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4% rise in crimes against women; 31,982 raped in 2022: NCRB

# WOMEN IN CRISES

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2022 revealed the highest rate of First Information Reports (FIRs) related to crimes against women, with 14,247 cases at a rate of 144.4 per lakh in Delhi, starkly surpassing the national average of 66.4. In comparison to the previous years, the figures expose a worrisome trend. In 2020 and 2021, the recorded cases were 10,093 and 14,277, respectively, indicating a concerning upward trajectory. The NCRB data provides a detailed breakdown of crimes in the national capital.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has reported a significant increase in crimes against women, with a total of 4,45,256 cases registered in 2022, a four per cent rise compared to the previous year, which recorded 4,28,278 cases.

According to the NCRB, in 2022, as many as 250 women were murder-cum-rape/gang rape victims across the country.

"There were a total of 6,516 dowry death victims while 4,963 incidents of abetment to suicide of women were reported," the data stated.

As per the NCRB report, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against women incidents at 65,743, followed by Maharashtra (45,331), Rajasthan (45,058), West Bengal (34,738), and Madhya Pradesh (32,765).

Among Union Territories, Delhi witnessed 14,247 incidents of crime against women, followed by Jammu and Kashmir (3,716) and Chandigarh (325).

Incidents of kidnapping and abduction of



women were at 69,677, posing a challenge for the police forces across the country. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of kidnapping and abduction incidents at 14,887, followed by Bihar (10,190), Maharashtra (9,297), Madhya Pradesh (7,960) and West Bengal (6,596). Delhi topped the

list among Union Territories with 4,032 incidents of kidnapping and abduction of women registered in 2022 while Nagaland registered the lowest with four incidents.

The NCRB data revealed a disturbing picture as 31,982 women were raped in 2022. The data stated that Rajasthan recorded the highest number of rapes at 5,399 followed by Uttar Pradesh (3,690), Madhya Pradesh (3,029), Maharashtra (2,904), and Haryana (1,787). In Union Territories, the national Capital recorded 1,212 rape cases followed by Jammu & Kashmir (287), and Chandigarh (78). A total of 85,300 victims reported assault with intent to outrage modesty. Maharashtra saw the highest number with 11,512 incidents recorded, followed by Uttar Pradesh (10,548), Rajasthan (8,508), Odisha (7,327) and Andhra Pradesh (5,884). In UTs, Delhi recorded 2,029 assaults on women with intent to outrage modesty followed by Jammu & Kashmir (1,606), and Chandigarh (42).

## UP RECORDED HIGHEST NUMBER OF POCSO CASES

New Delhi: Children are considered the future of a nation and the spurt in crimes against kids across India raises serious concerns about their emotional and physical security. According to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, 64,469 victims were reported in 2022 under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act.

According to the NCRB, a total of 63,414 incidents related to crimes against children were reported in 2022 and the crime rate was at 14.3. In 2022, a total of 38,444 victims were registered under Sections 4 and 6 (punishment for penetrative sexual assault), a surge as compared to 33,348 in 2021. The data showed aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the POCSO Act and in these cases 38,030 were girls while 414 were boys. According to the NCRB report, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of incidents at 8,151, followed by Maharashtra (7,572), Madhya Pradesh (5,996), Tamil Nadu (4,968) and Rajasthan (3,371).

## SURGE IN CYBER CRIMES MARKS 2022

New Delhi: The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recently released its comprehensive data for 2022, shedding light on the surge in cyber crimes across the country.

A total of 65,893 cybercrime cases were registered in 2022, marking a substantial 24.4 per cent increase from the previous year's 52,974 cases. The crime rate in this category rose from 3.9 in 2021 to 4.8 in 2022. Delving deeper into the cybercrime statistics, a staggering 64.8 per cent of the cases were motivated by fraud, accounting for 42,710 instances.

Extortion followed at 5.5 per cent (3,648 cases), and sexual exploitation constituted 5.2 per cent (3,434 cases). This alarming increase in cybercrimes highlights the pressing need for enhanced cybersecurity measures and public awareness.

In tandem with the rise in cybercrimes, crimes against women also witnessed an uptick in 2022. A total of 4,45,256 cases were registered, indicating a 4.0 per cent increase from the previous year's 4,28,278 cases.

The majority of these cases, according to the NCRB data, were registered under 'Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives' (31.4 per cent), followed by 'Kidnapping & Abduction of Women' (19.2 per cent), 'Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty' (18.7 per cent), and 'Rape' (7.1 per cent).

## Over 40 cough syrup manufacturers fail quality test: Report

Team Absolute | New Delhi

More than 40 companies manufacturing cough syrups in the country have failed quality tests, a CDSCO report said citing the lab tests conducted in different states in the aftermath of reports linking India-made cough syrups to 141 child fatalities globally.

As per the report released by the Central Drugs Standard Organisation (CDSCO), out of 1,105 samples tested, 59 samples were declared as 'not of standard quality'. The report was released by the CDSCO in November under a list of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics declared as 'not of standard quality' or 'spurious' or 'adulterated' or 'misbranded'.

The data has come from the



test reports of government testing labs. The report said that no samples were found to be spurious or misbranded.

The move came after several deaths were reported globally post consuming India-made cough syrups. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) after these deaths had made it mandatory for exporters to seek government clearance on the quality of cough syrups. Noting the DGFT requirement, CDSCO has been testing all the batches of cough syrups which seek export permission.

## Necessary for party to discuss Gehlot OSD's statement: Sachin Pilot



Jaipur | Agencies

Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy CM Sachin Pilot on Monday called for a thorough discussion both in Jaipur and New Delhi on the party's defeat, including the remarks made by outgoing Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's OSD.

"I believe that it is necessary to reflect on this defeat," Pilot said in a media interaction in Tonk. On Gehlot OSD's statement, he said: "I have also seen the statement of CM's OSD, it is necessary for the party to brainstorm on it as well."

Lokesh Sharma, in an X post, said: "The CM betrayed the high command, he brought the party to the bottom."

"The incident of September 25 was completely sponsored," he said, referring to the near revolt by Gehlot's supporters and holding of a parallel meeting of legislators.

Pilot, who was in Tonk after registering a record victory, said that he dedicated his second victory from Tonk Assembly constituency to the people and workers.

On the coming Lok Sabha elections, he said: "I have always been a Congress worker. Whatever responsibility is given to me, I will discharge it honestly in every possible way."

## No Sunburn Festival if people don't want it: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

Panaji | Agencies

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that if people don't want 'Sunburn Music Festival' to be held on December 31, then it will not take place.

He said that BJP MLA from Siolim constituency, Delilah Lobo, had urged him not to allow 'Sunburn Festival' on December 31.

"If people don't want it, then how it can happen," Sawant told reporters here. Lobo, had urged Pramod Sawant not to allow 'Sunburn Music Festival' on December 31, stating that it will affect business of local restaurants and traffic jams will deter people



from attending the midnight mass.

Delilah Lobo, in whose constituency the 'Sunburn Music Festival' takes place, said that the organisers have mentioned on their official website that this year they are holding it for four days instead of three. The music festival is scheduled to take place from December 28 to 31 in the coastal area of North Goa.

"Every year it was taking place for three days from December 30 but this year the organisers have said that it will take place also on December 31. I have already requested the Chief Minister not to allow it on the last day of the year as our local business gets affected. The New Year's Eve is the business day for us," she said. She said that if 'Sunburn Music Festival' is closed at around 10 p.m. it will lead to traffic jams and will the tourists will not be able to reach the local restaurants. "Even our people go to churches to attend midnight mass, for them it will be a problem because of traffic jams will if Sunburn is allowed on that day," she said.

## 13 UNIDENTIFIED BODIES RECOVERED IN MANIPUR BORDER DISTRICT, PROBE ON

Imphal | Security forces on Monday recovered 13 bodies of unidentified persons from Lithithu village of Manipur's Tengnoupal district, which shares a border with Myanmar. Sources said that the bodies were recovered after the security forces reached the forested village after a heavy gun fight between the rival group in an area dominated by the Kuki tribal community.

The bodies are yet to be identified. Another source said that the bodies belong to the cadres of a militant outfit and the gun fight occurred when the militants were en route to Myanmar. No arms and ammunition were recovered from the spot. Senior officials of police and central forces are inquiring into the incident and recovery of the bodies. Manipur shares an unfenced 400 km border with Myanmar. While police, defence and other security officials neither denied nor confirmed the incident, various media outlets reported the recovery of the 13 bodies.

## Amid suspense over CM face, around 50 BJP MLAs meet Vasundhara Raje

Jaipur | Agencies

Amid suspense over Chief Minister's face in Rajasthan, back-to-back meetings in Jaipur and Delhi are fuelling different speculations.

While rounds of meetings are going in Delhi to pick the CM, the BJP leaders, who are in the race for the CM post, have maintained strategic silence after the victory. According to sources, state president CP Joshi and state in-charge Arun Singh have reached Delhi. They will reportedly meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit



Shah and National President JP Nadda.

As senior BJP leaders and MPs reached Delhi, around 50 MLAs visited former CM Vasundhara Raje's residence on Monday. These include MLAs Kalicharan Saraf, Babu Singh Rathore, Premchand

Bairwa, Govind Ranipuria, Lalit Meena, Kanwarlal Meena, Radheshyam Bairwa, Kalulal Meena, KK Vishnoi, Suresh Rawat and Bhagchand Takra.

BJP MLA from Nasirabad, Ramswaroop Lamba, after meeting Vasundhara Raje, said, "BJP has returned to Rajasthan only because of the work done by PM Modi and Vasundhara Raje. Raje has the support of 115 winning MLAs." MLA Vijay Singh Choudhary said, "The people of Rajasthan want Raje to become the Chief Minister."

Meanwhile, Raje's office team confirmed reporter that these MLAs came to her only to give a courtesy call.

## Got no information about INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday: Mamata

Kolkata | Agencies

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday that she has not yet received any invitation for the meeting of the opposition INDIA bloc scheduled on December 6.

"I have no information about this meeting. No one has informed me anything over phone. In any case, I will be in North Bengal on December 6 and I will stay there for a few days. Had I known earlier (about the meeting), I would have scheduled my programme accordingly. How can I change my schedule at the last moment," Banerjee said while speaking to mediapersons.

Meanwhile, Trinamool Congress' national General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee has reached North Bengal on Monday where he is scheduled to attend a family function.

As things stand now, neither Mamata Banerjee nor Abhishek Banerjee will be present at the INDIA bloc meeting on December 6. It is not yet known if the Chief Minister will depute someone else to attend the opposition meeting.

Earlier in the day, both Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee blamed Congress' 'high-



handed' attitude for its election debacle in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Both of them advised the Congress to change its attitude towards the other INDIA bloc partners and fight in a united manner against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Chief Minister also said that the BJP can be ousted from the Centre if the INDIA bloc partners unite and coordinate to ensure a joint opposition.

## ROAD COLLAPSES IN CHENNAI AS CYCLONE MICHAUNG BRINGS HEAVY RAIN

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A road in Chennai's upscale Poes Garden area caved as Cyclone Michaung brought with it strong gusts of winds and torrential rains that pounded the city.

Visuals from the area showed a gaping cavity in the middle of the road and an electric pole collapsing into it. Makeshift structures flanked the edge of the cavity. Poes Garden in south Chennai is a premier locality and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha lived here at her residence Veda Nilayam.

Several parts of the city are waterlogged and without electricity as the relentless downpour paralysed daily life. Many had to move out of their homes to hotels. Authorities have declared a public holiday today and tomorrow, shutting schools and colleges across the city, and dispatched rescue teams to avert any untoward incidents. Locals rushed to stock up on essentials, with shops recording a high demand for drinking water.

Cyclonic storm Michaung loomed near Chennai and Puducherry, bringing with it heavy showers. According to the weather office earlier today, Chennai will see heavy rains with strong winds tonight. Numerous trains and flights have been can-



celed. Operations at the Chennai airport have been suspended till 9 am tomorrow - with about 70 flights canceled due to flooding of the runway and tarmac, the Airport Authority of India.

The Southern Railway reported the suspension of several trains originating from Chennai Central and going to Coimbatore and Mysuru. Passengers have been offered full refunds for the cancellations. As many as 14 subways in the city are shut.

## AIR INDIA TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS FLIGHTS TO AND FROM CHENNAI AIRPORT

New Delhi: Amid the heavy downpour in Chennai triggered due to cyclone Michaung, Air India has suspended all flights to and from the city till 11 p.m. on Monday, a spokesperson from the flag carrier said on Monday. "All flight movement to and from Chennai is suspended till 11 p.m. of December 4, due to inclement weather. In view of the situation, Air India will offer its guests holding confirmed tickets on any flight to/from Chennai on December 4, a one-time waiver of rescheduling/cancellation charges on bookings," the spokesperson added.

Heavy rainfall has lashed the Tamil Nadu state capital, resulting in water logging of subways and arterial roads. On Monday morning, the Chennai airport had delayed and cancelled flights due to the heavy downpour. Sources said that services will resume once the rain recedes. Suburban trains have also been impacted and the authorities have cancelled the services temporarily.



# ELECTION RESULTS SHOW PEOPLE HAVE REJECTED NEGATIVITY: PM MODI

Team Absolute | New Delhi

A day after the results of Assembly elections in four states were announced, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the results showed that "people have rejected negativity" and urged the opposition "not to vent the frustration of defeat" inside Parliament.

The Prime Minister was addressing the media ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament.

He also said the results of the Assembly elections were very encouraging for those who are committed to the welfare of the common people.

The Prime Minister said, "Political temperature is soaring."

He said that on Sunday the results of the four-state elections came out.

"The results are very encouraging. Encouraging for those who are committed to the welfare of the common people of the country and to the bright future of the country," PM Modi said.

"After the election results, this session presents a golden opportunity for the



opposition to progress with a positive mindset. I request all MPs to come to Parliament with preparation. They must shed the negativity they have been car-

rying for nine years and proceed with positivity. Please do not vent the frustration of defeat in Parliament," the Prime Minister said.

He also urged the opposition not to protest "for the sake of it".

"This is for your benefit. The Opposition has a significant role in a democracy. Please understand it. The country does not want to halt on the road to development," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that there are only four "castes" in the country -- women, youngsters, farmers and the poor.

"Those focused on the empowerment of these groups through proper policies and last-mile delivery get a lot of support," he said.

The jibe at the opposition parties came a day after the BJP's thumping victories in the Assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

Parliament's Winter Session is beginning on Monday and will conclude on December 22.

# SC grants relief to students displaced in Manipur violence

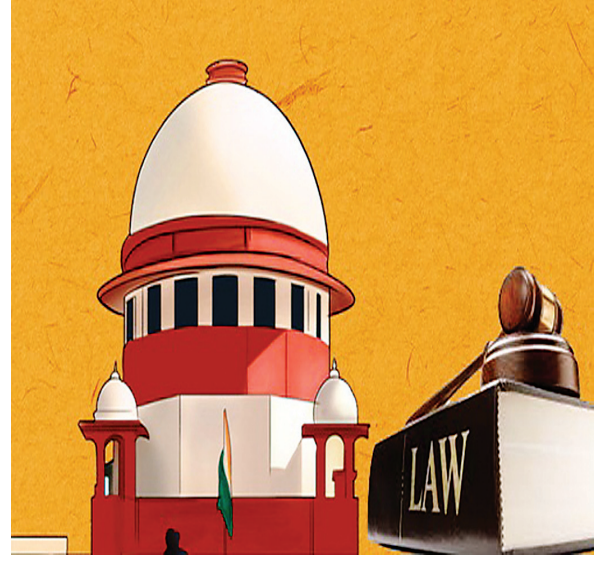
Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday said that students, displaced due to ethnic strife in Manipur, may attend online classes in Manipur University or may opt for Assam University in Silchar or the North East Hill University in Shillong.

The relief was given by a bench headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud as it considered a plea filed by a group of 284 seeking accommodation in different Central universities in the country to prevent loss of one academic year.

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said that desirous students may approach the nodal officer appointed by the Manipur varsity for the purpose of facilitating admissions and relocation.

"The process of relocation shall be carried out in two weeks upon such requests



being made. The Manipur University shall ensure that the above exercise does not impede the students from receiving degree for their course of studies," it said.

It added that any other grievance could be raised before the court-appointed committee led by Justice (ret'd) Gita Mittal. In an earlier hearing, the top court had asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and the Advocate General of Manipur to look into the grievance raised in the plea.

# 8 vehicles collide on KMP Expressway; two bikers on Harley Davidson killed

Gurugram | Agencies

Two businessmen riding Harley Davidson motorbikes were killed in a road accident near Pachgaon on the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway under the Bilaspur police station area on Monday, the police said.

As per reports, a truck driver applied brakes suddenly without giving any indicator on the Expressway, which led to the accident as eight vehicles coming from behind collided with each other. Both the bikers died after getting trapped in the crash. According to the police, Mukul Kumar, a resident of DLF Phase 5, who was part of a group of seven bikers, said in his complaint that at around 7.30 a.m. on Monday, they had gone for ride to Sohna from the Golf Course Road.

Prashant Narula (45), a resident of Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, and Parmit Sood (45), a resident of DLF Phase-1, Gurugram, were riding ahead of them. "Four other companions were also following them when a speeding truck suddenly applied brakes in the middle of the road without giving any indicator. Due to this, the I-20 car coming from behind collided with the truck with a BMW and a canter following the I-20 also ended



up colliding with each other, followed by another truck and a canter. The two bikers following them also collided and got trapped under one of the trucks, the complainant told the police.

After the duo was pulled out from under the vehicle, Prashant was sent to Nalhar Medical College, Nuh, while Parmit was rushed to the Fortis Hospital in Gurugram. Unfortunately, both died during treatment.

"A case under the relevant sections of IPC has been registered against the errant truck driver at the Bilaspur police station. The victims' bodies have been handed over to the family members after autopsy," said Subhash Boken, spokesperson for Gurugram Police.

# KCR meets BRS leaders at farmhouse

Hyderabad | Agencies

A day after losing power to the Congress in Telangana, outgoing Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) President K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday met party MLAs and top leaders at his farmhouse at Erravalli.

First pictures and videos of KCR after the Assembly election results were widely shared on social media.

The BRS chief is seen chatting with the newly-elected MLAs of the party and also his former ministerial colleagues.

Former Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, former ministers T. Harish Rao, Mehmood Ali, Srinivas Goud, T. Srinivas Yadav, Malla Reddy, and Sabitha Indra Reddy were among those who met KCR.

After the Congress won 64 seats in the 119-member Assembly, KCR had left Pragati Bhavan, the official residence of the Chief Minister, on Sunday evening. He sent his resignation to Governor



Tamilisai Soundararajan and reached the farmhouse in his private car. The BRS, which ruled Telangana for nearly 10 years, won only 39 seats.

Earlier in the day, BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao held a meeting at Telangana Bhavan with newly-elected MLAs, contesting candidates, and senior leaders.

He stated that during the last 10 years, the BRS government took up many works for the development of the state and people's welfare. He observed that the people have given a chance to another party and the BRS will perform its role as the opposition party as this is also the responsibility given by the people.

The BRS leader said he did not expect that the party would lose power. He said they are receiving hundreds of messages from all sections of people. KTR, as Rama Rao is known, said the party would soon call an extended meeting with public representatives and leaders to move ahead.

He said while the BRS was in power they were all doing their duties from Secretariat and Pragati Bhavan and now they will be available to people at Telangana Bhavan.

# 20 TURNCOATS GET ELECTED ON CONGRESS TICKETS IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad | Agencies

Out of 64 candidates of the Congress party who were elected in Telangana Assembly elections, at least 20 are those who had crossed over to the party from BRS and BJP during the last five months.

Some of them had switched loyalties to the Congress only a few days before the deadline for filing of nominations.

The Congress party, which was worried over lack of strong candidates in about 40 constituencies, was quick to lure disgruntled leaders from both BRS and BJP and this strategy paid off and finally helped the party wrest power from BRS.

As the BRS had announced its candidates in August, about 45 days before the announcement of poll schedule, and it retained almost all sitting MLAs, this gave ample time to Congress to reach out to those BRS leaders who were unhappy over denial of tickets. Former MP Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, former ministers Juppally Krishna Rao, Tummalam Nageswara Rao, former MPs G. Vivek, K. Rajagopal Reddy were among the prominent leaders who crossed over to Congress from BRS or BJP and won the election.

Thirty of the 118 candidates fielded by the Congress party were those who had joined the party recently. Only 10 of them could not make it.



Undivided Khammam district saw victory of maximum number of turncoats. In 2018, Congress had won six out of 10 seats in this district and except two all had later crossed over to BRS. Both MLAs of TDP had also defected to BRS. They all had to bite the dust in this election as the BRS candidates who had finished second in the previous election switched loyalties to Congress. Former Khammam MP Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who was suspended from BRS, was one of the first to join Congress after the party's victory in neighbouring Karnataka. He has been elected from Palair

constituency. The others, who won after crossing over from BRS, are Tummalam Nageswara Rao (Khammam), K. Kanakiah (Yellandu), P. Venkateswarlu (Pinapakka), J. Adinarayana (Aswaraopet) and M. Ragamayee (Sathupalli). Nageswara Rao, who had also served as a minister in the first BRS government, joined Congress in September as he was denied ticket by the party. A former TDP leader, he had also served as minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh. In Khammam he defeated transport minister P. Ajay Kumar by over 49,000 votes.

# JD-U MP CONGRATULATES PM MODI, BJP FOR WINNING ELECTION IN THREE STATES

Patna: JD-U MP Sunil Kumar Pintu on Monday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP for winning elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

"Modi hai to mumkin hai. Modi hai to guarantee hai. There is a guarantee of Narendra Modi winning the elections in the country. The people have faith in the guarantee of Narendra Modi and it is reflected through these results," Pintu said.

He said that BJP has obtained historic wins in all these three states by winning with huge margin.

"This proves that people have faith in Narendra Modi and his guarantee," Pintu said. After Pintu's reaction and praise for Modi, there is a buzz -- in the past as well -- that many JD-U leaders are in contact with BJP. However, as of now the BJP does not want to break the JD-U and it is one of the reasons that many JD-U leaders are silent.

# Newly elected BJP MLA orders closure of non-veg shops in Jaipur

Jaipur | Agencies

The newly elected BJP MLA Balmukund Acharya on Monday ordered the closure of non-veg shops in the city, saying operations of these shops will not be tolerated at any cost.

"These people don't even have licence. The Congress administration was not asking them about it. My agenda is to protect Sanatan. Therefore, I will not tolerate such people. Because of these people, non-veg is being cooked openly. The general public is getting worried because of this," Balmukund Acharya said.

He said that due to the non-veg smell, the people have even stopped passing through the roads.

"There are many temples in these areas. People have stopped visiting these temples because of the non-veg smell. It will not be tolerated now under any circumstances," he said. Acharya has asked the Municipal Corporation officials to shut down the non-veg shops in the major markets of the city and also asked the owner of a non-veg hotel to remove the encroachment. Acharya won the election on BJP ticket from Hawa Mahal assembly constituency only by 600 votes. "Everyone's licence will be checked. I will personally check the report from all these shop owners," Acharya said.

He said that Bangladeshis have set up non-veg shops in Hawa Mahal which is against the rules.



# After ruling for 22 years, Congress almost wiped out in Mizoram

Aizawl | Agencies

The Congress, which governed Mizoram for more than 22 years in different terms since 1984 under the Chief Ministership of party stalwart Lal Thanhawla, performed disastrously in the state assembly elections, result of which was announced on Monday.

The Congress fielded candidates in all 40 seats but its nominee C. Ngunlianchunga is the only winner in Lawngtlai West seat by a margin of 432 votes. Ngunlianchunga, who secured 11,296 votes, defeated the ruling Mizo National Front candidate V. Zirsanga, who bagged 10,864 votes.

Besides all other party leaders and former ministers, state Congress President Lalsawta lost his Aizawl West-III seat to opposition Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) candidate V.L. Zaithanzama by a margin of 4,582 votes. The Congress this time got 20.82 per cent votes against 29.98 per cent (five seats) in 2018 and 44.63 per cent votes (34 seats) in 2013. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited Mizoram on October 16 and 17 and campaigned for the party. Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh, Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor, party's northeast in-charge Bhakta Charan Das among other leaders also took part in the campaign. Congress General Secretary Priyanka



Gandhi Vadra cancelled her scheduled campaign trips to the northeastern state while Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi gave a special video message to the people of Mizoram. The Congress, before the elections, has formed 'Mizoram Secular Alliance' (MSA) with two local parties -- People's Conference (PC) and Zoram Nationalist Party (ZNP) to unitedly fight against the BJP. The People's Conference and ZNP did not put up any candidate. State Congress President Lalsawta, who took moral responsibility for the party's poor performance, announced to submit his resignation on Tuesday. He told the media that the Congress, though defeated in the elections, but it would come back to power in the 2028 assembly elections.

# 'THE JAIGARH FESTIVAL': CELEBRATING 40 GLORIOUS YEARS OF JAIGARH FORT AS TOURIST DESTINATION

Jaipur | Agencies

Jaigarh, the iconic fortress nestled in the Aravalli hills, is set to host first-ever, 'The Jaigarh Festival' on 9 and 10 December, marking four decades since its doors were opened to the public. This first of its kind festival is based on the theme of patronage and preservation of the heritage arts and crafts of Rajasthan. Late Brigadier His Highness Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh, MVC of Jaipur had inaugurated the fort as a tourist destination in 1983, a legacy upheld by the Jaigarh Public Charitable Trust.

Commenting on the Festival, H.H. Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur said, "Jaigarh has witnessed centuries of valour and cultural richness, and it is our responsibility to share and celebrate this legacy. The festival is a platform to showcase the heritage arts and crafts that define our identity and to engage with a diverse audience."

One of the highlights of 'The Jaigarh Festival' is Heritage Arts and Crafts Masterclass Workshops, where renowned artisans from the royal 'Gunijankhana' will



conduct workshops, showcasing the intricate heritage arts and crafts of Rajasthan. There will also be folk performances and pop-ups that will showcase the vibrant culture of Rajasthan, providing a glimpse into the state's artistic traditions. Specially curated fort walks at the festival will offer visitors insights into the historical and architectural significance of Jaigarh. In the festival, expert

panel discussions and talks on history, art, architecture, and other heritage topics will also take place. There will also be a festival bazaar with a diverse range of cuisine and craft-based products.

On 9 December, the opening day of the festival, the lighting of the lamp will take place at 10.30 am by a member of the Royal Family. It will be followed by Art and Crafts workshops and demonstrations, talk shows, fort walks and film screening of 'Meen Raag' by National award winning filmmaker, Suruchi Sharma.

10 December, day 2 of the festival will have an Art Exhibition and Festival Bazaar during the day. The Closing ceremony will be showcasing classical, folk performances and felicitation of workshop students.

The festival will be attended by school, college and university students, academicians, artists, art enthusiasts, music lovers, history buffs, architecture enthusiasts, shoppers, culturists and celebrated Individuals from various fields. The representatives from affiliate organisations like the Army, Government, Air Force, etc. will also be present.

# ABOUT JAIGARH FORT

Perched majestically atop the rugged Aravalli hills, Jaigarh fort stands as a captivating gem in the rich tapestry of Rajasthan's history, offering a breathtaking panorama of the picturesque town of Amer. With roots tracing back to the 11th century, this medieval war fort became an integral part of the military prowess of the Kachhawas of Dhoondhar, adding significant strategic value to their might. The enduring legacy of Jaigarh has been meticulously preserved over the last four decades by the Jaigarh Public Charitable Trust.

Within the battlements, the fort houses the 'War & Peace' gallery, featuring a compelling photo and costume exhibit.



## 'LADLI BEHNA': SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN'S MASTERSTROKE IN ELECTION YEAR

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As the BJP swept the Madhya Pradesh election, the result flying in the face of exit poll predictions, the spotlight is on the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's welfare schemes such as 'Ladli Behna' that helped BJP tap into women votes and swung the polls in its favour.

The 'Ladli Behna' scheme, aimed at making women financially independent, is being considered a masterstroke by the four-time chief minister that helped BJP seal the victory in the heartland state.

The Mukhya Mantri Ladli Behna Scheme was launched by Chief Minister Chouhan in March this year. Under the scheme, women in the 23-60 years age group receive Rs 1,000 every month in their bank accounts. This amount, the BJP has promised, will go up to Rs 3,000 gradually. The objective is to make women self-reliant and also empower them to address their health and nutrition requirements by providing them financial support.

Married women residents of Madhya Pradesh in the 23-60 years age group are eligible to avail the scheme's benefit. This includes widows, divorced and abandoned women, according to the scheme's website.

Women from families with an annual income more than Rs 2.5 lakh are not eligible for the scheme's benefits. Women who are income tax payers or whose family members



are government employees are also ineligible. Unmarried women cannot avail of the scheme either. Women whose family members are elected public representatives cannot avail the benefits. If a woman is already receiving an amount less than Rs 1,000 under any other scheme, the difference will be paid to her under the 'Ladli Behna' scheme. The scheme also stands out because the monthly instalments would only get deposited in her

account and not that of her husband or any other relative.

The 40-member team involved in implementing the scheme pulled off a Herculean task by registering 1.25 crore women under the scheme and crediting the assistance monthly in 99 per cent of the accounts, all within just 100 days. This was achieved through hundreds of camps set up for the registration. There would be long queues, but the

process would take just minutes, even in rural areas.

When the Congress announced a monthly assistance of Rs 1,500 in the run-up to the Assembly polls, the ruling BJP tweaked the 'Ladli Behna' policy and hiked the monthly amount to Rs 1,250. Chief Minister Chouhan also said this amount would be increased gradually and go up to Rs 3,000 a month.

"The Mukhya Mantra Ladli Behna Yojana has started with Rs 1,000, but it won't stop there. Your brother will keep increasing it," Mr Chouhan then said. Congress's Kamal Nath had then said this was a desperate attempt by the ruling party to save its 'sinking ship' and stressed that it won't work, but the Chief Minister was confident. Even a day after the election, Mr Chouhan said the scheme was removing all thorns from the BJP's way to victory.

Only about 40 per cent of women in the state own house/land individually or jointly. Only 38.5 women in the state have a mobile phone of their own. The number of women in the state's workforce, both in urban and rural areas, are also dismal. Against this backdrop, a scheme that puts money in their hands can potentially help them better care of themselves. 'Ladli Behna' also ensured that the amount did not go to a male relative - a system that has often been misused. The scheme worked for women and, as the results showed, for the BJP too.

## Kamal Nath meets Chouhan, congratulates him for election victory



Team Absolute | Bhopal

A day after the BJP's landslide victory in Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, the state unit Congress head Kamal Nath met Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The veteran Congress leader paid a customary visit to Chouhan at the CM's house in Shyamla Hills in Bhopal. Chouhan himself received Kamal Nath and his son and Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath.

Both the leaders had a warm meeting after a month-long heated poll campaign in

which they went hammer and tongs at each other.

Kamal Nath, who led the Congress campaign from the front, after witnessing defeat in the election on Sunday, had said that the BJP should work for the development of Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP swept Madhya Pradesh after securing as many as 163 seats. The Congress, which was looking to come back to power, could win only 66 seats, which was 48 seats down from its 2018 tally.

The BJP improved its count as it had won 109 seats in 2018.

## Saints will circumambulate Kamadgiri for public welfare in Chitrakoot

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ram spent most of his exile period on the banks of Mandakini river in Chitrakoot. This is why Chitrakoot is a pilgrimage site. It is believed in Sanatan Dharma that one's wish is fulfilled by circumambulating Mount Kamadgiri.

Today, more than three hundred sadhus and saints of seven Akharas are going to do parikrama for public welfare. On the occasion of various festivals, lakhs of people come to take bath in Mandakini river and circumambulate Kamadgiri with the darshan of Kamtanath.

Social entrepreneur Dr. on Tuesday. Swapna Verma has organized the parikrama of



Kamadgiri. More than 300 saints and sages from seven Akharas will participate in this parikrama. It is believed that by circling the holy land of Kamdagiri in Chitrakoot, all the wishes of the people are fulfilled.

Every year lakhs of devotees reach here and circum-

ambulate Kamadgiri bare-foot. Lord Kamtanath fulfills all his wishes. There are many ancient temples on the route of Kamadgiri Parikrama and the length of this parikrama path is about five kilometers. There is a paved circumambulation route around Kamadgiri.

## Congress's weak strategy strengthened Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

Team Absolute | Bhopal

If there was maximum attention on any one area in the assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, then it was Gwalior-Chambal, the reason for this is Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The election results have proved one thing that Congress's weak strategy has further strengthened Scindia.

In Gwalior-Chambal division, Congress had won 26 out of 34 assembly seats in the 2018 assembly elections and this victory was achieved when Scindia was with the Congress. When Scindia left Congress and joined BJP, the situation of BJP changed in this area.

The MLAs of both BJP and Congress became 17-17. Even though Congress and BJP are tied in the assembly by-elections. But, Congress strengthened its position in the urban body elections. The charge of this area was then with National Secretary Sudhanshu Tripathi. His activism, marches and strategy in the area were also suc-



cessful in showing their impact. Due to that, Congress won the post of mayor in Gwalior and Morena. In the recently held assembly elections, BJP has got great success in this area and has won 18 out of 34 seats. Many stalwarts of Congress have faced defeat in this area, among which Leader of Opposition Govind Singh, former minister KP Singh, Digvijay Singh's brother Laxman Singh are prominent. A Congress leader, on the condition of anonymity, has said that Congress continued to make mistakes in this area and as a result, the party had to face defeat in the assembly elections.

The officials who were active in this area for some years and used to listen to the workers, were removed and new officials were deployed. The result was that the grassroots level workers were not listened to and the leaders here were not very active due to being in contact with big leaders. Overall, BJP has achieved great success only because of the weak strategy of the party. BJP has not only become stronger, but Scindia has also benefited.

## Strength of BJP organization visible in Madhya Pradesh assembly elections



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The organization of Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh has been considered to be the strongest as compared to other states of the country and this has also been proved in the recently held assembly elections.

In this election, the organization

has played an important role in everything from grassroots gathering to participation in candidate selection and taking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's poor welfare campaign to the masses.

After the defeat in the 2018 assembly elections, BJP was more alert and cautious. After the defeat in the last elections, the party made major changes in the organization and handed over the command to Vishnu Dutt Sharma as the new face.

Sharma has been the organization head of BJP for the last four years and he not only made strategies to strengthen the party at the grassroots level, but was also seen roaming in small towns and villages instead of Bhopal. When the national leadership of BJP handed over the command of the state to Sharma, many questions were raised and it was being said that it would be difficult for him to keep the party running on the right path.

But as time passed, Sharma launched the campaign as per the wishes of the national leadership and the needs of the state. The party's booth expansion campaign became an example for other states. Sharma's working style started being compared to Kushabhau Thackeray's working style. Contact and communication were the great strengths of Kushabhau Thackeray and Sharma also followed this path.

Initially, Sharma did not get the support of senior leaders and he either considered it appropriate to sit at home or chose the path of protest. Despite this, the organization's vehicle started gaining momentum on its track. After Sharma became the president, a major achievement came to the party's credit - the formation of the government. Jyotiraditya Scindia had left Congress along with his supporting MLAs. Not only this, after BJP returned to power, BJP got a bumper victory in the by-elections also. Since

then all the party leaders started calling Sharma as Shubhankar.

Now assembly elections have been held and in that too the party has got a huge majority.

A senior BJP leader says that this time the party has got more support from the public than expected in this election. The main reasons behind this have been the policies of the Central Government, the face of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the strategy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. But the organization played a big role in taking all these things to the ground in the state. It is a different matter that some people remained angry, but the organization did not deviate from its path. The result of this is in front of all of us today. The party gave ample opportunity to new faces in the assembly elections and old ones were also fielded. Overall, the politics of coordination was clearly visible in these elections.

## Clouds in four divisions of the state, drizzle may occur

Team Absolute | Bhopal

It will be cloudy in the districts of state capital Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain and Gwalior divisions. There may also be drizzle. Four weather systems are active at different places. Due to their effect, moisture is coming in the atmosphere. According to meteorologists, the direction of the winds also remains eastern and north-eastern. It is cloudy due to moisture coming with the winds.

According to the Meteorological Centre, at present a cyclone is forming in the upper part of the air over the Arabian Sea. A Western Disturbance has formed as a cyclone in the upper part of the air over the southern part of Haryana. A



Dronika is also associated with it. The cyclone formed over southern Rajasthan has now reached western Uttar Pradesh. It may remain cloudy in the districts of Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior divisions. There may also be drizzle. However, now there will be some increase in day temperature, while there may be some drop in night

temperature. Former senior meteorologist Ajay Shukla said that moisture is coming due to the effect of these weather systems. Apart from this, the direction of the winds remains eastern and north-eastern. Along with the winds, some moisture is also coming from the Arabian Sea. This is why clouds are formed.

### KAMAL NATH CALLED A MEETING OF CANDIDATES TODAY

Bhopal: After the results of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, Congress State President Kamal Nath has called a meeting of all 230 candidates in Bhopal.

This meeting will be held in Rajiv Gandhi Auditorium. State Congress vice president and organization in-charge Rajiv Singh has said that presence of all the candidates in the meeting is mandatory. This meeting will take place at 11 o'clock. Let it be known that BJP has got a huge majority in the state assembly elections, out of 230 seats in the state, BJP has won 164 places. Whereas, Congress had to be content with winning 66 places.

## Resignation sought from Kamal Nath, discord in Congress after defeat

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Senior state Congress leader and former member of Backward Classes Commission Balkaran Patel has sought resignation from former Chief Minister Kamal Nath. There is discord in the Congress after the defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections. Kamal Nath's former aide Balkaran Patel issued a letter and wrote that after the defeat in the assembly elections, Kamal Nath should immediately resign on moral grounds.

Balkaran Patel is an old friend of Kamal Nath and has been his supporter. He has been associated with Kamal Nath in state politics since the beginning. Has been with Kamal Nath since he first contested elections. A few days ago, he had expressed his displeasure over the



working style of the party to MP Nakul Nath. He has also been the former secretary of the State Congress and a member of the Spices Board of the Central Government.

On the other hand, when the results of Madhya Pradesh elections were reduced to less than 70 seats, State Congress President Kamal Nath said that in this contest of democracy, we accept the decision of the voters of the state. As an opposition party today and in future, we will stick to what is our duty. I always said that I trust the voters of Madhya Pradesh and I do so even today. We will discuss the winners and losers and draw conclusions. We congratulate the BJP and hope that the way the public has supported them and the confidence that the public has reposed in them, they will fulfill it responsibly.

### THE BEAUTICIAN, SEPARATED FROM HUSBAND WAS RAPED WITH FALSE PROMISE OF MARRIAGE

Bhopal: A case of rape of a woman living separately from her husband by a young man on the pretext of marriage has come to light in Bairagarh, a suburb of the city. After the accused refused to marry, the matter reached the police.

According to the police, a 25-year-old woman living in Bairagarh area said in her complaint that due to family reasons, she lives separately from her husband and runs a boutique. Recently she had come in contact with a young man named Vikas alias Bunty Dudhani. Vikas had to visit his boutique. The accused got acquainted with her and started visiting her house. Three days ago, Vikas reached the woman's house and, taking advantage of the loneliness, forcefully made her a victim of his lust. When the woman protested, the accused lured her into marriage. After this, the accused again physically abused her the next day. When the woman asked him to marry her, Vikas first refused to marry her and then when the woman put pressure on him, Vikas beat her. After this the victim reached the police station. On her complaint, the police have registered a case against the accused under sections of rape and assault and started further investigation.



EDITOR'S SPECS

**Is the party now over for Mayawati and BSP in UP?**

The Bahujan Samaj Party has miserably failed to arrest its downslide in politics. The BSP failed to open its account in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana and bagged just two seats in Rajasthan, negating party President chief Mayawati's claim of emerging as a 'kingmaker'. The BSP's poor performance in the state Assembly elections will have a direct impact on its fortunes in Uttar Pradesh where its graph has been rapidly sliding down since 2012. Moreover, the BSP now stands completely isolated and its stocks have further gone down after the results in four states. For Mayawati to join hands with the Congress could prove to be an uphill task since the Samajwadi Party will not accept the same and this could disturb the fragile alliance within the INDIA bloc. The BSP has fared worse than it had done in 2018 in four states where polls were held. The party polled 2.09 per cent of the votes in Chhattisgarh, 1.82 per cent in Rajasthan, 3.32 per cent in Madhya Pradesh and 1.38 per cent in Telangana. Sadulpur and Bari in Rajasthan were the only seats that the BSP won this time. The BSP had polled 4.03 per cent votes and bagged six Assembly seats in Rajasthan in 2018. In Telangana, the BSP had fielded candidates on 106 Assembly seats but failed to open its account in 2018 whereas in the 2014 Assembly election, it had bagged two seats even as the BRS (then TRS) wave swept the state. Mayawati had steadfastly maintained equidistance from the two national political blocs and insisted that it would neither join the Congress-led Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

**New quota cap may be Nitish's trump card against BJP in 2024 LS polls**

Ajay Kumar

With the Lok Sabha elections slated to be held within six months in the country, the Mahagathbandhan government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar, put the BJP on the back foot with two major achievements. While the first feather in the Nitish Kumar Government's cap was the successful caste survey, the second was reservation up to 75 per cent for EBCs, OBCs, SCs, STs and 10 per cent quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in the upper castes. Now, it looks like the leaders of the JD(U) and RJD will make strategies only on these lines to defeat the BJP and other NDA leaders. Neeraj Kumar, MLC and chief spokesperson of the JD(U) said, "EWS reservation is not implemented in 12 states of the country. I want to ask BJP leaders why there is 10 per cent reservation for EWS people in General Category in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry and in Chandigarh?" "In India the Constitution drafted by Baba saheb Ambedkar is implemented and reservation is the right of the poor of the country," Kumar said. Reacting to Neeraj Kumar's claim Arvind Kumar Singh, senior leader and spokesperson of the BJP said, "Neeraj Kumar is talking about reservation in northeastern states but he does not know that the maximum population of those states is tribal. The Narendra Modi Government has given 80 per cent reservation to them and hence the JD(U) leader talking about 10 per cent reservation in EWS General Category is just a political gimmick. "Neeraj Kumar is trying to analyse the caste equations of the entire country on the basis of Bihar which is not wise. Does the Bihar Government have the guts to give 100 per cent reservation in the state? The answer is 'no'. They cannot give 100 per cent reservation and do not have the guts to give reservation according to the populations of particular castes. "In many states like Himachal Pradesh, Rajputs come under the OBC category. Similarly, in many states Kurmi people are considered upper castes. So whatever, Neeraj Kumar is saying is not right. He is doing a political gimmick in Bihar to mislead the people and get their votes. Elections cannot be won through deceit." **Why do quotas matter for the JD(U) in Bihar?** In the 2020 Assembly elections, the JD(U) was



in the third position and the biggest reason for this was the fact that EBC votes were cut by leaders like Chirag Paswan. This time, too, Chirag Paswan represents Dushadh (Pasi) voters in Bihar and they have a huge population. Jitan Ram Manjhi is another leader who represents the Musahar community. Upendra Kushwaha and Samrat Choudhary represent the Koiri caste which is the core vote bank of Nitish Kumar. JD(U) leaders have limited options of intruding into the Dalit and Mahadalit vote banks and hence reservation up to 75 per cent could prove to be a trump card for Nitish Kumar in the Lok Sabha elections. The party is projecting Dalit leaders like Ashok Chaudhary and Ratnesh Sada and organising events like 'Bhim Sansad' in Patna to give a message to Dalit and Mahadalit communities that Nitish Kumar is a trusted leader for them and 75 per cent reservation is an example of it. The 10 per cent reservation in the upper caste EWS category is for the simple reason that upper caste people in Bihar are the core voters of the BJP. The state government also knows the strength of the EWS in the upper caste through the caste-based survey. So, the JD(U) is hoping that a sizeable number of the voters in the upper caste EWS would become silent voters of the JD(U) in the Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly polls in 2025. **What is Nitish Kumar's biggest challenge?** The biggest challenge for the Nitish Kumar government, are the people living Below the Poverty Line (BPL), as their number is very high. As per the caste-cum-economic survey, 25 per cent people under the General Category have a monthly income of Rs 6,000.

While 23 per cent have a monthly income between Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000 and 19 per cent people have incomes between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000, almost 16 per cent of the population has an income between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 9 per cent people have an income of more than Rs 50,000. In Other Backward Castes, 33 per cent people have a monthly income of Rs 6000 and 29 per cent of them have a monthly income between Rs 6000 to 10,000, while 18 per cent have an income between Rs 10,000 to 20,000 and 10 per cent people have an income between Rs 20,000 to 50,000 and 4 per cent of them have income above Rs 50,000 per month. In Extremely Backward Castes (EBC), 33 per cent earn Rs 6000 per month, 32 per cent people have an income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000, while 18 per cent get between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 and 8 per cent earn between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and just 2 per cent have income above Rs 50,000 per month. In the Scheduled Castes, 42 per cent people earn Rs 6000 per month, 29 per cent people have income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000 monthly, 15 per cent people have income between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 while 5 per cent people have income between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 1 per cent people have income over 50,000 per month. In the Scheduled Tribes, 42 per cent people have income of Rs 6000 per month, 25 per cent have income between Rs 6000 to Rs 10,000 and 16 per cent have income between Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 while 8 per cent earn between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 and 2.53 per cent get over Rs 50,000 per month in Bihar. An expert's take: Dr Sanjiv Mishra, former Principal Chief Controller of Accounts, CBIC, Union Finance Ministry, said, "The recent caste-cum-economic survey indicates that a large number of people in every category, including upper castes, EBCs, OBCs, SCs and STs have a monthly income of up to Rs 6,000 per month. How will a family live in just Rs 6,000?" "The state government needs to present a blueprint of how it will enhance the earnings of individuals. I also want to point out that the state GDP in 2011-12 was 2.57 per cent and it has increased to 2.75 per cent in the last 10-11 years. So, the picture is gloomy here and it needs serious thinking on how to implement policies for the betterment of the common people of Bihar, especially the BPL category."

international

**Israel determined to eliminate Hamas all around the world: Top official**

**Jerusalem** | Agencies Israel is determined to eliminate the Hamas militant group from all over the world even if it takes years, chief of the intelligence Shin Bet agency Ronen Bar said. Shin Bet, also known as the Israeli Security Agency, is the Jewish nation's domestic security agency, tasked with combating terrorism. "The cabinet set us a goal. In the words of the street, it is to eliminate Hamas. And we are determined to do it. This is our Munich. Everywhere: in Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Qatar, everywhere," CNN quoted the Shin Bet chief as saying in a recording aired by Israel's public broadcaster Kan on Sunday. Bar's mention of Munich is a reference to the events on September 5, 1972, during the Munich Olympics when two Israelis were killed and nine were taken hostage by the members of Black September, a Palestinian terrorist movement demanding the release of political prisoners by the Israeli government. "It will take a few years, but we will be there to do it. The security responsibility is ours. Our duty is to provide both security and a sense of security. Unfortunately, on October 7 we were unable to do it.



"I think we are on the rise. We are not waiting. We are already drawing our lessons from the events," he added. The Shin Bet chief's remarks came as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced on Sunday night that it was expanding its ground operations to the whole of the Gaza Strip. "The IDF is resuming and expanding the ground operation against Hamas' strongholds across the whole Gaza Strip," CNN quoted IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari as saying at a news conference. Hagari also underlined "the importance of air assistance provided by the Air Force to ground forces", saying airstrikes against

terror headquarters, weapons manufacturing facilities, terror tunnels, and rocket launching sites limit the threats posed against the ground operation. "Our policy is clear - we will forcefully strike any threat posed against our territory," he added. Israel has been bombarding Gaza as combat operations resumed following the collapse of the seven-day humanitarian truce on December 1. Since the resumption of the hostilities, the Israeli military said it struck Hamas tunnel shafts, command centres and weapons storage facilities in the besieged enclave. Between December 2 and 3, at least 316 people were killed and 664 others injured in Gaza, says the Hamas-controlled Ministry of Health. The overall death toll in Gaza since the war erupted on October 7 has increased to 15,523 as of Monday morning. According to the Ministry, 70 per cent of the total figure comprises women and children. Meanwhile, 77 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the ground operations on October 7. In Israel, the casualty toll remains more than 1,200, including foreign nationals.

**11 climbers die after Indonesia's most active volcano erupts**

**Jakarta** | Agencies Eleven climbers died and some others remain missing following the eruption of Mount Merapi, the most active volcano in Indonesia located in the Sumatra Island, a rescue official said on Monday. "In the first stage, 49 climbers were found. They all survived and were taken to hospital, and some have returned home. In the second stage, we found 14 people, three survived and 11 others died," head of Padang Search and Rescue Agency Abdul Malik told Xinhua news agency. The climbers were on their way to the foot of the mountain amid the eruption.



Authorities have deployed nearly 100 people to search for a total of 75 recorded climbers. Mount Merapi, which is as high as 2,891 meters above sea level, erupted on Sunday, spewing a column of ash of 3,000

meters, spreading volcanic ash and rocks into the surrounding area. The authorities have prohibited people from being in the danger zone within a 3-km radius of the main crater. Located on the border of the provinces of Central Java and Yogyakarta, Mount Merapi has erupted regularly since 1548. A major eruption in 2010 killed 353 people and displaced over 20,000 residents. Since 2010, Merapi had experienced several smaller eruptions, most noticeably two phreatic eruptions which occurred in November 2013 and May 2018. In July this year, Merapi had erupted 16 times in just 24 hours.

**Japan confirms season's 4th bird flu outbreak**

**Tokyo** | Agencies Japan has confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza at a poultry farm in the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima, local media reported. The Kagoshima prefectural government said that work to cull some 23,000 egg-laying chickens at the chicken farm in the city of Izumi started on Sunday morning, Xinhua news agency



reported, citing a Jiji Press hygiene centre on Saturday morning received a report of an

increase in dead chickens from the farm, the report said. Three of 13 dead chickens showed positive results after a simple virus test. Infection was confirmed on Sunday in a detailed genetic examination, according to the prefectural government. This marks the fourth bird flu outbreak confirmed at a poultry farm in Japan this season, the report said.

**Death toll from floods, landslides in Tanzania rises to 23**

**Dar es Salaam** | Agencies The death toll from the floods and subsequent landslides in northern Tanzania caused by overnight torrential rains increased to 23 on Sunday afternoon. Rescue efforts are underway to assist individuals trapped in the landslides on Hanang hills in the Hanang district of Manyara region, and retrieve bodies trapped in the debris, Xinhua news agency reported, citing local officials. Queen Sendiga, commissioner of Manyara region, said Katesh town and the villages of Jorodom, Gendabi, Mogito and Gedang'onyi as the most severely affected areas. Describing the situation as "horrifying", Sendiga told the news agency by phone that one



village had been completely engulfed by mudflow, suggesting a potential rise in the number of casualties. "The rescuers are extricating people and bodies trapped in

fallen trees, stones and mud-flow. Though we have confirmed 23 fatalities, the count could rise," she said, noting that individuals displaced by house damage were being accommodated in three public schools. Gabriel Mbogoni, a senior official from the Geological Survey of Tanzania, said that a team from the institution was en route to the area for investigations. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has expressed condolences for the deceased and instructed relevant authorities to mount an immediate response. She directed the Prime Minister's Office responsible for disaster management, security agencies and the Ministry of Health to relocate to Manyara region to aid

**4 Indian-origin men sought in connection with aggravated assault in Canada**

**Toronto** | Agencies Police have sought public assistance in locating four Indian-origin men, aged between 22-30 years, in connection with an aggravated assault that took place in Canadian city of Brampton. Aftaab Gill (22), Harmandeep Singh (22), Jatinder Singh (25) and Satnam Singh (30) assaulted a victim in the area of McLaughlin Road and Ray Lawson Boulevard on September 8. Officers from the Peel Regional Police's Criminal Investigation Bureau said on Sunday that multiple parties assaulted the victim and fled



the area prior to police arrival. The victim suffered serious non-life threatening injuries and was taken to a local hospital. All four of them are residents of Brampton, Ontario,

and wanted for aggravated assault. Police are asking anyone with information on the whereabouts of the four men to contact investigators. In August this year, murder charges were laid against Parminder Singh Brar (31) and Simarpal Singh (21) in connection with an aggravated assault that left a 55-year-old man dead in British Columbia province. In the same month, Dilip Kumar Dholani, a senior citizen visiting from India, was stabbed 17 times in broad daylight while taking his granddaughter out in a stroller in Oshawa, Greater Toronto Area.





# Tom Hanks served Cher when he worked as bellhop at a hotel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood legend Tom Hanks has reminisced about his youthful brush with Cher. The actor recently appeared on "The Graham Norton Show" alongside Cher and fellow actors Julia Roberts and Timothee Chalame, and regaled the audience with a story from his days working at a hotel in the 1970s. "I have worked for Cher. I was a bellman at the Oakland Hilton Hotel," he began, prompting a surprised "No" from the 'If I Could Turn Back Time' singer, 77, reports People magazine. "You were with one of your rock-and-roll husbands, and we had your bag. And then word came down, 'Hey, run this up to Cher's room,' so I did," Tom continued. The actor further mentioned, "I knocked on the door and I put it down and you came out and said, 'Yeah, that's it. Thanks, kid.' And that was it." "So I have worked for Cher." As per People, he surmised that their brief interaction occurred sometime in 1975 or 1976. At that time, Cher was in a much-publicised relationship with Allman Brothers Band frontman Gregg Allman, whom she married in June 1975. During the stars' talk show appearance, Tom had high praise for Cher, who admitted during the conversation that she isn't "a big Cher fan" herself and doesn't like to watch her own films or listen to her own music.

"You're missing out," the 'Elvis' star told her. "Motion picture perfection -- Mamma Mia! 2," he raved of the 2018 film in which Cher played the role of Ruby Sheridan. "When she busts out 'Fernando,' the world stops. Suns clash with the stars. It's perfection!" Chalame, 27, and Roberts, 56, then chimed in by sharing their favourite Cher films -- Moonstruck and Silkwood -- prompting Tom to suggest a group outing to the cinema. "I think we should all go to the theatre and watch Cher's movies right now," he said.



# Robert Downey Jr not reprising Iron Man role in MCU, says Kevin Feige

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Robert Downey Jr will not be coming back as Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, says Kevin Feige. "We are going to keep that moment and not touch that moment again," Feige told Vanity Fair in the Downey Jr. profile. "We all worked very hard for many years to get to that, and we would never want to magically undo it in any way." Downey Jr. last played the role in 2019's 'The Avengers: Endgame' when the superhero died, reports deadline.com. Fans of the MCU hoping Tony Stark would be resurrected in some form can forget about it. Director Joe Russo added: "We'd already said tearful goodbyes on the last day of shooting. Everybody had moved on emotionally. We promised him it would be the last time we made him do it-ever." Co-director Anthony Russo noted that for Downey Jr it was a "difficult thing" for him to say his last line as the superhero. "When he did come back, we were shooting on a stage directly opposite where he auditioned for Tony Stark. So his last line as Tony Stark was shot literally a couple hundred feet from his original audition that got him the role," Anthony said. Downey Jr. has been the center of the MCU but Feige had to fight to cast the actor in the Iron Man role.



Vanessa Hudgens seen in white dress on beach amid swirling wedding rumours

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Vanessa Hudgens was spotted wearing a white dress amid rumours she has tied the knot with Cole Tucker. Over the weekend, a photo surfaced on X (formerly Twitter) of the actress, 34, posing on the beach barefoot in a casual white dress, reports People magazine. Further fuelling speculation that Vanessa celebrated her wedding, her former High School Musical co-star Monique Coleman posted a video on her Instagram story showing footage of a tropical setting in Tulum, Mexico, where the nuptials are believed to have taken place. "Last morning in paradise," Monique wrote in the caption. "Vanessa and Cole, 27, first shared the news that they were engaged in a joint Instagram post on February 9. "YES. We couldn't be happier," the pair wrote, alongside a photo of the couple embracing by the Seine in Paris and a close-up image of Vanessa's oval-shaped diamond ring. The 'Downtown Owl' star told People in March that the proposal took her completely by surprise. "We had definitely talked about it, but I did not expect it to happen the way that it happened and the moment that it happened," she said. "It definitely caught me off guard and I was bawling my eyes out." As per People, Vanessa opened up about wedding planning earlier this year during an appearance on 'The Drew Barrymore Show', admitting that the process had been feeling a bit "lost." "It's hard," she told host Drew Barrymore. "I don't know, finding a venue is tough. I kind of just want to elope." Her baseball player fiancée, meanwhile, was taking a more relaxed approach to things. "I mean he just wants to get married to me," Vanessa shared. "He's like, 'Whatever you want babe'."



# Florence Pugh shocked as she gets hit in face during 'Dune 2' panel

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Florence Pugh has become the latest victim of fans throwing things at stars onstage as she was hit in the face by a flying object during an appearance in Brazil. The 27-year-old attended the panel for 'Dune: Part Two' panel in CCXP 2023 with her co-stars, including Timothee Chalame, Zendaya Coleman and Austin Butler, as well as director Denis Villeneuve on December 3. As their segment came to a close, the entire cast and the filmmaker posed together for pictures, reports aceshowbiz.com. In videos capturing the incident which have circulated online, they were all smiles until Pugh got startled by a thing thrown by an audience member at her direction. She appeared to shout "wow" or "ow" before putting her hand to the eye that was hit. The 'Oppenheimer' star then leaned over to pick up the object, but it was not clear what it was that hit her. Timothee and Austin, who was standing right next to her, also expressed shock in the moment and appeared to show concern for Pugh, while Zendaya and Villeneuve seemingly missed the moment as they were engaged in conversation. The actress and her co-stars were at the Comic Con event in Sao Paulo to promote their upcoming sci-fi sequel. Moments before the incident, the British actress spoke about her excitement to be part of the panel. "I had an amazing time coming in and just hanging around with these people, let alone actually getting to work with them," she said. "Coming in here - the power in this room - is because of that first movie, and we felt that when we went on set every single day. So it feels really, really special being here with the second one." The incident happened despite multiple warnings from other performers about hurling objects at them.

# Timothee Chalame jokes about getting auto-tuned in 'Wonka'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Hollywood star Timothee Chalame, who plays confectioner Willy Wonka, joked that he needed "a lot of auto-tune" in 'Wonka', the 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' prequel. "I try. It is a lot of auto-tune... No, I'm kidding!" he joked about his singing when speaking to Extra at the world premiere of the movie in London. And of the dancing, he added, "I loved it... My mom is a dance teacher and my grandmother was a dancer, my sister is a dancer, so I was always sort of around it but it's a big difference between being around it and having to do it... It was a great learning experience." Chalame recalled how quickly he was "charmed" by the script for the origin story and insisted it is a valid addition to Roald Dahl's original tale, reports aceshowbiz.com. He said: "I thought it was very clever, and I know people can be kind of cynical about Hollywood remakes and there's a fine line between it feeling warranted, but within three pages of reading the script I was so charmed by what Paul (King) had come up with for Willy's origin story and a snapshot of how Willy was before success, before becoming the man that wants to give away the chocolate factory, before being the man that has a chocolate factory." The 'Dune' actor needed to learn how to "live and love the tone" of the film by going back to his younger years as it was much less "serious" than a lot of his recent work. He told People magazine: "I realised everything I've worked on (has had a) grounded seriousness to it, and here I had to loosen up and play, kind of like I did in high school, but I hadn't done in 10 years or something. So, that was the learning curve. But once it was in full swing, then it felt like we were cookin'."



# ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Addison Rae





## La Liga

# BARCA BEAT ATLETICO, REAL MADRID AND GIRONA BOTH WIN

Madrid | Agencies

FC Barcelona moved back to third place in La Liga night after a 1-0 win at home to Atletico Madrid.

Joao Felix, playing on loan at Barca from Atletico, scored the game's only goal, as Barca produced their best first half performance in several weeks, reports Xinhua.

Atletico had the better of the second 45, but despite playing most of the game in Barca's half, the only difficult save Barca keeper Inaki Pena had to make was from a Memphis Depay free kick.

On Saturday, Real Madrid stayed top of La Liga after an easy 2-0 win at home to struggling Granada, with Brahim Diaz in the right place to poke home after Jude Bellingham's shot was saved in the first half and Rodrygo netting the second.

Girona produced another late comeback to win 2-1 at home to Valencia, after Hugo Duro put Valencia ahead in the 57th minute.

Rayo Vallecano had only conceded three goals away from home before Saturday, but were stunned by an excellent display from Athletic Bilbao who ran out 4-0 winners. Inaki scored Athletic's third after an excellent



team move, and his brother Nico celebrated his new contract by adding a spectacular fourth as Athletic ran riot. Mallorca and Alaves drew a close game of few chances 0-0, with a result that will probably please the visitors more than the home side, who had the better of the game but have now failed to win any of their last 10 league games.

Sevilla coach Diego Alonso is on the brink of losing his job after his side were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Villarreal to leave them without a league win since he took charge.

Kike Salas put Sevilla ahead in the 76th minute with a powerful header, but Jose Luis Morales kept up his scoring run with his sixth goal in two weeks to make it 1-1 just a minute later.

It could have been worse for Sevilla after VAR ruled out Ben Brereton Diaz's header that would have given Villarreal all three points.

Osasuna and Real Sociedad shared the points in their derby, with Moi Gomez opening the scoring for the home side in the second minute, before Umar Sadiq leveled with a thundering drive into the top corner three minutes before halftime.

Las Palmas began the weekend with a 2-0 win at home to Getafe on Friday night.

## Junior World Boxing C'Ships

# Amisha, Prachi and Hardik sign off with silver, 9 boxers to fight for gold on final day

Yerevan (Armenia) | Agencies

Indian boxers Hardik Panwar (80kg), Amisha (54kg) and Prachi Tokas (80+kg) bagged silver medals after suffering defeats in their respective finals of the IBA Junior World Boxing Championships here.

The Asian junior champion Hardik conceded a narrow 2-3 loss against Ashurov Bairamkhan of Russia in a closely fought contest. Both the boxers looked aggressive in the bout, grabbing every opportunity to score points and keeping the spectators on the edge of their seats. However, the Russian did enough to tilt the result in his favour.

Meanwhile, in the girls' section, Amisha and Prachi suffered identical 0-5 losses in their respective final bouts. While Amisha lost to Ayazhan Sydyk of Kazakhstan, Prachi gave her all against the tough opponent two-time Asian junior champion Sobirakhon



Shakhobiddinova from Uzbekistan but fell short.

India have already secured 17 medals, including five bronze, in the on-going prestigious tournament.

Payal (48kg), Nisha (52kg), Vini (57kg), Shrushti (63kg), Akansha (70kg), Megha (80kg), Jatin (54kg), Sahil (75kg) and

Hemant (80+kg) are the country's nine pugilists who will fight for gold medals on the final day of the competition.

Neha (46kg), Nidhi (66kg), Pari (50kg), Kritika (75kg) and Sikandar (48kg) have secured bronze medals earlier after concluding their campaigns in the semi-finals.

# Dortmund hold leaders Leverkusen in Bundesliga

Berlin | Agencies

Bundesliga leaders Bayer Leverkusen secured a 1-1 home draw with Borussia Dortmund after Victor Boniface cancelled out Julian Ryerson's opener.

Dortmund made a fairy-tale start and opened the scoring with their first attack as Niclas Fullkrug's good build-up work allowed Ryerson to slot home past Leverkusen goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky in the fifth minute, reports Xinhua.

The hosts responded well and controlled possession but couldn't find a gap in Dortmund's well-positioned defence.

Leverkusen tried long-range efforts, but neither Granit Xhaka nor Alejandro Grimaldo could overcome Dortmund keeper Gregor Kobel.

Dortmund kept all their men behind the ball as Leverkusen increased the pressure. The



hosts thought they had been rewarded for their efforts, but Florian Wirtz's goal was ruled out as Boniface was offside in the build-up.

After the restart, Xabi Alonso's men pressed Dortmund into defence but still couldn't find a break-

through. Both sides had a chance to snatch a late win but both Schick and Fullkrug lacked in accuracy in the dying minutes.

With the draw, Leverkusen stay top of the Bundesliga standings, while Dortmund slip to fifth.

# Was thinking that I gave too many runs and would be culprit of the game: Arshdeep Singh

Bengaluru | Agencies

After India won the fifth T20I over Australia by six runs, left-arm fast-bowler Arshdeep Singh said he was thinking that too many runs were conceded by him and admitted to thoughts of being the culprit of the game came in his mind, before conceding only three runs in the final over of the game.

At the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday night, the pitch wasn't easy for stroke-play as India made 160/8. In reply, Australia began strongly, before being reduced to 144/7 in 18 overs.

Needing 17 runs from 12 balls, Mukesh Kumar gave away only nine runs in the 19th over, before Arshdeep, who had given away 37 runs in his first three overs, found his accuracy and rhythm to take out Matthew Wade and seal the game in India's favour.

"I guess for the big part of the game, for almost the first 19 overs, I was thinking that I gave away too many runs and would be the culprit



of the game. But god gave me another chance and I believed in myself. Thanks to god that I defended it and thanks to the staff as well who believed in me," said Arshdeep to broadcasters after the match ended.

He also acknowledged the extra runs cushion given by the batters in the first innings. "To be honest, nothing was going through my mind. Surya (Suryakumar Yadav) bhai told me that whatever happens, happens. The credit goes to our batsmen as well. They gave us a really good total here on a tricky wicket and we had a cushion of an extra 15 to 20 runs."

Arshdeep also pointed out that despite the win, the Indian fast-bowling unit wasn't at their best and will try to put up a better show in the coming games. "According to the standards we have set as a bowling unit in the Indian team, it was not even near par. But a lot of lessons learnt and, in the future, I will make sure to rectify those mistakes and come back stronger."

# Bavuma, Rabada rested for white-ball matches against India, Stubbs included in Test squad

Johannesburg | Agencies

South Africa's ODI captain Temba Bavuma and fast-bowling spearhead Kagiso Rabada have been rested from the white-ball leg of their all-format clash against India in order to play red-ball cricket and prepare for the two-match Test series against the visitors.

T20I captain Aiden Markram will captain the ODI side against India in Bavuma's absence. In preparation for the Test series, fast-bowlers Gerald Coetzee, Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi will miss the 3rd T20I and ODI series against India.

"We are excited to announce the latest squad of players who will represent the Proteas in white-ball cricket against India in the coming weeks. After an excellent overall showing at the recently



concluded ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, we want to capitalise on that momentum and continue building on our core group during this Freedom

Series." "We have a busy summer ahead starting with the T20Is and then ODIs against India and we have therefore taken the decision to omit several of our

senior players. This decision was taken together with coach Shukri as we place emphasis on the red-ball leg of the tour meaning they will instead be preparing for the Test series by playing domestic cricket," said limited-overs coach Rob Walter.

The trio, along with Bavuma and Rabada, will play in the round of first-class matches for their respective domestic teams from December 14-17 in preparation for the Test series starting from December 26.

Batter Tristan Stubbs, who is capped in white-ball formats, has been included in the Test squad for the first time, while Lungi Ngidi also makes a return to the longer format. All-rounder Mhlangeni Mpongwana, batter David Bedingham and fast-bowler Nandre Burger have earned their maiden call-ups to the Proteas set-up.

# Kulusevski's late goal earns Tottenham a point in six-goal thriller

London | Agencies

Dejan Kulusevski scored a dramatic late equaliser as Tottenham Hotspurs earned a well-deserved point in a six-goal thriller against reigning champions Manchester City.

Having lost the last three matches, Spurs matched the reigning champions stride-for-stride and left the Etihad Stadium with a draw as Kulusevski headed home in the 90th minute to make it 3-3.

It was a match that swung one way then the other throughout with Son-heung Min scoring at both ends inside the first nine minutes. City then edged ahead through Phil Foden, but Giovanni Lo Celso then equalised with 20 minutes to go.

City then edged ahead through Phil Foden, but Giovanni Lo Celso then equalised with 20 minutes to go. Substitute Jack Grealish looked to have won the points for the Blues on 81 minutes but Dejan Kulusevski had the last word on 90 minutes, making it 3-3 with a header that skimmed in off the underside of the crossbar.

A third consecutive draw for City leaves them in third following Liverpool's dramatic 4-3 victory



over Fulham, three points behind leaders Arsenal. Spurs remain three points behind City in fifth but climb into the top five, above Newcastle United.

# INTER CRUSH NAPOLI IN SERIE A

Rome | Agencies

The highly-anticipated Serie A fixture between Napoli and Inter Milan turned out to be a lopsided affair, as visitors Inter emerged 3-0 winners with three different players on target.

Inter rotated their squad after having fought back from 3-0 to draw 3-3 with Benfica in mid-week, while Napoli had lost to Real Madrid 4-2.

Marcus Thuram had the ball into the net for Inter in the 12th minute but it was chalked off for offside, while at the other end, Matteo Politano's rocket hit the woodwork, reports Xinhua. The away side broke the deadlock before the break when Nicolò Barella nodded for Hakan Calhanoglu to hit in a block-buster into the net.

Inter doubled their lead in the 61st minute when Lautaro Martinez rolled across for Barella who waltzed into the box



before finishing with a low strike. Thuram sealed the win in the 84th minute when the Frenchman turned in from close range after Juan Cuadrado's assist.

With the comfortable win, Inter regained top spot with 35 points, two points ahead of Juventus. Also on Sunday, Roma registered a 2-1 comeback victory over 10-man Sassuolo, as Paulo Dybala's penalty canceled out Matheus Henrique's opener, before Rasmus Kristensen hit a deflected winner. Elsewhere, Fiorentina dominated Salernitana 3-0, Udinese shared the spoils with Hellas Verona in a 3-3 draw, and Lecce and Bologna played out a 1-1 draw.

## Premier League

# Fernandez scores twice as 10-man Chelsea beat Brighton 3-2

London | Agencies

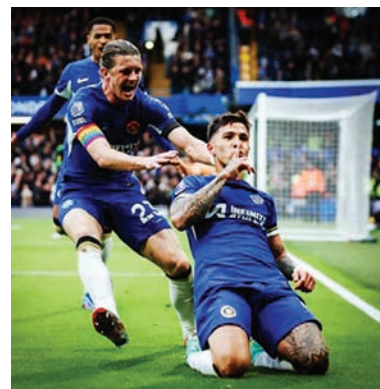
Eduardo Fernandez's first two Premier League goals earned 10-man Chelsea a first league win over Brighton & Hove Albion in six attempts, beating the Seagulls 3-2 in a pulsating contest at Stamford Bridge.

A first home win since August moved Chelsea up to 10th place on 19 points, three behind eighth-placed Brighton.

Chelsea took the lead on 17 minutes through Fernandez. After Brighton were unable to clear from a corner, Benoit Badiashile hooked the ball back across goal for Fernandez to head past Steele.

The home side doubled their advantage four minutes later from another right-wing corner. This time it was Nicolas Jackson, who nodded back for Colwill to head in, with his effort creeping over the line for his first Chelsea goal.

But Brighton pulled a goal back in the 43rd minute, Buonanotte cutting in from the



right before bending a superb strike into the far-left corner. And the Seagulls were given further hope on the stroke of half-time after Chelsea captain Conor Gallagher was sent off for a second bookable offence following a foul on former Blues midfielder Billy Gilmour. It's the second consecutive match

that Chelsea's captain has been shown a red card, after Reece James was dismissed in last weekend's 4-1 defeat at Newcastle.

Brighton struggled to take advantage of the extra man early in the second half, and it was Chelsea who scored the all-important fourth goal of the match on 65 minutes. Chelsea were awarded a penalty following a VAR review, with referee Craig Pawson sent to the Referee Review Area and adjudging James Milner to have fouled Mudryk. Fernandez stroked his spot-kick down the middle of the goal to restore Chelsea's two-goal lead.

Brighton pulled a goal back in the second minute of added time through substitute Joao Pedro, who glanced in a header from Milner's corner to set up a grandstand finish. The Seagulls were then awarded a penalty for a handball by Colwill, only for the decision to be overturned by Pawson after being recommended to go over to the Referee Review Area.

## Asia Road Racing Final

# Honda Racing India's Kavin Quintal clinches Top 10 finish

Buriram (Thailand) | Agencies

Honda Racing India's Kavin Quintal secured a top-10 finish in the Asia Production 250cc class (AP250 class) in the final round of the 2023 Asia Road Racing Championship at the Chang International Circuit, Buriram, Thailand on Monday.

The Indian duo Quintal and Mohsin Paramban showcased their riding prowess and resilience leaving a lasting impression during the 10-lap race. In Race 2, starting from grid 11, Quintal put on an impressive show in the last race of the 2023 Asia Road Racing Championship and continued his quest for victory in the final round. The excitement intensified as he manoeuvred his way and pushed his limits on the



track giving strong competition to other riders. He crossed the chequered line in the 10th position with a total time of 18:56.590.

Meanwhile, his teammate Mohsin Paramban from Mallapuram, unfortunately, did not finish Race 2 of AP250cc. Earlier in Race 1, Quintal exhibited unwavering focus and skill, maintaining consistency throughout the race. Despite facing challenges, Kavin showcased his prowess on the track, securing a strong position. Unfortunately, a mechanical failure in the last few laps prevented him from finishing the race.



## Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Animal' dominates global box-office, ahead of 'Napoleon,' 'Hunger Games'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor's recently released film 'Animal', directed by Sandeep Vanga Reddy, has not just set the Indian box-office on fire but has also emerged as the Number 1 film globally surpassing the likes of 'Napoleon' and 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes' with \$42.1 million, according to data published by ComScore.

The film, which is gore galore and credits Ranbir as a superstar, features Ranbir in dual roles. It released across 38 global territories. The worldwide gross total includes \$6.1 million in North America where it was released across 850 locations and opened at Number 7, reports Variety.

In 'Animal', Ranbir Kapoor plays the son of India's richest man (portrayed by Anil Kapoor) who takes on an antagonist played by Bobby Deol. The cast also includes Rashmika Mandanna.



Like Reddy's previous films, the Telugu-language 'Arjun Reddy' (2017) and its Hindi-language remake 'Kabir Singh' (2019), 'Animal' is a study of toxic masculinity.

As per Variety, in second position, Ridley Scott's Apple Original Films-produced and Sony Pictures-distributed action epic 'Napoleon' collected \$35.7 million worldwide, including \$28.6 million internationally. It now has a global total of \$137 million.

'Napoleon' is playing on more than 21,500 screens in 63 markets. The key market still to release is South Korea, where it releases on December 6. In third place, Lionsgate's 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes' grossed an estimated \$29.4 million globally from 88 territories over the weekend, taking its international total to \$123 million and the global gross to \$244 million. In fourth position, 'Renaissance', a concert

film written, directed and produced by Beyoncé, earned \$27.4 million, including \$6.4 million internationally and \$21 million in North America where it opened as the No. 1 title. The film is playing in 88 territories.

Rounding off the top five was Disney's 'Wish' with \$26.2 million from 34 territories, including \$18.8 million internationally and \$7.4 million in North America for a global gross of \$81.5 million.

## In a first, Deepika Padukone attends Academy Museum Gala in LA

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Deepika Padukone is in attendance at the Academy Museum Gala in Los Angeles. She is the first Indian star to be invited to the prestigious event.

The Academy Museum Gala is the second biggest stage after the Oscars which is organised by the same board.

Earlier this year Deepika was seen on the stage at the Oscars to present the Indian song act.

Deepika took to Instagram Stories, where she shared a string of pictures dressed in a dark purple velvet floor-sweeping gown with a plunging neckline. She completed her look for the event with some sparkly diamonds.

On the work front, Deepika had a fabulous year with 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'. She will next be seen in 'Fighter' alongside Hrithik Roshan and Anil Kapoor.

Deepika also has 'Kalki 2898 AD' with Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan.



## Neha Joshi's winter ritual includes organic products, homemade face packs

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Neha Joshi shared her best-kept secrets for winter skincare, adding that she uses natural and organic products in her daily routine.

Neha shared: "I use natural and organic skincare products in my daily routine, such as face oils and aloe gel, which help to keep my skin moisturised. Additionally, I prefer using homemade face packs and scrubs to nourish my skin during winter."

The 'Drishyam 2' fame actress said: "Drinking plenty of water is also essential for my skin, and I always carry a water bottle with me, whether on set or working out. To moisturise my skin during winter, I use a homemade scrub made from pomegranate seeds, my go-to home remedy. I combine two teaspoons of pomegranate seeds and one cup of raw oats and then pour it into a mixing bowl with two tablespoons of honey and buttermilk."

"I apply the mixture on my face for a few minutes and then rinse it off. This helps remove dead skin cells, rejuvenate the skin, and remove excess oil. It is high in anti-ageing ingredients like antioxidants and vitamin C and is the best remedy for my skin," said the 'Doosri Maa' actress.

She concluded: "Moreover, I take care of my hair by oiling it regularly and avoiding using hot tools like blow dryers or curling irons that can strip the natural oils from my hair."

Neha is currently essaying Krishna Devi Vajpayee in 'Atal'. Produced by Euphoria Productions, 'Atal' deep dives into the formative years of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



## There's an inbuilt emotion of motherhood in every woman: Yashashri Masurkar

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Sony Entertainment Television's 'Dabanggi - Mulgi Aayi Re Aayi' has intrigued audiences with its gripping narrative centered around the feisty and Dabanggi tevar waali - Arya (Maahi Bhadra), who embarks on a quest to find and unite with her father. Arya believes that her father is a super-cop, but unbeknownst to her, she is the daughter of Satya (Amir Dalvi), an unscrupulous gangster willing to go to any length for power. In the on-going track, a pivotal twist unfolds as Satya's brother, Inspector Ankush (Manav Gohil) decides to get Arya to his home, a move driven by compassion for the child's plight. Worried about how this situation will play out, Ankush introduces Arya to his wife Bela (Yashashri Masurkar) as the daughter of one of his informants, who is no more. Bela embraces Arya with unconditional love, treating her as her own, taking Ankush by surprise. However, this new dynamic leaves their



daughter, Zia (Nancy Makwana) jealous and she feels instant dislike for Arya.

Yashashri Masurkar, portraying Bela, expressed her deep connection with the role says, "I feel there's an inbuilt emotion of motherhood in every woman. There's no need to study or seek inspiration, especially with kids like Nancy and Maahi. Their innocence and love are so pure that no effort is required. I vividly

remember a scene with Arya where I had to cry; her delivery was so innocent that I didn't need glycerin-I started crying naturally. We don't just have 3 kids on set, everyone is a kid over here; even Manav Gohil is like a mischievous boy on set. But he's also so grounded and mature, creating a comfortable camaraderie both on and off screen. My character Bela is incredibly giving and forgiving-qualities I wish to embody. Despite having her own daughter, she loves another child, which is easier said than done. As she gets to know about Arya's parental situation, her maternal instinct kicks in, and she wholeheartedly cares for her. Her dedication to the family is admirable, and that's something I truly love about her." As the story progresses, Satya and his family visit Ankush's house and meet Arya. To create hurdles in Ankush's life, Satya and Kasturi provoke Bela and sow the seeds of doubt in her mind, leading her to question Ankush about Arya's true identity. Will Ankush tell Bela the truth about Arya?

## AYUSHMANN KHURRANA: GREW UP FASCINATED WITH BIG B, RAJESH KHANNA, SRK

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana revealed how cinema was a part of his daily life while growing up, and said that he grew up fascinated by the works of towering heroes like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor, Salman Khan, and Amir Khan.

Ayushmann said he is living his childhood dream of being a big screen hero.

"I remember being supremely excited about going to the cinemas every single time. I loved the world films transported me into. I idolised the heroes. We used to always watch movies on TV too and then rented movies as time progressed. Cinema was always an important part of our daily lives," said the 'Vicky Donor' fame actor.

He continued: "So, I grew up being fascinated by the works of towering heroes like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Shah Rukh Khan, Anil Kapoor, Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, to name a few! I also wanted to be a big screen hero. So, I'm living my dream now and I consider myself extremely fortunate to have created a niche for myself."

"The industry has been extremely welcoming and the audience has given me a lot of love. I respect that from the bottom of my heart," he shared.

The 39-year-old actor is grateful that his parents pushed him to pursue his dream of becoming a Hindi film hero.

"The love for the movies is what made me pursue theatre in college. It pulled me to Mumbai where I tried to make a name, struggled for years, cried in joy when my films worked. I wouldn't have survived the city or the industry if my love for movies wasn't strong enough in my heart and mind," he said.

Added Ayushmann: "When I look back, I can't help but feel grateful that I grew up on cinema and how my parents pushed me to pursue my dream."

Meanwhile, on the work front he was last seen in 'An Action Hero'. He next has 'Lovebirds' in the pipeline.



## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Aahna Kumra