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NATION

'To be choked till death,' netizens slam Kejriwal over rising...



HOLLYWOOD

Heidi Klum talks about the 'commotion' with preparing her...



SPORTS

Afghanistan beat Netherlands; move to 5th in table...

Supreme Court not happy on denial of promotion to women armed forces officers

ARBITRARY

- The above observation was made by a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra as it heard a plea filed by women officers alleging denial of promotion owing to gender discrimination.
- The bench remarked that the women officers were being compelled to approach the Supreme Court as the attitude of the Army was to end the just entitlements of the these officers.
- It ordered that a fresh Special Selection Board will be reconvened no later than a fortnight. However, it clarified that those officers who have already been promoted shall not be distributed in any manner.

Team Absolute New Delhi

he Supreme Court on Friday said that it is "arbitrary" on part of the Army to deny promotion to women officers who were granted permanent commission pursuant to an earlier decision of the apex court.

The plea filed by women officers assailed the arbitrary criterion adopted by the board, which denied benefits to deserving women

The Defence Ministry had constituted a special selection board to examine the promotion of women Army officers after the top court granted permanent commission to them in 2020. In its landmark verdict, the apex court had extended permanent commission to women Short Service Commission



TENDER UNCONDITIONAL APOLOGY TO RS CHAIRPERSON: SC TO RAGHAV CHADHA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked suspended Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha to meet Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar and tender an unconditional apology for his alleged misconduct in the House. Chadha was suspended in August this year on charges of not taking the consent of five Rajya Sabha MPs before including their names in a select committee. In its order, a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud and comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said that the apology tendered by the AAP leader will be "sympathetically" considered by the Rajya Sabha Chairperson. The bench recorded the statement made by Chadha's lawyer that the suspended AAP MP will seek an appointment with Vice-President Dhankhar to explain that he had no intention to affect the dignity of the Upper House of Parliament.

BAMS DOCTORS ARE EQUIVALENT TO MBBS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of review petitions filed against its decision holding that AYUSH doctors possessing BAMS degrees are not entitled to equal pay as doctors holding MBBS degrees.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal declined to entertain the review pleas, saying that there is no error apparent on the face of the record, adding that even otherwise, there is no ground for review. In its April 26 verdict, the top court had said that the emergency duty and trauma care that allopathy doctors are capable of providing, cannot be performed by ayurveda doctors. It had emphasised that while there is a need to promote alternative/indigenous systems of medicine, the court cannot be oblivious of the fact that both categories of doctors are certainly not performing equal work to be entitled to equal

not granting permanent commission (PC) to women officers, in accordance with its order. In 2021, 39 women army officers got

Officers at par with their male counterparts.

Army that it will hold it guilty of contempt for

Earlier, the Supreme Court had warned the

Permanent Commission after winning a legal battle in the Supreme Court. A Permanent Commission means a career in the army till retirement, while Short Service Commission is for 10 years, with the option of either leaving or opting for Permanent Commission at the end of 10 years. If an officer doesn't get Permanent Commission then, the officer can choose a four-year extension.

'We are becoming over-suspicious': SC on PIL seeking **EVM-VVPAT** tally

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday, while hearing a petition filed by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) seeking a direction to cross-verify the vote count in Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) with votes "recorded as cast" in the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), observed that the petitioners are becoming overly suspicious. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S.N.V Bhatti heard the plea that sought a declaration that voters had a fundamental right to verify that vote has been "recorded as cast" and "counted as recorded" from the top court and crossverification of EVM data against VVPAT records.While hearing senior Advocate Prashant Bhushan appearing for PIL filed by ADR, Justice Sanjiv Khanna remarked, "We are becoming over-suspicious." Bhushan, while making his argument, had said that if only 2 per cent of EVMs were currently cross-verified and even if 10 per cent have a problem, then the chance of one of those EVMs being picked out of five randomly selected EVMs is only 40 per



AQI in Delhi remains 'severe'; some stations record marginal recovery

Team Absolute New Delhi

n yet another smoggy day, the air quality in Delhi-NCR continued to remain in the 'severe' category on Friday, though at some stations the Air Quality Index (AQI) improved slightly to reach the 'very poor' catego

In the national capital, the AQI at Anand Vihar remained in the 'severe' category with PM 10 at 446 while PM 2.5 was recorded at 376 under 'very poor' category. The NO2 was recorded at 101 and CO at 112 under 'moderate' category, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

At Bawana, the PM 2.5 reached 348 under 'very poor' category while PM 10 was at 277 under 'poor' category. The CO was recorded at 72 and NO2 at 40, both in

'satisfactory' levels, at 8 p.m. The station at Delhi Technical University (DTU) recorded PM 10 at 277 ('poor'), while PM 2.5 was at 144 ('moderate') and CO at 83, while NO2 dipped to 53.

The air quality at the IGI Airport area was in 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 326 and PM 10 at 263, while the CO reached 102 ('moderate') and NO2 touched 47 ('satisfactory'). The PM 2.5 at ITO was recorded at 337, putting it in the 'very poor' category while PM 10 reached 186, placing it under 'moderate' category. The NO2 was at 270 ('poor') and CO was recorded at 159 ('moderate') on Friday evening.

At Lodhi Road, the AQI with PM 2.5 concentration was at 358 under the 'very poor' category, while PM 10 was at 300 ('poor') and CO at

India's forex reserves rise by \$2.6 billion

Team Absolute | Mumbai

ndia's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$2.579 billion to \$586.111 billion during the week ended October 27, the RBI

said on Friday. The country's foreign exchange reserves had fallen by \$2.36 billion to \$583.53 billion during the week

ended October 20.

The increase comes as a welcome relief as RBI uses the country's forex reserves to stabilise the rupee when it turns volatile.

Any increase in the forex kitty gives the RBI more headroom to release dollars in the market and stabilise the rupee in case it goes into a free fall.

Oct 7 attack 100% Palestinian: Hassan Nasrallah

Tel Aviv | Agencies

ayyed Hassan Nasrallah, General Secretary of the Iran-backed Hezbollah, on Friday said that the Hamas brothers planned and conducted the October 7 attack on Israel alone

"The attack on October 7 was carried out by Palestinians only. It was 100 per cent Palestinian." Hezbollah Chief Hassan Nasrallah. In a televised speech, the Hezbollah leader said that the brothers of Hamas had kept the attack details completely secret and did not shared it with other resistance groups

Hassan Nasrallah said that Hezbollah did not have any ill feelings against the Hamas for keeping the operation



against Israel.

He said that the 'Al Aqsa Flood Operation' has exposed the weakness of Israeli intelligence.

"The October 7 attack has shook the ground," Hassan Nasrallah. The Hezbollah leader mocked the Israeli intelligence and military, saying that they could not rescue hostages even after one month. He also thanked the groups in Yemen and Iraq for taking part in the battle

Mastermind behind dissemination of morphed Hindu goddess' images arrested

Team Absolute New Delhi

elhi Police have apprehended the mastermind responsible for distributing morphed and offensive images of Hindu deities using impersonated email accounts, an officer said on

The officer said that the arrest is a crucial milestone in the ongoing battle against cybercrime and the prevention of attempts to sow discord and hatred among communities, which threaten to disrupt peace and harmony in society.

The accused was identified as Adarsh Saini, a resident of Haridwar,

Uttrakhand. According to police, on October 29, the Delhi Commission for Women forwarded a complaint by one Apurva Verma regarding the online circulation of offensive images of Hindu goddesses, which are deeply disturbing.

During the investigation, it was initial-



ly found that the sender of the offensive content identified as Rahul Kumar was presenting himself as such, sharing his

ments from those interested in purchas-

ing offensive material. 'Rahul Kumar, the suspect, was traced to Darbhanga, Bihar, and extensively examined. However, his involvement in the present case was ruled out, and it became evident that someone had been using his name and personal information to tarnish his reputation and falsely implicate him by circulating offensive images in his name," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (IFSO) Hemant

"The technical team tirelessly worked to identify the culprit responsible for sending offensive messages through impersonated email accounts," said the

The criminal employed sophisticated techniques to obscure his identity, operating under various impersonated email accounts to carry out malicious activi-

Andhra Pradesh to take up caste-based census

Amaravati | Agencies

he Andhra Pradesh government has decided to take up a comprehensive caste-based census in the state.

The decision was taken on Friday at a meeting of the state Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

During the discussion on the issue, the Chief Minister observed that the castebased census would be helpful for alleviating the lives of oppressed classes and taking their social empowerment to the next level

The decision has come amid the national debate over the issue after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar recently released the findings



of the caste-based survey. The Cabinet took several key decisions.

According to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office, it appreciated the Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha as 11,700 camps have been conducted so far in which 6.4 crore medical tests were car-

Bastar smells peace for first time in 40 years

Inhabitants of Bastar region spanning 40,000 sq km, which is made up of seven districts, claimed that Leftist rebel-sponsored violence has dipped significantly, creating a perfect ambience for peaceful polling in the picturesque terrain which has a track record of poll-related violence.

Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh) | Agencies

ribal people dominate Bastar region, which has 12 Assembly seats that will go to the polls on November 7.

The ruling Congress had won 11 seats in the last polls in 2018 while the BJP managed victory only in Dantewada. However, the Congress blanked out the saffron party in Bastar with a resounding win in the bypoll, which was necessitated after BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi was killed by Maoists in the run up to the Lok Sabha polls in

"For the first time since late 1980s, when Maoists started planned violence in the forested patches, Bastarias (residents of Bastar) are feeling less threatened. In fact, Maoists violence has sub-



sided heavily and Bastar is all set for relatively peaceful polling after four decades," claimed 55-yr old Lakhan Kunjam, who hails from the Darbha block at Jheeram valley in Bastar district.

The heavily forested Jheeram valley is the notorious site where Maoists had sprayed bullets on a convoy of top Congress leaders on May 30, 2013. The site now has an open-air poorly pillared

walled memorial in which 27 framed photos of martyred persons have been attached as a mark of respect, including those of former Union minister V.C. Shukla, then state Congress chief Nandkumar Patel, and former minister and anti-Maoist crusader Mahendra Karma, nicknamed as 'Bastar Tiger' for his fearless political campaign against armed Leftist outfits. Political analysts say that Bastar is heading for a split verdict in the Assembly polls rather than blindly favouring the Congress, just like in 2018. The BJP has been running a high-voltage door-to-door campaign in the interiors as there are enough signs that roughly 40,000 para-military troopers stationed at sensitive pockets all over Bastar have managed to cease rampant violence with the active support of peace-loving tribals.

Govt may hike limit for 'affordable homes' classification to Rs 75 lakh

Team Absolute | New Delhi

overnment is consid-Tering a proposal to raise the price limit for classifying homes in the "affordable housing" segment for cities like Delhi and Mumbai to Rs 75 lakh from the Rs 45 lakh cap that is in place at present.

"Classifying affordable housing as units up to Rs 45 lakh is unrealistic given the high price of land in cities, Dinesh Kapila, Economic Advisor at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MHUA) said on Friday.

"In response to the industry's call for improving the definition of affordable housing, a proposal has been forwarded to the Union Finance Ministry. We are particularly



concerned about high land prices in metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai, which make the current price range for affordable houses of less than Rs 45 lakh inade-

"We have requested the Finance Ministry to consider raising this threshold to at least Rs 75 lakh," Kapila said while speaking at the 12th Real Estate Conference and Excellence Awards programme, organised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in Delhi.

Classification under the affordable housing segment entitles buyers to avail of various government incentives and easier availability of

Highlighting the huge growth potential of India's real estate sector, Kapila said its size is likely to expand to around \$1 trillion by the end of 2030 and the sector's contribution to the country's GDP would be around 13

percent by 2026. Highlighting the importance of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, Kapila said that since RERA came into force close to 86 percent of the projects nationwide have been delivered to homebuyers which is a huge achievement.

'TO BE CHOKED TILL DEATH,' NETIZENS SLAM KEJRIWAL OVER RISING POLLUTION IN DELHI

Team Absolute New Delhi

s Air Quality Index (AQI) crashdived into 'severe' category, the netizens have come down heavily on the Delhi government and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for failing to curb the rising pollution lev-

"To be choked till death, every Delhiite is feeling like this! Where is Mr. Kejriwal hiding? Now in Punjab also they have their government," wrote a nitizen on social media.

Kejriwal had announced that in light of the rising pollution levels, all government and primary schools in Delhi will remain closed on Friday and Saturday."The number of stubble burning in Haryana is way less than what Punjab is doing. When will these politicians stop blame-game and start working for people," another nitizen wrote.

Kejriwal government had even imposed a ban on non-essential construction activities and on the plying of BS-3 petrol and BS-4 diesel cars in



Delhi Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar.

"Every year, the same deadly November. God help us and Kejriwal you got exposed yet again," another nitizen wrote. On Friday morning, the overall AQI in Delhi was in the 'severe' category. It is believed that the air pollution level is likely to remain unchanged for the next 3-4 days and may rise in the second week of November, when winds from the

northwest begin to arrive in Delhi, carrying more stubble-burning smoke."Kids and old people are suffering a lot because of the government's failure. When will we learn?" a pitizen wrote.

Pre-election cash, gold seizures in Telangana rises to Rs 453 crore

Hyderabad Agencies

Inforcement agencies in Telangana seized cash, gold, liquor, and other items worth Rs 15 crore during the last 24 hours, taking the total seizure to Rs 453 crore since the model code of conduct came into force for the November 30 Assembly elections.

According to election officials, Rs.7.98 crore cash was seized between 9 a.m. on November 2 and 9 a.m. on November 3. With this the total cash seized so far rose to Rs 164 crore.

The enforcement agencies had started the checking on October 9 when the model code of conduct came into force with the announcement of poll schedule by the Election Commission.

During the 24 hours period, precious metals worth Rs16 lakh were seized. The enforcement agencies have so far seized 264 kg gold, 1,091 kg silver, diamonds and

platinum, all worth more than Rs 165 crore. In continued crackdown

on the flow of liquor, the enforcement agencies seized liquor worth Rs 28.13 lakh, taking the cumulative seizure to Rs 52.93 crore. The authorities have so far seized 1.21 lakh litres of liquor. The state and central agencies have also seized 62 kg ganja and 169 kg NDPS.

The total seizure rose to 6,154 kg ganja and 1,299 kg NDPS, all worth Rs 27.58 crore. The authorities have also seized 1.61 lakh kg of

rice, cookers, sarees, twowheelers, four-wheelers, mobile phones, fans, sewing machines, clocks, lunch boxes, imitation jewellery and other items worth over Rs 43.86 crore.

The elections for 119-member state Assembly will be held in a single phase on November 30. With the notification for elections issued and the beginning of filing of nominations on Friday, the enforcement agencies have further tightened the vigil on violations of model code of conduct.

'India's food diversity a dividend for global investors,' says PM Modi after inaugurating World Food India festival

Team Absolute New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's food diversity is a dividend for global investors as he inaugurated the World Food India 2023 festival at Pragati Maidan, in Delhi.

He also disbursed seed capital assistance for over one lakh SHG members to strengthen self help groups (SHGs)

Modi hailed the technology and startup pavilion and food street showcased on the occasion, saying that the fusion of technology and taste will pave the way for the economy of the future

He said that the food security is a major area of focus and therefore Indian startups are now looking at a major investment opportunity. He said that the women-led self help groups (SHGs) will also stand to gain in terms of investment in the food processing sector.

He also underlined that the outcomes of World Food India are a huge example of India's food processing sector being recognised as the 'sunrise sector'.

In the last nine years, Modi said that the



sector has attracted foreign direct investment of more than Rs 50,000 crores as a result of the government's pro-industry and profarmer policies. Modi said that PLI scheme in the food processing sector has provided huge assistance to the new players in the industry.

He mentioned that work is underway on thousands of projects under the agri-infra Fund for post-harvest infrastructure with an approximate investment of more than Rs 50,000 crores while processing infrastructure in the fisheries and animal husbandry sector is also being encouraged with an investment of thousands of crores.

INDIA BLOC MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN PROPER RESPECT: AKHILESH

Saharanpur | Agencies

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav has said that the members of the INDIA bloc will not be disappointed and will be given proper honour and respect.

This comes a day after he had announced that SP would contest 65 seats in Uttar Pradesh.

Yadav, who was in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur to attend a private function on Thursday evening, also said it is now clear that there will be an alliance only in the parliamentary elections, not in state assembly polls.

"In all the alliances which the Samajwadi Party has entered into so far, it has given full respect to its members. Today, I am saying this in front of you that none of the alliance members were disappointed with SP earlier and nor will they be disappointed in the future," the SP chief told reporters.

"The numbers (65) were given as the people who had come to the meeting had given suggestions that the SP should contest on so many



seats or lay its claim on these seats. But I am saying this to you that in all the alliances so far, the effort had been to see to it that none of the chief said.
Exuding confidence, Yadav said,
"Only our alliance and the PDA
('pichhra, Dalit and alpsankhyak')

have betrayed the people of the

When asked about the recent spat with the Congress over seat sharing in Madhya Pradesh, Yadav said, "The issue of Madhya Pradesh has ended and it would be better if we do not raise it further. Maybe we got overconfident by sitting with some people that if they are talking to us they will take us along with them. Now, it is clear that there is no alliance at the state level, but the alliance at the national level."

About Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal getting a notice from the ED, Akhilesh said be it Kejriwal or Azam Khan or other legislators of the Samajwadi Party, if they raise the issues of the people, they will have cases against them.

"Arvind Kejriwal and Azam Khan's families are being harassed as the BJP feels that if they are crushed or demoralised, their entire party will be demoralised. But we have full faith in the public and judiciary that they will get justice one day," the SP chief said.

'HUNDREDS OF TRIBALS FLEE HOMES DUE TO MANIPUR POLICE RAIDS, ATROCITIES'

Imphal Agencies

Several tribal organisations and 10 tribal MLAs in Manipur on Friday claimed that hundreds of men, women and children out of fear left their villages at Moreh in Tengnoupal district due to the police commandos' search operation and "unprofessional conduct, atrocities and inhumane excesses" in the areas bordering Myanmar.

The MLA and the tribal organisations urged the Union Home Ministry to intervene into the matter immediately and ensure withdrawal of all the Manipur Police commandos deployed in Moreh and other Kuki-Zomi-Hmar tribal inhabited areas and replace them with neutral central forces.

The ten tribal MLAs and two leading tribal

organisations -- Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) and Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) - alleged that the Manipur Police Commandos launched the search operation in the aftermath of the killing of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) in Moreh Chingtham Anand Kumar by the suspected militants.

The 10 tribal MLAs in a joint statement on Friday said that on Wednesday, Sinam Kuki village in Tengnoupal district was attacked and houses, properties including vehicles were destroyed by the



Manipur Police commandos.

"In the operations that are underway at Moreh,

the state forces resorted to arson, indiscriminate fir-

ing, looting of civilian properties, vehicles, house-

hold items, including valuable ornaments, documents, gold, cash and unprovoked brutality, forcing common people, including women and children to flee into the nearby jungle. Several women have been mercilessly assaulted and molested by the commandos and admitted in the local hospital," the legislators claimed.

Hundreds of women, young boys and girls along with kids took shelter in front of the Assam Rifles camp in Moreh, a border town along Myanmar, 110 km from the capital city Imphal.

They said that the lack of faith that "our people have in the state forces stemmed from the innumerable instances of their direct involvement in attacking Kuki-Zomi-Hmar inhabited villages dur-

ing the current conflict".

"We have been voicing the serious concern and apprehension our people have against deployment of Manipur Police Commandos at various forums, including the Central government and requesting for their non-deployment in the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar dominated districts of Manipur. Despite that, more commandos have been deployed to Moreh result-

ing in fresh disturbances and violence."

The ten MLAs also demanded punishment of all erring state police and commando personnel "involved in the atrocities".

TWO KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN STAMPEDE IN BIHAR'S CHAPRA

Patna: Two women devotees were killed and several others injured in a stampede at a religious event in Bihar's Chapra city on Friday morning. Over a hundred devotees had

assembled for 'Gayatri Yagya' in the Masti Chak locality. As soon as the gate of the 'Yagya' was thrown open, the devotees rushed

On being informed, the district administration swung into action and rescued the victims Two unconscious

administration swung into action and rescued the victims. Two unconscious women were rushed to a hospital where doctors declared them brought dead.

Amar Samir, the district magistrate of Saran said, "It is not a kind of stampede. Over one hundred people tried to enter the premises at one go. Some of them fell down and got crushed by others. Two of the injured women were rushed to a hospital where they succumbed."The devotees had assembled here from Daudnagar in Aurangabad district.

Two day seminar at Vivekananda Global University (VGU) from today

Jaipur Agencies

Tivekananda Global University (VGU) is proud to announce its collaboration with Shri Rajdeepak Rastogi, the Additional Solicitor General of India (Rajasthan Incharge), in organizing the esteemed VGU R.K. Rastogi Memorial National Negotiation Competition. Scheduled to take place from the 3rd to the 5th of November, 2023, and showcasing participation from 30+ teams across India, this event promises to be an exemplary platform for aspiring legal minds across the nation.

The competition, dedicated to the memory of the eminent legal luminary R.K.
Rastogi, aims to foster the development of negotiation skills among the brightest law students. With Shri
Rajdeepak Rastogi's extensive legal expertise and VGU's



commitment to academic excellence, this event will provide a forum for participants to showcase their negotiation prowess, critical thinking, and legal acumen. Vivekananda Global University (VGU) is proud to announce its collaboration with Shri Rajdeepak Rastogi, the Additional Solicitor General of India (Rajasthan

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Noida Agencies

rive people have been arrested from Noida for supplying snakes and venom for rave parties, allegedly organised by YouTuber and Big Boss OTT winner Elvish Yadav, who is on the run.

Nine venomous snakes were recovered during the raids, police said.

Based on a complaint filed by the

Based on a complaint filed by the People For Animals (PFA) organisation, the Noida police raided a banquet hall located in Sector 51 and arrested five people.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Rahul, Titunath, Jaikaran, Narayan and Ravinath.

The PFA in the complaint said Elvish organises rave parties in which they invite foreign and arrange poisonous snakes.

Elvish Yadav, who has been named in an FIR lodged by UP Police for reportedly supplying snake venom at a rave party, has called the accusations baseless and said that he is willing to cooperate with the authorities on the same.

Elvish took to Instagram, where he shared his statement in Hindi: "I woke up to news that Elvish Yadav has been arrested. Elvish Yadav has



'BIG BOSS' OTT WINNER ELVISH YADAV BOOKED FOR HOSTING RAVE PARTIES. 5 ARRESTED

been caught with drugs etc. These things that are being spread against me. All these accusations against me are baseless. These are all fake. There is not even a single percent of truth in it. I am willing to cooperate with the UP Police." He said that if he has even a percentage of involvement, he is ready to take the blame.

"I would request UP Police, Honourable Chief Minister and Yogi Adityanath ji that if I am even caught with 1 per cent of involvement then I am ready to take all responsibility on me and I request the media, if you don't have all evidence against me please don't spoil name. I have no links with all the accusations made. If it's proved then I am ready to take the blame," he said.

Five people have been arrested from Noida for supplying snakes and venom for rave parties, allegedly organised by YouTuber and Big Boss OTT winner Elvish Yadav, who is on the run. Nine venomous snakes were recovered during the raids, police said. Based on a complaint filed by the People For Animals (PFA) organisation, Noida police raided a banquet hall located in Sector 51 and arrested five people.

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Maha stretch of Mumbai-Ahmedabad 'killer highway' to be concretised: Gadkari

Team Absolute Palghar

inister for Roads Nitin Gadkari said that a 121-km long stretch of the Mumbai-▲Ahmedabad National Highway -- which has become a 'death trap' killing many, including the late Tata Group Chairman Cyrus Mistry in September 2022 -- will be concretised and widened from next month.

The Minister was speaking at a function to celebrate the golden jubilee of Vasai Janata Cooperative Bank in Vasai town here.

Gadkari said that ever since the highway was constructed, it was beset with many accidents and he himself termed it as a 'death trap', admitting that he also experienced the difficulties while going there for today's event.

"The 121-km stretch in the state will be concre-



tised and widened at a cost of Rs 600 crore and work will begin next month. The upcoming Delhi-Mumbai Corridor will also be linked with Vasai so the people here cna get direct access to Mumbai," declared Gadkari, amid applause.

foot over bridges which would considerably ease traffic woes in the Vasai-Virar region, he informed Bahujan Vikas Aghadi President Hitendra Thakur, Kshitij Thakur, Rajesh Patil, all legislators from different constituencies in the Palghar district.

Besides the concretisation project, the highway stretch between Dahisar and Talasari will be widened from existing eight to 12 lanes, a 40-metre ring road will be built to connect four major towns within the Vasai Virar Municipal Corporation (VVMC) limits, and roads of five cities en route linking the highway shall also be made of concrete.

Thakur and others pointed out that many pending road works in the VVMC came under central jurisdiction and it was only after constant follow-up with New Delhi that the projects were finally cleared by Gadkari.

Bombay HC denies RTI request for structural audit information

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he public information

officer of the Bombay

High Court has rejected a Right to Information (RTI) application pertaining to the structural audits of the court's heritage building in south Mumbai, stated a PTI report. Reportedly, the decision was based on the claim that divulging such information could jeopardise the safety of the judges and other officials. Environmental activist Zoru Bathena, who had lodged the RTI request, sought copies of the most recent three structural audits conducted on both the main and annexe buildings of the Bombay High Court, the report stated. Bathena's purpose was to use this information in a separate case concerning the restoration of the 135-year-old reservoir at Malabar Hill in south Mumbai. Explaining his motive, Bathena pointed out that the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation had contended that the reservoir was beyond repair and needed reconstruction. To counter this argument, he wanted to present the illustrations of the HC and BMC headquarters buildings,



than reconstruction. "The Brihanmumbai **Municipal Corporation** claimed that the reservoir was beyond repair and needed to be reconstructed. We wanted to give examples of the high court building and the BMC's headquarters building, which are also over a century old but are being repaired and not reconstructed," Bathena was quoted as saying. The activist claimed while he had High Court." received the structural audit reports for the BMC building, the high court declined to disclose it. The response from the high court's public

Bathena's application, citing that the requested information was not linked to broader public activities or interests. The reply stated, "The information sought is exempted from disclosure for security purposes. The information sought is also exempted as disclosure of the same would endanger the life or physical safety of the Hon'ble judges and officials of the Hon'ble Bombay

Furthermore, the response stated that the information was held within a "fiduciary relationship," emphasizing the importance of preserving the confidentiality of such sensitive data.

MVA slams Eknath Shinde for inviting 'shady' Elvish Yadav to Ganeshotsav pooja

Team Absolute Mumbai

aharashtra's opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi on Friday slammed the presence of "a dubious drug addict" who was allegedly invited to the official residence of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to perform a pooja during Ganeshotsav along with other celebrities.

The person is YouTuber and social media influencer Siddharth alias Elvish Yadav, who was present and seen performing an aarti at the CM's home on September 25, at the height of the Ganeshosav

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar of the Congress said that not only was a "toxic drug addict" like Elvish Yadav present, he was also accorded hospitality by the CM and felicitated with a shawl and coconut.

"The CM had invited Elvish Yadav to 'Varsha' bungalow.. and now, he (Elvish) has been booked by police for committing the serious crime of making, consuming and selling drugs derived from snake venom," he said.

Shiv Sena-UBT Deputy Leader Sushma Andhare sought to know how could a person accused of making drugs from snake venom reached the CM's bungalow, interact with him and even allowed to



perform a pooja there.

Demanding to know whether the CM's official residence 'Varsha' has become a "tourist hotspot" for junkies, state Congress chief spokesperson Atul Londhe demanded to know the circumstance leading to Elvish Yadav's presence as a "special invitee" at the high security zone.

"This Elvish Yadav who organises rave parties using venomous snakes is booked by Noida Police for the offence, and live poisonous snakes too have been recovered," he said.

Nationalist Congress Party-SP national

spokesperson Clyde Crasto wondered if the CM was so busy in self-publicity and self-promotion that a person with such antecedents managed to gain access inside 'Varsha'.

"If the credentials of such a person reportedly linked with banned substances like snake venom are not verified properly, then what is the guarantee of the safety and security of the ordinary masses with such elements freely moving around?" he

Wadettiwar asked if the CM is attempting to promote an 'intoxicated person' like Elvish Yadav as a 'role model' for the state's youth and entertaining a

person who uses abusive language against women. Londhe recalled that during the tenure of former CM Devendra Fadnavis, the pictures of Pune's dreaded gangster, Kamlakar alias Baba Bodke with him had surfaced in 2016, creating a furore.

In a sensational development today, Elvish Yadav has been booked by the Noida police for allegedly supplying deadly snakes and venom for a rave party from where nine snakes were also recovered.

Based on a complaint filed by the NGO, People For Animals (PFA), police swooped on a party hall and arrested five persons, though Elvish Yadav has denied the allegations, and is believed to be

Mumbai air pollution: BMC tells builders, contractors to follow dust mitigation norms

Team Absolute | Mumbai

he Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has served notices to over 100 contractors and real estate firms involved in private and government projects across Mumbai asking them to comply with the dust mitigation norms or face consequences as the city grapples with poor air quality, stated a report.

According to the report, the civic body's notice was directed at contractors and real estate firms in cally in the suburb of Malad. The initiative, reportedly, will enhance Mumbai's Air Quality Index

Kiran Dighavkar, Assistant Municipal Commissioner of P-North ward, was quoted in the PTI report explaining that the notices were issued to 97 under-construction private sites and 27 under-construction government projects--including roads, stormwater drains and bridges in Malad area--totalling 124. The letters instruct them to adhere to dust mitigation and other anti-pollution guidelines, with potential actions if they fail to com-

"We have issued (identically worded) letters to all of them to follow (dust mitigation and other antipollution) guidelines failing which necessary actions will be initiated," Dighavkar said.

Recently, the civic body introduced a new set of guidelines for mitigating air pollution in Mumbai, giving builders and contractors one month to obtain sprinklers and fogging machines for con-



stop-work notices to construction firms at this point, Dighavkar clarified that the letters serve to ensure that builders and contractors implement basic preventive measures against air pollution until they acquire the necessary equipment.

Furthermore, BMC's P-north ward has issued a notice to the contractor responsible for the ambitious Goregaon Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project in the western suburbs, instructing them to follow air pollution mitigation guidelines. "All the work of constructing roads, drains, and bridges to be carried out by taking proper permission of construction and demolition. All the sites should have CCTV cameras to monitor vehicle movements," read the BMC notice to GMLR.

Blast-fire in Maha pharma factory, five injured & 10 trapped

information officer, dated

November 1, rejected

Team Absolute Raigad (Maharashtra)

both over a century old but

undergoing repair rather

t least five persons were injured and another 10 trapped in a massive fire after an explosion in a pharmaceutical factory at Mahad MIDC here on Friday, officials said.

The deafening blast was heard around 11 a.m. and then thick dark smoke was seen emanating from the factory premises of BlueJet Healthcare Ltd., said an official of Mahad MIDC Police



and police teams along with local volunteers rushed to the spot to battle the blaze and at least five injured victims were brought out.

Another 10 are still feared trapped on the burning

to be on duty on Friday, though the police and company officials in Navi Mumbai declined to comment on the tragedy. As per preliminary reports,

a suspected gas leak may have led to the explosion and the fire that led to chaos and the flames started spreading in other units within the factory premises, said an eyewitness. Among the five injured, the condition of two is stable and three others are reported to be critical at the Mahad rural hospital where they are being treated.

Spice & pickles king Atul Bedekar dies at 56 in Mumbai

Team Absolute | Mumbai

tul V. Bedekar, the spice and pickles king, and Director of the V. P. Bedekar & Sons group, passed away following a prolonged illness early on Friday, family sources said here. He was 56 and breathed his last around 12.30 a.m. at a private hospital after long

fight with cancer. Bedekar's last rites were performed a crematorium in south Mumbai.

All shops and outlets of the 113-vear-old Bedekar group remained close as a mark of respect for Bedekar, the fourth generation scion of the business enterprise selling its



The Bedekar group and traditions of spices, pickles, papads, ready-mixes, etc. was started by the late V. P. Bedekar in a modest way as a grocery shop in Girguam in 1910. To remain relevant and competitive in the business, his teenaged son V. V. Bedekar launched a range of spices in 1917 and pickles in 1921, which caught the eyes and taste of the connoisseurs. This led to an expansion of the Bedekar shops at Thakurdwar, Parel, Dadar and Fort and the clientele expanded in leaps in bounds.

To cope with the growing demands, he added five new manufacturing units and formed it as a private limited company in 1943, with current turnover exceeding over Rs 100 crore. The Bedekar brand and

products are virtually household names in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and available on shelves in the US. Canada. Middle East, Australia, Europe and far eastern coun-

Man wanted to buy gold at cheaper rate, duped of Rs 1 crore

Team Absolute Thane

wo persons allegedly cheated a Navi Mumbai resident of Rs 1.05 crore by promising to sell him gold coins at a cheaper rate, police said on Friday. According to the complainant, the accused, Neeraj Khandagale and Nitu Kadam contacted him to inform him that a pot filled with gold coins was found in Goa and the valuables were available for sale at a cheaper rate, an official said.

The complainant paid the accused Rs 1.05 crore in installments between March 2022 and July 2023. However, he did not receive any gold despite making the full payment, he said. The Panvel police on Thursday registered an offence under section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, and further probe is underway, the official said.

CONMAN POSING AS CBI OFFICIAL NABBED ACCEPTING BRIBE IN NAGPUR

Team Absolute Nagpur

he Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested a conman posing as a "CBI official" while accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from a railwayman, an official said here. According to the complaint, the accused Sadiq Qureshi impersonated himself as a PA to the DIG, CBI Nagpur, and approached the Central Railway (CR)'s Senior Divisional Mechanical



Later, the sleuths raided Engineer here.

Qureshi claimed that there were some complaints pending against the rail officer with the CBI and said that he could "take care" of them in return for a bribe of Rs 20

lakh. Following the complaint, the CBI set a trap and caught the accused Qureshi red-handed while demanding the advance payment of Rs 1 lakh from the railway.

Oureshi's premises and recovered some incriminating documents from there.

The CBI produced him before a Special CBI Court which remanded him to the agency's custody till Monday, November 6.

CM Eknath Shinde has given instructions to withdraw cases against pro-quota agitators: Uday Samant

Team Absolute Mumbai

day after Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange ended his indefinite fast for Maratha quota, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant on Friday said that the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government is committed to providing reservation to the Maratha community.

He further said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has given instructions to withdraw cases against pro-quota agitators.

"On Manoj Jarange Patil's demand to withdraw the agitation cases against the youth of Maratha community, CM Eknath Shinde has given instructions that the first agitation cases will be withdrawn in the next 15 days and all the remaining cases will be withdrawn within a month. Manoj Jarange Patil has also demanded that compensation should be given to the farmers who have suffered losses. Around 441 farmers will be given full compensation. The government has recorded demands of Manoj Jarange Patil in written form and started required work," Uday Samant said.

While addressing a press conference, Samant thanked Jarange for calling off

"I thank Manoj Jarange Patil and his colleagues for ending their hunger strike and cooperating with the state government. I thank the retired judges who played an important role. I was in the delegation yesterday and we had a detailed discussion with Manoj Jarange Patil. We assured them that our government will provide permanent reservation to the Maratha community. The government is committed in ensuring reservation for the Maratha community. We assured them that there would be no need to protest in Mumbai again. Manoj Jarange Patil has given us two months. In these two months, the govern-

ment will work faster," Uday Samant said. "The government has started issuing the Kunbi certificates. The Shinde Committee is working seriously and vigorously. It is good that they have found a large number of Kunbi records and work has been started to find more such records," he added.



The Maharashtra Industries Minister further said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers are monitoring these developments.

There have been many Chief Ministers from the Maratha community in Maharashtra but only CM Eknath Shinde can give reservation to the Maratha community and he is working honestly and positively for it," Uday Samant said.

Samant further added that Manoj Jarange Patil calling off his hunger strike is a setback for vested interest groups. "The Maratha community marched peacefully in Maharashtra from 2014 to 2019 and never resorted to violence, but this time some people tried to defame the Government and Manoj Jarange Patil by resorting to violence," he added.

On Thursday, Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange ended his nine-day-old indefinite fast for Maratha quota, but warned of a bigger agitation if no action was taken in two months on giving reservation benefits to the community.

EDITOR'S SPECS

NEW IMMIGRANTS LEAVING CANADA IN GROWING NUMBERS

ven as Canada plans to admit from 2025, a new study has revealed that more and more newcomers were leaving the country. The joint study, titled 'The Leaky Bucket' by the Institute for Canadian Čitizenship (ICC) and the Conference Board of Canada, said the growing numbers of immigrants are leaving Canada because of housing affordability, poor job market and burdened healthcare system. As per the report data, the trend among newcomers to leave Canada increased suddenly in 2017 and 2019. With new immigrants adding almost 1.3 percent to Canada's population each year, Daniel Bernhard, CEO of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship which commissioned the study, said: "After giving Canada a try, growing numbers of immigrants are saying 'no thanks', and are moving on.
That's not just a problem for immigrants. That's a problem for everyone. "As" Canada relies more and more on immigrants to fill acute shortages in key sectors like housing and healthcare, our ability to retain them is becoming a matter of vital national interest. "Simply put, if Canada cannot deliver for newcomers and help them become Canadian in their passports and in their hearts, we may soon be discussing our prosperity in the past tense." Stefan Fournier, Executive Director at The Conference Board of Canada which did the study, said: "Our research in this area shows that immigration leads to economic growth, improves the worker-to-retiree ratio and eases labour shortages that add to inflation. But as our research shows, attracting immigrants is only one part of the equation, we also need to retain them once they're here in Canada." The study has recommended that federal, provincial and local governments put in place programmes that help new immigrants settle in Canada, invest in housing and healthcare and support employers to recruit, hire, and retain immigrant work-

Consumer forum, insurance scheme not of much help to farmers in fake agrochemicals crisis

Sanavver Shafi

armers in Madhya Pradesh have been losing their crops, hard work and money to fake and substandard agrochemicals every season. But they do not manage to get compensation even if they have a bill regarding the purchase. "To complain in the consumer forum, we will need a proper bill. But the dealers selling agrochemicals give us a piece of paper with only the amount written on it. Even if we lodge a complaint, our chances of winning are negligible as the bill is not in the prescribed format (without the address of the dealer, seal or date of purchase)," said Manoj Meena, whose 18-acre soybean cultivation at Rampura Balachon in Berasia tehsil of Bhopal district was ruined after use of insecticide that turned out to be spurious.

However, not many have managed to get relief through the consumer forum. Rashtriya Kisan Mazdoor Mahasangh national president Shivkumar Sharma said over 200 farmers of Harda district lost soybean crop on a total of 5,000 acres after using chemicals bought from local retailer Harsh Agro in the kharif season of 2018. Of them, 30 came together to file a case against the local seller and agrochemical company Vision Organics in the District Consumer Forum. On May 9, 2019, the forum ordered Vision Organics to give compensation ranging from Rs 80,000 to 1.65 lakh, depending on the area of damage. The government has authorised Reliance General Insurance to provide crop insurance under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in Bhopal district. Meena had also insured his kharif crop by paying Rs 7,260 to the company. However, he claimed that the insurance firm had complex rules, which prevented farmers like him from claiming compensation. When asked about substandard agrochemicals-induced crop damage, Akash Parashar, Bhopal district officer of Reliance General Insurance, told 101Reporters that insurance claims can be made in such cases. "However, as per the rules, they can be compensated only if 80 to 90 per cent of the farmers in a halka (an area comprising two to three villages] suffer crop loss. Furthermore, the crop damage survey reports of the tehsildar and that of the company should match. Only then will the claims of farmers be approved," he informed, while reminding that the farmers have to deposit only 2 per cent of the fixed premium rate in the kharif season, and that the remaining amount is jointly given by the Central and state governments. Meanwhile, farmers claimed that the Central and state governments always assure them that the insurance company will compensate for the loss of individual farmers as well. But



the reality is that it does not happen on the ground. The chances of claims getting rejected are very high, unless the locality or district is affected by the issue. Taking this point forward, Munnalal Rajput of Rampura Balachon said the matter applied to all claim pleas. "If a farmer's crop is damaged in drought or flood or due to other reasons, then the insurance company says he cannot claim his compensation if not a majority of the farmers in that area suffered losses in that disaster. Even if the entire district was affected, the farmers cannot claim insurance until the administration declares drought." When this is the condition even in the case of well-defined disasters such as drought, the farmers affected by spurious agrochemicals have least scope of relief, until and unless the government conducted a survey of the damage caused by counterfeit inputs and declared the district as affected. While insuring the crop, farmers are given cover notes or slips. All the rules and regulations are explained to farmers before we take the insurance amount from them. If their crops get damaged due to a disaster or other reasons, then a notification will be issued by the district Collector. Only after that can they avail of the benefit. Farmers have to inform the district administration and insurance company within 72 hours for the loss assessment process. For this, toll free numbers have been issued by both the company and the government," he claimed.

Spotlight on awareness campaigns Awareness programmes to educate farmers on spurious agricultural inputs are inadequate or are only on paper. Bharatiya Kisan Union's Berasia tehsil president Devendra Singh Dangi said names of branded companies such as Bayer, Syngenta, Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals, Coromandel International Limited and Indian Potash Limited are used by fake manufacturers. "A factory inspection in Jabalpur on August 6 revealed that even cement, salt and marble ash were used to make spurious fertilisers," he added. BL Bilaiya, Joint director (in-charge), agricultural department, told 101Reporters that the department has been raising awareness among farmers through phone calls, messages, mobile apps and camps. "This kharif season, 124 camps have been organised in villages." Citing the camp organised recently in Berasia tehsil, PS Goval, Senior Agricultural Extension Officer, told 101Reporters that farmers were taught how to identify the agrochemicals available in the market. "They were also informed about the Government of India's toll free number 18001801551 to identify real and fake agrochemicals through call or message." However, Shivkumar Sharma alleged that farmers get nonstandard goods from both government warehouses and vendors selling registered agricultural chemicals from different districts across the "In the rabi season (November 2022 to April 2023), about 80 tonnes of NPK fertilisers that reached the government warehouses in Raisen district have been distributed to the farmers by the time the sample report that it was nonstandard came. Farmers had to bear the brunt due to the sluggish attitude of officials. They do not take enough samples on time. Even if they do, the sample reports come very late. Many times, traders collude with the lab officials to get a favourable report," Sharma detailed. Deputy Secretary Tarun Bhatnagar acknowledged that farmers still complained that fertilisers and pesticides were not giving the intended results, even after getting a clean chit in the investigation report. To deal with this situation, an investigation committee was formed in February last year and case studies from different districts were done, which laid bare the busimeasure, a new faceless method has been introduced, in which samples are sent to labs for testing using OR codes. We signed a memorandum of understanding with the postal department to make this possible. Neither the lab operator will know from which place the sample came nor the businessman will know to which lab the sample went," Bhatnagar explained. Proactive measures required Replying to a starred question from Gohad

divisions of Madhya Pradesh. "As a remedial

(Bhind) MLA Mevaram Jatav in the state Assembly on March 24 last year, Farmer Welfare and Agriculture Development Minister Kamal Patel said that 35,116 fertiliser samples were taken for testing from marketing cooperative unions and primary agricultural credit societies in the preceding five years. Of them, 3,123 were found to be non-standard. He informed the Assembly that there is a provision to return the money that farmers spent on spurious agrochemicals through the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (MP Markfed), provided the farmers submitted their claims. However, due to non-submission of claims as prescribed by the Non-standard Fertiliser Fund, the amounts were not returned. The MP Markfed has deposited this money with the fund as per the rules. Patel said 10 FIRs have been registered in connection with the non-standard samples, while five cases have been filed in the court. Show cause notices have been issued in the remaining cases, and the sale of the remaining non-standard stock has been banned in accordance with the Fertilizer (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985, he informed. Raising doubts over the awareness camps, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh's provincial president Kailash Singh Thakur alleged that their implementation was not effective. "You can guess from the minister's answer in the Assembly, what the status of awareness programmes is. If they were being held properly, the number of farmers filing for compensation would definitely have increased, but that is not happening. It simply means that either the camps are being conducted on paper or the correct information is not being conveyed to the farmers through these camps," he said. As a result, fake agrochemicals units take advantage of the illiteracy and lack of awareness of farmers to continue with their nefarious activities.

(Sanavver Shafi is a Madhya Pradesh-based freelance journalist and a member of 101Reporters, a pan-India network of grassroots

international

IDF EXCHANGES FIRE AT WEST BANK REFUGEE CAMP

Manama Agencies

he Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Friday exchanged fire at the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, where it says that several Hamas militants were hiding.

militant targets and also killed many of them. The IDF added that heavy firing is currently

underway in the area. The army also said that there were no IDF casual-

Bahrain suspends economic ties

with Israel, envoy returns home

ties as of now. According to the UN Relief Works Agency



(UNRWA), the Jenin refugee camp borders the Jenin municipality and is the northernmost camp in the

There are about 23,628 Palestine Refugees registered in the camp as of 2022, it added.

refugee camp in Gaza -- the largest in the Hamascontrolled enclave -- came under two back-to-back Israeli attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Israeli military confirmed that both the attacks were due to airstrikes in which Hamas militants were killed and facilities destroyed.

Blast targeting police patrol

in Pakistan kills five

he government in Bahrain announced that

it has suspended economic ties with Israel in wake of the ongoing war in Gaza. adding that the country's envoy to the Jewish nation has also returned home. Israel and Bahrain had nor-

malised their ties in 2020 under the so-called us-brokered "Abraham Accords", reports Xinhua news agency. In a statement late

Thursday, the Arab nation's Council of Representatives that the decisions confirmed Bahrain's support of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. However, Israel insisted that

no such decision was made and that ties between the two countries remain "stable"

'We would like to clarify that no notification or decision has been received from the gov-



ernment of Bahrain or the government of Israel to return the countries' ambassadors," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Relations between Israel and Bahrain are stable," it

On Tuesday, Bolivia severed its diplomatic relations with Israel, citing the Palestinian death toll in Gaza due to Israeli strikes, while Jordan, Chile, and Colombia recalled their ambassadors.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lior Haiat denounced Bolivia's decision as "a surrender to terrorism' and accused the South American country of "aligning itself with Hamas"

Islamabad Agencies

t least five people were killed and 21 others injured in a blast that targeted a police patrol in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said. The incident took place in Dera Ismail Khan

city, Dawn news reported. According to the police, a patrol van was tar-

geted with an improvised explosive device planted on a motorcycle in Ponda Bazar area.

Following the incident, a heavy contingent of police along with rescue teams reached the area and shifted the wounded to a nearby hospital, Xinhua news agency reported.

Security forces cordoned off the place and kicked off a search operation in surrounding

No group or individual claimed responsibility

Friday's incident comes just days after a policeman was killed after unidentified gunmen opened fire at a police camp in Dera Ismail

The same day, two soldiers were killed in an IED blast in South Waziristan district, also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In recent months, Pakistan has witnessed an



increase in terrorist attacks, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, Dawn news reported. Last month, the Pakistan Institute for Conflict

and Security Studies (PICSS) said the number of militant attacks in August was the highest tally for monthly strikes in almost nine years.

There were 99 attacks across the country, the highest number in a single month since November 2014, the PICSS had said.

Without American support Israel will be silenced within days: Khamenei

Tehran Agencies

n a social media post in the Hebrew language, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday said the Jewish nation

nessmen-lab operator nexus. The investigations were held in all 10

within days". In his post on X, Khamenei said the "Zionist entity (Israel) is lying to you, and it is also lying when it expressed concern about its prisoners with the Palestinians".

The prisoners were in reference to the Israeli hostages being held by the Hamas militant group in Gaza.

According to Israeli authorities, 242 people are currently held captive in Gaza, including Israelis and foreign nationals.

Khamenei went on to allege that Israel is "helpless and confused now".

"And without American support (Israel) will be silenced within days," the supreme leader

Escalation on the Lebanese-Israeli border



began when Hezbollah fired multiple rockets on October 8 toward Israeli military sites in support of the Hamas's surprise attack on the Jewish nation on October 7

In response, the Israeli forces fired heavy artillery on southeastern Lebanon on the same

UNGA votes overwhelmingly against US embargo on Cuba

United Nations Agencies he UN General Assembly (UNGA) has voted by a large margin against the US' economic and trade embargo against Cuba, first

imposed in 1960. Titled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the resolution put forward each year against the embargo garnered support from 187 states, with only Washington and Israel casting against and Ukraine abstaining, reports Xinhua news agency.

Debate on the resolution began Wednesday and extended into Thursday

The General Assembly reiterated its call for all states to refrain from promulgating and applying such restrictive laws and measures in line with their obligations under the UN

The more than 60-year blockade violates the rights of all Cubans, said Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, noting that



80 per cent of the population in his country has never known life without the crippling US blockade.

He added that it is "an act of economic warfare, in times of peace", creating a situation of ungovernability and an attempt to destroy the constitutional order.

Aurelie Flore Koumba Pambo, representative of Gabon to the UN, voiced her country's concern over the continuing embargo.

"The scale of its impact is more and more harmful to the Cuban people," she said during the debate, noting that the economic blockade is "clearly a hostile act to region and continental cohesion.'

She called it an "obstacle to the social and economic development of Cuba." Peruvian UN Ambassador

Luis Ugarelli said his country shares the view of practically the entire international community" that the embargo is against the principles of the UN Charter and international human rights law, noting Peru would support the resolution, as it has done for more than 30

There were 91 people on board the buses, including the drivers.

The buses were believed to have failed to slow down in the congested sec-

t least 59 people were injured on Friday from a pile-up involving five

the three commuter buses, one intercity bus and one chartered bus took

place on the southbound lane near the Suwon interchange at 7.23 a.m.,

Yonhap News Agency quoted the police as saying.

wounded and taken a hospital.

buses on an expressway in South Korea. The rear-end collisions among

No death was reported, but a driver of the chartered bus was seriously

A total of 58 passengers were treated for minor injuries to their necks and





Madhya Pradesh

ASSEMBLY POLLS: REBELS CONTINUE TO TROUBLE BJP, CONGRESS CANDIDATES

Team Absolute Bhopal

he Congress and BJP's efforts to convince some of their rebels to bow out of the contest at the last minute were a success, but, many have remained in the poll fray as the deadline for withdrawal of nomination has ended. The deadline ended on Thursday and not all rebels from both parties backed out.

Many of the rebels have stayed put as independent candidates after they were denied tickets from their respective political parties -- the Congress and the ruling BJP. This has made the contest more interesting. Importantly, in some of these seats, the rebels are from close

The Congress leadership managed to convince around one-and-a-half dozen of its workers to withdraw their nomination and give a sense of relief for the party's candidates, however, the problem could not be resolved in nearly a dozen of Assembly seats.

For instance, rebel Congress candidate Antar Singh Darbar did not withdraw his nomination from the Dr Ambedkar Nagar-Mhow Assembly constituency and announced instead that he was leaving the party.

Darbar, a two-time Congress MLA, filed papers as an independent on October 29 after the party denied him



ticket. The Congress instead fielded Ramkishore Shukla. Shukla had left Congress and joined the BJP but he was cajoled back to the party fold by state Congress chief Kamal Nath last month.

Senior leaders from BJP and Congress including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, State Congress President Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh have held a number of meetings with their respective upset leaders to pacify them and bring them back into the parties.

However, the two parties continue to face the rebel challenge in nearly 30 seats each. At least five BJP and six Congress' influential leaders are still in the poll fray as independents or on smaller parties' tickets and looking to hamper the chances of the BJP and Congress candidates.

BJP rebel Harshwardhan Singh Chouhan, son of former MP and State BIP chief Nandkumar Singh Chouhan, is contesting from Burhanpur seat of Burhanpur district. Harshvardhan, upset over the party ticket going to former state Minister Archana Chitnis, also resigned from the party's primary membership on Thursday.

BJP rebel and former Tikamgarh MLA K.K. Shrivastav is still in the contest from the seat and is expected to dent the prospects of party candidate and sitting MLA Rakesh Giri.

In Bhopal Uttar (north) seat, two Congress rebels -- Amir Aqeel, who is the brother of sitting MLA Arif Aqeel, and former Bhopal district Youth Congress president Nasir Islam -- are contesting as independents and look to hurt the party's chances in its bastion, which it has held since 1993.

Arif Aqeel, who has been the MLA

since 1998, is not contesting this time and the Congress has fielded his son Atif Aqeel from the constituency. Amir Aqeel, who had been active in politics with his brother, and Nasir Islam, said to be close to Digvijaya Singh, quit the party to contest the polls. The BJP has fielded former city Mayor Alok Sharma from the seat. The Congress rebels and independent candidates -- former MLA Shekhar Choudhary, who is contesting from Narsinghpur district's Gotegaon seat, and former MLA Om Prakash Raghuvanshi, who is in the fray from Narmadapuram's Seoni-Malwa seat -also did not take back their names on

SP candidate Renu Yadav withdraws nomination from Bijawar seat



Team Absolute Bhopal

🖚 amajwadi Party (SP) in Madhya Pradesh received a jolt after its candidate from the Bijawar Assembly seat, Rekha Yadav withdrew her nomination from the fray.

Bijawar was one of the two seats the SP had won in the 2018 Assembly

Yadab withdrew from the poll race on Thursday.

The Akhilesh Yadav-led SP had earlier fielded Manoj Yadav from the seat, but later had replaced him with former BJP MLA Renu Yadav.

With Yadav taking back her nomination at the last minute, she has given an edge to the Congress candidate. SP's Rajesh Shukla had won Bijawar seat in 2018 by a margin of 36,474 votes. Shukla was among those who had supported the Kamal Nathled Congress government, which however, toppled in March 2020.

During the presidential election, Shukla joined the saffron party and this time he is contesting the Assembly election on a BJP ticket.

The Congress has fielded Charan Singh Yadav from Bijawar, which is considered a Yadav dominated seat in Chhatarpur district.

Akil's family feud increases Congress's troubles in Bhopal North Assembly

Team Absolute Bhopal

fter withdrawal of nominations, 96 candidates are left in the fray for seven assembly seats in Bhopal district. Meanwhile, Congress has done damage control in Huzur assembly constituency of Bhopal. Congress has succeeded in convincing former MLA Jitendra Daga who was showing rebellious attitude here. But the rebels have increased the problems of Congress in Bhopal North Assembly seat, which is considered an impregnable fort of Congress. Here, uncles Aamir Akil and Nasir Islam have created hurdles in the victory of Congress by contesting as independent candidates against current Congress MLA Arif Akil's son Atif Akil. It means to say that the discord in Congress has to



some extent made the path of victory for BJP candidate Alok Sharma easier.According to the information, two

nominations in support of Aamir. Both the former councilors have talked about campaigning for Aamir. With this he claimed that now the

Assembly will be between Aamir Akil and BJP. Congress will remain at number three. However, AAP's candidate on this seat, Mohammad Saud, has also emerged as a big challenge for the Congress due to his being an effective face of Muslims. Political scientists say that Mohammed Saud has become a bigger problem than the challenge Congress candidate Atif Akil faces from Congress's rebel uncles Aamir Akil and Nasir Islam.

Congress state secretary Paksha Khamra, who contested as an independent candidate from Bhopal's Govindpura seat, not only withdrew his nomination but also joined the BJP. Khamra was angry at not getting ticket from Congress. On this seat, Congress has made Ravindra Sahu its candidate against BJP's sitting MLA

PATWARI JOBS SOLD FOR RS 15 LAKH **EACH IN MADHYA PRADESH: CONGRESS**

Team Absolute Bhopal

Senior Congress leader and MP Congress incharge Randeep Surjewala made serious allegations and said that during the BJP government, the job of Patwari was sold in the state for Rs 15 lakh each. The FIR of paper leak in Patawari scam was hidden. The FIR contained detailed information about the Patwari recruitment scam. But from 4 April 2023 to 25 April 2023, the Patwari recruitment scam continued openly. When the scam was exposed on 4th April then why was the examina-

tion conducted till 25th April? Surjewala said in a press conference at the state Congress headquarters in Bhopal on Friday that the Patwari scam happened under the patronage of Shivraj government. These scams will be investigated after the Congress government comes to BJP government sells jobs

by setting up a market. He said that if the government is formed, a law will be made regarding recruitment like Rajasthan. Surjewala said on CM Shivraj's statement of Jai,

Who is Kalia and who is Samba? If I speak too much now, I will feel bad. He said that the people of Madhya Pradesh will end Gabbar Gang. On the action of ED and Income Tax in Madhya Pradesh after Chhattisgarh, Surjewala said that ED and Income Tax officials have been camping in Madhya Pradesh for two days. ED and Income Tax officials are putting pressure on the people by staying in Madhya Pradesh. Fearing defeat, BJP wants to influence the elections in MP with the help of ED and

that this is Gabbar Gang.

AIIMS Bhopal leads transition towards Integrative Medicine

Team Absolute Bhopal

IIMS Bhopal is playing a pivotal role in the recent transformation of the institute's approach to healthcare. A workshop on Integrative Medicine was organized at National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India. Executive Director, Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh nominated Dr. Danish Javed, Senior Medical Officer of Department of AYUSH, to attend this transformative workshop on Integrative Medicine at NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

The workshop brought together



medical professionals, researchers, and experts from various disciplines to

al and modern medical practices. After careful deliberation, it was collectively decided to initiate the Academic department of Integrative Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal. This strategic move is aimed at promoting integrative research, enhancing healthcare services, and expanding academic courses in

the field of medical science. Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh expressed his enthusiasm for this shift, stating, "Integrative Medicine holds the promise of offering more comprehensive and patient-centric healthcare services. This approach will significantly benefit our patients and students alike, bridging the gap between traditional and modern healthcare.

Congress expelled 39 leaders who contested elections against the party

n Madhya Pradesh, the leaders contesting as independents and from other parties in opposition to the authorized candidates of Congress in the Assembly elections 2023 have been expelled from the membership of Congress for 6 years. According to Rajeev Singh, Vice President Organization in-charge of State Congress, 1. Sheopur Durgesh Nandini Independent 2. Sumawali Kuldeep Singh Sikarwar BSP 3. Pohri Pradyuman Verma BSP 4. Guna Hariom Khatik Independent 5. Jatara R.R. Bansal(Vanshkar) SP 6. Niwari. Rajneesh Pateria Independent 7. Khargapur. Ajay Singh Yadav Independent, 8. Khargapur . Pyarelal

Soni AAP. 9. Maharaipur, Ajay Daulat Sadaram Iharbade Independ Tiwari SP, 10. Chandla. Pushpendra Ahirwar SP, 11. Chhatarpur. Dilmani Singh BSP, 12. Malhara Dr. Karan Singh Lodhi Independent, 13. Removed. Amol Choudhary SP, 14. Removed. Bhagwandas Choudhary BSP, 15. Powai. Rajni Yadav SP, 16. Nagod. Yadvendra Singh, former MLA BSP, 17. Semaria. Diwakar Dwivedi Independent, 18. Devtalab. Seema Jaiveer Singh SP, 19. Pushpraigarh. Narmada Singh Independent, 20. Mudwara. Santosh Shukla Independent, 21. Bargi. Jaikant Singh VBP, 22. Sehora Dr. Sanjeev Varkade Independent, 23. Dindori. Rudesh Paraste Independent, 24. Balaghat. Ajay Vishal Bisen Independent, 24. Gotegaon. Shekhar Chaudhary Independent, 25. Amla.

Shamshabad. Rajkumari Kevat Independent, 27. Bhopal North. Aamir Akeel Independent, 28. Bhopal North. Nasir Islam Independent, 29. Susner. Jeetu (Jeetendra) Patidar Independent, 30. Kalapeepal. Chaturbhuj Tomar Independent, 31.

Pansemal. Ramesh Chauhan Independent, 32. Jobat. Surpal Ajnar Independent, 33. Dharampuri. Rajubai Chauhan Independent, 34. Dhar. Kuldeep Singh Bundela Independent, 35. Mhow Antarsingh Darbar Independent, 36. Badnagar Rajendra Singh Solanki Independent, 37. Alot Premchand Guddu, former MP Independent, 38. Malhargarh Shyamlal Jokchand Independent, 39. Bahoriband Shankar Mahato SP are included.



NSS Volunteers of Sant Hirdaram Girls College Spread Warmth and Distributed articles in Aayam Inclusion School

Team Absolute Bhopal

n a heartwarming display of compassion and generosity, the NSS volunteers of Sant Hirdaram Girls College, under the inspiring guidance of Shraddhey Siddh Bhauji, President of SHKES, embarked on a noble mission to make a difference in the lives of others. He always encouraged and motivated the students about the importance of donation and the Joy of Giving. With the core belief of "Not Me, but You," the volunteers

distributed Dates, Blankets, and Books at Aayam Inclusion School in Rati Bad, Bhopal.

Under the able guidance of NSS Program Officers, Prof. Vibha Khare, Dr. Meena Barse, and Prof. Deepika Saxena, the volunteers executed the program with enthusiasm and dedication. Their interaction with the especially abled students of Aayam Inclusion School was marked by empathy and understanding, fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. The event not only brought smiles to the faces of the specially-abled students but

also provided them with essential items to enhance their quality of life. The volunteers, deeply moved by the experience, showcased various cultural programs, spreading joy and creating a memorable atmosphere of unity and harmony.

The NSS volunteers of Sant Hirdaram Girls College not only distributed necessities but also imbibed valuable life lessons. Through this initiative, they learned the art of empathy and recognized their responsibility in contributing to a more inclusive society.

Kamal Nath-Digvijay want to establish their sons and not Congress

Team Absolute Bhopal

hief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan on Friday made a Imajor attack on the alliance of opposition parties with Congress. He said that India has disintegrated even before the alliance was formed. Nitish Kumar has also said that Congress does not care about other parties. Even before this, if you see, Congress has worried about Congress and Congress too is worried about families. From Sonia Gandhi to Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh, everyone is busy in establishing their sons

and daughters. CM Shivraj said in the press conference in Satna on Friday that Sonia Gandhi is busy in establishing only her son and daughter. Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh are following this tradition. They are busy establishing their sons. His sons even declare the tickets. First the son will declare the Chhindwara ticket and later Congress will declare it. He said that behind the scenes the Indi alliance has already disintegrated, Congress is also disintegrating and now we have to give a clarification that we are together.



about the pairing of Jai-Veeru. Now this pair is not Jai Veeru's pair, there was a film Mere Apne in which the pair of Shyam and Chhenu used to fight for the possession of their respective localities. This scattered Congress can never do any good to the state. CM Shivraj alleged that Kamal Nath's government had committed the sin of closing the schemes for the poor. He said that this is the same Congress which used to call Lord Ram imaginary used to give affidavit in the court. Tell me in which room Lord Ram was born used to ask. During this, Shivraj claimed that his government has spent

Congress leaders are talking

more money on the development of Rewa and Satna than Bhopal-Indore. At the same time, Vindhya gave everything to Congress but Congress gave nothing to Vindhya. Be it the rule of Digvijay Singh ji or the Congress governments before that. If anyone has committed the sin of always lagging behind in terms of development, it is the Congress party.

Kamal Nath tell us what he did for Vindhya during his tenure of 1.25 years? How many times did you visit Vindhya, what did you give to Vindhya? We are ready to give account of the development that has taken place in Vindhya under the BJP government.

hollywood







Los Angeles | Agencies

upermodel Heidi Klum revealed there was "a lot of commotion" with preparing her peacock costume for Halloween 2023. After showing off the epic look, she explained the situation behind the scenes.

Speaking to Page Six, the 50-year-old TV personality said while making a reference to several Cirque Du Soleil stars, "There's many people, there were 10 artists in there, getting painted with me at the same time. So there's a lot of moving parts and people needing this and that. You know, (hair) spray, and so it's a lot of commotion with so many people doing this, you know?"

"It took about six hours to do this,"

the German supermodel added about the preparation.

During the chat, she told the outlet that she was "not really anxious" despite the long transformation

She continued, "I try to not get any glue in my eyes."

Klum further discussed inspiration for her costume, reports aceshowbiz.com. "I thought it would be fun to do a costume with a bunch of people and so I came up with the idea of a peacock and to do this with 10 people and all make an amazing formation and then fan out. We figured out how the positioning would be and who gets what kind of leotard and how is it painted on so that from the front it will look like a peacock."

NICOLAS CAGE CALLS AI A NIGHTMARE, DISMISSES HIS SUPERMAN CAMEO IN 'THE FLASH'

Los Angeles | Agencies

acclaimed actor Nicolas Cage has slammed the use of AI in filmmaking, calling it a "nightmare" while referring to his cameo as Superman in 'The Flash'. Though initially glad he got to play Superman at least for once, Cage has since then dismissed his cameo appearance.

Specificate Veh Entertwinnest the 'Flace Off'

Speaking to Yahoo Entertainment, the 'Face Off' actor said: "AI is a nightmare to me. It's inhumane. You can't get more inhumane than artificial intelligence ... I would be very unhappy if people were taking my art ... and appropriating it," as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Cage had finally got to play Superman after his 1998 project with director Tim Burton titled 'Superman Lives'. The cameo showcased Cage as the Man of Steel firing lasers at various enemies, while being de-aged with CGI.

However, given the bad visuals of 'The Flash', Nicolas Cage was not that happy with his appearance. While he had praised the opportunity of getting to essay the role, he also said that the cameo was something very different from what he had shot.

"When I went to the picture, it was me fighting a giant spider," Cage said. "I did not do that. That was not what I did. I don't think it was created by AI. I know Tim (Burton) is upset about AI, as I am. It was CGI, OK, so that they could de-age me, and I'm fighting a spider. I didn't do any of that, so I don't know what happened there."

That the 59-year-old actor was actually on set is a bit unexpected as many watching the film just assumed the entire performance was created by CG. Cage said what was actually filmed, and what he was told the scene would be, was something more solemn.

Robert Pattinson's girlfriend Suki Waterhouse flashes apparent baby bump on hike

Los Angeles | Agencies

wilight' star Robert Pattinson's girlfriend Suki Waterhouse has sparked pregnancy rumours after she was spotted with an apparent baby bump during a day out with her longtime boyfriend.

The 31-year-old singer-songwriter flashed her possible pregnancy bump

while she was photographed on a hike with 'The Batman' star in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

In pictures obtained by Daily Mail, she wrapped up in a black zip-up sweater teamed with tiny gray sweat shorts, reports aceshowbiz.com.

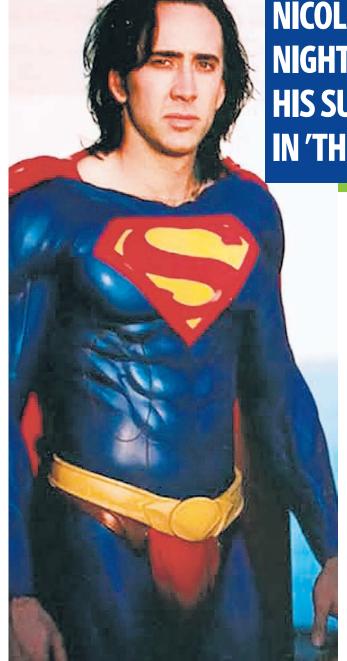
The star finished off the look with a pair of black on runners and a beige baseball cap. Her highlighted locks were worn down under the headwear as she appeared to go makeup-free.

The actor, meanwhile, matched Suki's simple and comfortable style in a gray pullover hoodie, black striped short and black On sneakers. He seemingly attempted to go incognito by pulling his hood up over a baseball cap and wearing black Oakley sunglasses.

The 37-year-old actor was seemingly in good spirits as he flashed a smile during the outing. The pair were also seen sharing a laugh together. After the hike, they stopped by a popular L.A. bookstore.

Neither Suki nor Robert's team has reacted to the pregnancy





because it's not helping. It's not helping all of us,

but I think we are more capable of dealing

World

AFGHANISTAN BEAT NETHERLANDS; MOVE TO 5TH IN TABLE



Another clinical bowling and batting performance helped Afghanistan score a third successive victory in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup, the surprise package of the 2023 edition thrashing the Netherlands by seven wickets to maintain their chances of reaching the semifinals.

After bundling out the Netherlands, who elected to bat first, for a paltry 179 in 46.3 overs, Afghanistan chased the target easily, reaching 181/3 with 111 balls remaining.

With this third win on a trot,
Afghanistan sit with eight points on
the World Cup table and have boosted their chances of a knockout

Rahmat Shah (52) and Hashmatullah Shahidi (56 not out) stood tall for Afghanistan with a stand of 74 runs for the third wicket. Despite, managing to eke out early wickets, the Netherlands weren't quite in the game due to their modest outing in the first innings.

Chasing 180, Afghanistan's reliable opening pair of Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran got them off to a characteristic brisk start. Boundaries flowed with ease as the Asian side went at about fiveand-a-half an over.

This went on till Gurbaz was taken down the leg side off Logan van Beek. While initially ruled as a wide, the decision was eventually overturned after Scott Edwards took a review. Rahmat Shah and Ibrahim Zadran then joined forces to ensure that Afghanistan went ahead at a fair pace.

Even though Ibrahim fell to Roelof van der Merwe in the 11th over, Afghanistan were moving towards their target at a steady pace. Afghanistan eventually cleared

the line in the 32nd over.

Earlier, erratic running resulted in the loss of four Dutch batters while the rest of the wickets were snared by Afghanistan spinners. Keeper Ikram Alikhil stood out for his sharp work behind the stumps, being

ing, and two catches. The Netherlands scoring rate dropped as the new batters tried to settle in. However, a sequence of

involved in three run-outs, a stump-

run-outs off back-to-back balls derailed their innings.

Sports

From 112/5 at the mid-innings mark, the Netherlands failed to build up towards an ending that would get them to a strong total. While Engelbrecht looked the best batter out there, hitting a flurry of boundaries, other batters fell to erratic strokes. And when Engelbrecht (58) was himself run out while going for a rash single in the 35th over, the Dutch effort was all but over.

Brief scores

Netherlands 179 all out in 46.3 overs (Sybrand Engelbrecht 58, Max O'Dowd 42; Mohammad Nabi 3-23, Noor Ahmad 2-31) lost to Afghanistan 181/3 in 31.2 overs (Rahmat Shah 52, Hashmatullah Shahidi 56 not out, Azmatullah Omarzai 31 not out; Logan van Beek 1-20) by seven wickets.

Nepal and Oman secure spots in 2024 Men's T20 **World Cup through Asia qualifiers**

2016 and 2021 editions.

Meanwhile, at the

ners Kushal Malla and

Sandeep Lamichhane

Mulpani Cricket Stadium in

Kageshwari-Manohara, spin-

bowled economical spells to

keep UAE to a modest 134/9.

Vriitya Aravind made 64 but

found little support from his

Sheikh hit an unbeaten 64 to

complete the chase with 17

balls to spare.

teammates. Opener Aasif

Kathmandu | Agencies

epal and Oman have secured their qualification for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 after they reached the final of the ongoing Asia qualifiers by winning their respective semifinals on Friday. Nepal and Oman will now meet in the qualifiers' final on Sunday.

While Oman got the better of Bahrain by 10 wickets in the first semifinal, Nepal beat UAE by eight wickets in front of a huge home crowd to mark their re-entry into the T20 World Cup fold for just the second time after 2014.

At the Tribhuvan University International Cricket Ground in Kirtipur, Aqib Ilyas took 4-10 and played a critical role in Oman restricting Bahrain to 106/9. Openers Kashyap Prajapati (57 not out) and Pratik Athavale (50 not out) pulled off the chase in style with 34 balls remaining, to confirm their third T20 World Cup appearance after

Paris Masters

TSITSIPAS SEALS TURIN SPOT AFTER SURGING PAST ZVEREV

the first round. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the Super Eight stage. In Super Eight, teams will be split into two groups

of four each, with the top two

sides from two groups enter-

ing the semi-finals.

Hosts West Indies and USA, as well as Australia, defending champions England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh

In the tournament to be held from June 4 to 30, 20 have already qualified for the teams will be divided into four groups of five each for competition,

Women's Asian Champions Trophy

Unbeaten India favourite in semifinal clash with Korea

Ranchi | Agencies

s the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023 reaches its crescendo, the Indian women's team is poised to face off against South Korea in a highly anticipated semifinal clash on Saturday.

With an unbeaten record in the tournament, India's brilliant performance has landed them in the top spot in the points table, having secured a perfect 15 points from five Pool stage encounters.

Going into the semifinal, the Indian women's team will be riding high on confidence, having previously outclassed Korea 5-0 in their last Pool stage encounter. The hosts will surely hold the psychological advantage and will be determined to continue their dominant run in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Indian women's hockey team captain Savita, reflecting on the team's journey so far in the tournament, said, "We are



thrilled to have made it to the semifinals and are truly grateful for the support of our fans. We aim to replicate our previous success against Korea and secure a spot in the Final. Our focus is on delivering a performance that reflects the dedication and hard work of this

On the opposing side, Korea finished fourth in the points table, having accumulated seven points from their five Pool stage games. Their journey in the tournament has seen them secure two wins, endure two losses, and share



he seventh-seeded Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas powered past Alexander Zverev 7-6(2), 6-4 in a big-serving battle on Thursday at the French ATP Masters 1000 event.

Tsitsipas struck 37 winners, including 10 aces, to notch his 50th tourlevel win of the season and simultaneously seal his spot at the seasonending Nitto ATP Finals.

With his one-hour, 59-minute triumph, Tsitsipas improved to 9-4 in his Lexus ATP Head2Head series with Zverev. The 25-year-old, who reached the semi-finals in Paris in 2022, will take on Karen Khachanov next after the 16th seed overcame qualifier Roman Safiullin 4-6, 6-4, 6-

After a strong first half of the season, Tsitsipas has struggled in recent months to find his best level. The Greek went 4-6 after lifting his 10th



ATP Tour crown in Los Cabos in August, but he showed signs of his best form in semi-final runs in Antwerp and Vienna leading into this week's Masters 1000 event in the

Tsitsipas made a lightning-fast start on Thursday inside Accor Arena, opening a 5-2 lead thanks to a break of Zverev's serve in the second game. He had to retain his composure after Zverev roared back into the set, however, and Tsitsipas did so in style in the tie-break to move ahead Zverev was left to rue another

lapse on serve early in the second set. Tsitsipas broke in the first game and this time did not let his lead slip as he served out without facing another break point. It was Tsitsipas' first Top 10 victory of the season, a welcome boost for the Greek against an elite rival as he chases his third Masters 1000 crown before he turns

India is becoming a ruthless side, time to celebrate Indian fast bowlers: Shoaib Akhtar

Team Absolute New Delhi

ormer Pakistan cricketer Shoaib Akhtar said that India have become a ruthless side and this "onslaught" will continue for the rest of the World Cup after India handed Sri Lanka a historic 302 runs defeat on Thursday.

Akhtar looked pleased after Shami clinched his second five-for of the tournament and registered his best bowling figures (5/18) against Sri

The veteran right-arm pacer also went past Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath to become India's highest wicket-taker in World Cups. Shami now has 45 wickets in just 14 match-



He has the best average (12.29) and best strike rate (15.75) among all bowlers who have taken more than 30 wickets in the history of World Cups. "India is becoming a ruthless side



from this point the onslaught cannot be stopped but my request to Indians is to start celebrating your fast bowlers because everyone was happy and there was a lot of noise on each delivery at the Wankhede Stadium,

Akhtar said in a video posted on X. I am personally happy for Shami he has found his rhythm back he has claimed so many wickets and has got 45 World Cup wickets overall."

While chasing a target of 358, Sri Lanka succumbed to a total of 55 in just 19.4 overs courtesy of Indian pacers who took 9 wickets. Mohammad Siraj finished with figures of 3/15 while Bumrah, who sent back Pathum Nissanka in the first ball of Sri Lanka's chase, returned 1/8.

"Siraj is running, Bumrah is lethal he is giving them comfort to both of them to bowl freely," said Akhtar.

This was the third time this year that Sri Lanka were bowled out under 100 in ODIs against India.

SAO PAULO SETTLE RELEGATION NERVES

orward Luciano Neves scored late as San Paulo eased their relegation concerns with a 1-0 home victory over Cruzeiro in Brazil's Serie A championship on Thursday night.

After an evenly matched first half, the visitors were reduced to 10 men just before the hour when goalkeeper Anderson was shown a straight red card for a dangerous challenge on midfielder Alisson Castro.

Sao Paulo capitalized on their numerical advantage in the 84th minute through Luciano, who headed into the bottom right corner after Alisson's cross.

The result leaves Sao Paulo 10th in the 20team standings, eight points clear of the relegation zone with seven match days remain-

Cruzeiro are 16th with 37 points from 30 outings, just three points above the drop zone.



In other Brazilian Serie A fixtures on Thursday, Vasco da Gama won 2-0 at Cuiaba and Bragantino prevailed 2-0 at Goias.

Australia v England, New Zealand v Pakistan doubleheader to impact fortunes of four teams

Ahmedabad | Agencies

aturday can turn out to be a crucial day in the preliminary stage of the ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023 and involves two teams in the top four and two aspiring to make it to the semifinals.

Saturday's doubleheader involving a match between traditional rivals, defending champion England and five-time winners Australia and the other pitting New Zealand against Pakistan could decide the fortunes of all four teams. Only hosts India, with 14 points from seven wins, have

secured their place in the knockout stage with three semifinal spots still up for grabs with several teams in the fray. South Africa, who are placed second with 12 points, needs one win from two matches to cement their hold on the second posi-

Australia are placed third in the standings with New Zealand in fourth position, with both teams on eight points from four wins. However, Australia have a match advantage, having played six games as compared to seven by the Black

New Zealand play Pakistan in a day match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru while England meet Australia in a day/night encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

The focus will be on the clash in Ahmedabad between defending champions England, who need to win all of their three remaining matches to have any hope of reaching the semifinals. Australia can put distance on the chasing pack with victory over their archrivals as that would take them to



10 points with two more matches to go.

England have had a horror campaign in their defence of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup trophy that they famously won for the first time in 2019.

Starting with a loss to New Zealand in the opening fixture in Ahmedabad, the titleholders have slumped to five defeats in six matches to be all but out of contention for a spot in the last four. They do have slim chances but even otherwise it will be a mouth-watering clash between the arch-rivals.

England have to win all of their three remaining matches convincingly enough to also boost their net run rate to a reasonable level while hoping that other results go their way to

keep their faint hopes alive. Though on current performance, bets will be in favour of Australia but form counts for little when the two traditional rivals meet and England can like their chances against an Australian outfit suddenly hit hard by a freak injury and more



Australia have won four on the trot to surge into third in the standings and the semifinal places though will take on their old foes without dynamic duo Glenn Maxwell and Mitchell Marsh. Both will be missed though there will also be frustration with Maxwell after he sustained a concussion in a golf cart incident, while Marsh has returned home for personal reasons.

It means another shake-up for the Australia side that has recently accommodated the return of Travis Head, with allrounders Cameron Green and Marcus Stoinis both putting their hands up for a recall. England have their own concerns with fitness as well as form and are yet to find an answer for replacing pacer Reece Topley who was one of their few strong performers but has now been ruled out of the tournament.

New Zealand are also facing injury concerns though Mark Chapman (calf), Lockie Ferguson (Achilles), Jimmy Neesham (wrist) and Kane Williamson (thumb) all trained in Bengaluru on Friday. But a decision on their availability will be left until game day and likely confirmed at the toss, the New Zealand team management informed on Friday.

The Event Technical Committee of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 on Friday approved Kyle Jamieson as a replacement for Matt Henry in the New Zealand squad.

Jamieson, who has played 13 ODIs, was named as a replacement after Henry was ruled out due to a right hamstring injury sustained during Wednesday's match against South Africa in Pune. The Black Caps need to snap a threematch losing streak to get their campaign back on track and improve their chances of making it to the semifinals. Pakistan, on the other hand, have suffered four defeats in a row and can't afford to lose any more matches.

Saturday's clash will be a must-win encounter for them as a defeat to New Zealand would all but end their semifinal

New Zealand would have entered this match as a clear favourite just one week ago, but some injury concerns in the Kiwi camp and a form turnaround from Pakistan means it's difficult to determine who will emerge as the winner.

The victory over Bangladesh has revived Pakistan's hopes. Fakhar torched Bangladesh with a stylish half-century and can again be relied upon to get the Men In Green off to a fast start alongside the reliable Abdullah Shafique.

It will be interesting to see whether Pakistan include another specialist bowler against New Zealand, or continue to call on Iftikhar Ahmed to perform with the ball as he has done reasonably well over the last few games.

entertainment

Second Front Page



'Aarya is still not my



Team Absolute | Mumbai ouni Roy, who will be seen hosting the 'Temptation Island India', had revealed that she will use her personal experiences while advising the couples on the show but her personal life will never be discussed

The famous reality show from American 'Temptation Island' is finally coming to India with its first season. Temptation Island India will be hosted by Karan Kundrra and Mouni Roy. The show, to be premiered on November 3 will be available to stream every day at 8 p.m. on Jio Cinema.

In a candid conversation, Mouni Roy opened up about the show, how difficult it is for her to give advice to the couples and

The show is all about discussing the personal life of the couples. When asked if she would use her personal life too, she said, "I will use only my personal experiences while advising the couples. My personal life will not be used. There is a reason it is my personal life. I feel your life experiences help you a lot while advising people."

Talking about the show, she said, "I am very excited for the show. In the US, many seasons have already happened but this is the first time in India Audience will get to see something new and different. It is a show where there will be a lot of drama and human emotions. I am waiting to see the audience's reaction





Team Absolute New Delhi

ctress Tara Sutaria, who is gearing up for her upcoming film 'Apurva', shot for a running scene in the film with a twisted leg after an on-set injury. The incident of the injury and its nature was revealed by the director Nikhil Nagesh Bhat. The film depicts a dramatically raw and fierce transformation of Tara, who also recently took to social media to share images of bruises and

injuries she got while filming. Commenting on the same director Nikhil Nagesh Bhat shared, "I can define Tara and Apurva in one word that is 'fighter.' She is a simple girl but she possesses tremendous strength, as I witnessed during the film's shooting. She faced numerous injuries on set, even once twisting her leg". 'Apurva' is the ory of an ordinary girl who faces extraordinary circumsta do anything to survive and live. The film is set in one of the most dangerous places in India - Chambal valley.

He further mentioned, "I thought we might not shoot that day, but half an hour later, she returned for a running scene, showcasing what I would call sheer determination. This strength is a shared attribute of both the character Apurva and Tara in real life." Presented by Star Studios, 'Apurva' is a Cine1 Studios and Star Studios Production, and has been produced by Murad Khetani and Star

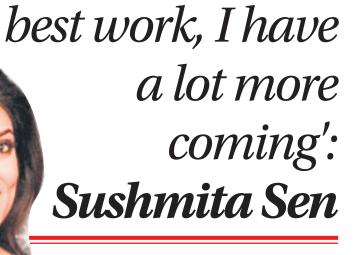
> Studios. The film will drop onNovember 15 on Disney+ Hotstar.

YRF to release Salman starrer on 11th Nov in overseas territories Team Absolute Mumbai

RF is set to release its next offering, the YRF Spy Universe film, Tiger 3, on Nov 11 in overseas territo ries owing to exhibitors' demands based on outstanding advance sales and no Pre-Diwali effect in these markets. All international territories, starting with the Middle East and all western markets, will release Tiger 3 timed to 9 pm IST on November 11. ASIA Pacific & Australia and New Zealand markets will open on 12th November.

The film will be released in NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES, UAE, GCC, UK, EUROPE and AFRICA





Team Absolute | Mumbai

ushmita Sen has revealed that the web series 'Aarya' which is now streaming with its third season, is still not her best work. She has a lot more to come and offer to the audi-

Sushmita Sen is one actress who got a wonderful opportunity to showcase her acting skills on the OTT platform with her show 'Aarya'. The team has had two wonderful seasons and now they are back with its third season

which was released on November 3 on Disney+Hotstar. The actress spoke about the show coming with its third season, what impact it has had on her filmography and much more.

Talking about what impact has Aarya had on her filmography she said, "Everything. I had an institution like Ram Madhvani teaching me not over 40 days of one film but 60-60-60 days of three seasons and more to come. As an actor I have grown But if you say this is my best work,

I would say no. I have a lot to come. It has revived the thirst of an artist in me. I got to work with such great actors with whom you can not work without proper preparation. I had many hit songs, hit films but never had 'Aarva' in my life. It has added a lot to my filmography. Talking about the third season of the show, she said,

"We have received so much love for the first two seasons. This is the reason why we have come up with season 3. We have told a story with great honesty. We are very excited for the third season." Talking about the change OTT has brought into our

lives, she said, "I am a big fan of OTT. It has given me time to flesh out characters that I would otherwise have to show quickly. It has made us reach the houses of the people where they can watch us anytime and anywhere. Not only the country, we can showcase our work globally



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