

# absolute india

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## PM MODI INAUGURATES INDIA'S 'MOST MODERN' RAILWAY STATION

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ON MONDAY INAUGURATED THE REVAMPED RANI KAMALAPATI RAILWAY STATION (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS HABIBGANJ) IN MADHYA PRADESH'S BHOPAL CITY.**

- ▶ THE STATION HAS BEEN REDEVELOPED AT A COST OF AROUND RS 450 CRORE IN THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) MODE.
- ▶ DESIGNED AS A GREEN BUILDING, THIS RAILWAY STATION HAS ALL THE MODERN WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES THAT ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EASE OF MOBILITY FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED.
- ▶ ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS, THE STATION HAS ALSO BEEN REVAMPED AS A HUB FOR INTEGRATED MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT AND HAS BEEN BUILT WITH MODERN WORLD-CLASS FEATURES.



### 'HEROIC STORIES OF TRIBALS NOT GIVEN ENOUGH SPACE'

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the contribution and sacrifices made by the tribals were ignored and not told properly to the nation. Tribals fought against draconian rules of British, but they were not given the space in the history just because of the lack of intent by the political parties which ruled in the states and at the Centre for the last 70 years, he said. The contributions made by the tribals must be taught at every stage now, the Prime Minister said. Drawing on history and referring to the Ramayana

### SC DIRECTS CENTRE, STATES ON CURBING AIR POLLUTION

## 'Need an action plan within 24 hours'

The Supreme Court on Monday sought an action plan within 24 hours from the Centre and state governments, detailing steps taken by task forces to stop air pollution caused by vehicular traffic, construction work, stubble burning, power plants, entry of heavy vehicles, dust, etc. A bench headed by Chief Justice N.V. Ramana told counsel appearing for the Centre and state governments, "Need an action plan by tomorrow evening. Hold a meeting..." The top court also asked the Centre and states to allow the people to work-from-home.



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the revamped Rani Kamalapati station, India's 'most-modern' railway station, in Bhopal city on Monday. Previously known as Habibganj, the railway station has been renamed after Gond queen Rani Kamalapati. Governor Mangubhai Patel, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan were also present during the inauguration of the Rani Kamalapati Railway station. Speaking on the occasion, PM Modi said that the importance of the station has increased after linking its name with Rani Kamalapati. "Not only has this historic railway station been redeveloped, but with the linking of the name of Rani Kamalapati of Ginnorgarh to this station, its importance has also increased. Railway's pride is now

## 'INDIA WILL CELEBRATE BIRSA MUNDA'S BIRTH ANNIV EVERY YEAR'

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the nation will celebrate freedom fighter Birsa Munda's birth anniversary in the line of Mahatma Gandhi and other freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation. Modi was addressing a mass gathering of tribals at Bhopal's Jamburi maidan on the occasion of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' organised by the Madhya Pradesh Government to mark the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter. The Prime Minister reached Jamburi maidan at 1.10 p.m. and walked through an exhibition of tribals' handicrafts. During inspection, he interacted with the tribals and congratulated them for Birsa Munda's birth anniversary. In his speech, he highlighted several schemes introduced by the BJP-led Centre in the last seven years.



renamed railway station during his visit to Bhopal for a tribal convention to mark 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' in remembrance of tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda. "The facilities which were earlier available only at the airport are now available at the railway station. The first air-concourse of Indian Railways has been built in Bhopal," PM Modi said, adding that Indian Railways is an example of how the country is moving forward.

period, the PM said Lord Ram drew inspiration from life of tribals when he was in exile and stayed inside forests. "The time spent with tribals made a huge impact and turned a prince into the most perfect man. Lord Ram drew inspiration from every aspect of forest-dwellers' life," Modi said. Development is now taking place in 100 aspirational districts which remained backward during the earlier (Congress) regimes, Modi said.

linked to the pride of Gondwana," PM Modi said. He further added that this railway station in Bhopal has become a symbol of how modern and bright the future of Indian Railways is. The inauguration of the railway station comes after the Madhya Pradesh government wrote to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs about renaming the upgraded Habibganj railway station, stating that it will honour the legacy and bravery of the widow of the Gond ruler of Nizam Shah. PM Modi inaugurated the

## India allows foreign tourists as Covid cases decline

Team Absolute | New Delhi

India on Monday decided to reopen the entry of all foreign tourists following a sharp and sustained decline in Covid-19 cases. According to the officials, now the foreign travelers will be allowed to visit India without a mandatory quarantine. India has now allowed entry to fully inoculated tourists from 99 countries including the UK, USA, Israel, Brazil, Canada, Greece, Kuwait, Colombia, Russia and Germany, who have already recognized the Indian vaccination certificates or WHO-recognised vaccinated Indian travelers in their countries. The government only requires that such tourists monitor their health for 14 days after their arrival in India.



In case of a foreigner who has taken only one shot, will have to go for RT-PCR test at the airports or any entry points in India and will have to go for seven days self home quarantine stay in case of a positive report and on the 8th day, the RT-PCR test will be done again and then they can walk free in the country. In case a person is found positive in the second RT-PCR test, he will have to stay in home quarantine for another eight days.

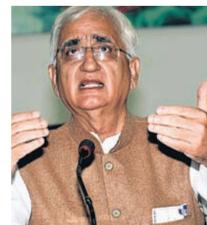
## GURUGRAM RECORDS FIRST COVID DEATH AFTER 2 MONTHS

Gurugram: After a gap of two months, Gurugram district recorded a Covid death on Monday, taking the total death toll in the district to 924. The district witnessed the last Covid related death on September 3. "This is the first Covid related death after the first week of September. The person who died was aged 70. He was fully vaccinated and had co-morbidity," Dr Virender Yadav, chief medical officer (CMO), Gurugram, said adding that, there has been a marginal increase in Covid cases in the last few days due to gatherings during the festive season". According to the daily Covid bulletin during the last 15 days of this month, Gurugram reported 132 Covid infected patients, whereas in October, 206 patients were found to be infected.

## SALMAN KHURSHID'S NAINITAL HOUSE SET ON FIRE

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Days after Congress leader Salman Khurshid stirred a controversy by drawing a parallel between Hindutva and Jihad Islam, his home at Nainital was vandalised and set on fire on Monday. According to eyewitnesses, the miscreants had a BJP flag in their hands and were raising communal slogans. They also pelted stones before setting the house on fire. Khurshid has been the target of some Hindu organisations after he compared Hindutva with radical Islamist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram in his book, "Sunrise Over Ayodhya: Nationhood in Our Times". Visuals shared by Khurshid on Facebook show tall flames, charred doors and shattered win-



dow panes at his Nainital home. Two men are seen trying to douse the fire by throwing water. Sharing the visuals, the Congress leader said in a post, "I hoped to open these doors to my friends who have left this calling card. Am I still wrong to say this cannot be Hinduism? So such is the debate now. Shame is too ineffective a word. Besides I still hope that we can reason together one day and agree to disagree if not more."

## For the first time, India may have woman FM and CEA

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Woman power may make a strong statement in next years Union Budget as the economic policy recommendations may come from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the top, ably guided by a first-ever woman Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). The process of selection of the new CEA, which is underway now, has participation from more women this year with a strong chance that the country for the first time may have a dual combination of a woman FM and CEA guiding the Budget making process for 2022-23. Sources said that three names are being

bandied about in the corridors of power. These include Dr Pami Dua, Professor at Delhi School of Economics; Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Gita Gopinath, chief economist at the IMF, who vacates her office in January 2022 making her available for assignment in India. The government has invited applications for the post of CEA which will fall vacant next month (December 7) as present incumbent KV Subramanian completes his three-year tenure. Subramanian has said that he will be leaving the finance ministry to return to academia following the completion of his tenure.

## Biden's ties with Harris are in crisis

Washington | Agencies

US President Joe Biden's ties with Vice President Kamala Harris is in crisis, with the latter's staff furious that she is being 'sidelined', while the President's team is increasingly frustrated by how Harris is playing with the American public, the Daily Mail reported. Harris' approval rating has plunged even further than Biden's in recent months, with rumours swirling that the US President is considering appointing her to the Supreme Court as a backdoor method of selecting a new Vice President, the report said. They cited how the President



defended 'white man' Pete Buttigieg, the transportation secretary, more vigorously than her. At the same time, Biden's staff are reportedly disappointed with Harris over self-inflicted controversies, like her 'awkward' laughter when asked about visiting the border by NBC's Lester Holt. They blame her failure on the border crisis for sliding poll numbers. A new ABC News/Washington Post poll shows Biden at 53 per cent disapproval and 41 per cent approval -- down 11 points from April, the report said. Publicly, the White House insists that the relationship between Biden and Harris remains harmonious and productive.

## Taliban conducts large-scale operations against ISIS-K in Kandahar



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Provincial officials in the southern Kandahar province said that Taliban officials conducted large-scale operations against ISIS-K fighters in four districts of Kandahar province, Khaama Press reported. Local residents have said that the operations started at midnight and continued until early morning the following day and claimed that three civilians have also been killed during the operations. Taliban's provincial officials in Kandahar said that they killed three ISIS-K affiliates and arrested ten more but did not say anything about civilians, the report said. In the meantime, it is rumoured that an ISIS-K affiliate has blown his explosives in a room that killed the affiliate, the report said. The provincial officials and interior ministry have not said anything about the casualties of the Taliban fighters. The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) confirmed that Saturday's explosion in the western part of Kabul was conducted by them, Khaama Press reported. The explosion that happened on Saturday, November 13 in Dasht-e-Barchi of Kabul left three dead and six more wounded.



# DOOR-TO-DOOR RATION: SC REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH DELHI HC ORDER

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with Delhi High Court's interim order on door-to-door supply of food grains by the Delhi government.

The Delhi High Court had on September 27 cleared the way for the implementation of the doorstep delivery of ration scheme, against which the Centre moved the Supreme Court.

The Delhi government assured the Supreme Court that it will not implement its door-to-door ration delivery scheme till the Delhi High Court takes up the main petition pending there against the validity of the scheme on November 22.

The Delhi government also brought on record that its scheme is "fully compatible with one nation one ration card (ONORC) scheme".

A bench headed by justice L. Nageswara Rao and comprising justice B.R. Gavai queried Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the Delhi government: "Have you started implementing the scheme (doorstep delivery of ration)?" Singhvi submitted that 90 per cent of the citizens have



applied for this scheme -- 69 lakh people out of 72 lakh have been registered.

Singhvi added that these days Amazon is making home deliveries, food is being delivered at home, and also liquor, therefore there is nothing wrong in delivery of food grains at the doors of poor people under public distribution system (PDS).

He added that there are lobbies, which do not want the Delhi government to fill the leakage in the system.

The bench queried, "Has the Delhi government implemented the scheme?" Singhvi replied, "Not started in full

swing, preparations are going on". The bench posed the second query, does it take care of ONORC scheme?

Singhvi replied the Delhi government takes pride in making the scheme absolutely free from corruption, as everything has been computerised, and biometrics is also there. "Fully compatible with ONORC scheme", submitted Singhvi. After hearing the arguments in the matter, the bench initially recorded in the order that the Delhi government should not implement the scheme till the disposal of the matter by the High Court.

## 2 TERRORISTS KILLED IN SRINAGAR ENCOUNTER



Srinagar: Two unidentified terrorists have been killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces at Hyderabad in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district on Monday, officials said.

"One more unidentified terrorist killed (Total 2). Operation going on," police said. The firefight between terrorists and security forces took place after a joint team of the police and the army cordoned off the area and launched a search operation on the basis of specific information about presence of terrorists.

# People can die if they consume liquor: Nitish Kumar

Patna | Agencies

A head of an assessment meeting on liquor scheduled on Tuesday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar reiterated on Monday that people can die if they consume liquor.

"People can die if they consume liquor. It is a bad substance. I don't understand why people drink liquor," Nitish Kumar said while interacting with mediapersons after the 'Janta Darbar' on Monday.

The Chief Minister said that he would interact with every district magistrate, superintendent of police and senior officials of the state at the assessment meeting scheduled on Tuesday. The meeting comes after over 40 persons died in the state after consuming illicit liquor in the past few weeks.

"We will try to find out the loose gaps besides strictly implementing the rules to prevent violations. We will



take stringent action against the violators," he said.

The Chief Minister also said that the ban on liquor in the state was imposed with the consent of the opposition leaders in April 2016, but now some people are opposing the same.

"We had imposed the ban on liquor after receiving complaints from women, and the opposition leaders and MLAs had passed the

resolution then. After the ban, a large number of people had quit drinking. But some people are still addicted to alcohol and they are the ones indulging in wrongdoings. We will take stringent action against them," Nitish Kumar said. "We have decided to conduct the assessment meeting on Tuesday to take further decisions in the matter.

## TN to monetise assets owned by religious bodies under HR&CE department

CHENNAI | Agencies

The Tamil Nadu government is planning to monetise the assets owned by religious institutions under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment (HR&CE) department.

The state government recently floated a tender for selecting an agency for the preparation of a roadmap on the matter. The Tamil Nadu government has found in a study that the assets owned by the religious institutions are not properly utilised and several properties owned by the HR&CE department are subject to encroachments.

The government pointed out that 38,652 Hindu and Jain religious institutions are under the control of the HR&CE department. The government maintained that it is involved in the administration of the religious institutions and charitable endowments to enable

their religious autonomy, financial viability and sustained development. It may be noted that the temples own large parcels of land comprising commercial, residential and agricultural categories. These properties are located in the municipal corporations, municipalities, town panchayats and village panchayats. The ownerships of the properties would remain with the concerned religious institutions, but the development rights for a specific period are being proposed to be offered to the developers. The income generated through this development could be used for the maintenance of the respective temples. A consultancy agency would soon be appointed for the preparation of a roadmap for the monetisation process of all the 38,652 Hindu and Jain religious institutions that are under the control of the HR&CE department.

# Will change back names of districts, says Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW | Agencies

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has said that when his party comes to power, he would change back the names of various districts.

"Even before the paint on the new name dries up, we will be back and will revert to the original name," he said at a press conference here on Monday.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday had suggested that Azamgarh, which is Akhilesh Yadav's parliamentary constituency, could be changed to Aryamgarh.

The SP chief alleged that the BJP had destroyed Uttar Pradesh.

"They are doing now what we did five years ago. They could not give an oxygen plant to Azamgarh during the Covid peak - what development will they give to Uttar Pradesh now," he said.

He claimed that his party had helped migrant workers during the pandemic but the BJP government was inaugurating only those projects that had been initiated in his regime.

Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the quality of the Purvanchal expressway had been compromised. He said that there were no expressway facilities but the government was rushing to inaugurate it. He promised that when he comes to power, he would construct mandis along the expressway so that people could benefit.

Akhilesh also slammed the district administration of Ghazipur district for denying him permission to take out a



yatra on the expressway.

"I thought they will allow us to move on our own expressway," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bhartiya Kisan Sena, Political Justice Party, Akhil Bhartiya Navnirman Party and Labour party announced their merger into the Samajwadi Party on Monday.

## Bihar minor girl kidnapped, gang raped by 3 in Gorakhpur

PATNA | Agencies

Three youths kidnapped a minor girl from Bihar's West

Champanan district, took her to Gorakhpur and gang raped her for one month, an official said on Monday.

As per the complaint lodged by her father at Gauhana police station, the victim had left her house on October 7 to defecate in the open. The accused, Anil Inshearul and two of his friends who were on a three-wheeler, kidnapped the girl from a farm land while she was on her way back home. They then took her to Narkatiaganj railway station.

The victim's father said on Sunday after the girl escaped: "On their way to Narkatiaganj, they injected a medicine to make her unconscious. Following that, they took her to Gorakhpur and held her captive in a room. When she regained



consciousness, she found herself locked in a room.

"As my daughter has not returned home since October 7, we asked the local police to immediately register an FIR but they registered it on October 20." As per the victim's statement, the trio held her captive in a room and gang raped her. They also brutalised her for hours every day. On Sunday, the victim managed to escape from the clutches of the trio. She took help from a person who also gave her train fare to reach Narkatiaganj. However, when she reached Narkatiaganj railway station, the trio who were already present there, injected her and left her in a lane behind her house in an unconscious state.

## Centre should reduce LPG prices by Rs 300 to Rs 350: Cong

PANAJI | Agencies

The prices of domestic LPG should be reduced by Rs 300 to Rs 350 at the least, All India Congress Committee secretary in-charge of Goa Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Monday.

He claimed that the fuel prices were reduced only after the ruling BJP suffered setbacks in the recently held bypolls in various states.

Rao also said that the Congress in poll-bound Goa will launch a five-day programme 'Mhargavecho Jagor' from November 18 to create awareness about the steep rise in the prices of essential goods. "Situation for the common man is difficult. Rise in prices of essentials,



construction material, anything that is required for anyone, prices have gone through the roof. Foodgrains, food items, cooking oil, pulses have gone through the roof," Rao said. "LPG should be reduced by Rs 300 to Rs 350.

Government is profiteering through the common man's earnings," Rao said.

The AICC official said that five groups of Congress workers would fan out across Goa to highlight the issues related to price rise.

# Kasganj victim's father claims he was paid money to keep quiet

KASGANJ (UTTAR PRADESH) | Agencies

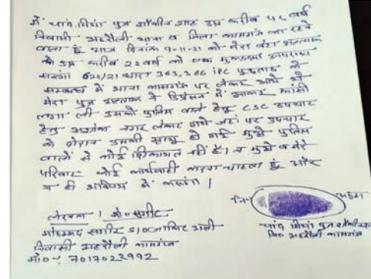
The Kasganj case of the custodial death of a 22-year-old Muslim boy is turning murkier by the day.

After alleging that he was forced to give a clean chit to the local police, the deceased's father, Chand Miyan, has claimed that he was paid Rs 5 lakh cash by the policemen after forcing him to put his thumb impression on paper and telling him to keep quiet on the issue.

Chand Miyan's son, Altaf, was allegedly found hanging from a 3 feet-high water pipe in the wash-room of the police station lock-up on Tuesday, last week.

Chand Miyan claimed the policemen told him that the money was from the government, and asked him not to proceed with the matter. He also claimed that he was provided the cash in bundles of Rs 500 notes in the presence of senior officials of the police and the administration at the Goraha police outpost.

Chand Miyan said the money is still with him. "I



am ready to return it. All I want is justice for my son," he said. The father said that in the paper (which has now gone viral), it was written that his son was suffering from depression and had committed suicide in the washroom of the lock-up at Kotwali Sadar police station.

He said that his relatives were also warned not to

speak about the matter to the media and ensure the body is buried peacefully.

"Station house officer (SHO) Virendra Singh Indolia (now suspended), along with some other policemen, a sub-divisional magistrate and a local activist were present at the Goraha police outpost when the money was handed over to Altaf's father," said another relative of the deceased.

Kasganj Superintendent of Police (SP) Botre Rohan Pramod, however, denied the allegation.

Additional DGP Rajeev Krishna said, "I have no knowledge about any such transaction. Even if the cash was handed over to cover-up the entire matter, it is irrelevant now. An FIR has been registered on a complaint by the deceased man's father. The focus of the investigation is on custodial death. A magisterial and departmental probe is also being conducted."

Meanwhile, the Kasganj police have recovered the 16-year-old Hindu girl who was allegedly kidnapped by Altaf and an "unknown friend". She will be produced in court to record her statement, a senior police officer said.

## Journalists held for spreading hatred in Tripura, get bail

AGARTALA | Agencies

Two Delhi-based women journalists, who were arrested by the Tripura police on Sunday for "creating hatred between communities by concealing record and criminal conspiracies", were granted bail on Monday by the chief judicial magistrate's court in Tripura's Gomati district.

Senior lawyer Pijush Kanti Biswas, who sought bail for journalists Samridhhi K. Sakunia and Swarna Jha, said that the court granted bail on a surety of Rs 75,000 and asked them to report before the Kakraban police station on Tuesday.

"I have told the court that if necessary, the police can question the journalists," Biswas told reporter.

Sakunia and Jha were detained by the police in Assam's Karimganj district on the request of the Tripura police. A Tripura police team then went to Assam and arrested them on Sunday night before bringing them to Gomati district.

A statement by Tripura

police said on Sunday that the two journalists had come to the state on Thursday, and a case was filed against them in the Kakraban police station on Sunday under various sections of the IPC for "creation of hatred between communities by fabricating, concealing of record etc. in furtherance of a criminal conspiracy as revealed from the Twitter posts by Samridhhi Sakunia".

"Taking cue from the recent state of violence in Amravati and other parts of Maharashtra as a repercussion of communal incident, it has become clear that some vested interests are trying to flare up the communal incident in Tripura. "The investigating officer felt it wise to lodge a suo-moto complaint for creating hatred between religious groups by false fabrication and concealing documents etc.," said the statement. It said the police asked the two journalists to share the documents visible in their videos, but instead of coming to Agartala, the two reporters made an escape towards Assam.

# IMA calls for booster dose for healthcare workers



Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Indian Medical Association has called for a booster dose for the healthcare workers across the nation.

The IMA said that after the union government's clarification pertaining

to the fact that a policy document on booster dose is underway, IMA has also consolidated its stand on the booster dose for healthcare workers and other high-risk citizens across the country. Dr J.A. Jayal, National President, IMA, said, "The booster dose for healthcare workers was initial-

ly desirable and we were not demanding it. But now we demand that healthcare workers should be given a booster dose as ample vaccine stock is available".

The IMA said that as of now the vaccine production has been augmented and availability of vaccine has also been increased.

IMA President said, "IMA demands the union govt to prioritize vulnerable population including healthcare workers and immuno-compromised citizens and permit them to take their third dose". He added that the third dose needs to be given on priority basis in India.

The IMA has also demanded that vaccination should be promoted for all people with diabetes and if needed third dose of vaccine should also be given to them. "In this Covid era as Diabetic people are more prone and vulnerable to serious Covid complications, IMA demands the vaccination should be promoted for all Diabetic people and if needed third dose of vaccination should be also given to them", said IMA in a statement.

## 2 days after PM's meet, parl panel discusses crypto currency



Team Absolute | New Delhi

Two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level review meeting in connection with crypto currency, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Monday discussed the same with industry experts, association heads and stakeholders.

After listening to the stakeholders' views, the majority of the members were of the opinion that the advent of digital currency is inevitable but it cannot go ahead without regulation, sources said.

The Parliamentary panel, headed by former Union Minister and BJP MP Jayant

Sinha met to discuss 'Hearing of views of Associations/Industry experts on the subject 'Crypto Finance: Opportunities and Challenges.' Over the last few years, even as scores of private establishments have offered it as an attractive investment option, hundreds and thousands of Indians have invested in the highly volatile crypto currencies, a market which is not yet regulated. Newspaper advertisements and enticing audio-visuals on television and OTT platforms are constantly streamed to capture newer markets. This has put common investors' money at high risk.



FORMER MAHARASHTRA MINISTER ANIL BONDE ARRESTED FOR INCITING VIOLENCE IN AMRAVATI

SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 72 ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN 26 FIRS REGISTERED AT FOUR POLICE STATIONS IN AMRAVATI IN CONNECTION WITH THE VIOLENCE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.

Team Absolute | Amravati

The Amravati police on Monday arrested former Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Dr Anil Bonde along with a few other party members in connection with the violence over the weekend. The police are also on the lookout for another BJP leader Praveen Pote, who has been missing from Amravati. A senior officer told The Indian



Express that the latest arrests were in connection with the rioting that took place on Saturday in the Kotwali area of

Amravati when BJP called a bandh. Around 6,000 of its party members and allied organisations like Bajrang Dal had taken to the streets to execute the bandh on Saturday. It led to two shops belonging to the minority communities being torched.

The bandh was called as a rebuttal to the march carried out by Muslim groups a day before in Amravati to protest against anti-minority violence in Tripura. During this protest, there was a stone thrown at the residence of Pote in which a window was shattered and a person sustained injuries. An official said that Bonde and Pote were some of the main people involved in calling for the bandh on Saturday.

So far, a total of 72 arrests have been made in 26 FIRs registered at four police stations in Amravati in connection with the violence on Friday and Saturday.

Following the violence, a curfew was imposed and the internet was disconnected in the area. Senior officers of Maharashtra police are currently camping in Amravati.

Deshmukh sent in 2 weeks judicial custody

"Eat Jail Food First:" Court On Maharashtra Ex-Home Minister's Request

"You eat jail food first. If not, then I will consider," the judge told former Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh.

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Former Maharashtra minister Anil Deshmukh arrested in a corruption case earlier this month was sent to judicial custody for 14 days on Monday. The special court, however, turned down his request for home-cooked meals. "You eat jail food first. If not, then I will consider," the judge said.

The court, however, accepted his appeal for a bed in view of the medical condition of the 71-year-old.

Deshmukh, the former Home Minister of Maharashtra, was arrested on November 1 in connection with a case of money laundering. The Enforcement Directorate made the arrest after questioning him for 12 hours at their office in Mumbai.



The agency started its investigation against Deshmukh after the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a corruption case against him in April.

The money laundering case stemmed from former Mumbai Police Commissioner Parambir Singh's Rs 100 crore bribery allegation. The agency contends that

Deshmukh had misused his position as the home minister and collected Rs 4.70 crore from bars and restaurants of the city with the help of dismissed police officer Sachin Waze.

Deshmukh has denied all allegations of wrongdoing and argued that the agency's case was just based on malicious statements made by a tainted cop (Sachin Waze). Deshmukh had stepped down from his post earlier this year amid a row over bribery allegations by Parambir Singh, who is currently missing.

His resignation came hours after the Bombay High Court ordered a preliminary CBI investigation into the allegations of Mr Singh on the issue which started with the discovery of a car full of explosives near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's Mumbai home in February. The agency was given 15 days to submit the report. Now Parambir Singh faces corruption allegations and cases have been filed against him by the Mumbai Police and the state's Anti-Corruption Bureau.

MSRTC employees continue strike; bus services shut at all depots

On Sunday, nearly 4,000 employees had reported to duty and the corporation operated around 80 buses on different routes, they said

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bus services remain affected in the state of Maharashtra as all 250 depots remained shut due to the ongoing strike by the employees.

The striking Employees of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) remained firm on their demand for the loss-making corporation's merger with the state government and continued their strike.

On Sunday, nearly 4,000 employees had reported to duty and the corporation operated around 80 buses



on different routes, they said.

"However, bus operations at all 250 depots are shut today, though many workshop employees have rejoined duty," a spokesperson of the MSRTC said. The employees started the

indefinite strike from October 28 and intensified it earlier this month.

They have refused to budge from their demand for the merger of the MSRTC with the state government. The merger will give them the status

of government employees, besides better salaries. The Maharashtra government has formed a committee to look into the demand of the employees. Last week also, all 250 depots of the MSRTC were closed since Monday. The MSRTC issued a pamphlet on Friday, urging the employees to call off the strike immediately. Accumulated losses of the corporation have risen to Rs 12,000 crore, still it paid the salaries for the last 18 months by taking a financial assistance of Rs 3,549 crore from the state government, it said.

The pamphlet had also mentioned the fulfillment of other demands such as increase in the dearness allowance and house rent allowance and a Diwali gift for the employees. Ordinary commuters have been suffering and the MSRTC is losing Rs 15 to 20 crore every day due to the strike, it had said, also warning of the long-term financial impact.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya to visit violence-hit Amravati

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kirit Somaiya on Monday said that he will be visiting the violence-hit Maharashtra's Amravati district on November 17

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kirit Somaiya on Monday said that he will be visiting the violence-hit Maharashtra's Amravati district on November 17. Incidents of stone-pelting were reported on Friday



from Nanded, Malegaon and Amravati in the backdrop of protests staged against the violence that took place in Panisagar in Tripura on October 27. Condemning the violence in Nanded, Malegaon, Amravati and

other places during protests against violence in Tripura, Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil had assured that investigation into the violence during protests will be carried out. "We'll definitely investigate this. We'll investigate the rallies that were taken out in Maharashtra over the incidents that may or may not have taken place in Tripura, we will also assess the damages," he had said.

"The situation in Amravati is under control and no casualties have been reported in the violence," said Dilip Walse Patil while commenting on the Amravati violence.

Maharashtra unlikely to be able to cut taxes on fuel: Ajit Pawar

Pawar said that taxes are the only source of income for the state and that cyclones, unseasonal rain and the pandemic have already added to the burden on state finances. He also took a dig at the BJP, the opposition party in the state, saying that it makes demands that put the state in trouble

Team Absolute | Pune

While the Union government has slashed taxes on petrol and diesel, deputy chief minister and finance minister of Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar, expressed hesitation to cut down state taxes to bring down fuel prices further.

After performing the Kartiki Ekadashi puja in Pandharpur, Ajit Pawar said that taxes are the only source of income for the state and that cyclones, unseasonal rain and the pandemic have already added to the burden on state finances. He also took a dig at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the opposition party in the state, saying that it makes



demands that put the state government in trouble. "The state doesn't have any other source of income apart from taxes. On a daily basis, we spend Rs450 crore on salaries and pensions. It can't be avoided and it has to be done. Some things we cannot stop and expenses have to be incurred. In addition to this, a lot of funds had to be provided for rehabilitation work after calamities such as cyclones and unseasonal rain. We have also provided farmers a package of Rs 10,000 crore. The climate is changing and it has created many problems. We have to pave our way through various difficulties," Ajit Pawar said while interacting with reporters in Pandharpur.

MAHA MLC BY-POLLS: CONGRESS FIELDS PRADNYA RAJEEV SATAV

Mumbai: The Congress has nominated Dr. Pradnya Satav -- the widow of the late MP Rajeev Satav as the party candidate for the upcoming by-elections for a single seat to the Maharashtra Legislative Council, an official said here on Monday. A medico, Dr. Pradnya Satav is an OBC face of the party, and had missed the race for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in September, but is now being fielded for the MLC by-elections. The MLC bypolls will be held on November 29 for which the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has nominated its Aurangabad city president Sanjay Kinekar, and the tenure of the seat going for the by-elections will be till July 2024. The indirect elections shall be held with the legislators casting their votes.

Maharashtra awaits SC nod for bullock cart race

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Maharashtra government is awaiting a nod from the Supreme Court for an almost 400-year-old tradition of bullock cart race that was banned by the Bombay High Court.

Called 'Shankarapaat', the bullock cart race is a traditional attraction at the fairs in villages across Maharashtra.

It starts soon after the Ganesh festival and continues right through the remaining Kharif, the entire rabi season and ends around April, ahead of summer.

It is not just popular because of the crowds it attracts, but it gives a push to the local economy wherever the events are held coinciding with fairs. This is a popular sport among the farming community.

Similar bullock cart races are held in Karnataka too, especially the areas that are adjoining Maharashtra.

There have been obvious comparisons with Jallikattu, another traditional sport from Tamil Nadu related to bullocks. The Nagaraja case had resulted in the Supreme Court banning all such bull-related sports. While in Jallikattu, the men are directly in contact with the

bullock, pouncing on the running bull, holding it by the hump and using other means to tame it, in Shankarapaat or the bullock cart race, a pair of bulls or a single bull will race along with the cart with the farmer holding the reins and goading the animal.

In April 2017, the state government passed an act that regularised the sport of Shankarapaat.

A PIL was filed in the Bombay High Court, which put a ban on the bullock cart races. After the ban, the Maharashtra government approached the Supreme Court, which referred the matter to a five-judge bench.

This year, possibly as an antidote to the lockdown induced lull, there have been multiple attempts in Maharashtra where local farmers have resorted to organising such bullock cart races.

On Sunday, Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Minister Sunil Kedar accompanied by the state's Animal Husbandry Commissioner Shailesh Kende met Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi and the Maharashtra government's counsels on the issue. Patil told IANS: "We are hoping that the Supreme Court will be hearing our case on Tuesday."

Kedar was supposed to attend the hearing, which was originally expected on Monday, but rushed back to Mumbai for a meeting.

"This is a topic very close to the hearts of hundreds and thousands of farmers in Maharashtra. It also impacts the rural economy," Kedar said before leaving for Maharashtra.

Bharatiya Baigada Sanghatana representative Ramkrishna Takalkar, who also accompanied the government delegation, said: "We farmers look after our bullocks just like our family members. There is no torture or cruelty involved with the animal during the bullock cart races, it is a misinformed campaign by animal lovers. The bullocks are fed regularly. What would we get by torturing the animal?"

Takalkar focussed on the economic aspects of the bullock cart races in Maharashtra. "If there are no race events at the local village fairs, the farmers have valid question to ask: why should we continue to have these bulls?" He had an even more pertinent question: "On the one hand, you allow horse races and on the other, you ban bullock cart races? Why the partiality?"

Acclaimed historian, author Babasaheb Purandare passes away at 100

The Covid-19 upsurge continued to breach all previous 'records' as Maharashtra added its highest ever single-day tallies on Thursday with 35,952 cases. The number of daily Covid-19 tests soared to a new peak of 25,031 in the Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR) on Thursday.

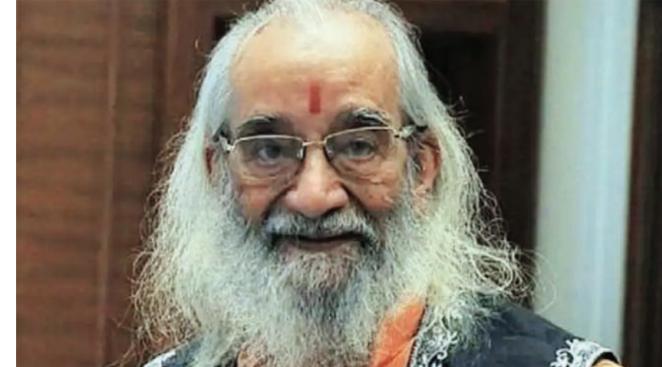
Team Absolute | Pune

Decorated with the Padma Vibhushan, Purandare -- who turned 100 on July 29 -- breathed his last at the Dinanath Mangeskar Hospital & Research Centre, around 5.07 a.m., stunning the state's political, literary and art circles.

From dawn, thousands of his admirers queued up outside his Pune home where his body is kept for people to catch a final glimpse.

A sea of humanity was witnessed when the mortal remains of 'Shivshahir' (Shivaji's bard) Purandare were taken for the last rites at the Vaikunth Crematorium, where he was accorded a funeral with full state honours.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, BJP Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnis, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena President Raj Thackeray, state and



Central Ministers, leaders cutting across the political spectrum, personalities from the theatre world and others, condoled the demise of Purandare.

On July 29, a major function was organised in Pune to felicitate him for entering the milestone 100th year of his life, by Maharashtra Education Society and Itihaas Premi Mandal. At the time, Purandare -- known for his bold views and courting controversies -- recalled some anecdotes of his childhood years and expressed a desire to live a few more years to serve society.

Born on July 29, 1922 at Saswad near Poona (now, Pune), Purandare was fascinated by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from an

early age, penned essays and stories which were later published in a book form, 'Thinagya' (Sparks). In over eight decades of his writing and theatre career, Purandare delivered more than 12,000 lectures on Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, studied all the forts and history of the Maratha Empire, making him an authority on the subject. He scripted and directed a historical play 'Jaanta Raja' (1985) a theatrical magnum opus, performed by over 200 artistes, elephants, camels and horse on the stage. The much-applauded play has been translated and enacted in five languages, clocking over 1,250 stage shows in Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and the

United States.

Some of his prominent written works are the monumental two-volume 'Raje Shivchhatrapati', 'Jaanta Raja', 'Maharaj', 'Shelarkhind', 'Gadkote Kille', 'Agra', 'Lal Mahal', 'Purandar', 'Rajgad', 'Panhalgad', 'Sinhagad', 'Pratapgad', 'Purandaryanchi Daulat', 'Mujaryache Mankari', 'Fulwanti', 'Savitri', 'Kalawantinicha Sajja', plus many more. In 2008, his two-volume book ('Raje Shivchhatrapati') was adapted as a hit television serial in Marathi -- 'Raja Shivchhatrapati' -- with a Pune medico-turned-NCP MP Amol R. Kolhe playing the title role. Among the host of awards that Purandare bagged in his lifetime included the 'Maharashtra Bhushan' (2015) and the country's second highest civilian honour 'Padma Vibhushan' (2019). Earlier in the day, Modi and Thackeray mourned the passing of the literary giant. "I am pained beyond words. His demise leaves a major void in the world of history and culture. It is thanks to him that the coming generations will get further connected to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," said Modi. "Even if you search, you will not find such a devotee of Shiva immersed in his meditation. The Shiv devotee is now at Shiva's feet. My deepest respects and condolences on the passing of Shivshahir Babasaheb Purandare," said Thackeray. The Prime Minister described Babasaheb Purandare with whom he had the honour of interacting very closely over the years, including his birth centennial in July -- as "witty, wise and having rich knowledge of Indian history."

Modi, Uddhav Thackeray condole Babasaheb Purandare's death



Team Absolute | Pune

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray grieved the demise of eminent litterateur and historian Balwant Moreswar alias 'Shivshahir' Babasaheb Purandare, who passed away aged 100, in Pune early on Monday.

"I am pained beyond words. His demise leaves a major void in the world of history and culture. It is thanks to him that the coming generations will get further connected to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj," said Modi. "Even if you search, you will not find such a devotee of Shiva immersed in his meditation... The Shiv devotee is now at Shiva's feet... My deepest respects to the family and

admirers on the passing of Shivshahir Babasaheb Purandare," said Thackeray.

The PM described Babasaheb Purandare with whom he had the honour of interacting very closely over the years, including his birth centennial in July as "witty, wise and had rich knowledge of Indian history". In a special gesture, the CM has directed that the last rites of Babasaheb Purandare conferred the Padma Vibhushan should be performed with full state honours, later in the day in a Pune crematorium.

Besides, top leaders across the political, theatre world and literary spectrum have condoled the death of Babasaheb Purandare, who breathed his last around 5 a.m. at a private hospital after a brief illness.



## EDITOR'S SPECS

## Kashmiris kill Kashmiris

Militants in Kashmir are out to kill Kashmiriyat. The recent killing of a Muslim salesman of a Kashmiri Pandit businessman in Srinagar's old city has once again shown that terror has no religion and anyone can become a victim. He can be a Muslim or a Hindu. Kashmir was known as the abode of sufis and saints due to the centuries-old indigenous tradition of communal harmony and religious syncretism in the Valley known as Kashmiriyat, which emerged around the 16th century and was characterised by religious and cultural harmony, patriotism and pride for their mountainous homeland of Kashmir. It exemplifies the joint Hindu-Muslim culture, festivals, language, cuisine and clothing in Kashmir. But after the outbreak of Pakistan sponsored armed insurgency in 1990, the gun-toting militants carried out the selective killings of Kashmiri Pandits which led to the mass exodus of the entire community from the Valley. Selective killings, including that of Kashmiri Pandit, Makhn Lal Bindroo, two teachers - a Sikh woman, Supinder Kaur and a Hindu man, Deep Chand, five non-local labourers and an assassination attempt of Sandeep Mawa, are clear indications that madness in Kashmir seems to be a never-ending process. The indoctrinated ultras at the behest of their handlers sitting across the Line of Control (LoC) are killing the innocents and have torn apart the very ethos of Kashmiriyat. Militants who are targeting members of the minority community are making things difficult for Kashmiri Muslims. The Kashmiri militants who have embarked on the mission to kill innocents and target the members of a particular community are creating a notion that every Kashmiri is a terrorist and no one except ethnic Kashmiri Muslims can live in the Valley.

## Muslims to change the course of voting!

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Muslims are an important constituent in Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections with around 19 per cent population in the state being Muslim but various surveys and different voting pattern suggest that unlike previous elections, the community will not vote homogeneously in the 2022 Assembly elections for any political party in the fray. Like others, the community too has certain other considerations to vote for in the next election in UP. This trend has started taking shape from the last two elections more obviously.

A survey by Pew Research Centre on religion, caste, nationalism and attitudes in India has suggested that around 20 per cent Muslims voted for the BJP in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Around 8 per cent Muslims voted for the BJP in 2017 UP Assembly elections as per some other estimates. But for 2022 elections, situation is going to be different on many counts and more Muslims may vote for the BJP which was earlier touted to be the biggest enemy of the community.

So, what has changed now? Actually, there are several factors to decide which way Muslim voters would go that was otherwise anti-BJP block among all the voters. Looking at the past pattern, Muslim community was deciding on voting the party that was hinted at the Khutba (sermon) of the Friday prayer which was obviously to vote the party defeating the BJP candidate. But some kind of fragmentation has started taking place in the homogeneity of Muslim vote bank as various sections in the community started realising and questioning that the community as such doesn't have shared problems rather has different problems within the community. So, they certainly need to be addressed specifically varying from pocket to pocket and people to people. Giving devil its due as if social media incites them, it also empowers them by disseminating information about development works carried out to benefit them. They have started realising that voting en-mass failed to serve the purpose of addressing the issues of community per say. Though it gives them the government of their choice but not the government sensitive towards their welfare. Most of the time voting pattern of the community is based on emotive factors which are unproductive.

How are they divided? A section of Muslim women is not only comfortable but vocal in support of the BJP on two counts that is promised fulfilled of making law against Triple Talak, safety and security issue; a section of youth is buying the argument of AIMIM leader Assaduddin Owaisi that Muslims need their



own representatives; the biggest section is still favouring the Samajwadi Party being messiah of the community; the aggressive Congress confused a minuscule section basically upper class Muslims who get along well with the upper caste Hindus; a new section in the community that is happy with the law and order situation in the state and a section that would be voting for the candidate from the community irrespective of the party fielding it.

There is no doubt about the SP, BSP, AIMIM and the Congress fielding Muslim candidates but the BJP too will also be fielding some candidates in UP Assembly polls and a UK-based Indian origin Muslim leader of Conservative Party has been entrusted with the responsibility of selecting Muslim candidate for the party. He is not only meeting prospective candidates but also visiting those places from where the candidate plans to try their luck in the hustings. Different political parties have different ways to woo Muslim voters if Akhilesh Yadav and his alliance partner and SBSP leader Om Prakash Rajbhar are invoking Jinnah in their public meetings, the BJP and its ecosystem is showing its work like passing Triple Talak Law, Mudra Scheme, PMGAY, PMUAY and many other such scheme equally benefitting the community. The Congress and AIMIM are resorting to the old strategy of freighting the community of the BJP by branding it a Hindutva party. One of its leader Salman Khurshid has gone to the extent of equating

the ideology with ISIS and Boko Haram.

But voices coming from the community are like this: There was no Shia and Sunni riots in Lucknow from the past seven years which was otherwise an annual affair. Silence of Sunni community over terrorist attack on Shia mosques in Afghanistan has weakened the fact of unity in the community. This is also being realised by a section in the community that the government is tough on such elements who cause trouble in the society. A section of pasmanda (OBC) Muslims like Behna, Faquir, Dafali and Julaha who were traditional voters of the Samajwadi Party are disappointed.

The BJP played an important role in the drastic change of rupturing the very perception of homogeneity of Muslim vote bank that can influence victory or defeat of any political party by their political shifting. For the first time in 2014, the BJP proved that if broader Hindu mobilisation emerges in the favour of the party, there is no need to run behind Muslim votes. The BJP also proved that there is no need for appeasement politics to bring Muslims under the domain of development, alongside other communities. This has started a new kind of politics from stopping left parties to temple visit.

So, the BJP has brought about two considerable shifts in the political scenario of the country in general and UP in particular. First it challenged the overestimation

of Muslim votes, and it proved that appeasement politics for electoral victory in a democracy is not a brand equity. But the opposition in Uttar Pradesh in no way will shun practising their conventional methods of Muslim mobilisation. Though the aggressive rise of the BJP's politics has sent them a bit defensive about their appeasement politics prompting them to project their soft Hindutva image, but these parties are still heavily dependent on their conventional political strategy, which is riding piggyback on secularism. But this time round, Muslims are unlikely to behave as a cohesive homogeneous vote bank in 2022 Assembly elections. Not only Muslim women but upper middle class along with a section of poor and down-trodden Muslims will move towards the BJP due to developmental schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana and several other cash transfer benefits. However, it is too early to judge at this juncture whether Muslims will respond as an identity-craving community or as development-aspiring people in the UP assembly 2022 elections but it is certain they will not go the same way as they were traditionally treating.

(The author is free lance journalist based at Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

## international

## Counter-terrorism police called in after car blast in Liverpool

London | Agencies

British counter-terrorism police were called in after a taxi exploded at a hospital in Liverpool, leaving one dead and another injured, though this has not been declared a terrorist incident.

Police in the city confirmed the blast happened at around 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Women's Hospital in Liverpool city centre, reports Xinhua news agency.

Photographs posted on social media showed a taxi in flames and ambulances and fire fighters were also called to the scene.

Police placed a cordon around the hospital while inquiries continued to determine the cause of the explosion. "Work is still going on to



establish what has happened, and could take some time before we are in a position to confirm anything," Merseyside Police said in a statement. "We are keeping an open mind as to what caused the explosion but given how it has happened,

out of caution, Counter Terrorism Police are leading the investigation supported by Merseyside Police," the statement said.

Three people have been arrested after the blast by counter-terror police, Sky News reported.

## Saudi Arabia launches 1st non-profit city

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud announced the launch of the first non-profit city.

The Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Non-Profit City in Riyadh is expected to be a model for the development of the non-profit sector globally and an incubator for youth and volunteer groups as well as local and international non-profit institutions, Xinhua news agency quoted a local media report as saying. The city will be built on an area of around 3.4 square kilometres and will support innovation, entrepreneurship and qualifying future leaders by defining non-profit work. The city that implements the digital twin model, will host academies, colleges, schools, a conference centre, science museum, creative centre offering a space to support the ambitions of innovators in sciences and new generation technology, the Crown Prince said following the launch on Sunday. In addition, the city will host venture capital firms and investors to support and incubate innovative enterprises to drive community contributions from around the world. The launch of the city comes days after the announcement of the offering of Saudi nationality to some talented individuals, in order to promote creativity and innovations.



## Afghan women protest for rights to employment, education

Kabul | Agencies

The delay in providing right to education and employment to women by the Afghan Taliban led interim government in Afghanistan has triggered protests and uproar in the country.

On Sunday, dozens of Afghan women took to the streets of Kabul again, demanding their right to learn and seek employment under the new Islamic Emirates rule. Chanting slogans for their rights, protesters also lashed out at the international community for what they called ignoring the dire need for provision of basic rights to women in the country. "We can tolerate hunger, can live without food, but we cannot tolerate injustice. We ask for freedom and justice in our country," said one of the protesters.

The latest protest is part of a series of protests that the Afghan women have been staging since the time Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

In the recent past, the Taliban security officials manhandled female protesters while media persons covering the protest were also



assaulted and kept under custody. The Afghan Taliban interim government later announced through its Ministry of Interior (MoI) that demonstrations without the permission of the relevant ministry would not be allowed. Later, a pro-Taliban female rally was held in Kabul, where women chanted pro-Taliban slogans and expressed their support to the newly imposed Islamic law in the country. The Taliban claims of ensuring provision of all basic rights to women as per the teachings under the Islamic rule of law, will be provided to its female citizens, including right to work and education, they said.

Recently, a girls' school in Herat was opened while Taliban claimed that female nurses and doctors have been coming to work without any problems.

## AUSTRALIAN PM LOSES POPULAR SUPPORT: POLL

Canberra: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has lost ground as the nation's preferred leader, a poll has revealed. The latest Newspoll, which was published on Sunday night, revealed that the leader of the opposition Labor Party, Anthony Albanese, has closed the gap to Morrison, reports Xinhua news agency.

It found that 46 per cent of respondents identified Morrison as their preferred Prime Minister compared to 38 per cent for Albanese.

It is the tightest gap between the two since March 2020 and marks a major turnaround from February when Morrison led 61-26. The poll of 1,524 voters was taken in the wake of Morrison's appearance at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow where he committed to a 2050 net zero emissions target. Albanese has been a fierce critic of Morrison's signature climate policy, describing it as a "scam" that lacks detail. The Labor leader promised that he would release his own climate policy before the end of 2021. According to Newspoll, Labor leads Morrison's coalition 53-47 on a two-party preferred basis, a slight swing in the government's favor from 54-46 at the start of October.

Thirty-eight per cent of respondents say they intend to vote Labor as their first preference at the next general election, which is due to be held by May 2022, compared to 37 per cent for the coalition.



## Saudi Arabia launches 1st non-profit city

Riyadh | Agencies

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the world. The launch of the city comes days after the announcement of the offering of Saudi nationality to some talented individuals, in order to promote creativity and innovations.

## Iran working to clear obstacles in rapprochement with Saudi

Tehran: Iran is currently working to remove the existing obstacles in the ongoing rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, a senior legislator said here.

"Given the statements and the welcoming approach of Saudi Arabian officials concerning the establishment of relations with the Islamic Republic, follow-ups to remove obstacles are underway," said Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, spokesman for the national security and foreign policy commission of Iran's parliament. As quoted by Parliament's official news agency, Abbaszadeh Meshkini stressed the capacity of Saudi Arabia to determine foreign policy preferences of "some countries" in West Asia, reports Xinhua news agency. The senior representative noted that more than one deputy ministers of foreign affairs had presented reports to the chamber, adding that Iran is determined to expand relations with its neighbours.

## Israel regulates digital currency transfer to curb money laundering

Israel has imposed new rules on the transfer of digital currency in an effort to combat money laundering and terror financing, according to an official statement.

Tel Aviv | Agencies

The new obligations are included in an ordinance imposed on service providers in financial assets, such as bonds, loans, stocks and bank deposits, reports Xinhua news agency. The ordinance applies to providers such as credit, fintech and crypto companies that operate with virtual currencies.

It includes obligations to identify and verify customers, report their activity, control and monitor risks, and manage records.

It also imposes rules on electronic transfer of funds in Israel and abroad, and the transfer of financial assets in virtual currencies.

The new rules will as well allow the transfer of profits from cryptocurrency investments to Israeli banks if trad-



ing in these currencies is legal. The ordinance will allow the use of virtual currencies more securely and will let the authorities distinguish between legitimate use and illegitimate purposes, such as money laundering or terror financing, the statement said. The rules were jointly formulated by the IMPA and Israel's Capital Market Authority, Insurance and Savings.



# CONGRESS TO BE BLAMED FOR PLIGHT OF TRIBALS: PM MODI

# Celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' effort to take forward social traditions, values of tribal warriors: Shivraj Singh

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decision to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. It's the proper display of valour of our tribal warriors. I thank the Prime Minister for portraying the contributions of numerous freedom fighters correctly," the chief minister said.

Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal  
www.absoluteindianews.com

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decision to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' and said that it is the display of valour of the country's tribal warriors.

The chief minister thanked PM Modi for portraying the contributions of numerous freedom fighters correctly.

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decision to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. It's the proper display of valour of our tribal warriors. I thank the Prime Minister for portraying the contributions of numerous freedom fighters correctly," the chief minister said.

Chouhan further welcomed the prime minister who is visiting Madhya Pradesh to participate in Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan at Jamburi Maidan, Bhopal, where he will launch multiple initiatives for the welfare of the Janjatiya community at around 1 pm.

"Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is being celebrated all across the nation. Prime Minister himself is coming to the programme that will be held in Bhopal. I welcome him," he said. This is not just a programme, but an effort to take forward their social traditions and values of life. It is an effort to strengthen them economically, educationally," Chouhan added.

As per an official statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Prime Minister will launch the Ration Aapke Gram scheme in Madhya Pradesh, during the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan.

During the Mahasammelan, the Prime Minister will also hand over genetic counselling cards to benefi-



aries, marking the launch of the Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell (Hemoglobinopathy) Mission.

The PMO further said, "Prime Minister will also walk through the exhibition of products made by janjatiya self-help groups and a photo exhibition of martyrs and heroes of the freedom struggle from the Janjatiya community of Madhya Pradesh.

He will also hand over appointment letters to newly appointed Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups teachers."

During the event, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Governor Mangubhai C. Patel, Union Ministers Virendra Kumar, Narendra Singh Tomar, and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Ministers of State Prahlahd S. Patel, Faggan Singh Kulaste and L. Murugan will also be present.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the redeveloped Rani Kamalapati Railway Station and launch multiple initiatives of Railways in Madhya Pradesh, said PMO.

"TRIBALS WERE NOT GIVEN THEIR DUES BY THE EARLIER GOVERNMENTS AND WERE DEPRIVED OF BASIC FACILITIES," MODI SAID WHILE ADDRESSING THE JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS CELEBRATIONS. NOTABLY, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS CELEBRATING NOVEMBER 15, THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF REVERED TRIBAL ICON BIRSA MUNDA AS JANJATIYA GAURAV DIWAS.



Zafar Alam Khan | Bhopal  
www.absoluteindianews.com

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday targeted the Congress for ignoring the welfare of tribals, adding efforts are underway to ensure development of regions which remained backward during the "previous" regimes.

"Tribals were not given their dues by the earlier governments and were deprived of basic facilities," Modi said while addressing the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebrations.

The Central government is celebrating November 15, the birth anniversary of revered tribal icon Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

"Like Ambedkar Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti and other similar days, the jayanti (birth anniversary) of Bhagwan Birsa Munda will be celebrated every year on November 15," Modi said.

Development is now taking place in 100 aspirational districts which remained backward during the earlier (Congress) regimes, Modi said.

Modi said India is celebrating the first Janjatiya Gaurav Divas after Independence, adding the tribals' art and culture, and their contribution to the freedom struggle and nation-build-

ing is being remembered with pride.

The country cannot forget the bravery of Gond queen Durgawati or the sacrifice of Rani Kamalapati, he said. The struggle of Veer Maharana Pratap cannot be imagined without the brave Bhil tribe who fought shoulder to shoulder and made sacrifices, Modi said.

"The previous regimes have committed a crime by ignoring the tribal icons and their contribution. The contribution of the tribal society was either not told to the country and even if told, very limited information was given," Modi said. Modi launched multiple initiatives for the welfare of the janjatiya community, including the Ration Aapke Gram scheme in Madhya Pradesh. The scheme is aimed at delivering the monthly quota of PDS Ration to beneficiaries from janjatiya community in their own villages every month, so that they don't have to travel to the

Fair Price Shop to collect their ration.

Modi also handed over genetic counselling cards to beneficiaries, marking the launch of the Madhya Pradesh Sickle Cell (Hemoglobinopathy) Mission. The Mission has been developed to screen and manage patients suffering from sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia and other hemoglobinopathies and to increase public awareness about these diseases, whose impact is seen to be more profound on the janjatiya community of Madhya Pradesh. The PM also laid the foundation stone of 50 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across various states and UTs including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tripura and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. He said the plan was to have 750 such schools all over the country.

## PM Modi attends 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' celebrations in Bhopal

## Governor, CM and public representatives gave a hearty farewell to PM Modi



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday participated in the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' celebrations in Bhopal. He reached the Jamburi maidan,

where over two lakh people had gathered from across Madhya Pradesh to celebrate the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

Upon reaching, Modi inspected a tribal museum,

their handcrafts and interacted with senior citizens of the communities.

People had started reaching the venue since early morning by special buses and vehicles from different districts. Those from faraway places had reached the capital last night only. The tribal groups were spotted in their traditional attires. Soon after Modi ascended the dais, he was welcomed by Union and state cabinet ministers. A traditional folk dance was performed by a group of tribals. Spread over five acres, Jamburi maidan was choc-a-block with people. After addressing a packed gathering here, Modi left for Habibganj railway station which has been renovated at a cost of Rs 100 crore and renamed Rani Kamalapati station and dedicated it to the nation.



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Delhi from the State Hangar after attending the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas Mahasammelan and gifting Bhopal a world-class railway station. Governor Mangubhai Bhai Patel gave him a warm farewell. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Speaker of the Assembly Girish Gautam, members of the State Cabinet and other public representatives expressed their heartfelt grati-

tude to the Prime Minister and sent him off. On this occasion Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Bisahu Lal Singh, Forest Minister Vijay Shah, Tribal Affairs and Scheduled Castes Welfare Minister Meena Singh, Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang, MP and BJP State President Vishnu Dutt Sharma, Padma Smt. Bhuri Bai, MP Sumer Singh Solanki, Sampatiya Uikey, Himandri Singh, MLA Rameshwar Sharma and other public representatives and officials were present.

## 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas': Bhopal's Jamburi Maidan awash with tribal heroes, culture

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Monday, Bhopal's Jamburi Maidan has been adorned with cut-outs and posters of tribal heroes along with cultural activities as the state is celebrating the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.'

Modi will arrive at Jamburi Maidan from Raja Bhoj airport. The Prime Minister will be addressing the gathering of tribals, who have arrived from different parts of the state and will announce more than a dozen tribal specific schemes. Several Union and State cabinet Ministers such as Arjun Munda, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Narendra Singh Tomar, Dharmendra Pradhan, Virendra Khatik, L. Murugan, Faggan Singh Kulaste, Bisahulal Singh, Vijay Shah, among others, will share the stage with the Prime Minister and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. To make the event a success, tribals have been brought from different districts of Madhya Pradesh in special



buses. District administrations along with regional Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were tasked to bring the maximum number of tribals to Bhopal for the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' celebration.

The mega event has been organised by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Madhya Pradesh government with an eye on the Assembly polls due in 2023. In the last Assembly elections, the BJP could win just 15 seats against 32 in 2013. There are 47 Assembly seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs) out of the total 230.

## Modi launches new initiatives to mark Birsa Munda's birth anniversary



Team Absolute | Bhopal

The capital of Madhya Pradesh celebrated the birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' at Jamburi ground on Monday, where around two lakh tribals gathered.

The city also welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who remained in Bhopal for around four hours during that he addressed the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' and then dedicated the renovated Habibganj Railway station to the people. The station now will be known after Gond queen Rani Kamalapati, who is

considered the last Tribal queen of Bhopal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Bhopal's Raja Bhoj Airport around 12.30 p.m. from there he reached the Jamburi ground at 1 p.m. to attend the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'. The Prime Minister announced as many as 14 schemes for the welfare of the tribal communities.

The Chouhan government has prepared a list of 14 tribal specific schemes, which he has been preparing for the last couple of years, and will be announced Monday.

Around 3.10 p.m., Prime Minister

arrived at the renovated Habibganj Railway station.

Habibganj railway station to be now called Rani Kamalapati Railway Station has been developed under the PPP at the cost of around Rs 450 crore. The station is in the same lines as Germany's Heidelberg railway station.

The revamp of the station was started in July 2016 and work took off in 2017 with a three-year deadline. The modern station has several features such as segregation of passengers based on arrivals and departures. It gives a glimpse of the airport, especially the waiting area where thousands of people can stay at one time. The railway station will also provide a glimpse of the world heritage sites such as the Sanchi Stupa, Bhojpur temple, Bhimbetka, Birla temple, Tawa Dam and Tribal Museum.

During the visit, PM Modi also flag off two new MEMU trains between Ujjain-Indore. Several parts of the city were decorated with paintings of tribal people. Chief Minister Shiv Singh Chouhan along with his party leaders and cabinet ministers have reviewed the preparations of the event. Multilayered security was deployed across Bhopal city. Traffic routes for common people have been changed, especially those roads which connect the Jamburi ground, Habibganj and Raja Bhoj Airport.

## CM PLANTED GULMOHAR AND PEEPAL SAPLINGS IN SMART GARDEN



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Gulmohar and Peepal saplings in Smart Garden today.

Along with Chouhan, Bhil artist Padma Sushri Bhuri Bai also planted saplings. Chouhan plants a sapling every day as part of his resolve. Gulmohar is considered one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Flowers blooming in large clusters among the well-ordered leaves of Gulmohar give a distinct attraction to this tree. In summer, Gulmohar trees are laden with flowers instead of leaves. It is also rich in medicinal properties. Peepal is a shade giving tree. It purifies the environment. It also has religious and Ayurvedic significance. According to natural science, Peepal tree releases oxygen day and night which is important for our environment.

## CM pays floral tributes on the anniversary of Jan-Nayak Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Thanks Prime Minister Modi for the decision to celebrate the birthday of Lord Birsa Munda as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas'

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to the Jan-Nayak (people's leader) Bhagwan Birsa Munda on his anniversary. Chouhan garlanded the picture of Lord Birsa Munda in the auditorium at his residence. State President of BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha Kal Singh Bhabar was present on this occasion.

Chouhan thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision to celebrate the birthday of Lord Birsa Munda as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas across the country. He said that through this programme the valour of tribal warriors is being properly placed in front of the country. The contribution of many tribal war-

rriors including Lord Birsa Munda in the freedom struggle is being properly placed before the country. The programme of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is an attempt to advance the life values of the tribals. It is an effort to make the tribal society strong economically and socially.

Thanks to Prime Minister Modi for implementing these efforts. Jan-Nayak Bhagwan Birsa Munda was born on 15 November 1875 in Ulihatu village of Jharkhand. He was always worried about the bad condition of his society due to the British rulers. By his service, Lord Birsa Munda had become 'Dharti Aaba' i.e. 'Earth Father' in his area. By playing a leading role in the national movement, 'Dharti Aaba' Birsa Munda, who awakened the spirit of patriotism, came to be considered as God. In October 1894, Bhagwan Birsa Munda agitated for the waiver of tax from the British. Between 1897 and 1900, there were battles between the Mundas and the English soldiers, and under the leadership of Birsa Munda, the Mundas gave a blow to the British.

## CM PAYS TRIBUTE TO ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE



Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid homage to Bharat Ratna Late Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his death anniversary. Chouhan offered floral tributes at the portrait of Acharya Bhave in the auditorium at his residence. State President BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha Kal Singh Bhabar was present on this occasion. Acharya Vinoba Bhave was born on September 11, 1895. He was a freedom fighter, social worker and famous Gandhian leader of India. His original name was Vinayak Narahari Bhave. He is considered the spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi. He spent the last years of his life in the ashram of Pawanar, Maharashtra. He started the Bhoodan movement. He was imprisoned in the Nagpur Jhanda Satyagraha.



## MY LAST MEAL WOULD BE 'STRANGLER PASTA': EMILY RATAJKOWSKI

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress and model Emily Ratajkowski has revealed the best pasta she has ever eaten was in Rome but she has forgotten the name of the restaurant.

During an appearance on the 'Table Manners with Jessie and Lennie Ware' podcast, Ratajkowski said: "This summer I had these, I don't know the name, but I think the translation is strangler priest. It's these little kind of pasta that are dense but twisted, so good."

Strozapreti is a type of twisted Italian pasta, which literally means priest strangler - 'strozza', meaning to choke or strangle and 'preti' meaning priest, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She added: "It's going to be so embarrassing if I just made this up and I'm wrong."

Her other last meal requests included an unconventional side order of Vietnamese spring rolls with peanut sauce alongside the Italian main. She said: "I'm going all over the place - I'm not saying that these things go well together." Ratajkowski credits her love of

food to her childhood holidays spent in Europe, as she would spend half the summer in Majorca and the other half of the summer in Ireland.

She added: "My parents as teachers always had the summers off, July and August. They decided to invest with some friends in these two properties."

"I would have to pack sweaters and coats for the second half of the trip and sun dresses for the first."

Ratajkowski said being thrown into both situations was great for learning not to be a fussy eater. She said: "It was amazing for a kid learning not to be a picky eater as I was thrown into situations where in Ireland you eat meat and potato and veg and its delicious." In Majorca you've got the paella and a lot of seafood. I kind of learnt to love it as a young kid." Ratajkowski is a big fan of Irish food despite others calling it simple.

She added: "It's funny because people always make jokes obviously about Irish food being so simple but I always say it's so delicious. Partly because down there everything is from local farms it's all so fresh."



## TOM FELTON CAME CLOSE TO LANDING HARRY POTTER'S ROLE

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Tom Felton almost beat actor Daniel Radcliffe to his iconic role of Harry Potter.

The actor is best known for playing Draco Malfoy in the wizarding saga but director Chris Columbus, who helmed the first two movies, has revealed Warner Bros. officials were keen to cast him in the lead role, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The filmmaker "knew" the young actor would be better as the villainous schoolboy, explaining: "Tom was a great actor as well, so we thought, let's just dye Tom's hair, give him a scar, give him the glasses and let's see. He did a great Harry Potter reading. The problem is you can really kind of tell when an 11 or 12-

year-old kid's hair is dyed." He was so good at Malfoy. I just couldn't pass that up. I knew Tom had to play Malfoy." Columbus had been keen to cast Radcliffe as Harry from the moment he saw the then-11-year-old actor's "complex and interesting" onscreen presence on TV. He told The Hollywood Reporter: "I was up late one night in London watching BBC (TV), and there was a miniseries of David Copperfield. There was a young Dan Radcliffe in it, for about two or three scenes. But I thought, 'That's Harry Potter.'"

After requesting a meeting, casting directors warned him to "forget about" Daniel. They told Chris, "You're never going to get him. His parents are in the industry. They have no desire for him to do this. Just forget about him."



## HENRY CAVILL HAS UNFINISHED BUSINESS AS 'SUPERMAN'

Los Angeles | Agencies

English actor Henry Cavill believes that there is still "a lot of storytelling" for him to do as Superman and revealed that he would be prepared to don the cape once again.

He played the iconic superhero in the DC Extended Universe (DCEU) but believes that lack of follow-up to the 2013 movie 'Man of Steel' has left him with more stories to tell as the character, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Cavill told The Hollywood Reporter: "There is a lot of storytelling for me to do as Superman, and I would absolutely love the opportunity."

"The killing of Zod gave a reason for the character never to kill again. Superman falling to the ground and screaming afterward - I don't think that was originally in the script, but I wanted to show the pain he had. He just killed the last remaining member of his species. That's the choice he made in that

moment, and he'll never do that again."

The 'Enola Holmes' star said: "There's an opportunity for growth after that, to explore the psyche of Superman as a deep, seemingly invulnerable god-like being but with real feeling on the inside. As I always say, 'The cape is still in the closet.'"

Cavill has been tipped to replace Daniel Craig as 007 and admits that the prospect of landing the role of the iconic spy is "very exciting" to him.

Asked about his interest in the part, he said: "I think it would be very exciting to have a conversation with the producers... In an ideal world, I'd never have to turn anything down. Nothing is off the table. It's an honour to even be part of that conversation."

Cavill is set to star in the upcoming spy film 'Argylle' from director Matthew Vaughn, who has tipped 'The Witcher' actor as a potential 007.

Matthew, who sees 'Argylle' as a potential franchise, said: "I needed someone who was born to play Bond - which Henry is - and then nick him before Bond did."

## Dave Gahan has 'impostor syndrome'



Los Angeles | Agencies

Lead singer of the electronic band Depeche Mode Dave Gahan has just released his new covers album with Soulsavers called 'Impostor', and has said that he struggles with "impostor syndrome" as a live performer and hopes to get to a place where he "no longer cares" what other people think.

In an interview with Variety, the 59-year-old singer said: "I've been performing on stages for many, many years in front of people, and there have been many times when it's not entirely comfortable, and when I do feel like an impostor."

"And when I've seen (those performances) back, it shows to me, I see through all the stuff. So as a singer and a performer, I'm always trying to get to the point where I no longer care what you think, I'm just singing a song."

"It's a feeling that's fleeting in the day-to-day, but when I'm truly in a song, there's an intimacy that I reveal to myself somehow that, more times than not, I can't access."

"I think this is true of many performers. Performing has always been a huge part of my life, but there are often times when I'm questioning it. Is that really me? Is that what I am? Is that what I do? Or is this some sort of disguise? But a song? I can live in a song."

The 'Personal Jesus' hitmaker also said that he had previously been asked to make a covers album many years ago, but he didn't feel confident enough at the time, while he wasn't keen on the idea of working with musicians he hadn't met before, reports femalefirst.co.uk.



Los Angeles | Agencies

Singer James Blunt admits to lacking an aura of coolness and he points to an embarrassing incident at Glastonbury to prove his point.

Blunt said: "There's a moment where I went out and crowd-surfed. There's 80,000 people in that field and I'm crowd surfing. I'm Glastonbury. I'm main stage. Maybe for a moment if my life I'm cool. Maybe I'm cool."

"And then as I get back to the stage, it's too high for me to climb onto. There's a guy on the stage and I don't recognise him and I can't get up so I'm shouting up to him - 'Help me! Help me!' - and then I suddenly realise he's actually the BBC TV cameraman and I'm shouting 'Help me!' out to the nation."

"And so, that realisation of realising - 'No, no, no... I'm not cool at all, I'm the least cool person in the... A world' - certainly was a highlight."

He has recently become well-known for the sarcastic comments he makes on Twitter, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

The 'You're Beautiful' hitmaker has revealed how he deals with trolls on the micro-blogging platform.

## I'M THE LEAST COOL PERSON IN THE WORLD: JAMES BLUNT

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Jenna Dewan



## YOUNG INDIAN SHUTTLE TAARINI WINS TRIPLE-CROWN IN SWEDEN

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Indias young shuttler Taarini Suri completed a hat-trick of triumphs by winning the gold medals in the Girls Under-15 singles and doubles competitions and the Mixed Doubles Under-15 event in the Swedish Youth Games 2021 at Malmo, Sweden, on Sunday.

This was Taarini's second triple-triumph in Europe in the last few weeks. The 14-year-old Mumbai girl, who trains with Hufirish Nariman at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy at the Cricket Club of India (CCI), had claimed three crowns in FZ FORZA Finnish Youth 2021 Badminton Championship in Finland, last month. Taarini had bagged the Gir's Under-15 singles title and the Girls' Doubles Under-17 and the Mixed Doubles Under-17 titles.

In the singles final, Taarini Suri, the joint third-fourth seed, outshone Sweden's Anvita Harakamani in straight games 21-9, 21-10 with a degree of comfort in just 21 minutes, according to information reaching here.

Earlier, Taarini and Swedish partner Matilda Stähle, the top-seeded pair, combined effectively



to assert the supremacy over the second-seeded Danish pairing of Matilde Moesgaard and Athene Lydych Thornild, winning 21-16, 21-14 in 32 minutes.

Taarini completed her grand treble when she along with Ukraine's Fedir Tiurin defeated the Denmark combination of Eline Landsvig and Frederik Hinding 21-14, "1-16.

Taarini finished with an all-win record and even did not drop a single game in all three competitions.

### Results:

Girls' under-15 singles - final: 3/4-Taarini Suri (India) beat Anvita Harakamani (Sweden) 21-9, 21-10.

Girls' under-15 doubles - final: 1-Taarini Suri (India)/ Matilda Stähle (Sweden) beat 2-Matilde Moesgaard/Athene Lydych Thornild (Denmark) 21-16, 21-14.

Mixed under-15 doubles - final: Taarini Suri (India)/Fedir Tiurin (Ukraine) beat Eline Landsvig/Frederik Hinding (Denmark) 21-14, 21-16.

## Morata's late goal books Spain's ticket to World Cup finals

Madrid | Agencies

Alvaro Morata's 87th-minute goal assured Spain's place in the World Cup finals in Qatar at the end of 2022 as Spain beat Sweden 1-0 in the Estadio de la Cartuja.

The goal late on Sunday night calmed Spanish nerves at the end of a match where once again they controlled the ball but left their rivals with a chance of springing a surprise until the closing moments.

It was also a sweet moment for the striker who had been booed by a section of the fans after missing chances in the 0-0 draw between the same teams on the same ground in this summer's European Championships.

Spain coach Luis Enrique made six changes to the team that won 1-0 in Greece on November 11, with defenders Pau Torres, Jordi Alba, Cesar Azpilicueta coming into the team along with Sergio Busquets, Dani Olmo and



Carlos Solar.

Despite only needing a draw to qualify directly for Qatar, Spain started aggressively and looked to take the game to the Swedes with Pablo Sarabia going close, while at the other end Emil Forsberg fired just wide after being given space to run at the Spanish defence, Xinhua reports. As usual Spain controlled most of the ball, but failed to turn possession into chances and in the 39th-minute, Forsberg had the home fans' hearts in their mouths when his volley at the

far post went inches wide of Unai Simon's goal.

The second half kicked off without changes but with Azpilicueta giving the ball away on the edge of his area, with only Torres' rapid intervention forcing Alexander Isak to shoot well over the bar.

Morata had the first shot between the posts for Spain in the 83rd minute. Just two minutes later Morata assured Spain's place in the final with a close-range finish after Dani Olmo's 25-yard shot rebounded to him off the Swedish crossbar.

## WADE, STONIS DO 'SHOEY' CELEBRATION AFTER AUSTRALIA'S MAIDEN T20 WORLD CUP TITLE

Dubai | Agencies

Introducing the 'shoey' celebration to the cricketing world, wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade and all-rounder Marcus Stoinis poured some beer into a shoe and drank it in the Australian dressing room after their team won the first-ever T20 World Cup title on Sunday.



The 'shoey' celebration has been made famous by Australian Formula One star Daniel Ricciardo by drinking the celebratory champagne from his shoe in 2016 at the German Grand Prix. From there, it has now become a sort of tradition for the current McLaren driver and even the great Lewis Hamilton has given it a shot.

Following in the footsteps of Ricciardo, his compatriots Wade and Stoinis introduced the cricketing world to the 'shoey' celebration after their victory at the T20 World Cup. Australia thrashed their trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand in the final by eight wickets to win their first Men's T20 World Cup title on Sunday in Dubai and players were seen in full celebration mode after the historic win.

## No Indian in ICC's team for T20 World Cup, Babar named captain

Dubai | Agencies

After their dismal show, no Indian cricketer was on Monday named in the official 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup team of the tournament with Pakistan skipper Babar Azam leading the star-studded side. India's much-trumpeted batters, as well as bowlers, flopped in back-to-back crucial matches against Pakistan and New Zealand.

Based on their performances, stars from champions Australia, runners-up New Zealand, semi-finalists England and Pakistan as well as Sri Lanka and South Africa feature in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup team of the tournament.

Opening batter David Warner, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and seamer Josh Hazlewood all make the cut after helping steer Australia to its first-ever ICC Men's T20 World Cup title. There are also



spots for England ace Jos Buttler as wicketkeeper, Pakistan's Babar Azam as captain, New Zealand left-armers Trent Boult and Sri Lanka star Wanindu Hasaranga -- the tournament's leading wicket-taker -- in the line-up.

England star Buttler was in blistering form throughout the event, scoring just 20 runs fewer than Warner at a brilliant average of almost 90. He cracked a perfectly-paced century against Sri Lanka -- off just

67 balls - when his team needed him most, while his brutal knock of 71 not out against Australia helped fire England to an emphatic eight-wicket victory against the eventual champions. Captaining the side at No 3 is Pakistan skipper Babar, who was the only batter to break the 300-run barrier in the competition, scoring 303 runs with an impressive average of 60.60. Completing the middle order is another Sri Lankan in the form of Hasaranga, who stands tall as the tournament's leading wicket-taker with a stunning 16 from his eight matches.

The skillful leg-spinner bagged a brilliant hat-trick against South Africa as he dismissed Temba Bavuma, Aiden Markram, and Dwaine Pretorius - across two separate spells - to etch his name into ICC Men's T20 World Cup folklore.

The team of the ICC Men's

T20 World Cup 2021 (in batting order) is:

David Warner (Australia) - 289 runs at 48.16

Jos Buttler (wk) (England) - 269 runs at 89.66, five dismissals

Babar Azam (Captain, Pakistan) - 303 runs at 60.60

Charith Asalanka (Sri Lanka) - 231 runs at 46.20

Aiden Markram (South Africa) - 162 runs at 54.00

Moeen Ali (England) - 92 runs at a strike rate of 131.42, seven wickets at 11

Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) - 16 wickets at 9.75

Adam Zampa (Australia) - 13 wickets at 12.07

Josh Hazlewood (Australia) - 11 wickets at 15.90

Trent Boult (New Zealand) - 13 wickets at 13.30

Anrich Nortje (South Africa) - nine wickets at 11.55

12th: Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan) - seven wickets at 24.14

## MUGURUZA SECURES SEMIS SPOT IN WTA FINALS; TO TAKE ON BADOSA IN ALL SPANISH CLASH

Guadalajara (Mexico):

World No. 6 Garbine Muguruza of Spain secured her spot in the WTA Finals Guadalajara semifinal, overcoming No. 8 seed Anett Kontaveit 6-4, 6-4 to snap the Estonian's 12-match winning run on Monday (IST). The former world No. 1 advanced to the semifinals as the second qualifier out of the 'Teotihuacan group', posting a 2-1 record along with group winner Kontaveit and will face country-mate Paula Badosa on Tuesday. The winner will be the first Spanish woman to advance to the finals since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario finished runner-up in 1993. With Muguruza and Badosa, this is the first time two Spaniards have advanced to the semifinal stage at the elite eight-player WTA Finals. Playing in her fourth WTA Finals and first since 2017, Muguruza is into the knockout stage for the first time since her tournament debut in 2015.



## ICC should ensure a level-playing field: Sunil Gavaskar

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar has said that the advantage that teams have had batting second in the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE is something that the world governing body (ICC) should look into.

The 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup concluded on Sunday, with Australia emerging champions, beating New Zealand by eight wickets in Dubai.

And, one issue that has raised eyebrows is that the team chasing has emerged victorious in 29 out of the 45 matches played in the tournament. The semifinals and the final were won by the sides batting second.

To this, Gavaskar said that this is an issue for the ICC to tackle and ensure a level-playing field.

He added that the dew did not play a major role in the outcome of the summit clash. "The commentators were saying that the



dew factor wasn't there today so I don't think it really came into play that much in this game but I think it has in the previous games and maybe that is something that needs to be looked at.

"I feel that it is something for the ICC Cricket Committee to get their heads around and make sure that there is a level-playing field for both teams," Gavaskar was quoted as saying by Sports Today.

## ZVEREV WINS OPENING NITTO ATP FINALS MATCH

Turin: Italian Matteo Berrettini's campaign in the year-end Nitto ATP Finals began on an inauspicious note as the home star was forced to retire early in the second set of his match against Germany's Alexander Zverev due to an injury to his left oblique, in the Red Group of the elite eight-player tournament.

Tokyo Olympic Games gold medalist Zverev won a tightly-contested first set 7-6(7) in 79 minutes and led 1-0 in the second set when Berrettini was unable to continue late on Sunday night (IST). Following a medical timeout, the Italian attempted to continue, but after only one more point, he walked to the net to shake hands. Zverev climbed over the net to console him.

## Lalremsiami to lead junior women's hockey team in World Cup South Africa

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Olympian Lalremsiami was on Monday named captain of the 18-member Indian junior women's hockey team, which will compete in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup South Africa 2021, beginning December 5.

Defender Ishika Chaudhary has been named vice-captain of the team.

The tournament will see 16 top teams battle for the title, which was previously won by Argentina in 2016. India's best performance in the event came in 2013 where they won bronze beating England.

Besides Lalremsiami, who was part of India's historic performance at the Tokyo Olympics where the women's team finished fourth, the other members who were part of the campaign at the quadrennial games include Salima



Tete and Sharmila Devi.

India are in Pool C and begin their campaign on December 6 against Russia. They will take on defending champions Argentina on December 7 in the round-robin league, followed by the match against Japan on December 9. The knockout matches will take place between December 10 and 16. The teams in the fray include the Netherlands, Korea, Ireland, Zimbabwe in Pool A, England, Belgium, Canada and Uruguay in Pool

B. Argentina, India, Japan and Russia in Pool C while Germany, Spain, United States and South Africa are in Pool D.

The squad: Bichu Devi Kharibam (GK), Khushboo (GK); Akshata Abaso Dhekale, Ishika Chaudhary, Priyanka, Marina Lalramghaki, Ajmina Kujur, Baljeet Kaur, Reet, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Salima Tete, Sharmila Devi, Lalremsiami, Beauty Dzungdung, Deepika, Mumtaz Khan, Sangita Kumari and Jiwan Kishori Toppo.

### IPL 2022:

## BCCI yet to give Letter of Intent to Ahmedabad owners

Team Absolute | New Delhi

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has still not given the Letter of Intent to American company Irelia Co Pvt Ltd (CVC Capital Partners), who were awarded the franchise rights of the newly inducted Ahmedabad team for the next season of the Indian Premier League.

IPL will be a ten-team affair from the 2022 season with the introduction of two new teams based at Ahmedabad and Lucknow. RPSG, made the winning bid of Rs 7,090 crore to acquire the Lucknow franchise while CVC Capital Partners was awarded the Ahmedabad franchise for a bid of Rs. 5,625 crore.

However, questions are being raised about CVC for its business



interests in betting firms in the international market. According to past press statements issued by CVC

Capital Partners, it acquired a majority stake in Malta-headquartered betting operators Tipico,

which has a major base in Germany too, in 2016 after taking a controlling stake in UK's Sky Betting and Gaming in 2014. Notably, betting is legal in those regions. But, none of these entities have business operations in India, where betting is illegal.

In the latest development, CVC's successful bid to win the Ahmedabad franchise of the IPL has gone into negotiations with the company trying to explain to the BCCI officials that its investment in a UK betting firm, which has become a bone of contention, is not illegal. As a result, there has been a delay in BCCI giving the Letter of Intent, which has already been submitted to the RPSG Group of Sanjiv Goenka, who has successfully bagged the Lucknow franchise.

### ALL-INDIA U-16 HOCKEY



## SAIL Hockey Academy, Odisha lift title

Team Absolute | Pune

SAIL Hockey Academy, Odisha lifted the title in the 5th SNBP All-India Hockey Tournament (Boys' Under-16) tournament at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here on Monday. In the final, the Odisha team dominated proceedings before beating HAR Hockey Academy, Sonapat 2-0. The winners netted their first goal through

a brilliant finish by Ritik Kujur (19th minute), who beat the HAR Hockey Academy goalkeeper Ankit to give his team the lead at the halfway stage.

After the changeover, Mukesh Tete (54th) did well to convert a penalty corner to make it 2-0 for the Odisha team. The match thereon was played on level terms with Karan Lakra missing by a whisker twice for Odisha.



**THE SERIES HAS A BLOCKBUSTER OPENING, BREAKS RECORDS, BECOMES THE MOST-WATCHED SHOW ON LAUNCH DAY EVER ON THE PLATFORM**

## SPECIAL OPS 1.5: THE HIMMAT STORY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Disney+ Hotstar's latest espionage thriller Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story, directed by Neeraj Pandey is trending at number one on the streaming platform. Closely charting the ground-breaking success of the show's first season, Special Ops, Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story has broken the highest first-day viewership record on the platform as subscribers tuned in to catch the visually captivating spy-drama on 12th November as a part of Disney+ Day celebration. Viewers are bestowing their love for the Kay Kay Menon-starrer series

that traces Himmat Singh's mysterious backstory and how he became the man he is.

The show has managed to thrill viewers across the country and even scored an incredible IMDb rating of 9.4 from fans and critics alike in addition to a 4.9/5 rating on Google. The show has witnessed the highest viewership and the highest watch time for any show launched on Disney+ Hotstar to date. Subscribers of Disney+ Hotstar are now hooked on to Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story's edge-of-the-seat thriller story as it delves deep into the aftermath of the 2001 Parliament Attack.

Sharing his joy at the incredible launch day, actor Kay Kay Menon

said, "To see your hard work and a role that is so close to you, trend at number 1 to become the most-watched show on a launch day is a magical feeling."

## Salman Khan was shocked to see Aayush's transformation

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan says he was shocked to see his brother-in-law and actor Aayush Sharma's huge physical transformation from his debut movie 'LoveYatri' to his upcoming film 'Antim: The Final Truth'. From his ripped, toned body to acting the nuances of his character, Aayush imbibed the traits of Rahulji, a



He's worked so hard in the film, that his work will be appreciated." Director Mahesh Manjrekar added that Aayush worked really hard on the physical transformation.

He said: "We needed a very tough looking

guy. I realised

this boy has a lot of passion and he's extremely focused, he knows what he wants to do, I think he has done a brilliant job. Nobody I see in the industry today would have played Rahulji so brilliantly and so convincingly." Aayush Sharma has followed a strict diet and rigorous training for months to achieve the results we witness on the screen.

## JUNGLEE PICTURES & ROY KAPUR FILMS SHARE THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF TAAPEE PANNU AND PRATIK GANDHI

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Junglee Pictures and Roy Kapur Films have produced many concept-driven stories that have received acclaim from critics and audiences alike. The powerhouse studios are now getting together to produce a unique comedy-drama story with a very fresh lead pair. Written and directed by Arshad Syed, the film Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan? brings together Taapee Pannu and Pratik Gandhi for the first time.

Having made a huge mark with her impactful performances, Taapee Pannu will be seen playing her first comedy role as a feisty cop. Pratik Gandhi who has earned many accolades for his performance in Scam 1992, will be seen in a very different avatar as the young newly-wedded scion of a 'Masala' magnate family. The makers have shared an exciting first look of the actors from the film from their current shooting schedule in Jaipur.

On playing a cop for the first time and sharing her stunning look from the film, Taapee Pannu shares, "Playing a police woman and doing a comedy film has always been on my checklist and I am happy that it is finally ticked off. I had seen Pratik's work and I think he is a very talented actor and I am absolutely enjoying working with him. It's going to be a fun ride!" Talking about his directorial debut and bringing his story which such an interesting team, Arshad Syed shares, "Having a cast of brilliant actors like Taapee Pannu and Pratik Gandhi has enriched my cinematic journey. The characters they're essaying are the comic fodder of our film. Sharing the first glimpse of their characters is exciting for the entire team".

## Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?



Team Absolute | Mumbai

'K' Kaun Banega Crorepati 13', hosted by megastar Amitabh Bachchan is going to have a Students Special Week. Kids from the age group of 8 to 15 years will be on the hotseat and answer questions of the host. For this particular Student Special Week, there are certain changes made in the look of Amitabh Bachchan. As he will be seen sporting street-style hoodies, jackets and more. Beside this, the amount won will be termed as points for the Students Special Week as kids are participating. And the winning amount that is called points for this special week can be utilised by the kids after they turn 18 years old. The Students Special Week of 'KBC 13' will start from November 15 on Sony Entertainment Television.



## 'KBC 13' TO SEE STUDENTS ON THE HOTSEAT AND BIG B'S HIP LOOK



## Smriti Kalra: A free-spirited woman in 'Cash'

Mumbai: Actress Smriti Kalra will be seen in upcoming OTT movie 'Cash' opposite Amol Parashar.

She opens up about playing an independent and confident woman and expresses her excitement for her debut film after doing a number of television shows. Smriti says: "I have never played a character like this before. 'Neha' is a natural fixer and has a long list of useful contacts which she accesses at any time of the day. She's sexy; she's feisty and will make you believe that she's someone you really want on your team. The only trouble is, she won't even bat an eyelid before double crossing her foes." The movie 'Cash' is directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Vishesh Bhatt. It is based on the issue of demonetisation and how it affected people. The movie stars Amol Parashar and Smriti Kalra in the lead roles. Smriti adds on her working experience with the co-actors, saying: I got lucky! It was a mixed bag of experience, a creative, fun loving, and supportive group of co-actors. I got to work with the 'Bad Man' of Bollywood, Gulshan Grover sir, the very versatile and talented Swanand Kirkere, our very beloved 'Baba' Amol Parashar. Kavin Dave too who has an excellent comic timing, theatre veteran Krishna Bisht.

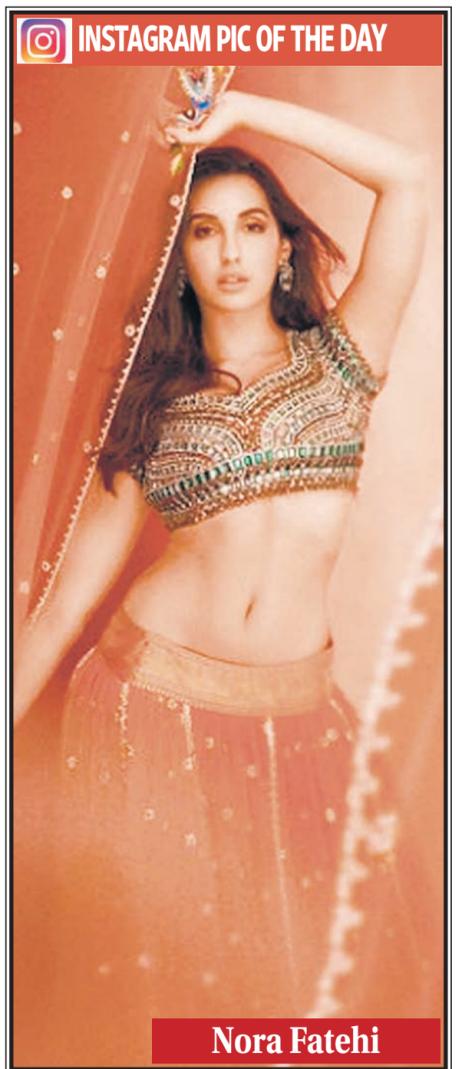
So you can see, I got to learn so much from all and to top that, I had so much fun." 'Cash' will be released on November 19 on Disney+ Hotstar.



## 'GANGUBAI' RELEASE POSTPONED TO AVERT CLASH WITH 'RRR'

Hyderabad: S.S. Rajamouli, who is ready with his upcoming movie 'RRR', took to his social media to thank Bollywood director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming movie 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' has averted a clash with 'RRR', and has postponed the release date. Touched by this gesture, Rajamouli thanked the producer Jayantilal Gada and director Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The Alia Bhatt-starrer 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' was originally slated for January 6 release. The makers issued a statement on Monday, announcing the new release date of the film. It is reported that the release of 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' has been postponed to February 18, avoiding a box-office clash with 'RRR'. In much appreciation, S.S. Rajamouli took to his Twitter Rajamouli wrote, "The decision by Mr. @JayantilalGada and Mr.

#SanjayLeelaBhansali to move their release date is well appreciated. Our heartfelt wishes to #GangubaiKathiawadi. Alia Bhatt plays the lead actress in both 'RRR' and 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'. Rajamouli's directorial 'RRR' is a pan-India movie, which is being made in multiple languages and stars Telugu's biggest duo NTR and Ram Charan. 'RRR' is slated for its release on January 7.



Nora Fatehi