion will take place on the number of seats the parties want to contest in these states. The source said that discussion on seat sharing in Maharashtra, West Bengal will also come up for discussion. The Congress-led INDIA alliance will take on BJP-led NDA in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

## BJP CEC meeting likely on Sep 13 to discuss nominees for Raj, MP polls

New Delhi | Agencies

The Central Election Committee (CEC) of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is likely to hold a meeting on September 13 to discuss the candidates for the upcoming Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. A source said the meeting would be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J.P. Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah, party General Secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh, among other party CEC members.

The BJP is expected to hold deliberations on the names of candidates to be included in the second list for the Madhya Pradesh polls, and in the first list for the Rajasthan Assembly elections.

On August 17, the party announced 21 candidates for



the Chhattisgarh polls and 39 nominees for the Madhya Pradesh elections.

Nadda and Shah held a meeting with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state unit BJP chief V.D. Sharma and other leaders ahead of the CEC meeting.

Nadda on Sunday met Rajasthan election in-charge, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi,

party's state unit chief C.P. Joshi, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje, and Rajasthan in-charge & national general secretary Arun Singh.

Also, on Monday, C.P. Joshi and Arun Singh met Nadda along with former Congress MP Jyoti Mirdha, and Sawai Singh Choudhary, who joined the saffron party of September 11.

## India vs Bharat: No attempt made to change country's name: Pralhad Joshi

Mumbai | Agencies

Hubballi (Karnataka): Union Minister for Coal, Mine and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi on Monday said that no attempt has been made to change the name of the country. "We have not stated anywhere that the name of the country would be changed. Only people who are fearful are talking about this. We address the nation as 'Bharat' and you can address it the way you want it," the minister said. However, he said that the declaration has been made dexterously by the Prime Minister. "This is a masterpiece," he said. "People made a mockery when PM Modi stated that the country is also one of the leaders in the world and we will stand with major global powers. We have seen India taking the lead now. This is a blessing. At the G-20 convention, the PM has discussed green fuel as well," Joshi said.

## Maha govt forms panel for Maratha quotas, urges activist to end hunger strike

Mumbai | Agencies

An all-party meeting, presided over by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, on Monday decided to appoint a committee to decide on the Maratha reservations in education and jobs sector within a month, belying expectations that a final decision would be taken on the issue to end the stalemate.

The all-party meet also unanimously passed a resolution urging the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj Jarange-Patil to give time to the committee to submit its report in one month and call off his hunger strike immediately, the CM told media persons after the discussions.

"We all the leaders are extremely concerned about Jarange-Patil's health... We are fully committed to give the Maratha quotas and the committee will decide. It can also have representatives of the Maratha community including Jarange-Patil," he said.

In Jalna, in a brief initial reaction, an adamant Jarange-Patil told media persons that he would take a decision on



ending his 14-day-long hunger-strike after discussing with his team members on Tuesday.

Besides, the government has decided to withdraw all the police cases filed against the protesting Marathas who were subjected to a crackdown in Jalna on September 1, sparking off a huge political furore.

"We have directed the police to forthwith withdraw all the cases filed against the protestors. We have also decided to suspend three senior officers who were responsible for the police baton charge that day in Antaravli-Sarati village," said Shinde, referring to the demands of Jarange-Patil. He mentioned that earlier Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the

home portfolio has already tendered an apology for the police action, and now all the other demands of the community have been accepted, and now the Jarange-Patil should break his fast in the interest of law and order.

The all-party meeting was attended by Shinde, Fadnavis, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, Ministers, government officials, Leaders of Opposition Vijay Wadettiwar (Assembly) and Ambadas Danve (Council), senior leaders of Congress, both factions of Nationalist Congress Party, the ruling alliance of Shiv Sena-BJP, all other big and small parties, the descendants of the Chhatrapati clan and others, though the Shiv Sena-UBT led by ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray was not invited.

## Heavy rain likely over Odisha, MP, T'gana, Chhattisgarh from Wednesday: IMD

The IMD further said that in Central India light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning is expected. "West Madhya Pradesh can expect this weather pattern on Monday and Friday. East Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are likely to experience these conditions till Friday, while Vidarbha will see them from Wednesday to Friday," the weather department said.

The weatherman went on to say that in West India, light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning is anticipated. "Konkan and Goa, as well as the ghat areas of Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada, are likely to experience these conditions on Friday," said the IMD.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall activity is likely over east Uttar Pradesh and coastal Andhra Pradesh on Monday, while Odisha, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha region, Telangana and Chhattisgarh will receive downpours from Wednesday.

In Northwest India, the weather forecast indicates the likelihood of light to moderate rainfall and widespread thunderstorms, the weatherman said. "West Uttar Pradesh is expected to experience fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated instances of heavy rainfall on Monday. East Uttar Pradesh is likely to see similar weather conditions till Wednesday. Uttarakhand is also expected to receive rainfall on Monday and then again from Wednesday to Friday," said the IMD in its bulletin. Furthermore, an



isolated extremely heavy rainfall event is anticipated in east Uttar Pradesh on Monday. In East India, the forecast indicates light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, and lightning. "Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Bihar are expected to experience this weather pattern on Monday and Tuesday. Odisha will see this weather till Friday, Jharkhand from Wednesday to Friday, and Gangetic West Bengal on Thursday and Friday," the IMD predicted. Moreover, isolated instances of very heavy rainfall are

likely to occur in Odisha Wednesday to Friday.

In South India, the forecast suggests light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy rainfall events.

"Kerala and Mahe can expect this weather on Monday and Tuesday, Rayalaseema on Monday, coastal Andhra Pradesh on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, and Telangana on Thursday and Friday. Coastal Andhra Pradesh may also experience isolated very heavy rainfall on Monday," said the IMD.

In northeast India, light to moderate scattered rainfall and thunderstorms are expected.

"Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya are likely to see this weather on Monday and Tuesday, while Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura will experience it till Friday. An isolated instance of very heavy rainfall is predicted for Assam and Meghalaya on Tuesday," said the IMD.

## Everyone wants Ukraine war to end but on just and durable terms: US Secy of State

Team Absolute | New Delhi

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has denied that the joint statement adopted at the recently-concluded G20 leaders summit in New Delhi has not "explicitly" condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine, saying all "stood up very clearly" for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He also said that Ukrainians would be open to a negotiated settlement to the conflict but on "just and durable terms" in connection with their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Well, the leaders here all stood up very clearly, including in the statement, for Ukraine's sovereignty, for its territorial integrity. I think



the statement's a very strong one. And what I heard in the room as well makes very clear that virtually every member of the G20 - perhaps minus one - is intent on making sure that there is a just and durable end to this Russian aggression. And

leader after leader in the room made clear that, for the rest of the world too, the consequences of what Russia has done are having a terrible, terrible impact..." he said in an interview to ABC before leaving New Delhi, as per the US State Department.





# DELHI-NCR SEES RISE IN VIRAL FEVER, FLU & DENGUE CASES: DOCTORS

Team Absolute | New Delhi

City doctors on Monday said that they are seeing an increase in cases of viral fever, dengue in the national capital region.

Recent floods have doubled cases of dengue over the last three weeks and is the highest reported in the last six years, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) said in its latest statement.

Cases of swine flu and typhoid are also being reported.

Speaking to reporter, Ajay Aggarwal, Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital in Noida, said that there is an increase in the number of acute febrile illness cases.

"Viral cases like influenza and dengue have been on the rise. Patients coming in with low platelet counts are seen with an increased frequency since the last month. However, not all cases of low platelet are dengue," Aggarwal said.

"Patients generally present with high grade fever with chills along with generalised malaise, weakness, joint pains, cough, vomiting or loose stools -- all of which are included in the



viral prodrome syndrome, the doctor said.

In addition, there is also swine flu (H1N1). Aggarwal said "10-15 cases of H1N1 flu have been detected in our hospital". However, no cases of Covid have been reported yet, he noted.

"There has been a 20-25 per cent rise in people coming with flu-like symptoms," Tushar Tayal, Lead Consultant, Department of Internal Medicine, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram, told reporter.

"Some elderly patients have also

required hospital admissions, and consequently developed pneumonia and bronchitis," he added.

Tayal said that dengue cases have reduced slightly, compared to the last two weeks. But certain patients are showing overlap in symptoms, who present flu-like symptoms which upon tests are turning positive for dengue, the doctor noted.

In addition, there have been multiple cases of hepatitis and typhoid. This was also confirmed by online community platform LocalCircles in

its recent survey which showed that one in two households in Delhi-NCR now has one or more individuals with viral symptoms.

Households impacted have more than doubled in the last month.

The survey, which included over 9,000 residents from Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad, revealed a sizable jump in people who are unwell with 50 per cent of households surveyed being affected now than last month.

"Blood investigations like CBC are usually done on the third day of fever onset which may reveal low platelet count and neutropenia (low TLC)," Aggarwal said.

Also, since dengue causes decreased immunity, it may be complicated by secondary bacterial infections as well, he said.

"Treatment of viral febrile illness involves symptomatic management of fever along with adequate hydration. Patients are advised to seek doctor advice in case of very high grade fever, persistent vomiting, bleeding, severe loose motions or respiratory distress," the doctor noted.

## Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel most popular CM among 6 states headed for polls

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is the most popular among the CMs facing Assembly elections.

As per the IANS CVoter Anger Index in the poll-bound states, Baghel faces the least amount of anger which also implies he is the most popular Chief Minister among these.

Among every 100 voters angry at state level governance, Baghel has the least number at 25.4.

Voters are most angry at Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao at 50.2, followed by Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot at 49.2. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has a score of 35.1 while Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan has a score of 27. Mizoram CM Zoramthanga has a score of 37.1.

Among the six states going to the polls, people's anger is the most palpable against the governments of Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, while the voters are most angry with



the Chief Ministers of Telangana and Rajasthan, as per the IANS CVoter Anger Index.

The sitting MLAs in Telangana faces the least amount of anger from the electorate in the coming Assembly elections.

The Telangana and Rajasthan CM face much higher anger index score

than the sitting MLAs.

However, the picture reverses as more voters are angry at the sitting MLAs in Chhattisgarh with a score of 44. Only 27.6 are angry at sitting MLAs in Telangana and only 28.3 in Rajasthan. Voters are very angry with sitting MLAs in Andhra at 44.9, 41.2 in Mizoram, and 40.4 in Madhya Pradesh.

## Govt did not send invite to opposition for any G20 event, says Tharoor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Sunday criticised the Modi government for not sending an invitation to the opposition for any of the G20 events, including the dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday, noting no other democracy would snub its own parliamentary colleagues on a global stage like this.

"This diplomatic triumph makes it all the more a pity that the government does not bring the same attitude of conciliation and co-operation to bear in its domestic dealings. The failure to invite the Leader of the Opposition (in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge), and indeed any Opposition MP, to any of the G20 events, receptions, dinner etc underscores my point. "No other democracy would snub its own Parliamentary colleagues on a global stage like this. A pity that the spirit of accommodation that prevailed at G20 is absent within Indian politics," Tharoor wrote on X (formerly Twitter) referring to the G20 Summit while resharing his earlier post, complimenting India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant



for achieving consensus on the Delhi Declaration.

## Wait for some time, PoK will automatically merge with India: V K Singh

Team Absolute | Jaipur

Minister of State of Road Transport and Highways retired general V K Singh on Monday said that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) will automatically merge with India after some time.

"Wait for some time, the PoK will automatically merge with India," Singh in Dausa, Rajasthan responded after he was asked about the demands of PoK Shia Muslims to open the roads to India.

On the success of the G20, the minister said: "The G-20 event has been successful. Such an organised event has never happened before. Around 200 meetings were organised in 60 cities of the country."

He said that other countries too have praised India for organising such a successful event.



"India has achieved a big victory in the collective manifesto issued in the conference. The world was divided on many issues including Ukraine,

but with the wisdom of Prime Minister Modi, we all together have found a way out that no country had any objection to," the minister said

while addressing a press conference at BJP's Parivartan Sankalp Yatra in Dausa.

He said that the formation of the Biofuel Alliance and the corridor from India to Europe will pave the way for India's economic progress.

"Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has also welcomed the joint declaration of G-20," he said.

On the question about the BJP's chief minister face in the state, he said that wherever elections are held, BJP does not declare the chief minister face but contests elections only on the charisma of the Prime Minister.

"Everyone should assume that the party will give opportunity to such leaders who are good, useful and on whom the public has confidence," he said.

## Noida lawyer killed by husband for refusing to sell off bungalow

Team Absolute | Noida

The 61-year-old woman lawyer, who was found dead in Noida Sector 30 on Sunday, was allegedly killed by her husband as she refused to sell off their bungalow, police said. The accused husband, who was hiding in the store room of the house, was arrested by the police on Monday. According to the police, the husband had taken an advance of Rs 55 lakh for the bungalow and had priced the property at Rs 4.30 crore. The wife, Renu Sinha was not at all ready to sell this property, due to which they used to fight every day.

The husband, Nitin Nath Sinha was posted in Indian Information Services in Delhi and was selected in the 1988 batch. He left the job after 10 years in 1998 by taking VRS.

According to the police, Ajay Kumar, brother of female lawyer Renu Sinha, had on Sunday, informed the police that his sister, was not picking up his phone and the house is locked. After which the police reached the spot and broke open the door.



When the police went inside, they found the woman's dead body lying on the bathroom floor. The police called the forensic and dog squad team who inspected the incident site and took into their custody the hard

disk of the CCTV installed in the house.

When the police enquired the locals and the woman's brother, they came to know that Renu and her husband Nitin Nath Singh were not on

good terms and used to fight often. They also have a son who lives in America and comes to meet his parents once a year.

When the police tracked the last location from her husband's phone, they came to know that it was from the same house. Thereafter, the police searched for the accused husband and arrested him after he was found hiding inside the store room on the first floor of the house at 3:00 a.m.

During interrogation, Nitin told the police that on Sunday, he had a fight with his wife following which he strangled her to death around 8 a.m. Later he showed the house to a broker who came during the day and then hid himself in the store room along with his passport. Whoever called him, he told them that he was on Lodhi Road in Delhi and would meet him when he comes home.

He also told the police that if he had not been caught, he would have flown to foreign and could appear in the court later through his lawyer.

## Man involved in biggest gold loot in Bihar, gunned down

Team Absolute | Patna

A man, who was released from jail five months ago and was involved in Bihar's biggest gold loot, was gunned down by four bike-borne assailants in Vaishali, said officials on Monday.

The deceased, identified as Raj Hani, and a native of Bag Dulhan locality, was intercepted by the bike-borne assailants near R.N. college and shot from close range.

Raj Hani sustained four to five gunshot injuries on his back and died on the spot. "Raj Hani was involved in 55 kg gold loot from Muthoot Finance gold loan outlet located in Hajipur Vaishali on November 23, 2019. He was booked under the IPC sections 397, 412, 201 and 120B in the town police station.

The accused was arrested by Vaishali police soon after and lodged in jail. He came out of



jail on bail some five months ago," said Om Prakash, SDPO (sub divisional police officer) of Sadar Vaishali.

"We have found the CCTV of the crime scene which shows four bike-borne assailants arriving there at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday and firing on Raj Hani. He sustained 4 to 5 gunshot injuries and died on the spot. We are making efforts to identify the accused," Om Prakash said.

In another incident in Vaishali, a gold trader was shot at by three unidentified

men behind a temple on Sunday around 10 p.m. The victim was identified as Ram Ishwar Shah who had closed his shop and was returning home. The accused came on one bike and fired at him.

The trader sustained one gunshot injury on his thigh. He is admitted in the Sadar hospital Hajipur and is out of danger.

"We have obtained the CCTV footage of that incident. The accused will be put behind the bars soon," Om Prakash said.

## Modi holds talks with Saudi Crown Prince, reviews wide range of bilateral issues

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman held the first leaders' meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council on Monday.

The agenda included a broad range of areas of bilateral cooperation including energy security, trade and investment, defence and security, healthcare, food security, culture and community welfare issues among others, the External Affairs Ministry said.

The Crown Prince is currently on a state-visit to India. He had arrived on September 9 to attend the G20 Summit and will be departing for Riyadh on Monday. During the meeting, both the leaders reviewed the



progress made under the two Ministerial Committees of the Strategic Partnership Council -- the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Cooperation and the Committee on Economy and Investments Cooperation.

India and Saudi Arabia have historically close and friendly relations with exten-

sive people-to-people contacts. The trade between both countries reached all time high of \$52.75 billion in 2022-23. India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trading partner whereas Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trading partner. Both countries also have a strong partnership in the area of energy.

## Delhi govt bans firecracker licenses, manufacturing ahead of Diwali

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has issued a directive to the city police against granting licenses for the sale, manufacture or storage of firecrackers ahead of Diwali which will fall on November 12 this year.

The action is aimed at reducing pollution levels during Diwali as well as the winter season.

Rai also mentioned that Chief Minister Kejriwal has instructed the Delhi Pollution Control Board (DPCB) to impose a complete ban on the manufacturing, storage, online sale, and bursting of firecrackers. "We all celebrate Diwali with great enthusiasm. Besides lighting lamps, we also burst crackers, which results in a thick cloud of smoke which engulfs the entire Delhi the day after Diwali. When the pollution from stubble burning is added to this, the AQI level reaches severe levels," the Environment Minister said.

Rai explained that this is why they have designed a Winter Action Plan to combat pollution.

"We are aware that pollution increases in Delhi with the arrival of winter. Delhi's AQI remained low between January and August, recording 45 AQI in



Delhi yesterday (Sunday). However, in October, as winter advances, particulate matter (PM) begins to accumulate, making the environment toxic due to both local and external pollution sources."

The Minister also informed that they are holding a meeting with environmental experts on Tuesday, and another one with all department officials is scheduled for September 14.

Rai further mentioned that on October 23, 2018, the apex court issued an order allowing only green crackers in the capital.

However, it was observed that various types of crackers were sold and burst under the guise of green crackers, leading to severe pollution levels.

On January 12, 2020, the NGT passed an order to ban crackers entirely in the entire NCR where pollution levels reach the severe category.

DPCC imposed a complete ban on the manufacturing and storage of crackers on September 28, 2021.

"In 2022, there was also a complete ban on crackers. In 2014, PM levels used to be 324, which have now reduced to 188. PM 10 has also decreased by 46 per cent. PM 10 has witnessed a 42 per cent decline between 2014 and 2023. The Delhi Chief Minister has decided and directed the DPCC to ban the manufacturing, storage, online sale, bursting, etc.," Rai said. Rai stated that Delhi Police issues licenses for selling crackers each year, so they are issuing directions to the Delhi Police not to grant any licenses for the storage, sale, or manufacturing of crackers to help reduce pollution. "We have noticed that people in Delhi secretly bring crackers from other states. We appeal to neighboring states to adhere to the NGT order, and we will also write letters to them," he added.





## AFTER LAST WEEK'S TEMPLE VISIT, SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN RETURNS TO THANK FOR RAINFALL

Ujjain: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday visited Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain and expressed gratitude for good rain in the state.

"I have come to pay obeisance to Mahakal Maharaj. When we came here last Monday, there was a famine situation in the state. Due to lack of water the crops had started drying up and at many places there were cracks in the fields. The faces of the farmers were dull and they were in great trouble," he told reporters.

Last week, Chouhan had offered prayers at the temple over a drought-like situation in the state.

"Farming means the entire economy, if farming is good then the businessman's shop will also run. If the businessman's shop will run then the goods made in the factories will also be lifted and the factories will also run, capital will be generated and investment will come as well," he said.



The Chief Minister also urged the public to worship the God in their respective temples, according to their traditions.

"It is raining well today, so again I

have come to pay obeisance to Baba Mahakal. May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all be prosperous, may all be well-being, may there be good crops, may women be empow-

ered, may investment come to Madhya Pradesh, should employment opportunities increase, should there be good education and may all together grow further," Chouhan said.

## Guest scholars to get up to Rs 50 thousand per month: CM Chouhan

No guest scholar and lecturer will be excluded. 25 percent posts reserved in PSC for guest scholar lecturers. Announcements guest scholars and guest lecturers

Bhopal : The guest scholars employed in government colleges will be given monthly salary instead of working days and it will be up to Rs 50 thousand. Guest scholars from technical education will be included. Guest scholars will get the leave facilities like government servants. The honourarium of guest lecturers will also be Rs 20 thousand. The guest scholars will also be given the facility of transfer to nearby colleges at their wish, instead of their own college during an academic session. The Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made these

announcements while addressing the Panchayat of guest scholars and guest lecturers here today. He said that the state government has taken these important decisions to end uncertainty in the lives of guest scholars and guest lecturers.

Chouhan said that a system will be put in place to ensure that there is situation of fallen out. Instructions will be given to start the process of reserving 25 percent posts by revising the PSC examination for guest scholar lecturers. Currently, guest scholars are given 4 and maximum 20 additional marks every year. This should be increased to a maximum of 10 percent marks.

Chouhan said that now any guest scholar or lecturer who is continuously teaching

will not be excluded. Guest teachers and lecturers from ITI, Polytechnic and Engineering Colleges will also be eligible. Any guest scholar and lecturer who is regularly teaching will continue teaching.

Various provisions have been made for the welfare of different classes and different categories of officers and employees. Guest scholars and guest lecturers are also eligible to get benefits. They have been given responsibility of building the future of the students.

The Chief Minister said that guest scholars and guest lecturers are integral parts of educational governance. The state government is committed to ensuring facilities to guest scholars and guest lecturers.



## Ex-gratia from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh for martyrs' families in protection of forests, wild animals

Uniform Allowance of Rs 5,000, Nutritious Diet Allowance of Rs 1,000. CM Chouhan to talk to low paid employees like mahouts, cutters. CM dedicates Rajya Van Shaheed Smarak and inaugurates Chandanpura Nagar Van. Honours families of forest martyrs

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The ex-gratia amount payable to the families of forest department employees who sacrificed their lives protecting forests and wildlife will be increased from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh.

Forest department staff will also be given uniform allowance of Rs 5,000 and nutritious diet allowance of Rs 1,000. Efforts will be made to resolve their problems and for their welfare and betterment by holding dialogue with the low paid and irregular employees like mahouts, cutters and other irregular employees of the Forest Department at the Chief Minister's residence.

National Forest Martyrs' Day will be celebrated every year. The Chief Minister made these announcements at the Rajya Van Shaheed Smarak on National Forest Martyrs' Day here today. He also virtually inaugurated Chandanpura City Forest.

Chouhan congratulated the Forest Department for its contribution in increasing the forest cover. He said that Madhya Pradesh is a forest-rich state. Chouhan participated in the Van Mahotsav organized in the newly constructed Van Bhawan. Chouhan met the families of 44 martyred forest workers and consoled them and honored them by presenting them shawls and shripthal.

The Forest Minister Shah welcomed Chief



Minister Chouhan by presenting him an Ashwagandha plant. Chouhan released the booklet 'Anubhuti' focusing on the activities of City Forest Chandanpura, Van Shaheed Souvenir 2023, souvenirs of all the city forests of Madhya Pradesh and the activities of Madhya Pradesh Eco Tourism Board. A short film based on Chandanpura Nagar Forest was also screened.

Minister of State for Forest Rahul Singh Lodhi, Additional Chief Secretary Forest J.N. Kansotiya, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Forest Force Chief Ramesh Kumar Gupta and forest officers and employees were present in the programme. The Chief Minister said that the dangers of global warming and climate change prove that for environmental protection, the world will have to follow the path shown by India.

He quoted the Matsya Purana saying that ten ponds are equal to a son and ten sons are equal to

one tree. In Indian culture, a tree is considered equivalent to God. It is inauspicious to cut Tulsi, Peepal, Amla. If there are no trees and plants, there will be no human life either.

The Chief Minister Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has conserved the forest wealth very well. The largest forest area in the country is in Madhya Pradesh, which is 30 percent of the state's area and 12.30 percent of the total forest area of the country. We are excellent in protection of wild animals.

Madhya Pradesh is the Tiger State of the country, but it also has good numbers of leopards, gharials and vultures. Cheetahs have also been rehabilitated. Chouhan said that the nation is indebted to those who risked their lives to protect the forests. Forest personnel perform their duties amidst danger in difficult circumstance, while staying away from their families. The state government is committed to their safety.

## Congress to hold screening committee for MP Today

Team Absolute | New Delhi

With assembly elections inching closer, Congress will be holding the meeting of the screening committee for Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday evening to decide on the candidates.

According to Congress leaders, the meeting at the party headquarters will be attended by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Jitendra Singh, who is the chairman of the Screening Committee, former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh, CLP leader Govind Singh, state incharge Randeep Singh

Surjewala, Kantilal Bhuria, Kamleshwar Patel will be present during the meeting.

The Congress has announced several guarantees for Madhya Pradesh ahead of the crucial elections in the state.

The Congress formed a government under Kamal Nath after winning in 2018 assembly elections, however, in March 2020, the party lost power after a rebellion by Jyotiraditya Scindia and his 22 MLAs, who switched sides to the BJP. The Congress is eyeing to make a comeback in the state.

The BJP has already announced a list of 39 candidates for Madhya Pradesh last month.

## Putting hand on girl's shoulder, pulling clothes, proof of ill intention in POCSO case: HC



Team Absolute | Jabalpur

Madhya Pradesh High Court has upheld the conviction of appellant Nageshwar in a case related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The High Court said that a man pulling a girl's clothes and placing his hand on her shoulder shows his sexual intent.

A single judge bench of Justice Prem Narayan Singh said that as per law, any offense under the POCSO Act requires a guilty mental state on the part of the accused and the same would be considered by the special court in such offences.

According to the Bar & Bench report, the court said that as far as delay in sexual intent is concerned, the appellant was a 22-year-old man at the time of the incident. He pulled the victim's clothes and placed his hand on her shoulder. This conduct clearly reflects the sexual nature of the Appellant.

Therefore, the High Court confirms the conviction of the appellant-accused under Section 354 (outraging modesty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 7/8 of the POCSO Act. The court has imposed a fine of Rs 4,000 on the convict and also upheld the

sentence of 3 years' imprisonment.

The prosecution alleged that when the victim, studying in class 9, was returning from her relative's house, the accused held her hand with malicious intent and pulled her clothes. When she raised an alarm, her uncle Manish came there and the accused threatened her and ran away from the spot.

Based on the charge sheet filed by the police, the trial court found the accused guilty after lengthy legal cross-examination of both the parties. The court sentenced him to 3 years rigorous imprisonment under the POCSO Act and also imposed a fine of Rs 4000 on him. The appellant had approached the High Court challenging the decision of the lower court.

With regard to the question whether the victim fell within the definition of 'child' below 18 years of age, the High Court clarified that at the time of the incident, she was below 15 years of age. Furthermore, while acknowledging minor contradictions in the testimony of the prosecutor and other witnesses, the High Court emphasized that such discrepancies would not impair the credibility of their statements.

## AIIMS BHOPAL LEADS MEGA PLANTATION DRIVE, CULTIVATING A GREENER TOMORROW

Team Absolute | Bhopal

In an earnest effort to contribute to environmental sustainability and enhance the green cover of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhopal campus, a monumental plantation drive was recently undertaken. This commendable initiative saw the AIIMS Bhopal family come together with the support of Mahindra Finance, planting approximately 400 native plants from the heart of Madhya Pradesh in various areas of the campus. The diversity of plants included native species such as Neem, Guava, Tikoma, Bel, Jamun, and Kathal. These carefully chosen indigenous plants not only beautify the campus but also promote biodiversity and create a healthier environment.

The collaboration with Mahindra Finance added an extra layer of commitment to this green cause. Their active participation in the plantation drive exemplifies the spirit of corporate responsibility towards environmental conservation.

Prof (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal who has been instrumental in spearheading efforts to increase the green cover on the campus, also actively participat-



ed in this significant endeavor. He planted a tree during the event and shared his profound insights on the vital importance of maintaining a green and clean campus environment.

Dr. Singh emphasized, "Greenery is not just about aesthetics; it's about our commitment to a sustainable future. The environment plays a pivotal role in our overall well-being, and by enhancing the green cover on our campus, we are taking a significant step towards creating a healthier and more pleasant living and learning environment for all."

This mega plantation drive at AIIMS Bhopal is a testament to the institution's dedication to environmental conservation and sustainability. It serves as an inspiration to the community and encourages others to take similar steps towards a greener and cleaner future.

## Brainstorming on BJP's second list, Names of more than 60 candidates may be announced

Team Absolute | Bhopal

BJP central leadership has called the leaders of Madhya Pradesh to Delhi. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh and BJP State President VD Sharma have left for Delhi. The tickets will be discussed before the BJP's Central Election Committee meeting on September 13 in Delhi. There will also be a discussion on why all the state BJP leaders are joining Congress?

BJP has released its first list of candidates for Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections on August 17, in which names of 39 candidates were announced. At the same time, preparations are going on to make the second list. There are speculations that there may be names of more than 60 candidates in the



second list. Earlier it was being said that the second list would be released by September 5, but this date has now been extended.

Before the assembly elections, BJP leadership started Jan Ashirwad Yatra to reach out to the people across the state. Five Jan Ashirwad

Yatras have been taken out from 3rd September, which will conclude in Bhopal on 24th September. During this time, along with the state ministers, Union Ministers are also participating in the yatra and are trying to woo the public through public addresses.

## BJP's Jan Aashirvad vs. Cong's Jan Aakrosh: Parties blitz MP with yatras

Sundeep Pauranik | Bhopal

In poll-bound MP, political parties are launching yatras and organising pilgrimages to Ujjain and Vrindavan to woo electorate.

Both the Congress and the BJP are leaving no stone unturned to win the masses. BJP is carrying out Jan Ashirwad Yatra from five places while the grandold party is gearing up to organise Jan Aakrosh rallies.

In the Jan Aashirwad Yatra, the BJP workers are informing people about various schemes of the state and the Central government and telling them that the "Congress, during the 15 month rule, had stopped all public welfare schemes".

During the launch of the Jan Ashirwad Yatra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari were present. The yatra is scheduled



to conclude on September 25, during which

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to be

present.

Congress Jan Aakrosh rallies are likely to begin from September 15 or 17 during which Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leaders like Rajiv Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra are likely to participate.

During this yatra, the Congress will tell people about how the Kamal Nath government in the state was toppled and "failures" of the BJP government's rule. Besides, the political parties are also organising pilgrimages to Ujjain and Vrindavan for the people of their areas. In the 2018 Assembly election in the state, of the total 230 seats, Congress had bagged 114 seats while the BJP secured 109 seats.

Political experts say that no party had secured absolute majority in the previous election, and are therefore making all out efforts to win people's hearts with various rallies.





EDITOR'S SPECS

### Congress silent on the quota for women issue

If there is one issue that blared out from loudspeakers during the 2022 assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh and has now gone completely silent, it is the one related to reservation for women. When Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched her 'Ladki hoon, Lad sakti hoon' campaign and announced 40 per cent tickets for women, she did manage to unnerve the other political parties. Parties like the Samajwadi Party, maintained a studied silence but keenly watched the situation to see if quota for women does yield the desired results. The issue flopped badly and the Congress put up its worst ever performance with only one woman as winner - Aradhana Mishra Mona, who is a veteran politician. The majority of the women candidates forfeited their deposits and the Congress has been silent on the issue ever since. Other parties have heaved a sigh of relief. Interestingly, today, Priyanka Gandhi makes no mention of reservation for women and party strategists also show no keenness to bring up the issue again. Though it was the Congress that had originally pushed the women's reservation bill, it was Priyanka's childish approach that destroyed the issue forever. The Congress fiasco on the issue, however, has come as a major relief for parties like the SP. It may be recalled that SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav had stirred up a controversy when he said that rural women will not benefit from the Women Reservation Bill because they are not as attractive in comparison to those from the affluent class. Another socialist leader Sharad Yadav also echoed similar sentiments when he said that only 'parkati' women (women sporting short hair, belonging to affluent families) would benefit. The two leaders drove a class wedge among women to oppose the bill.

Lalit Garg

Everyone wants to live a life which is full of peace and happiness, but they can't live this type of life. That is why in the Jain tradition, the spiritual festival Paryushan is celebrated, which will be held this year from September 12 to September 19, 2021. In these eight days of Paryushan Mahaparva, all Jain devotees will make efforts to make the body and mind spiritual. Paryushan Parva has a great importance in the lives of Jains. It's a period in which every Jain tries to purify and elevate his soul. For this purpose a shrvak must perform the following five duties: Amari Pravartan (Total non-violence), Sadharmic Bhakti (helping people of same faith), Kshamapan (asking for forgiveness), Atham Tap (fasting for three days) and Chaitya Pari Paati (Visiting local Jain temples). In eight days, a positive environment will be created, which will purify our life. From this point of view, this festival is a festival of spirituality as well as upliftment of life. Paryushan Mahaparva is a medium to worship the inner soul - it is the festival of self-purification, self-enlightenment. In fact, the Paryushan Mahaparva is such a dawn which takes us from sleep to wakefulness. This festival leads us from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge. While doing penance, chanting, and self-study, we can find our inner strength and will get to know that real happiness lies in forgiving. The literal meaning of Paryushan Mahaparva is to be residing in the soul. One of the meanings of Paryushana is the destruction of karma. The bad Karmas will be destroyed and only then the soul will be purified in its natural form, hence Paryushan Mahaparva gives inspiration to the soul; to become selfless and pure. This Mahaparva mainly focuses on the connection

# PARYUSHAN PARV: A SPIRITUAL PATH OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE



between humans and humans and motivates them; it is the festival of opening the windows, skylights and doors of the mind. Paryushan Mahaparva is not just a festival of Jains, it is a universal festival. It is a great and excellent festival for the whole world, because the soul is worshipped in it. This is the only festival in the whole world in which a person becomes self-realized by being self-absorbed and tries to attain salvation by ascending to the peak of supernatural, spiritual bliss. The Paryushan Mahaparva has its own unique and special spiritual significance in the renunciation-oriented culture of Jainism. This is the only inspiring festival of self-purification. It is the most recognized festival of Jain people. Paryushan Mahaparva is an occasion for many types of rituals like chanting, austerity, sadhna, worship, meditation, food restraints etc. Paryushan Mahaparva is a spiritual festival, the central element of it is the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva continues to play an important role in revealing the pure, luminous form of the soul. Adhyatma means closeness to the soul. Paryushan Mahaparva is the symbol of Jain unity. Jain people give utmost importance to it. The entire Jain society becomes awake and engaged in spiritual practice on the occasion of this festival. In the Digambara tradition, it is recognized as "Daslakshana Parva". Among them, its opening day is Bhadrav Shukla Panchami and the day of prosperity is Chaturdashmi. On the other hand, in the Shwetambar Jain tradition, the day of Bhadrav Shukla Panchami is the day of Samadhi which is celebrated as Samvatsari with complete renunciation, fasting, self-study and abstinence. Even people who are unable to take time out during the year also wake up on this day. Even those who never fast are seen performing rituals on this day. The theme of Paryushan Mahaparva is to destruct all the evil thoughts of mind and soul. The 10 gates of religion have been mentioned, in which the first door is for-

giveness. Forgiveness means equality. Forgiveness is very important for life, unless there is no forgiveness in life, and then a person cannot progress on the path of spirituality. Lord Mahavir lived a life of forgiveness i.e. equality. No matter what the situation may have come, he remained equal in all circumstances. "Forgiveness is the jewel of the hero" - Only great people can take and give forgiveness. Paryushan Mahaparva is the celebration of the exchange of forgiveness. On this day everyone unravels the entangled glands of their mind, opens the knots of anger and hatred within them, they hug each other. Eliminate the mistakes made in the past through forgiveness and make life pure. The end of Paryushan Mahaparva is celebrated as Forgiveness Day. In this way, Paryushan Mahaparva and Forgiveness Day - it is a festival to bring each other closer. It is a festival to consider each other as our own. It is also said in the Gita - "Atmoupamyen sarvatraya, same pashyati yorjuna" - "Shri Krishna said to Arjuna - O Arjuna! Treat the human as your equal. Lord Mahavira said- "Mitti mai Savva bhuvesu, veranmjihana kenai" I have friendship with all beings; I have no enmity with anyone. Human unity, peaceful co-existence, friendship, socialism without exploitation, establishment of international moral values, non-violent life, support of the worship style of soul etc. are the main basis of Paryushan Mahaparva. From this point of view, efforts are expected to make this great festival a festival of the people. Whether a man is called religious or not, whether he believes in self-Parmatma or not, whether he believes in past birth and reincarnation, whether he should resort to non-violence as far as possible in solving any of his problems - this is the heart of the sadhna of Paryushan.

Violence cannot be a permanent solution to any problem. Those seeking a solution through violence have only exacerbated the problem. Keeping this fact in front, not only the Jain society, but also the common people should become faithful in the power of non-violence and use it with deep faith. Paryushan is a festival of pleasure in the soul, a festival of self-purification and self-enhancement. This Mahaparva makes us become ego free. This Mahaparva is a celebration of worship of non-violence. Today the whole world needs the non-violence and friendship. Paryushan Parv is a festival of destruction of all negative aspects of the soul and by this one can find the real meaning of life. Each day of the Paryushan festival focuses on eliminating various impurities like anger, pride, deceit and greed and building good virtues. Today, the main problems like violence, terror, mutual hatred, Naxalism, corruption, corona epidemic have become a big cause of concern not only for the country but for the world and everyone wants a solution to these problems. For those people, the festival of Paryushan is an inspiration, a path, guidance and a practice of non-violent lifestyle. Today, in the glare of materiality, it is more important to maintain the relevance of this festival in the blind race of running life. For this, Jain society should become sensitive, especially the younger generation should be aware of the value of Paryushan festival and they themselves should be benefited from these rare moments of awakening self-consciousness through sharing, silence, chanting, meditation, self-study, dietary restraint, sense control, life-day etc. and explore the pure essence of this auspicious festival in front of the people.

## international

## 40 civilians killed in airstrike on Khartoum market; Sudanese army denies involvement

**Khartoum** | Agencies  
At least 40 civilians were killed and dozens injured in an airstrike "carried out by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)" on a market in southern Khartoum, a volunteer group has said. However, the SAF has denied responsibility for the attack. The resistance committee of South Khartoum said in a statement on Sunday that "40 civilians were killed in an air strike by the SAF warplanes on a market in Mayo area, south of Khartoum", Xinhua news agency reported. The committee also published photos showing large numbers of injured and



corpses covered with cloths. On the same day, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) also accused the SAF of shelling civilian neighbourhoods in the Mayo area. "The SAF carried out aerial bombardments this morning

civilian gatherings, according to a statement by its spokesman's office. "The armed forces confirm that they only launch their strikes against rebel gatherings, crowds, sites and bases as legitimate military targets, while fully adhering to international humanitarian law and the rules of engagement as a professional army, far from innocent citizens," said the statement. Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes between the SAF and the RSF in Khartoum and other areas since April 15, which have left at least 3,000 deaths and more than 6,000 injuries, according to the Sudanese Health Ministry.

### Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupts, alert level elevated to warning

**Honolulu** | After a lengthy period of elevated seismic activity, Hawaii's Kilauea volcano has started erupting again at the summit crater, prompting the US Geological Survey (USGS) to elevate the alert level to warning. The eruption started at 3.15 p.m. on Sunday, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) said, adding that there was no immediate danger from the eruption to downslope communities, reports the Hawaii News Now. Lava was remaining along a dropped down block of the caldera and the edge of Halemaumau crater, but authorities stressed that hazards were being assessed and the eruption was "dynamic". "HVO will continue to monitor this activity closely and report any significant changes in future notices," Hawaii News Now quoted officials as saying. They added that all activity was confined to Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park. Webcam images showed fountains of lava shooting into the air. Kilauea is the most active of the five volcanoes that together form the island of Hawaii.

### INDIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSWOMAN INTRODUCES RESOLUTION FOR 9/11 RACISM VICTIMS

**Washington** | Agencies  
A group of lawmakers, including Indian-American Pramila Jayapal, has introduced a Congressional resolution condemning hatred, xenophobia, and racism against South Asian, Sikh, Arab, Muslim and Mid-Eastern communities in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Introduced on September 9 ahead of the 22nd anniversary of one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the history of the US, the resolution recognised the tragedy and put forward a series of recommendations to support those affected by the hateful profiling after the attack. "This day irrevocably changed our country and its impact is still felt. Muslim, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and Sikh communities in the aftermath," Congresswoman Jayapal said. "The murders of Balbir Singh Sodhi, Waqar Hassan, and Adel Karas in the days following the attack were shocking displays of hatred.

Xenophobia and racism have no place in this country, and today we recognise the shared trauma that these communities faced as they experienced stigma, discrimination, and losses of liberty," she added. The resolution called for the creation of an interagency task force to work with community-based organisations to review government policies, investigate and document their impact, and dismantle those policies that continue to profile and unfairly target these communities. It also called for hearings by congressional and civil rights bodies to explore the findings and recommendations of this interagency task force in consultation with and centering community-based organisations. The resolution supported allocating resources to community-based organisations outside and independent of law enforcement that center the experiences and demands of these communities to both support hate crime prevention and the needs of victims of hate and state violence.

## Death toll from Morocco earthquake rises to 2,122

**Amizmiz (Morocco)** | Agencies  
At least 2,122 people have been killed and 2,421 injured since a massive earthquake struck central Morocco on Friday night, according to the latest update from the Moroccan Interior Ministry. The deaths include 1,351 people reported in the Al Haouz Province, 492 in Taroudant Province, 201 in Chichaoua, and 17 in Marrakesh, added the ministry in a press release on Sunday. Moroccan troops and emergency services were reportedly struggling to reach the most affected areas in the Atlas Mountains region, as roads leading up there were blocked by fallen boulders, Xinhua news agency reported, citing local media. Earlier in the day, Marrakesh's residents told reporters that aftershocks could still be felt. According to the World Health Organization estimates, the disaster has affected more than 300,000 people in the ancient old city and its outskirts. The number of casualties is expected to rise. The Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) has said the situation on the ground posed a vast challenge to search and rescue efforts, and "getting heavy machinery into those remote



areas of the Atlas Mountains to help with that is a priority". As more people were being pulled out of the rubble, the MRC and other first responders were working around the clock to identify and prioritize the most severe cases, the MRC said in a statement. The earthquake hit Morocco Friday at 11:11 p.m. local time at a depth of 18.5 km, according to the US Geological Survey.

## Sunak confirms raising British Sikh's detention with Modi: Report

**London** | Agencies  
UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has confirmed that he raised the case of a Scottish Sikh detained in India since 2017 during his talks with counterpart Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a BBC report said. While the UK Foreign Office ruled out intervening in the Jagtar Singh Johal's case on September 8, Sunak, under pressure to highlight the issue, said he raised it along with other consular issues. He did not provide details, but said: "The Foreign Office is continuing to provide support to Mr Johal's family and will continue to do so." In response to the development, campaigners for Johal said the UK government should declare Modi's response to Sunak on the issue, and that it is "meaningless" if the Prime Minister didn't call for "immediate



release", the BBC reported on Sunday. "What did Rishi Sunak say to Narendra Modi about the case and how did he respond? Without answers to these questions, the prime minister's talk is meaningless," Maya Foa, Director of human rights group Reprieve, told the BBC. The UK Sikh Federation said Sunak had appeared "very reluctant" to press Johal's case since entering No 10, and "has demonstrated his weakness and lack of leadership by shamefully fail-

ing to stand up for the rights of a British citizen". "Rishi Sunak and his Foreign Office ministers are now talking utter nonsense in terms of Jagtar's best interests and justice. They appear scared and clueless on how best to apply diplomatic pressure on India and are leaving it to the corrupt Indian judicial system," Dabinderjit Singh, the principal adviser to the Sikh Federation, told the BBC. Sunak's action came after a group of more than 70 MPs called on him last week to urge Prime Minister Modi to secure the 36-year-old Sikh campaigner's "immediate release". En route New Delhi for the G20 Summit on September 9-10, Sunak, on being asked whether he would be raising the case, said that he would be "raising a range of things with Prime Minister Modi -- this (Johal's case) is something that, just so people are reassured, has already been raised on multiple levels on

multiple occasions". Johal's brother Gurpreet Singh Johal, a lawyer and Labour councillor, said he is "pleased" that Sunak has raised the case with Modi but it is "not enough". "Raising (the case) is not enough unless he has called for Jagtar's release in line with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's findings. I fear that this is just more talk from the UK government and no action," Gurpreet told the BBC. Jagtar Singh Johal from Dumbarton was in Punjab for his wedding when he was arrested from Jalandhar on November 4, 2017, over his alleged role in killings by the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), a banned terrorist organisation. His family claims that he was tortured, including through electric shocks, before being made to sign a blank confession document - allegations that have been denied by the Indian authorities.





PARLIAMENT SPECIAL SESSION INTENDED TO BREAK MUMBAI FROM MAHARASHTRA: CONGRESS

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Maharashtra unit of Congress on Monday claimed that the upcoming special session of Parliament has been called with the agenda to "divide the country and separate Mumbai from Maharashtra".

State Congress president Nana Patole said that no agenda has been announced for the September 18-22 session so far. "The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called this session without asking anybody, including the Opposition and the Parliamentary Affairs Committee. No such special sessions were called during the Covid-19 crises, demonetisation, the Manipur violence, then why now?" he asked.

Patole also alleged that session is intended "to divide the country and push through the Modi government's plans to separate Mumbai from Maharashtra, and declared it a Union Territory". He pointed that Mumbai is a city of global importance, the country's financial nerve-centre, the pride of the state and the nation, and the BJP has been eyeing it for the past nine years by systematically downgrading its importance.

"This has been going on for long... The Global Financial Centre has been taken to Gujarat, the diamond industry has been shifted here, the Air India headquarters was also moved out. Now, it is said there are plans to relocate the Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange as part of the larger conspiracy to 'secede Mumbai' from



Maharashtra." Patole also contended that all this was not possible during the rule of Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Shiv Sena (UBT)-Congress-Nationalist Congress Party, led by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, which was the reason it was toppled with the help of the Centre and the then state Governor. "However, ever since the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde took office, many big-ticket projects of Mumbai and Maharashtra have been 'hijacked' to Gujarat. Neither Shinde nor the Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis have dared to oppose all this," he said. He said that if Shinde-Fadnis-Ajit Pawar have the courage, they should question the Prime Minister for taking away all major projects, institutions and offices out of Mumbai to the detriment of the people of the city and the state.



DELHI TOP CITY FOR IPHONE ENTHUSIASTS, BEATS MUMBAI BY BIG MARGIN: REPORT

Team Absolute | New Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi has emerged as the top city for iPhone enthusiasts as it beats the second in the chart, Mumbai, with a mammoth "182 per cent" more iPhone purchases this year so far, reveals a new report.

The research, "iPhone unboxed" conducted by consumer electronics store chain Croma, found "47 per cent growth" in iPhone sales in Delhi from 2020 to 2021 and rose to "106 per cent" from 2021 to 2022 in the city.

Interestingly, Mumbai, while second in iPhone purchases, also experienced a significant iPhone wave, with over a "tenfold increase" in 2022, according to the report. The list was followed by

Pune, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, with growth percentages of 198 per cent, 221 per cent, and 132 per cent, respectively, from 2021 to 2022.

"The findings by Croma are based on the purchase patterns of Croma consumers throughout the year and close observations of post-purchase usage trends. The iPhone unboxed not only gives the highlights of the past few years but also sets the tone ahead of Apple's forthcoming event on September 12th," read the report.

It also revealed iPhone 13, 128GB, starlight white as the bestselling model; followed by the iPhone 13, 128GB midnight black edition, and the iPhone 13, 128GB blue.

Apple will be announcing its latest iPhone 15 series on Tuesday.

Shiv Sena-UBT dropped from Maha all-party meet on Maratha quotas: LoP Ambadas Danve

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition in Council Ambadas Danve on Monday accused the state government of not inviting his Shiv Sena-UBT for the all-party meeting this evening to discuss the vexed issue of Maratha quotas. Slamming the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for being "mean-minded" and "playing politics", Danve said that he has been invited in his capacity as the Leader of Opposition in the Council, but his party's name does not figure in the invite list. "Many big and small parties have been invited for this meeting. But the government has not officially invited the Shiv Sena-UBT. I have been invited as the Leader of Opposition," said a peeved Danve. He also pointed out that Bharatiya Janata Party leader Chandrakant Patil, who is heading a panel for Maratha reservations, has been invited as a Minister for the meeting and wondered "what is the government trying to achieve by this".

However, Danve said several other ministers have also been called for the meeting and asked how they are concerned in the matter. Danve said that when the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi CM Uddhav Thackeray had convened a similar meeting, he had also invited some five dozen organisations, but today not a single organisation figures in the list of invitees. He also questioned whether the government had appointed an official representative to meet or hold talks with the Shivba Sanghatana leader Manoj



Jarange-Patil who is on an indefinite hunger strike for the past 14 days for Maratha quotas.

On September 2, NCP President Sharad Pawar and ex-CM Thackeray were among the first to reach Jalna's Antarvali-Sarati village which witnessed a major police clampdown on Maratha protestors a day earlier, and later protests spread across the state.

Meanwhile, as many as 32 representatives of the ruling coalition of Shiv Sena-BJP-Nationalist Congress Party-AP, Congress' Leader of Opposition in Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar, the Congress, NCP-Sharad Pawar, other big and small parties and officials have been invited to join the 'all-party' meet to be addressed by the CM later this evening.

Mumbai's 'fugitive scam couple': Police freeze more bank accounts, properties

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Moving ahead in the investigations, the Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has frozen another 11 banks accounts and five prime properties purportedly owned by absconding scamster couple Ashesh Mehta and his wife Shivangi Lad-Mehta, officials said on Monday. The five residential properties, worth an estimated Rs 16 crore, are in Kandivali, Goregaon, and Santacruz, while 11 bank accounts of the Mehta couple and their companies have also been frozen. "The Mumbai Police EOW has taken prompt cognisance of my complaints and so far they have frozen around Rs 175 crores siphoned off by the Mehta couple by cheating over 4,000 investors all over India and then disappearing," ruling Shiv Sena spokesperson Krishna Hegde said. Official sources said that the EOW has also started questioning the relatives, friends, business associates and others in the entire scam and attempt to trace out the missing couple, now off radar for nearly four months.

Hegde urged the Mumbai Police to now expedite the necessary legal formalities to liquidate the properties and release the monies lying in these frozen bank accounts that can be disbursed among the needy investors who were gyped of their hard-earned cash. Last month, the Mumbai Police cracked the whip on the Mehtas after Hegde demanded a probe into a staggering withdrawal-transfers of



some Rs 180 crore to various associates or entities of the scamster couple.

IANS highlighted the matter in June-July after it came to the fore when the Madhya Pradesh Police were probing a drug case which was linked to the Mehta couple. Besides a NDPS case in MP, the couple is accused of money-laundering, running illegal ponzi schemes, cheating gullible investors and other frauds totally estimated at over Rs 1,000 crore, before decamping.

The MP and Maharashtra Police have probed the homes and offices of the Mehtas in Mumbai in the past few months, but they have not been able to trace the couple.

After getting many grievances from the people, Hegde moved Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in July who directed the issue of a Look Out Circular for the couple and the Mumbai Special Police Commissioner Deven Bharti and Joint Commissioner Nishith Mishra to intensify the probe.

Uddhav Thackeray's "Godhra" warning over Ram temple event, BJP reacts

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has warned of a "conspiracy (yielding a) Godhra-like incident... in the name of the Ram temple" after its inauguration in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. The temple is to be inaugurated in January, months before the Lok Sabha election, and is likely to be attended by tens of thousands of Hindus from across the country.

Thackeray's claim against the Bharatiya Janata Party, in power at the centre, has been sharply criticised by senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad, who reminded his former ally that Balasaheb Thackeray (the late Shiv Sena founder) had "blessed" the Ram temple movement, and declared he would "pray to Lord Ram for wisdom (to the opposition leader)".

Thackeray's remark was also slammed by Union Minister Anurag Thakur and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. At an event in Jalgaon, Uddhav Thackeray referred to a "possibility that many Hindus will be called from all over the country in buses and trains... and, while returning from there, a Godhra incident can be carried out somewhere on the way".



"This can happen... attack can happen. In some colony they will burn buses, throw stones... massacres will take place. The country will be on fire again... and they will bake their political bread on these flames," the Shiv Sena UBT leader declared.

At least 58 people were killed, and an entire nation traumatised, in February 2002 after some coaches of the Sabaramati Express were set on fire at Gujarat's Godhra Railway Station. The killings triggered protests and riots, for

which a local court convicted just 31 people (63 were released) nine years later. Appeals against the conviction - upheld by the Gujarat High Court - are now pending before the Supreme Court.

The inauguration of the temple - being built on land claimed by both Hindus and Muslims but awarded to the former by the Supreme Court in 2019, in a landmark verdict - will take place months before the 2024 general election, at which the BJP, which has championed the building of the temple, will bid for an unprecedented third term in power. Former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said Balasaheb Thackeray - Mr Thackeray's late father - may feel "... what happened to my child?" "With whose blessings he became a big leader... will he speak like this? The Ram Janmabhoomi movement which Balasaheb blessed?"

This alliance against PM Modi can go to any limits for votes," he declared. "I would like to pray to Lord Ram to give them (the INDIA opposition alliance) some wisdom."

Thakur, asked to respond, slammed the Maharashtra politician for being "greedy" and swung the question around to the ongoing row over Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's remark on 'Sanatan Dharm'.

2 YOUTHS KILLED AS CAR RAMS DIVIDER, CATCHES FIRE IN MUMBAI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In a tragic accident, two youths were killed and three others injured when their car rammed into a road divider and burst into flames near Sion area in Mumbai early on Monday morning, police and the BMC Disaster Control said.

The incident took place around 4.30 a.m. when the Hyundai i20 gas-powered vehicle was speeding along Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Road from Sion to Dadar. Near the Ganga Vihar Hotel, the car dashed into a road divider, overturned and burst into flames, trapping the five occupants inside the burning vehicle.

The locals summoned the fire brigade and also managed to extricate the passengers from the car, and rushed them to Sion Hospital for treatment. The fire teams which reached there later managed to extinguish the vehicle flames within minutes and later it was towed away for police investigations.

Prem Vaghela, 18, and his brother Ajay Vaghela, 20, were killed in the accident while their friends Harsh Kadam, 20, Ritesh Bhoir, 25 and Kunal Attar, 33, have been admitted in a critical condition. The cause of the crash is not known and will be probed from all angles including whether the person at the wheel was dozing or inebriated, said an official.



Woman goes into labour on Mumbai-Goa highway, bus diverts to health centre

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A pregnant woman went into labour onboard a bus of the Maharashtra State Transport Corporation (MSRTC) on the Mumbai-Goa Highway and was safely shifted to a primary health centre by the crew, an official said on Monday.

The incident took place near Kolad village in Raigad district on Saturday, the official said.

Susheela Ravi Pawar, a resident of Rudroli village, boarded a Panvel-Mahad bus from Wadkhali in the afternoon and started experiencing labour pains during the

journey, he said.

Bus driver Devidas Jadhav and conductor Bhagvan Parab immediately diverted the bus to Ambewadi primary health centre at Kolad and admitted her there, the official said.

The woman received medical attention and her delivery was smooth because of the bus crew's timely action, he said.

The repair work is underway on the pothole-ridden Mumbai-Goa Highway, and the traffic police have banned the movement of heavy vehicles on this road till the culmination of the upcoming Ganesh festival.

NCLT to hear RCAP Resolution Plan matter on Sep 12, unlikely to take any decision

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A hearing for an approval of the resolution plan of the Reliance Capital is scheduled for September 12 (Tuesday) in NCLT Mumbai but the tribunal is unlikely to take a final call on the Hinduja Group company IIHL's Resolution Plan in Tuesday's hearing. According to sources, the main reason for NCLT not taking a final decision on the resolution Plan is due to the impending order on Torrent Investment's plea that had challenged the Committee of Creditors (COC) decision to approve the IIHL's Resolution Plan.

The NCLT has reserved its order on Torrent's plea, and it is unlikely to approve the resolution plan without delivering its final verdict on Torrent's



application. The second reason for NCLT likely to defer a decision is that the lenders

have not yet received an approval from RBI and CCI on IIHL's resolution plan, which is a prerequisite for

NCLT approval. In addition, the Supreme Court in August had adjourned the hearing on Torrent's application, which challenged the second round of auction, to October.

Hence, NCLT may not like to take a final decision on the resolution plan approval till there is an absolute clarity on the matter from the apex court. Under the circumstances, the matter is most likely to be adjourned by the NCLT Mumbai.

The IIHL's Rs 10,000 crore resolution plan for Reliance Capital was approved by the COC with 99.6 per cent voting on June 29. Post that, the plan was filed before NCLT for its final approval, but due to the litigation by Torrent Investment, the final approval will take some more time.

FLYER ACCUSED OF SEX HARASSMENT ONBOARD INDIGO'S MUMBAI-GUWAHATI FLIGHT

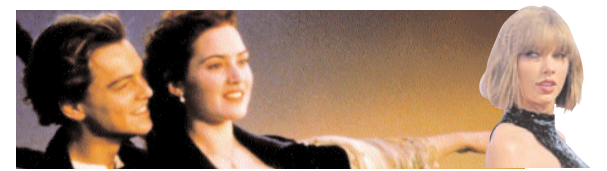
Team Absolute | Mumbai

A passenger travelling on budget carrier IndiGo's flight to Guwahati from Mumbai was handed over to the Guwahati police on arrival for allegedly sexually harassing a passenger onboard, the airline said on Monday. The complainant has filed an FIR with the local police and the airline will provide assistance in investigation when required, IndiGo said in a statement. The airline, however, did not

share any specific details about the incident. "A passenger travelling on (IndiGo flight) 6E- 5319 between Mumbai-Guwahati was handed over to the Guwahati police on arrival, after receiving a complaint from another passenger for alleged sexual harassment," the airline said. An FIR has been filed by the complainant with the local police and "we will provide assistance in their investigation, where required," IndiGo added in the statement.







Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Helen Flanagan appeared to take aim at her ex-fiance Scott Sinclair in a video with their two-year-old son. The actress, 33, split from her footballer beau almost a year ago but made a jibe at him on social media. Helen and Scott share three children together - eight-year-old Matilda, five-year-old Delilah, and two-year-old Charlie, and are now raising them as co-parents, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

They shockingly broke off their engagement after almost 15 years together in October 2022 and rumours of a rekindling have swirled over the past year.

However, she has since posted a video which implied he was seeing other women. Taking to TikTok, Helen filmed herself with her son Charlie. She captioned the video: "POV - when your babies' about to go to their dad's".

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', the 'Rosie Webster' star lip synced to an audio clip from the movie Norbit as she said "Little Miss Skinny B\*\*\*h gonna be there?"

She then cut to Charlie as he tried to copy the audio as it continued: "Oh you mean Miss Ling Ling?" Helen mouthed: "Oh you know damn well I ain't talking about no Miss Ling Ling I'm talking about Miss Thing Thing from that picnic." She captioned her short video: "Just jokes." Her post comes after she hailed her ex-fiance Scott as "the best thing that ever happened to me" in a recent video, calling their relationship "really special".

"I was with my ex for like...forever. I was with my ex from 19 to 31," she explained as she applied her primer in a chatty home video. "He was like my 'one'. I remember when we first got together, I was so in love with him. He was like the best thing that ever happened to me really because he was just like, my life. We had a really nice relationship. It was really special. And obviously, we had three children together."

"We just grew apart", the 33-year-old explained. She also recalled being "heartbroken" when they broke up for six months when she was 22, and admitted they continued to sleep together during their "off" period. Despite having fond memories of her relationship with Scott, Helen said she is now ready to move on with somebody else.

Helen Flanagan takes a dig at ex Scott Sinclair in new video



## Aquaman's world is torn down to shreds in 'Aquaman the Lost Kingdom' teaser

Los Angeles | Agencies

The teaser for 'Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom' has been released and it shows Jason

Momoa back in the DC Universe in the sequel that's dropping on December 20.

The teaser shows the world of Aquaman being torn down to shreds as the evil takeover. The video asset is full of action and displays a top-notch work on the VFX.

The full trailer will be released on Thursday James Wan returns to direct the Aquaman followup with Momoa starring as the titled character alongside Patrick Wilson, Amber Heard, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Nicole Kidman, reports Deadline.

The logline of the sequel reads, "Having failed to defeat Aquaman the first time, Black Manta, still driven by the need to avenge his father's death, will stop at nothing to take Aquaman down once and for all."

"This time Black Manta is more formidable than ever before, wielding the power of the mythic Black Trident, which unleashes an ancient and malevolent force. To defeat him,

Aquaman will turn to his imprisoned brother Orm, the former King of Atlantis, to



forge an unlikely alliance. Together, they must set aside their differences in order to protect their kingdom and save Aquaman's family, and the world, from irreversible destruction", it further reads.

The screenplay is by David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick, from a story by James Wan & David Leslie Johnson-McGoldrick and Jason Momoa & Thomas Pa'a Sibbett, based on characters from DC, Aquaman created by Paul Norris and Mort Weisinger.

## Timothee Chalamet, Kylie Jenner seen getting intimate at NYFW



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Timothee Chalamet and reality TV star Kylie Jenner went ahead for an intimate outing at I New York Fashion Week, having an exclusive dinner at the event as the two continue to drive forward their romance.

In a video shared on social media, the 'Dune' (27) actor and the 'Kardashians' star (26), were seen all dressed up in matching black outfits, and were smiling as they looked up at Ackermann as the French designer gave a speech during the candlelit dinner.

Their latest outing comes only four days after Jenner and Chalamet, debuted their romance at Beyoncé's third 'Renaissance' tour stop in Los Angeles, back in September 4, as reported by Page Six.

In the video captured by fashion designer

Gaia Repossi, Chalamet and Jenner were seen in close proximity to Ackermann, the celebrated fashion designer who was celebrating his collaboration with Augustinus Bader.

During the sold-out show, which happened to land on the Grammy winner's 42nd birthday, the star couple packed on the PDA while spending time in the star-filled VIP section at SoFi Stadium.

The pair was even seen sharing a passionate kiss, as they tightly held each other, quite content with being seen and ignoring on-lookers. Chalamet also grabbed Jenner's butt before she turned back around to enjoy the concert.

The couple apparently had no shame about their make-out session as they were surrounded by several stars, including Justin and Hailey Bieber, and Jenner's sisters Kendall Jenner and Kim Kardashian.

## AMANDA SEYFRIED REVEALS HER BIGGEST 'BEAUTY FAIL'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Amanda Seyfried reveals that her biggest "beauty fail" was when she blundered in an attempt to shape her eyebrows when she was still at school.

"I egregiously overplucked my eyebrows in high school for them never to return in full," Amanda recalled in an interview with Glamour, reports aceshowbiz.com.

Meanwhile, the 'Mean Girls' star learned how to appreciate beauty in its natural form after a visit to Japan had a lasting impact.

The actress said: "Kyoto left an incredible impression on me. In Japanese culture in general, the people are all about living within nature and trying not to change but thrive surrounded by the beauty of Mother Nature."



key."

"Beauty, to me, is just that. Appreciating what we have, who we are, and where we come from - letting nature inform and inspire our journey inside and out of ourselves."

Amanda, 37, also took a swipe at the beauty standards created by social media and Hollywood and would remove "likes" from people's selfies if she had the power to do so.

"Let's turn the camera around at what's in front of us. Selfies can be nice and organic in the right context. Let's keep it special," she added.

Amanda is an ambassador for beauty brand Lancome and would willingly use the company's Brow Define pencil for the rest of her life.

The actress explained, "My brows are also just a little bit too blonde to see sometimes. Highlighting and appreciating the features I already have is the

Los Angeles: Hollywood star Chris Evans is married. The actor, 42, wed Alba Baptista during a ceremony at a private estate in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Many of the couple's famous friends were spotted in nearby Boston for the wedding, including Evans' Marvel costars Robert Downey Jr and his wife Susan Downey, Chris Hemsworth and his wife Elsa Pataky, Jeremy Renner, John Krasinski and Emily Blunt.

Page Six was first to report the news. Hemsworth, Downey, their wives and Renner were photographed dining and chatting at the Contessa restaurant in the five-star Newbury Boston hotel.

As per People, Krasinski and Blunt were seen returning from the festivities soon after midnight.

A source said: "They were very happy, joking and smiling."

Evans and the Portuguese actress, 26, had been dating "for over a year and it's serious", People earlier reported.

A source added at the time: "They are in love and Chris has never been happier. His family and friends all adore her." Baptista - who speaks five languages and is the daughter of an engineer and a translator - starred in 2022's 'Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris' and is also known for her role on Netflix's 'Warrior Nun'. In 2018, she did an extensive amount of humanitarian work at an orphanage in Cambodia, focusing on education. She also won the Shooting Star award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2021.

Earlier this year, on Valentine's Day, Evans shared a photo montage of himself and his then-girlfriend in honour of the annual holiday. The 'Captain America' star included shots of the couple hiking and travelling together and hanging out with his dog Dodger.



## Chris Evans, Alba Baptista tie the knot in intimate Massachusetts ceremony

Los Angeles | Agencies

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Salma Hayek





## Asia Cup

# KOHLI, RAHUL TONS, KULDEEP'S 5-25 SETS UP INDIA'S MASSIVE 228-RUN WIN OVER PAKISTAN

**Colombo | Agencies**  
Fantastic unbeaten centuries by Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul, followed by a terrific five-wicket haul from Kuldeep Yadav helped India thrash archrivals Pakistan by 228 runs in a totally one-sided Super-Four match in the Asia Cup 2023 at the R. Premadasa Stadium here on Monday.

Resuming their assault on Pakistan on the reserve day starting at 4:40 pm after a rain delay, India reached a mammoth 356/2, their highest score against Pakistan in ODIs.

It was down to Rahul making a stunning comeback to international cricket with a classy 111 not out off 106 balls while Kohli combined astute running between the wickets with dazzling strokeplay to hit his fourth ODI century in as many innings at the venue through an unbeaten 122 off just 94 balls.

If Sunday saw Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma pulverize the Pakistan bowling by hitting quick fifties in a



121-run opening stand, then Monday belonged to Rahul and Kohli sharing a huge 233-run stand for the third wicket, also the highest partnership

### Brief scores

India 356/2 in 50 overs (Virat Kohli 122 not out, K.L. Rahul 111 not out, Rohit Sharma 56, Shubman Gill 58; Shadab Khan 1-71, Shaheen Shah Afridi 1-79) beat Pakistan 128 all out in 32 overs (Fakhar Zaman 27; Kuldeep Yadav 5-25, Shardul Thakur 1-16) by 228 runs

by any Indian pair in its participation history in the Asia Cup.

In reply, Pakistan were nowhere in the chase as only three of their batters managed to go past 20. India's fast bowlers were impeccable in their line and length while putting out a surreal exhibition of seam and swing bowling.

Kuldeep then came to bamboozle the batters and pick 5/25, his second fifer in ODIs, as Pakistan were restricted to just 128, with 228 runs being the highest margin of win for India against Pakistan in terms of runs.

## Kohli smashes Tendulkar's record

# Fastest 13,000 ODI runs

**Colombo | Agencies**  
During his outstanding knock of 122 not out off just 94 balls against Pakistan in the Super Four stage of the Asia Cup at the R. Premadasa Stadium, talismanic India batter Virat Kohli completed 13,000 ODI runs, becoming the fifth player to reach the landmark in men's ODIs.

Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Sanath Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene are the others before Kohli to reach the milestone. While Tendulkar took 321 innings to get to the mark, Kohli has reached the same in 267 innings, becoming the quickest to the milestone and breaking the legendary batter's record.

Ponting (341) and Sangakkara (363) took over 300 innings to while Jayasuriya reached the mark in 416 innings. Kohli, who also completed 1000 runs in international cricket this year, is also the only one among the five to average over 50. With 47 ODI hundreds, Kohli is also just two away from equalling Tendulkar's record tally of ODI tons.

Kohli, the No.3 batter, resumed from his score of seven overnight on the reserve day and survived an early review for caught behind off Naseem Shah's over. He looked in pristine touch thereafter, combining with a proactive K.L. Rahul to build over India's good start on Sunday.

Kohli took 55 balls to get to his half-century



but took only 29 more balls to get to his 47th ODI hundred. Rahul too, meanwhile, completed his ton on his return to international cricket to give India a strong total in Colombo. The Rahul-Kohli stand of 233 runs for the third wicket is also the highest partnership by any Indian pair in the history of the team's participation in the Asia Cup, as the side posted 356/2, also its highest score against Pakistan in ODIs.

## US Open: Djokovic beats Medvedev to take historic 24th Grand Slam, reclaims top spot

**New York | Agencies**

Novak Djokovic won his fourth US Open and a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title after eliminating Daniil Medvedev in straight sets in the final here.

The battle between the second and the third seed saw Djokovic cruise past Medvedev 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3. With the victory, the 36-year-old Serbian became the oldest US Open men's singles champion in the Open Era, reports Xinhua.

Having also won the Australian Open and the French Open this year, Djokovic became the first man to win three Grand Slams singles titles in a season four times.

"I never imagined that I would be here standing with you talking about 24 Slams. I



never thought that would be the reality," Djokovic said afterwards. "But the last couple of years, I felt I have a chance, I have a shot for his-

tory, and why not grab it if it's presented?"

The win also marked a revenge to Medvedev, who in 2021 in straight sets halted Djokovic's pace to become the first man to clinch all four Grand Slams in the same year since Rod Laver in 1969.

Following his victory, Djokovic reclaimed the world No.1 in men's singles ATP rankings on Monday, dethroning Spain's Carlos Alcaraz from the top with 11,975 points, 3260 points ahead of the Spaniard.

The 36-year-old made history again in New York, where he captured a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, matching Margaret Court's mark. The Serbian, who has now won the US Open four times, dropped just two sets en route to his fifth trophy of the season.

## INDIA GEAR UP FOR DO-OR-DIE BATTLE AGAINST UAE

### U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers

**Dalian (China) | Agencies**

After the heartbreaking defeat against hosts China by a slender margin, India U23 are determined to turn things around in their last match in Group G against UAE in the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers here on Tuesday.

A win for UAE will take them to the top of the group since they drew 1-1 in their first game against China, while India will have to win by a big margin at the Dalian Sports Centre Stadium to keep alive their hopes of qualifying as one of the top four second-placed teams in the competition.

"I'm very pleased with the way my players have reacted after the game against China. Their attitude is fantastic and their dedication and professionalism are unwavering," said India U23 Head Coach Clifford Miranda.

"These are the things that matter the most, especially in the first train-



ing session after a defeat. The boys are hurt because of the loss and the manner in which we lost, but their attitude is extremely positive, and they are raring to go again with the same spirit in the next game against

UAE," he told the official website of the All-India Football Federation (AIFF). Sharing his thoughts on the upcoming match against UAE, Miranda said: "UAE is both technical and physical, but I think we are capa-

ble enough to handle any kind of physicality. We are also very strong, even though we may be inferior in terms of height. There is no deterrent or excuse for matching up against the UAE."

When asked if there will be an attack-heavy approach to the last game, specifically because India will need to win big to give themselves a chance to qualify for the final round of the competition, the former India player said he believed it's a bit more complex than that.

"It's an international game and we can't just be thinking about scoring and leave openings that our opponents can capitalise on. The most important thing is to have a positive approach to go out and win the game but win the game with caution. We will assess the match-up and be careful in our approach. Of course, we need to play to win, but we need to win by being practical," Miranda was quoted as saying by aiff.com.

## Germany wins FIBA World Cup for first time, Schroder awarded MVP

**Manila | Agencies**

Germany defeated Serbia 83-77 to clinch its first FIBA Basketball World Cup title here. Dennis Schroder was named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament.

Schroder, boasting an average of 17.6 points, 6.1 assists, and 2 rebounds throughout the World Cup, delivered a game-high 28 points in the final. Franz Wagner contributed 19 points and seven rebounds, while Johannes Voigtmann added 12 points and eight rebounds, reports Xinhua.

For Serbia, Aleksa Avramovic led the scoring with 21 points, and Bogdan Bogdanovic chipped in with 17 points and five assists. Nikola Milutinovic, however, struggled, missing all four of his attempts and ending the game with just two points and four assists.

The Mall of Asia Arena felt like a



home game for Serbia, thanks to their passionate fans. However, concerns arose early on when Ognjen Dobric sustained an injury and had to leave the court just three minutes into the game. Historically, in each of the previous five finals in the 21st century,

the team leading at half-time emerged victorious. But Sunday's final saw both teams tied at 47 points at halftime.

A pivotal moment occurred in the third quarter when a contentious foul was called on Aleksa Avramovic as he

attempted to block Schroder's shot from behind the arc. Capitalizing on it, Germany went on a 9-0 run after Schroder converted two of his three free throws. Serbia faced offensive challenges, scoring only 10 points in the quarter and lagging by 12 points into the final quarter.

Avramovic, however, ignited in the fourth quarter. The 28-year-old guard netted 16 points, helping Serbia reduce the deficit to just three points with 1:21 remaining.

Schroder, demonstrating resilience under pressure, executed a layup and sank two free throws to secure the victory for Germany.

Germany remained undefeated by winning all eight games, and became the fourth European country and seventh overall to win the world crown. It also marked the first time a nation clinched the FIBA World Cup title in its debut in the final since Spain faced Greece in 2006.

## Golf: Diksha Dagar's run of Top-10 finishes ends with tied 21st spot in Big Green Egg Open

**Hilversum (The Netherlands) | Agencies**

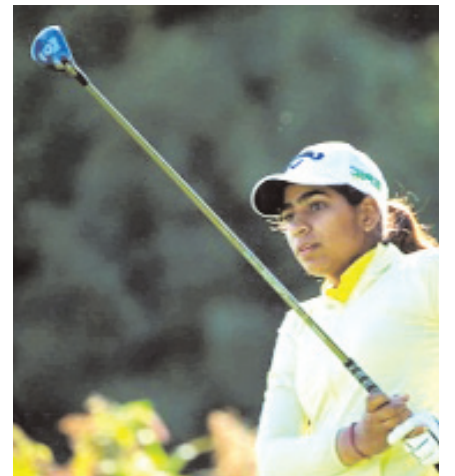
Diksha Dagar had another decent finish with a 2-under 70 card on the final day of the Big Green Egg Open in the Netherlands on the Ladies European Tour.

The 22-year-old left-hander, Diksha had rounds of 71-70-70 in a steady display, but not quite to maintain her run of Top-10 finishes.

Diksha, who had a late bogey, finished 5-under 211 and was Tied-21st. She had two birdies and one bogey on either side of the Hilversumsche Golf Club.

Despite a modest T-21 finish, Diksha stayed in third place in the Race to Costa Del Sol, the Order of Merit for the LET. It has been a great season so far for Diksha who has had one win and six Top-10 finishes with a consistent display on all fronts. She also notched up a career-best finish in a Major at T-21 in the AIG Women's Open.

As for the other Indians, Vani Kapoor (70) was T-39 at 1-under 215, while the other girls, Amandeep Drall, Tvesa Malik, Ridhima Dilawari and amateur Avani Prashanth had missed the cut. A thrilling final day saw Thai rookie Trichat Cheenglab landing her maiden LET title as she fired a 67 (-5) to win by one



shot. With seven players tied at the top before the final round, it was a close affair. In the 2023 Race to Costa del Sol, the top three players remained the same with Celine Boutier leading followed by Ana Pelaez Trivino in second and Diksha Dagar in third. Cheenglab moved into fourth on 1,317.72 points and extended her lead at the top of the Rookie of the Year standings.

## La Liga Awards: Memphis, Bellingham, Ancelotti declared best for August 2023

**Madrid | Agencies**

The Madrid clubs ruled the roost, claiming three out of the five categories in the La Liga Awards for the month of August 2023, with Real Madrid claiming two of them.

The La Liga Awards consist of five monthly categories for the best goal, best player, best coach, best play and best U23 player, while there will also be recognition for the Team of the Season and the greatest player in terms of their social contribution.

To decide these prizes, the opinion of an expert committee is combined with the views of the fans, who can vote for each month's winners on the website titled: Feel the power of our Fútbol.

Real Madrid's English star Jude Bellingham was adjudged the Player of the Month while Carlo Ancelotti won the Best Coach award.

The third award for the city of Madrid was claimed by Memphis of Atletico de Madrid in the Best Goal category, the La Liga informed in a release on Monday.

Bellingham claimed the Player of the Month award for his five goals in four rounds and his immediate impact across his first four La Liga games. He is one of the reasons why



Real Madrid are the outright leaders. Real Madrid's Ancelotti bagged the Coach of the Month award for being the only gaffer to win every game so far to start the season and for his ability to decide matches in the final minutes. Memphis Depay won the Goal of the Month award for his long-range strike against Granada CF in Matchday 1, leading Atlético de Madrid to their first win of the season, a 3-1 victory, at the Estadio Cívitas Metropolitano.

## WRC 2 : GAURAV GILL BOUNCES BACK FOR STRONG FINISH IN CHALLENGING ACROPOLIS RALLY OF GREECE

**Team Absolute | New Delhi**

Indian rally ace Gaurav Gill showcased impressive stage timings in challenging conditions at the Acropolis Rally of Greece. He bounced back strongly on the final day, ending stages 13 and 14 in the 10th and 8th positions in the WRC 2 classification. While the recce helped him develop a good strategy, the weather played spoilsport from the start of the rally, throwing challenges on the go.

Showing characteristic tenacity, the JK Tyre backed Gill was exceptional as he made his presence felt throughout all clean stages coupled with split times on the stages where he had breakdowns, his speed was off 0.5 to 1.0 seconds per kilometre of than WRC 2 leader Andreas Mikkelsen.

Indian motorsport's only Arjuna Awardee, Gill and his co-driver Barral Florian had gone into the hot, dusty, stages of the gruelling event expecting to be in their element. The pair were able to put up some wow moments in their Škoda Fabia R5.

Despite facing setbacks like torrential rain and dry weather which eventually cancelled the shake-down stage and curtailed a few more stages. The route conditions further led to a radiator issue in Gill's Car. The Punctures picked up on the rock-strewn terrain also dashed his hopes of a strong result. However, Gill bounced back strongly on the



final day ending stages 13 and 14 at the 10th and 8th positions in the WRC 2 classification, respectively. The rally seriously tested the mettle of the man and machine by throwing them off-guard with various trials. On his experience at the Acropolis

Rally, Gaurav Gill said, "It's not called the 'Rally of Gods' for nothing! This rally is known for its treacherous conditions, the biggest challenge that you can ask for in the WRC in terms of climate terrain and competitors.





## VICKY KAUSHAL SETS THE INTERNET ABLAZE AS HE GROOVES TO 'SOFTLY', CALLS IT A 'BANGER'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal, who is all set for the release of his upcoming family entertainer 'The Great Indian Family' (TGIF), on Monday shared a video of himself grooving to the tunes of a Punjabi track.

The actor, who is known for his works in movies like 'Masaan', 'Raazi', 'Uri: The Surgical Strike', 'Sardar Udham', among others, is very active on social media.

Taking to the Stories section of Instagram, Vicky dropped a behind-the-scenes (BTS) video of himself dancing during a photoshoot. He is dressed in formals - grey blazer, matching pants, white shirt and a stole. He completed the outfit with white shoes and black sunglasses. Vicky also flaunted his heavy bearded look.

Dancing to the tunes of Karan Aujla and

Ikky's song 'Softly', Vicky left his fans awestruck with his smooth moves. He captioned the reel: "The only way I know how to do photoshoots. What a banger by @karanaujla\_official veerey!"

Karan shared Vicky's video on his Instagram Stories and wrote: "TEACH ME THOSE MOVES PLEASE".

'The Great India Family' is directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya. It is set in the heartland of India and will revolve around the madness that ensues within Vicky's family due to some sudden developments that are beyond anyone's control.

It stars an ensemble cast of Vicky, Manushi Chhillar, Manoj Pahwa, Kumud Mishra, Sadiya Siddiqui, Alka Amin, Srishti Dixit, Bhuvan Arora, Ashutosh Ujjwal and Bharti Perwani.

The film is slated to release on September 22.

## Manjari Fadnis reveals she watches TV in her leisure time

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Actress Manjari Fadnis has shared she loves watching light hearted content, and revealed that the American TV sitcom 'Friends' is her go to thing, when she is stressed, and wants to relax.

'Friends' is created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman. It stars Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer. The show revolves around six friends in their 20s and 30s who live in Manhattan, New York City.

Best known for her performance in the film 'Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na', Manjari was first seen on television during the second season of the Indian version of the singing reality show 'Popstars', in 2003. She was one of the participants who made it to the finals for the musical band Aasma. She made her film debut in 2004 with 'Rok Sako To Rok Lo'.

Talking to IANS, Manjari shared about

the content she loves to watch on OTT in her leisure time.

"So I have a list of Korean dramas which I haven't yet watched, because there is so much content coming from India right now. So I have to finish watching that first. I love comedies.

'Friends' is my go to thing, and 'The Good Place' which I watched. So, I like watching these light hearted things as and when I can."

Further talking about the process she follows when

approaching a role for a film and OTT, Manjari said: "my simple process is to create an inner world for the character. To create my special backstory which may or may not be there on screen. Some roles are for pure entertainment. In such roles you have to just enjoy yourself on the screens and the audience will enjoy with you, because the camera will be catching all the energies of the set."



## SANYA MALHOTRA GETS NOSTALGIC

### 'Used to visit SRK's house just to pump ourselves up'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Sanya Malhotra, who is the part of the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Jawan', shared an anecdote on how she used to visit the latter's house during her initial days of her career.

Directed by Atlee, the action entertainer also stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone (in a special appearance), and Priyamani. Sanya plays the character of Dr Eeram in the movie.

In a Q&A session with her fans, Sanya took to Instagram Stories, and answered the queries asked by the audience for the movie 'Jawan'.

A fan asked: 'How was your experience working in Jawan?', to which she replied: "it was fantastic and definitely a dream come true for me I still can't believe still. But I am so happy that everyone is liking the film. I also liked it very much. Maine bahut sittyaaan maari. I am going to watch it again with my friends and family."

On working with SRK, the 'Ludo' actress said: "amazing. I hope and I pray I get to work with him again, because I got to learn so much from him. Just being around him was such a surreal experience for me as an actor. I still can't believe I am a part of 'Jawan'".

Sharing an anecdote, she said, "I am from delhi, and when I came to Mumbai 10 years ago, my roommates were all srk fans so whenever anybody's mood was off we used to go to bandstand and visit srk's house just to pump ourselves up..saying ye bhi dilli wale hain."

Sanya heaped praise on her co-star Deepika Padukone and called her acting superb. The diva also revealed that she likes both the roles of SRK in 'Jawan' - Captain Vikram Rathore, and IPS officer Azad.

A user asked to select between Jawan and Dangal. To this, she posted a boomerang of her index finger showing a denial.

On working with Atlee,

Sanya said: "I am so grateful to have worked with Atlee sir. he helped me get out of my comfort zone. it takes time for an actor to step out of their bubble or maybe try something new, but he really pushed me to find Eeram, to live Eeram, to be Eeram, i hope to get working with him again."

'Jawan' has collected Rs 286.56 crore net in India in the first four days of its theatrical run.



## Madhuri grooves at Beyonce's Renaissance concert

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit Nene recently attended Beyonce's Renaissance concert. The actress took to her Instagram to share a few pictures and a video of herself grooving to the performance of Beyonce.

The first picture is a selfie with her husband followed by a glimpse of singer Beyonce from the concert. Sharing the experience on the photo-sharing app Instagram, Madhuri wrote in the caption, "Who runs the world? Girls. Queen Bey was a highlight of our trip. Thanks @beyonce for sharing your magic with us Thanks @anjaliarav for making it possible."

As soon as Madhuri shared the video, fans were quick to respond in the comments section. One person wrote, "It's so funny that people in that stadium had no idea that you're a bigger star than Beyonce in India." Another person commented, "OMG YESSS! Two icons in one stadium!" "A QUEEN WATCHING A QUEEN I LOVE IT!" read another user's comment. Earlier, Madhuri shared an emotional note for her two sons as they left home for higher studies. Madhuri Dixit shared two images with her boys. In the first image, the mother and sons pose for the camera as they flash their brightest smiles.

Meanwhile, Beyonce's Renaissance concert has been attended by a lot of celebrities so far. Hollywood star Timothee Chalamet and Kylie Jenner were recently seen involved in the PDA at the event, the concert was also attended by Tom Holland and Zendaya.



## AR RAHMAN REACTS TO MISMANAGEMENT OF CONCERT, ORGANISERS ISSUE APOLOGY

Chennai | Agencies

Music maestro A.R. Rahman responded to the chaos and confusion during his highly anticipated concert 'Marakkumma Nenjam' on Sunday night.

The organisers of the show, ACTC Events issued a statement thanking Rahman for his show and apologised to the fans who could not attend their concert due to the confusion over entry.

ACTC events posted their comment in X (formerly Twitter) and said: "Grateful to Chennai and the legendary @arahman Sir! The incredible response, overwhelming crowd made our show a massive success. Those who couldn't attend on overcrowding, our sincere apologies. We take full responsibility. We are with you #MarakkummaNenjam"

Rahman shared the post without any comment and also reposted a message of a fan thanking him for the memorable event.

It may be noted that many fans turned furious after they could not make an entry to the programme venue and had complained that the show was oversold and that it was a major failure on the part of the organisers.

The concert happened at Adityaram palace, Chennai. Many fans were disappointed and furious at not being able to attend the concert due to overcrowding.

Fans who had bought tickets at rates of Rs 2000 were also not able to enter and many complained about the mismanagement of the event. They also blamed A.R. Rahman's team for the mismanagement.



Rashmika Mandanna