

absolute india

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New Age tech can enable India achieve Net Zero goal, curb air pollution

For Clean Environment

A recent Lancet-published study puts a shocking number on "premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution" -- \$36.8 billion in economic losses to India (or 1.4 per cent of GDP) in 2019 alone.

To fulfil the obligations under the Paris Agreement, in November 2021 at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged that India would reach net zero emissions by 2070 and meet 50 per cent of its electricity requirements from renewable sources by the year 2030.

This is possible with the right and timely use of available technologies.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reeling under frequent bouts of air pollution that may shorten an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, there are New Age technologies that can be deployed in India to achieve the goal of 'Net Zero', demonstrating that the process of economic growth "need not come at the cost of our environment or indeed the health of our citizens".

According to Chandra Bhushan, one of India's foremost environment and climate change experts, technologies like electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, photovoltaic cells and hydrogen fuel, while reducing the dependence on fossil fuel energy, can help the country achieve decarbonisation and fight the menace of air pollution.

He emphasised that the barrier is neither technical nor cost, but policy priorities. "But these policy



challenges are a cause for action, not panic. No one expects us to reach Net Zero tomorrow. But the right policies need to be implemented now so that they can take full effect over 30 years," he wrote.

The fossil fuel economy has delivered many benefits, including national development.

"Decarbonisation will bring some costs, especially for those who are dependent on fossil fuels for jobs and growth and those currently able to access cheap energy," said Bhushan.

But there has been evidence for a while that this development is not well distributed and directed.

"For instance, the externalities of fossil fuel energy are disproportionately borne by the most vulnerable. Communities around coal mines and power plants are exposed to horrifying levels of air pollution, which in turn cause lung and heart disease," he noted.

More Indians own cars today than 50 years ago, but our city air has become unbreathable.

"The past two decades have seen a revolution in renewable energy technologies -- solar costs have fallen 90 per cent over the past decade. Building new solar power in India is now cheaper than building a new coal plant, and is quickly becoming cheaper than running existing coal plants," said Bhushan.

While renewable energy needs electricity storage to be as reliable as coal power, Moody's projects that wind and solar, including storage cost, will be competitive with coal in India in 2025.

Another turning point is the battery/storage revolution coming to India, which could drop costs by 60 per cent in the next decade.

"This is a continuation of the global trend, which has seen Li-ion batteries become 97 per cent cheaper since 1991, with further room to drop. In addition to making electricity generation cheaper, the battery revolution would drop the cost of electric transportation in India," the expert emphasised.

In about five years, EVs are estimated to account for 15 per cent of India's scooter market, with the share doubling in about 10 years.

"The savings on fuel imports for transportation will be immense -- \$2.5 trillion by 2047 if the government's (admittedly ambitious) targets are met. Investment in the battery producing capacity of the Indian industry can further generate huge income for the country," said Bhushan.

Likewise, green hydrogen, the key to decarbonising heavy industries, is at a tipping point. With cheaper renewable energy, green hydrogen is now a reality.

Sheikh Hasina is world's longest-serving female head of govt

Team Absolute | Dhaka
 A 76-years-old, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a political phenomenon who has guided the rise of this nation of 170 million from rustic jute producer into the Asia-Pacific's fastest-expanding economy over the past decade, Time said in a cover story on the world's longest-serving female head of govt.

In office since 2009, after an earlier term from 1996 to 2001, she has been credited with subduing both resurgent Islamists and a once meddlesome military, Time said.

Having already won more elections than late Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or Indira Gandhi, Hasina is determined to extend that run at the ballot box in January.

"I am confident that my people are with me," she says in an interview with Time in September. "They're my main strength."

Bangladesh has taken an authoritarian turn under Hasina's Awami League party. The last two elections were condemned by the US, E.U. and others for significant irregularities, including stuffed ballot boxes and thousands of phantom voters.

She won 84 per cent and 82 per cent of the vote, respectively.

Today, Khaleda Zia, two-time former Premier and BNP leader, sits gravely ill under house arrest on dubious corruption charges.

Meanwhile, BNP workers have been hit by a staggering 4 million legal cases, while independent journalists and civil society also complain of vindictive harassment.

Critics say January's vote is tantamount to



a coronation and Hasina to a dictator, Time said. Bangladesh has gone from struggling to feed its people to a food exporter with a GDP rising from \$71 billion in 2006 to \$460 billion in 2022, making it South Asia's second largest economy after India.

Social indicators have also improved, with 98 per cent of girls today receiving primary education. Bangladesh is moving into high-tech manufacturing, allowing international firms like Samsung to extricate supply chains from China.

Saudi Arabia eyes stake in \$30 billion IPL: Report



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in buying a multibillion-dollar stake in the Indian Premier League (IPL), international cricket's most lucrative event, following a string of investments that have upended professional sports, including football and golf, a media report said.

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's advisors have spoken to Indian government officials about moving the IPL into a holding company valued at as much as \$30 billion, Bloomberg reported.

The talks were held when the Saudi Crown Prince visited India in September for the G20

Summit held under India's Presidency, the report said. Saudi Arabia proposed investing as much as \$5 billion into the league and help lead an expansion into other countries, the report said.

As per earlier reports, the IPL ecosystem value has risen from Rs 87,000 crore to Rs 92,500 crore, marking an increase of around 6.3 per cent, as per a report by D&P India Advisory Services.

In USD terms, this translates to a growth from \$10.9 billion to \$11.2 billion, representing an increase of approximately 3.3 per cent.

The league has always been a spectacle of cricket, business and entertainment. This year was no exception, as the league continued to captivate audiences, both on television and digital platforms, the report said.

According to the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India, the IPL telecast on the Star Sports Network attracted a staggering 505 million viewers with an impressive watch time of 427.1 billion minutes. On the digital front, JioCinema reported that 449 million viewers tuned into its platform, with over 126 million viewers choosing connected TV options to savour the IPL

ASSAM COLLEGE GIRL SELECTED FOR NAVY AGNIVEER



New Delhi: Ministry of Defence on Friday said

that been provisionally selected an Assam college girl for recruitment training in Indian Navy under Agniveer (SSR). The girl has been identified Ankita Devi, who is also a NCC cadet. The defence official said that Ankita will be undergoing training at INS Chilka, Orissa from November 17. Cadet Ankita Devi is a regular NCC cadet of Kallabor College/8 Assam NCC Bn under NCC Gp Tezpur, NCC Directorate North Eastern Region Shillong. Ankita belongs to a village Rangolu Paharguri in Nagaon district of Assam. Her father deals with milk selling while her mother is a housewife.

Air India to add over 400 weekly flights to domestic, international routes by March 2024

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Tata-owned Air India on Friday announced to add more than 400 weekly flights to its domestic and international route network until March 2024, as part of the Winter Schedule 2023.

"On the back of expected new aircraft deliveries over the next six months, Air India aims to strengthen its domestic India network by adding more than 200 weekly flights on several routes touching major Indian cities such as Mumbai and Delhi," an airline spokesperson said.

"On its international route network, the carrier would operate over 200 weekly flights, of which over 80 weekly flights have already been added. Air India has plans to add four new international destinations to its network, which will be announced in due course," the spokesperson said.

At the onset of the Winter Schedule '23, the airline has ramped up frequency by 25x weekly flights (each way) on eight international routes across points in Southeast Asia, the US, and Europe.

This includes the weekly frequencies



on Mumbai-Singapore increasing from 7x to 13x, Delhi-Bangkok from 7x to 14x, Delhi-Dhaka from 7x to 12x, Delhi-Newark (New Jersey) from 3x to 4x, Delhi-San Francisco from 10x to 11x, Delhi-Washington D.C. from 3x to 4x, Delhi-Copenhagen from 3x to 4x, Delhi-Milan from 4x to 5x, Mumbai-Doha from 7x to 9x.

Air India has also opened flights on four new routes, including Bengaluru-Singapore, Kochi-Doha, Kolkata-Bangkok, and Mumbai-Melbourne.

introducing new products and services is a top priority in Air India's ongoing transformation journey, we are equally focused on densifying and expanding our route network to capture the rapidly growing demand in the market. The next few months are exciting for Air India and our guests, indeed," CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said.

Between now and March 2024, Air India expects to induct over 30 widebody and narrowbody aircraft to its fleet, including six A350s, four B777s and 20 A320neos.

BHUTAN KING TAKES JEEP SAFARI IN ASSAM'S KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Guwahati | Agencies

On the second day of his three-day visit to Assam, Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk on Saturday enjoyed an evening jeep safari in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

According to a Kaziranga National Park official, the King and his entourage boarded the jeep at the Mihimukh Gate in the central Kohora range.

The King was escorted in separate cars by top representatives from the governments of Bhutan and Assam as well as Assam Ministers Chandramohan Patowary, Ranajo Pegu, and Atul Bora.

Before heading back to Mihimukh, the Royal party made stops at the Daflang Tower and the Kathpora Watchtower. The King was seen using his mobile phone to take pictures and using binoculars to try to find the animals while donning the customary



Bhutanese 'gho' and khaki-coloured hat. The King also saw elephants being bathed at a riding spot in the Kohora River as melodies were being sung by the mahouts. From there, he also watched the sunset, with the

Karbi Hills (Mikir Hills) in the distance.

A coffee table book about Kaziranga, an artwork of the park, a handcrafted wooden one-horned rhino, an organic Assam tea, and Muga-silk traditional Assamese 'gamosa', were among the gifts given to the monarch and officials from Bhutan, according to the official.

The King was also shown in front of three statues of rhinos, one of which was a calf fashioned from the ash of rhino horns that were set ablaze in September 2021 to prove that rhino horns are useless for medicine and to send a clear warning to those engaged in the illicit wildlife trade.

At the Kaziranga convention hall, Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, threw a dinner for the King. A cultural event was also organised which was attended by the King. Sarma later wrote on X: "I am glad to learn that His Majesty the King of Bhutan enjoyed the rich biodiversity of Assam's Kaziranga National Park."

'TV industry no longer centred on looks', says Jatin Shah

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Jatin Shah, who has marked his comeback on the TV screens with the show 'Gauha Ek Pratha', opened up on how the industry has evolved over the years, and is no longer only focussed on looks.

Jatin is known for his works in shows like 'Kasturi', 'Meri Maa' and 'Adaalat'.

He is playing the character of Vansh Agnihotri in 'Gauha Ek Pratha'.

"The TV industry is a very important medium to show



today's reality to the people of today. The change in the industry is that it is no longer centred on looks and feel, but on the depth of character and the storyline of the show," said Jatin.

Calling his 'Gauha' character multi-layered, Jatin said it

has helped him learn a lot. "I always love playing characters that can challenge me. Usually, there is only one shade attached to a character. But, in this character, since my negative shade is hidden, I am able to play both the positive and negative sides at once," he shared.

About the look of his character, Jatin said: "I loved the new look - jacket and high-neck t-shirts - very English look. Normally, I take 15-20 minutes for hair and make-up."

BRIDGE COMPONENTS FROM GRSE IN KOLKATA RESTORE CONNECTIVITY IN FLOOD-HIT SIKKIM

- For nearly a fortnight now, the Army and BRO, along with the civil administration in Sikkim had been toiling to reconnect North Sikkim to the rest of the country.
- While the BRO worked on the main Mangan-Tung-Chungthang route, Army and BRO teams also made efforts to open up the alternate Mangan-Sanklang-Theng-Chungthang one.
- This required the construction of two Bailey Bridges across the Teesta at the Mangan-Sanklang Crossing. The first of these bridges were completed on October 22 after round-the-clock work.

Kolkata | Agencies

Components of Bailey Bridges supplied by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd -- a premier defence shipyard based in Kolkata -- have helped restore road connectivity in Sikkim that was devastated by floods after eruption of the South Lhonak Lake in the first week of October.

Sikkim shares a long border with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China and restoration of road connectivity in the state was of great strategic importance for India to maintain a steady supply of men and equipment to forward areas.

Highly-placed sources in GRSE confirmed that the company had supplied components for modular bridges to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the Army and these were used to span Teesta river at locations where bridges were washed away due to the sudden gust of water from the



mountains in the north. "Restoration of connectivity up to Chungthang via alternate Mangan-Sanklang-Theng-Chungthang route was crucial and

troops of the Trishakti Corps undertook construction of the Bailey Bridges at the Mangan-Sanklang Crossing, 200 metres upstream of where a bamboo bridge and Zip line had been constructed earlier.

"However, the width of the river at this point has increased to 600-feet and water is running along two channels with a 160-foot-wide island in between. Hence, it was decided to construct two separate bridges. The Army finished construction of the first 150-foot-long and then moved to the second," official said.

The Trishakti Sappers completed the second bridge ahead of schedule on October 26. This has enabled the movement of vehicles carrying relief material to the flood-affected areas. The Army maintains that engineer troops of the Trishakti Corps along with several heavy Earth Moving plants were employed for this massive two bridge operation, which is a very rare construction.



MANIPUR TRIBAL MLAS', ORGANISATIONS' NARRATIVES ON SECURITY OPERATIONS INCORRECT: SECURITY FORCES

Imphal | Agencies

The security agencies in Manipur on Saturday strongly denied the ten tribal MLAs' and tribal organisations' accusations that the state police commandos committed atrocities and attacked tribal houses and properties in Moreh along the Myanmar border.

A senior security officer said that at least three police personnel were injured earlier this week when they were ambushed at Sinam village by armed militants.

The ambush took place when the security personnel were rushed in as reinforcement after the killing of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) in Moreh, Chingtham Anand Kumar, by suspected militants on Tuesday.

Inspector General of Police, Themthing Ngashangva was leading the security forces in the operation.

The ten tribal MLAs and two leading tribal organisations - Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) and Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) - on Friday alleged that state forces, including Manipur Police



Commandos during search operations at the International Border town of Moreh, resorted to arson, indiscriminate firing, looting of civilian properties, and unprovoked brutality, including assaults on women, forcing a huge number of people, including women and children to flee into the nearby jungles. Rejecting the allegations, a senior paramilitary officer, who took part in the joint operation, stated on the condition of anonymity that no such incidents took place, and explained that the troopers are

equipped with video cameras, which would have recorded any wrongful actions during the operations. The accusations made by the MLAs and other tribal organisations come amid ongoing search operations that started on November 1, following the SDPO's killing the previous day.

The joint forces have apprehended at least 32 illegal Myanmarese immigrants and recovered arms and warlike stores, further uncovering landmines and bomb traps along routes to designated camps of the Kuki mili-

tants who are under the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreement with the government of India and Manipur since August 2008. The designated camps, where the Kuki militants under the SoO agreement were supposed to be staying, were found to be deserted and bereft of weapons, the officials said. The ongoing ethnic strife between the Chin-Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities has also caused displacement of Meitei community people from the border town of Moreh.

Facing a certain defeat, PM Modi unleashed ED: Cong reacts to probe agency's claim about Baghel

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Congress on Friday hit back at the Central government saying that faced with "a certain defeat" in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in the upcoming Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unleashed his last remaining weapon -- ED -- the 'Modi-stra', to damage the reputation of party leaders.

The party said the threats and intimidation will only strengthen the resolve of voters who know this is just election drama reflecting the BJP's desperation.

The sharp retort from the grand old party came after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) claimed that Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was paid Rs 508 crore by Mahadev Online Books promoters.

In a post on X, Congress General Secretary Jai Ram Ramesh said: "Faced with the prospects of a certain defeat in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the PM has unleashed his last and only remaining astra -- ED -- the Modi-stra to damage the reputation of Congress leaders."

"But the people of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are the Congress party's Kavach. Modi's threats and intimidation will only strengthen the resolve of voters who know this is just election drama reflecting the BJP's desperation," Ramesh said.



In a major development ahead of the crucial Assembly elections, the ED on Friday claimed that Baghel was paid Rs 508 crore by the promoters of Mahadev Online Books.

The ED said that it received credible inputs and conducted a successful search operations on November 2 in Chhattisgarh in which Rs 5.39 crore cash has been intercepted in the poll-bound state.

It said that on Thursday, the ED received an intelligence input that a large amount of cash is being moved in Chhattisgarh in relation to Assembly Elections scheduled on November 7 and 17.

Suspected woman arms smuggler arrested in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

A suspected woman arms smuggler has been arrested and a consignment of firearms, cartridges and magazines was seized from her possession in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Saturday.

The woman was arrested while she was traveling in a bus destined to Kolkata.

The bus was stopped midway at Duttapukur in North 24 Parganas district and she was caught red-handed with 12 firearms and 24 magazines all loaded with cartridges.

The arrested woman has been identified as Puja Biswas, a resident of Habra. She was presented before a



district court at Barasat in North 25 Parganas district later in the day and the court remanded her to 10 days police custody.

Confirming the development, Additional Police Superintendent, Barasat district, B Thakur said that the woman was arrested with the arms consignment from a long-distance bus coming from Malda. "We are interro-

gating her to get information about her other associates in the racket," he added. Meanwhile, district police sources said that the policemen of Duttapukur police station had got an input that some arms and ammunition were being smuggled though that bus. Accordingly, the policemen stopped the bus on the National Highway near Duttapukur.

"As we were conducting a search operation, one of our men noticed suspicious and uneasy body language of the woman concerned. She was carrying a bag and from an inside chamber of the bag, the firearms and loaded magazines were recovered.

With controversies brewing, ISRO Chairman withholds autobiography release

Chennai | Agencies

Perturbed by unnecessary controversies resulting from his yet to be published autobiography, S. Somanath, the Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has decided to withhold the formal release of the book.

"The book is not published yet. Some review copies have been seen by the press I think. I am withholding its release, as unnecessary controversies have cropped up. The intent of the book is to inspire young people to look at struggles and overcome them," Somanath told reporter.

He said the media has highlighted the portions that are a small part of the book.

"I was trying to highlight the challenges one faces while going to the



top. This is not telling Dr. Sivan (former ISRO chief) prevented or obstructed me. I wish to disagree with the interpretation in the arti-

cle," Somanath said, referring to a news report. When queried whether he would be revising those portions in his autobiography that resulted in

the eruption of controversy, he said: "I am not publishing for the time being." In his autobiography titled 'Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal' (The Lions that Drank the Moon), Somanath is said to have mentioned that his elevation as Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was delayed by K. Sivan after the latter became the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation.

According to Somanath, he got elevated only after the intervention of former VSSC Director B.N. Suresh.

As per the news report, Somanath in his autobiography has said that the Director of U.R. Rao Space Centre was made a member of the Space Commission in order to prevent him (Somanath) from becoming the ISRO Chairman. Sivan was trying for an extension.

Will resume INDIA alliance talks after Assembly polls: Kharge pacifies Nitish

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar stated that the opposition INDIA bloc was inactive as the Congress is busy with the Assembly elections in five states, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge spoke to the Janata Dal (United) leader and assured him of resuming the alliance talks after the polls.

According to party sources, Kharge spoke to Nitish Kumar over phone on Friday night.

The two leaders spoke over the issue of Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc.

Kharge has assured Kumar



that talks over the INDIA Alliance will be continued after the Assembly polls in five states conclude.

While addressing a rally of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Bihar's Patna, Nitish Kumar said: "We have formed the

INDIA to uproot BJP from the country but no progress is taking place in it. The Congress party is busy in Assembly elections in five states. After these assembly results, we will sit together and plan the next course of action."

PRIEST ATTACKS TEMPLE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT WITH AXE OVER DONATION BOX ROW IN DELHI

New Delhi: A 70-year-old man, who's the president of a temple committee in Dwarka, was attacked by a priest with an axe over possession of the key to the donation box on Friday, the police said.

Sharing the details, a police officer said that at around 11:30 a.m. on Friday, a PCR call regarding an assault was received from the Pandwala Kalan village under the Chhawla police station, following which a police team was rushed to the spot.

Upon reaching the spot, it was found that Chetan Dass (58), caretaker and priest at the local Hanuman temple, assaulted Satish Sharma, the president of the temple committee. "There was an altercation between Dass and Sharma over the possession of the key to the donation box of the temple," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka), M. Harsha Vardhan. "Dass allegedly attacked Sharma with an axe. Sharma is presently undergoing treatment at a hospital," said the DCP, adding, "A case under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered against Dass, who has been arrested."



Cop killers will not go unpunished: J&K DGP

Srinagar | Agencies

Jammu & Kashmir DGP R. Swain said on Saturday that police had got vital leads in the killing of a cop in Tangmarg area earlier this week.

The DGP visited the slain head constable's family in Tangmarg today and assured the family that the culprits will not go unpunished.

Talking to reporters during the visit, the DGP said: "We won't spare anyone who is involved in this murder."

"We have got vital leads in this case. We have lost a family member, of police 'Parvaar'. He was an honest man besides being a father, brother and a Kashmiri."



"There is no doubt that the handlers across the border are trying to disturb peace here and they are not sending money here to build hospitals, roads and other things, but to support terrorism."

"We will be able to spoil their plans only when no one

here supports them and we create that atmosphere here.

"Infiltrations would be seriously looked into. We will create such a situation when no one will be ready to help the handlers from the across the border," the DGP asserted.

Ex-UP MLA sentenced to 15 years in jail in gang-rape case

Bhadohi (UP) | Agencies

The Bhadohi district fast-track court (MP-MLA) has sentenced jailed mafia don and four-time MLA Vijay Mishra to 15 years in prison besides slapping a fine of Rs 1 lakh on him in a gang-rape case.

Bhadohi's district government counsel (criminal) Dinesh Pandey said, "Judge Subodh Singh Mishra has awarded 15-year imprisonment to Vijay Mishra and also slapped a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on him in a rape case lodged by a woman singer from Varanasi in 2020."

"The court sentenced him under Section 376(2)(N) (physical relations on promise to marry) of the IPC. Besides, he has also been awarded two-year imprisonment and fined Rs 10,000 on charges of criminal intimidation. Both terms would run concurrently," he added.

The court had convicted Mishra in this case on Friday, while his son Vishnu Mishra and grandson Vikas Mishra were acquitted in the same case.

Mishra is currently lodged at Agra jail with 83 criminal cases against him, including of murder, loot, kidnapping, rape, fraud, extortion, and property grabbing, among others. Mishra, who was brought from Agra jail amid tight security arrangements, was present in the court to hear the judgement.

A woman singer from Varanasi had lodged



a gang-rape case with the Gopiganj police station in Bhadohi in October 2020, alleging that she had been called to perform songs at the residence of Mishra in 2014 and when she was changing her clothes before the programme, he entered her room and raped her after issuing threats of dire consequences.

Later, he asked Vishnu and Vikas to drop her at her home but the duo took her to another building and raped her, she alleged.

The woman complainant had further alleged that in 2015, she was called by Mishra in the Allapur area in Allahabad and later at a hotel in Varanasi where he raped her. She added that Mishra had made her objectionable video clips and also used to make video calls to force her for virtual sex.

Upset over these activities, she had started living in Mumbai. She had also attached many clips and screenshots from her mobile with her complaint.

ED probing arrested Trinamool minister's alleged involvement in municipalities' recruitment case

Kolkata | Agencies

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is now probing if arrested West Bengal minister Jyotipriya Mallick had some connections with the municipalities' recruitment irregularities besides his alleged involvement in the ration distribution case for which he is presently in ED custody.

The ED became suspicious after studying the patterns of the cases, geographical locations of the municipalities and the peak time of the irregularities. The central agency had identified 10 municipalities where the recruitment related irregularities had been maximum. Out of these, seven are in North 24 Parganas district.

Going by the pattern of the recruitment irregularities, the ED has noted that the cases took place when Mallick was the Trinamool President of North 24 Parganas district, besides holding the ministerial portfolio.

Mallick being the district President of the ruling party, ED suspects that it is quite possible that he had an indirect influence on the functioning of the municipalities and hence the agency is probing this angle as well. As per initial findings in the munic-



ipalities' recruitment case, the central agency has traced a particular pattern which is uniform among all these 10 municipalities. In most cases, the number of recruitment was more than the sanctioned posts and these additional recruitments involved exchange of huge amounts of money. Already the ED has conducted a

series of raids at the offices of these 10 municipalities. The chairmen and vice-chairmen of these civic bodies have also been interrogated a number of times.

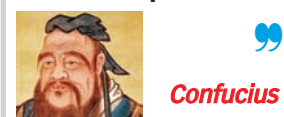
As per an agency official, the entire chain of cases of money laundering in West Bengal is like a labyrinth where investigation into one case is leading

to irregularities in other cases.

The ED's probe into the multi-crore cash for school jobs case resulted in the surfacing of the municipalities' recruitment case. Now a fresh probe will be conducted to find out if the prime accused in the ration distribution case had some links with the municipalities' recruitment case.

absolute india

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.



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DELHI REMAINS GAS CHAMBER WITH AQI IN 'SEVERE' CATEGORY

According to the latest data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), air quality indices in several Indian cities have consistently reached very poor to hazardous levels. The nation's capital, often finds itself at the forefront of this crisis, with PM2.5 and PM10 levels exceeding the safe limits recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Other cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Bangalore are also grappling with high levels of pollution. The health consequences of this air pollution crisis are grave. Studies have linked prolonged exposure to poor air quality with a variety of health issues, including respiratory problems, heart diseases, and even premature death. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of air pollution. The public outcry over this worsening situation has prompted various measures to combat the crisis.

- A combination of factors, including industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, construction activities, agricultural practices, and meteorological conditions, has contributed to the deteriorating air quality in several major cities and regions.
- A combination of lower temperatures and still wind is one the cause for the rise in pollution level across the country," said India Meteorological Department (IMD) official, adding that once wind speed increases, the air quality is expected to improve.
- Pollutants tend to pile up in calm conditions, when wind speeds are not more than about 10 kmph. Speeds of 15 kmph or more favour dispersal of pollutants, which, literally, clears the air.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Yet another smoggy day, the air quality in Delhi-NCR continued to remain in the 'severe' category on Saturday with the overall Air Quality Index at 410. In the national capital, the AQI at Anand Vihar remained in the 'severe' category with PM 10 at 454 and PM 2.5 at 431. The NO2 was recorded at 97 and CO at 101 under 'moderate' category, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). At Bawana, the PM 2.5 reached 464 under 'severe' category, while PM 10 was at 466, also under 'severe' category. The CO was recorded at 110, under 'moderate' category. The station

at Delhi Technical University (DTU) recorded PM 10 at 317 ('very poor'), while PM 2.5 was at 249 ('poor') and CO at 70, while NO2 was at 79, both under 'satisfactory' category. The air quality at the IGI Airport area was in 'severe' category with PM 2.5 at 483 and PM 10 at 463, while the CO reached 108 ('moderate') and NO2 touched 61 ('satisfactory'). The PM 2.5 at ITO was recorded at 373, putting it in the 'very poor' category, while PM 10 reached 230, placing it under 'poor' category. The NO2 was at 252 ('poor') and CO was recorded at 144 ('moderate') on Saturday. At Lodhi Road, the AQI with PM 2.5 concentration was at 415 under 'severe' category, while PM 10 was at 419, also

PUNJAB SEES SURGE IN STUBBLE-BURNING CASES; HARYANA WITNESSES DECLINE

Chandigarh: Smoke from the burning of agricultural crop residue by farmers in Punjab and Haryana contributes to Delhi's poor air, increasing the risk of acute respiratory infection for those living in districts with intense crop burning. The reason for smog with the onset of winter annually is farmers try to maximise their yields by planting the next crop generally wheat after rice as soon as possible after the previous crop has been harvested. However, the AAP-ruled Punjab has seen a sudden spike in stubble-burning incidents since October 29, while the BJP-governed Haryana has been witnessing downward trend largely due to strict enforcement, real-time reporting and the deployment of district and block-level enforcement teams. Agricultural experts say to quickly clear the field for the next crop, the farmers burn the leftover paddy straw rather than using the traditional method of clearing it by hand or adapting option of sustainable millet cultivation to break the paddy-wheat crop rotation introduced during the Green Revolution era (1967-1978). Besides smoke from burning crop stubble, vehicle exhaust and factory emissions combine every winter to blanket Delhi in a choking haze largely owing to reduced wind speed after the withdrawal of the monsoon and cold winds from the Himalayas.



Nepal quake death toll rises to 145

Kathmandu | Agencies

The death toll from a strong 6.4-magnitude earthquake in Nepal has risen to 145 as the rescue operation is going on, government officials said on Saturday. The shallow quake hit Jajarkot and Rukum West districts at 11:47 p.m. on Friday night, which also injured 140 others, Nepal Police said. Nepal's provincial governments have announced relief packages for the quake-hit areas, while the Nepali Congress and the Rastriya Swatantra Party offered 5 million Nepali rupees (\$37,800) and two teams of doctors in aid, respectively. Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha told the media that China and India had offered support in relief and rescue. The Nepali government is focusing on the rescue and treatment of the injured after the earthquake. "The rescue and treatment of the injured is the first priority," Home Ministry spokesman Narayan Prasad Bhattarai told Xinhua. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal went to the affected area on Saturday morning along with health workers, and helicopters

were being mobilised for the rescue operation, he said. "We have not yet taken details about houses and other infrastructure damaged as the focus is to rescue," said Bhattarai. "It's not Earthquake that kills people but...": Seismology body head New Delhi: After a massive 6.4-magnitude earthquake jolted Nepal, claimed 132 lives and injured several others, National Center for Seismology (NCS) Director Dr OP Mishra said that two important factors for the severity of the occurrence in the Himalayan region were the time and structure. The NCS Director also said that it is not the earthquake that kills people, but the kind of structure in the region. "The intensity in Nepal was very strong, but when it came to Delhi it was reduced. Intensity is the degree of sitting, but magnitude 6.4 is the content of energy. Earthquake does not kill people it is the structure that kills people," OP Mishra told news agency. "The most disastrous occurrence of the earthquake in Nepal is because of the time and also the vulnerability of the structures," he added.

New video shows Gaza residents shot dead by Hamas as they attempt to flee

Tel Aviv | Agencies

A horrifying new video purportedly shows at least a dozen Gaza residents shot dead in the streets by Hamas as they were attempting to flee from north to the south of the Hamas-controlled region, media reports said. In the video posted on X, a man films the carnage as he rides a bicycle down the Al Rasheed beach road, crying out in anguish the camera focuses on the dead bodies, many of them lying in pools of blood. In a separate post, author and journalist Amjad Taha said the victims were among dozens killed by Hamas snipers, including women and children, because they do not want citizens to leave, New York Post reported. "They want to use them as human shields and will kill



anyone who attempts to leave. Hamas in Gaza will, as usual, blame Israel because it is easy and there is media that accepts this propaganda," he wrote. The video is fueling disturbing speculation that Hamas has been killing Gaza citizens and attempting to blame their deaths on Israeli airstrikes. Taha said the man shooting the video from the bicycle is saying "Airstrikes?"

Does this look like airstrikes?" in Arabic. Israel has faced mounting pressure to broker a temporary ceasefire with Hamas in recent days, including from President Biden and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, following a prolonged military campaign in Gaza that began when Hamas attacked on October 7, killing 1,400 people, New York Post reported.

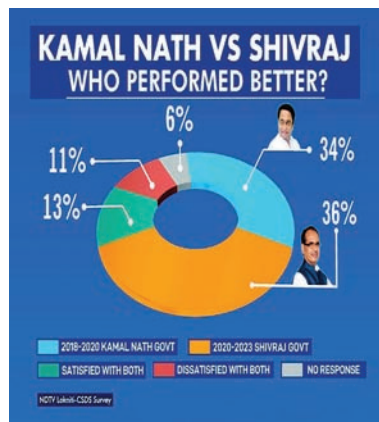
NAVAL HELICOPTER'S ROTOR BLADE KILLS OFFICIAL AT KOCHI INS GARUDA RUNWAY

Kochi: The rotor blade of a Chetak helicopter of the Indian Navy which was on the runway of INS Garuda during training on Saturday, hit a naval official who has been reported dead. According to sources, the incident took place around 2:30 p.m. An official of the Kochi Harbour police station, on condition of anonymity, said what they have been informed is the helicopter was on a routine training flight and was landing when the accident occurred. A board of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident. The helicopter was on a routine flight and the Indian Navy officials are tightlipped about the incident.

Shivraj Chouhan has slight edge over Kamal Nath in Madhya Pradesh

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Less than two weeks before Madhya Pradesh picks its new government, an NDTV-CSDS Lokniti Poll has revealed that voters prefer the incumbent chief minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan over the Congress' Kamal Nath, who was heading the state before him. The margin, however, may give the BJP pause, because it is just four percentage points. Over 3,000 people were surveyed in the week starting October 24 in 30 of the state's 230 assembly constituencies and the results will buoy the BJP as people believe roads, electricity and hospitals have improved under the Chouhan government. The answers will also give the party food for thought because people are evenly split on whether women's safety has improved or worsened under it, and 36% have said the condition of Dalits has worsened. The Congress can also take heart from the narrow margin that was thrown up



when those surveyed were asked whether the 2018-2020 Kamal Nath government performed better or the 2020-2023 Shivraj Singh Chouhan government. While 36% said the Chouhan government did better, 34% spoke in favour of the Nath government. The Congress had formed the govern-

ment in 2018 but Kamal Nath had to step down in 2020 after a rebellion led by senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who joined the BJP. Asked how they would rate the Shivraj government's performance, 27% said they were fully satisfied, 34% said they were somewhat satisfied, while 34% said they were somewhat or fully dissatisfied. In a sign that the Narendra Modi factor continues to play a big part in the country's elections the Central government fared even better, with 65% saying they were somewhat or fully satisfied with its performance and only 29% saying they were somewhat or fully dissatisfied. On whether the Kamal Nath government had performed better or the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, 36% said the latter had performed better and 34% picked the Nath government. Of those surveyed, 13% said they were satisfied with both governments and 11% said they were dissatisfied with them.

SC SETS ASIDE 'STRANGE' MP HC ORDER ASKING POLICE TO GIVE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCUSED BEFORE FILING OF CHARGE SHEET

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has set aside an order passed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court which had asked an Investigating Officer to give an opportunity to the accused to explain the material collected against him during the investigation before submission of the charge sheet to the Magistrate. A bench of Justices Abhay S. Oka and Pankaj Mithal held that such an approach adopted by the High Court is "very strange and contrary to law". The bench said that the accused application seeking quashing of criminal proceedings has not been considered on merits by the High Court and therefore, directed restoration of the plea filed under 482 CrPC (Code of Criminal Procedure). "We direct the Registrar (Judicial) of the Madhya Pradesh High Court to list the restored petition before the roster Bench on 8th December, 2023 in the morning. The parties shall appear



before the roster Bench on that day," it ordered. Further, the top court extended the interim protection granted against any coercive action till January 8, 2024. It added that a liberty is given to the accused to apply before the High Court for continuation of interim relief in the event the remanded case is not decided till January 8 next year. "The High Court will decide the case of the petitioner on merits without being influenced by the interim relief granted by this Court. All contentions are left open, to be considered by the High Court," clarified the Supreme Court.

Google AdSense to move from pay-per-click to pay-per-impression model

San Francisco | Agencies

Google AdSense, the popular advertising platform, has announced that it will transition from pay-per-click to a pay-per-impression model, meaning publishers will get paid every time an ad is displayed. The company expects these updates to go into effect early next year, and these changes will not require any action from publishers. "AdSense will soon transition from primarily paying publishers per click to the display industry standard of paying per impression," Google said in a blogpost. "This update will provide a more uniform way for paying publishers for their ad space across Google's products and third-party platforms, helping them compare with other technology providers they use," it added. The tech giant also noted that this change will not influence the type or quantity of ads publishers can display on their websites.



Google also updated AdSense's revenue-share structure to provide a consistent way for publishers to compare the differing fees across the various technologies they use to monetise. Previously, the Google AdSense network processed fees within a sin-

gle transaction. The company is now splitting the AdSense revenue share into separate rates for the buy-side and sell-side. "For displaying ads with AdSense for content, publishers will receive 80 per cent of the revenue after the advertiser platform takes its fee, whether that be Google's buy-side or third-party platforms," according to the company. For instance, when Google Ads purchases display ads on AdSense, Google Ads will retain on average 15 per cent of advertiser spend. There are variations because Google Ads does not take a fixed, per-impression fee, as many advertisers choose to pay based on user actions, like a click or conversion, the company explained. Overall, publishers will continue to keep about 68 per cent of the revenue. When advertisers use a third-party platform to purchase display ads on AdSense, publishers will keep 80 per cent of the revenue after the third-party platform has taken its fee.

Miscreants mix poisonous substance in water tank of govt school in Bihar

Patna: More than 100 school children and teachers had a narrow escape after miscreants mixed poisonous substance in the water tank of a government school near Patna on Saturday. The incident took place at Taret Pali village under Naubatpur police station. When some students went to the tap to drink water, they smelled something foul and immediately informed the teachers and principal of the school. "I had just reached the school when some students complained about a foul smell in the water. We immediately went to the tap and found that the water was smelling foul and had also turned sky blue in colour. We then went to the roof and found that the water inside the tank was blue with a foul smell coming from it," said Kumari Khushboo, the principal of the Taret Pali government school.



NO POWER IN WORLD CAN DARE THREATEN INDIA: RAJNATH SINGH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said if someone tries to carry out any nefarious act, India can eliminate them on this side of the border, and if necessary, on the other side as well.

Singh was addressing a rally while campaigning for BJP candidate Lal Singh Arya at Khaneta village under the Gohad assembly seat in Bhind district.

"India's pride is soaring all over the world. During the Congress rule, people abroad would say India is a weak country. The world did not take our words very seriously," the minister said.

The situation has changed now, and if India says something on international



forums, the world listens with open ears, he said.

"Now, your India is not a weak country. No power in the world can dare threaten India," he said.

"If someone tries to carry out any nefarious act, India can eliminate them on this side of the border, and if necessary, it can strike them on the other side of the border as well," Singh said.

Madhya Pradesh. It is the cleanest state in the country," he said.

The per capita income in Madhya Pradesh was only Rs 11,718 in 2001-02, and it has now increased 10 times to more than Rs 1.40 lakh in 2023, the minister said.

The growth rate in Madhya Pradesh is higher than the average GDP of India, he claimed. Madhya Pradesh is the only state where the government gives Rs 6,000 per year from its treasury to farmers in addition to the same amount disbursed under the Pradhan Mantri Samman Nidhi, he said. Singh will address two more rallies in Bhind district later in the day. The polling for 230 assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh will be held on November 17.

He further said one person from every five families in Bhind district is in the Army, and he wanted to greet such families. Lauding the works of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the defence minister said Madhya Pradesh was earlier a BIMARU (laggard) state.

"...but people of the country are now saying if one has to see growth, one must go to

Congress does corruption, communal, commission and criminal politics: Amit Shah

Team Absolute | Shivpuri

Union Minister Amit Shah has fiercely attacked Rahul Gandhi and Kamal Nath along with Congress. He alleged that Kamal Nath committed the Moserbaer scam of Rs 350 crore. After this, Kamal Nath committed AgustaWestland scam of Rs 2400 crore and IPCO scam of Rs 600 crore. Then a loan waiver scam of Rs 25 thousand crore was done in Kamal Nath government. Amit Shah was addressing an election meeting in Karaira in Shivpuri district. Shah said that Kamal Nath stayed in Madhya Pradesh for one and a half years. It is not that he did not do some work. He had started the commission business here. Worked on setting up transferred industries. Established an industry for the welfare of sons and sons-in-law. Worked on setting up an industry of corruption. More than 51 poor welfare schemes of Shivraj ji were stopped. I know that Kamal Nath is not going to come.



God forbid, if Kamal Nath comes, farmers will also stop getting Rs 12,000. Ladli Brahmin scheme will also be closed. Along with Shah, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia also addressed public meetings.

Shah also recalled the tenure of the Digvijay Singh-led Congress government before 2003 in his election rallies. He said that the Congress government kept Madhya Pradesh in darkness for many years. Maintained Bimarur state. Shah alleged that the Congress party runs on 4C formula. It does politics of corruption, communal riots, commission and criminal. It is necessary to vote for BJP to bring Madhya Pradesh out of 4C and into

the stream of development.

During this, Union Minister Shah also mentioned the Ram Janmabhoomi temple being built in Ayodhya. He said whether a temple was to be built in Ayodhya where Lord Ram was born or not? The Congress Party was delaying, stalling and diverting the temple question for 70 years. One morning Modi ji quietly went and performed Bhoomi Pujan. I have come to invite you. The consecration ceremony is going to take place there on 22nd January. I want to answer Rahul Baba. In 2019 I was the President of BJP. Rahul Baba used to create rebellion in the entire country. They used to say that the temple will be built

there but will not tell the date. Rahul Baba, listen to Tithi. Ramlala is going to be installed on 22 January 2024 at 12:30 pm. We did not just do the work of Ayodhya temple. Created corridor of Mahakal Lok and Kashi Vishwanath in Ujjain. Somnath temple is being built of gold. Modi ji has also revitalized Badrinath and Kedarnath. Union Minister Shah said that Congress party runs on 4C formula. It does politics of corruption, communal riots, commission and criminal. It is necessary to vote for BJP to bring Madhya Pradesh out of 4C and into the stream of development. When Congress was in power, the Central Government had sent Rs 2 lakh crore to Madhya Pradesh in ten years. Modi ji has sent Rs 7 lakh 25 thousand crore to Madhya Pradesh only in the form of grant in nine years. Another eight lakh rupees have been sent for roads, railways, aviation and institutions together. Including all the schemes, Rs 20 lakh crore has been sent in nine years.

Scindia called himself a 'black crow'... Kamal Nath said the public knows...!

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Kamal Nath has hit back at Jyotiraditya Scindia's statement that 'the crow has lied'. He said, 'Whatever Jyotiraditya Scindia says, the general public is the witness whether any deal was made? The public knows what kind of benefits he took from our government at that time, I do not need to answer these things.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, while targeting the Congress last Friday (November 3), said, 'They distributed 26 lakh fake certificates of Farmer Waiver Scheme and Loan Waiver Scheme, they also distributed them through my hand. There is an old saying that the crow bites the liar, I am a black crow for the Congress.' Kamal Nath retaliated on this statement on Saturday.

Kamal Nath said that whatever Jyotiraditya says, the general public is the wit-



ness. What kind of deal was struck, what kind of benefit he took from the Congress government is not hidden from anyone.

Notably, former Chief Minister Digvijay Singh has also taken a dig at Jyotiraditya Scindia's state-

ment. He had said that this time the absence of Jyotiraditya Scindia will not make any difference to the Congress. In the last assembly elections, the Congress party had won a large number of seats not because of Scindia but because of itself.

Congress has won the local body elections in Gwalior and Morena. Therefore, it is not right to give credit for this to Jyotiraditya Scindia. In the year 2018 also, Congress had fought the elections unitedly and this year too it will fight the elections together.

KAMAL NATH WROTE A LETTER TO THE SISTERS OF MADHYA PRADESH

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Political parties have made a series of election promises regarding the assembly elections to be held in Madhya Pradesh. Meanwhile, once again PCC Chief and former CM Kamal Nath has written a letter to the sisters of the state. Kamal Nath wrote in the letter that if for some reason you have not been able to fill the form of Congress Party's Nari Samman Yojana, then there is no problem. You will still be eligible for it as per the rules.

Kamal Nath promised the sisters that if the government is formed, then first of all I will sign the order for the scheme that you will get Rs 1500 under Nari Samman Yojana. Also, gas cylinder will be made available for Rs 500. Electricity bill will be waived up to 100 units and electricity bill will be halved up to 200 units. Kamal Nath said that this letter has been issued with my signature. You should keep its photocopy or its photo safely, this is my guarantee and promise.

Kamal Nath further said in the letter that you must remember that our previous government's 100 units electricity



scheme will be implemented once again and this time you will have to pay half the price for electricity up to 200 minutes. He said that I want to request you that there are many other plans for you and your family on our official manifesto. Please take a look at our manifesto once.

Now Voters will be able to get important election related information through WhatsApp chatbot of CEO M.P.

Team Absolute | Bhopal

For the convenience of the voters of the state, Chief Electoral Officer Madhya Pradesh has appointed CEO M.P. WhatsApp chatbot has been launched in the name of Chief Electoral Officer Shri Anupam Rajan said that so that the voters of the state can easily get important election related information, the facility of WhatsApp chatbot has been provided

to the voters.

Under this innovation, by talking through chatbot, voters can get various information related to elections like whether the name is registered in the voter list or not, the methods of adding the name in the voter list, the documents required in it, etc.

It is available 24 hours in both Hindi and English languages.

WhatsApp Chatbot WhatsApp Chatbot is available at ceomad-

hyapradesh.nic.in. Citizens can easily connect with the WhatsApp chatbot by visiting the website.

Along with the website, voters can also easily connect with CEO MP's WhatsApp chatbot through QR code.

For this, voters will have to scan the QR code and click on the link. As soon as you click, a verified WhatsApp page will open in the name of CEOMP. The QR code is also available on ceomadhyapradesh.nic.in website.

Circular issued for Ladli Brahmin Yojana, amount will be received on November 7



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Assembly election code of conduct is in force in Madhya Pradesh. Ladli Brahmin Yojana is called the election scheme of Madhya Pradesh government. Recently, some people had claimed that due to the implementation of the Election Code of Conduct, financial assistance under the Ladli Brahmin Scheme will not be available in the month of November.

In this regard, a circular has been issued by Dr. Ramrao Bhosale, Commissioner of Women and Child

Development Department, Madhya Pradesh.

In a letter issued by the Directorate of Women and Child Development to all the District Program Officers of Madhya Pradesh, Commissioner Bhosale has written that, the fixed date for transfer of monthly financial assistance amount for the month of November 2023 to the eligible beneficiaries under the Chief Minister Ladli Brahmin Yojana 2023 is 10th November. It is to be held on 07 November 2023 (Tuesday) instead of 2023.

In view of the Model Code of Conduct

effective for Madhya Pradesh Assembly General Elections 2023, the monthly financial assistance amount for the month of November 2023 is to be paid on 07 November 2023 only to those eligible beneficiaries who have been successfully paid the monthly financial assistance amount for the month of October 2023.

Already happened. Accordingly, the district wise list of the above beneficiaries will be made available by MPSEDC on the login of District Program Officer, Women and Child Development Department of each district.

Voter awareness mega car rally today

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Car rally is being organized in the capital on Sunday 5 November. This event will start from Jawahar Lal Nehru Police Ground by the Election Commission. The car rally will be flagged off by the election officer and the district election officer. Sweep and Voter Awareness Assistant Nodal Officer Lion Ritesh Sharma said that as part of the voter awareness campaign, a car rally has been organized on Sunday, November 5, which will start from Lal Parade Ground at 9:15 am and

proceed to Vitthal via different places in the city. It will end up in the market.

At the venue people will find voter awareness related posters, stickers and banner flex etc. To vote on 17th November, for awareness, let us all participate in a historic mega rally, become conscious citizens of the country by showing social concern and our service to the nation and establish Lionism.

Coming out of Lal Parade, go towards Tajul Masjid via Police Petrol Pump, PHQ, Old Lily Talkies, Kali Mandir, Sultania Hospital, Hamidia

Road, left from petrol pump towards Ghoda Nakkas, Manohar Sweet, Nadra Bus Stand intersection, CSP Shahjahanah tower, Via Royal Market Tiraha, walk towards the right in front of Narmada Sweets. Via under bridge, via Kashiiana Bangla Sand Ghat, VIP Road, Bhoj Pratima, Gohar Mahal, via bridge, Kamla Park, Polytechnic Square, Roshan Pura Square, left from Apex Bank, link road no 1, towards Nanke Petrol Pump. Chetak Square, 6 No Market, Nutan College, Subhash X School will end at Bittan Market Ground.

Yogathon organized at Sant Hirdaram Girls College

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Sant Hirdaram Girls is well known for its commitment to holistic education, hosted a Yogathon event on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Under the joint supervision of the NSS unit, NCC and the Sports Committee, this event was a testament to the college's dedication to fostering physical and mental well-being among its students.

Dr. Dalima Parwani, Principal, delivered an inspiring message about the manifold benefits of yoga practice. She highlighted yoga's transformative power in leading a stress-free life, achieving mental peace, enhancing concentration, combating body fatigue, maintaining a disease-free body, and managing body weight effectively. In her address, she emphasized the rejuvenating effects of Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation), which invigorates the body and mind, infusing participants' lives with renewed energy.

The Yogathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers, students, teachers, and members of the Sports Committee. The event featured a diverse array of yoga postures, showcasing the versatility and inclusivity of this ancient practice. Participants engaged in 25 sets of Surya Namaskar, symbolizing their commitment to physical fitness and mental well-being.

This event was not merely a celebra-



tion of yoga but also a testament to the institution's dedication to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Aligned with the District Eco-SDG Challenge 2023 and the Apex SDG initiative, the college demonstrated its commitment to creating a sustainable

future by encouraging the active participation.

The college management extends heartfelt congratulations to the NSS Unit, NCC and the Sports Committee for their exceptional organization of the Yogathon.



Breathless Mumbai: 78% of city's families has one member hit by pollution



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As the country's financial capital gasps for breath and grapples with very poor air quality, and four out of five Mumbai families having at least one person suffering for sore throat, cough, burning eyes, the authorities are waking from their sleep slumber.

The Bombay High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of air pollution levels in the city, fire-crackers were banned for the ODI World Cup matches here, civic authorities are cracking the whip on air pollution "creators" and taking up washing of all major roads (60-feet wide) in the city.

This is largely the situation of air pollution since the end of monsoon and the early winter in October in state and country's commercial capital Mumbai, the orange city of Nagpur, the cultural capital of Pune, the tourism hub of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (former Aurangabad) or the wine capital of the country, Nashik.

As Mumbai's choke, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) woke up to find over 6,000 construction sites in Mumbai as prime pol-

luters and on October 20 ordered a series of measures to control the air pollution - anti-smog guns, sprinklers at building sites, special squads to catch violators, and latest, cleaning 650-kms of all major roads with recycled water daily.

A LocalCircles survey among 7,000 revealed that 78 per cent families in Mumbai have one person down with air pollution related ailments, 44 per cent experienced burning eyes, 85 per cent blame it on construction sites and 62 per cent on vehicular emissions.

Experts at ASAR Social Impact Advisors said that as per IQAir, last week Delhi was the worst-polluted in India, followed by Jaipur, Mumbai and Nagpur, all falling in the 'unhealthy' air quality index (AQI), while Delhi topped in the world and Mumbai stood at the sixth spot.

Currently, Mumbai's AQI hovered around 125-169, the towns in Mumbai Metropolitan Region were in the range of 180, Pune at 165, Nagpur in poor AQI at 200, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar 150 and Nashik around 162.

The chief culprits for air pollution remain the same - vehicular emissions, industrial activity, con-

struction sites, waste-burning, agricultural residues, plus certain natural factors like limited wind movement and trapping of pollutants owing to geographical features that compound the problems.

On the recent crackdown on construction sites in Mumbai, Maharashtra Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant wondered that when massive works of metros, coastal road, and other infra are going on why only the private developers are being blamed for the air pollution.

"How much space is left in Mumbai for the developers to pollute? The civic administration must also take similar precautions if they are serious about curbing air pollution," said Sawant.

ASAR-SIA's Brikesh Singh said there must be robust collaboration among all stakeholders, like civil society, citizens groups, and urban local bodies to mitigate the effects of air pollution and work towards a cleaner, healthier future for all.

"There should be city-specific action plans addressing their unique challenges rather than apparent quick-fixes like smog-towers or smog-guns, and the focus should be on meticulously designed and properly implemented solutions that promise a long-term end to the menace of air pollution," urged Singh.

NGO Waatavaran's Founder Bhagwan Keshbhat said the BMC's new guidelines to rein in pollution from the construction and demolition waste is a commendable step.

"But it is crucial that these guidelines are adhered to scrupulously to ensure Mumbai thrives not just economically but also environmentally," said Keshbhat. Centre For Sustainable Development, Nagpur Director Leena Buddhie said beyond 'quick-fixes', there must be strategic measures - bolstering public transport, solutions to emissions from thermal power plants, regulating industrial emissions, arresting dust from metros or road constructions and other infra-projects plus promoting green spaces, for a cleaner and healthier Nagpur of the future.

The experts warn that the air pollution crisis is not just about safeguarding the environment but also linked to the health and wellbeing of the citizens, ensuring cleaner air and ensuring a more sustainable future for the generations to come, with the cooperation of all stakeholders.

Central Railway, which heralded India's first train route, turns 73 today



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai headquartered Central Railway (CR), which succeeded the Great Indian Peninsular (GIP) Railway of the British-era, will celebrate its 73rd foundation day on Sunday, officials said here.

It was on the GIP-CR that Asia's and India's first railway train ran 34 kms between Bori Bunder (Mumbai) and adjoining Thane on a warm Saturday of April 16, 1853.

That 75-minute commute wrote the first of a glorious chapter in mass public transportation for the entire sub-continent and beyond, touching the lives of billions... After that epochal development, the GIP Railway continued to expand and in 1900, it was merged with the Indian Midland Railway Company, even as the CR was headquartered in Mumbai's 'Bori Bunder' or 'Victoria Terminus' and what is now the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The frontiers of the new merged entity expanded all the way to Delhi in the north, Kanpur and

Allahabad in the north-east, Nagpur in the east to Raichur in the south-east, affording a through connection from the then Bombay (Mumbai) to almost the entire India.

At that time the route mileage of the GIP Railway was just 2,575 kms, but it proved to be a critical uniting factor for the country engaged in a long war for Freedom from the British Raj.

Post-Independence, on November 5, 1951, the CR was created by integrating the railways of the erstwhile Nizam State (Hyderabad), Scindia State (Gwalior) and Dholpur State (Rajasthan).

Presently, the CR has five divisions - Mumbai, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Solapur and Pune with a route network of more than 4,219 kms and 471 stations spanning Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

In the past 72 years, the CR has bagged many feathers in its operations - the first trains of Shatabdi Express, Jan Shatabdi Express, Tejas and others, and continues to develop and progress. In 72 years, the originating loading which stood at 16.58 tonnes has now shot up to 81.88

metric tonnes (2022-2023), and this year it notched its best ever 49.02 tonnes in the April-October freight loading period.

The CR's suburban services - the lifeline of the country's commercial capital along with its sister Western Railway - has increased services from 519 (1951) to a staggering 1,810 in Mumbai and 40 in Pune (2023).

The Mumbai suburban section has spread out to four different corridors to cater to the largest number of people through its 1,810 daily services.

The suburban services which had started with just three coaches gradually grew to 9, 12 and now even 15, offering enhanced capacity with the same route infrastructure, besides introducing air-conditioned trains and now the sleek Vande Bharat Express trains.

Simultaneously, other works like constructing new lines, doubling, tripling or quadrupling certain sections, electrification, upgradation of stations and construction of new stations, bridges and other infrastructure also continues at a quick pace.

Maha pharma factory blaze-cum-blast - 8 bodies found, 3 missing

Team Absolute | Raigad (Maharashtra)

Rescue teams have recovered eight bodies so far from among 11 persons reported missing in Friday's massive fire followed by multiple explosions at a pharmaceutical factory in Mahad MIDC, the police said here on Saturday.

The fire, the cause of which is not clear yet, quickly spread and led to several explosions in the factory premises of Blue Jet Healthcare Ltd., spread over more than eight acres of land in the Mahad MIDC complex.

A portion of the pharmaceutical factory, where around 20 workers were on duty on Friday morning, was engulfed in the blaze with thick dark smoke emanating from there.

Soon after the blaze at around 11 a.m., deafening blasts were heard in the vicinity as Raigad Police and local fire brigade teams, and later in the night the NDRF, rushed to the spot.

"We have recovered four bodies so far... Search is on for the other victims," Raigad (Mahad) SDPO Shankar had told IANS from the disaster site on Saturday morning.

By the evening, another four bodies were recovered, taking the toll to eight, while three are still missing and seven others have been injured.

Other officials said that the conflagration has considerably weakened the factory structure, making it very risky for the NDRF, fire brigade and other teams to carry out the rescue mission.

Guardian Minister of Raigad, Uday Samant, visit-



ed the spot around midnight on Friday and instructed the officials to trace the victims and ensure proper treatment for the injured.

Preliminary reports suggest a suspected gas leak may have led to the blaze and the explosions, resulting in chaos as the flames started spreading to

the other units within the factory premises, said an eyewitness.

Among the seven injured, the condition of two is stable while the others are reported to be critical at the Mahad rural hospital where they are being treated.

"NOTHING CAN STOP ME": ACTOR UORFI JAVED AFTER CASE OVER VIRAL VIDEO

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Fashion influencer Uorfi Javed has cleared the air around a viral video of her "arrest", which made the headlines on Friday. She posted a new video on her official Instagram account and wrote that she was "arrested" by the "fashion police".

The latest video -- which shows a prison setup -- was in collaboration with a fashion brand. In the video, she can be seen sporting an orange outfit and holding up a prison placard.

Taking to her official Instagram account, she wrote, "Arrested by the fashion police for my fierce fashion game, but nothing can stop me! Excited to announce FREAKIN' UORFICATION my collection launch with @Freakinsindia. Get ready for some sizzling styles!"

The former Bigg Boss OTT contestant had raised some eyebrows on Friday by posting a video of herself seemingly getting "arrested" by the police.

In the video, two women



dressed as police officers "arrested" Uorfi Javed allegedly over the length of her outfit. The video showed her being taken away in a vehicle by the women, creating quite a buzz on the internet.

The video even drew a sharp response from the Mumbai Police, which clarified that there was no real arrest involved.

"A viral video of a woman being allegedly arrested by Mumbai Police, in a case of obscenity is not true - insignia & uniform have been

misused," Mumbai Police wrote on X (formerly Twitter) and shared a screenshot of Uorfi Javed's viral video.

"One Can't Violate Law Of The Land, For Cheap Publicity!", they added.

The police also said that a criminal case has been registered against those involved in the "misleading" video at the Oshiwara police station in Mumbai.

"While further investigation is on, the fake inspector is under arrest & the vehicle has been seized too," they said.

Maharashtra police officials with drug links will be dismissed: Devendra Fadnavis

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said state police personnel with drug links will not just be suspended but also dismissed from service, reported news agency.

Talking to reporters, Devendra Fadnavis said anyone involved in the manufacturing and peddling of drugs will be booked under harsh laws.

"People involved will face strict action, but those police officials found to be involved (in drug trade) will not just be suspended but also dismissed under (Article) 311 (of the Constitution)," Fadnavis said. Constitution's Article 311 pertains to the dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of per-

sons employed in civil capacities under the Centre or a state.

The state police have undertaken a campaign to make Maharashtra drug-free and raids are being undertaken in every district, he said.

Work is happening at the national level and the interstate movement of gangs involved in the drug trade is being monitored, Fadnavis said. The state police have confiscated drugs worth hundreds of crores of rupees, the deputy CM said. The Fadnavis-led home department had faced criticism, especially from the Shiv Sena (UBT) over the escape of alleged drug racketeer Lalit Patil from a government hospital in Pune on October 2. Patil was arrested near Bengaluru a few days later.

Two youths held for extortion-cum-death threats to Mukesh Ambani

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai Police have nabbed two youths - one from Gujarat and another from Telangana for sending a chain of extortion-cum-death threat emails to Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani last week, officials said here on Saturday.

They have been identified as one Shadab Khan (21) from Gujarat, who was arrested by the Mumbai Police Crime Branch, and Ganesh Vanaparthi (19) from Telangana, who was nabbed by the Gamdevi Police Station, after discreet investigations.

The two accused have been charged with sending at least five emails in the past one week making extortion



demands ranging from Rs 20-crore which went up gradually to Rs 200-crore, Rs 400-crore and Rs 500 crore, with a threat of death if not paid, sparking concerns in corporate and political circles.

Deploying tech-intel, the Gamdevi Police managed to trace Vanaparthi through the IP address of his computer and rushed a team to the location in Warangal where he was detained after the police found evidence of the email he had shot off to the

industrialist. The Gujarat youth who first demanded Rs 20-crore warned Ambani that if he failed to cough out the amount, he would be killed by the best shooters he had in the country, and sent at least three more emails in the past one week. The duo has been booked under various sections of the IPC pertaining to extortion attempts, issuing death threats, criminal intimidation and others, and further investigations are underway, said the officials.

Brown sugar worth Rs 3.90 lakh seized in Virar, 2 held

Team Absolute | Palghar

On Thursday, the police seized brown sugar worth Rs 3.90 lakh from two persons at Virar in Palghar district. According to the police, they arrested the duo after acting on a tip-off.

"Acting on a tip-off that some people were coming

near a hotel in Manvelpada in Virar, the local police laid a trap. Around 10.30 pm, when two suspicious persons were spotted near the place, the police nabbed them," senior inspector Pramod Badakh of Crime Unit-III of Virar police said.

"During the police search, 17 grams of brown sugar val-

ued at Rs 3.90 lakh were recovered," the police official said. Following the recovery of the drug, the police arrested the duo of Amir Jakar Khan (35) and Hareesh Manoj Patil (29).

The arrest has been made under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Two booked for cheating garment manufacturer of Rs 55 lakh

Team Absolute | Thane

Police have registered a case against two persons, for allegedly cheating a garment manufacturer at Thane's Bhiwandi to the tune of Rs 55 lakh as they purchased goods from him but failed to make the payment. According to the police, the complainant in the case is a Kamatghar resident in Bhiwandi. "One of the accused, who owns a fabric unit in Mumbai, and her manager purchased garments worth more than Rs 69.37 lakh on credit from the complainant between October 2022 and January 2023. But they paid only Rs 13.99 lakh to him so far," the official of Narpoli police station said.

"Despite repeated reminders, the duo failed to pay the balance amount to him and duped him to the tune of Rs 55.38 lakh," the police official said. Based on the complaint, the police filed a case against them under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 420 (cheating), 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 34 (common intention).

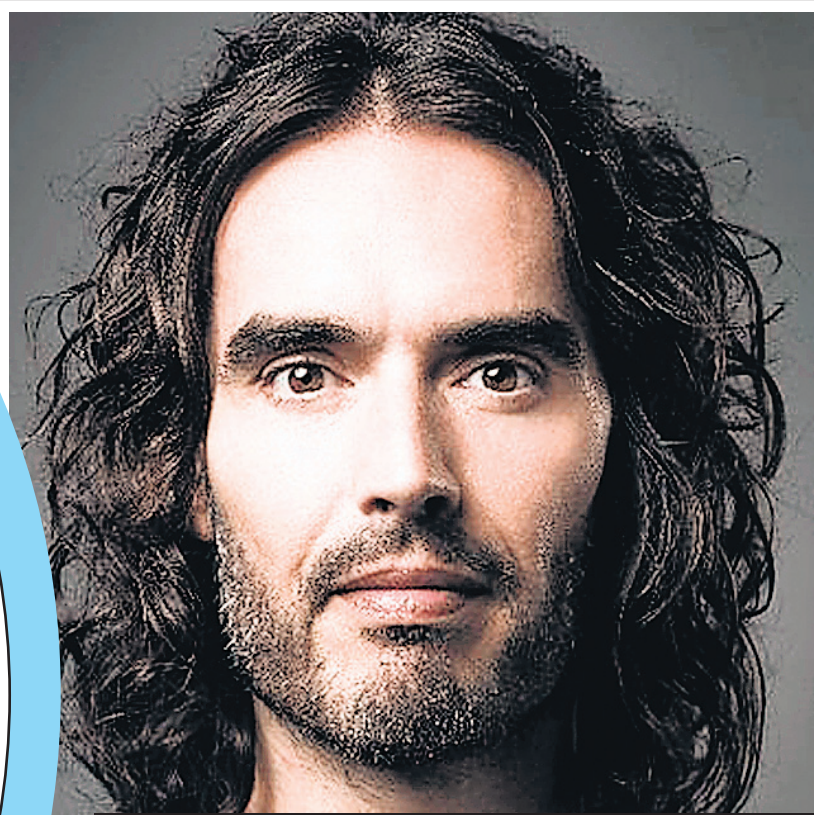


Kylie Minogue

IS 'PROUD' OF HOW SHE NAVIGATES NEGATIVE COMMENTS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer Kylie Minogue has learned the art of "feeling the fear and doing it anyway" when it comes to dealing with critics. She told Us Weekly of her favorite memories of her career: "There's a never-ending list of micro-moments of getting past this, getting past that (and) every person that tried to write me off. I'm in a good position... but I know the cost. I'm proud that I've found a way to navigate that - feeling the fear and doing it anyway." Minogue recently shared that it's taken "a lot" for her to keep going with her pop career. The 55-year-old singer is amidst her latest comeback with her dance-pop record 'Tension' and a Las Vegas residency edging closer. The lead single, 'Padam Padam', proved a huge hit after going viral online, opening up the star to a whole new generation of fans. Minogue has confessed that it has taken a lot of strength to keep coming back. She told OK! Magazine: "I feel like a lot of good things are coming together at the same time. Every artist that's ever existed was also riddled with insecurity and self-doubt and all of that stuff. But I feel like now it's OK." She added: "I don't know that everyone knows the extent of what it's taken for me to keep doing this. The respect is there. It's taken it's good old time. I feel a lot more peaceful than I did a while ago." Meanwhile, Minogue has said that she would have "regretted" leaving her Las Vegas residency much later. The pop superstar, who since beginning her career in the 1980s, has released 15 studio albums and sold 80 million records worldwide, will follow in the footsteps of fellow music legends like Sir Elton John, Adele and Britney Spears when she takes to the stage in Sin City this November, and feels that the three-month residency has come at the "perfect time" in her career.



Russell Brand accused of sexual assault on 'Arthur' film set

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor-comedian Russell Brand, who was accused of four sexual assault allegations earlier this year, was hit with another lawsuit by a woman alleging that in 2010, he exposed himself to her on the set of 'Arthur' before sexually assaulting her in a bathroom. In an affidavit filed on Friday and obtained by Insider, 'Jane Doe' requested a New York judge for anonymity, and stated she feared being blacklisted and retaliation, reports rockstomestone.com. The woman claimed that Brand "previously used his social media platform to rally his fan base to support him in the face of current accusations." Doe alleged the assault occurred on July 7, 2010 when she was an extra on the set of 'Arthur'. In the filing, she claims that Brand "appeared intoxicated, smelt of alcohol, and

was carrying a bottle of vodka on set" before he exposed his penis "in full view of the cast and crew." That same day, as per the document, Brand allegedly followed Doe into a bathroom and assaulted her while a "member of the production crew guarded the door from the outside." Other defendants in the lawsuit include Warner Brothers, MBST Entertainment, BenderSpink, and Langley Park Pictures. The request was brought under New York's Adult Survivors Act, which opened a yearlong window opening on November 24 that allows victims to sue their abusers as well as the institutions that protected sexual predators. Brand has denied the allegations. His UK publisher Pan Macmillan's Bluebird halted the publication of any future releases from the actor following investigations into the allegations.

SELMA BLAIR FEELS SHE DESERVES FINDING LOVE AGAIN FOLLOWING 2018 MS DIAGNOSIS



Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Selma Blair shared that she's ready for dating for the first time since she announced her Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis back in 2018. When appearing on the cover of Glamour for the 2023 Women of the Year issue, the 51-year-old first shared: "I think the disability word... it just confuses people." She added: "Like, as if I don't have a vagina." Although she acknowledged that re-entering the dating won't be that easy, Blair said: "I still believe if I'm just true to myself, that person will come into my life one day." She then noted: "I think I deserve it, and think I'm in a great place to show up as the best version of me. It's the first time I have hope... And I could have never said that in my life before." During the chat, she also recalled the "bad relationship" that she had prior to her diagnosis, reports aceshowbiz.com. "I didn't realise how emotionally abusive and controlling they were, taking advantage of meeting me in a really vulnerable time," she claimed. "I was convinced that's what I deserved. When you're in a rough spot, you can meet some opportunistic people. It's really dangerous." The Carol depicter in 'After', however, disclosed that she recently met a man at a birthday dinner for a friend, and she found him exciting. "Something in this person inspired me to see myself differently by the way he looked at the world," she gushed. "Just from that brief meeting, I thought, 'I have something I didn't know I did.'"



Nicolas Cage says he 'didn't get into movies to be a meme'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Nicolas Cage may have found himself at the centre of viral memes that constantly flood social media, but that was not what he ever intended to do. In a recent interview with The Guardian, the Oscar-winning actor said that he initially "didn't understand how to process what was happening" with all the memes and video mashups of him and the characters he had played for projects. "I got into acting because I was moved by film performance more than any other art form. I didn't get into movies to become a meme. That was new. I made friends with it but it was an adjustment," he said. "I thought maybe they would compel someone to go back and look at the movies. But I had no control over it. The same thing happens with Paul in 'Dream Scenario' he has no control over this inexplicable phenomenon." The Kristoffer Borgli-directed film follows Paul Matthews, an unlucky family man who finds his life turned upside down when he starts to appear in millions of strangers' dreams. But his newfound stardom gets complicated when the dreams become nightmares. Earlier in the interview, Cage said that he believes he may "have been the first actor who went through a kind of meme-ification," which was hard for him to wrap his head

PERRY'S 'FRIENDS' cast mates hold a private funeral for their departed friend

Los Angeles | Agencies

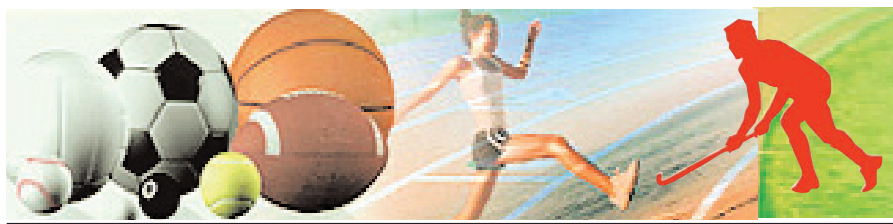
Aprivate funeral was held for Matthew Perry on Friday afternoon (U.S. Pacific Time), with the actor's 'Friends' co-stars in attendance along with other loved ones and family. This is reported by Variety and quoted People. People reports that Jennifer Aniston, Matt LeBlanc, David Schwimmer, Courteney Cox and Lisa Kudrow all convened for the event, held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles. It is also the final resting place of notable names such as Paul Walker, Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds and Nipsey Hussle. The funeral began around 3 p.m. before ending at 5 p.m. Perry died on October 28 at the age of 54. Two days later, his 'Friends' co-stars released a joint statement mourning their fellow cast member. "We are all so utterly devastated by the loss of Matthew," the five said in the statement. "We were more than just cast mates. We are a family. There is so much to say, but right now we're going to take a moment to grieve and process this unfathomable loss." "In time we will say more, as and when we are able. For now, our thoughts and our love are with Matty's family, his friends, and everyone who loved him around the world," Perry's co-stars added. Perry, notes Variety, was very forthcoming about his struggles with alcohol and drug abuse after rising to fame in the '90s. He became addicted to Vicodin and went to rehab after a jet ski accident in 1997.



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Raquel Leviss



Men's ODI World Cup (Column)

PAKISTAN KEEP SEMIS FIGHT ALIVE, BEAT NEW ZEALAND BY 21 RUNS (DLS)



Bengaluru | Agencies

Pakistan keep their semis hope alive as they secure a stunning 21-run win via DLS over New Zealand in the run-fest and stay afloat in the World Cup 2023 at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Fakhar Zaman led Pakistan's charge with incredible inning, scoring a sensational 126 off just 81 balls, becoming the fastest

Pakistan batter to score century. After a nearly hour-long rain delay, Pakistan had been given a revised (Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method) target of 342 in 41 overs (DLS) to win. Pakistan needed to chase New Zealand's challenging target in 35.2 overs, which was essential to improve their net run rate (NRR), to keep their hopes alive for a spot in the semifinals.

During their innings, Pakistan only lost one wicket, that of Abdullah Shafique, while Fakhar Zaman (126 not out) and skipper Babar Azam (66 not out) were going great guns and having added a massive 194-run stand for the second wicket. Earlier in the game, Pakistan won the toss and opted to field first. Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra gave a sublime start, adding 68 runs for the

opening wicket, and this was the Kiwis' highest opening partnership in this World Cup. Hasan Ali bounced out Conway (35 off 39) and completed 100 ODI wickets.

In came Williamson at No. 3 and batted magnificently. The Kiwi skipper and young Ravindra were involved in a massive 180-run partnership for the 2nd wicket and put the Pakistani bowlers in deep waters. While Ravindra (108 off 94) hammered his 3rd ODI and World Cup hundred, Williamson (95 off 79) fell short of a well-deserved 100, courtesy of Iftikhar Ahmed.

New Zealand's fourth successive loss in the World Cup 2023, has complicated Kane Williamson's chances of qualifying for the semifinals. New Zealand, who have won four matches, have one more match left, which is now a must-win for the Kiwis.

Meanwhile, Pakistan have now won four matches for their eight and still have a mathematical chance of qualifying. Babar Azam's men have moved to fifth place in the points table.

England vs Australia Highlights, World Cup 2023: AUS win by 33 runs, knock ENG out of World



Ahmedabad | Agencies

At Cummins-led Australia dished out a superb performance and defeated England by 33 runs in the World Cup encounter in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Batting first Australia piled a stiff 286 on the board and England could only manage 253 in response. The outcome also knocked England out of the World Cup. Adam Zampa, who claimed three wickets and conceded just 21 runs in his full quota of overs, was named Player of the

Match. Zampa also made vital contribution with the bat. Zampa joined the proceedings when Australia were reduced to 241-7 in 43.4 overs and it was his 29 off 19, which pushed Australia to a stiff total on the board. He also grabbed a superb catch near backward square leg in the contest. Apart from Zampa, Marnus Labuschagne chipped in with a healthy 71 off 83, the highest among the Aussie batters. Cameron Green fell short by three runs from completing his half-century, while Steve Smith was dis-

missed for 44(52). Marcus Stoinis also made a notable 35-run contribution in 32 deliveries to Australia's total. Mitchell Starc then injected double blow as England lost Jonny Bairstow and Joe Root cheaply in the 287 chase. Ben Stokes and Dawid Malan then did some rebuilding but both departed after completing their respective half-centuries.

Jos Buttler and Liam Livingstone fell for single digit scores. Chris Woakes showed some late fight but didn't find much support from the other end.

Paris Masters:

Bopanna/Ebden advance to final, move closer to World No. 1



Paris | Agencies

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden are one win away from capturing their third title of the season together as they overcame Harri Heliövaara and Mate Pavić 6-7(3), 6-4, 10-6 to enter final, at the Rolex Paris

Masters. In a hard-fought clash, the third seeds won 88 percent (46/52) of their first-serve points and were strong in the key moments, saving all three break points to advance after 89 minutes. If Bopanna and Ebden triumph in Paris, the Indian-Australian team would pass Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek by 60 points to become World No. 1 in the Pepperstone ATP Live Doubles Teams Rankings. Bopanna and Ebden are chasing their second ATP Masters 1000 crown of the year, having triumphed in Indian Wells in March. They have won 12 of their past 14 matches, advancing to the final at the US Open and in Shanghai. They will aim to go one step further in Sunday's title match when they meet Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury or Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin. Bopanna and Ebden will compete at the Nitto ATP Finals in Turin later this month to round out their season.

BOLOGNA PUNISH WASTEFUL LAZIO IN SERIE A

Rome: Bologna ended Lazio's winning streak in Serie A as they beat the toothless Biancocelesti 1-0 on home turf thanks to Lewis Ferguson's strike.



Lazio had registered three consecutive wins in Serie A and ranked seventh before Friday, one point ahead of Bologna, Xinhua reports. The away side strung together a run of plays in the first half and was close to breaking the deadlock in the sixth minute when Taty Castellanos saw his header hit the woodwork. Bologna went ahead right after the break when Joshua Zirkzee's smart pass found Ferguson, who placed a right-footed effort into the net, which was enough for them to wrap up three points. With the win, Bologna temporarily sit sixth with 18 points, while Lazio dropped to eighth.

Kane Williamson becomes New Zealand's leading run-getter in ICC ODI World Cup history

Bengaluru | Agencies

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson became the highest run-getter in ICC ODI World Cup history for the BlackCaps during the league stage match against Pakistan here at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. Williamson accomplished this remarkable feat by dispatching Hasan Ali's short delivery for a boundary and scored an impressive 95 runs in a mere 79 balls. This achievement allowed him to surpass the seasoned Stephen Fleming, who had amassed 1075 runs across 33 innings, and now Williamson stands atop the list of highest run-scorers for New Zealand



with 1084 runs in just 24 innings. The 33-year-old, however, missed out on scoring his third World Cup century after getting out of 95 in the 35th over off Iftikhar Ahmed. "Kane Williamson's 95 runs today made him the team's leading @cricketworldcup run scorer. Williamson overtook Stephen Fleming (1075 runs) in top spot," New Zealand Cricket posted in social media platform X. In the 2023 World Cup, Williamson managed to score 173 runs in just two matches, maintaining an outstanding average of 173, with the highest individual score of 95. Unfortunately, injuries forced him to miss a significant portion of the competition.

WTA Finals

IGA SWIATEK, COCO GAUFF REGISTER WINS TO ADVANCE TO SEMIFINALS

Cancun (Mexico) | Agencies

World No.2 Iga Swiatek and No.3 Coco Gauff secured their spots in the semifinals of the WTA Finals, finishing in the top two of the Chetumal Group after winning their respective matches. Gauff won a battle of two of the Grand Slam champions from this season, defeating Marketa Vondrousova 5-7, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 in the final round of group play on Friday night, the first teenager to make the final four of the year-end championships since Caroline Wozniacki in 2009. Later in the evening, Swiatek confirmed her position as the group winner after defeating No.6 seed Ons Jabeur 6-1, 6-2 to go 3-0 in the Chetumal Group. On Saturday, Swiatek will face No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in a match that could



decide the year-end No.1 ranking. If Sabalenka wins, she will finish the year at No.1. If Swiatek prevails, she can retake the top spot only by win-

ning the title, WTA reports. This is a rematch of last year's semifinal in Fort Worth, where Sabalenka won 6-2, 2-6, 6-1. The two have split

their two meetings this season, both on clay. Swiatek won the Stuttgart final, while Sabalenka took Madrid. The other semifinal will showcase Gauff against No.5 Jessica Pegula. It will be the first all-American semifinal at the WTA Finals since the reintroduction of the round-robin format in 2003. Both players are making their semifinal debuts at the year-end tournament. Last year in Fort Worth the duo went winless in both singles and doubles. This will be the third meeting of the year between the two top-ranked Americans. Gauff won on the grass in Eastbourne and Pegula got her revenge during her title run in Montreal this summer. Friday's victory was Gauff's 51st of the season. She is the first American teenager to register 50 or more wins in a single season since Venus Williams in 1999.

Rachin Ravindra becomes first New Zealand batter to score three hundreds in WC ODI

Bengaluru | Agencies

Rachin Ravindra has become the first New Zealand batter to hit three centuries in an edition of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup when he reached the three-figure mark in the league stage match against Pakistan here at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, on Saturday. Ravindra, 23, took a single off Pakistan fast-bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr. in the 34th over to complete his third century of this World Cup, after previously making a hundred against England (on World Cup debut) and Australia. He eventually made 108 off 94 balls, hitting 15 fours and a six at a strike-rate of 114.89. The left-handed batter has gone past the previous New Zealand record held by Kane Williamson (2019), Martin Gupthill (2015) and Glenn Turner (1975), all of whom had two centuries in an edition of the World Cups. Ravindra is the first batter to score three hundreds in a player's debut edition of a World



Cup in the tournament's 48-year-old history. During his sublime knock, Ravindra, who made his international debut in 2021, also crossed the 500-run mark at this World Cup, becoming only the third New Zealand batter after Martin Gupthill and Kane Williamson to score 500 runs in a single edition of the World Cup.

BCCI name KL Rahul as vice-captain after Hardik Pandya ruled out

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed wicket-keeper-batter KL Rahul as the vice-captain of the Indian team for the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 after Hardik Pandya was ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to an ankle injury, according to reports. The International Cricket Council on Saturday confirmed that Pandya has been ruled of the remaining ODI World Cup has been ruled out of the remainder of the mega tournament after fail-



ing to recover from an injury to his left ankle, he sustained during the league match against Bangladesh on October 19. According to The India Express report, Rahul will now be attending all team meetings of bowlers and batsmen as the vice-captain and will be consulted by the team management in all key decisions.

ISL: Hyderabad FC, Bengaluru FC share spoils as Blues fight back for a point

Hyderabad | Agencies

The tendency to improve is always a distinctive feature of a team on the rise, and shades of that were evident as Bengaluru FC came from behind to draw 1-1 against Hyderabad FC at the Gachibowli Stadium in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Saturday. Simon Grayson had inspired a remarkable turnaround for the Blues last season when they finished runners-up in the final. Though they rolled over teams in the second half of the campaign, the Blues never managed to secure a point when the opponent scored first. That facet of their gameplay seems to be developing now, with Bengaluru defeating East Bengal FC in a similar fashion last month before scrapping through



to bag a point against Hyderabad today. The home side got ahead, thanks to Mohammed Yasir in the 35th minute. The 25-year-old has netted only six times across his six seasons in the league, but he showed skills synonymous to a striker when he brought down a long pass by Oswaldo Alanis and struck it past Gurpreet Singh Sandhu. Yasir beat his marker Slavko Damjanovic and displayed some fine footwork to help Hyderabad edge ahead in the contest. Bengaluru responded by bringing Spanish midfielder

Javi Hernandez onto the field. Case in point, Hernandez was the differential point in the aforementioned East Bengal clash too. Here, he didn't bag a goal contribution, but he initiated the move that tore apart the Hyderabad defence within a span of seconds. He pulled off a pass that met the onrushing Halicharan Narzary on the left flank. Narzary laid out an assist for Ryan Williams merely yards away from Gurmeet Singh in the 58th minute. The Australian international finished off the move, as Grayson breathed a sigh of relief on the touchline. Bengaluru had some brilliant passages of play thereafter, with Suresh Singh Wangjam and Sunil Chhetri coming close to netting the winner. Both teams rounded off with four shots on target, and they converted once each to share spoils from this hard-fought encounter.

South Africa has got an all-round side like India: Sunil Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Indian cricketer turned commentator Sunil Gavaskar has said that South Africa has got an all-round side just like India ahead of their clash in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 at Eden Gardens on Sunday. India sits atop the World Cup 2023 points table with 14 points from the opening seven matches, will lock horns with the Proteas, who have amassed 12 points from seven games. Both India and South Africa have now qualified for the knockout stages of the 2023 World Cup. "It's going to be a different challenge to the one the last time the two table-top-



pers met when India faced New Zealand a few weeks ago and completely swamped them. This one will be tougher because South Africa has got an all-round side just like India," said Sunil Gavaskar to India Today. Despite being second on the points table, South Africa boasts a net run rate of +2.290, while India have a net run rate of +2.102. A win for either side would give them a huge boost to finish at the top of the points table in the group stage of the 2023 World Cup.



Hrithik Roshan to feature in Salman Khan's upcoming

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Hrithik Roshan's 'War' character Kabir will be seen along with Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' in the upcoming film 'Tiger 3' starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi.

A source said: "Aditya Chopra has set the wheels in motion for a full convergence of super spies within the YRF Spy Universe! No one knows this but along with Pathaan, Kabir too will make his appearance in Tiger 3!"

"A handful of people know how Adi is visualising Kabir in Tiger 3 and this information is being kept under wraps to

be only revealed when Tiger 3 releases in theatres on Nov 12th!"

It was the success of 'Ek Tha Tiger' & 'Tiger Zinda Hai' that cemented Aditya Chopra's belief that he could incorporate two more larger-than-life agents Kabir in WAR and Pathaan into his plans.

The crossover of characters from this ambitious spy universe also started with

'Pathaan', which saw a union of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in an adrenaline pumping action sequence that celebrated the superstardom of these two cinematic icons.

'Tiger 3' is directed by Maneesh Sharma and will release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on November 12, the occasion of Diwali Day.

KARISMA KAPOOR RECALLS SHOOTING WITH AAMIR KHAN IN 'ANDAZ APNA APNA' AS 'GREAT TIMES'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

One of Bollywood's evergreen actresses Karisma Kapoor has recalled her experience during filming of 'Andaz Apna Apna', alongside Aamir Khan, and shared how she realised the latter to be a "perfectionist".

The 1994 comedy drama 'Andaz Apna Apna' completed 29 years on Saturday. Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi, the flick stars Aamir, Salman Khan, Raveena Tandon, and Karishma.

It also features Paresh Rawal (in a dual role), and Shakti Kapoor in lead roles. IMDb has recently hosted its first-ever exclusive portrait and video studio in India, at the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival, expanding its on-the-ground presence at leading festivals worldwide.

The studio aimed to give fans a virtual front-row seat to all the latest news, titles and stars at MAMI.

Talking at the IMDb Portrait Studio, Karisma mentioned that Aamir Khan has always been a perfectionist.

On the anniversary of 'Andaz Apna Apna', Karisma recalled: "We shot a lot at Poonawala Bungalow in Madh Island. A lot of the scenes are shot over there and I remember there was one particular dining table scene. Aamir was such a perfectionist from that time that he was like placing the salt & pepper and fixing the plate. That was the first time I realised how an actor can be such a perfectionist."



NEETHA SHETTY RELATES TO HER ENRICHING ROLE 'DEEPIKA' IN UPCOMING DRAMA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neetha Shetty is all set to play Deepika Sharma in the upcoming family drama 'Aangan - Aapno Kaa', and said she connected with her character's determination to succeed in life.

'Aangan - Aapno Kaa' is an endearing story of a daughter who is determined to fulfil her duties towards her father indefinitely. A contemporary family drama, the show also promises to be a heartwarming journey of a daughter with a unique perspective on marriage.

The family drama features Mahesh Thakur as a dotting single father to three daughters - Deepika (Neetha Shetty), Tanvi (Aditi Rathore), and Pallavi (Ayushi Khurana).

Stepping into the role of the eldest daughter is Neetha. Being the eldest in the family, Deepika has a source of support for her family and has helped her father look after her siblings and the household after her mother passed away. An air-hostess by profession, Deepika is ambitious and assertive, while also trying to balance her married life.

Talking about the same, Neetha said: "Deepika is like the typical elder sister, a little authoritative but with a kind heart and good intentions. I was thrilled to take on this role because I connected with her determination to ease her father's load and her drive to succeed in life. The character has many layers and it is really enriching to portray such a character."



NEETI MOHAN REMINDED OF HER FATHER BY PREM GUPTA'S INSPIRING STORY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The upcoming episode of the singing reality show 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa' sees an inspiring story of a father-daughter duo. Prem Gupta, a father from Jharkhand celebrated his daughter's return with a baraat after she bravely ended her abusive marriage. The story made the show judge Neeti emotional and reminded of her own father who raised her and his sister to fight injustice.

Instead of bowing down to 'Log Kya Kahenge' and enduring a painful partnership that chips away at her self-esteem, causes her much emotional distress and destroys her individuality, when a daughter is told that it is okay for her to come back home, it sets an example for countless other parents across the country to not make their own daughters suffer in silence.

Actor Mithun Chakraborty too visited the show as a special guest. As she heard this story, judge Neeti Mohan was reminded of her own father who has raised his daughters to stand up for themselves and never endure any injustice. She said that their father made it very clear that his daughters would not be bound by a different rulebook just because they're girls.

Neeti said: "I want to thank you because you have encouraged people by taking this big step, and the world has seen it. Your story has become viral, and this has motivated a lot of people whose daughters are somehow getting tortured by their in-laws."

"I am very happy to see all of you, as my father has also raised the three of us sisters like this. He told us to never care about what society will say, and to never endure anything that's wrong," she said.



Radhika Seth

TABU TURNS 52 Ajay, Kareena, Farah wish 'duniya se alag' friend



Team Absolute | Mumbai

As Tabu celebrates her 52nd birthday on Saturday, the actress has received several heartfelt wishes from actors Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Anil Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Farah Khan, among others.

Superstar Ajay Devgn wished his longtime collaborator 'Drishyam' co-star on her 52nd birthday on Instagram, and posted a small clip of the two together in a jeep with the latter driving.

He penned: "Sometimes, behind the wheels, sometimes behind the screen but it's always an adventure. Happy

Birthday tabutiful!"

Kareena Kapoor wishing the 'Maachis' actress wrote: "Happy birthday dearest Tabu. Have a fab day!"

Director Farah Khan posted a picture of the actress with her kids and wrote: "I have a one of a kind 'duniya se alag' friend for the last 27 years... who disappears on her birthday... didn't let me take new pics to post n wants only Anda curry as a birthday gift!"

"So im forced to put old pics.. happy birthday @tabutiful... i lovvv u just the way you are, and anda curry is on the way!" An old friend of hers, actress Shilpa Shetty shared a picture of herself with Tabu and wished the 'Chachi 420'

alum, writing: "Happy birthday Timpool! Sending loads of love, duas, smiles and hugs n kisses your way, my darling! Here's to many many more years of friendship!"

Superstar Anil Kapoor applauded the 'Vijaypath' actress's skills as an actor and wrote: "Happy birthday to Tabu! Your craft is as stunning as you are."

Last seen in the spy-thriller film 'Khufiya', Tabu on the work front is also geared for her 10th collaboration with Ajay Devgn in Neeraj Pandey's directorial 'Auron Kahan Dum Tha'.

In addition, she will also be seen in 'The Crew', where she will star alongside Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.