

absolute india

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Over 120 countries back COP28 UAE Climate and Health Declaration

For Earth's Lives

Signed by 123 countries, the declaration is announced one day ahead of the first ever Health Day at a COP and marks a world first in acknowledging the need for governments to protect communities and prepare healthcare systems to cope with climate-related health impacts such as extreme heat, air pollution and infectious diseases.

The declaration was developed with the support of a number of 'country champions', including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany.

This joint action comes as annual deaths from polluted air hit almost nine million and as 189 million people are exposed to extreme weather-related events each year.

Mumbai | Dubai

Over 120 countries backed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health on Saturday, delivering a breakthrough moment for health in climate talks.

The COP28 Presidency joined with the World Health Organization to announce the declaration to accelerate actions to protect people's health from growing climate impacts.



The declaration was announced at the World Climate Action Summit, where world leaders gathered for the start of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

"The impacts of climate change are already at our door. They have become one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st century. Governments have now rightly recognized health as a crucial element of climate action," said COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber. He continued "the declaration sends a

strong signal that we must reduce global emissions and work together to strengthen our health systems".

"The climate crisis is a health crisis, but for too long, health has been a footnote in climate discussions," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization.

"The WHO thanks the UAE for making health a key priority in its COP28 Presidency, and welcomes this declaration, which emphasises the need to build climate-resilient

and low-carbon health systems, to protect the health of both planet and people.

"Climate change is increasingly impacting the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi -- one of the first countries to endorse the declaration. "Malawi has experienced these impacts first-hand -- extreme weather events have displaced tens of thousands of our citizens and sparked infectious disease outbreaks that have killed thousands more. This year, at COP28, we are calling for a bolder path forward that prioritizes investments in health and wellbeing, ensures a just transition away from fossil fuels, and creates a healthier future for all of us."

The declaration covers a range of action areas at the nexus of climate and health, including building more climate-resilient health systems, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce emissions and maximize the health benefits of climate action, and increasing finance for climate and health solutions.

Signatories have also committed to incorporate health targets in their national climate plans and improve international collaboration to address the health risks of climate change, including at future COPs.

No new virus behind China pneumonia outbreak: US CDC



Washington | Agencies The recent pneumonia outbreak in China among young children is not caused by any new virus, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), even as Ohio becomes the first US state to report a similar uptick in cases.

Asking the public to not be alarmed over the spike in respiratory illness in China, Director Mandy Cohen said it is related to existing pathogens like Covid, flu, RSV and mycoplasma.

"We believe there is no new or novel pathogen," Cohen said during a House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight

and Investigations hearing. "These are related to existing pathogens -- Covid, flu, RSV and mycoplasma, a bacterium that can infect the lungs."

The surge of respiratory illnesses is so far concentrated in northern China. There have been reports of hospitals being overhauled with sick children.

In a statement, the Warren County Health District reported 142 cases of the illness among children since August. However, officials do not think it is a new respiratory disease, but "rather a large uptick in the number of pneumonia cases normally seen at one time", the statement said.

40% urban Indians would opt for alternative fuel vehicles: Survey

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A new survey has revealed that 40 per cent of urban Indians are ready to embrace alternative fuel cars including plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) and fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEV), claims a new report released here on Wednesday.

The survey, conducted by Growth from Knowledge (GfK)'s Indian Automotive Industry Trends and Outlook indicates that the country's automotive landscape is undergoing a transformative shift with customers desirous of opting for alternative fuel cars, said the company executive Ravi Arya.

While only nine per cent of those surveyed currently own alternative fuel vehicles, 40 per cent plan to purchase such a passenger vehicle in the near future, in the online survey covering 900 people planning to buy a new vehicle in the next one-two years.

Electric vehicles (EVs) appear to be the most coveted alternative engine and



for over 55 per cent of the respondents, the advanced technology of EV's would be the primary motivator for their next car purchase.

Another 29 per cent were interested in PHEVs and 25 per cent preferred FCEVs, showing the evolving preferences among consumers for various alternative fuels. However, a significant 58 per cent cited the lack of charging stations as a major concern deterring them from choosing a pure EV. Some 53 per cent expressed disinterest in EVs due to their perceived expense and extended charging times, plus concerns on resale value of their EVs, as per the GfK report.

The shorter driving range of EVs was also a deterrent factor for 43 per cent of the consumers refraining from buying

them, though Indians would opt for such full EVs if they could drive them around 335 kms with a full charge and around eight hours to fully charge the battery. Of those surveyed, 30 per cent of the prospective buyers expressed apprehensions on the durability, reliability and overall quality of EVs, and nearly 50 per cent felt the prevailing economic conditions would influence their plans for a new car. Arya said that the GfK report reveals the expectations of urban Indians looking forward to safer and more enjoyable driving experiences with in-vehicle technology and an increasing curiosity towards hybrid vehicles. "This shift is propelled by factors such as advanced technology, fuel savings, environmental friendliness, low running costs (inclusive of tax benefits), extended driving range, established technology, and the accessibility of fast charger stations in local areas. These factors collectively contribute to the escalating inclination of individuals towards the purchase of EVs," Arya said.

An initiative for teachers, of teachers and by teachers

Team Absolute | Prayagraj

The Teachers' Self Care Team (TSCT), a unique initiative launched in 2020 by a group of basic education department teachers during the pandemic to help families of colleagues who died, has so far extended financial support of Rs 35.5 crore to a kin of 137 teachers by contributing Rs 35 per person.

"Due to the absence of pension benefits for teachers entering service after 2005 under the new scheme, families of those who pass away face financial challenges. This also affects their children's studies. We initiated this selfcare scheme to safeguard the future of these families. Whenever a teacher dies, group members, who wish to donate, directly transfer Rs 35 each to the bank account of the family. They upload the receipt of their contribution to TSCT's website as proof of their support. TSCT has over 2 lakh members in UP," said Vivekanand Arya, a teacher of government primary school and TSCT president who started the campaign.

He added that as unlock phase began in 2020, he became aware of numerous colleagues who either passed away or fell ill due to the Covid-19 virus during the lockdown, which inspired him to start the 'selfcare team' on Telegram app.

Gyan Devi, a beneficiary from Pilibhit, echoed the sentiment of many recipients, expressing gratitude for the Rs 52 lakh assistance she received between November 16 and



November 26 after her husband died on July 1 this year. "While it can't bring back my husband, but it will secure the future of my children," she said.

Arya said TSCT aims to launch another welfare scheme called Kanya Dhan Yojana in which all 2 lakh members would contribute Rs 10 each towards the marriage of teachers' daughters, aiming to generate a significant fund of Rs 20 lakh.

Furqan Hashmi, TSCT state coordinator, said, "The membership is free and the group offers an option for an annual contribution of Rs 50 from each member. These contributions will not only sustain the group's operational expenses but also facilitate crucial aid, such as financial assistance of up to Rs 50,000 for medical treatment in case of accidents.

World No.1 para-archer, Sheetal Devi has her aim set on Paris Paralympics next year

Team Absolute | New Delhi

As the clock ticks down for the Paralympic Summer Games in Paris in 2024, World No.1 para-archer Sheetal Devi is now focused on repeating her gold medal-winning performance of the Asian Para Games at next year's mega event.

"I have my eyes on the Paris Paralympics. I am putting all efforts to ensure that the Indian flag flies high on the podium and I bring back as many medals as possible," she said.

Sheetal Devi's story is one of fierce grit and determination, but many are still unaware of her incredible journey about how she took up archery and emerged as a champion athlete.

The young archer from Jammu and Kashmir, who bagged two gold medals and a silver at the recent Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, is the biggest example and flagbearer of the positive impact of the journey of para-sports persons on society.

"Until a couple of years back I had not even stepped out of Jammu and Kashmir. It feels a little overwhelming when I go around representing India in different countries. I handle those moments calmly and ensure I hit the bullseye," the archer commented while reminiscing how as a 14-year-old she came in touch in 2021 with Being You, a Bangalore-based storytelling startup.

Coming in contact with Being You, which focuses on documenting and celebrating human stories as they believe that positive stories inspire individuals and society, which changed her life completely.

When Sheetal realised that the prosthetics didn't work for her, she and her family had left all hope. That is when she saw the stories of para-athletes Sharath Gaekwad and Shekhar Naik from the book - Being You: Against All Odds, written by Preethi, which got her all inspired.

"With the help of GoSports, we reached out to sports physio Srikanth Iyengar, and he recognised her sublime core strength, which she had developed while regularly climbing



trees in her village and that is how it was decided that she should take up archery," Preethi added.

The 16-year-old has achieved a lot in the last two years, and it is just the beginning of a massive success journey that no one possibly ever imagined for her.

The para-archer's journey took flight as she started to clinch victories in national and international competitions, culminating in a stellar performance at the Asian Para Games 2023, where she secured two gold and one silver medal.

Already the No.1 para archer in the world after terrific performances in recent tournaments, Sheetal aims to bring more laurels to the country.

Sheetal will continue to train for the forthcoming competitions at the Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board Sports Complex in Katra, which has constantly supported the para archer since she took up the sport. Keeping the funds going has always been a formidable task.

As she has already started preparing for the Paralympics, her focus now is on following her training regime.

Sheetal recently unveiled the cover page of the second edition of 'Being You: Against All Odds' by Being You founder Preethi, the same book that inspired her to take up the sport.

Arnold Schwarzenegger meets Israeli survivors of Hamas attack



Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger spoke out against Hamas attack on Israel and met with the survivors and their families.

The former governor of California got emotional as he condemned the October 7 attacks, saying it's unlike anything he's ever seen and offering his support for Israel, reports tmz.com.

He met with family members of Israeli hostages who are still being held by Hamas in Gaza presenting them with bronze eagle statues.

After the meeting, Schwarzenegger said he's looking to spread peace because it's more powerful than hate and anger.

A 14-year-old Ella Shani was among the survivors traveling from Israel to Santa Monica to meet Schwarzenegger. She recounted how her father was killed on October 7 by Hamas at Kibbutz Beeri, and how her 16-year-old cousin Amit Shani was kidnapped.

Ella says her cousin was hiding in a safe room in his home when Hamas set the place on fire and broke down the door. She says Amit and two other Israeli men from a neighboring house were ordered into a car, kidnapped and taken to Gaza.

As Ella spoke for about 30 minutes, Schwarzenegger teared up and they hugged in the end. He also showed her some of his cool movie memorabilia, like a robot head from 'Terminator'.

The meeting was organised by the Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem, Schwarzenegger has partnered with the museum for years.

A bowl of yoghurt daily may help boost mental health

New York | Agencies

Yoghurt is not only good for your gut, but could lift your mood as well, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Virginia School of Medicine have discovered how Lactobacillus, a bacterium found in fermented foods and yoghurt, helps the body manage stress and may help prevent depression and anxiety.

The study, published in the journal Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, opens the door to new therapies to treat anxiety, depression and other mental health conditions.

The discovery is notable because it pinpoints the role of Lactobacillus, separating it from all the other microorganisms that naturally live in and on our bodies, said Alban Gaultier, researcher at the varsity. The team took an innovative approach to focus on Lactobacilli in specific.

Prior research from Gaultier's lab suggested that the bacteria could reverse depression in lab mice -- a hugely promising finding.

But the researchers needed to understand how.

Gaultier and his team decided to continue their depression research using a collection of bacteria, known as "Altered Schaedler Flora," which includes two strains of



Lactobacillus and six other bacterial strains.

With this rarely used bacterial community, the team was able to create mice both with and without Lactobacillus, circumventing the need for antibiotics.

The results explain exactly how Lactobacilli influences

behaviour, and how a lack of the bacteria can worsen depression and anxiety.

Lactobacilli in the family Lactobacillaceae maintain the levels of an immune mediator called interferon gamma that regulates the body's response to stress and helps stave off depression.



HIGH ALERT IN ANDHRA PRADESH IN VIEW OF CYCLONE

Amravati | Agencies

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday directed the officials to be on high alert in view of the low pressure over the Bay of Bengal developing into a cyclonic storm.

The Chief Minister was informed that the cyclone is likely to cross the coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam on December 4 and head towards north.

Cyclone-affected district collectors and the disaster management officials should be ready to take necessary relief and rescue measures to help people and restore power lines and transportation facilities in affected areas, the Chief Minister said.

He told them to take steps to shift affected people from the coastal areas to safer places and arrange relief camps while maintaining enough stocks of milk, drinking water and food.

On instructions of the Chief Minister, the government released Rs 2 crore to Tirupati district and Rs 1 crore each to SPSR Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, West Godavari, Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema and Kakinada districts for relief measures.

The Indian Meteorological Department



(IMD) has issued cyclone alert for Andhra Pradesh and adjoining North Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts.

According to the IMD, the deep depression over southwest Bay of Bengal lay centred at 0600 UTC of December 2, about 540 km southeast of Nellore, 650 km south-southeast of Bapatla and 650 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam.

It is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over southwest Bay of Bengal during the next

24 hours. It is likely to cross south Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam around 0600 UTC of December 5 as a cyclonic storm.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary K. S. Jawahar Reddy has directed the district collectors to be ready to tackle any situation arising out of the cyclone. During a video conference with district collectors, he asked them to take all precautionary measures to avert any loss of life and minimise the loss of property.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY CANCELS 142 TRAINS

Hyderabad: The South Central Railway has cancelled 142 trains in view of a cyclonic storm in Bay of Bengal, which is likely to hit Andhra Pradesh coast on December 4.

The authorities have cancelled the trains for the next 3-4 days, as a precautionary measure.

The cyclone 'Michaung' is likely to cross the coast between Nellore and Machilipatnam on December 4.

Under its impact, heavy to very heavy rains are likely for next three days in Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam, Bapatla, Krishna, West Godavari, Konaseema, East Godavari, Kakinada and Anakapalli districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The cancelled pairs of trains include Danapur-SMVT Bengaluru, Barauni-Coimbatore, KSR Bengaluru-Danapur, Narsapur-Kottayam, Secunderabad-Kollam, MGR Chennai Central-Vijayawada, Howrah-SMVT Bengaluru, MGR Chennai Central-H. Nizamuddin, Gaya-MGR Chennai Central, Guwahati-SMVT Bengaluru, Gorakhpur-Kochuveli, MGR Chennai Central-Hyderabad, MGR Chennai Central-New Delhi, Trivandrum-New Delhi, Madurai-H. Nizamuddin, MGR Chennai Central-Ahmedabad and Nagercoil-Shalimar.

Several trains between various destinations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have also been cancelled.

Days after Silkyara tunnel rescue op, U'khand CM calls on PM, discusses several projects



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after the successful rescue of the 41 trapped workers from Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister's Office in a post on X said, "Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi." According to the Uttarakhand Government, Dhami invited the Prime Minister to inaugurate the Global Investment Conference in Dehradun scheduled on December 8 and 9.

The Chief Minister also expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for providing all the necessary resources, guidance and cooperation during the

evacuation of the workers trapped in the under-construction Silkyara Tunnel.

The Chief Minister discussed various issues related to the state with the Prime Minister and thanked him for including the Jamrani Dam Project in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Along with this, he requested the approval of Rs 2,460 crore as financial assistance for capital expenditure of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project and Rs 3,000 crore as special financial assistance for upgradation of the Jolly Grant Airport in the state. The Chief Minister also requested Modi to establish an All India Ayurveda Institute in the Rishikul Ayurvedic College campus, Haridwar and to include Uttarakhand in the Kiwi Feasibility Study being run in collaboration with New Zealand.

Ensure no further construction takes place adjacent to Ganga: SC to Bihar govt

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has ordered the Bihar government to ensure that no further construction takes place adjacent to river Ganga, particularly in and around Patna.

"The state shall report to this court the progress in getting the unauthorised structures removed by filing an affidavit. Such affidavit shall be filed by the Chief Secretary of Bihar," directed a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Augustine George Masi.

The bench also noted that the state government has identified 213 unauthorised constructions adjacent to river Ganga in and around Patna, and steps have been taken to remove these encroachments or constructions.

The matter will be next taken up for hearing on February 5. The plea filed by a Patna-based resident said that in several areas of the floodplain, all residential buildings and houses are digging borewells without any permission or approval from the concerned authorities. The state agencies, instead of acting against such illegal constructions and encroachments, were providing them electricity connection, the plea stated. "Over a massive 520 acres of ecologically sensitive Ganga floodplains, stretching from Nauzer



Ghat to Nurpur Ghat in Patna, have been usurped," said the special leave petition filed through advocate Akash Vashishtha, adding that a clean Ganga is vital and essential to meet the drinking and domestic water needs of 5.5 lakh population of Patna. Earlier, the National Green Tribunal had dismissed the appellant's application saying that it was bereft of particulars of the violations and the violators.

NO BREAKTHROUGH IN MANIPUR BANK LOOT, MASSIVE SEARCH ON

Imphal | Agencies

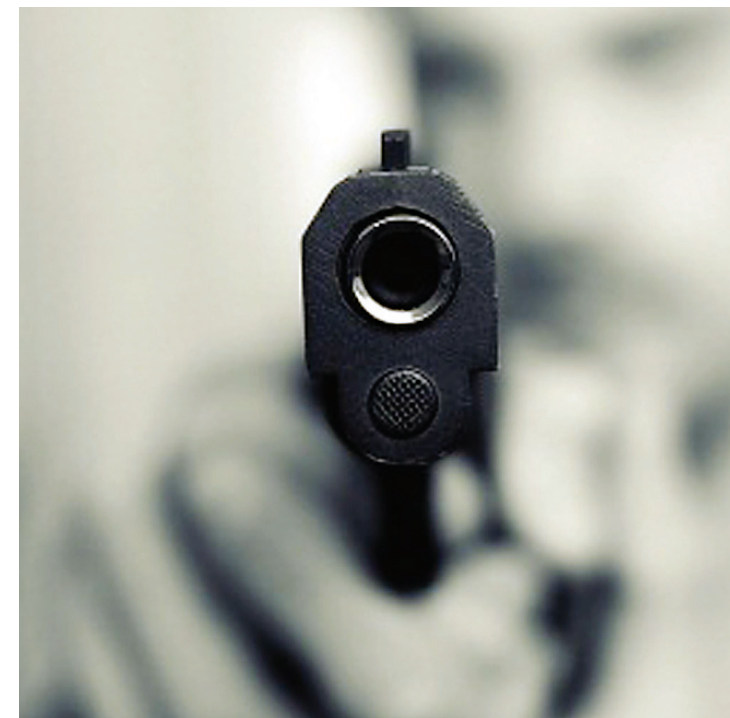
Two day after the Rs 18.85 crore bank robbery, no breakthrough was achieved even as the security forces continued their massive operations on Saturday to nab the armed gang which looted the cash from a Punjab National Bank (PNB) branch in Manipur's Ukhrul town.

A senior police officer on Saturday said that Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General rank Police officers have been entrusted with the task to arrest the robbers who have looted the money at gunpoint on Thursday.

Unidentified masked armed gang of ten persons looted Rs 18.85 crore from PNB Ukhrul branch when the bank employees were counting the amount after the day's transaction.

Immediately after the incident, the senior Manipur Police officers rushed to the hill district and are stationed there till now supervising the search operations.

The investigation officer sum-



moned the bank officials and the Manipur Rifles personnel, who guard the bank branch, for their statement.

Meanwhile, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh strongly condemned the incident and assured that the robbers would be nabbed at the earliest. Police, quoting eyewitnesses, said that 10 heavily-armed unidentified masked men reportedly carrying sophisticated weapons stormed into the PNB bank branch situated in Viewland-I in Ukhrul town just before the evening and looted Rs 18.85 crore.

"The security personnel and bank staff were tied with ropes at gunpoint and locked inside the store and washrooms by the armed men who fled with the cash," a police official told reporter.

This is the first time such a daring incident has happened in Ukhrul town since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur seven months ago.

A sum of Rs one crore was looted by the armed gang from an Axis Bank branch at Manipur's Churachandpur in July.

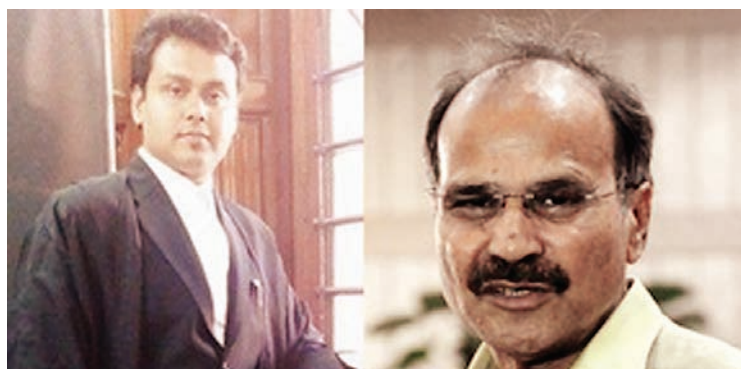
Adhir's letter on Ethics Committee proceedings against Mahua draws flak in Bengal Congress

Kolkata | Agencies

Congress president in West Bengal, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's letter to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla seeking a review of the functioning of Parliament's Ethics Committee on the issue of proceedings of against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the alleged cash-for query scam, has drawn flak from a section of the party's state leadership.

Posting Chowdhury's letter on his social media account, state Congress leader and Calcutta High Court counsel Koustav Bagchi ridiculed Chowdhury but did not directly name him.

Bagchi has also questioned whether from now Congress workers in West Bengal should start describing "thieves as monks". "Today we are describing Mahua Moitra as a nun. Tomorrow we



might do the same for Abhishek Banerjee and Mamata Banerjee. Congress workers should start practising to address thieves as monks from today only. Let us start the process with Purnima Kandu, the widow of slain Tapan Kandu," Bagchi wrote.

On March 13 last year, Congress leader in Purulia district Tapan Kandu was murdered while he was having an evening walk with his wife, Purnima Kandu.

The CBI started a probe in the matter following an order from the Calcutta

High Court. This is not the first time that Bagchi had been at loggerheads with Chowdhury on the issue of Trinamool Congress. In August this year, Bagchi threw an open challenge towards Congress high-command to dare to take disciplinary action against him, for constantly opposing Trinamool Congress, which is a part of the INDIA opposition alliance.

He also said that he has noticed that lately a section of the state Congress leaders are going soft towards Trinamool Congress. "This is not a satisfactory signal for the state Congress. Grassroots level Congress workers will never accept any kind of understanding with Trinamool Congress. I am in 100 per cent agreement with them. My commitment is towards my party and grassroots level workers and not towards any leader," he had said then.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

At least 20 Delhi-bound flights were diverted to Jaipur, Lucknow, Ahmedabad and Amritsar due to low visibility on Saturday, an airport official said.

According to officials at the city's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport the 20 flights were diverted between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

"A total of 13 flights were diverted to Jaipur, one to Lucknow, one to Ahmedabad, four to Amritsar and one to Chandigarh," said the officials.

"Flight UK954 from Mumbai to Delhi (BOM-DEL) has been diverted to Jaipur (JAI) due to bad weather at Delhi airport and has arrived in Jaipur (JAI) at 0842 hours," Vistara airline said on X. "Flight UK832 from Chennai to Delhi (MAA-DEL) has been diverted to Amritsar (ATQ) due to low visibility at Delhi (DEL) airport and is expected to arrive in Amritsar at 1100 hrs."

The airlines further said on X: "Flight UK928



from Mumbai to Delhi (BOM-DEL) has been diverted to Jaipur (JAI) due to low visibility at Delhi airport."

Shallow fog enveloped the national capital in the morning with the minimum temperature dipping to 12.3 degrees Celsius, three notches below the normal.

As per the weather department, the maximum temperature is likely to hover around 25 degrees while there will be shallow fog.

Leopard spotted near south Delhi's Sainik Farms, search operation underway



Team Absolute | New Delhi

A leopard was sighted near South Delhi's Sainik Farms on Saturday, prompting the Delhi Forest Department's wildlife team to launch a search operation.

According to officials, two meat-laden traps have been strategically placed in the area.

"The leopard is still in the proximity of the location where the traps have been put, near the Neb Sarai police station. It was last spotted today near N Block, Sainik Farms," said an official. The objective is to

either capture the leopard in the traps or monitor its movement away from the area.

If successfully trapped, the plan is to relocate the animal to the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, which is adjacent to the area, ensuring the safety of both the residents and the leopard.

As the search operation unfolds, residents and authorities remain on alert, with the Delhi Forest Department emphasising the need for caution and cooperation to ensure the safe resolution of this unexpected wildlife encounter.

DELHI AQI REMAINS 'VERY POOR', MIN TEMP DIPS TO 12.3 DEGREES

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The air quality in the national capital continued to remain under the 'very poor' category on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the minimum temperature in the national Capital dipped to 12.3 degrees Celsius, three notches below the seasonal average.

According to the weather department, the maximum temperature is likely to hover around 25 degrees while there will be shallow fog.

This morning at 10 a.m., the air quality at Anand Vihar entered the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 347 and PM 10 at 241, in the 'poor' category, while the CO reached 55, while NO2 was at 81 or 'satisfactory', as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Bawana station recorded PM 2.5 at 328, in the 'very poor' category while the PM 10 reached



177, in the 'moderate' category, while the CO reached 76, or 'satisfactory' levels. The AQI monitoring station at Dwarka Sector 8 recorded PM 2.5 at 339, in the 'very poor' category while PM 10 was at 183 or 'moderate'

while the CO was at 75, in 'satisfactory' levels. The AQI at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport station was in the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 at 318 and PM 10 at 159, in the 'moderate' category, while the

CO was at 101, in the 'moderate' level. The PM 2.5 at Okhla Phase-II was recorded at 396 and PM 10 at 329, both in the 'very poor' category while CO reached 68, under the 'moderate' category.

Gold, arms and narcotics seized from near India-B'desh border in Bengal

Kolkata | Agencies

Following a joint operation by the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), a cache of gold, arms and narcotics was seized from near the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Nadia district on Saturday.

The marathon operation, according to sources, went on for 48 hours during which the seizures and related arrests were made.

A total of eight persons, including five women, have been arrested in this connection. The gold that was seized in the joint operation was in the form of gold biscuits weighing 3.5 kg, valued at around Rs 2.18 crore, BSF sources said.

Apart from the gold, one automatic pistol, three cartridges, a pistol magazine, 2 kg marijuana and 69 bottles of



banned cough syrup were also seized.

The arrests and seizures were made mainly from Bijaypur village, which is pretty close to the India-Bangladesh border.

The arrested persons have reportedly confessed that all these were imported from Bangladesh and were meant for sale in West Bengal.

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STATE MUST SIDE WITH THE WEAKER POPULATION: CJI DY CHANDRACHUD

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Saturday said that for all citizens to feel free in a democracy, the State must side with the weaker population which may be a numerical or a social minority. CJI Chandrachud said that democracy requires a constant dialogue between differing opinions and civil society organisations to fulfil the aspirations of the people. "The beauty of a democracy is the sense of moral status with which all citizens can participate in a country and the consensus in its decision making. In a democracy the majority will have its way but the minority must have its say," he said.

CJI Chandrachud added that the democracy is premised on the recognition that there is no natural source of authority that can exercise power over individuals and people are presumptively free and equal. "Merely because a body is elected does not ensure that it acts in the best interest of those who it governs. Democracy is messy, and imperfect but inherent in it are the postulates of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity," he said speaking at the Justice Keshav Chandra Dhulia Memorial Essay Competition at the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. CJI Chandrachud said that "participative democracy simply entails a democracy that operates on and promotes deliberation", adding that if a democracy cannot safeguard discourse around the needs of all its people, it falls short of its promise.



FINGERS CROSSED

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Counting of votes will be held on Sunday in assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Telangana in what is seen as a semi-final contest ahead of the general elections in less than six months.

The Congress, which is in power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, and the BJP, which is ruling Madhya Pradesh, are locked in a straight fight in these three

states, while K Chandrashekar Rao-led Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is hoping for a hat-trick in Telangana.

Pollsters have been divided on the outcome, with quite a few exit polls putting the BJP ahead in Madhya Pradesh and giving it an edge in Rajasthan while predicting that Congress has an advantage in Telangana and Chhattisgarh. Starting with postal ballots, counting will commence at 8 am amid tight security for 230 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 90 seats in Chhattisgarh, 119 seats in Telangana and 199 seats in Rajasthan as

polling on one seat in the desert state was put off due to the death of a candidate.

A three-tier security arrangement has been put in place and only people holding valid passes will be allowed to enter the counting centres, election officials said. After wresting Karnataka from the BJP in May, the Congress is eyeing Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and is hoping to retain power in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. An impressive performance in these polls will boost the party's standing in the opposition

INDIA alliance which has been formed to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP is seeking to replicate the winning streak of Gujarat, where it has been ruling since 1998, in Madhya Pradesh with four-time Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan hoping to form government again. The party is also keen to win back Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh as it seeks to regain its hold in the Hindi heartland states ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

BJP vs Congress as votes to be counted in 4 states

MADHYA PRADESH

The counting for 230 assembly seats in MP will be held at 52 district headquarters, officials said. As many as 2,533 candidates are in contention, including political bigwigs like Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and his predecessor and rival Kamal Nath, in a poll that was largely a bipolar battle between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress. Chouhan claimed his party would retain power with a "huge majority", while state Congress chief Kamal Nath said he had "complete confidence" in the voters of the state. Of the 230 seats, 47 are reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 35 for Scheduled Castes. Besides CM Chouhan (from Budhni seat) and state Congress president Nath (Chhindwara), the EVMS will also decide the fate of three BJP Union ministers - Narendra Singh Tomar, Prahlad Patel and Faggan Singh Kulaste. It will also decide the political fortunes of BJP general secretary Kailash Vijaywargiya who contested from Indore-1 and three Lok Sabha MPs of the saffron party - Rakesh Singh, Ganesh Singh and Riti Pathak.



RAJASTHAN

Over 1800 candidates are in contention in 199 seats in Rajasthan where power has alternated between Congress and BJP every five years in the last three decades. "The counting of ballot papers will start at 8 pm. As many as 979 tables have been arranged for the counting of ballot papers across the state. Strong rooms will be opened in the presence of observers, candidates and their representatives," Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said. Gupta said that the counting of votes in EVM machines will begin at 8.30 am.



CHHATTISGARH

Tight security arrangements have been made in all counting centres in the state's 33 districts, including the ones affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), officials said. "The counting of postal ballots will begin at

8 am. Half an hour after the postal ballots are counted, the process of counting votes from the EVMs will begin.

"A total of 90 returning officers, 416 assistant returning officers, 4596 counting personnel and 1698 micro-observers have been appointed for carrying out the counting process smoothly," Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer Reena Baba Saheb Kangale said at a press conference. A total of 1,181 candidates are in the fray, including Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Deputy Chief Minister TS Singh Deo (both from Congress) and former CM Raman Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Patan seat, represented by Baghel, is witnessing a triangular contest with BJP fielding the chief minister's distant nephew and Lok Sabha MP Vijay Baghel. Amit Jogi, Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) state president and son of former CM late Ajit Jogi, is also in the fray from Patan.



TELANGANA

As many as 2,290 contestants are in the fray in the elections, including BRS supremo Chandrashekar Rao, his minister-son KT Rama Rao, TPCC president A Revanth Reddy and BJP Lok Sabha members Bandi Sanjay Kumar, D Arvind and Soyam Babu Rao. The BRS has fielded candidates in all 119 seats while the Congress gave one seat to its ally CPI. The BJP and Janasena contested 111 and 8 seats respectively in a pre-poll pact. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM has put up candidates in nine segments in the city. Several segments witnessed triangular contests making them keenly watched ones. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is contesting from two segments - Gajwel and Kamareddy. In a post on X, BRS working president K T Rama Rao had earlier said, "After a long time had a peaceful sleep. Exit polls can take a hike. Exact polls will give us good news." Dismissing some exit-poll surveys that suggested that the ruling BRS will fall short of a majority in the Assembly polls, Rama Rao had said the Chandrashekar Rao-led dispensation will return to power with over 70 seats.

No Scindia, no traitor left in Congress: Digvijaya Singh on eve of counting

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh on Saturday denied the possibility of "horse-trading" in Madhya Pradesh, if the Congress is voted to power on Sunday.

The former Chief Minister said, "We have no Scindia (Jyotiraditya) and no traitor in the Congress now." On the eve of vote counting scheduled for Sunday, the Congress leader told the press that the Congress was confident of returning to power by unseating the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh.

He said, "Tomorrow we will know where CM Shivraj



Singh Chouhan stands. We will win more than 130 seats, not less than that in Madhya Pradesh."

The Congress has been targeting Jyotiraditya Scindia for leaving the party and defecting to the BJP, by calling him a "traitor" during poll campaigns, which has often led to a war of words between top politicians in Madhya Pradesh.

Scindia had toppled the Kamal Nath-led Congress Government by shifting to the BJP in March 2020.

No property tax for rural residential areas in Delhi: MCD Mayor

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Saturday announced that no property tax will be collected from rural residential areas in Delhi.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi declared the decision which was passed during the BJP's tenure, null and void, stating that people were greatly troubled by property tax notices during that period.

"Under the guidance of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, discussions were held with rural area leaders, leading to a directive instructing tax officials not to collect property tax from these regions," said the Deputy Mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal.

He emphasised that property tax collection would continue unchanged in designated commercial areas of the MCD.

Addressing a Press conference, Oberoi expressed the AAP's commitment to working



in the people's interest. Iqbal highlighted that the decision applies to all 70 constituencies in Delhi with rural areas, ensuring relief for residents in Lal Dora and Extended Lal Dora regions. Chaudhary Surendra Solanki, representing 360 villages, confirmed that

after discussions with Delhi's Mayor and Deputy Mayor, it was clarified that no property tax would be levied in rural areas. Additionally, Solanki mentioned exemptions for those engaged in small-scale employment on notified roads.

TSUNAMI EXPECTED IN PHILIPPINES, JAPAN AFTER 7.5 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE

New York: An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 struck Mindanao, Philippines, on Saturday, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said, at a depth of 63 km (39 miles), and tsunamis were expected to hit the Philippines and Japan shortly.

The Philippine Seismology Agency PHIVOLCS said tsunami waves could hit the Philippines by midnight local time (1600 GMT) and could continue for hours.

The Japanese broadcaster NHK said tsunami waves of up to a metre (3 feet) high were expected to reach Japan's western coast a little later - by 1:30 a.m. on Sunday (1630 GMT on Saturday). The US Geographic Survey put the quake at magnitude 7.6 and a depth of 32 km (20 miles), and said it had struck at 10:37 p.m. (1437 GMT).

Earlier last month, a magnitude 6.7 offshore earthquake in the southern Philippines killed eight people.

GOVERNMENT CONVENES ALL PARTY MEETING AHEAD OF PARLIAMENT'S WINTER SESSION

New Delhi: Leaders of political parties in Parliament are meeting here on Saturday to discuss the agenda for the Winter session of Parliament beginning Monday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has convened the meeting which is being attended by senior leaders such as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Gaurav Gogoi, and Pramod Tiwari, Trinamool leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay, NCP leader Fouzia Khan, and RSP leader N K Premachandran among others.

The Winter session of Parliament begins on December 4 and will have 15 sittings till December 22, during which it is expected to consider key draft legislations, including three bills to replace the colonial era criminal laws. The report of the Lok Sabha panel recommending the expulsion of Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra from the lower house over a "cash-for-query" complaint is also listed for tabling in the House on Monday, the first day of the session.

"We Are Not Alone in This Universe": Analysts cite unknown origin of Peruvian Mummies

Peru | Agencies

Adding to the enigma surrounding the "non-human" mummified remains discovered in Peru, a recent DNA analysis revealed that 30% of its genetic makeup is not from any known species. This startling finding, presented by controversial journalist and UFO enthusiast Jose Jaime Maussan, has fueled speculation about the origins of these mysterious remains.

According to the Daily Star, the world was shocked and baffled in equal measures when two miniature corpses were unveiled by controversial Mexican journalist Jaime Maussan. He claimed that they were centuries-old alien corpses found in Peru, with the latter country starting legal proceedings against Maussan for allegedly stealing them from the country. The journalist and Mexican researchers, affirming authenticity, stated that mummies with three toes displayed 30% DNA unrelated to known species. He said, "This is the first time extraterrestrial life has been presented in this manner. We have a clear example of non-human specimens unrelated to



any known species on our planet. The public has the right to know about non-human technology and beings. This reality unites humanity rather than dividing us. We are not alone in this vast universe; we should embrace this truth."

These specimens do not belong to our terrestrial evolution. They were not creatures discovered after a UFO crash. Instead, they were found in diatom mines and later transformed into fossilised mummies."

Gold prices soar to lifetime high in India

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Gold prices rose to a lifetime high in India amid the peak wedding season and rising international rates of the precious metal.

Chennai led the charge with the price soaring to Rs 64,530 per 10 gm for 24 carat gold in morning trade.

The price of the precious metal in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata was hovering at Rs 63,760 per 10 gm, which was Rs 810 higher than the previous day.

Gold prices in the international market have also shot up to a seven-month high as spot prices gained 1.6 per cent to \$2,069.10 per ounce on Friday. India imports a large quantity of gold and rising global prices have a direct impact on the domestic market. Gold prices have been rising in the global market as the dollar has continued to



depreciate against a basket of major currencies and is currently close to a three-month low which makes gold cheaper to buy in other foreign currencies. There are also growing expectations that the Federal Reserve is likely to cut rates in the coming months.

Expectations of low interest rates makes financial instruments less attractive for investors compared to gold which is considered a safe investment.

The demand for gold in the domestic market remains firm amid the marriage season as the precious metal is gifted to brides and grooms in large quantities.



Maha sweet revenge: Man gifts 'helicopter ride' to brother elected Dy Sarpanch

Quaid Najmi | Sangli (Maharashtra)

Elated after his brother was elected Upa-Sarpanch (Deputy Headman) of Kargani village, a Haryana businessman decided to give him a unique gift - a helicopter joy-ride of 20 minutes over their village.

The event also marked the end of a 20-year-old 'vow-cum-sweet revenge' against their sister who had "betrayed" the family by voting against a cousin for the post of Sarpanch then.

Ankush D. Khilare, 37, who runs the Mahalaxmi Hallmark Centre in Hisar, Haryana, was virtually on cloud nine when he heard that his elder brother Sahebrao D. Khilar, 50, a Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) leader, who got elected as the new Deputy Sarpanch of their village in Nov. 2023.

Ankush rushed from Haryana to his native place here this week and on a cool Thursday (Nov. 30) afternoon sponsored his two older siblings - Sahebrao and Hindurao - for a memorable flight over the Kargani village, surroundings, and most importantly, circum-ambulating the famed Lord Ram Temple here as 'thanksgiving'.

Almost the entire village, along with a beaming Ankush, remained present to witness the unique helicopter celebrations - the flying machine never seen by most of the 15,000-folks - and billed as an unprecedented event in the state's local politics.

Ankush recalled that 20 years ago in the Kargani Sarpanch elections, his elder sister and the then Gram Panchayat Member, Shalana Karande, 39, of



the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde group now) had cast her decisive vote to topple her own cousin, the late Duryodhan Khilare and ruined his opportunity to become the powerful village head.

"Our father Dnyanu Khilare was furious and the family broke all relations with Shalana Karande. She was barred from entering her 'maika' (parental home) and not invited to any family events or functions for 20 years," said Ankush.

At that time, the teenage Ankush took an oath before his father that "whenever anybody from the Khilare family becomes a Sarpanch or Upa-Sarpanch", he would announce it to the entire region with a helicopter ride.

"Finally, after two decades, I could fulfil my vow and take the family's vengeance against my own sister for her political treachery. However, my father has still not forgiven her and the ban on her continues," Ankush told correspondents.

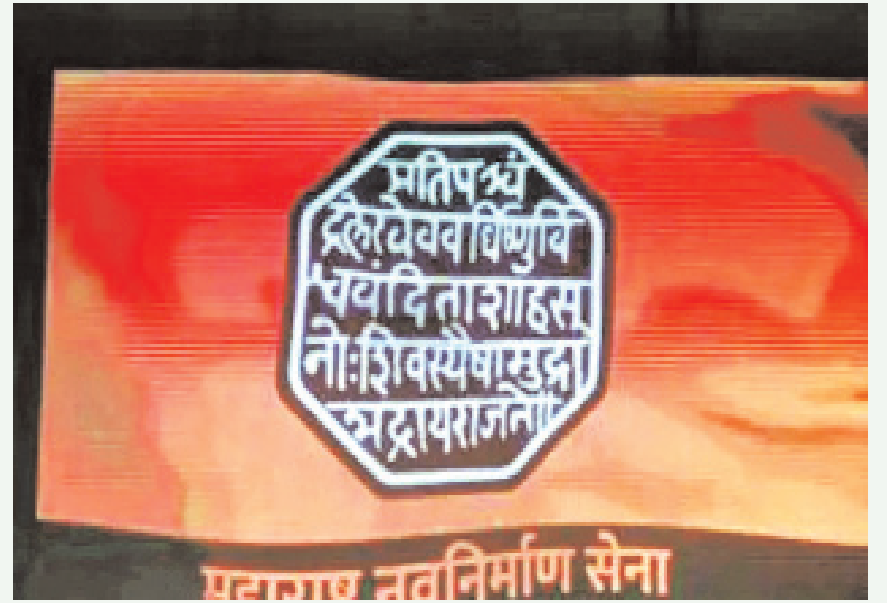
Through some businessmen friends, Ankush managed to hire out the chopper from a Pune company and the 20-minute ride burnt a Rs 100,000 hole in his pocket, but he smiled and said "it was worth every rupee".

For the momentous occasion, the entire Khilare clan - father Dnyanu, mother Bana, brothers Sahebrao and Hindurao, another sister Lata, and uncles and aunts plus their grandchildren, were present in full strength to cheer at the family event, with excitement levels running sky-high as the chopper gracefully flew over around the village and its temple.

A farmer, Rajendra Patil from an adjoining village said the locals were open-mouthed seeing the helicopter noisily whirring over the region and some delirious kids clapped joyously and even tried to 'chase' it on the ground before it disappeared.

"It has become a hot topic in the entire district now... people discuss and debate the memorable event in groups in the village square, at bus stops and in the fields..." gushed Patil.

MNS workers charged for damaging shops over Marathi signboards



Team Absolute | Pune

A police official revealed on Saturday that the local Maharashtra Navnirman Sena unit (MNS) president and party members are facing charges by the police for allegedly causing damage to shops that do not have Marathi signboards.

The MNS protested on Friday in several locations in Pune, including Tilak Road and JM Road, to draw attention to the lack of Marathi signs in several stores. Social media was flooded with videos of the protests.

The English signage of numerous stores, including those that carried international brands, was vandalised and stones were thrown by supporters of Raj

Thackeray's party during the demonstrations.

According to the official statement, nine people including the head of the city unit, Sainath Babar are mentioned in the case under section 143 for unlawful assembly, in addition to other pertinent provisions of the Mumbai Police Act and the Indian Penal Code.

Meanwhile, Raj Thackeray, the leader of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), spoke with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday about issues pertaining to toll collecting and the existence of Marathi signboards at businesses throughout the state, stated a report.

The report cited a statement issued by the chief

minister's office (CMO) saying that the meeting took place at Varsha, the chief minister's official residence.

Thackeray had recently criticised the state government for allegedly disobeying a Supreme Court order requiring Marathi signboards to be displayed in stores and other facilities. He said that the ruling coalition was only making token gestures towards Hindutva and Marathi issues.

The Supreme Court had already given store owners two months, ending on November 25, to install Marathi signboards.

If they didn't, they would have to pay a daily fine of Rs 2,000. The MNS had previously expressed concerns with the state's toll-collection policies.

PM Modi to unveil Chhatrapati statue; attend Navy Day 2023 events in Sindhudurg

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra on December 4 to attend the 'Navy Day-2023' celebrations in Sindhudurg, an official said here on Saturday.

The Prime Minister will reach Sindhudurg around 4.15 p.m. and then unveil the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort, at Medha in Malvan. Later, he will attend the grand Navy Day 2023 celebrations in Sindhudurg, along with Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other dignitaries. PM Modi will witness the operational demonstrations by Indian Navy ships, submarines, aircraft and special forces from the Tarkarli Beach.



The Navy Day is celebrated annually on December 4, and this year, the celebrations at Sindhudurg would pay homage to the rich maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (1630-1680) who had constructed several coastal and sea forts, including the Sindhudurg Fort.

The legendary Maratha Empire founder's seal inspired the new Naval Ensign that was adopted last year when the Prime Minister commissioned the first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

The Navy Day also offers the people a glimpse into the various facets of the multi-domain operations of the Indian Navy, its contributions towards national security and also instilling maritime consciousness among the masses.

Air India launches robotic-enabled eco-friendly, water-saver aircraft cleaner

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Air India has launched an environment-friendly automated aircraft interior washing and nearly dry cleaning system that will save around 75,000 litres of water per aircraft annually, an official said here on Saturday.

The device, 'Aerowash' has multiple modern features like robotic micro-fibre brush drum for cleaning and uses a nearly waterless process that considerably enhances efficiency in functioning plus making it more sustainable. For each narrow-body aircraft, the 'Aerowash' can save upto 30,000 litres of water and upto 75,000 litres per wide-body aircraft annually.

With a fleet augmentation going on in full swing at Air India the total quantity of cleaning water likely to be saved in future is enormous and



boost its green drive. "The modern system of cleaning reinforces our dedication to efficiency, sustainability, and pioneering advancements at par with industry-best practices. The 'Aerowash' ensures not only better

maintenance of our aircraft but will also contribute to a greener environment in sync with the Tata group's commitment towards more sustainable ways of doing business," said S.K. Dash, Chief Technical Officer, Air

India. He added that aircraft cleaning is a critical aspect of maintenance and relies on time-consuming, resource-intensive and manual engagement. However, automated cleaning is not only time-efficient and sustainable, but it also reduces aerodynamic drag caused due to the accumulation of dirt, dust or grime, ultimately reducing the aircraft weight. This, in turn, results in enhanced fuel efficiency in the long run while bringing down carbon footprint, safeguards against structural damage, prevents corrosion, and results in extending the lifespan of the aircraft, Dash added. The superior quality of cleaning will not only enhance the appearance of the aircraft but also ensure a better cleaning by covering even critical areas of the aircraft like the crown, elevator or rudder, the official said.

IDBI Trusteeship now files appeal against Subhash Chandra in NCLAT

Team Absolute | Mumbai

In the continuing saga replete with many twists and turns, IDBI Trusteeship Services Limited (ITSL) has now filed an appeal at the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) against Essel Group Chairperson Subhash Chandra, challenging the order of the National Company Law Tribunal Mumbai which gave a go-ahead to the Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) and Sony merger.

The appeal challenges the National Company Law Tribunal Mumbai order rejecting IDBI trustee's objection to the merger.

The grounds being that Chandra had executed a personal guarantee on June 25, 2019, in favour of IDBI Trusteeship (for the benefit of Franklin



Templeton) guaranteeing the repayment obligations towards the debentures.

"Chandra has purportedly failed to comply with

his obligations under the personal guarantee," they said. The trusteeship claimed Rs 535 crore from Chandra, saying he failed to comply with his obligations under the personal guarantee, and thus he is a creditor.

"IDBI Trusteeship is admittedly not a creditor of Zee. It has no contractual or legal privity with Zee. Therefore, it has no locus to object to the present scheme," Zee responded.

The hearing was deferred as the case was transferred to the bench of Chairperson Ashok Bhushan of NCLAT.

IDBI Trusteeship told the NCLAT that it is the debenture trustee of 425 debentures issued by Essel Infraprojects Limited (EIL) in favour of certain schemes managed by Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd.

ED registers money laundering probe for alleged oxygen plant fraud in Mumbai



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case linked to a purported scam involving the installation of oxygen plants in hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic, police told to a news agency on Saturday.

According to the report, on November 24, the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) allegedly arrested contractor Romil Chheda from M/s Highway Construction Company for allegedly causing the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to suffer a loss of Rs 6 crore. About this fraud case involving Chheda, the Enforcement Department (ED) began action on Friday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

He was assigned to set up oxygen facilities in two large Covid-19 centres and nine hospitals run by BMC, even though he was said to have no prior experience with such projects, the report added. At

Byculla's municipal workshop and oxygen plants, which are situated at civic-run hospitals like V N Desai, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, GTB, Kasturba, BYL Nair, R N Cooper, K B Bhabha, KEM, and ATMG Sion, malpractice took place between April 2021 and January 2022, the report further stated.

Preliminary inquiries indicate that local authorities may have disregarded eligibility requirements in contract awarding. The BMC lost Rs 6 crore as a result of the oxygen plants not being finished in the allotted time. The agreement called for a 30-day completion window or a weekly fine of 1% for delays.

Even though Chheda was fined Rs 3.16 crore for his delays, more investigation showed that BMC officials should have enforced penalties of an extra Rs 6 crore from him. The EOW has filed a complaint against officials from Chheda and BMC for several crimes, including inflicting unlawful loss, defrauding, and forgery.

Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which they were booked are 418 (cheating knowing that wrongful loss may ensue), 465 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (fraud), 218 (Public servant framing incorrect record), 120 (B) (conspiracy) and 34 (common intention). Chheda was recently arrested as a part of EOW's broader investigation into various Covid-19-related scams. Reportedly, the EOW is also investigating the kichdi scam, body bag scam and jumbo centre scam. The EOW sources had previously told mid-day that Chheda's influence to secure BMC contracts through political connections, including his ties to Suraj Chavan, who is Aaditya Thackeray's aide, is under scrutiny in the aforementioned scams. Over the past five years, Chheda has reportedly obtained several BMC contracts, some of which were acquired through power of attorney.

"Have Sex, Or Lose Work": How a Mumbai man raped Mexican DJ xfor years

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Mumbai police have arrested a man for allegedly repeatedly raping a 31-year-old Mexican woman disc jockey (DJ), an official said on Saturday.

The 35-year-old accused, who also works as a DJ, was arrested on Friday after the victim lodged a complaint against him last week, the official of Bandra police station said.

As per the complaint, the accused raped the woman on several occasions since 2019.

The woman currently lives in Mumbai and the accused is her manager, he said.

"The woman said in her complaint that she met the accused through social media in 2017. He allegedly sexually assaulted her at his home in Bandra in July 2019, after which he raped her on multiple occasions," the police official said.

"The woman said that the accused used to force himself on her by threatening to kick her out of an assignment if she refused. He also allegedly blackmailed her through some of her intimate pictures," he said.

The victim complained that the accused used to send inappropriate pictures to her. Despite getting married to another woman in 2020, he kept on texting her sexually explicit things and making sexual demands from her, he added.

Based on her complaint, the police filed a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 376 (rape), 377 (unnatural sex), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) against the accused, the official said, adding that further investigation is underway.



Today will be a day of joy for some, a day of mourning for many in Bhopal

Sundeeep

Pouranik | Bhopal

For the people of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, Sunday will bring both sorrow and joy. While a large part of the population will be observing December 3 as a day of mourning and protests, for a few others it will be a day of celebration, as while for others, it may be a day of celebration.

While political parties will be busy watching the counting of votes for the just-concluded Assembly elections in the state, others will be busy remembering India's biggest industrial disaster that took place in the wee hours of December 3, 1984, when toxic gas leaked from the Union Carbide plant and claimed the lives of thousands of people.

Not only this, the leak resulted in a large number of survivors living with the lasting effects of the gas on their



bodies. Even newborns were affected by it and many were born with deformities and mental and physical illnesses.

Even after decades, the victims of the gas tragedy continue to struggle for their rights and basic amenities.

On December 3, these individuals not only mourn the loss of their loved ones, but also raise their voices demanding punishment for the culprits.

On this day, the entire city of Bhopal remains in a somber mood and people recall the night when the toxic gas leaked from the

Union Carbide plant. Those who survived India's biggest industrial disaster till date recount stories that send shivers down the spine of listeners.

The victims describe how on that night, the streets were strewn with bodies as if leaves had fallen from a tree in autumn. Simultaneously, cries of those who lay dying and of the bereaved echoed in the air, as they were forced to leave their loved ones and flee the city in order to save their lives.

Those affected by the tragedy come together to grieve on December 3 and

gather on the streets to share their stories and discuss the state of their health.

However, this year, December 3 will be a bit different for some people in Bhopal as the results of the Assembly elections will be declared.

While the losers will give vent to their frustration, the winners will no doubt make a huge celebration out of it. Discussions will revolve around the formation of a new government and plans for the future. According to sources, the families of the Bhopal gas tragedy victims tried to get the counting date changed as December 3 is considered inauspicious, but the Election Commission did not pay heed to their pleas.

On this day, the two facets of life will be starkly visible in Bhopal and neighbouring areas. On one side, there are people who have been surrounded by adversity for years, while on the other side, there will be a faction welcoming their political victory.

Traffic will be diverted on counting day

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Counting of votes for the Assembly Elections-2023 will take place on 3 December 2023 in the Old Jail complex. In which there will be a large number of officers in charge and vehicles. During this time, changes have been made by the traffic police as per requirement in the traffic arrangements from 6 am to 6 am.

During the counting of votes from 6 am on 3rd December, under the diversion arrangement around the old jail complex, all types of vehicles (two-wheeler, four-wheeler) will be stopped on the road leading to the old jail from C.I. Colony, Police Control Room Tiraha, Home Guard Turning and Court intersection. public transport, all permitted heavy vehicles) traffic will remain completely closed.

Entry of normal vehicles coming towards the court and jail from the road towards Central School-1, State IT near State Bank of India Mainda Mill will be prohibited. Those vehicles who want to travel from



Jahagirabad towards M.P Nagar. They will be able to travel through Shabban Square, Jinsi Square, Bogda Bridge, Prabhat Square, Subhash Fatak Over Bridge, Maida Mill, Board Office.

The vehicles carrying breakfast/meal of the candidates and agents will be able to reach the main gate of the old jail complex.

Under the parking arrangement, vehicles of the general public will be able to park on both sides of the Punjab National Bank side and Court Tiraha to Vallabh Bhawan road. The vehicles of officers/employees engaged

in counting of votes will be parked at designated places in the jail premises.

Journalists/media vehicles will be parked at their designated places in the parking gel premises.

From Police Control Room Tiraha, vehicles of agents will be able to go till Home Guard Turning. These vehicles will be parked at Lal Parade Ground and MLA Rest House.

Vehicles of agents coming from DB Mall side will be able to reach Court Tiraha. Parking of these vehicles will be in vacant spaces on both sides of Vallabh Bhawan

road. Vehicles of the candidates coming for counting of votes will be able to enter the jail premises. Parking of these vehicles can be done at designated places in the premises.

The vehicles of agents coming from Jahangirabad side will be able to reach Police ITI Gate. Whose parking will be done in Police ITI grounds.

Vehicles of agents coming from Mindos Colony will be able to reach PNB main office. Parking of these vehicles can be done in vacant spaces on both sides of the road. Under the alternative parking arrangement, vehicles of the general public will be able to park, if required, in the ITI Ground, MVM Ground parking of MLA Rest House Road, Lal Parade Ground.

The general public has been requested to cooperate in the traffic management by using the diversion system as mentioned above. In case of any inconvenience, contact traffic telephone number. Contact on 0755-2677340, 2443850.

Dead body of a young man was found under the bridge with his head crushed by a stone, police found clues

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Police are actively searching for the accused in the case of a dead body found with his head crushed by a stone under the Bharat Talkies Over Bridge in Mangalwara police station area of the city on Thursday night. According to sources, the investigation team has got important clues regarding the unknown accused, on the basis of which the police can soon reveal the

murder.

The police station said that after receiving information on Thursday night, the police had recovered the body of a youth from under the Bharat Talkies Bridge. Investigation at the spot revealed that the deceased was murdered by unknown accused by crushing his head with a stone. The body was identified as 32-year-old Anil son of Mahavir Nagar.

Anil was originally a resident of Kanpur. He lived with his uncle Chacha

Ramji Nagar on the footpath near the double gate near Bharat Talkies Biz.

Further investigation revealed that he had a dispute with some people. After this, they beat Anil fiercely and then killed him by fatally attacking him with stones. After the incident, all the accused fled from there.

At present, the police have registered a case of murder against an unknown accused and are searching for him on the basis of available clues.

Bike riding robbers snatch mother's chain, traveling with daughter on Scooty

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Once again the sound of robbers riding bikes has started being heard in the city. The robbers targeted a mother who was traveling on a scooter with her daughter in Bairagarh area, pounced on her neck and snatched the gold chain. According to the police station, Bhavna Parwani's husband Naresh Parwani (42), who lives in CRP Bairagarh, told that she is a housewife. She had to go to a marriage garden located at Lalghati to attend a relative's wedding. She had to get her gold chain repaired to wear it at the wedding. At night she had gone to a goldsmith's place in the bullion market near Chanchal intersection with her daughter. After getting the chain repaired from here, she wore it around her neck. At around 9.30 pm, the mother and daughter left on the scooter



to attend a relative's wedding in the Marriage Garden.

As soon as she reached near Sant Ji Kutiy located in the area, one of the two youths who came from behind on a bike in the dark pounced on the chain worth Rs 60 thousand she was wearing around her neck. When the miscreant hit his

hand, the chain broke and fell down. The miscreant sitting behind the bike quickly got down and took the chain, after which both the youths ran away while riding the bike at high speed.

Although the mother and daughter tried to chase them, the accused dodged them. After attending the

wedding, the woman approached the police the next day on Saturday. After initial investigation, the police have registered a case of theft against the accused. Police are scanning the footage of CCTV cameras installed around the incident site to identify the absconding accused.

Cong believes people voted for a change in MP, BJP's expectation high from women voters

Team Absolute | Bhopal

The result for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, where both the national parties - the Congress and BJP are engaged in a close political battle, will be announced on Sunday.

The Congress contested the election highlighting the "scams" that came to the fore for nearly two decades of BJP's rule.

The Congress leaders believe that people voted for a change and will give absolute majority to the grand-old party for a stable government.

The Congress workers guided by two veteran leaders - state unit head Kamal Nath and two-time former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh seem more confident.

Congress workers seem more confident with the fact that many of BJP's stalwarts, including the Union Ministers, have close contest against the Congress in their respective assembly con-



stituencies. Several BJP leaders, who have won three-four consecutive elections in the past, have faced tough contests this time.

The Congress leaders and workers said that the party will win between 130-140 seats. Their expectations are high also because the party is expecting to come out with the maximum number of seats this time in the regions where, in 2018, it was decimated to the single digit - for instance in Vindhya and Bhopal regions.

The exit polls for Madhya Pradesh that was released on November 30 has surprised

not just the people associated with the BJP and Congress but common people also. The Congress leadership, however, said the 'exit poll' is an attempt by the BJP to build pressure on election officers during counting of votes. In a video message after exit polls were released, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath claimed the "BJP has lost the election."

Appealing party workers to stay focused on their work (counting), Kamal Nath said, "Some exit polls were designed to mount pressure on the officials by creating a false impression that the BJP

was returning to power. It also aims to demoralise the Congress workers before counting. But this conspiracy is not going to fructify."

On the other hand, the BJP also believes that people have voted for the development done by the double-engine government. The BJP's expectation is higher because of the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' - a women centric cash scheme launched by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

BJP president J. P. Nadda's visit to Gwalior and offering prayers at the temple in Datia on Friday has created a buzz in the political circles.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Chief Minister Chouhan, Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra accompanied Nadda during his visit to Gwalior. There is buzz that Nadda's sudden visit ahead of the counting in Madhya Pradesh may be for a consensus on Chief Minister's post, if the BJP is voted to power on December 3.

Congratulations flex to Kamal Nath installed in the capital

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day before the counting of votes in the capital Bhopal, flex cards were seen congratulating the victory of State Congress President and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Flex congratulating Kamal Nath on his victory has brought heat in the political corridors of the state. It is understood that the increasing and decreasing figures of exit polls in Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections are pointing towards Congress getting complete majority. In view of this, even before the results of vote counting on Sunday, big flex congratulating Kamal Nath on his victory have been put up outside the State Congress office. It is written in the congratulatory flex that with the support of the public, Kamal Nath is coming again. A life-size picture of Kamal Nath holding a bouquet is visible in the flex. The congratulatory flex has been installed with the name of Congress spokesperson and Vice President



Media Department, MP Abbas Hafeez.

Our leaders in Delhi will decide who will be the next Chief Minister: Kailash Vijayvargiya

Team Absolute | Bhopal

On December 2, a day before the counting of assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, BJP's national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya gave a statement in Indore. He said that our leaders sitting in Delhi will decide who will be the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

On the question of the high command's displeasure towards CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Vijayvargiya said that the top leadership does not have enough time to give time for displeas-



ure. We have internal democracy here. There will be a meeting of the legislative party there. Then the name will be

decided. After that the Parliamentary Board will approve it. Only a BJP worker will become CM.

Vijayvargiya also claimed that the surveys conducted on the ground clearly state that the BJP will form the government in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

We have developed, that is why people are loving us. Bringing us back into government. I have gone to 103 seats within two months, hence I am saying with confidence that we will form the government. We will have more than 150 seats.

AIIMS Bhopal's Neurosurgical Excellence Applauded at IFN Meeting in Singapore



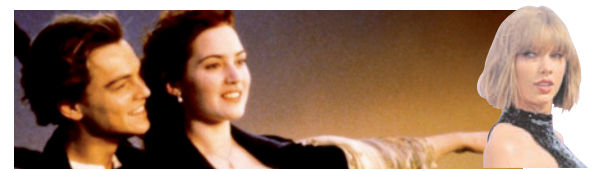
Team Absolute | Bhopal

The 10th Biennial Congress of the International Federation of Neuro-Endoscopy (IFNE) was held in Singapore last week. Dr Adesh Shrivastava, Additional Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS Bhopal was invited as a faculty member to address the international neurosurgical community and present his work on endoscopy-assisted surgery for brain tumors. The meeting was also attended by renowned and senior endoscopic neurosurgeons from

around the world to discuss the latest advances in surgical techniques to remove brain tumors more safely and effectively.

Dr Shrivastava presented and discussed his surgical technique and experience of the last 10 years at AIIMS Bhopal where he has been working and has developed the technique. He called for routine adoption of these hybrid techniques in all neurosurgical training programs the world over. These approaches make the lives of patients much better compared to the conventional approaches by reducing

the postoperative pain and time taken to recover after surgery. The technique also helps take out brain tumors completely without causing damage to adjoining structures. This leads to much improved surgical outcomes for these patients. The fine quality of neurosurgical work being done at AIIMS Bhopal leading to very good surgical outcomes was widely appreciated by the International Neurosurgical Community. Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, Prof. Dr. Ajai Singh has congratulated him for this achievement.



Gisele Bündchen lets her chest do the talking

Los Angeles | Agencies

Gisele Bündchen is still the world's top supermodel. And the star, who is reportedly worth \$400 million, proved once again that she has the looks to support her title. On Friday morning the bombshell - who was spotted in Brazil this week - was seen in an black evening gown that showed off her very toned body, thanks to daily yoga sessions.

In some of the images she appeared as if she was almost spilling out of a barely there dress that let her chest do the talking as she went bra-free for the racy look, reports dailymail.co.uk.

The ex-wife of football icon Tom Brady wore her honey blonde hair down as she was dripping in jewelry. The ad was for Vivara, a jewelry company.

To close out 2023 : a special celebration with Vivara,' she wrote in her Instagram caption.

This comes after Gisele talked about her health. She has been taking Lion's Mane Mushroom for 'a while' to help boost her energy, she said in October.

'I've been taking Lion's Mane Mushroom for a while and it really helps me focus and boost my energy. Thank you @gaiaherbs for making this product. I love it!' wrote the Devil Wears Prada actress.

Lion's Mane Mushroom is for 'supporting brain and neurological health,' according to the plant-based company Gaia Herbs which Bündchen now reps.

Kanye West has no plans to return to US after reuniting with wife Bianca

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Kanye West seems to be having a great time in Dubai after reuniting with his new wife Bianca Censori, and has no plans to return to the US. The couple have been seen partying with friends at a pop-up fashion event, with Kanye also spotted enjoying a night out at a club, reports Mirror.co.uk.

Before their current trip, Kanye and Bianca also grabbed headlines as they travelled around Europe.

As they continue to enjoy a lavish holiday, a source has claimed the couple have no plans to return to the US anytime soon. This comes despite them having an apartment in America and Kanye's Yeezy headquarters being located in Los Angeles.

'Ye has loved being out of LA, he's never been a huge fan of the city and has no immediate plans to return, despite having a place here and his Yeezy HQ. Bianca has spent time back in Australia and they're getting back on track and planning what to do for the holidays,' a source said, quoted by Mirror.co.uk.

Speaking to The Sun, the source added that Bianca and Kanye are planning to return to Italy in a few weeks. The couple spent a lot of time there earlier this year, with Bianca causing a stir for her very revealing holiday outfits. She also made headlines after she was caught in a



compromising position with her husband while on a boat in Italy. It's believed the couple will be staying in Italy for Christmas. The source said Kanye will be hoping for his ex-wife Kim Kardashian to fly their children out so he can spend some time with them.

However, they admitted it's "up in the air at the minute".

Kanye shares four children with his ex-wife -- North, Saint, Chicago and Psalm.

The source explained: "He hasn't had all four children in a while, so it may just be the older ones, who are always accompanied by Kim's security and a nanny, but he does want to see them."

Julia Roberts was 'too scared' to read story of her new movie

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Julia Roberts was too "scared" to read the 'Leave the World Behind' novel and couldn't open the book after dark.

The 56-year-old actress stars opposite Ethan Hawke in psychological thriller 'Leave the World Behind' and though director Sam Esmail sent her a copy of Rumaan Alam's original novel, she wasn't able to read it after dark because she was so freaked out by the story.

Speaking on 'The Graham Norton Show,' she said: "I was sent the book by the director who told me I would love it and to read it as fast as I can, but I just couldn't because it was scaring me and as soon as it got dark, I had to get away from it. The film is spooky and frightening but so good."

Former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle have produced the movie through their Higher Ground company and Julia was "very excited" to have them on board, reports femalefirst.com.

She said: "They are brilliant people and great human beings who have made the world a better place so when they said they were interested in collaborating on the film through their production company, I was very excited."

Roberts became a household name when she played an escort opposite Richard Gere in 'Pretty Woman' and she recalled how it was supposed to be a "much darker film" before Disney got involved with the project.

She said: "It was going to be a much darker film called \$3,000."

"Vivian was a drug addict and the movie ended with him leaving her in a side street, throwing the money at her, and driving away."

Paris Hilton dishes on why she kept daughter secret from her mother

Los Angeles | Agencies

Socialite Paris Hilton felt torn before telling her mother Kathy about the arrival of her daughter.

The 42-year-old heiress already shares 10-month-old Phoenix with husband Carter Reum and the pair announced earlier this week that they had welcomed daughter London but Paris deliberated over how to inform her mother of the news.

"I want to tell my mom because I feel like it's really going to hurt her feelings if I don't tell her. Pro is she'll be happy and she'll help me plan the nursery and baby clothes. But it was just so nice having no one bothering us or - I don't know, it was just our world. I'm like torn between both ... I know I can trust her, but it's just a hard decision," she tells Carter in a clip from an upcoming episode of 'Paris in Love'.

The former 'Simple Life' star went on to add that she "always worried" about what others might say about her. She said, "I don't know. I'm always worried about what people say and I don't like that energy," reports aceshowbiz.com.

The 'Stars Are Blind' singer also said that life felt "complete" with the arrival of her firstborn but eventually realised it would be "more complete" with the arrival of her second.

She added: "Life felt complete having Phoenix, but I think it'll feel more complete when I have a daughter, London. I want them to be one grade apart in school ... Time is coming soon!" She captioned the post: "Thankful for my baby girl (sic)," this week when sharing a picture of a pink outfit emblazoned with the word "London" - which she has repeatedly said she would choose as a name if she had a little girl - alongside a pair of tiny red sunglasses and a teddy bear. And amongst the photos from her Thanksgiving celebrations shared to her Instagram Story, Paris also posted a picture of Phoenix which was captioned, "The big brother." The socialite previously revealed she had always wanted a daughter named after the English capital.



Dwayne Johnson's home office turned into 'daddy central' by his kids

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson is thankful to have been able to create his own schedule because it means he can spend more time with his young children.

The 51-year-old actor now has Jasmine, seven, and five-year-old Tiana with current wife Lauren Hashian and said that it has been "really nice" to be able to organise work around his family life, because that wasn't always the case.

"I think I've reached a point in my life where I can create my own schedule, which has really been nice, because it wasn't always that way, and I'm really lucky. And I think, in the spirit of creating my own schedule, it allows me to get closer to the girls and where they're around every corner they're with me," he told People.

The 'Fast and Furious' star spends a lot of his time in Mexico and whilst he hasn't had the little girls down there just yet, he still plans to and when he is at home in his LA mansion, his office has become "daddy central" because it is where his kids like to spend their time whilst he carries out all of his business as one of the world's top movie stars, reports aceshowbiz.com.

He said: "So even though they haven't joined me down in Jesus Maria, I do plan on bringing them there. And some of the other things that we have coming up..." "My office at the house is Daddy Central, where they're always hanging out, so they're always privy to all the stuff that's going on. It's like they're privy to the chocolate factory."



ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Holly Valance



EATING GOOD FOOD, LIFTING WEIGHTS IN THE GYM BEHIND RINKU SINGH'S 100-METRE LONG SIX IN FOURTH T20I



Raipur | Agencies
The in-form middle-order batter Rinku Singh said eating good food and lifting heavy weights in the gym is the secret behind his 100-metre

long six during the fourth T20I against Australia in Raipur on Friday night. At the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium, Rinku slammed a 29-ball 46 and put on a crucial 56-run stand for the fifth wicket with Jitesh

Sharma, who chipped in with a quick 19-ball 35. The duo's clean striking meant India made 174/9 in 20 overs, which was enough to seal a 20-run win. "Aapko pata hi hai aapke saath gym hi karta hun (You know it, I train with you

in the gym). I eat good food and I like lifting weights in the gym and it helps me generate power (for shots) naturally. I have been playing in the IPL for five to six years. I try to keep myself calm while having confidence and backing myself," Rinku told Jitesh Sharma in a video posted on BCCL.TV.

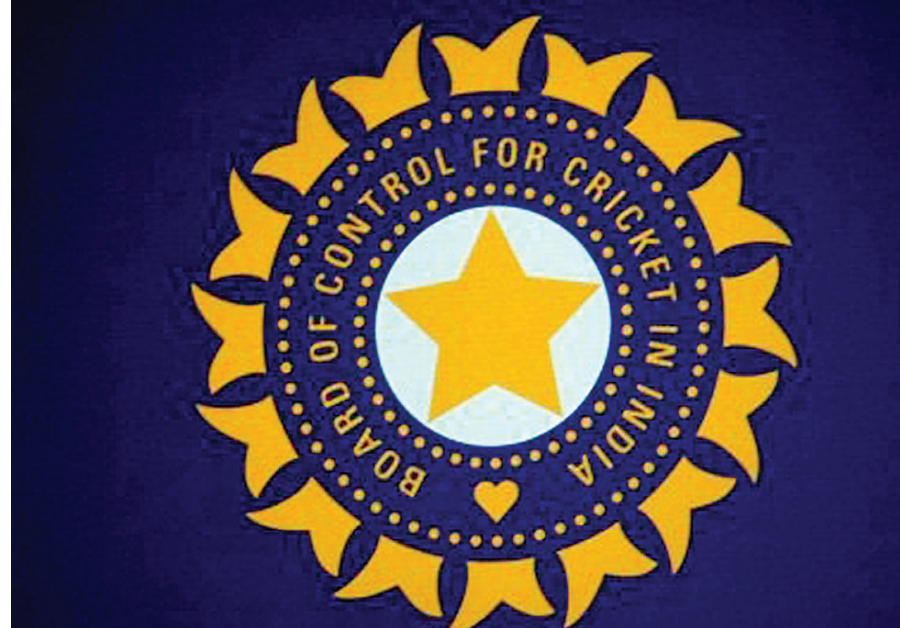
On the other hand, Jitesh admitted he was a bit nervous while batting as he was playing an international match in India for the first time and thanked Rinku for keeping him calm during their critical partnership.

"I played my last match for India in China during the Asian Games, and it was against Afghanistan. It felt really good to play in India and that too in front of such a big crowd at home. The best thing about this game was my partnership with you, which I thoroughly enjoyed."

"I was under pressure, but you looked pretty calm. I want to thank you for keeping me calm as well. You kept telling me that we need to stick around and build a partnership," he concluded.

India have taken an unassailable 3-1 lead in the ongoing five-match T20I series against Australia and will play the fifth and final game at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Women's Premier League 2024 player auction list announced



Mumbai | Agencies

The second edition of the Women's Premier League Player Auction list is out with a total of 165 cricketers set to go under the gavel on December 9, 2023, here.

Out of 165 players, 104 are Indians and 61 are overseas players from associate nations. The total capped players are 56, uncapped players are 109.

"A maximum of 30 slots are available with the five teams, with 9 spots for overseas players.

ers. "INR 50 Lakhs is the highest reserve price with 2 players - Deandra Dottin and Kim Garth - choosing to be slotted in the top bracket," the BCCI said in a statement. Four players are in the auction list with a base price of INR 40 lakh.

Real Kashmir and Aizawl share spoils in goalless draw

Srinagar | Agencies

Real Kashmir FC were held goalless by Aizawl FC in the I-League 2023-24 at the TRC Turf Ground here on Saturday.

It was only the second goalless fixture of the season so far, and the first draw for Real Kashmir. The Snow Leopards have netted eight goals in their last two matches but were unable to find a way past a resilient Aizawl side, which picked up its first clean sheet of the season.

Although they had to settle for a point, the match highlighted Real Kashmir's solid defensive form as they kept their fifth clean sheet in seven matches. With only four goals conceded so far, Ishfaq Ahmed's side boasts the joint-best defensive record in the



league alongside Mohammedan Sporting. Aizawl were led by their in-form young forward Lalrinzuala, who has netted six goals this season, including three in the last two matches, but was unable to repeat that on the cool afternoon in Srinagar. In the second half, Real Kashmir brought in attacking reinforcements in the form of Ateeb Dar and

Mohamad Maksoud but to no avail. With the draw, Real Kashmir remained in third spot with 13 points from seven matches. Aizawl moved up a place to sixth, with 11 points from seven games.

The Snow Leopards will next host current leaders Sreenidi Deccan FC on December 7, while the Reds travel to Kalyani to face TRAU FC on the same day.

12 Indian pugilists storm into the finals

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India's junior boxers continued their fine form at the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships as 12 of them entered the finals after a stunning show in Yerevan, Armenia. Amisha (54kg) and Payal (48kg) started the day on a winning note for team India against Trigos Bucur Rocio of Romania and Bibolsynkyzy Sila of Kazakhstan, both winning the bout by a unanimous 5-0 win.

Prachi Tokas (80+kg) put up a dominant show over Osipova Mariia of Russia, forcing the referee to stop the contest in the first round itself to grab the win.

Megha (80kg) on the other hand showed a similar display of strength and power to clinch a referee stopping the contest win in round three against Tseng An Chi of Chinese Taipei.

Vini (57kg) Akansha (70kg) and Shrushti (63kg) outperformed their opponents to grab an identical 5-0 unanimous decision win to enter the



finals. Vini was up against Kantzari Ouriana of Greece while Akansha and Shrushti faced McDonagh Mary of Ireland and K Alina of Kazakhstan

respectively. Nisha (52kg) struggled after the initial dominance in round one but soon fought back to grab an impressive 4-1

win over Russia's Sikstus Diana. The boys put on a solid outing as four out of five boxers in action got the win.

The two heavyweights Hardik Panwar (80kg) and Hemant Sangwan (80+kg) entered the finals with a comfortable 5-0 unanimous decision win against R Andrei of Belarus and K Tigran of Armenia.

Jatin (54kg) took on K. Pavel of Russia who for a moment looked like a more dominant boxer but Jatin soon took control of the game and got a 4-1 win in his favour.

Sahil faced a tough challenge against D. Vladimir of Russia as both the boxers were quick in predicting each other's moves and counterattacks.

The bout looked like it could go anywhere but ultimately Sahil got the win with a 3-2 split decision verdict.

Neha (46kg), Nidhi (66kg), Pari (50kg), Kritika (75kg) and Sikandar (48kg) ended their campaign with bronze medals. The finals will be played on Sunday and Monday.

AMERICAN PREMIER LEAGUE SET TO RECREATE INDIA-PAK RIVALRY IN 2ND EDITION

Houston | Agencies

The 2nd edition of the American Premier League is all set to recreate the India-Pakistan rivalry at Moosa Cricket Stadium in Houston, Texas on December 24, hoping to catch eyeballs all around the world.

The rivalry match between Premium Indians and Premium Paks will be named as 'Super Match'. The Premium Indians team will be represented by fast bowler S. Sreesanth and all-rounder Stuart Binny while Sohail Tanvir, Usman Qadir and Fawad Alam will play for Premium Paks.

"The 'Super Match' between Premium Indians and Premium Paks will be a delight for the fans' not just in the USA but across the world as S. Sreesanth will look to relive the memory of the 2007 ICC T20 World Cup final in South Africa when he took Sohail Tanvir's wicket in the 17th over. "It still feels like yesterday when I was running into bowl against Pakistan in Jo'burg and took the winning catch. Playing against Pakistan and winning has been a real high for me. I am really looking



forward to playing the 'Super Match' against Premium Paks and hopefully, I will help Premium Indians come on top this time as well," Sreesanth was quoted as saying in a release on Saturday.

Tanvir, the left-hander from Pakistan who was the top-wicket taker in the first edition of the Indian Premier League, said, "Playing against India is always special for me as I made my T20 as well as Test debut

against them in 2007. You are overwhelmed with emotions and nervousness while playing against them and I am really excited that I've got another opportunity to represent Pakistan in a rivalry match."

A total of seven teams -- Premium Afghans, Premium Americans, Premium Aussies, Premium Canadians, Premium Indians, Premium Paks and Premium Windies -- will be participating in the 13-

day tournament that runs from December 19 to 31.

Each team will have a minimum of one and maximum of two national players to represent their country while every 15-member team squad will have 9 local (American) players mandatory as per the ICC guidelines. A maximum of six international players will be allowed in the playing XI. Jay Mir, Founder and CEO of APL said, "The idea is to give fans a unique experience every time they tune into the APL and having a match between Premium Indians and Premium Paks is one of them. Having the stalwarts from both the countries will surely see a high-intensity cricketing action." The inaugural season of American Premier League (APL), a Twenty20 cricket league based in the United States, took place during the spring of 2021 in New Jersey with seven teams Americans, Indians, Paks, Windees, Bengalees, Aussies and English taking part. Before the announcement of the 2nd edition, the league was sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC), in May this year and the USA Cricket board.

Gimnasia beat Colon to earn top-flight survival

Buenos Aires | Agencies

Nicolas Colazo scored a first-half winner as Gimnasia ensured their survival in Argentina's Primera Division next season with a 1-0 win over Colon.

Former Boca Juniors winger Colazo put the hosts ahead in the 42nd minute at Marcelo Bielsa stadium in Rosario when he rifled a left-footed drive into the top-right corner from the edge of the 18-yard box, reports Xinhua.

Colon controlled most of the possession in the second half but lacked a cutting edge in attack as they were relegated to Argentina's second tier after nine years in the top flight. "Gimnasia is not celebrating



being spared relegation, we are now aiming for more," veteran midfielder Pablo de Blasis said. In addition to Colon, Arsenal Sarandi were also re-

gated while Independiente Rivadavia and the winner of the playoff between Riestra and Deportivo Maipu will be promoted.

Gatti's late winner sends Juve past Monza in Serie A

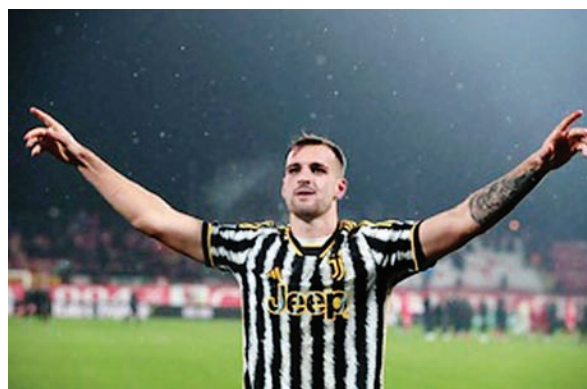
Rome | Agencies

Federico Gatti's last-gasp winner helped Juventus register a dramatic 2-1 away victory over Monza in Serie A, with Adrien Rabiot scoring one and setting up another.

Juve should have taken the lead in the 11th minute but Dusan Vlahovic saw his penalty was parried away by Michele Di Gregorio, and the Serbian's follow-up was also denied by the goalkeeper, reports Xinhua.

However, the away side broke the deadlock through the resulting corner, as starlet Hans Nicolussi Caviglia assisted for Rabiot to turn in a header.

The Bianconeri then created a couple of chances but Federico Chiesa's attempts were blocked while Vlahovic's



free kick hit the wall.

The game culminated in the stoppage time as Monza scored the equalizer in the 91st minute when substitute Valentin Carboni's cross-shot went into the net directly. As the game seemed to be finished with a tie, an unexpected hero came

to Juve's rescue minutes later when Rabiot pulled back near the by-line, and Gatti drilled home despite an awful first-touch. With the hard-fought win, Juve provisionally sit on the top place with 33 points, one point ahead of Inter Milan who visit Napoli on Sunday.

Tamil Thalaivas face Dabang Delhi challenge; Gujarat Giants up against Bengaluru Bulls

Ahmedabad | Agencies

The Tamil Thalaivas are all set to open their campaign in the Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 with a clash against former champions Dabang Delhi KC in their first game at the EKA Arena by TransStadia here on Sunday.

Thalaivas are confident of making a good start and doing well in subsequent matches in the season.

When asked about their clash against the Delhi side, the Thalaivas' captain Sagar said, "I am very excited about this season and I think it's going to be a good one for us. We've prepared very well. Dabang Delhi K.C. has got a great team. They have really good raiders. We'll have to tackle them to win the match."

Sagar, who is leading the side for the first time this season, said he is very excited. "I have a lot of responsibilities as the captain of the side. I need to play well and ensure that my team is putting up their best as well. We reached the semifinals last season and we'll look to better that result this year. Giving our best on the mat will be our main focus and let's see what happens."

Meanwhile, the Dabang Delhi KC captain Naveen



said, "All teams are quite balanced. There are young and experienced players on every side. We'll not take any team lightly. We've devised strategies for all kinds of situations. I think we'll have a good contest against Tamil Thalaivas and we are all looking forward to our first game." The star raider also spoke about the importance of Season 10 for kabaddi in India. "The tenth season of

the Pro Kabaddi League is a big achievement for the players and Mashal Sports. A game, which was mostly played in rural centres, is being played in big cities today. We are quite excited for this season."

Later, the home side Gujarat Giants will be up against Bengaluru Bulls in the second match of the day. The Gujarat Giants will be in action on back-to-back days -- taking on Telugu Titans on Saturday before playing against Bengaluru on Sunday.

The Bengaluru Bulls' captain Saurabh Nandal spoke about the mood in his team's camp ahead of their first match of the season. "The team is feeling quite good ahead of the season. We've trained hard during the training sessions, and we are geared up for our first match. The Gujarat Giants have a terrific team. They have strong players such as Fazel Atrachali, Rakesh, and Pardeep Dahiya among others. It'll be a good game." Nandal also expressed that the team is determined to reach the Final this season. "We've reached the playoffs in the last three seasons, but we were not able to reach the Final in those editions. We are working hard to reach the summit clash this season. We have the belief that we can do better this season."



Shivangi Verma: 'Natural to experience moments of doubt when it comes to heart'

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Shivangi Verma, who has been a part of TV shows like 'Choti Sarrdaarni', 'Reporters' and 'Bhootu', said when it comes to choosing your life partner, it's natural to be confused.

The actress said at times one may need to meet and spend time with many people in order to choose.

"It's not uncommon to meet and spend time with different individuals while figuring out what you truly want. We explore various connections to understand ourselves better. It's all part of the journey to finding genuine compatibility," she said.

Shivangi said: "Absolutely, confusion and uncertainty are universal emotions. In real life, it's natural to experience moments of doubt or confusion when it comes to matters of the heart. It's essential to give oneself the time and space to navigate through these feelings."

Ask her what are her parameters to find the perfect partner, the actress said, adding:

"Compatibility, shared values, and mutual respect are vital parameters. It requires self-awareness and understanding of what one truly desires in a relationship. It's about aligning with someone who complements your journey, both personally and professionally."

Talking about dating within the industry, Shivangi added: "It can be beneficial as both partners understand the demands and challenges of the profession. However, it's crucial to strike a balance and maintain individual identities. Challenges may arise, but with effective communication and mutual support, a relationship between actors can thrive."



Kapil Sharma, Sunil Grover reunite for OTT special

Team Absolute | Mumbai

India's top-rated comedians Kapil Sharma and Sunil Grover are reuniting for a streaming comedy special.

The makers of the show dropped a video on Saturday in which the two can be seen with their arms around each other's neck as they tell the viewers that they are joining forces for a web special.

The other members of the OG gang like Archana Puran Singh, Krushna Abhishek, Kiku Sharda and Rajiv Thakur, also make an appearance in the video.

In the video, Kapil says, "Hi friends, this is Kapil Sharma and I am soon coming with a show." Sunil Grover adds the



same and Kapil says, "Let's go together".

Sunil Grover, who became a household name after playing his popular fictional characters Gutthi and Dr Mashoor Gulati on The Kapil Sharma Show, shocked everyone when he quit 'The Kapil Sharma Show' in 2018 after his

major fallout with Kapil Sharma. The two actor-comedians had a fallout in a flight when they were flying back to Mumbai after wrapping up a show in Australia.

Kapil Sharma is set to bring his entire gang of standup comedy and talk show on Netflix with fresh, new and exciting comedy extravaganza for his fans around the world.

Kartik Aaryan only finalised for 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3', others yet to be confirmed

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The pre-production on the third installment of the horror-comedy franchise 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa' is underway. It was reported that the acclaimed actress Tabu has walked out of the film. However, there's little truth to this as the only name to be finalised on the cast list is that of Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan.

'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', which released in 2022, was a major commercial success. The film was directed by Anees Bazmee and was a sequel to Akshay Kumar's 2007 film 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa'.

Kartik essayed the role of Rooh Baba in the film sequel which saw Tabu in dual roles.

Well placed source shared that other talents will be locked only after the script is finalised.

The source said, "The only actor to be confirmed is Kartik Aaryan as Rooh Baba and no other actors has been confirmed as of yet."

It was also reported that Tabu wasn't keen on taking up the role offered to her despite being offered a hefty sum but the real picture is far from what has been claimed.

The source further mentioned, "After finalising the story, they will be getting actors on board as the script demands, currently few names of actors are doing rounds which are not confirmed as we are yet to zero down on actors."

'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' turned out to be a major commercial success and furthered Kartik's stardom.

Meanwhile, Kartik was last seen in 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' which turned out to be a box office hit. He will be next seen in Kabir Khan's biographical film 'Chandu Champion'. Apart from that, he is also doing a film with Karan Johar which will be directed by Sandeep Modi. The yet-untitled epic war drama is expected to go on the floors in 2024.



'Creators may find it amusing, consequences saddening': Himanshi on deepfake videos

Team Absolute | New Delhi

After a video of actress Rashmika Mandanna's face was used in a deepfake video, conversations have been going on around the same. Actress and singer Himanshi Khurana, shares her thoughts on deep fakes, and said her concerns about such technologies. Himanshi said: "Creating fake videos just for the sake of it can significantly impact someone's mental health and tarnish their image. While the creators may find it amusing, the consequences are genuinely saddening. Even with widespread education, such videos continue to go viral, highlighting the need for awareness and responsible use of technology."

"It's disheartening to witness such incidents not only involving celebrities but also affecting ordinary individuals."

Himanshi added: "Big celebrities' videos become viral easily, such things are inappropriate and they get views because of such big celebrities."

"The technology is for good use to reach everyone and give something new for our future generation but we're using it inappropriately which is not good. No one has the right to make such videos and get it viral."

The actress said that due to societal judgements, women are more likely to become targets of something like a deepfake.

"Female actors are often more vulnerable to targeting due to a perceived fear that male actors might take decisive action if subjected to similar treatment."

"This could be attributed to societal judgements, where women are seen as easier targets for online harassment, as their videos tend to go viral more frequently, making them more lucrative and susceptible to exploitation."



Ranveer Singh addresses criticism he faced for stepping into role of Don

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, who is set to essay the role of Hindi cinema's iconic character of Don in his upcoming film 'Don 3', has spoken up on the criticism that he received even before he started working on the film. Ranveer, who was recently honoured at the Red Sea Film Festival, was subjected to online criticism for stepping into the role which was portrayed by Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan in Farhan Akhtar directed 'Don' franchise, a role which was originally portrayed by the veteran megastar Amitabh Bachchan in the 1978 film which was penned by Farhan's father Javed Akhtar in association with Salim Khan - the father of Salman Khan as the duo Salim-Javed.

Addressing the flak that he received for taking the baton forward, Ranveer said, quoted by Deadline: "I'm hoping to make Don my own and give it my spin, my interpretation. It is the handing over of the baton of one of the most loved and revered franchises of Hindi cinema. The significance of that is not lost on me. When the announcement was made, as expected, it came with its share of skepticism."

He further mentioned as he went on to draw parallels with the criticism that Daniel Craig received when he stepped into the role of cinema's one of the most iconic characters, James Bond.

Ranveer shared: "But throughout the history of cinema, this has happened. Even as recently as perhaps when the Bond franchise changed hands and they announced Daniel Craig as the new Bond, it came with its fair share of scepticism. So, this is only natural."



Demi Mann